

TASK FORCE RAID ON MANILA IN THE PHILIPPINES JANUARY 7, 1945 SECOND DAY

- SPECIAL COMMUNIQUE- WORD WAS RECEIVED THIS MORNING THAT OUR SEVENTH FLEET SUFFERED 19 SHIP CASUALTIES WHEN JAP SUICIDE BOMBERS DROVE ON THEM, THEIR BOMBS AND ALL EXPLODING. SHIPS HIT BY JAP SUICIDE DIVE BOMBERS INCLUDE: 2 BATTLESHIPS, 3 CRUISERS, 5 DESTROYERS AND 9 AUXILIARY AND MERCHANT SHIPS. ONE OF THESE SHIPS WAS SUNK.
- 0515-OUR FIRST STRIKE OF 12 VF HAS JUST BEEN LAUNCHED.
- 0615-GENERAL QUARTERS, ALL HANDS HAVE MANNED THEIR BATTLE STATIONS. WE WERE TO HIT FORMOSA TODAY BUT BAD WEATHER PERMITTED US FROM DOING SO. WE ARE OPERATING WITH THE WASP.
- 0640-WE HAVE JUST LAUNCHED AN 8 VF COMBAT AIR PATROL.
- 0710-THE SECOND STRIKE OF 20 VF HAS JUST BEEN LAUNCHED.
- 0845-OUR THIRD STRIKE OF 18 VF HAS JUST TAKEN OFF.
- 0855-THE FIRST STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED SAFELY. THEIR OBJECTIVE WAS GRACE FIELD WHERE THEY STRAFED AND DALLAGED MANY PLANES ON THE GROUND. THEY ALSO HIT NICHOLAS FIELD AND STRAFED 25 ENEMY PLANES ON THE PARKING AREAS. THE PLANES WERE EVIDENTLY DECOMPOSED FOR NONE BURNED.
- 1020-OUR SECOND STRIKE HAS JUST RETURNED SAFELY. THIS STRIKE HIT GRACE FIELD STRAFING AND DALLAGING TWO PLANES ON THE GROUND. A FUEL DUMP WAS BOMBED AND SET AFIRE. ANTI-AIRCRAFT POSITIONS WERE STRAFED AND SOME SILENCED. AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED OVER THE TARGET WAS MODERATE.
- 1045-OUR FOURTH STRIKE OF 8 VF, 6 VT AND 8 VB, HAS JUST TAKEN OFF.
- 1200-OUR THIRD STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED SAFELY. THIS STRIKE WENT TO HIT GRACE FIELD UNTIL THEY OBSERVED 11 FIRES STARTED THERE BY B-24'S SO THEY WENT ON TO NICHOLAS FIELD. THERE THEY HIT AND BLEW UP AN AMMUNITION DUMP. A FUEL DUMP WAS ALSO BOMBED AND SET AFIRE. AA POSITIONS WERE STRAFED UNTIL ONLY ONE WAS LEFT STILL FIRING. THE FIGHTERS THEN RETURNED TO GRACE FIELD AND SHOT UP THE REMAINING PLANES ON THE GROUND LEFT UNHIT BY B-24'S.
- 1255-OUR FIFTH STRIKE OF 16 VF AND 9 VT HAS JUST BEEN LAUNCHED.
- 1400-THE FOURTH STRIKE HAS RETURNED FROM THE TARGET. TWO TORPEDO PLANES ARE MISSING. ONE WAS OBSERVED TO HAVE BEEN HIT DIRECTLY AND GO DOWN IN FLAMES OVER THE FIELD. THE CREW OF THE OTHER BAILED OUT AND LANDED NEAR THE ENEMY FIELD. ONE JAP JIL WAS FOUND AIR BURNE OVER GRACE FIELD AND WAS BOUNCED ON BY THE YORKTOWN FIGHTERS WHICH SHOT IT DOWN IN FLAMES. THREE ENEMY PLANES WERE SET AFIRE ON THE GROUND. A WATER TANK WAS HIT AND BLOWN UP. AT CLARK FIELD, OUR PLANES HIT STORES, BUILDINGS AND OTHER TARGETS SETTING THEM AFIRE. A FUEL DUMP WAS HIT AND WENT UP IN FLAMES. AA POSITIONS WERE STRAFED AND SOME SILENCED. AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED OVER THE TARGET WAS VERY MODERATE TO MEAGER.
- 1600-THE LAST STRIKE HAS RETURNED SAFELY FROM OPERATIONS.
- 1900-WE ARE NOW SECURING FROM GENERAL QUARTERS.

