

A Guide to the Microfilm Edition of

U.S. Navy Action and Operational Reports from World War II, Pacific Theater

Part 1.

CINCPAC: Commander-in-Chief Pacific Area

A Guide to the Microfilm Edition of

World War II Research Collections

**U.S. Navy Action and Operational
Reports from World War II**

Pacific Theater

Part 1.

CINCPAC:

Commander-in-Chief Pacific Area Command

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INTRODUCTION

Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz was commander-in-chief, Pacific Fleet (CINCPAC) from December 31, 1941 to December 1945. CINCPAC was charged with orders to "win the 85 million square miles of the Pacific back from the Japanese." In cooperation with General Douglas MacArthur, commander-in-chief, Southwest Pacific Area, a two-prong advance against the Japanese empire was initiated. One prong, from the south through New Guinea to the Philippines, was coordinated by General MacArthur and his Allied forces, which included the Seventh Fleet. The second prong, through the central Pacific, consisted of the forces of the Third and Fifth Fleets and their attendant task force groupings. At the core of this two-prong advance was the strategy of island hopping.

This strategy consisted of leapfrog hops from one island to another by coordinated air, sea, and land attacks to cut off heavily defended Japanese bases, which could then be bombed into submission at will. To support this island-hopping strategy, the United States and the Allies assembled the most diverse and powerful armada in naval history in addition to overwhelming air forces. Of vital importance to the island-hopping strategy was the control of the air and sea. Carrier task force groupings provided abundant air power, both for offensive and defensive operations. Carrier-based planes were integral in turning the tide against the Japanese.

Effective February 1, 1941, U.S. naval forces were organized into various mission groupings. Foremost of these groupings was that of the U.S. Fleet. The U.S. Fleet comprised the Atlantic Fleet, Pacific Fleet, and the Asiatic Fleet (reorganized in 1942). These designated fleet groupings were primarily administrative and task organizations. They normally operated under the instructions/orders of the Navy Department by way of a flag officer having the title of commander-in-chief, Pacific Fleet. These fleets were further subdivided into area or task commands and, in most cases, assigned a number designation. In March 1943, the commander-in-chief, U.S. Fleet instituted a standardized system of numbering the components of the Atlantic and Pacific Fleet designations. Even numbers were assigned to the Atlantic Fleet and odd numbers to the Pacific Fleet. Several of the assigned numbers referred to administrative and type, rather than operational commands. The numbered fleets were further subdivided into task forces. These task forces provided operational flexibility in any situation. Task force commanders were not burdened by administrative or type commands.

This micropublication highlights the activities of CINCPAC and its operational control of its two primary components, the Third and Fifth Fleets, through action/operation reports. The First and Ninth Fleets were also assigned to the Pacific Theater but were administrative groupings used to facilitate organization and communications in the task force system. The Seventh Fleet is not discussed in this micropublication due to its subordination to the Commander-in-Chief, Southwest Pacific Area, General MacArthur. In addition, the Seventh Fleet comprised both U.S. and Australian naval forces.*

*For additional reading see: Furer, Julius Augustus, *Administration of the Navy Department in World War II*, Washington, D.C., Navy Department, 1959.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Action/Operation reports were compiled by the various Pacific naval command structures. CINCPAC, numbered fleet commands, task forces, area and section commands, and even individual naval vessels compiled reports and forwarded them through the chain-of-command. These reports contained summaries and analyses of data collected on major operations and campaigns, as well as individual battles. There were also Action/Operation reports compiled on experimental naval doctrine and methods. Action/Operation reports were utilized in the tactical and strategic planning of the war in the Pacific.

These reports consist of information on organization—highlighting the activities and primary missions of subordinate forces and the disposition and condition of readiness—vessels, aircraft, and personnel; and battle narratives with graphic representations. Many of the reports include detailed appendices. These appendices consist of casualty reports, vessel damage reports, photographs, ordnance expenditure reports, awards recommendations, excerpts from lower-echelon commanders, and lessons learned.

The standardization of fleet designation led to a definite system in task force designation. A force was numbered with two digits—the first being that of the fleet from which the force was taken and the second indicating the sequence in that fleet (example: Task Force 38). Task groups within a force were numbered by adding an additional digit separated from the task force number by a decimal point (example: Task Group 38.1). To indicate a task unit within a group, another decimal point and digit were added. Thus, the second task unit of the first task group of the eighth task force of the Third Fleet would be numbered 38.1.2.

Part 1. CINCPAC: Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Area Command

The CINCPAC Action/Operation Reports, compiled by Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, summarized and analyzed the various activities of the U.S. Pacific Fleet as a whole. These CINCPAC reports were distilled from the various numbered fleet command, area and section command, and task forces reports. These reports were forwarded for use by the secretary of the navy and the commander-in-chief, U.S. Fleet in Washington. These reports were used in the strategic and tactical planning of the war.

SOURCE AND EDITORIAL NOTE

The materials utilized in this micropublication are from the holdings of the Operational Archives Section, U.S. Naval Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C.

The materials in this micropublication have been microfilmed both as they are arranged and in their entirety. This micropublication consists of a large number of maps and charts. These have been microfilmed in sections, beginning with top left and right, then bottom left and right.

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REEL INDEX

Entries in this index refer to specific file folders within *U.S. Navy Action and Operational Reports from World War II, Pacific Theater, Part 1*. These folders are reports arranged in chronological order. Each entry details the report number, title, author, date, and number of pages. In the interest of accessing the material, this index denotes major issues and actions under the heading *Principal Topics*. The four-digit number on the far left represents the frame number at which the file folder begins.

Throughout the guide, CINCPAC refers to Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Command.

Reel 1

Frame
No.

- 0001 **Serial 0243, Report of Submarine Contact, February 3–4, 1941.**
J. P. Womble, Jr. February 11, 1941. 23frs.
Report by the commanding officer of the USS Dale of a sonic contact experienced off Diamond Head February 3 and 4, 1941. A search of the area by U.S. destroyers and patrol aircraft was unsuccessful.
Principal Topics: Submarine contacts; USS Dale.
- 0024 **Serial 0311, Report of Attack on Enemy Submarine by USS Lexington Planes.**
Frederick C. Sherman. January 28, 1942. 6frs.
Narrative report of an attack on an underwater contact, believed to be an enemy submarine, at Latitude 17.33N, Longitude 171.15W. The attack was made by planes attached to the carrier USS Lexington, which was operating with Task Force 11. Probable minor damage to submarine resulted from this action.
Principal Topics: Submarine contacts; USS Lexington; Task Force 11.
- 0030 **Serial 0342, Report of Rescue of Plane Crew.**
J. F. Shafroth. February 1, 1942. 6frs.
Search for and rescue of the crew of a patrol plane which went down in the area of Latitude 06.48N, Longitude 98.31W January 15 and 16, 1942. Forces of the commander, southeast Pacific were involved in this operation including the USS Trenton and the USS Richmond.
Principal Topics: Rescue operations; Commander, Southeast Pacific; USS Trenton; USS Richmond.
- 0036 **Serial 0460, Report of Voyage of Convoy No. 2018.**
Captain W. L. Ainsworth. February 13, 1942. 8frs.
This report from the commanding officer of the USS Mississippi covers events occurring while escorting Convoy No. 2018 from San Francisco to Pearl Harbor. The report discusses the unfavorable weather conditions encountered by the convoy and the necessity of maintaining an extremely slow speed in order to keep the vessels together. Also included are complaints regarding the poor discipline maintained by the masters of the merchant ships under escort.
Principal Topics: Convoy No. 2018; USS Mississippi; convoy operations; escort operations.

Frame
No.

- 0044 **Serial 0479, Report of Japanese Raid on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941 (Volume 1).**
Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. February 15, 1942. 100frs.
Detailed account from CINCPAC of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Included is information on the organization of the Pacific Fleet, the situation existing on the morning of December 7, 1941, a narrative report of the raid itself including information on damage to vessels and on casualties, and a narrative report from the commanding officers of the ships present at Pearl Harbor on the day of the attack.
Principal Topics: CINCPAC; Pearl Harbor attack; Pacific Fleet.
- 0144 **Serial 0479, Report on Japanese Raid on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941 (Volume 2, Part 1: Commander Battle Force to Mugford USS (DD389)).**
Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. February 15, 1942. 307frs.
Detailed narratives of the various force, shore, and vessel commanders. These narratives highlight the "under fire" experience of these individuals during the Japanese aerial attack. In addition, there is damage and casualty information, command and vessel situation reports before and after the attack, and discussion of defense activities.
Principal Topics: Pearl Harbor attack; command narratives.
- 0452 **Serial 0479 Report on Japanese Raid on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941 (Volume 3, Part 2: Narwahl USS (SS167) to Zane USS (DMS14)).**
Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. February 15, 1942. 230frs.
This report is a continuation of the preceding series of detailed narratives of the various force, shore, and vessel commanders.
Principal Topics: Pearl Harbor attack; command narratives.
- 0683 **Serial 0479, Report on Japanese Raid on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941 (Volume 4).**
Rear Admiral William R. Furlong. February 15, 1942. 316frs.
This volume of material relating to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor represents the chart reports made by commanding officers of the ships of the Pacific Fleet stationed at Pearl Harbor on the day of the attack. These charts include information on the positions of U.S. naval vessels at various times on the day of the attack, the amount of ammunition used by them during the attack, and an estimate of the number of Japanese warplanes destroyed by them during the course of U.S. defensive operations.
Principal Topics: Pearl Harbor attack; Pacific Fleet.
- 0999 **Serial 0479, Report on Japanese Raid on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941 (Volume 4) cont.**
CINCPAC. February 15, 1942. 263frs.
Continuation of the chart reports made by the commanding officers of the ships of the Pacific Fleet stationed at Pearl Harbor on the day of the attack. These charts include information on the positions of U.S. naval vessels at various times on the day of the attack, the amount of ammunition used by them during the attack, and an estimate of the number of Japanese warplanes destroyed by them during the course of U.S. defensive operations.
Principal Topics: Pearl Harbor attack; Pacific Fleet.
- 1262 **Serial 0612, Report of Action—Marshall-Gilbert Islands Raids—by Task Forces Eight and Seventeen (Volume 1).**
Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. February 19, 1942. 147frs.
Relates the operations of U.S. naval forces during the raids on the Marshall and Gilbert Islands conducted on February 1, 1942. Task Forces 8 and 17 under the command of Vice Admiral William F. Halsey and spearheaded by the carriers USS *Enterprise* and USS *Yorktown* sent their planes to attack the Japanese bases located in these islands. Some damage was inflicted on the Japanese forces before the task forces returned safely to Pearl Harbor. Information is included on the effectiveness of the aerial bombardments as well as complaints regarding the failure or ineffectiveness of certain equipment, notably the naval anti-aircraft batteries.
Principal Topics: Marshall Islands; Gilbert Island; Task Force 8; Task Force 17; William F. Halsey; USS *Enterprise*; USS *Yorktown*; anti-aircraft batteries.

Frame
No.

1409 **Serial 0612, Report of Action—Marshall-Gilbert Islands Raids—by Task Forces Eight and Seventeen (Volume 2).**

C. W. McClusky. February 19, 1942. 6frs.

The second volume of this report goes into greater detail concerning the U.S. Navy's raids on the Marshall and Gilbert Islands. A great deal of specific information is included on the battle engaged in by the attack groups whose objectives were Maloelap and Wotje Islands. These attack groups bombed and strafed Japanese positions on the islands and destroyed a number of buildings and Japanese planes. The report also includes information on U.S. casualties and damages to U.S. aircraft engaged in the raid. Charts are provided showing how the attack on these islands progressed. Information on air actions at Jaluit, Makin, and Mili Islands engaged in by units of the USS *Yorktown* air group are also covered in this report.

Principal Topics: Marshall Islands; Gilbert Islands; Maloelap Island; Wotje Island; Jaluit Island; Makin Island; Mili Island; USS *Yorktown*.

[**Note:** This document ends with penciled page number 97. The document continues on Reel 2, frame 0001, which starts with penciled page number 114. There is, however, no text missing.]

Reel 2

0001 **Serial 0612, Report of Action—Marshall-Gilbert Islands Raids—by Task Forces Eight and Seventeen (Volume 2) cont.**

E. Buckmaster. February 19, 1942. 83frs.

This report, which is continued from Reel 1, provides extensive data on the attack of the USS *Yorktown* air group on the islands of Jaluit, Mili, and Makin during the raids on the Marshall and Gilbert Island groups. The planes caused extensive damage on the island of Jaluit and sank a Japanese seaplane tender on Makin Island. No military objectives were found on Mili Island. The report lists the names of U.S. airmen missing in action and the number of U.S. planes lost during this segment of the raid. Also included are reports made by the pilots of each individual plane which took part in this air action and by the commanding officers of U.S. Navy surface vessels participating in the raid.

Principal Topics: Marshall Islands; Gilbert Islands; USS *Yorktown*; Jaluit Island; Mili Island; Makin Island.

0084 **Serial 0679, Attack on Allied Personnel and Property by a Plane of American Type and Markings.**

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. February 23, 1942. 23frs.

This report covers an attack by an observation plane from the USS *Northampton* on a British auxiliary cruiser operating out of Apia, Samoa Island on January 23, 1942. This attack was made because the British vessel did not answer the plane's recognition signal. The pilot ordered the ship abandoned and then dropped two bombs, both near misses, and then strafed the vessel with machine gun fire. Following the attack the British crew returned to the ship and managed to get back safely to Apia. After an investigation the pilot of the observation plane was found to have been unjustified in attacking this vessel.

Principal Topic: USS *Northampton*.

0107 **Serial 0686, Special Operations of Army Aircraft in Canton-Fiji Area, January 16-30, 1942.**

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. February 24, 1942. 21frs.

Report of a scouting mission in the Canton-Fiji area by a combined U.S. Army and Navy team. This team consisted of U.S. Army Air Force B-17E type bombers and U.S. Navy patrol planes. Anti-submarine warfare patrols were flown during what was primarily an inspection tour of South Pacific airfield sites. The scouting work was to prove useful to the U.S. naval attacks on the Marshall and Gilbert Islands which followed shortly thereafter. During this mission several Japanese submarines were sighted but escaped without serious damage.

Principal Topics: Scouting missions; Canton Island; Fiji Island; airfield sites; Marshall Islands; Gilbert Islands; Japanese submarines.

0128 **Serial 0693, Firing at New Zealand Plane by U.S. Carrier Plane.**

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. February 25, 1942. 14frs.

Report of the firing on a Tasman Airways plane, enroute from Hawaii to New Zealand, by a plane from the carrier USS *Enterprise*. The New Zealand plane was not known to be in the area and did not identify itself when challenged. The carrier patrol plane fired a warning burst of machine gun fire across the bow of the aircraft. When no reply was received the pilot fired on the stern section of the aircraft causing slight damage. No personnel of either plane was injured. The U.S. was on the lookout for Japanese seaplanes in the area and was under orders to fire on any such aircraft not positively identified as friendly. Apologies were made to the New Zealand government for this incident.

Principal Topics: Tasman Airways; USS *Enterprise*; New Zealand.

0142 **Serial 01104, Forwarding of Reports of Action.**

T. Withers. April 8, 1942. 121frs.

Contained in this document are the reports of the commander of the submarine scouting force covering attacks on Wake Island during the period December 8-16, 1941, and various reports of ships covering the attack on Pearl Harbor, the action of Bougainville on February 20, 1942, and the attacks on the Lae-Salamaua area on March 10, 1942. Among the ships sending reports were the USS *Yorktown*, the USS *Minneapolis*, the USS *Pensacola*, the USS *San Francisco*, the USS *Arizona*, the USS *Indianapolis*, the USS *Case*, the USS *Phelps*, the USS *Bagley*, the USS *Patterson*, and the USS *Dale*.

Principal Topics: Commander, Submarine Scouting Force; Wake Island; Pearl Harbor attack; Bougainville; Lae-Salamaua area; USS *Yorktown*; USS *Minneapolis*; USS *Pensacola*; USS *San Francisco*; USS *Arizona*; USS *Indianapolis*; USS *Case*; USS *Phelps*; USS *Bagley*; USS *Patterson*; USS *Dale*.

[Note: Frames 0263 through 0342 duplicate the report beginning at frame 0142.]

0343 **Serial 01207, Report of USS *Ramapo* on Survey of Bora Bora Island, Society Islands.**

Commander Duncan Curry, Jr. April 18, 1942. 11frs.

This document represents a chronological report by Commander Duncan Curry, Jr., commanding officer of the USS *Ramapo*, covering the survey of Bora Bora Island in the French Society Islands and a meeting with Free French officials. The purpose of the *Ramapo*'s mission was to survey the entrance to Bora Bora harbor for possible use by Allied shipping, drag the harbor for possible mines and obstructions, and to plant buoys for navigational use. The *Ramapo* was assisted by the USS *Sumner* which they met in Bora Bora harbor.

Principal Topics: Duncan Curry, Jr.; USS *Ramapo*; Bora Bora Island; Free French; USS *Sumner*.

0354 **Serial 01208, Survey of Bora Bora, Society Islands.**

Lieutenant Commander I. W. Truit. April 19, 1942. 5frs.

Prepared by Lieutenant Commander I. W. Truit, commanding officer of the USS *Sumner*, the report covers the surveying of Bora Bora Island in the French Society

Islands in the company of the USS *Ramapo* and their meeting with Free French officials on the island. The *Sumner* also put ashore a landing force and established lookout stations, radio control, a communication system, living quarters, and a signal station. The survey was conducted for the purpose of determining if the harbor could be used by Allied shipping and seaplanes.

Principal Topics: I. W. Truit; USS *Sumner*; Bora Bora Island; USS *Ramapo*; Free French.

0359 **Serial 01338, Report of Action in Connection with the Bombing of Tokyo, April 18, 1942.**

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. May 4, 1942. 92frs.

This document contains reports of the ships of Task Force 16 (USS *Enterprise*, USS *Hornet*, USS *Nashville*, and other vessels) that participated in the operations leading up to the Doolittle Raid on Tokyo. The sixteen B-25 type bombers were carried on the flight deck of the USS *Hornet*, the first time that land-based bombers ever had been successfully launched from an aircraft carrier. During the course of these operations the USS *Nashville* sunk two Japanese patrol vessels. Task Force 16 was under the command of Admiral William F. Halsey.

Principal Topics: Task Force 16; USS *Enterprise*; USS *Hornet*; USS *Nashville*; Doolittle Raid; William F. Halsey.

0453 **Serial 01450, Grounding of USS *Nashville* at Midway.**

F. S. Craven. May 19, 1942. 11frs.

This report was prepared by F. S. Craven, the commanding officer of the USS *Nashville*, which was accidentally grounded in the lagoon of Midway Island on May 8, 1942. The accident occurred because the *Nashville's* commander relied on an incorrect chart of the area provided by the Fourteenth Naval District. The ship sustained damage to its rudder and two after propellers but was able to return to Pearl Harbor under its own power for repairs.

Principal Topics: F. S. Craven; USS *Nashville*; Midway Island.

0464 **Serial 01488, Report of Wake Action, December 7–24, 1941.**

C. C. Bloch. May 22, 1942. 109frs.

This report deals with the Japanese raids on Wake Island in the period immediately after the attack on Pearl Harbor and the U.S. Navy's defense of the island. The island was attacked and bombed by Japanese land-based aircraft beginning on December 8, 1941. All of the U.S. Marine Corps aircraft on the island were destroyed and the landing field was extensively damaged. Included is information on the damages to the base and the casualties incurred by U.S. forces. The island also was attacked by Japanese surface vessels on December 11, 1941. Several Japanese aircraft were shot down and one Japanese light cruiser and one destroyer were sunk. Japanese troops finally were landed on the island on December 23, 1941 and the island was captured that same day.

Principal Topics: Wake Island; U.S. Navy.

0573 **Serial 01501, Report by Major W. L. J. Baylor, USMC, December 7–20, 1941.**

Major W. L. J. Baylor, USMC. May 24, 1942. 43frs.

This report by Major W. L. J. Baylor of the U.S. Marine Corps covers the attacks on Wake Island by the Japanese from immediately after Pearl Harbor to Major Baylor's departure from the island on December 20, 1941. Major Baylor's original mission on Wake Island had been to establish facilities and to provide technical assistance for a twelve plane Marine fighter plane squadron stationed on Wake. In addition to these forces Wake was garrisoned by 400 Marine troops and 1,200 civilian contractor personnel. These forces held out against repeated Japanese attacks and raids for two weeks before the island finally fell. Major Baylor provides a chronological account of these raids and of the defense of the island by U.S. forces.

Principal Topics: W. L. J. Baylor; Wake Island.

- 0616 **Serial 01666 Personal Account of Attacks on Japanese Carriers, June 4, 1942.**
Ensign G. H. Gay. June 11, 1942. 15frs.

This report represents a personal account by Ensign G. H. Gay of the Battle of Midway where U.S. naval and air forces destroyed Japan's aircraft carriers, its principal and most effective weapon for waging war at sea. Ensign Gay was attached to a squadron of torpedo bombers that were stationed aboard the USS *Hornet*. Many of the U.S. aircraft, including that of Ensign Gay, were shot down over the target site by Japanese fighter planes; however, U.S. carrier-based dive bombers arrived on the scene and sank all four Japanese carriers involved in the battle.

Principal Topics: G. H. Gay; Battle of Midway; Japanese aircraft carriers; USS *Hornet*.

- 0624 **Serial 01693, Advance Report of Battle of Midway.**
C. D. Murray. June 15, 1942. 119frs.

This report represents a comprehensive, chronological account of the Battle of Midway. It includes information on U.S. casualties and aircraft losses during the three-day action. The attack at Midway was made by Task Forces 16 and 17, which included most of the United States's own aircraft carriers. During the course of this battle U.S. forces sank or seriously damaged a number of major Japanese surface vessels, including the entire Japanese carrier force. This major U.S. victory nearly crippled Japan's seaborne forces for a considerable time allowing the U.S. time to counterattack in the Pacific with little interference by the Japanese Navy. The information contained in this report comes mainly from the commanding officers of the USS *Enterprise* and the USS *Hornet*.

Principal Topics: Battle of Midway; Task Force 16; Task Force 17; Japanese aircraft carriers; USS *Enterprise*; USS *Hornet*.

- 0744 **Serial 01704, Action Report on Battle of the Coral Sea, May 4-8, 1942.**
Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. June 17, 1942. 9frs.

Covers the situation prior to the battle with a good intelligence summary. Admiral Nimitz deals with the three phases of the action itself, the results, and his recommendations. The Battle of the Coral Sea was fought to prevent the landing of a Japanese assault force at Port Moresby, New Guinea. The action was fought between the U.S. and Japanese carrier forces. In this battle Japan lost two carriers and a great number of aircraft while the United States, in addition to aircraft losses, lost the USS *Lexington* and sustained major damage to the USS *Yorktown*. Although the battle itself was technically a draw, the Japanese were forced to abort their plans to invade Port Moresby. The Battle of the Coral Sea was the first great battle between two major carrier forces with no surface ship on either side seen by the enemy. The lessons learned here paved the way for the U.S. victory at Midway a month later.

Principal Topics: Battle of the Coral Sea; Chester W. Nimitz; Port Moresby, New Guinea; Japanese aircraft carriers; USS *Lexington*; USS *Yorktown*.

- 0753 **Serial 017753, Interrogation of Japanese Prisoners Taken After Midway Action, June 9, 1942.**

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. June 21, 1942. 7frs.

Contains information obtained during the interrogation of two Japanese naval-enlisted survivors of the cruiser *Mikuma* picked up by the USS *Trout* following the Battle of Midway. Most of this material deals with the Japanese perception of the Battle of Midway, but information is also included on the sinking of the USS *Houston* and on the Battle of the Coral Sea. The Japanese informants also discussed the state of the Japanese Navy and conditions at home.

Principal Topics: Japanese prisoners of war; *Mikuma* (Japanese cruiser); USS *Trout*; Battle of Midway; USS *Houston*; Battle of the Coral Sea; Japanese Navy.

- 0759 **Serial 01849, Battle of Midway (Part I).**
Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. June 28, 1942. 129frs.

Deals with the U.S. victory at the Battle of Midway during which the entire Japanese carrier fleet was destroyed. Admiral Nimitz discusses all aspects of the battle including U.S. and Japanese ship and aircraft losses and details on how the U.S. attack was

Frame
No.

carried out. In addition the report provides charts showing the track of U.S. naval vessels during the battle, material on the U.S. interrogation of Japanese prisoners of war, and the reports from the commanding officers of the U.S. cruisers attached to Task Force 17.

Principal Topics: Battle of Midway; Japanese aircraft carriers; Chester W. Nimitz; Japanese prisoners of war; Task Force 17.

0888 **Serial 01849, Battle of Midway (Part II).**

Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher. June 28, 1942. 96frs.

This report, a continuation of the material found beginning on frame 0759, contains a compilation of reports from the ships of Task Force 17 that participated in the Battle of Midway. Each report is presented from the point of view of the commander of the ship in question and each presents a different aspect of what was to become the most important U.S. naval victory of World War II.

Principal Topics: Battle of Midway; Task Force 17.

Reel 3

0001 **Serial 01849, Battle of Midway (Part II) cont.**

Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher. June 28, 1942. 22frs.

This report, continued from Reel 2, contains a compilation of reports from the ships of Task Force 17 that participated in the Battle of Midway. Included are charts showing the movements of vessels during the battle, chronological reports of the various ships' activities, and a description of the attack on the USS *Yorktown* by Japanese torpedo planes. Each report is presented from the point of view of the commander of the ship in question and presents a different aspect of what was to become the most important U.S. naval victory of World War II.

Principal Topics: Battle of Midway; Task Force 17; USS *Yorktown*.

0023 **Serial 01849, Battle of Midway (Part III).**

E. Buckmaster. June 28, 1942. 209frs.

Comprehensive and detailed look at the role played by the aircraft carrier USS *Yorktown* in the Battle of Midway. The *Yorktown* was badly damaged and sunk during the fighting at Midway on June 6, 1942. All aspects of the *Yorktown's* participation are touched on in this report, including an actual report on combat actions engaged in by the vessel on June 4 and 6, 1942; damage control; and gunnery, air power, engineering, navigation, communications, supply, and medical services. Also contained in this section are reports from other combat vessels of Task Force 17 that were engaged at the battle including the USS *Russell*, the USS *Morris*, the USS *Anderson*, the USS *Hughes*, the USS *Vincennes*, the USS *Pensacola*, the USS *Balch*, and the USS *Benham*. These ships witnessed the Japanese attack on the *Yorktown* and were involved in rescuing survivors from the ship after it was abandoned.

Principal Topics: Battle of Midway; USS *Yorktown*; Task Force 17; USS *Russell*; USS *Morris*; USS *Anderson*; USS *Hughes*; USS *Vincennes*; USS *Pensacola*; USS *Balch*; USS *Benham*.

0233 **Serial 01849, Battle of Midway (Part IV).**

C. T. Simard. June 28, 1942. 189frs.

This section of the file on the Battle of Midway contains reports on the battle from the naval air station on Midway Island and a summary of U.S. Army aircraft attacks at Midway. This material covers May 30 to June 7, 1942, and includes information on Japanese air attacks on the naval air station, the success of attacks by U.S. land-based B-17 type bombers on the Japanese fleet, enemy contacts during the time period in question, casualties incurred by U.S. forces, air actions by naval and Marine Corps aviation units stationed on the island, and the defense of Midway Island during the battle.

Principal Topics: Battle of Midway; Midway Island.

Frame
No.

0423 **Serial 01982, Loss of Yorktown.**

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. July 7, 1942. 68frs.

Chronological report of the events leading up to the sinking of the aircraft carrier USS *Yorktown* during the Battle of Midway. The report describes the repeated Japanese attacks on the vessel, damages to the ship, the ultimate sinking of the ship on June 7, 1942 after a torpedo attack by a Japanese submarine, and efforts made to save the ship itself and the personnel aboard. Reports from other ships that witnessed the attacks on the *Yorktown* are included also.

Principal Topics: Admiral Chester W. Nimitz; USS *Yorktown*; Battle of Midway.

0492 **Serial 02259, Further Interrogation of Hiryu Prisoners.**

L. J. Wiltse. July 23, 1942. 18frs.

Information on the interrogation of 34 survivors of the Japanese aircraft carrier, *Hiryu*, which was sunk during the Battle of Midway, including the history of the *Hiryu*, the ship's role in the attack on Pearl Harbor and the composition of the striking force on that occasion, the ship's participation in the attacks on Wake Island, Ambon, Port Darwin, and Ceylon, and complete details of the Japanese view of the Battle of Midway. Also included is material on Japanese naval organization and technical data on the construction of Japanese naval vessels in general and the *Hiryu* in particular.

Principal Topics: Japanese prisoners of war; *Hiryu*; Battle of Midway; Pearl Harbor attack; Wake Island; Ambon; Port Darwin; Ceylon; Japanese Navy; Japanese naval vessels.

0510 **Serial 02276, Battle of Midway—Supplementary Report.**

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. July 25, 1942. 186frs.

Supplements previous reports of the Battle of Midway found elsewhere in this guide. The information includes additional reports from units engaged in the battle and additional statistical studies that had been conducted after the fighting had ceased. Admiral Nimitz still believed that high altitude bombing was ineffective against maneuvering ships and that Midway proved the value of strongly protected, high-speed aircraft like the B-17 bomber in combatting the Japanese Zero fighter plane. The primary material here is the operational reports on the employment of U.S. air forces at Midway.

Principal Topics: Battle of Midway; Admiral Chester W. Nimitz; U.S. air forces.

0697 **Serial 02281, Attack on Wake Island.**

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. July 25, 1942. 11frs.

Detailed report on the U.S. attack on Wake Island on June 26 and 27, 1942. The U.S. launched an air attack from Midway Island on June 26, 1942. Three U.S. LB-30 bombers dropped eighteen 500-pound bombs on the Japanese airfield on Wake Island. Major damage was reported at the air base, but despite heavy anti-aircraft and small arms fire not one of the U.S. planes or their crews were injured. Following this attack the bombers returned safely to Midway.

Principal Topic: Wake Island.

0708 **Serial 02463, Battle of Midway—Second Supplementary Report.**

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. August 8, 1942. 48frs.

Further supplements information already presented on the U.S. role in the Battle of Midway. This material completes the reports of the task force commanders on the battle and contains the comments of the commander of the Pacific Fleet's submarine force. Also included is information on why the U.S. forces were unable to destroy more Japanese vessels than they did during the initial fighting at Midway on June 5, 1942. The causes for this failure included faulty reporting and overcautious maneuvering by the USS *Tambor*, which passed up an opportunity to torpedo Japanese warships and failed to report the course and speed of these enemy ships after they had been sighted.

Principal Topics: Battle of Midway; U.S. submarine forces; USS *Tambor*.

0756 **Serial 02576, First Endorsement to Commander, South Pacific Area, Serial 0053, August 16, 1942.**

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. August 23, 1942. 15frs.

Nimitz's official endorsement of the preliminary report by the Commander of the South Pacific Area on the Solomon Islands operations. Included are the initial reports

on the U.S. Marine landings in the Guadalcanal-Tulagi area (code-named Operation Watchtower) on August 7 through 9, 1942 and the Battle of Savo Island. Also included is information on U.S. ship losses during these operations.

Principal Topics: Admiral Chester W. Nimitz; Solomon Islands operations; Guadalcanal; Tulagi; Operation Watchtower; Battle of Savo Island.

0771 **Serial 02636, Preliminary Report of Guadalcanal Operations.**

Vice Admiral Robert L. Ghormley. September 2, 1942. 91frs.

This report from the Commander, South Pacific Area contains preliminary information on landings by U.S. Marines on Guadalcanal (Operation Watchtower) and the Battle of Savo Island. The Japanese won a major victory in their night attack on U.S. naval forces off Savo Island on August 9, 1942. The U.S. naval forces were forced to withdraw leaving the Marine units on Guadalcanal completely isolated and short of supplies. The initial Marine landing on August 7, 1942 had been a complete surprise and the Japanese forces on the island had been quickly scattered. The Battle of Savo Island paved the way for Japanese efforts to retake the island.

Principal Topics: Guadalcanal; Operation Watchtower; Battle of Savo Island.

0862 **Serial 02708, USS *Tucker*—Damage Sustained from Mine Explosion.**

W. R. Terrill. September 13, 1942. 16frs.

Information covering the damages sustained by the USS *Tucker* after being struck by a Japanese mine. The *Tucker* was escorting the SS *Nina Luckenbach* from Suva in the Fiji Islands when it struck the mine in the Braut Channel near the island of Espiritu Santo in the New Hebrides on August 3, 1942. Efforts were made to tow the damaged vessel to nearby Malo Island for repairs but the towline was cut when the ship began to sink on August 4, 1942.

Principal Topics: USS *Tucker*; SS *Nina Luckenbach*.

0879 **Serial 02754, Collision of the USS *Lamberton* and the USS *Chandler* on July 27, 1942.**

Lieutenant Commander J. S. Dorsey. September 19, 1942. 7frs.

Report covering the collision between the USS *Lamberton* and the USS *Chandler* that occurred on July 27, 1942 in the Aleutian Islands area while both ships were part of Task Force Eight. The accident took place in a heavy fog with visibility reduced to 250 yards and while the ships were cruising at a speed of 15 knots. The *Chandler* was struck amidships on the starboard side by the *Lamberton*. The report includes an assessment of the damages sustained by both vessels.

Principal Topics: Admiral Chester W. Nimitz; USS *Lamberton*; USS *Chandler*.

0886 **Serial 02766, Report of USS *North Carolina*.**

G. H. Fort. September 20, 1942. 9frs.

Covers the operations of the battleship USS *North Carolina* in the Battle of the Eastern Solomons on August 24, 1942. The *North Carolina* and the aircraft carrier USS *Enterprise* were the principal targets of Japanese air attacks during the battle. The *North Carolina's* anti-aircraft fire played a major role in repelling the Japanese air attacks on the ships of Task Force 16. The *North Carolina* suffered no structural damage in this battle in spite of seven near-miss bombs and some strafing. Casualties amounted to only one enlisted man killed and none wounded.

Principal Topics: USS *North Carolina*; Battle of the Eastern Solomons; USS *Enterprise*.

Reel 4

0001 **Serial 02827, Solomon Islands Campaign—Action of August 23–25 (Battle of the Eastern Solomons). Preliminary Report.**

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. September 27, 1942. 408frs.

From August 23 to 25, 1942 U.S. naval forces in the Southern Pacific, supported by Marine aircraft from the new airfield on Guadalcanal and Army aircraft operating from the airfield at Espiritu Santo, successfully turned back a large-scale Japanese attempt to recapture the islands of Guadalcanal and Tulagi. This major victory, second only to Midway in forces involved, permitted continued consolidation of the U.S. position in the Solomons. In addition, serious losses in both planes and ships were inflicted on the Japanese forces, including the light aircraft carrier, *Ryujo*. Although the United States suffered major damage to the USS *Enterprise*, the United States suffered no serious ship losses. The Japanese succeeded in landing reinforcements on Guadalcanal and bombed Henderson Field on the island, but the loss of so many aircraft plus the sinking of the *Ryujo* proved to be a severe blow. Included are reports from all major U.S. ships and air units taking part in this battle.

Principal Topics: Solomon Islands Campaign; Guadalcanal; Tulagi; *Ryujo*; USS *Enterprise*; Henderson Field.

0414 **Serial 03064, Solomon Islands Campaign—Makin Island Diversion, August 17–18, 1942.**

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. October 20, 1942. 43frs.

The raid on Makin Island on August 17 and 18, 1942 was planned to destroy enemy forces and installations, to gain intelligence information, and primarily to create a diversion that would confuse Japanese planning and would divert forces from the stronger concentrations being assembled to attack Guadalcanal in late August. It succeeded in all its purposes, inflicting loss of Japanese planes, ships, supplies, and men and diverting ships and aircraft meant for use on Guadalcanal, by causing the formation of a Makin relief force.

Principal Topics: Solomon Islands Campaign; Makin Island raid; Guadalcanal.

0458 **Serial 03102, Solomon Islands Campaign—Action of August 23–25 (Battle of the Eastern Solomons). Volume 1.**

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. October 24, 1942. 257frs.

See frame 0001 of this reel for a description of this report.

Principal Topics: Solomon Islands Campaign; Battle of the Eastern Solomons; Guadalcanal; Tulagi; *Ryujo*; USS *Enterprise*; Henderson Field.