TASK FORCE RAID ON FORMOSA JANUARY 9, 1945

- OUR PURPOSE HERE TODAY IS TO KEEP THE JAPS AT FORMOSA FROM REINFORCING THEIR TROOPS ON LUZON IN ANY WAY.
- 0530-THE FIRST STRIKE OF 16 VF HAS JUST BEEN LAUNCHED.
- 0635-GENERAL QUARTERS, ALL HANDS HAVE MANNED THEIR BATTLE STATIONS.
- 0830-OUR PICKET CANS HAVE JUST BLOWN UP A FLOATING MINE 1800 YDS. AWAY.
- 0935-OUR FIRST STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED, ALL AIRCRAFT RETURNED. THEY ENCOUNTERED 10 ENEMY AIRBORNE AIRCRAFT NEAR THE TARGET, SHOOTING DOWN 4 AND DAMAGING 2. THEY SIGHTED 4 JAP LUGGERS LOADED DOWN WITH TANKS, OIL AND GASOLINE DRUMS & EQUIPMENT JUST OFF FORMOSA. THE SHIPS WERE BOMBED & STRAFED SINKING ONE AND LEAVING THE OTHER THREE ABLAZE.
- 1100-OUR SECOND STRIKE HAS RETURNED, ONE TORPEDO PLANE IS MISSING, IT WAS HIT WITH FLACK AND CRASHED INTO THE DRINK. PERSONEL WERE PICKED UP BY ONE OF OUR SUB ANOTHER VT WAS DAMAGED. TWO JAP LUGGERS SIGHTED OFF FORMOSA WERE SUNK. THE 3rd & 4th STRIKE HAVE BEEN CANCELED DUE TO BAD WEATHER.
- 1345-YORKTOWN C.A.P. HAS JUST SPLASHED A JAP DINAH SIX MILES FROM THE FORMATION.
- 1425-THE FIFTH STRIKE OF 20 VF, 9 VT & 9 VB HAS JUST TAKEN OFF.
- 1725-OUR FIFTH STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED, ALL PLANES RETURNED. THIS STRIKE SPOTTED A JAP DE UPON WHICH OUR FIGHTERS JUMPED & KNOCKED OUT ALL THEIR AA GUNS AND WIRELESS AND ALSO BLEW OFF THEIR BOAT WITH A DIRECT BOMB HIT, LEAVING IT DEAD IN THE WATER. OUR VB THEN LITERALLY BLEW IT APART AND IT SANK INSTANTLY. A 4000 TON JAP FREIGHTER WAS SIGHTED NEAR FORMOSA AND SUNK. AN AFT-STACK JAP OILER WAS ALSO SIGHTED & SUNK. IN KEARON HARBOR AT FORMOSA, A 500 LB. BOMB DIRECT HIT SANK ANOTHER 4000 TON JAP FREIGHTER. TONIGHT WE SLIP INTO THE CHINA SEA AND PATROL IN SEARCH OF JAP FLEET UNITS. OUR SOLE TASK HERE AFTER IS TO FIND AND ANNILATE THEM.
- 1915-WE ARE NOW SECURING FROM GENERAL QUARTERS.

TASK FORCE RAID ON SAIGON, FRENCH INDO CHINA JANUARY 12, 1945

TODAY WE PATROL THE SOUTH CHINA SEA IN SEARCH OF JAP FLEET UNITS. JAN. 10, 45.

0545-INDEPENDENCE NF HAVE JUST SHOT DOWN TWO JAP TWIN ENGINE TRANSPORT PLANES.

ONE WENT DOWN 17 MILES FROM OUR FORMATION & THE OTHER 18.

0550-AN INDEPENDENCE NF HAS JUST SPLASHED A JAP TOSPY OFF FORMOSA AFTER CHASING IT FOR 120 MILES.

0940-OUR SEARCH PLANES HAVE SIGHTED TWO JAP DESTROYERS, ONE DESTROYER ESCORTS & ABOUT 20 MERCHANT SHIPS NORTH OF US, BUT TOO FAR DISTANT, HEADED FOR JAPAN.

JANUARY 11, 1945 -

1650-THE TICONDAROGO C.A.P. HAS JUST SPLASHED THREE JAP JUNKS 45 MILES S.W. OF US

JANUARY 12, 1945 -

0700-G.O. ALL HANDS HAVE LEANED THEIR BATTLE STATIONS.

0730-OUR FIRST STRIKE OF 38 VF, 6 VB, & 3 VT HAS JUST TAKEN OFF.

0800-OUR POSITION IS 60 MILES S.E. OF CHINA.

0945-THE SECOND STRIKE OF 26VF, 6 VB, & 6 VT HAS JUST BEEN LAUNCHED.

1130-OUR FIRST STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED, ALL PLANES RETURNED BUT MANY WERE SHOT UP QUITE A BIT. TWO VB WERE DAMAGED. THE ENEMY WAS TAKEN BY COMPLETE SURPRISE AND HEAVY DAMAGE WAS INFLICTED ON GROUND AND PORT INSTALLATIONS.

12 TO 15 ENEMY PLANES WERE FOUND AIRBORNE, 9 WERE SHOT DOWN AND 3 DAMAGED.

THREE JAP PILOTS FAILED OUT HAD THEIR PARACHUTES TO FAIL ON THEM. 50 TO 60

PLANES WERE OBSERVED ON THE GROUND, 8 WERE DESTROYED AND 4 WERE DAMAGED.

NO AA FIRE WAS ENCOUNTERED. TWO 5000 TON TRANSPORTS WERE HIT BY 500 LB. BOMBS

AND SANK. TWO 5000 TON CARGO SHIPS WERE SUNK BY BOMB HITS. ONE FREIGHTER

WAS HIT AND LEFT BURNING, SIX MERCHANT SHIPS RECEIVED BOMB HITS AND WERE LEFT

BURNING. FIVE JAP DE WERE ROCKETED AND STRAFED AND LEFT BURNING. TWO OILERS

WERE ALSO HIT AND LEFT ABLAZE. AT THE SEAPLANE BASE SIX FLOAT PLANES WERE

DESTROYED AND TWO DAMAGED. AT THEIR SOUTHERN ANCHORAGE, ONE 8000 TON TRANS-

PORT RECEIVED A 1000 LB. BOMB HIT AND SANK. A LARGE TRANSPORT WAS HIT BY A

500 LB. BOMB AND SANK. TWO JAP DE WERE ROCKETED AND SANK. AT THE NORTHERN

ANCHORAGE TWO LARGE TRANSPORTS WERE BOMBED, EXPLODED, AND LEFT BURNING. ONE

SMALL TRANSPORT WAS HIT AND LEFT BURNING. YORKTOWN VF SHOT DOWN A JAP NELL.

1330-THE THIRD STRIKE OF 32VF, 6VB, & 5 VT HAS JUST TAKEN OFF.

1340-OUR SECOND HAS JUST LANDED. ONE VT FAILED TO RETURN. ITS RIGHT WING WAS TOG

OFF BY AA FIRE AND WENT DOWN OVER THE TARGET. ONE LARGE TRANSPORT WAS BOMBED

AND SUNK. THREE LARGE TRANSPORTS WERE ROCKETED, STRAFED AND LEFT BURNING.

THREE MERCHANT SHIPS WERE HIT AND LEFT BURNING. ONE JAP DESTROYER RECEIVED

A DIRECT HIT ON ITS BOW AND IT WAS BLOWN COMPLETELY OFF. ONE JAP SUB WAS

DAMAGED BY ROCKET FIRE AND STRAFING. TWO JAP VALS AND TWO TONYS WERE STRAFED

ON THE GROUND AND LEFT BURNING. AT ANOTHER AIR FIELD A JAP JAKE AND THREE

VALS WERE ALSO HIT AND LEFT BURNING. AT THEIR ANCHORAGE ONE OILER WAS BOMBED

AND SUNK. ANOTHER OILER WAS HIT AND LEFT BURNING. ONE JAP DE WAS HIT AND

WAS LEFT BURNING.

1510-THE FOURTH STRIKE OF 10 VF HAS JUST BEEN LAUNCHED.

1705-THE THIRD HAS JUST LANDED. ALL PLANES HAVE RETURNED. MANY WERE DAMAGED BY

FLAK. ONE JAP DE RECEIVED A 500 LB HIT AND SANK. A JAP HEAVY CRUISER WAS

TORPEDO, BOMBED, AND ROCKETED ON THEIR RUN AND IT DEFINITELY SANK. THREE

MEDIUM TRANSPORTS PREVIOUSLY HIT, WERE AGAIN ROCKETED AND STRAFED AND LEFT

BURNING. ANOTHER OILER WAS STRAFED AND SET AFIRE. TWO AFT STACK OILERS

PREVIOUSLY HIT WERE AGAIN HIT AND SET AFIRE.