0715 **Serial 03102, Battle of the Eastern Solomons. Volume 2.**

D. C. Ramsey. October 24, 1942. 261frs.

Reports cover the U.S. naval surface action with Japanese forces during the Solomon Islands Campaign and provide a complete chronological history of the tactical situation and the combat action against the Japanese naval and air forces in the Eastern Solomons. Several reports are presented from the point of view of the USS *Saratoga* and its attached air units. Among other vessels sending reports of the battle are the USS *Atlanta*, the USS *Grayson*, the USS *Minneapolis*, the USS *North Carolina*, the USS *Portland*, the USS *Balch*, the USS *Mauray*, the USS *Ellet*, and the USS *Benham*.

Principal Topics: Battle of the Eastern Solomons; Solomon Islands Campaign; USS *Saratoga*; USS *Atlanta*; USS *Grayson*; USS *Minneapolis*; USS *North Carolina*; USS *Portland*; USS *Balch*; USS *Mauray*; USS *Ellet*; USS *Benham*.

Reel 5

- 0001 **Serial 03151, Solomon Islands Campaign—Second Savo Island Action—October 11–12, 1942. Preliminary Report.**
E. T. Moran. October 30, 1942. 26frs.
U.S. Task Group 64.2, spearheaded by the USS *Boise*, attacked and defeated a Japanese task force composed of cruisers and destroyers off Cape Esperance, Guadalcanal. This attack occurred on the night of October 11, 1942 and continued into the early morning hours of October 12. During this fight the *Boise* was severely damaged when a Japanese shell blew up the ship's forward magazine.
Principal Topics: Solomon Islands Campaign; Battle of Cape Esperance; U.S. Task Group 64.2; USS *Boise*.
- 0027 **Serial 03168, Solomon Islands Campaign—Torpedoing of *Saratoga*, *Wasp*, and *North Carolina*.**
Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. October 31, 1942. 242frs.
Following the Battle of the Eastern Solomons that turned back the first major Japanese attempt to recover Guadalcanal, both the Japanese and the United States continued to move troops and supplies to the island. U.S. carrier task forces were operating southeastward of the Solomon Islands in support of this movement into Guadalcanal. The purpose of this report is to transmit information on the sinking of the USS *Wasp*, the torpedoing of the USS *Saratoga* and the USS *North Carolina*, and the near torpedoing of the USS *Hornet*, within a period of fifteen days in the same general area. Included are the reports of these operations from the commanders of the *Saratoga* and the *Wasp*, as well as from the commander of the USS *Helena* who witnessed these attacks. Charts showing the track of the task force to which these vessels were attached follow the reports.
Principal Topics: Solomon Islands Campaign; Guadalcanal; USS *Wasp*; USS *Saratoga*; USS *North Carolina*; USS *Hornet*; USS *Helena*.
- 0270 **Serial 03253, Report of Action, Tulagi-Guadalcanal, August 6–10, 1942.**
Rear Admiral Norman Scott. November 10, 1942. 13frs.
Between August 6 and 10, 1942, ships of U.S. Task Force 18 engaged in combat action against Japanese forces in the waters off the islands of Guadalcanal and Tulagi. Included is information on the amphibious landings by U.S. Marines on the two islands with naval support on August 7, 1942, the Japanese counterattack against both the ships of Task Force 18 and the troops ashore, and the Task Force's operations during the Battle of Savo Island on August 9, 1942. This report was prepared by Admiral Norman Scott who commanded the cruisers attached to Task Force 18.
Principal Topics: Task Force 18; Guadalcanal; Tulagi; Battle of Savo Island; Admiral Norman Scott.
- 0283 **Serial 03345, Second Savo Night Action, October 11–12, 1942.**
Rear Admiral Norman Scott. November 19, 1942. 11frs.
This report deals with the night attack by ships of U.S. Task Group 64.2 on a Japanese transport force carrying reinforcements for Guadalcanal. This attack occurred off Cape Esperance on October 11 and 12, 1942. Admiral Norman Scott, commanding five cruisers and five destroyers as escort to a convoy of U.S. troop transports, learned that the Japanese were also attempting to reinforce the island. He intercepted the Japanese transport force and its escort shortly before midnight on October 11. The U.S. Fleet sank both a Japanese cruiser and a destroyer and damaged two more cruisers in the action. Despite this, the Japanese managed to off-load the troops of the convoy on Guadalcanal at the cost of the loss of two more destroyers sunk by land-based U.S. bombers on the island.
Principal Topics: Battle of Cape Esperance; U.S. Task Group 64.2; Guadalcanal; Admiral Norman Scott.

Frame
No.

0294 **Serial 03359, Loss by Torpedoing of USS *Porter* (Flag-Commander Destroyer Squadron Five).**

C. P. Cecil. November 20, 1942. 15frs.

This report covers details of the torpedoing and sinking of the destroyer USS *Porter* on October 26, 1942. The *Porter* received a torpedo hit on its port side while maneuvering to rescue the crew on a U.S. plane which had sent a distress signal. The torpedo apparently had been fired by an undetected Japanese submarine. After taking the torpedo hit the ship lost power and all efforts at damage control proved useless. The crew was taken off by the USS *Shaw* which then preceded to destroy the *Porter* by gunfire to prevent its falling into enemy hands.

Principal Topics: USS *Porter*; USS *Shaw*.

0309 **Serial 03487, Report of Operations at Guadalcanal of VS-3.**

L. J. Kirn. December 1, 1942. 7frs.

This report concerns the operations of Scouting Squadron Three which was transferred to Henderson Field on Guadalcanal to provide close support for Marine forces on the island. Scouting Squadron Three had originally been assigned aboard the USS *Saratoga*, but was transferred ashore after that ship was damaged on August 31, 1942.

Principal Topics: Scouting Squadron Three; Guadalcanal.

0316 **Serial 03547, Report of Action, October 16, 1942.**

C. P. Mason. December 6, 1942. 52frs.

The aircraft carrier, USS *Hornet*, in company with Task Force 17, was operating in the area off Cape West Point on Guadalcanal when it was directed by the Task Force commander to launch an attack group of two waves of planes with the intention of attacking Japanese shipping in the Guadalcanal area. This attack was made on October 16, 1942. The result of this attack was the destruction of twelve Japanese seaplanes and fuel storage and anti-aircraft positions at Rekata Bay and three or four direct bomb hits on a beached Japanese transport at Guadalcanal. The planes also strafed Japanese tents, supplies, and anti-aircraft positions on the island. Aerial photographs of this raid accompany the report.

Principal Topics: USS *Hornet*; Task Force 17; Guadalcanal; Rekata Bay.

0368 **Serial 03563, Shore Bombardment, Mouth of Kokumbona River, Guadalcanal, Morning of November 12, 1942.**

Gilbert C. Hoover. December 8, 1942. 4frs.

On the morning of November 12, 1942 a Japanese battery located near the mouth of the Kokumbona River on Guadalcanal opened fire on a U.S. transport group. Having determined the position of this battery, the USS *Helena* and the USS *Shaw* commenced a shore bombardment which resulted in the silencing of the Japanese guns.

Principal Topics: USS *Helena*; USS *Shaw*; Kokumbona River, Guadalcanal.

0373 **Serial 03646, Action Report—Raid on Japanese Patrol Lines, Southern Gilbert Islands, October 22, 1942.**

Rodger W. Simpson. December 13, 1942. 37frs.

The commander of U.S. Destroyer Division Nine, consisting of the USS *Lamson* and the USS *Mahan*, en route from Pearl Harbor to the southeast as an escort for Task Force 16, was ordered to destroy the Japanese patrol line of four ships in the southern Gilbert Islands and to pick up prisoners if possible. The U.S. destroyers sank two of the patrol boats before being attacked from the air by Japanese seaplanes. The Japanese crew escaped in small boats and no prisoners were taken. Neither of the U.S. destroyers were damaged. This report was prepared by the commander of the USS *Mahan*.

Principal Topics: U.S. Destroyer Division Nine; USS *Lamson*; USS *Mahan*; Gilbert Islands.

0410 **Serial 03658, Action Report—Dive Bombing Attack on Task Unit 62.4.5, October 15, 1942.**

J. S. Freeman. December 14, 1942. 12frs.

U.S. Task Unit 62.4.5, consisting of the USS *Alchiba*, USS *Bellatrix*, USS *Nicholas*, and USS *Jamestown*, was attacked by four Japanese Zero fighter planes on October

15, 1942. The Japanese planes launched dive bombing attacks on the U.S. vessels. No bombs struck the ships and the Japanese planes were driven off by heavy fire from the ships' guns. Neither the U.S. ships nor the attacking planes sustained any damage.
Principal Topics: USS *Alchiba*; USS *Bellatrix*; USS *Nicholas*; USS *Jamestown*.

0422 **Serial 03660, Action Report—Raid on Japanese Patrol Line, South of Gilbert Islands, October 22, 1942.**

L. A. Abercrombie. December 14, 1942. 23frs.

The commander of U.S. Destroyer Division Nine consisting of the USS *Lamson* and the USS *Mahan*, en route from Pearl Harbor to the southeast as an escort for Task Force 16, was ordered to destroy the Japanese patrol line of four ships in the southern Gilbert Islands and to pick up prisoners if possible. The two U.S. destroyers sank two of the Japanese patrol boats before being attacked from the air by Japanese seaplanes. The Japanese crew escaped in small boats and no prisoners were taken. Neither of the U.S. destroyers were damaged. This report was prepared by the commander of the USS *Lamson*.

Principal Topics: U.S. Destroyer Division Nine; USS *Lamson*; USS *Mahan*; Gilbert Islands.

0445 **Serial 03669, Report of Air Raid on Buin-Faisi-Tonolei, Bougainville, on October 5, 1942.**

G. D. Murray. December 16, 1942. 34frs.

On October 5, 1942 the ships of Task Force 17, spearheaded by the USS *Hornet*, launched an air raid against the Buin-Faisi-Tonolei area of Bougainville Island. This raid, considering the thoroughly unfavorable weather in which it was conducted, was successfully accomplished. The first wave of planes bombed a Japanese landing strip and the buildings immediately adjacent to it on Bougainville. Due to the weather conditions existing during the raid, many of the U.S. planes in this wave had become separated, and, being unable to locate their target area, returned to their ships. The second wave of U.S. attack planes found their target and did some damage to the Japanese ships they found in the area.

Principal Topics: Bougainville Island; Task Force 17.

0479 **Serial 03719, Action Report—Loss of USS *Juneau*, November 13, 1942.**

Lieutenant Commander H. E. Schonland. December 20, 1942. 6frs.

On November 13, 1942 the USS *Juneau* was struck on the port side, probably in the vicinity of the ship's bridge, by a torpedo fired by a Japanese submarine. The entire ship exploded in a column of brown and white smoke and flame that rose over a thousand feet in the air. The *Juneau* literally disintegrated with the loss of all aboard. This report of the incident was filed by the commander of the USS *San Francisco*, which was accompanying the *Juneau* at the time of its destruction. The Japanese submarine was not intercepted.

Principal Topics: USS *Juneau*; USS *San Francisco*.

0485 **Serial 03734, Action with Enemy Submarine by USS *Southard*.**

J. G. Tennent. December 20, 1942. 10frs.

This report deals with a combat engagement that occurred between the USS *Southard* and a Japanese submarine in the area between San Cristobal and Guadalcanal Islands on November 10, 1942. The *Southard* spotted the submarine on the surface and moved on a parallel course to intercept it. When the submarine was identified as Japanese, the *Southard* opened fire with her deck guns. The submarine then submerged and the *Southard* continued the attack with depth charges. The Japanese vessel was damaged severely by these attacks and, after surfacing once more, finally sank.

Principal Topic: USS *Southard*.

0495 **Serial 03743, Operations of Task Force 16 in the Action for the Defense of Guadalcanal, November 12–15, 1942.**

Rear Admiral T. C. Kinkaid. December 22, 1942. 10frs.

Task Force 16 was ordered from Noumea on New Caledonia to strike Japanese targets in the area of Guadalcanal on November 11, 1942. For the next four days the ships of the task force engaged in combat operations in the vicinity of the island. The ships searched unsuccessfully for enemy targets on November 12 following reports of sightings of enemy carriers. On November 13 it was decided to reduce the number of planes aboard the USS *Enterprise* due to damages it had sustained earlier. These planes were sent on to Guadalcanal and while en route they successfully attacked a Japanese battleship north of Savo Island. Later that day a strike force composed of two U.S. battleships and four destroyers proceeded to Savo Island and intercepted a Japanese bombardment force. On November 14, while out searching for a Japanese transport force heading toward Guadalcanal from Faisi, the air attack group from the *Enterprise* encountered a sizable force of enemy combatant ships off New Georgia Island, which they attacked in conjunction with land-based aircraft from Guadalcanal, causing considerable damage. Later that day the *Enterprise* air attack group did locate the Japanese transports and successfully attacked them as well. Following these operations Task Force 16 pulled back to the area of Espiritu Santo and Noumea.

Principal Topics: Task Force 16; Guadalcanal; USS *Enterprise*; Savo Island; New Georgia Island.

0505 **Serial 03751, Loss of USS *Cushing*.**

T. M. Stokes. December 23, 1942. 6frs.

The USS *Cushing* was lost due to an enemy action on November 13, 1942, about two miles to the southeast of Savo Island. The *Cushing* had been hit heavily by enemy fire and was stopped, lying dead in the water with no power. Shortly thereafter the ship again came under heavy enemy fire to which no adequate reply could be made. The ship's commander ordered the *Cushing* abandoned about 20 minutes later while the ship was still under enemy fire. At that time the *Cushing* caught fire and continued to burn furiously until an explosion occurred below deck and the vessel sank.

Principal Topic: USS *Cushing*.

0511 **Serial 03753, Report of Action Off Savo Island, Night of August 8–9, 1942**

Captain F. I. Riefkohl. December 23, 1943. 9frs.

The report provides additional information regarding an encounter with Japanese warships that occurred off Savo Island on the night of August 8–9, 1942. The information was sent by Captain Reifkohl, the commander of the USS *Vincennes*, and offers details of the action that he had obtained from various sources on other ships that were accompanying the *Vincennes* during this engagement.

Principal Topics: Savo Island; USS *Vincennes*.

0520 **Serial 03763, Action Report—Air Attacks on Japanese, November 13–14, 1942.**

O. B. Hardison. December 24, 1942. 103frs.

Detailed account of a U.S. air attack on Japanese shipping that occurred off the island of Guadalcanal on November 13 and 14, 1942. At a cost of five U.S. planes lost, five officers and two enlisted men missing, and two officers wounded, the planes of the USS *Enterprise*, operating with Task Force 16, under the command of Admiral T. C. Kinkaid, reported sinking one Japanese vessel, probably sinking five others, and inflicting damage on a number of other Japanese ships. Seventeen Japanese planes were shot down.

Principal Topics: Guadalcanal; Japanese shipping; USS *Enterprise*; Admiral T. C. Kincaid.

0625 **Serial 03772, Action Report—Air Attack, November 12, 1942 (Off Lunga Point, Guadalcanal).**

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. December 25, 1942. 58frs.

On November 12, 1942, while in the process of unloading troops and cargo off Lunga Point on Guadalcanal Island, the ships of Task Group 67.1 and of Task Group 67.4

were attacked by Japanese heavy bombers. These planes attacked in three waves and were met by return fire from the task groups. Of the twenty-one Japanese planes involved in the attack only one escaped. One of the damaged Japanese planes intentionally crashed into the superstructure of the USS *San Francisco*, causing considerable damage. The USS *Buchanan* received some minor damage from machine gun fire and shrapnel. No other ship in either task group sustained any damages.

Principal Topics: Lunga Point, Guadalcanal; Task Group 67.1; Task Group 67.4; USS *San Francisco*; USS *Buchanan*.

0684 **Serial 03791, Solomon Islands Campaign—Second Savo Island Action, Night of October 11–12, 1942.**

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. December 26, 1942. 136frs.

On the night of October 11, 1942, U.S. Task Group 64.2, consisting of nine ships under Rear Admiral Norman Scott, engaged a numerically stronger force of Japanese cruisers and destroyers. Due to careful preparations, seamanship and gunnery of a high order, and resolute and aggressive leadership a notable U.S. victory was achieved. The exact number of Japanese ships is difficult to ascertain, however, it appears probable that there were two groups of Japanese ships present during the battle. The U.S. forces reported sinking two Japanese cruisers and five destroyers and causing damage to several other Japanese vessels. Among the ships of Task Force 64.2, the USS *Duncan* was sunk, the USS *Boise* was damaged seriously, and the USS *Salt Lake City* and the USS *Farenholt* sustained moderate damage. This action is generally known as the Battle of Cape Esperance.

Principal Topics: Solomon Islands Campaign; Task Group 64.2; Admiral Norman Scott; Battle of Cape Esperance; USS *Duncan*; USS *Boise*; USS *Salt Lake City*; USS *Farenholt*.

0821 **Serial 03799, Action Report—Night Bombardment Raid, Wake Island, December 22–23, 1942.**

Lieutenant Colonel J. D. Rutledge, Jr., USAAF. December 26, 1942. 14frs.

Early in December 1942, the Seventh (VII) Bomber Command was directed to make preparations for a night bombardment raid against Japanese-held Wake Island. The 307th Bombardment Group with twenty-four B-24D type aircraft was designated as the unit to carry out this raid. These planes took off from Midway on the night of December 22. Each airplane commander was assigned to one of nine specifically designated target areas on Wake Island. The U.S. pilots reported extensive damage to the island's buildings, runways, underground hanger, and airplane dispersal area. Also bombed were the Japanese officers' quarters and water and fuel tanks on Peale Island. Most of the targets were reported to be heavily burning. The U.S. planes returned safely to Midway following the success of their mission.

Principal Topics: Seventh (VII) Bomber Command; Wake Island; 307th Bombardment Group.

0835 **Serial 03810, Action Report—USS *President Adams*.**

F. H. Dean. December 28, 1942. 13frs.

The USS *President Adams*, an armed transport ship, was attacked by Japanese torpedo bombers on November 12, 1942 off the island of Guadalcanal. Many of the *President Adams's* crew were off the ship at the time of the attack and her guns were manned by a hastily assembled make-shift force, including a number of the troops the ship was transporting. The *President Adams* shot down at least two of the attacking planes and claimed effective hits on two others. The ship sustained no damage and no casualties.

Principal Topic: USS *President Adams*.