1850-THE FOURTH STRIKE HAS NOW RETURN ALL AIRCRAFT LANDED SAFELY. THE MAIN AIR-

FIELD WAS AGAIN HIT AND THREE PARKED PLANES WERE STRAFED AND DESTROYED. AN

OILER WAS BOMBED AND SANK INSTANTLY, DUE TO PREVIOUSLY HITS RECEIVED BY

EARLIER STRIKES. PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN OF IMPORTANT GROUND AND HARBOR IN-

STALLATIONS. TWO NEW AIRFIELDS WERE THUS LOCATED WHICH WE PREVIOUSLY KNEW

NOTHING OF. TWO JAP PC BOATS WERE HIT AND DAMAGED. IN OPERATION TODAY, 153

SORTIES AND 33 C.A.P. WERE FLOWN. 33 TON OF BOLBS WERE DROPPED AND FOUR TO

PEDES LAUNCHED. 190 ROCKETS WERE FIRED WITH GOOD RESULTS. TEN OF OUR AIR-

CRAFT WERE HIT BY AA FIRE AND ONE VT FAILED TO RETURN. OUR VF SHOT DOWN ONE

JAP NELL, ONE BETTY, AND ELEVEN FIGHTERS, TOTAL THIRTEEN. 28 PARKED PLANES

WERE DESTROYED ON THE GROUND AND 18 DAMAGED.

1915-WE ARE NOW SECURING FROM GENERAL QUARTERS. WE WILL PATROL FOR TWO DAYS, AND

IF IN THAT TIME THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF ANY JAP FLEET UNITS, WE WILL HIT

HONG KONG.

TASK FORCE RAID ON CANTON, CHINA AND FORMOSA JANUARY 15, 1945

- 0540- THE FIRST STRIKE OF 16 VF AND 2 VB HAS JUST BEEN LAUNCHED.
0645- GO ALL HANDS HAVE MANNED THEIR BATTLE STATIONS.
0725- OUR SECOND STRIKE OF 20 VF, 6VB, AND 6 VT, HAS JUST TAKEN OFF.
1100- THE TICONDAROGA C.A.P. HAS JUST SPLASHED A JAP JUDY, 30 MILES AWAY.
1210- OUR FIRST STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED, ONE VF FAILED TO RETURN. IT WAS LAST SEEN WHEN HIT BY HEAVY AA FIRE, AND GO DOWN IN FLAMES OVER CANTON. THREE JAP TOJOS WERE ENCOUNTERED OVER CANTON AND TWO WERE SHOT DOWN, AND ONE GOT AWAY. A FEW PLANES WERE OBSERVED ON THE AIRFIELD OF WHICH ONE WAS DESTROYED AND SEVERAL WERE DAMAGED. ABOUT TWENTY SHIPS WERE SIGHTED IN THE HARBOR AND MANY WERE HIT AND DAMAGED. A JAP DE AND A MERCHANT SHIP WERE HIT BY ROCKETS AND SET AFIRE. AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED WAS HEAVY. AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN OF HONG KONG BY A DIVISION OF OUR VF.
1350- ONE OF OUR PICKET DESTROYERS HAS JUST SPLASHED A JAP JUDY.
1400- THE SECOND STRIKE HAS NOW LANDED, ONE VB FAILED TO RETURN. IT WAS LAST OBSERVED GOING INTO ITS DIVE THROUGH A CLOUD. TWO MERCHANT SHIPS WERE BOMBED STRAFED AND DDAMAGED. MANY MORE SHIPS WERE HIT IN ANOTHER NEARBY HARBOR AND ALSO DAMAGED. BAD WEATHER PREVAILED OVER MOST OF THE TARGETS AND FURTHER RESULTS WERE UNOBSERVABLE. HEAVY AA FIRE WAS ENCOUNTERED, BUT NO ENEMY AIR OPPOSITION.
1630- OUR THIRD STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED, ALL AIRCRAFT RETURNED. THIS STRIKE HIT NORTHERN FORMOSA. YORKTOWN FIGHTERS SHOT DOWN A JAP JAKE. TWO JAP LANDING CRAFT WERE STRAFED AND DAMAGED. A RADIO STATION WAS BOMBED AND DAMAGED. A FACTORY WAS BOMBED AND BLOWN UP. HEAVY AA FIRE WAS ENCOUNTERED, HOWEVER NONE OF OUR AIRCRAFT WAS HIT AND ALL RETURNED. OUR POSITION IS NOW EAST OF CHINA AND SOUTHWEST OF FORMOSA.
2000- WE ARE NOW SECURING FROM GENERAL QUARTERS.

TASK FORCE RAID ON CANTON, CHINA (2nd DAY) & HONG KONG JANUARY 16, 1945

- 0630- THE FIRST STRIKE OF 16 VF AND 3 VB HAS JUST BEEN LAUNCHED.
0700- GENERAL QUARTERS, ALL HANDS HAVE MANNED THEIR BATTLE STATIONS.
0730- OUR SECOND STRIKE OF 20 VF, 6 VB AND 8 VF HAS JUST TAKEN OFF.
0930- THE THIRD STRIKE OF 16 VF AND 5 VT HAS JUST BEEN LAUNCHED.
1055- AN 8 VF COMBAT AIR PATROL HAS JUST TAKEN OFF.
1110- THE FIRST STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED, ALL AIRCRAFT RETURNED. GOOD WEATHER WAS REPORTED OVER THE TARGET AREA. NO ENEMY AIR OPPOSITION WAS ENCOUNTERED AND AN ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE WAS OBSERVED. THIS STRIKE HIT THE CANTON DOCK AREAS AND ALMOST EVERY HIT WAS A DIRECT ONE. WAREHOUSES AND BUILDINGS WERE BOMBED AND SET AFIRE. TUGS AND BARGES IN THE HARBOR WERE HIT DESTROYING THEM. A LOCOMOTIVE AND FREIGHT TRAIN WAS BOMBED AND BLOWN UP. LARGE FIRES WERE STARTED IN THE DOCK AREAS FOLLOWING HEAVY EXPLOSIONS. OUR PILOTS, WHEN ATTACKING SHIPPING, HAD TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO HIT THE NUMEROUS CHINESE JUNKS AND SAMPAHS IN THE HARBOR.
1215- THE SECOND STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED, ALL PLANES RETURNED. THIS STRIKE HIT THE NORTHERN CANTON DOCK AREAS STARTING MANY FIRES. TWO LARGE TRANSPORTS WERE BOMBED AND SET AFIRE. STILL NO ENEMY AIR OPPOSITION WAS ENCOUNTERED. ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE FROM THE SHIPS IN THE HARBOR WAS VERY LIGHT AND IN-ACCURATE.
1530- OUR POSITION IS APPROXIMATELY 170 MILES EAST OF CHINA AND BEARING DIRECTLY SOUTH.
1620- OUR THIRD STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED, ONE BOMBER FAILED TO RETURN. IT WAS HIT BY ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE IMMEDIATELY AFTER IT HAD DROPPED ITS BOB AND WENT DOWN IN FLAMES, NO SURVIVERS REPORTED. THIS STRIKE HIT HANG KONG'S DOCK AREAS AND SHIPPING. VERY HEAVY ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE WAS ENCOUNTERED OVER THE TARGET BUT NO AIR OPPOSITION WAS OBSERVED. WAREHOUSES AND BUILDINGS WERE HIT AT STONE CUPPERS ISLAND DOING MUCH DAMAGE. THREE LARGE 8000 TON TANKERS WERE HIT. ONE EXPLODED AND WAS OBSERVED SETTLING FAST AT THE STERN. THE OTHER TWO STARTED TO BURN FIERCELY AND WERE BOTH LAST SEEN WITH THEIR BOBS BLASH. A 5500 TON TRANSPORT WAS BOMBED AND SANK INSTANTLY. A DESTROYER ESCORT WAS HIT BY ROCKETS AND LEFT BURNING.
1630- WE HAVE JUST LAUNCHED FOUR NIGHT FIGHTERS.
1955- WE ARE NOW SECURING FROM GENERAL QUARTERS.

TASK FORCE RAID ON FORMOSA - JANUARY 20, 1945

TODAY WE MAKE OUR RUN THROUGH BALINTANG STRAIT BETWEEN FORMOSA AND THE PHILIPPINES, LEAVING THE CHINA SEA AND ENTERING THE PACIFIC.

- 0630- GO. ALL HANDS HAVE MANNED THEIR BATTLE STATIONS.
- 0930- YORKTOWN FIGHTERS HAVE JUST SPLASHED A JAP GEORGE.
- 0950- ESSEX MARINE PILOTS HAVE JUST SHOT DOWN EIGHT JAP FIGHTERS AND THREE TWIN ENGINE BOMBERS.
- 1810- TASK FORCE 38.2 FIRING- MANY BOGEY CONTACTS.
- 1815- ONE OF OUR PICKET DESTROYERS IS FIRING.
- 1835- THE HANCOCK C.A.P. HAS JUST SHOT DOWN A JAP BETTY.
- 2215- WE ARE NOW LEAVING THE CHINA SEA AND ENTERING BALINTANG CHANNEL BETWEEN FORMOSA AND LUZON. WE ARE PASSING BATTAN ISLANDS WHICH IS SIX AND ONE HALF MILES OFF OUR PORT BEAM AND DEQUEY ISLANDS WHICH IS NINE MILES OFF OUR PORT BEAM.
- 2240- WE HAVE NOW CLEARED THE EASTERN END OF BALINTANG CHANNEL AND HAVE ENTERED THE PACIFIC OCEAN ONCE AGAIN.