Reel 6

- 0001 **Serial 03812, Preliminary Report of Action, November 12–13, 1942.**
Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. December 28, 1942. 159frs.
Deals with the first phase of the naval battle of Guadalcanal. Task Group 67.4 commanded by Rear Admiral Daniel Callaghan had covered the withdrawal of U.S. transports from Guadalcanal. Following that, it had made a sweep toward Savo Island which resulted in this action. Japanese naval forces in three groups arrived in the area by surprise and attacked the U.S. task group. This battle was one of the most confused and furious naval actions of the war. U.S. and Japanese forces battled for over a half an hour before breaking off the engagement. Japanese ship losses included one battleship, two cruisers, and five destroyers. All of the remaining Japanese ships suffered damage. The U.S. forces lost two cruisers and four destroyers sunk, four vessels badly damaged, and two others lightly damaged. Only one U.S. ship, the USS *Fletcher*, escaped without damage. Both of the U.S. commanders, Admirals Daniel Callaghan and Norman Scott, were killed in this engagement. Although a tactical draw, this battle can be considered an American success since the Japanese forces were prevented from carrying out their mission of bombing Henderson Field and the Japanese troop convoy was prevented from landing on Guadalcanal.
Principal Topics: Guadalcanal; Task Group 67.4; Admiral Daniel Callaghan; USS *Fletcher*; Admiral Norman Scott; Henderson Field.
- 0161 **Serial 00438, Search Operations for Lost Army Photographic Plane.**
H. M. Martin. January 1943. 5frs.
Brief summary of the events connected with the loss of an Army photographic plane and the unsuccessful search that was conducted thereafter. The plane, a B-29 type aircraft, crashed into the sea off Midway Island on December 28, 1942 following a routine mission. The pilot became lost on his return trip to Wake Island and was ordered to turn back to Midway due to a shortage of fuel. Just short of Midway the pilot's fuel situation became critical and he lost his outboard starboard engine. He reported he was going to land in the water before radio contact was lost. An extensive search and rescue operation launched from Midway failed to turn up any trace of the plane or its pilot.
Principal Topics: Midway Island; rescue operations.
- 0166 **Serial: none, Endorsements of Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet—January 1942 through February 1943.**
Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. n.d. 426frs.
Contains endorsements of battle action reports from Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet. Book 1 contains material on the Marshall and Gilbert Islands raids, an air raid on Task Force 11, the raids on Salamaua and Lae, and the Battles of the Coral Sea and Midway. Book 2 is solely devoted to endorsements of battle actions during the Solomon Islands campaign. Included in this section is information on the Makin Island raid, the torpedoing of the USS *Wasp*, the USS *Saratoga*, and the USS *North Carolina*, the Battle of Santa Cruz, and the naval battles in the vicinity of Savo Island. Book 3 also contains material on the Solomon Islands campaign including the night bombardment raid on Wake Island, the third and fourth battles of Savo Island, the bombardment of Munda, the fall of Guadalcanal, and general reports of naval operations in Pacific Ocean areas.
Principal Topics: Admiral Chester W. Nimitz; Marshall Islands raid; Gilbert Islands raid; Salamaua raid; Lae raid; Battle of the Coral Sea; Battle of Midway; Solomon Islands campaign; Makin Island raid; USS *Wasp*; USS *Saratoga*; USS *North Carolina*; Battle of Santa Cruz; Savo Island; Munda; Guadalcanal; Pacific Ocean area.
- 0598 **Serial 00413, Solomon Islands Campaign—Battle of Santa Cruz, October 26, 1942. Part I.**
Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. January 6, 1943. 212frs.
On October 26, 1942, U.S. naval forces in the South Pacific turned back the first large-scale Japanese carrier-supported movement since the severe defeat

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administered to the Japanese fleet at the Battle of the Eastern Solomons on August 23–25, 1942. In this engagement, at a heavier loss than in the earlier battle, U.S. forces put out of action a large part of the Japanese carrier air groups, thus not only assisting in checking the immediate movement against Guadalcanal, but paving the way for the decisive naval battle of Guadalcanal fought from November 13 through 15, 1942, which the Japanese were forced to enter with its carrier air strength greatly reduced. Two Japanese cruisers and a number of other vessels were damaged in this battle. On the American side the aircraft carrier, USS *Hornet*, was sunk and a second U.S. carrier, the *Enterprise*, was damaged severely.

Principal Topics: Solomon Islands campaign; Battle of Santa Cruz; Battle of the Eastern Solomons; Japanese carrier air groups; Guadalcanal; USS *Hornet*; USS *Enterprise*.

0811 **Serial 00413, Solomon Islands Campaign—Battle of Santa Cruz, October 26, 1942. Part II.**

O. B. Hardison. January 6, 1943. 141frs.

Presents the Battle of Santa Cruz from the point of view of the commander, executive officer, and crew of the aircraft carrier, USS *Enterprise*, which was damaged severely during the fighting on October 26, 1942. Included is information on the *Enterprise's* casualties, the extent of its damages, the conduct of its crew during the engagement, and track charts showing the *Enterprise's* movements. Also included are letters of commendation for members of the *Enterprise's* crew who distinguished themselves in the battle, recommendations for promotions, and recommendations for recipients of medals for bravery including the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Navy Cross, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Silver Star.

Principal Topics: Solomon Islands campaign; Battle of Santa Cruz; USS *Enterprise*.

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0001 **Serial 00413, Solomon Islands Campaign—Battle of Santa Cruz, October 26, 1942. Part II cont.**

J. Q. Owsley. January 6, 1943. 152frs.

Focuses on the role played by the aircraft carrier, USS *Enterprise*, in the Battle of Santa Cruz. Included is a continuation of the *Enterprise's* casualty figures and reports of the battle from units of the *Enterprise's* carrier air group. Also included are aerial photographs of the battle taken by the *Enterprise's* planes, reports from the USS *Portland* and the USS *San Juan* which participated in the anti-aircraft action in defense of the *Enterprise*, and a report on the torpedoing of the USS *Porter*.

Principal Topics: Solomon Islands campaign; Battle of Santa Cruz; USS *Enterprise*; USS *Portland*; USS *San Juan*; USS *Porter*.

0153 **Serial 00413, Solomon Islands Campaign—Battle of Santa Cruz, October 26, 1942. Part III.**

Hunter Wood, Jr. January 6, 1943. 283frs.

Contains reports from a number of U.S. ships that were involved in the Battle of Santa Cruz. Each ship commander offers a perspective of the battle as seen from the deck of their own vessel. Among the ships sending reports are the USS *Smith*, the USS *Shaw*, the USS *Maury*, USS *Conyngham*, the USS *Morris*, the USS *Mustin*, the USS *Anderson*, the USS *Russell*, the USS *Hughes*, the USS *Preston*, the USS *Northampton*, the USS *Pensacola*, the USS *San Diego*, and the USS *Juneau*.

Principal Topics: Solomon Islands campaign; Battle of Santa Cruz; USS *Smith*; USS *Shaw*; USS *Maury*; USS *Conyngham*; USS *Morris*; USS *Mustin*; USS *Anderson*; USS *Russell*; USS *Hughes*; USS *Preston*; USS *Northampton*; USS *Pensacola*; USS *San Diego*; USS *Juneau*.

0436 **Serial 00413, Solomon Islands Campaign—Battle of Santa Cruz, October 26, 1942. Part IV.**

NA. January 6, 1943. 147frs.

This folder contains photographs of the Battle of Santa Cruz taken by U.S. ships and planes involved in the fight. The majority of the photos show views of the USS *Hornet*, which was damaged severely during this engagement, abandoned by its crew, and later sunk by the Japanese. The photos were sent by the commander of Cruiser Division Five. *Principal Topics:* Solomon Islands campaign; Battle of Santa Cruz; USS *Hornet*; Commander, Cruiser Division Five.

0584 **Serial 00416, Torpedo Plane Attack, November 12, 1942, Off Guadalcanal.**

S. P. Jenkins. January 7, 1943. 8frs.

On the afternoon of November 12, 1942 the ships of Task Force 67 were engaged in unloading troops and supplies to the eastward of Lunga Point on Guadalcanal. The cruisers and destroyers were screening the transports and supply ships. Word was received that 25 Japanese bombers were en route to Guadalcanal. The ships went to general quarters and prepared to repel an air attack. At the same time the U.S. combatant ships closed up on the transports and the entire task force got underway. Japanese torpedo bombers appeared over Florida Island in two attack waves. Two U.S. vessels, the *Juneau* and the *Atlanta* opened fire on the incoming aircraft. The Japanese succeeded in dropping two torpedoes but caused no damage. The U.S. warships shot down several enemy aircraft and all the rest of their planes were destroyed by anti-aircraft fire and U.S. fighter planes launched from Guadalcanal.

Principal Topics: Task Force 67; Lunga Point, Guadalcanal; USS *Juneau*; USS *Atlanta*.

0592 **Serial 00421, Action Report of the Loss of the *Hornet*.**

Lieutenant Commander H. A. I. Luard, Royal Navy. January 8, 1943. 13frs.

Prepared by Lieutenant Commander Luard of the Royal Navy while serving on temporary assignment to the U.S. Pacific Fleet, the report covers the Japanese attacks on the aircraft carrier, USS *Hornet*, during the Battle of Santa Cruz on October 26, 1942. The *Hornet* was attacked and damaged severely by Japanese bombers during the engagement and was being towed out of action by the cruiser, USS *Northampton*. The battle began to go against the U.S. forces and they began a withdrawal with the Japanese ships in close pursuit. Unable to get away while towing the disabled *Hornet*, the *Northampton* cut the tow line and abandoned the ship to the enemy. The *Hornet* subsequently was sunk by Japanese destroyers.

Principal Topics: Lt. Commander H. A. I. Luard; USS *Hornet*; Battle of Santa Cruz; USS *Northampton*.

0605 **Serial 00448, Report of Action Off Savo Island on the Night of October 11–12, 1942 (Battle of Cape Esperance).**

W. G. Cooper. January 17, 1943. 18frs.

This report on the naval engagement that took place off Savo Island on the night of October 11–12, 1942 was filed by the commander of the destroyer, USS *McCalla*, which took part in this action. During the fighting the *McCalla*, along with other vessels in the task force opened fire on a Japanese cruiser and two destroyers, all of which caught fire and subsequently sunk. The *McCalla* expended three hundred and ninety rounds of five-inch ammunition during this engagement. A track chart of the *McCalla*'s movements during the battle is included with the report.

Principal Topics: Savo Island; Battle of Cape Esperance; USS *McCalla*.

0623 **Serial 0310, War Damage Sustained by USS *New Orleans* (CA 32) in Night Action, November 30–December 1, 1942.**

P. V. Mercer. February 10, 1943. 8frs.

Series of photographs showing the damage sustained by the USS *New Orleans* during the night action known as the Battle of Tassafaronga that occurred on November 30–December 1, 1942.

Principal Topics: USS *New Orleans*; Battle of Tassafaronga.

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- 0631 **Serial 00544, Report of Action, USS *McFarland*, Off Lunga Point, Guadalcanal, October 16, 1942.**
Admiral Raymond A. Spruance. February 14, 1943. 4frs.
While unloading aviation gasoline off Lunga Point on Guadalcanal Island on October 16, 1942, the USS *McFarland* was attacked by nine Japanese dive bombers. It suffered one hit that blew off the stern and destroyed its steering control. The ship was towed into Tulagi for repairs and remained there camouflaged until November 25, during which time the ship's commanding officer served as commander of the naval base established there. The officers and men of the *McFarland* distinguished themselves by their conduct in action with the enemy and in saving their ship. They were commended by the Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet.
Principal Topics: USS *McFarland*; Lunga Point, Guadalcanal; Tulagi.
- 0635 **Serial 00546, Solomon Islands Campaign, 5th Battle of Savo—November 30, 1942.**
Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. February 15, 1943. 202frs.
On the night of November 30, 1942, the Japanese were turned back in their first important attempt to reinforce Guadalcanal since the decisive engagements in mid-November. Task Force 67 under Rear Admiral C. H. Wright attacked before the landing could be accomplished, and at a severe cost to the U.S. ships, forced the Japanese to withdraw. This action, following the defeats of two weeks earlier, apparently persuaded the Japanese to relinquish temporarily any hope of important reinforcement of Guadalcanal and to restrict themselves to small-scale supply by submarines or occasional destroyers while building airfields for support of the route to Guadalcanal. The Japanese lost four destroyers sunk in this action and two more were damaged. Task Force 67 lost the USS *Northampton* (sunk) and the USS *Pensacola*, the USS *New Orleans*, and the USS *Minneapolis* suffered severe damage.
Principal Topics: Solomon Islands campaign; Fifth Battle of Savo Island; Guadalcanal; Task Force 67; Admiral C. H. Wright; USS *Northampton*; USS *Pensacola*; USS *New Orleans*; USS *Minneapolis*.

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- 0001 **Serial 00546, Solomon Islands Campaign, 5th Battle of Savo—November 30, 1942 cont.**
J. E. Cooper. February 15, 1943. 60frs.
This report, which is continued from the previous reel, contains information on the Fifth Battle of Savo Island from the commanding officers of U.S. ships engaged in the fighting. Among those ships sending reports are the USS *Drayton*, the USS *Lamson*, the USS *Lardner*, the USS *Honolulu*, and the USS *Lansdowne*. Many of these reports include track charts showing the movements of the various ships during the battle.
Principal Topics: Solomon Islands campaign; Fifth Battle of Savo Island; USS *Drayton*; USS *Lamson*; USS *Lardner*; USS *Honolulu*; USS *Lansdowne*.
- 0062 **Serial 00554, Solomon Islands Campaign—Battle of the Solomons, November 11–15, 1942.**
Admiral Raymond A. Spruance. February 18, 1943. 271frs.
Moving with air, land, and sea forces during the period November 11–15, 1942, the Japanese launched the strongest and most determined of their several offensives to regain Guadalcanal. After fighting for several days, U.S. sea and air forces turned the enemy back in what was probably the decisive battle of the three and a half months of hard fighting for control of Guadalcanal. During the battle twenty-six Japanese ships were sunk (including two battleships) and twelve ships were damaged. Nine U.S. ships were sunk and eight were damaged (including the battleship, USS *South Dakota*).
Principal Topics: Solomon Islands campaign; Battle of the Solomons; Guadalcanal; USS *South Dakota*.

- 0334 **Serial 00581, Action Report—USS *Monssen*, Report of Battle of November 13, 1942.**
Charles E. McComb. February 26, 1943. 19frs.

This report from the commanding officer of the USS *Monssen* recounts its role in a battle of Guadalcanal on November 13, 1942. The *Monssen* attacked a Japanese battleship of the *Kongo* class with five torpedoes. Two scored direct hits in the area between the battleship's forward superstructure and mainmast. Later in the fight the *Monssen* opened fire on a Japanese destroyer that had attacked another ship of the U.S. task force and scored several hits on this target. Yet another Japanese destroyer was spotted and the *Monssen* fired an estimated 800 to 1,000 rounds at this vessel. While engaging still another Japanese warship the *Monssen's* five-inch gun battery was silenced, all of her 20mm guns were put out of commission, and steering control power was lost. The helpless U.S. vessel was then subjected to a heavy bombardment which caused the order to abandon ship to be given. The next day the *Monssen* was still afloat, although burning from the forward bulkhead. Members of the ship's crew returned to the vessel and rescued more survivors who had been left behind. Shortly after they again had to abandon the ship and the *Monssen* blew up and sank.

Principal Topics: USS *Monssen*; Guadalcanal.

- 0353 **Serial 00585, Salvage of USS *Shaw* (DD-373).**

W. B. Jackson. February 27, 1943. 7frs.

Commander of the South Pacific Service Squadron's report of the salvage of the destroyer, USS *Shaw*, by the USS *Menominee* with the assistance of the USS *Sonoma* and the USS *Ebony*. The USS *Shaw* had been grounded on Sournois Reef, near the entrance to Noumea, New Caledonia on January 10, 1943. The *Menominee* and the other vessels assisting her attempted to pull the *Shaw* off the reef during high tide but was unsuccessful. The salvage vessels then removed the *Shaw's* equipment and armaments to lighten the vessel. Both of the *Shaw's* propellers had been damaged during the grounding and the ship was taking on water faster than the pumps could remove it. All of the *Shaw's* power was lost and the firerooms and engine room were all flooded. The salvage vessels brought aboard extra pumps and finally managed to clear out enough water to lighten the ship. At high tide on January 15, 1943 the three salvage vessels, pulling in tandem, finally managed to pull the *Shaw* clear of the reef.

Principal Topics: USS *Shaw*; USS *Menominee*; USS *Sonoma*; USS *Ebony*.

- 0360 **Serial 00590, Solomon Islands Campaign, 4th Battle of Savo—December 1942.**

Admiral William F. Halsey. March 3, 1943. 8frs.

In this night action a U.S. force consisting of ten ships under the command of Rear Admiral C. H. Wright intercepted Japanese surface units between Cape Esperance and Tassafaronga and probably defeated their attempt to land troops and/or supplies on Guadalcanal. This picture of this entire action is so confused that the exact number of Japanese surface vessels involved is merely conjecture but probably consisted of about ten destroyers and four light cruisers. Enemy losses were estimated at two cruisers and seven destroyers. Gunfire and torpedoes were used by ships on both sides. Although the Japanese surface fire was ineffective, their torpedoes were highly accurate. The Japanese ships completely immobilized three U.S. heavy cruisers and sank a fourth.

Principal Topics: Solomon Islands campaign; Fourth Battle of Savo Island; Admiral C. H. Wright; Guadalcanal.

- 0368 **Serial 00599, Solomon Islands Campaign, from Fourth Battle of Savo, November 30, 1942 to Munda Bombardment, January 4–5, 1943.**

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. March 9, 1943. 342frs.

For a month following the Fourth Battle of Savo on November 30, 1942, activities in the Solomons were limited to minor operations while both the United States and the Japanese occupied themselves in strengthening positions and preparing for the next major operation. In no single attack did the U.S. forces inflict serious loss but the cumulative effect of U.S. submarine, aircraft, and surface ship attacks resulted in considerable total losses to the Japanese at little cost to themselves. The final operation covered by this report was the bombardment of Munda Air Base on the night of January

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4-5, 1943, by U.S. forces under the command of Rear Admiral W. L. Ainsworth consisting of three cruisers and two destroyers from Task Force 67. Although the bombardment was ably planned and executed, the air strip was back in operation within eighteen hours of the attack.

Principal Topics: Solomon Islands campaign; Fourth Battle of Savo Island; Munda; Admiral W. L. Ainsworth; Task Force 67.