TASK FORCE RAID ON FORMOSA JANUARY 21, 1945

- 0515- OUR COMBAT AIR PATROL OF 12 VF, HAS JUST BEEN LAUNCHED.
- 0558- OUR FIRST STRIKE OF 16 VF, 9 VT, AND 6VB, HAS JUST TAKEN OFF.
- 0630- GO. ALL HANDS HAVE MANNED THEIR BATTLE STATIONS.
- 0746- THE SECOND STRIKE OF 12 VF, 6 VT, AND 6 VB, HAS JUST BEEN LAUNCHED.
- 0825- OUR FIRST STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED. ALL PLANES RETURNED. THIS STRIKE HIT TARGETS ON NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN FORMOSA. IN THE NORTHERN SECTOR, THREE ENEMY TWIN ENGINED BOMBERS WERE DESTROYED ON THE GROUND AT A LARGE AIRFIELD. 25 OTHER PLANES WERE ALSO HIT AND DAMAGED THERE. AT AN ADJACENT AIRFIELD TWO MORE PLANES WERE DESTROYED ON THE GROUND. AA FIRE WAS HEAVY AND MANY OF OUR PLANES WERE HIT BY FLAK. MANY SHIPS WERE OBSERVED IN THE HARBOR. AND SOME WERE HIT AND DAMAGED.
- 0850- ENEMY PLANES HAVE BEEN INTERCEPTED BY OUR C.A.P. AT FIFTY MILES.
- 0855- A JAP DINAH, TWIN ENGINED OBSERVATION PLANE, HAS JUST BEEN SHOT DOWN.
- 0900- ENEMY PLANES BEARING 280° - 63 MILES, LATER FADED.
- 1020- OUR THIRD STRIKE OF 18 VF, 6VT, AND 8 VB, HAS JUST BEEN LAUNCHED.
- 1059- THE 2nd STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED, ALL PLANES RETURNED. THIS STRIKE SIGHTED EIGHT LARGE JAP SHIPS AND SCORED 7 DIRECT HITS ON THEM CAUSING FIRE AND DAMAGE. PORT INSTALLATIONS AND WAREHOUSES WERE HIT AND SET AFIRE. A JAP DINAH WAS COMING IN FOR A LANDING ON AN AIRFIELD WHEN A YORKTOWN VF DROPPED TO 50 FEET AND STRAFED IT. EVIDENTLY THE JAP PILOT WAS KILLED FROM THE FIRST BURST, FOR THE BOMBER ROLLED UP THE FIELD, TURNED COMPLETELY OVER AND BURNED FIERCELY. ANOTHER YORKTOWN VF SIGHTED A JAP MYRT (NEWEST TYPE JAP CARRIER FIGHTER) AND CHASED IT FOR FIFTY MILES. THE MYRT PULLED AWAY WITH 10 MILES MORE SPEED, WHICH INDICATES IT IS THE FASTEST CARRIER PLANE THERE IS.
- 1240- 8 ENEMY PLANES BEARING 195 AT 32 MILES COMING IN.
- 1244- YORKTOWN C.A.P. HAS JUST SPLASHED A JAP TOJO.
- 1245- YORKTOWN C.A.P. HAS JUST SPLASHED 3 JAP TOJOS.
- 1247- ENEMY PLANES NOW 25 MILES COMING IN LOW.
- 1250- YORKTOWN C.A.P. HAS JUST SHOT DOWN ANOTHER JAP TOJO.
- 1251- OUR C.A.P. HAS JUST SPLASHED A JAP BETTY.
- 1253- ENEMY PLANES HAVE GOTTEN THROUGH OUR C.A.P. ALL HANDS ALERT.
- 1258- OUR C.A.P. HAS JUST SPLASHED TWO JAP TOJOS.
- 1300- OUR PICKET DESTROYER USS MADDOX HAS BEEN HIT BY A JAP SUICIDE PLANE. THE MADDOX REPORTS NUMEROUS CASUALTIES.
- 1310- OUR FOURTH STRIKE OF 12 VF, 6 VT, AND 6 VB, HAS JUST BEEN LAUNCHED.
- 1327- THE THIRD STRIKE HAS NOW LANDED. TWO VF FAILED TO RETURN. THIS STRIKE HIT REVETMENTS AND PARKED PLANES WITH BOMBS AND ROCKETS CAUSING CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE. ONE LOCOMOTIVE RECEIVED A DIRECT HIT AND BLEW UP. BUILDINGS AND SHOPS AROUND THE AIRFIELD WERE ALSO HIT AND DAMAGED. ONE OF OUR VF (PHOTO PLANE) WAS HIT BY AA FIRE AND WENT DOWN OVER THE TARGET. ANOTHER YORKTOWN VF CHASED A JAP ZEKE AND SHOT IT DOWN, HOWEVER THE FLYING DEBRIS FROM THE EXPLODING ZEKE HIT OUR VF AND IT ALSO CRASHED INTO THE DRINK, DISINTEGRATING.
- 1330- CO'PENS C.A.P. HAS JUST SPLASHED 4 JAP OSCARS. THIS BRINGS OUR TOTAL TO 15 JAP PLANES SPLASHED TODAY OVER OUR FORTIFICATION.
- 1350- FIGHTERS FROM ONE OF OUR OTHER TASK GROUPS SHOT DOWN 2 OF OUR CRUISER'S FLOAT PLANES ACCIDENTLY, NO FURTHER DOPE.
- 1445- THE TICONDAROGA HAS BEEN HIT BY TWO JAP "ZOOT SUITERS". THE HANCOCK HAS HAD A BAD CRACKUP. ONE OF IT'S FIGHTERS MAKING A LANDING CRASHED INTO MOUNT 7 AND IT'S 500 LB. BOMB EXPLODED. DAMAGE AND CASUALTIES ARE HIGH.
- 1446- THE DESTROYER JONES HAS BEEN HIT BY A JAP SUICIDE PLANE.
- 1447- THE LANGLEY HAS JUST RECEIVED A BOMB HIT.
- 1635- OUR FOURTH STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED, ALL PLANES RETURNED. FIGHTERS IN THIS STRIKE SHOT DOWN A JAP DINAH AFTER CHASING FOR 50 MILES. IT CRASHED INTO A RAILROAD DEPOT AND STARTED A LARGE FIRE. YORKTOWN VF'S SOON AFTER SHOT DOWN ANOTHER JAP DINAH. ONE OILER WAS HIT BY 2 ROCKETS AND A 500 LB. BOMB AND LEFT BURNING FIERCELY.