0710 **Serial 00617, Report of Night Action, Task Force 64—November 14-15, 1942, Third Battle of Savo Island.**

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. March 18, 1943. 292frs.

On the night of November 14-15, 1942, Task Force 64 engaged Japanese naval forces in the vicinity of Savo Island, broke up Japanese attempts to bombard Henderson Field on Guadalcanal, and thwarted enemy attempts to land supplies and troops on Guadalcanal under cover of darkness. The enemy bombardment group was intercepted seven miles east of Savo Island. Three ships of this group, believed to have been one heavy cruiser and two light cruisers, were engaged by the USS *Washington* and the USS *South Dakota*. By the end of this brief engagement the enemy bombardment group was thoroughly disorganized and the area east of Savo Island was cleared of all Japanese vessels, except for one ship left burning. The heavy cruiser and one light cruiser were later reported as having been sunk. None of the U.S. ships involved were damaged in this action. Following this attack the two U.S. battleships were engaged by the Japanese in a surprise destroyer torpedo attack. The two battleships had been on their way to intercept the Japanese transports and their covering groups when this surprise attack occurred. During the course of this latter engagement both battleships came under heavy attack and the USS *South Dakota* received serious damages. Photographs of the damages sustained by the USS *South Dakota* in the latter stages of this action are included in this folder.

Principal Topics: Third Battle of Savo Island; Task Force 64; Henderson Field; Guadalcanal; USS *Washington*; USS *South Dakota*.

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0001 **Serial 00617, Report of Night Action, Task Force 64—November 14-15, 1942, Third Battle of Savo Island cont.**

Lieutenant (jg.) W. W. Woods. March 18, 1943. 27frs.

This folder, continued from the previous reel, presents an overview of the Third Battle of Savo Island from the perspective of the ship commanders who were present during the fighting. In this section, reports on the battle from the USS *Preston* and the USS *Walke* are given. The material includes damage reports, casualty lists, and lists of survivors evacuated to other vessels.

Principal Topics: Task Force 64; Third Battle of Savo Island; USS *Preston*; USS *Walke*.

0028 **Serial 00618, Solomon Islands Campaign, from January 6, 1943 through Vila Bombardment, January 23-24, 1943.**

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. March 19, 1943. 246frs.

During the period covered by this report the Japanese occupied themselves with reinforcement of New Guinea and supply of Guadalcanal while building up positions in the mid-Solomons. The U.S. forces continued developing their foothold at Guadalcanal-Tulagi, initiated an offensive to drive the enemy from Guadalcanal, and, on the night of January 23-24, 1943, bombarded the new Japanese air base under construction at Vila on Kolombangara Island. This naval bombardment was conducted ably and delivered effective fire; nevertheless, the resulting damage did not prevent the Japanese from further developing the base.

Principal Topics: Solomon Islands campaign; New Guinea; Guadalcanal; Tulagi; Vila air base; Kolombangara Island.

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0277 **Serial 00669, Solomons Operations, August 7, 8, and 9, 1942.**

Admiral Raymond A. Spruance. April 1, 1943. 350frs.

The commander of Mine Division Five in tactical command of the USS *Southard* and the USS *Zane*, a unit of the fire support group attached to Mine Squadron Two, bombarded Bungara Island on the morning of August 7, 1942, to cover the approach of a U.S. landing force to Halavo on Florida Island and also to cover the right flank of the USS *Hopkins*, the USS *Hovey*, and the USS *Trevor*, while these ships were firing on Gavtu Island. This mission was accomplished successfully. The reports sent by the commanders of each of the U.S. vessels involved in this action is included in this folder. Also included in this folder are reports from the commanders of the transports carrying the U.S. landing force and their perspective on the engagement.

Principal Topics: USS *Southard*; USS *Zane*; Mine Squadron Two; Bungara Island; Halavo, Florida Island; USS *Hopkins*; USS *Hovey*; USS *Trevor*; Gavtu Island.

0629 **Serial 00712, Solomon Islands Campaign—Fall of Guadalcanal, Period January 25 to February 10, 1943.**

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. April 17, 1943. 273frs.

In the latter days of January 1943, Japanese activity gave the appearance of another major effort to regain Guadalcanal. Actually their activities ended in the evacuation of the island. On the night of February 7–8, 1943, six months to the day from the U.S. landing, all Japanese troops except for small covering groups left the island. This report covers the main events leading up to the fall of Guadalcanal. Included is information on the sinkings of the USS *Chicago* and the USS *De Haven*, and detailed reports on the evacuation of Guadalcanal and the total casualties, both in ships, planes, and men, suffered by the U.S. and Japanese forces during the latter stages of the Guadalcanal operations. Action reports from ship commanders involved in naval operations during this time period are also included in this folder.

Principal Topics: Solomon Islands campaign; Guadalcanal; USS *Chicago*; USS *De Haven*.

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0001 **Serial 00712, Solomon Islands Campaign—Fall of Guadalcanal, Period January 25 to February 10, 1943 cont.**

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. April 17, 1943. 140frs.

This folder, which is continued from the previous reel, represents action reports from U.S. ship commanders who were involved in naval operations in the Solomons in the time leading up to the fall of Guadalcanal. Among the ships sending reports are the USS *Chevalier*, the USS *Chicago*, the USS *Columbia*, the USS *Cleveland*, the USS *Louisville*, the USS *Wichita*, the USS *Anderson*, the USS *Radford*, and the USS *Wilson*.
Principal Topics: Solomon Islands Campaign; Guadalcanal; USS *Chevalier*; USS *Chicago*; USS *Columbia*; USS *Cleveland*; USS *Louisville*; USS *Wichita*; USS *Anderson*; USS *Radford*; USS *Wilson*.

0142 **Serial 00712, Air Operations of Bombing Squadron 101.**

Lieutenant Commander W. A. Moffett. April 26, 1943. 17frs.

This report concerns the heavy bombardment operations in the Solomon Islands engaged in by VB-101, a naval aviation unit, from February 12 to March 11, 1943. During this period the bomber squadron conducted a total of 12 air strikes (two daylight, ten night). The number of planes participating in these strikes varied from ten to three. The daylight attacks made by this unit were against anchored Japanese shipping in the face of heavy anti-aircraft fire in which all participating planes sustained damage. The squadron also encountered opposition from Japanese fighter planes. The objectives of the squadrons night attacks included both Japanese ships and land targets.

Principal Topics: Solomon Islands; Bombing Squadron 101; Japanese shipping.

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- 0159 **Serial 00749, Cruiser Action Off Savo Island on the Night of August 8–9, 1942.**
Admiral Robert L. Ghormley. April 26, 1943. 9frs.

The vessels engaged in this action consisted of a Screening Group under the tactical command of the commander of Task Group 62.6. The Allied units were caught by surprise by Japanese naval forces and incurred great losses due to an excessive reliance on radar by the screening destroyers, which failed to detect the presence of the enemy force until it was too late. The fatigue experienced by the members of the U.S. crews, who had been on alert for 48 hours and who had been fighting for most of that time, was a related cause of this Allied disaster.

Principal Topics: Task Group 62.6; Savo Island.

- 0168 **Serial 00754, Operations of Task Force 18, January 29–30, 1943 during Enemy Air Attacks Off Rennell Island, Leading to the Loss of the USS *Chicago*.**

Admiral William F. Halsey. April 29, 1943. 309frs.

During covering operations for a cactus troop convoy, Task Force 18 was sighted southwest of Guadalcanal by a Japanese patrol plane early in the afternoon of January 29, 1942. The U.S. task force was shadowed, and first attacked by an undetermined number of Japanese Navy twin-engine torpedo bombers shortly after twilight. The attack lasted four hours. Early in the action the USS *Chicago* was hit by two torpedoes which immobilized it and necessitated taking the ship in tow. The following afternoon (January 30) the *Chicago* was being towed by the USS *Navajo* and accompanied by a screening force of five destroyers while en route to Espiritu Santo, when they were attacked by thirteen Japanese torpedo planes. This attack resulted in four additional torpedo hits on the *Chicago* and one on the USS *Lavallette*. As a result of having been struck by a total of six torpedoes, the *Chicago* was abandoned and sank almost immediately thereafter, at about 4:43 p.m. on January 30, 1943.

Principal Topics: Task Force 18; Rennell Island; USS *Chicago*; USS *Navajo*; USS *Lavallette*.

- 0478 **Serial 00761, Japanese Air Attacks Against Shipping in Tulagi Harbor, April 7, 1943.**
P. V. Mercer. May 3, 1943. 13frs.

On April 7, 1943, a Japanese dive-bombing attack was made against U.S. shipping in Tulagi harbor. A U.S. reconnaissance party on New Georgia Island counted 160 planes coming down the "slot" between New Georgia and Santa Isabel Islands. All available U.S. fighters on Guadalcanal were thrown into the air to intercept the attacking force and all bombers were sent off to the southeast tip of Guadalcanal to prevent damage to them on the ground in case the Japanese attack proved to be directed against the airfields on the island. U.S. and Japanese aircraft engaged in combat between Cape Esperance and Savo Island. U.S. planes shot down 39 aircraft (27 Zero fighter planes and 12 dive bombers), approximately eleven more Japanese planes were shot down by anti-aircraft fire from U.S. ships and from Guadalcanal. The U.S. lost seven fighter planes in this action.

Principal Topics: U.S. shipping; Tulagi; Guadalcanal.

0491 **Serial 00771, Detailed Report of Action of USS *Duncan* during Engagement with Japanese Forces Off Savo Island, October 11–12, 1942.**

E. B. Taylor. May 6, 1943. 18frs.

Combined account of the actions of various individual members of the crew of the USS *Duncan* during the engagement with the Japanese on October 11–12, 1942. On October 11, 1942 the *Duncan* was on station in the anti-submarine screen of Task Group 64 when the ship encountered a Japanese cruiser and commenced firing, scoring at least two direct hits on the enemy vessel. After firing a further five-to-ten salvos the Japanese cruiser blew up and the *Duncan* shifted its fire to a Japanese destroyer which had arrived on the scene. The *Duncan* got off two salvos on this new target before being herself hit on the bridge. This hit caused the *Duncan* to lose control. The *Duncan* then managed to torpedo and to sink a second Japanese cruiser that was being attacked by other ships of the task group. During the latter stages of this engagement the *Duncan* was damaged severely by gunfire from other Japanese warships. The ship caught fire and when all efforts to control the blaze failed the ship was ordered abandoned. Despite efforts the next day to salvage the ship the *Duncan* sank early on the morning of October 12, 1942.

Principal Topics: USS *Duncan*; anti-submarine activities; Task Group 64.

0509 **Serial 00788, Operations in Pacific Ocean Areas, February 1943.**

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. May 11, 1943. 135frs.

First of a series of monthly reports providing a summary covering all operations in the Pacific Ocean area. Two events featured activities in the Pacific in February 1943. The first was the development of Amchita (where an initial landing had been made in January) into an air base from which the United States could support operations to drive the Japanese from the Aleutian Islands. The second event was the U.S. occupation of the Russell Islands on February 21, 1943. The occupation of these islands paved the way for further U.S. advances in the Solomons. The report also includes figures for Japanese and U.S. ship and plane losses in February 1943 in the North, Central, and South Pacific regions. Information on other U.S. naval operations occurring in these regions during February is also included in this folder.

Principal Topics: Pacific Ocean area; Amchita; Aleutian Islands; Russell Islands; Solomon Islands.

0644 **Serial 00844, Heightened Alert at Midway and Air Strike on Wake.**

Captain H. M. Martin. June 2, 1943. 13frs.

Report of the operations and events at Midway from May 8–16, 1943. The alert at Midway was put into effect due to the possibility of a Japanese carrier strike. Also included are reports of a bombing strike on Wake Island which took place on May 15, 1943 by U.S. Army B-24 Liberator-type aircraft from Midway. Material on U.S. search operations, combat air patrols, anti-submarine patrols, and escort missions conducted from Midway Island are included in this report also.

Principal Topics: Midway Island; Wake Island.

0657 **Serial 00859, Operations in Pacific Ocean Areas, March 1943, Part I (Enclosure A).**

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. June 9, 1943. 257frs.

U.S. operations in the Pacific Ocean area for March 1943 featured the rapid development of advance bases in both the Aleutians and the Solomons preparatory to future offensives, gratifying submarine successes, the destruction of two Japanese ships by Task Force 18 prior to the bombardment of Vila on the night of March 5–6, 1943, and by Task Group 16.6's noteworthy repulse of a superior Japanese force in the Battle of Komandorski Island on March 26, 1943. Information regarding Japanese and U.S. losses of men, ships, and planes during March 1943 are included in these reports also, as are detailed accounts of the events listed above from the commanders of the ships and air units participating in these actions.

Principal Topics: Pacific Ocean area; Aleutian Islands; Solomon Islands; U.S. submarine operations; Task Force 18; Vila air base; Task Group 16.6; Battle of Komandorski Island.

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0001 **Serial 00859, Operations in Pacific Ocean Areas, March 1943, Part II (Enclosures B through G).**

A. S. Merrill. June 9, 1943. 258frs.

This report contains further information regarding U.S. naval operations in the Pacific Ocean area during March 1943. Included are action reports from ship commanders who participated in the Battle of Kula Gulf and the bombardment of Munda and the Vila-Stanmore area that took place on the night of March 5-6, 1943. Among the ships sending reports are the USS *Montpelier*, the USS *Cleveland*, the USS *Denver*, the USS *Fletcher*, the USS *Nicholas*, the USS *O'Bannon*, the USS *Radford*, the USS *Waller*, the USS *Conway*, the USS *Cony*, the USS *Taylor*, the USS *Strong*, the USS *Carina*, the USS *Balch*, the USS *Suamico*, and the USS *Cygnus*. Also included are track charts showing the movements of various U.S. warships during these operations and aerial photographs of the target areas on New Georgia Island.

Principal Topics: Pacific Ocean area; Battle of Kula Gulf; Munda; Vila-Stanmore area; USS *Montpelier*; USS *Cleveland*; USS *Denver*; USS *Fletcher*; USS *Nicholas*; USS *O'Bannon*; USS *Radford*; USS *Waller*; USS *Conway*; USS *Cony*; USS *Taylor*; USS *Strong*; USS *Carina*; USS *Balch*; USS *Suamico*; USS *Cygnus*; New Georgia Island.

0259 **Serial 00861, Rescue of Survivors of SS *H.M. Storey* by USS *Fletcher*, May 18, 1943.**

R. D. McGinnis. June 10, 1943. 7frs.

This report provides details of the rescue of the survivors of the American tanker, *H.M. Storey*, which was torpedoed and sunk by a Japanese submarine. The sixty-two survivors, who were drifting in three lifeboats and a raft, were picked up by the USS *Fletcher* on May 18, 1943. Two members of the *H.M. Storey*'s crew were reported as missing and were presumed to have been killed when the first Japanese torpedo struck the ship's engine room.

Principal Topics: SS *H.M. Storey*; USS *Fletcher*.

0266 **Serial 00889, Operations in Pacific Ocean Areas, April 1943. Part I.**

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. June 29, 1943. 369frs.

U.S. naval operations in the Pacific Ocean area in April 1943, as in March, were devoted to the development of U.S. advance bases, and training and preparation for attack on Japanese positions in the Aleutians and the Solomons. Meanwhile, the U.S. forces maintained pressure on these positions by sea and air. U.S. submarines continued to inflict severe losses on Japanese shipping, while Japanese aircraft and submarines increased their successes against U.S. ships. In the latter part of the month preparations for the assault on Attu Island in the Aleutians were completed, ships and troops were assembled, and the operation was initiated. This report includes information on Japanese and U.S. losses in men, ships, and planes in the Pacific Ocean area during April 1943. Detailed reports from commanders of ships and air units which participated in the bombardment of Attu Island on April 26, 1943 and other major operations during this time period are included in this folder also.

Principal Topics: Pacific Ocean area; Aleutian Islands; Solomon Islands; Japanese shipping; Attu Island.

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0636 **Serial 00889, Operations in Pacific Ocean Areas, April 1943. Part II.**

R. K. Turner. June 29, 1943. 318frs.

Information on U.S. naval operations in the Pacific Ocean area during April 1943. Most of this section deals with the U.S. occupation of the Russell Islands. In January 1943, the commander, South Pacific Force decided that the occupation of the Russell Islands would be undertaken to assist in defeating the Japanese on Guadalcanal and to serve other purposes as indicated in his directives. The plan called for the use of new U.S. forces under the direction of the commander, Amphibious Force, rather than use troops already on Guadalcanal. About the time that Japanese resistance on Guadalcanal collapsed, the order was issued to proceed with the Russell Islands occupation, now known as Operation Cleanslate. Operation Cleanslate was the first amphibious operation executed by U.S. forces which employed only minor vessels and boats for the final movement to the objective. The operations leading to the fall of the Russell Islands to U.S. forces continued from February 16 to April 18, 1943. Maps and aerial photographs of the Russell Islands are included in this folder.

Principal Topics: Pacific Ocean area; Russell Islands; Guadalcanal; Operation Cleanslate.

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0001 **Serial 00900, Naval War College Comments on the Battle of Guadalcanal, November 11-15, 1942.**

W. S. Pye. June 30, 1943. 19frs.

This folder presents a letter from the president of the Naval War College offering his comments on the way the naval battle of Guadalcanal was fought. These comments are based on the operational plans of Admiral R. K. Turner. Although generally supportive of the admiral's actions during the battle, the president of the Naval War College feels that some of the issues involved in the preliminary actions are unclear. These actions include information on the operation of U.S. submarines in the Solomons and information on Japanese movements that could have anticipated the forces encountered during the battle.

Principal Topics: Naval War College; Guadalcanal; Admiral R. K. Turner; U.S. submarine operations; Solomon Islands.

0020 **Serial 01666, Anti-Submarine Action by USS *Gansevoort*.**

E. A. McFall. July 15, 1943. 38frs.

This report from the USS *Gansevoort* provides information on an anti-submarine action which occurred on May 16, 1943 in Latitude 52.49N, Longitude 171.53E. The ship reported a "fair" sound contact while in the intermediate anti-submarine screen of Task Group 16.6 covering the southwest approaches to Attu in the Aleutian Islands. The *Gansevoort* dropped depth charges on the area of the target on three occasions without success. The ship eventually lost sound contact with the submarine and the pursuit was called off. Track charts showing the movements of the *Gansevoort* during this attack are included with the report.

Principal Topics: USS *Gansevoort*; U.S. anti-submarine actions.