TASK FORCE RAID ON FORMOSA JANUARY 21, 1945 (CONT.)

A TRANSPORT RECEIVED SEVERAL BOMB HITS AND WAS LEFT BURNING. ANOTHER TRANSPORT IN AN ADJACENT HARBOR WAS ALSO BOMBED AND LEFT BURNING. AT THE AIRFIELD BARACKS, OIL DUMPS, AND AA POSITIONS WERE BOMBED LEAVING FIRES AND MUCH DAMAGE BEHIND. HEAVY BUT INACCURATE AA FIRE WAS ENCOUNTERED.

1925- ENEMY AIRCRAFT BEARING 330 AT 20 MILES COMING IN FAST. FIRING ON THE PORT BEAM. A JAP BETTY IS MAKING A RUN IN ON US AT 11,000 YDS. OUR GUNS HAVE OPENED FIRE. WE'VE HIT IT AND IT HAS CRASHED INTO THE DRINK AND IS STILL BURNING. IT WENT DOWN AT 500 YDS.

REPORT ON THE TICONDAROGA--

CAPTAIN AND EXEC. WOUNDED X FIRE UNDER CONTROL X 8° LIST, NOW BEING REMOVED CAN MAKE TWENTY FIVE KNOTS X HANGER DECK BURNED OUT X CAN NOT OPERATE PLANES X MAIN BATTERY CONTROL WIPED OUT X MAIN KILLED AND WOUNDED X CAN NOT STEER TO STARBOARD FAST X

REPORT ON THE LANGLEY--

DAMAGE SUSTAINED EXTENT 100LB. BOMB HIT AT FRAME 19, ON GALLERY DECK X THREE SPACEROOMS DEMOLISHED X EXPLOSION PENETRATED TO MAIN DECK LEVEL NO DAMAGE BELOW MAIN DECK EXCEPT FOR SHRAPNEL HOLES DOWN TO SECOND DECK X SEVERAL SMALL FIRES QUICKLY EXTINGUISHED X ONE KILLED, TWO SERIOUSLY WOUNDED, SEVEN BURNED X

TASK FORCE RAID ON OKINAWA IN THE RYUKYU ISLANDS-- JANUARY 22, 1945

THE WEATHER IS QUITE COLD AND SOMEWHAT CLOUDY WITH OCCASIONAL RAINS. WE ARE OPERATING WITH THE U.S.S. WASP. OUR POSITION IS 160 MILES EAST OF THE RYUKYU ISLANDS.