0058 **Serial 01863, Condition Red, May 15, 1943.**

Captain Lyle C. DeVeaux, USMC. August 10, 1943. 4frs.

Contained here is an intelligence report forwarded by Marine Aircraft Group 21, attached to the First Marine Aircraft Wing, regarding a Japanese bombing attack on the Russell Island airstrip on May 15, 1943. It was reported that one Japanese bomber made a run over Banika during which seven bombs were dropped. Six of these bombs were estimated to have been of the one-hundred-pound, anti-personnel type, while the seventh was of a five-hundred-pound type. The only damage which occurred was the death of twenty cattle grazing near the airstrip.

Principal Topics: Marine Aircraft Group 21; Russell Island.

0062 **Serial 001015, Operations in Pacific Ocean Areas, May 1943.**

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. August 13, 1943. 370frs.

During the month of May 1943, both training and the development of advanced bases were continued. Pressure was maintained on the enemy by air and submarine attacks. No major naval surface operations took place during this time period. Most U.S. naval operations at this time were centered in the Aleutian Islands where the navy was consolidating its position following the capture of Attu Island on May 29, 1943. Some material on operations in the Solomon Islands including the bombardment of Japanese positions on New Georgia Island are covered also. Material on U.S. anti-submarine, anti-aircraft, and mine laying operations is contained in this folder as is information on Japanese and U.S. losses in ships, planes, and men during the month of May 1943.

Principal Topics: Pacific Ocean area; Aleutian Islands; Attu Island; Solomon Islands; New Georgia Island; U.S. anti-submarine operations; U.S. anti-aircraft operations; U.S. mine laying operations.

0434 **Serial 01941, Blasting Experiments by 20th and 24th Construction Battalions, on March 26–April 20, 1943.**

H. R. Whittaker. August 18, 1943. 7frs.

Results of a number of underwater blasting experiments conducted by units of the 20th and 24th Construction Battalions during the period from March 26 to April 20, 1943. The object of these experiments was to determine if underwater blasting of rock and coral could be used to create passable ship channels. These tests were unsuccessful due to the facts that the blasting was ineffective and that the men of the construction units had no experience in underwater blasting.

Principal Topics: Underwater blasting experiments; 20th Construction Battalion; 24th Construction Battalion.

0441 **Serial 001058, Alleged Torpedoing of Japanese Hospital Ship.**

C. A. Lockwood, Jr. August 26, 1943. 4frs.

This report from the commander of the U.S. submarine fleet in the Pacific concerns the alleged attack on the Japanese hospital ship, *Muro Maru*, by the USS *Gurnard*. This report details the *Gurnard's* activities on July 1, 1943, the date that the attack allegedly occurred. The *Gurnard* reported attacking a Japanese convoy consisting of four freighters, four destroyers, and two small anti-submarine vessels which were departing from Palau in the morning of July 1 and reported scoring hits on one of the destroyers and two of the freighters. Two and a half hours after this first attack the *Gurnard* reported attacking and hitting a Japanese aircraft carrier. No hospital ship was sighted by this vessel and it is believed that no such attack occurred.

Principal Topics: *Muro Maru*; USS *Gurnard*.

0445 **Serial 001100, Operations in Pacific Ocean Areas, June 1943—Volume 1.**

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. September 6, 1943. 279frs.

June 1943 was a period of mopping up, consolidation, and improvement of positions in the Pacific Ocean area. Training and planning was taking place, as well as preparations for the United States's next forward movements. The most important operation during this period was the initiation of the occupation of the New Georgia Island group by U.S. forces on June 30, 1943. Other operations in this folder include the further consolidation of U.S. positions in the Aleutian Islands, the training exercises of the new aircraft carrier, USS *Essex*, material on U.S. air operations in the Pacific, Japanese air raids on U.S. shipping in the area of Guadalcanal, and U.S. anti-aircraft and anti-submarine activities. This report also includes information on U.S. and Japanese losses in ships, planes, and men during the month of June 1943.

Principal Topics: Pacific Ocean area; New Georgia Island; Aleutian Islands; USS *Essex*; U.S. air operations; Japanese air raids; Guadalcanal; U.S. anti-aircraft operations; U.S. anti-submarine operations.

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- 0724 **Serial 001100, Operations in Pacific Ocean Areas, June 1943—Volume 2.**
Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. September 6, 1943. 181frs.
A continuation of the previous folder, with information on U.S. naval operations in the Pacific Ocean during June 1943. Included are reports on Japanese air attacks against U.S. shipping off Rendova Island in the New Georgia Group, Solomon Islands, Japanese submarine attacks resulting in the sinkings of the USS *Aludra* and the USS *Deimos*, the U.S. mine-laying operation and bombardment of the Shortland-Faisi-Kolombangara Island area, the U.S. bombardment of Poporang Island, the bombardment of Ballale Island by the USS *Denver*, and the bombardment of the Vila-Stanmore area on New Georgia Island. Among the ships sending reports are the USS *President Hayes* and the USS *President Jackson*.
Principal Topics: Pacific Ocean area; Japanese air raids; New Georgia Island; Japanese submarine attacks; USS *Aludra*; USS *Deimos*; U.S. mine-laying operations; Shortland Island; Faisi Island; Kolombangara Island; Poporang Island; Ballale Island; USS *Denver*; USS *President Hayes*; USS *President Jackson*.

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- 0001 **Serial 001100, Operations in Pacific Ocean Areas, June 1943—Volume 2 cont.**
Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. September 6, 1943. 81frs.
Continued from the previous reel. Includes reports on the U.S. Navy's mine-laying operation and bombardment of the Shortland-Faisi-Kolombangara Island area, Japanese air attacks on the USS *Gwin*, the USS *Woodworth*, the USS *Farenholt*, and the USS *Ralph Talbot*, the occupation of Rendova Island in the New Georgia Group by U.S. forces on June 30, 1943.
Principal Topics: Pacific Ocean area; U.S. mine-laying operations; Shortland Island; Faisi Island; Kolombangara Island; Japanese air raids; USS *Gwin*; USS *Woodworth*; USS *Farenholt*; USS *Ralph Talbot*; Rendova Island.
- 0082 **Serial 001283, Enemy Minesweeping in the Shortland-Faisi Area, September 3, 1943.**
A. D. Clark. October 10, 1943. 9frs.
Presents evidence of Japanese minesweeping activities in the Shortland-Faisi area and the significance of this information to U.S. forces. The Japanese had begun taking precautions to locate U.S. moored fields during laying and were successful in the instance of the Vella Gulf mine field that was laid on August 25, 1943. U.S. aerial photos showing Japanese vessels sweeping a mine field in the Shortland-Faisi area that had been planted by U.S. aircraft on May 19, 1943 are included.
Principal Topics: Japanese minesweeping operations; Shortland Island; Faisi Island; Vella Gulf mine field.
- 0091 **Serial 001292, Air Attack on Ships at Finschhafen, New Guinea on September 22, 1943.**
J. H. Carter. October 11, 1943. 10frs.
This report from the commander of Destroyer Squadron Five contains detailed information on a Japanese air attack made against six U.S. destroyers screening a convoy of three LST's after their withdrawal from a landing north of Finschhafen, New Guinea on September 22, 1943. (LSTs are landing ships, tank.) The Japanese aircraft were torpedo planes supported by fighters which had been dispatched from Rabaul. The U.S. fighter planes covering the destroyers engaged the enemy. The U.S. fighter planes destroyed all fourteen of the Japanese escort fighters, but apparently did not see the lower flying torpedo bombers which were attacking the ships at the same time. The destroyers managed to eliminate all ten of the Japanese bombers without any serious

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damage, although two of the destroyers (the USS *Perkins* and the USS *Mahan*) suffered near misses. The U.S. forces suffered six casualties on the destroyers and lost one aircraft.

Principal Topics: Japanese air raids; Finschhafen, New Guinea; USS *Perkins*; USS *Mahan*.

0101 **Serial 001551, Action Report of USS LST 399.**

J. M. Fabre. November 21, 1943. 21frs.

At 12:30 p.m. on August 15, 1943 the USS LST 399 was attacked by seven Japanese dive bombers while beached on Vella LaVella Island. The enemy bombers flew in from a position screened by treetops on the island. As soon as these planes were sighted the crew of the ship's battery set up a barrage that caused the Japanese aircraft to turn back. The ship's battery was augmented on this occasion by a cargo load of six 20mm and two 40mm guns. Three Japanese planes were shot down during this attack. The U.S. vessel sustained no damages or casualties.

Principal Topics: USS LST 399; Vella LaVella Island; Japanese air raids.

0122 **Serial 001543, PT [Patrol and Torpedo Boat] Action Reports.**

I. H. Mayfield. November 23, 1943. 155frs.

Operations of U.S. motor torpedo boats based in Rendova and Lever Harbors that were engaged in the interception of Japanese ship reinforcements to Vila in the Solomon Islands from August 1 to 31, 1943. Considerable disruption of Japanese barge traffic resulted from these operations and numerous enemy casualties were inflicted on the embarked forces.

Principal Topics: U.S. motor torpedo boat operations; Rendova Island; Solomon Islands.

0277 **Serial 001577, Reports of PT [Patrol and Torpedo Boat] Operations.**

I. H. Mayfield. November 24, 1943. 101frs.

Operations of U.S. motor torpedo boats based in Rendova and Lever Harbors that were engaged in the interception of barge traffic supplying Japanese forces in the Vella LaVella and Kolombangara area of New Georgia Island. These reports cover the period from September 2 to 21, 1943. The result of these operations were four Japanese barges and one twin-float monoplane destroyed and twelve barges damaged. The U.S. forces lost two motor torpedo boats in the course of these engagements as a result of grounding.

Principal Topics: U.S. motor torpedo boat operations; Rendova Island; Japanese barges; Vella LaVella Island; Kolombangara Island.

0379 **Serial 001588, Report of USS *Saufley's* Participation in Treasury Operations, October 27, 1943.**

B. F. Brown. November 26, 1943. 4frs.

On October 27, 1943, the USS *Saufley* took part in the initial landing operations on the Treasury Island Group and it was involved in repelling the Japanese air attack on Task Unit 31.1.1 off Simbo Island while the convoy was returning to Guadalcanal.

Principal Topics: USS *Saufley*; Treasury Island Group; Task Unit 31.1.1.

0383 **Serial 001674, Observation of Tarawa Landing.**

C. H. McMorris. December 11, 1943. 8frs.

These notes were prepared by a U.S. Service Force officer who took part in the U.S. landings on Tarawa Atoll on November 20-28, 1943. This officer recalls the extremely bitter and bloody fighting that took place during the struggle to gain control over the island and comments on the effectiveness of the U.S. naval bombardment on demoralizing and confusing the enemy. Also included are comments on the fact that many U.S. landing craft and the men in them were destroyed before they reached the beach. This officer is critical of the way the landings were planned and felt that if certain changes had been made in the way the landings were conducted it would have resulted in less confusion and fewer American casualties.

Principal Topic: Tarawa Atoll.

- 0391 **Serial 00286, Report on Galvanic Operations—Commander, Central Pacific Force.**
Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. December 15, 1943. 7frs.
Deals with the U.S. occupation of Makin, Tarawa, and Apamama Islands and the U.S. strikes on Kwajalein and Nauru in the Gilbert Islands. The report covers November 6 to December 8, 1943. Includes remarks on the heavy casualties incurred by direct frontal attacks on enemy-held positions on the islands, on the effectiveness of the naval and aerial bombardment that preceded the landings, the need for the employment of not-less-than-one division in the capture of other islands where the Japanese strength was comparable to Tarawa, and the need to develop methods to eliminate enemy machine-gun nests.
Principal Topics: Galvanic Operation; Makin Island; Tarawa Island; Apamama Island; Kwajalein Island; Nauru Island; Admiral Chester Nimitz.
- 0398 **Serial 00294, Preliminary Comments and Conclusions Regarding Galvanic Operation.**
C. H. McMorris. December 31, 1943. 13frs.
Comments by Admiral Nimitz on various phases of the technical aspects of the operations for the capture of the Gilbert Islands, known by the code name Operation Galvanic. The comments were based on preliminary study of the action reports submitted by the commanders involved. Nimitz makes suggestions for the improvement of future landing operations and draws conclusions based upon the U.S. experiences in the Gilberts. This report deals with the effectiveness of gunnery, the menace from submarines during the naval bombardment, the effectiveness of air operations, communications failures during the assault, the procedures for loading and unloading landing craft, the procedures for fueling at sea, and overall performance of the task forces and task groups involved.
Principal Topics: Galvanic Operation; Admiral Chester W. Nimitz; Gilbert Islands
- 0411 **Serial 001802, Report of Cottage Operations.**
P. Buchanan. December 31, 1943. 42frs.
This report from the commander of Task Group 16.9 provides critical and chronological summary of the activities during the U.S. occupation of Kiska in the Aleutian Islands. The report covers August 15 to 22, 1943. Among the topics covered are planning and orders, loading procedures, approach and transport areas, ship to shore movements, the conditions of the beaches during the landing, communications, landing craft operation, use of merchant vessels in the assault stages of the operation, and the organization of the shore party.
Principal Topics: Cottage Operation; Task Group 16.9; Kiska Island; Aleutian Islands.
- 0453 **Serial 060, Anti-Submarine Action by Surface Ship.**
Commander T. H. Copeman. January 5, 1944. 7frs.
Description of engagement between the USS *Brown* and a Japanese submarine on November 30, 1943 while the *Brown* was operating as part of the outer anti-submarine screen for the task group to which the ship was attached. The *Brown* dropped ten depth charges at a medium depth setting. Although a slick appeared on the water's surface that first was reported to have been oil, it later was determined that it was a result of residue from the depth charges. Despite a thorough search of the area, no trace of the submarine was spotted and it was concluded that it must have escaped without serious injury.
Principal Topics: USS *Brown*; U.S. anti-submarine operations.
- 0460 **Serial 062, ASW [Anti-Submarine Warfare] Report of VB-104, October 18, 1943.**
Commander H. E. Sears. January 5, 1944. 7frs.
Report of anti-submarine action by aircraft of VB-104, based at Carney Field on Guadalcanal. The planes bombed the Japanese submarine from astern while the vessel was surfaced. The bombs scored near misses but did some undetermined internal damage to the submarine. When the plane returned to the vicinity of the explosions, the submarine could be seen just below the surface of the water, emerging very slowly from the blast area and well up by the bow as though out of trim or attempting to surface. The vessel disappeared almost immediately after it was sighted by the returning aircraft.
Principal Topics: VB-104; U.S. anti-submarine operations.

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0467 **Serial 0203, Anti-Submarine Action by Surface Ship.**

Lieutenant E. D. Gasson. January 15, 1944. 6frs.

The USS *PC 603* first made sonar contact with the submarine on November 14, 1943 and headed toward it. Upon arrival in the area the ship stopped its engines to listen for propeller noises that were heard. Shortly after this the ship's crew heard several loud underwater explosions and observed smoke astern of the convoy that it was escorting. The *PC 603* began its attack and dropped five depth charges in a standard pattern. After the depth charges were dropped the ship lost contact with the submarine. As far as could be determined the submarine escaped without damage.

Principal Topics: USS *PC 603*; U.S. anti-submarine operations.

0473 **Serial 00574, Night Action Northwest of Vella LaVella, October 6-7, 1943.**

Frank R. Walker. January 22, 1944. 166frs.

On the night of October 6-7, 1943 the USS *O'Bannon*, the USS *Selfridge*, and the USS *Chevalier* were attacked by two groups of Japanese ships while operating in the area northwest of Vella LaVella Island. The first group of Japanese vessels consisted of five ships, identified as four destroyers and a cruiser. The U.S. ships reported destroying the cruiser, scoring torpedo hits on two of the destroyers and causing slight damage to the remaining two vessels. The second group of Japanese vessels consisted of four destroyers. U.S. vessels reported damaging one and possibly sinking it, scoring hits on a second and probably causing damage, and allowing the other two destroyers to get away without being engaged. On the U.S. side the USS *Chevalier* was torpedoed and sunk, the USS *Selfridge* was torpedoed on the starboard side, which caused flooding in the aft section of the ship, and the USS *O'Bannon* suffered damage to her bow section after accidentally ramming the *Chevalier*.

Principal Topics: USS *O'Bannon*; USS *Selfridge*; USS *Chevalier*; Vella LaVella Island.

0639 **Serial 00575, Operations Against Enemy Evacuation Forces, October 1943.**

A. S. Merrill. January 22, 1944. 139frs.

U.S. operations against Japanese barges and small craft engaged in evacuating Japanese forces trapped on Kolombangara Island. These vessels were attacked by a U.S. task force consisting of the USS *Montpelier*, the USS *Denver*, the USS *Waller*, the USS *Renshaw*, the USS *Eaton*, and the USS *Cony* from October 1 to 3, 1943. During the night of October 1-2 the U.S. task force reported 20 barges either sunk or badly damaged and the USS *Eaton* reported sinking a Japanese submarine. The following night (October 2-3, 1943) the task force reported sinking six barges and damaging twelve others.

Principal Topics: Kolombangara Island; USS *Montpelier*; USS *Denver*; USS *Waller*; USS *Renshaw*; USS *Eaton*; USS *Cony*.

0778 **Serial 600, Rescue of Fliers by USS *Trathen*.**

A. J. Greenacre. January 30, 1944. 4frs.

This report from the commander of the USS *Trathen* covers the rescue by that vessel of the nine-man crew of a patrol bomber-type aircraft (PBY) that crashed north of Makin Island while searching for the pilot of a downed P-38 fighter plane on December 18, 1943.

Principal Topic: USS *Trathen*.

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- 0782 **Serial 00778, Report of Surface Ship Action for Night of October 2-3, 1943 Off Kolombangara.**
H. O. Larson. February 24, 1944. 33frs.
This report from Destroyer Division 42 describes an attack on the Japanese north of the Kolombangara area of New Georgia Island. Destroyer Division 42 engaged in a torpedo and gun action against approximately five Japanese torpedo boats on the night of October 2-3, 1943. Of the five vessels engaged, the U.S. forces reported one definitely sunk, two probably sunk, and two damaged. The U.S. ships then proceeded to attack a number of Japanese barges operating in the area and reported sinking at least 20 of these vessels. The U.S. forces engaged were the USS *Ralph Talbot*, the USS *Taylor*, and the USS *Terry*.
Principal Topics: Destroyer Division 42; Kolombangara Island; USS *Ralph Talbot*; USS *Taylor*; USS *Terry*.
- 0815 **Serial 00818, Report of Minesweeping Operations, Efate.**
Lieutenant Hugh S. Meredith. February 29, 1944. 21frs.
This report presents a summary of U.S. minesweeping operations against a Japanese defense mine field located in the vicinity of Efate Island from January 3-21, 1944. This operation was conducted by the USS *YMS-242* with the assistance of three other minesweepers. Forty-nine mines were swept during this operation. A map showing the position of the mine field in relation to Efate Island is included.
Principal Topics: U.S. minesweeping operations; Efate Island; USS *YMS-242*.
- 0836 **Serial 00846, Underwater Explosion in Makin Lagoon.**
J. A. Romig. March 5, 1944. 5frs.
On the morning of February 3, 1944 the commander of the USS *YMS-288* was asked to investigate a series of underwater mine detonations that occurred in the lagoon of Makin Island in the area of the island's defensive mine field, and, although of unknown cause, probably represented countermining operations.
Principal Topics: USS *YMS-288*; Makin Island; Japanese countermining operations.
- 0841 **Serial 01015, The Operation of Carrier Borne Seafires During Operation Avalanche.**
C. H. McMorris. March 28, 1944. 16frs.
Information regarding the operations of the HMS *Palomares* during the landings at Salerno, Italy on December 24, 1943. This material is devoted almost exclusively to information regarding fighter control, fighter direction, radar, and communications.
Principal Topics: HMS *Palomares*; Operation Avalanche; Salerno, Italy.
- 0858 **Serial 01228, Reports of Observations During Marshalls Operations, January 29-March 8, 1944.**
J. H. Towers. April 2, 1944. 13frs.
These extracts from a report of general observations made by one of the official officer-observers during the Marshall Island operations was published as a means of calling to the attention of the commanders concerned the many "housekeeping" that had to be provided for in the preparation of advanced plans. While not complete, it covers many items of value to commanders of both assault and garrison units and was brought to the attention of prospective commanders of future operations. Among the topics covered are the loading and unloading of ships and cargo, the identification and storage of supplies, transportation, sanitation, the disposal of explosives, construction of camps, airfields, and docks, handling of captured materials, burial details, handling of stragglers, salvage operations, hospitals, trade goods and relations with natives, mail, morale, and command structure.
Principal Topic: Marshall Island operations.
- 0871 **Serial 01406, Report of Anti-Submarine Action by Surface Ship.**
Floyd B. T. Myhre. April 13, 1944. 26frs.
On the morning of January 22, 1944, while proceeding from Purvis Bay on Florida Island in the Solomons to Espiritu Santo in the New Hebrides, the USS *Buchanan* received an urgent dispatch ordering it to the assistance of the USS *Cache*, which had

been torpedoed. While underway, the USS *Buchanan* made a good surface contact with a fairly large enemy submarine, which the commanding officer believed to be a "hunter-killer" vessel that had been reported to be operating in the vicinity. The *Buchanan* made six attacks on this vessel during which the U.S. ship dropped a total of 53 depth charges. These attacks produced an oil slick on the water's surface covering five square miles. After the final attack a large quantity of wooden and cork debris was observed throughout the area. Based on this material the *Buchanan's* commander believed the submarine to have been destroyed, and following a further search of the area continued its original mission to assist the USS *Cache*.

Principal Topics: USS *Buchanan*; USS *Cache*; U.S. anti-submarine operations.

0897 **Serial 001155, Report of Operations in Support of the Capture and Occupation of Tarawa and Makin, November 20 to December 6, 1943.**

Admiral Frederick C. Sherman. April 14, 1944. 15frs.

Covers the operations of Carrier Task Group 50.4 in support of the capture and occupation of Tarawa and Makin Islands by U.S. forces. On November 25, 1943, the carriers of the task group (USS *Saratoga* and USS *Princeton*) provided fighter cover for U.S. forces on the island of Tarawa. On November 26 the task group was joined by the carrier, USS *Bunker Hill*, which provided fighter cover over Makin Island on that day. The task group continued to provide fighter cover over Makin Island daily in response to orders from the commander of the Central Pacific Force. On the night of November 27 the task group was subjected to an attempted attack by Japanese torpedo planes during a rain squall and the USS *Bunker Hill*, the USS *Alabama*, and the USS *Washington* opened fire. Due to the weather conditions, no torpedoes were believed to have been dropped. The task group was again attacked by torpedo planes on November 28 but again repelled the attackers without sustaining any damage to the ships. From November 20 to December 6, the task group engaged in refueling operations for the cruisers and destroyers attached to it and also conducted numerous anti-submarine actions in addition to its primary responsibility of providing fighter cover for the American troops on Makin Island.

Principal Topics: Carrier Task Group 50.4; Tarawa Atoll; Makin Island; USS *Saratoga*; USS *Princeton*; USS *Bunker Hill*; USS *Alabama*; USS *Washington*; Japanese air raids; U.S. anti-submarine operations.

0912 **Serial 001291, Air Attack on Eniwetok Atoll on April 14, 1944.**

E. A. Cruise. May 3, 1944. 12frs.

A group of nine Japanese bombers approached Eniwetok Atoll from the west in the early morning of April 14, 1944. These planes were divided into five separate groups that approached the islands of the atoll from the south, north, and west. These planes remained in the vicinity for two and a half hours during which time they dropped a number of radar detection devices. Only one plane flew within ten miles of the atoll and no bombs were dropped on or near any of the U.S. occupied islands in the atoll. U.S. personnel on the island of Engebi reported seeing one of the planes drop several sticks of bombs into the ocean however. During the attack four U.S. night fighters were kept in the air by the forces on Engebi and the Japanese planes were fired on by anti-aircraft positions on that island. During this battle two U.S. night fighters were shot down and crashed into the sea. The U.S. forces reported two Japanese bombers shot down and one damaged and possibly shot down. One U.S. pilot was reported missing in action. The other pilot who was shot down was recovered at sea.

Principal Topics: Eniwetok Atoll; Japanese air raids; Engebi Island.

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0001 **Serial 001472, Enemy Air Attack on Roi Island, February 11–12, 1944.**

E. C. Ewen. May 22, 1944. 10frs.

In the early morning hours of February 12, 1944 Roi Island in the Kwajalein Atoll was attacked by Japanese aircraft. The island sounded a Condition Red alert at 2:04 a.m. and the first bombs exploded at 2:49 a.m. The best U.S. estimate was that twelve planes took part in the attack, releasing bombs from 14,000 to 21,000 feet in four flights of probably three planes each. These flights arrived over their target at five-minute intervals. There was no strafing and all bombs were aimed at Roi Island. The supply compound was nearly destroyed, one of the ammunition dumps was blown up, and the living quarters of some units were destroyed. Rolling stock belonging to the construction battalion suffered minor damage. U.S. casualties were moderate. This was the first large-scale, Japanese air attack on the islands of Kwajalein Atoll since they had been occupied by U.S. forces.

Principal Topics: Roi Island; Kwajalein Atoll; Japanese air raids.

0011 **Serial 001489, Report of Attack on German Battleship *Admiral Von Tirpitz*.**

O. L. Thorne. May 24, 1944. 15frs.

Report relating to the attack on the German battleship, *Admiral Von Tirpitz*, by planes of the Royal Navy Air Arm while the ship was at anchor in the harbor at Kaafjord, Norway on April 3, 1944. The battleship was badly damaged and put out of commission for over six months.

Principal Topics: *Admiral Von Tirpitz*; Royal Navy Air Arm; Kaafjord, Norway.

0027 **Serial 001631, Forwarding Report of Minelaying Operations.**

D. B. Cohen. June 11, 1944. 10frs.

In accordance with orders received from the commander of the Third Fleet, Task Group 30.6 comprising the USS *Haggard*, the USS *Hailey*, the USS *Franks*, the USS *Johnston*, the USS *Breese*, and the USS *Sicard*, departed from Blanche Harbor on Treasury Island on May 9, 1944 and proceeded north of Buka Island to lay a two-row mine field across the eastern entrance to the Buka Passage. The actual mine-laying operations were conducted by the *Haggard*, *Breese*, and *Sicard* while the other three vessels provided cover. The mine field was laid successfully and the ships returned to their base without incident.

Principal Topics: Task Group 30.6; USS *Haggard*; USS *Hailey*; USS *Franks*; USS *Johnston*; USS *Breese*; USS *Sicard*; Buka Island; U.S. mine-laying operations.

0037 **Serial 001802, Transmittal of Action Reports.**

C. H. McMorris. June 24, 1944. 45frs.

U.S. naval activities from March 3–16, 1944 during the operations at Empress Augusta Bay at Bougainville in the Solomon Islands, designed to defeat a Japanese drive to regain control of the Torokina beachhead. Among the ships sending reports are the USS *Saufley* and the USS *Conway*, which took part in the bombardment of Japanese positions at Empress Augusta Bay, and the USS *Eaton*, which took part in sweeps against Japanese barges and in the bombardments along the west coast of Bougainville.

Principal Topics: Empress Augusta Bay operations; Bougainville; Torokina beachhead; USS *Saufley*; USS *Conway*; USS *Eaton*.

0082 **Serial 02762, Anti-Submarine Action by USS *Orca*.**

Commander M. K. Fleming. June 26, 1944. 16frs.

Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Form filled out by the commander of the USS *Orca*. The *Orca* engaged a Japanese submarine on April 11, 1944 in Latitude 23.18N, Longitude 150.59W while escorting a convoy. The *Orca* established a sound contact and made three attack runs on the Japanese submarine's position before being ordered to rejoin the convoy. The *Orca* dropped a total of sixteen depth charges during the attack and lost contact with the submarine after its final attack run and could not ascertain if the enemy vessel sustained any serious damage.

Principal Topics: USS *Orca*; U.S. anti-submarine operations.

Frame
No.

- 0098 **Serial 001865, Attack on Wake Atoll, October 5-6, 1943. Volume I.**
A. E. Montgomery. June 28, 1944. 186frs.
U.S. bombardment and air strike on Wake Atoll by Task Force 14 on October 4 and 5, 1943. Eighteen carrier-based aircraft took part in the first strike on October 4. Although it was spotted and the Japanese alerted, their forces did little to hamper the U.S. attacks. Twenty-seven Japanese Zero-type fighter planes were shot down and almost all Japanese air opposition appeared ended. The U.S. warships and the remaining carrier planes repelled an attack by Japanese bombers from the Marshall Islands that had attempted to break the U.S. attack. Fourteen of these Japanese bombers were reported shot down. The warships of this task force were also able to conduct an orderly bombardment of Wake Island with little Japanese opposition. The second U.S. air strike on October 5 met no air opposition and achieved better bombing results than the previous day. The ships of Task Force 14 began an orderly withdrawal from the islands on the night of October 6-7, 1943. Detailed information on the total number of enemy planes destroyed, reports of damages to enemy ground installations and facilities, and reports on U.S. aircraft losses and casualties are included as well as aerial photographs of the bombing of Wake Atoll taken by U.S. aircraft during the attack.
Principal Topics: Wake Atoll; Task Force 14; Japanese air raids.
- 0284 **Serial 001865, Attack on Wake Atoll, October 5-6, 1943. Volume II.**
A. E. Montgomery. June 28, 1944. 399frs.
Continuation of the previous folder with information on the U.S. naval bombardment and air strikes on Wake Atoll by Task Force 14. This section contains detailed action reports from the commanders of the USS *Yorktown* and the USS *Lexington* and from the commanders of the air units attached to those carriers. Drawings and aerial photographs showing the location of U.S. bombing targets on the atoll are included.
Principal Topics: Wake Atoll; Task Force 14; USS *Yorktown*; USS *Lexington*.
- 0683 **Serial 001865, Attack on Wake Atoll, October 5-6, 1943. Volume III.**
A. E. Montgomery. June 28, 1944. 227frs.
Continuation of two previous folders. It contains detailed information on the U.S. naval bombardment and air strikes on Wake Atoll by Task Force 14, and action reports from the commanders of the USS *Belleau Wood*, the USS *Cowpens*, the USS *Independence*, and the USS *Mobile*. The report also includes detailed action reports from the commanders of the air units attached to the carriers of Task Force 14. Aerial photographs and drawings showing the U.S. bombing targets on the atoll are included.
Principal Topics: Wake Atoll; Task Force 14; USS *Belleau Wood*; USS *Cowpens*; USS *Independence*; USS *Mobile*.

Reel 15

- 0001 **Serial 001865, Attack on Wake Atoll, October 5-6, 1943. Volume III cont.**
A. E. Montgomery. June 28, 1944. 148frs.
Continued from the previous reel. Presents further information relating to the U.S. naval bombardment and air strikes against Japanese positions on Wake Atoll by Task Force 14. Includes material on the U.S. Navy's plans for the bombardment of the islands and detailed action reports from various ships of the task force which took part in these operations. Among the ship commanders sending reports are the USS *Nashville*, the USS *Minneapolis*, the USS *Bancroft*, the USS *Coghlan*, the USS *Caldwell*, the USS *Hull*, the USS *Birmingham*, and the USS *Santa Fe*. Photographs of the bombardment of Wake Atoll taken from aboard the U.S. ships accompany this report, as do track charts showing the movements of most of these U.S. vessels during the bombardment.
Principal Topics: Wake Atoll; Task Force 14; USS *Nashville*; USS *Minneapolis*; USS *Bancroft*; USS *Coghlan*; USS *Caldwell*; USS *Hull*; USS *Birmingham*; USS *Santa Fe*.

0149 **Serial 001865, Attack on Wake Atoll, October 5–6, 1943. Volume IV.**

A. C. Montgomery. June 28, 1944. 325frs.

Further information relating to the U.S. naval bombardment and air strikes against Japanese positions on Wake Atoll by Task Force 14. This section includes more detailed action reports from the commanders of the U.S. ships that participated in the bombardment of the islands. These reports come primarily from the ships of Cruiser Division Five and Destroyer Division Fifty including the USS *Minneapolis*, the USS *San Francisco*, the USS *New Orleans*, the USS *Ringgold*, the USS *Schroeder*, and the USS *Sigsbee*. Also contains reports from U.S. patrol aircraft and bombers operating out of Midway Island which took part in the air strikes against the islands. Photographs, taken from aboard the U.S. ships and aircraft, of the bombardment of targets on Wake Atoll accompany this report, as do track charts showing the movement of most of these vessels during the bombardment.

Principal Topics: Wake Atoll; Task Force 14; Cruiser Division Five; Destroyer Division Fifty; USS *Minneapolis*; USS *San Francisco*; USS *New Orleans*; USS *Ringgold*; USS *Schroeder*; USS *Sigsbee*; Midway Island.

0475 **Serial 002121, Breaching or Removal of Underwater Obstacles.**

Benjamin W. Morris, Jr. July 21, 1944. 7frs.

Information on the technical aspects of the breaching or removal of underwater obstacles. These operations were conducted at Emirau Island in the Bismarck Archipelago between March 20 and April 21, 1944 by the Naval Combat Demolition Unit.
Principal Topics: Underwater obstacles; Emirau Island; Naval Combat Demolition Unit.

0482 **Serial 000588, Actions Reports of USS *Altamaha* and VB-109.**

Captain A. C. Olney. July 28, 1944. 42frs.

On March 30, 1944 Captain A. C. Olney, commanding the USS *Altamaha*, was ordered to conduct intensive anti-submarine hunter-killer operations against Japanese submarines that were operating patrols against U.S. supply lines between Pearl Harbor and the Marshall Islands. A squadron of naval torpedo aircraft accompanied the *Altamaha* on this mission. While on patrol during the time period between March 30 and April 10, 1944 the aircraft attached to the *Altamaha* were able to engage and to damage several Japanese submarines. Aerial photographs showing an attack on one of the Japanese submarines are included.

Principal Topics: USS *Altamaha*; U.S. anti-submarine operations; VB-109.

0524 **Serial 03716, Anti-Submarine Action by USS *Osterhaus*.**

Lieutenant Commander Thomas C. Hart. August 3, 1944. 9frs.

This report deals with an alleged anti-submarine action engaged by the USS *Osterhaus* on June 15, 1944 while escorting a convoy. The ship established sonar contact at Latitude 02.00N, Longitude 164.35E and due to the closeness of this contact to the convoy an urgent attack was carried out. A total of thirteen depth charges were dropped in the target area but no visible sign of any submarine was discovered. It later was estimated by the *Osterhaus*'s commander that the sonar contact might have been a fish but due to the proximity of this contact to the convoy he was protecting he still deemed it necessary not to take any chances and to make the attack anyway.

Principal Topics: USS *Osterhaus*; U.S. anti-submarine operations.

0533 **Serial 000629, Operation Transom, Air Strike on Surabaya, Java.**

C. L. Green. August 7, 1944. 115frs.

On May 17, 1944 the British Eastern Fleet launched an air strike against Surabaya on the island of Java. This attack was code-named "Operation Transom." The British planes scored bomb hits on a number of Japanese ships in Surabaya harbor including a destroyer, they completely destroyed the Braat Engineering Works and the Wonokromo Oil Refinery, they bombed a hanger at Malang air field and damaged or destroyed thirty-one Japanese planes that were on the ground there, other aircraft, living quarters, and hangers were strafed, and an attack was made on Tandjoeng Perak Aerodome. Information regarding the tides around Java, air targets, communications, fighter

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direction, radar orders, and maps and aerial photographs of the area are contained in this report.

Principal Topics: Operation Transom; Surabaya, Java; British Eastern Fleet; Braat Engineering Works; Wonokromo Oil Refinery; Malang Air Field; Tandjoeng Perak Aerodome.

0648 **Serial 03856, Damage Caused by Accidental Detonation of Bomb Aboard USS *Hornet*.**

M. R. Browning. August 9, 1944. 19frs.

On the afternoon of May 1, 1944, while the aircraft carrier, USS *Hornet*, was engaged in a scheduled air attack, a one-hundred-pound bomb carried underneath the port wing of a plane piloted by Lieutenant T. J. Taylor accidentally was freed from its rack after a normal landing and exploded on the flight deck. This report gives a detailed account of the structural damage sustained by the *Hornet* as a result of this explosion and the injuries incurred by the ship's personnel. Two of the *Hornet's* crew were killed in the blast and fourteen men were wounded. Photographs showing the extent of the ship's damages accompany this report.

Principal Topic: USS *Hornet*.

0667 **Serial 002875, Observers Report, Saipan Operation, June 10-30, 1944.**

Lieutenant Colonel William C. Smith, U.S. Army. September 13, 1944. 14frs.