- 0525- OUR C.A.P. OF 16 VF HAS JUST TAKEN OFF.
- 0605- THE FIRST STRIKE OF 16 VF, 9VT, 8VB, HAS JUST BEEN LAUNCHED.
- 0640- CG, ALL HANDS HAVE MANNED THEIR BATTLE STATIONS.
- 0613- THE SECOND STRIKE OF 12 VF, 6 VT, AND 6VB, HAS JUST TAKEN OFF.
- 0920- OUR FIRST STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED, ALL PLANES RETURNED. STRONG BUT INACCURATE AA FIRE WAS ENCOUNTERED. FEW ENEMY AIRCRAFT WERE OBSERVED ON THE AIRFIELD AND THEY WERE THOUGHLY STRAFED AND DAMAGED. HANGARS WERE BOMBED AND LEFT BURNING FURIOUSLY. NO ENEMY AIR OPPOSITION WAS ENCOUNTERED.
- 1042- THE THIRD STRIKE OF 8VF, 6VT, AND 10 VB, HAS JUST BEEN LAUNCHED.
- 1105- OUR SECOND STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED, ALL AIRCRAFT RETURNED. FIRES FROM OUR PREVIOUS STRIKE WERE STILL BURNING. STRONG AA FIRE WAS ENCOUNTERED BUT OUR PLANES SCORED SOME WELL PLACED HITS AND SILENCED SOME OF THEIR POSITIONS. BUILDINGS AND SHOPS NEAR THE AIRSTRIP WERE BOMBED AND DAMAGED. OUR PLANES SIGHTED A CARGO SHIP IN THE HARBOR AND BOMBED IT, SETTING IT AFIRE. NO ENEMY AIR OPPOSITION WAS ENCOUNTERED.
- 1215- THE FOURTH STRIKE OF 12VF, 9VT, AND 6VB, HAS JUST BEEN LAUNCHED.
- 1310- OUR THIRD STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED, ALL AIRCRAFT RETURNED. SOME OF THE PLANES RETURNED WITH SHRAPNEL HOLES BUT THE DAMAGE WAS NEGLIGIBLE. THE AIRSTRIP WAS AGAIN BOMBED AND PARKED PLANES WERE STRAFED AND DAMAGED. BUILDINGS AND OTHER TARGETS WERE ALSO ROCKEDED AND HIT DAMAGING THEM.
- 1504- THE LAST STRIKE OF 12 VF, 6VT, AND 6 VB, HAS JUST TAKEN OFF.
- 1510- OUR POSITION IS NOW 90 MILES FROM OKINAWA.
- 1525- THE FIRST STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED, ALL AIRCRAFT RETURNED. ASSIGNED TARGETS WERE BOMBED AND ROCKEDED CAUSING DAMAGE. INACCURATE AA FIRE AND NO ENEMY AIR OPPOSITION ENCOUNTERED.
- 1720- OUR LAST STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED, ALL PLANES RETURNED. TARGETS WERE ROCKEDED AND STRAFED IN AND ABOUT THE AIRFIELD. AA POSITIONS WERE HIT AND SOME SILENCED. SMALL CRAFT IN THE HARBOR WERE ALSO HIT AND DAMAGED. HANGARS WERE AGAIN HIT AND FIRES STARTED.
- 1905- WE ARE NOW SECURING FROM GENERAL QUARTERS.

TASK FORCE RAID ON CHICHI JIMA, BONIN ISLANDS. FEBRUARY 19, 1945

THE WEATHER IS A LOW OVERCAST AND MODERATELY COLD. WE ARE OPERATING WITH THE USS RANDOLPH.

- 0610- OUR POSITION IS NOW 145 MILES DUE W. OF THE ISLAND.
- 0615- WE HAVE JUST CATAPULTED AN 8VF C.A.P.
- 0615- OUR FIRST STRIKE OF 10 VF, 6VB, AND 10VF, HAS JUST BEEN LAUNCHED.
- 0930- THE FIRST STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED, ALL AIRCRAFT RETURNED. THIS STRIKE FOUND CHICHI JIMA ALMOST COMPLETELY DEMOLISHED BY NAVY BOMBINGS. ONLY CONCRETE REINFORCED AA POSITIONS WERE OBSERVED INTACT AND THOSE WERE HIT BY OUR PLANES EITHER DAMAGING OR DESTROYING THEM.
- 1027- OUR SECOND STRIKE HAS A COMPLETE DECKLOAD LAUNCH.
- 1240- THE LAST STRIKE OF 10VF, AND 6VB, HAS JUST BEEN LAUNCHED.
- 1330- OUR SECOND STRIKE HAS LANDED, ALL AIRCRAFT RETURNED. THIS STRIKE HIT THE AIR FIELD ON THE ISLAND TO RENDER IT UNUSABLE. THE SHRAPNEL MASS WAS ALSO HIT, DESTROYING RAMPS AND BUILDINGS. INACCURATE AA FIRE WAS ENCOUNTERED AND NO ENEMY AIR OPPOSITION OBSERVED.
- 1545- OUR LAST STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED, ALL PLANES RETURNED.