This report by Lieutenant Colonel W. C. Smith examines the role of the anti-aircraft units that participated in the assault on Saipan during the operations in the Marianas Islands. The anti-aircraft batteries were landed on the island following the establishment of a U.S. beachhead in order to protect the troops on shore from attacks by Japanese aircraft. The information contained here represents Colonel Smith's views on the conduct and performance of these units during the course of the Saipan operation and his recommendations for their improvement.

Principal Topics: Lt. Colonel W. C. Smith; anti-aircraft units; Saipan.

Reel 16

0001 **Serial 002920, Participation in Operation Neptune.**

Major R. L. Tyler, USAAF. September 16, 1944. 60frs.

This report deals with the role played by the First Air Combat Control Squadron, Amphibious during the assault on the Vierville-Colleville sector off the coast of Normandy during Operation Neptune. This unit was based on the USS *Ancon* during the Normandy landings and was responsible for the assignment, direction, and control of all U.S. Army Air Corps units in its assigned sector. Topics included in this report include fighter control, air support control, air warning, and essential air communications.

Principal Topics: Operation Neptune; First Air Combat Control Squadron, Amphibious; Normandy; USS *Ancon*; U.S. Army Air Corps.

0061 **Serial 05084, VS-47 Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Report of July 11, 1944.**

Lieutenant Commander E. H. Katenkamp. September 24, 1944. 8frs.

This report covers the action of two planes commanded by Lieutenant G. R. Grannis and Lieutenant W. P. Coleman, Jr., both of whom were attached to Squadron VS-47, against a possible periscope feather while on an anti-submarine patrol in the area of Latitude 06.12N, Longitude 162.00W on July 11, 1944. Immediately upon spotting the periscope feather Lieutenant Grannis went into a power dive and headed directly toward the feather, which did not disappear. The pilot aimed his depth charge and dropped it fifty feet in front of the target. The charge failed to go off due to a faulty arming mechanism. Lieutenant Coleman's plane then made a similar bombing run and dropped a depth charge which exploded within ten feet of the target. Following this explosion the feather disappeared and was not seen again. It was the opinion of the squadron commander that this sighting was highly doubtful due to the failing light and choppy seas. Also the escort vessel, USS *Kilauea*, which was accompanying the two planes on patrol, was within 2,500 yards of the alleged periscope feather and reported no contact.

Principal Topics: Lieutenant G. R. Grannis; Lieutenant W. P. Coleman, Jr.; U.S. anti-submarine operations; VS-47; USS *Kilauea*.

0069 **Serial 05085, Report of Anti-Submarine Action by Surface Ship.**

Lieutenant Commander Frederic W. Hawes. September 24, 1944. 5frs.

On September 1, 1944, the USS *Bowers*, having passed through the Bougainville Strait en route to the spot where a plane reported sighting a possible periscope earlier in the day, sighted a flare dropped by this plane twelve miles to the eastward. Failing to observe any sign of a submarine in the area the *Bowers* commenced search operations assisted by the USS *Foreman*. A thorough search of the area turned up only debris such as logs, coconuts, grass, and palm leaves. During the search they discovered a log having a protruding stub and theorized that this object, seen from the air in choppy seas, might have appeared to be a periscope feather. The two U.S. ships continued to search the area for possible sonar or radar contacts until September 3 when the search was abandoned as unsuccessful.

Principal Topics: USS *Bowers*; U.S. anti-submarine operations; USS *Foreman*.

0074 **Serial 05182, Report of Attack on SS *Dominican Victory*, Morning of August 29, 1944.**

R. C. Warrack. September 27, 1944. 13frs.

The SS *Dominican Victory* was fired upon during the hours of darkness in the early morning of August 29, 1944 in the vicinity of Latitude 12.13N, Longitude 166.32E while en route from Eniwetok to Pearl Harbor. The attack was made by the USS *Conklin*, which fired on the merchant ship for forty-five minutes before establishing the vessel's identity. The *Conklin* was escorting the USS *Kwajalein* at the time of the attack. Apparently the *Conklin* attempted to carry out the recognition procedure but failed because the improper challenge was made. The SS *Dominican Victory* sustained no damage as a result of this attack.

Principal Topics: SS *Dominican Victory*; USS *Conklin*; USS *Kwajalein*.

0087 **Serial 05617, Forwarding of Report of Stalemate II.**

H. J. Martin. October 14, 1944. 6frs.

Role of Destroyer Squadron 51 in the seizure of Peleliu and Ulithi in the Palau Islands during the period from September 17 to 27, 1944. During these operations the squadron was assigned to duty with the fleet oiler task force. Their mission was to refuel fleet units during the fighting. This mission was accomplished successfully and no contact was made with the enemy.

Principal Topics: Operation Stalemate II; Destroyer Squadron 51; Peleliu Island; Ulithi Island.

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0093 **Serial 05629, Underwater Demolition Team Eight Operations on Angaur Island, September 14–19, 1944.**

D. E. Young. October 15, 1944. 10frs.

Activities of Underwater Demolition Team Eight during the assault on Angaur Island between September 14 and 19, 1944. The unit was headquartered aboard the USS *George E. Badger* during these operations. The mission of this unit was to conduct demolition operations on Green Beach 2 and Green Beach 3. The men of this unit also provided intelligence information on the depth of the water, the location of mines and underwater obstacles, and beach defenses. The unit also provided covering fire for those members of the team actually in the water doing demolition work.

Principal Topics: Underwater Demolition Team Eight; Angaur Island; USS *George E. Badger*.

0103 **Serial 05690, Accidental Bombing of USS S-38.**

J. B. Elliott, Jr. October 17, 1944. 8frs.

On the morning of August 16, 1944, while conducting anti-submarine warfare training exercises with two planes from the South Pacific Aircraft Training Unit and with YB 414 as escort, the USS *S-38* was bombed accidentally with two 300 pound depth charges dropped by a TBF Avenger-type aircraft from the USS *White Plains*. Both depth charges exploded close to the port side of the submarine and all power was momentarily lost due to all the vessel's main power breakers being blown open by the first depth bomb. The remaining exercises were cancelled in view of the damage suffered. Although the damages to the submarine at first appeared to be serious they were later found to be relatively minor and the vessel returned to full duty on August 18, 1944.

Principal Topics: U.S. anti-submarine operations; South Pacific Aircraft Training Unit; USS *S-38*; USS *White Plains*.

0111 **Serial 003607, Comments and Recommendations on Air Support of Forager Operation.**

David McCampbell. November 5, 1944. 34frs.

Comments and recommendations relating to the air operations conducted by Air Group Fifteen during the capture of the Marianas Islands in the period from June 11 to July 3, 1944. Among the topics addressed are the organization of strike groups, rescue operations, target assignment, radio discipline, spotting for surface bombardments, aerial photography, strafing doctrine, pilot replacement and training, bombing operations, and recommendations for awards.

Principal Topics: Forager Operation; Air Group Fifteen; Marianas Islands.

0145 **Serial 003756, Aerial Mining of Moesi River, Sumatra, August 10–11, 1944.**

Lieutenant Commander K. L. Veth. November 15, 1944. 23frs.

Eight B-29 type aircraft of the XX Bomber Command successfully laid 16 aerial mines in and at the approaches to the Moesi River leading to Palembang, Sumatra on the night of August 10–11, 1944. This report contains a description and comments on that operation. As this was the first mining operation conducted by B-29 aircraft, information of general interest is included in this report.

Principal Topics: Aerial mining operations; XX Bomber Command; Moesi River; Palembang, Sumatra.

0168 **Serial 004183, Information Concerning Loss of USS *Mount Hood*.**

O. L. Thorne. December 10, 1944. 12frs.

On November 10, 1944 the ammunition ship, USS *Mount Hood*, exploded in Seeadler Harbor. This report is a list of the ammunition and explosives that were lost when the ship blew up, a list of the other ships in the harbor that were damaged when the explosion occurred, and estimates of the extent of their damages and the casualties they sustained.

Principal Topic: USS *Mount Hood*.

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No.

0180 **Serial 0001169, Report on Operations in Support of Leyte-Samar Operations, October 27–November 30, 1944.**

C. H. McMorris. December 25, 1944. 4frs.

Relation of the carrier task force of the 3rd Fleet and the Army Air Forces in support of the ground fighting on Leyte during the closing phases of the King II operation. During this period the 3rd Fleet was assigned the tasks of destroying or containing Japanese naval and air forces, of providing cover both for sea and air communications and for the newly established bases in the forward area of the central theater, and of providing cover for operations in the Southwest Pacific Area.

Principal Topics: U.S. 3rd Fleet; U.S. Army Air Forces; Leyte operations.

0184 **Serial 00258, Aircraft Mining in Nanpo Shoto Area, Fourth Phase, December 7–18, 1944.**

Captain William V. Davis, Jr. January 19, 1945. 33frs.

The first section of this report covers the last 12 days of aircraft mining in the Nanpo Shoto area, from December 7 to 18, 1944. During this time 26 sorties were flown with only one minor casualty, and 52 mines were laid, 39 of which were effective in or near four of the assigned mine fields. The preparation of the mines, the development of radar mine-laying techniques, narratives of the mining missions themselves, the locations of the mines laid, and the computed threats posed by these mines to enemy shipping are covered in detail in this folder. The second section provides a general summary of all four phases of this mining operation, statistics on material and personnel performance, discussions regarding photographs of mine splashes, and the overall results of the mining, including the Japanese reaction.

Principal Topics: U.S. aerial mining operations; Nanpo Shoto area.

0217 **Serial 02469, Forwarding of Reports of Mines Swept by YMS-329, February 16–21, 1945.**

Lieutenant William L. Ballew. March 25, 1945. 6frs.

Minesweeping operations conducted by the USS YMS-329 in Manila Bay and Mariveles Harbor in the Philippine Islands during the period from February 16 to 21, 1945. The minesweeper reported finding and clearing two mines in Manila Bay and only one in the Mariveles Harbor area.

Principal Topics: U.S. minesweeping operations; USS YMS-329; Manila Bay; Mariveles Harbor.

0223 **Serial 005800, Salvage of Japanese Midget Submarine, January 4–30, 1945.**

M. L. Hersey, Jr. April 8, 1945. 84frs.

Salvaging operations were begun on January 4, 1945 by the U.S. Coast Guard cutter, *Ironwood*, on a midget Japanese submarine with an overall length of 78 feet located off Cape Esperance in Latitude 09.15S, Longitude 159.42E. This submarine was taken to Hutchison Creek on Florida Island where it was beached. As the torpedoes in the submarine were still intact, a mine disposal officer was assigned to assist in the salvage operation. After a thorough search of the vessel and an unsuccessful effort to remove its torpedoes, the submarine was dismantled and ultimately was ordered to be sunk in the area of Gavutu Island. Photographs showing various stages of the salvage operation accompany this report.

Principal Topics: Japanese midget submarine; *Ironwood*.

0307 **Serial 001561, Detachment Operation, February 19–March 9, 1945.**

W. E. Allaun, Jr. April 26, 1945. 8frs.

This report deals with the radar picket and fire support duties engaged in by the fighter director team aboard the USS *Robert H. Smith* during the landings at Iwo Jima. It was the mission of this unit to keep track of any enemy planes which appeared on radar and to notify U.S. fighters and ships of their presence.

Principal Topics: USS *Robert H. Smith*; Iwo Jima operations.

- 0316 **Serial 001751, Aerial Mining Operations of Yangtze, April 13, 1945.**
C. A. Taylor. May 7, 1945. 5frs.
On the night of April 13, 1945, planes attached to the 373rd Bomb Squadron, 308th Bomb Group dropped a total of twelve mines in the Yangtze River above Hankow, China. This report includes descriptions of the mines and a map showing their exact location. The U.S. planes encountered no opposition during this operation.
Principal Topics: U.S. aerial mining operations; 373rd Bomb Squadron; Yangtze River.
- 0321 **Serial 066430, Interception and Diversion of Japanese Hospital Ship *Takasago Maru*, July 7-16, 1945.**
William A. Cockell. August 6, 1945. 8frs.
From July 7 to 16, 1945, Destroyer Division 108 was detached from duty with Task Force 38 and sent to intercept and divert the Japanese hospital ship, *Takasago Maru*, which was en route to Muroran. Muroran was to be the objective of an air strike by Task Force 38 and it was necessary to make sure that the hospital ship was not in the area during the attack. The USS *McDermut* encountered the *Takasago Maru* on July 8, 1945, and warned the Japanese not to proceed to Muroran to which they willingly complied. The *McDermut* then escorted the Japanese ship to an area well clear of the 3rd Fleet's operating area and released the ship with instructions to head for Yokosuka.
Principal Topics: Task Force 38; *Takasago Maru*; Muroran; USS *McDermut*.
- 0329 **Serial 005043, Senior U.S. Naval Liaison Officer, British Pacific Fleet Report Covering Period April 20 to May 25, 1945.**
Captain E. C. Ewen. June 3, 1945. 10frs.
Activities of the British Pacific Fleet from April 20 to May 25, 1945. Information is provided on the movements and operations of the British fleet during this time period, the air operations of the planes attached to the fleet's carriers, the ability of the British ship's armored flight decks to resist attacks by Japanese suicide planes, the bombardment of Miyako on May 4, 1945, the superior ability of lost British planes to find their way back to their carriers by means of direction finders, and a list of Japanese aircraft destroyed by the British during the course of Operation Iceberg.
Principal Topics: British Pacific Fleet; Kamikaze planes; Miyako; Operation Iceberg.
- 0339 **Serial 003872, Operation Iceberg, March 25-May 8, 1945.**
J. G. Foster, Jr. August 20, 1945. 63frs.
Detailed chronological account of the events leading up to the capture of Okinawa from March 21 to May 23, 1945, presented from the viewpoint of the USS *Rudyard Bay*, which performed a supporting role during the Okinawa Campaign. Included is information on the number of missions flown by U.S. planes during this campaign, their targets, armaments, and the results of these air raids. Aerial photographs showing targets on Okinawa are included.
Principal Topics: Operation Iceberg; Okinawa; USS *Rudyard Bay*.
- 0402 **Serial 006529, Aerial Mining of Southern Korean Waters, June 10-July 1, 1945.**
J. D. Price. August 25, 1945. 27frs.
This report covers the dropping of 195 aircraft mines in the channels of the Korean Archipelago by Navy PB4Y-2 patrol planes based at Yontan Airfield on Okinawa. This mining was successfully carried out by Patrol Bombing Squadron 118 operating under the direction of the commander of Fleet Air Wing One from June 10 to July 1, 1945. No planes were lost or damaged during the mining; however, some planes were slightly damaged by anti-aircraft fire while making strafing runs after the mining operations were completed.
Principal Topics: U.S. aerial mining operations; Korea; Yontan Airfield; Patrol Bombing Squadron 118.

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No.

0429 **Serial 034392, Loss of the *Indianapolis*, July 30, 1945.**

E. L. Sachett. December 14, 1945. 5frs.

This report is by a U.S. Army Air Force pilot who might have witnessed the sinking of the cruiser USS *Indianapolis*, which was returning from delivering the first atomic bombs when she was sunk by the Japanese. Due to the secrecy of the mission, radio silence had been imposed and the ship was unable to send a distress signal when she went down. Captain Richard G. Le Francis reported seeing a naval action on July 30, 1945, while on a flight from Manila to Guam. He and his crew reported seeing the fire of star shells, tracers, and heavier naval artillery. It appeared to these airmen that two ships were engaging one. This report was submitted to naval authorities but not confirmed.

Principal Topics: USS *Indianapolis*; Captain Richard G. Le Francis.

0434 **Serial 0395, Report of Surrender and Occupation of Japan, August–December 1945.**

J. H. Towers. February 11, 1946. 241frs.

Detailed account of the events leading up to the surrender of Japan and to the occupation of the Japanese home islands by Allied military forces. Included is information on the Allied advance planning and organization, on the U.S. occupation of the islands of Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu, and Shikoku, demilitarization operations, evacuation of prisoners of war, appraisals of Japanese war potential, status of the repatriation of Japanese nationals, mine force operations (dismantling of mine fields in the area of the Japanese islands), the political and military background of and the negotiations for the surrender and occupation of Japan, the ships present in Tokyo Bay during the surrender ceremonies, material on the surrender and occupation of Korea, the liberation of Japanese-held China, and the surrender and development of Japanese-held islands in the Pacific Ocean area. Also included is information on the major Allied administrative and command changes from September through December 1945.

Principal Topics: Japan; demilitarization operations; prisoners of war; Japanese nationals; U.S. minesweeping operations; Korea; China; Pacific Ocean area.

0675 **Serial None, Signed Statement Concerning Command Relations in Battle of Midway (Spruance's Assumption of Local Tactical Command of Task Forces 16 and 17 on June 4, 1942) Dictated by Admiral Nimitz at Navy Department, in Reply to Inquiry by Vice Admiral A. W. Fitch, Superintendent of the Naval Academy.**

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. March 8, 1946. 2frs.

On June 2, 1942, Task Force 16 under Admiral Raymond Spruance and Task Force 17 under Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher made rendezvous and, under local command of Admiral Fletcher, moved to a position north of Midway. Admiral William F. Halsey, who normally would have commanded Task Force 16, was ill at Pearl Harbor and Admiral Spruance was designated to command Task Force 16 before this force left port. During the action at Midway on June 4, 1942, at about 3:00 p.m., Admiral Spruance assumed local tactical command of both task forces in the presence of the enemy after Admiral Fletcher's flagship, the USS *Yorktown*, was torpedoed. Admiral Nimitz, at Pearl Harbor, retained the overall command.

Principal Topics: Battle of Midway; Admiral Chester Nimitz; Task Force 16; Task Force 17; Admiral Raymond Spruance; Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher; Admiral William F. Halsey; USS *Yorktown*; Vice Admiral A. W. Fitch.

SUBJECT INDEX

The following index is a guide to the major topics in *U.S. Navy Action and Operational Reports from World War II, Pacific Theater, Part 1*. Ships are listed under their specific name (USS *Orca* is in the O's, for example), while battles are found under their location (Eastern Solomons, Midway, etc.). The first arabic number refers to the reel, and the four-digit number after the colon refers to the frame number at which a particular report containing information on the subject begins. Hence 1: 0001 directs the researcher to the report that begins at frame 0001 on Reel 1. By referring to the Reel Index that constitutes the initial segment of this guide, the researcher will find the file report containing the subject.

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