

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(12-ci)

Serial: 0050

JUL 29 1945

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 June 1945 through 30 June 1945
(-9 Zone Time).

Damaged: Eleven (11) vessels (consisting of two (2) Riverboats, one (1) Lugger, one (1) Barge, one (1) Patrol Craft, two (2) Power Launches, four (4) Junks) aggregating seven hundred twenty (720) tons.

Land Targets:

Destroyed: Thirteen (13) trucks, one (1) steamroller one (1) pillbox.

Damaged: Six (6) trucks, one (1) Blockhouse, one (1) gun emplacement, one (1) look out tower.

4. Operations casualties sustained during the period were as follows:

Two planes were holed by antiaircraft fire with no injury to personell. One plane was holed by antiaircraft fire causing injury to the co-pilot, Ensign G.K. Smith. One plane was holed by anti-aircraft fire as a result of which it crashed. Brief report on same being as follows:

On 17 June 1945 Lt. F. D. Murphy, PPC, USNR, took off on combat patrol of Luichow Peninsula in PB4Y-2 BuNo. 59427. He failed to return from this flight. (It was learned later that he discovered several trucks proceeding along a road on Luichow Peninsula five of which he destroyed by strafing. While making a run on a sixth truck, small calibre enemy fire smashed the windshield and temporarily blinded him. The plane crashed.) The following day special search planes from his squadron, Patrol Bombing

Squadron 119, sighted the wreckage of a PB4Y-2 plane on Luichow Peninsula and established that there were some survivors. All rescue agencies were notified and steps taken to effect there rescue. The scene of the crash was in enemy occupied territory.

Through the cooperation of Fleet Air Wing Seventeen and AGAS China, Commander Air Force Five, Patrol Bombing Squadron 119, Commander Naval Group and Patrol Bombing Squadron 28 Lt. Murphy and four enlisted members of this crew, GOODWIN, Kenneth A.,

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

AL2-1/(12-ci)

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ANM1c, V2, USNR; MCINTOSH, Meldon J., ARM2c, V6, USNR, OREY, Jack C., ARM3c, V6, USNR, SDATRISANO, Joseph (n), ANM2c, V6, USNR all suffering various injuries were rescued and returned to Clark Field on 24 June 1945 by PBX-5A. The following officers and men were killed in action:

Lt(jg) Thomas J. ROBINSON, (A1), USNR, 351811
Ensign Robert M. CAHOW, (A1), USNR, 355364
STUARD, William R. Jr., 706 02 72, ANM1c, V2, USNR
EVERETT, Harold C., 857 07 68, ARM2c, V6SV, USNR
HENDERSON, Ralph J., 556 86 74, ANM2c, V6, USNR
SNIDER, Harold (n), 263 82 73, ANM3c, V6, USNR
and LOESER, Edward M. Jr., 610 92 17, ANM2c, V2, USNR is missing in action. In effecting the rescue of the five survivors two officers from China Lt. R.C. Scott of ComNavGroup and 2nd Lt. A.W.C. Naylor-Foote of AGAS had parachuted into this enemy occupied area in an effort to assist the downed crew. Lt. Scott suffered a severe leg injury in the jump. During rescue operations on 24 June 1945 while flying cover for the PBX-5A to pick up Lt. Murphy and the four men of his crew, Lt. W. P. Comstock, PPC, USNR of Patrol Bombing Squadron 119 in PBX-2 Bu.No. 59553 in circling to indicate the direction in which Lt. Murphy was to proceed crashed with no survivors. Exact cause of the crash has not and cannot be determined. The following men of Patrol Bombing Squadron 119 were killed in this crash:

Lieut. Willard P. Comstock, (A1), USNR, 98575
Lt(jg) George Chadick, (A1), USNR, 346834
Lt(jg) Kenneth E. Shaffer, Jr., (A1), USNR 346869
Lt(jg) Marvin R. Denzig, (A1), USNR 305570
ROADIFER, Oriel A., 648 41 71, ANM(AA) V6, USNR
MORIN, Robert E., 573 17 95, ANM2c, V6, USNR
ROSE, Garr L., 660 42 02, ANM1c, V6, USNR
REED, Henry E., 868 52 65, ARM3c, V6SV, USNR
WAGNER, Lyle W., 821 28 65, ANM3c, V6SV, USNR
PUKITA, Leonard (n), 821 28 05, ANM3c, V6SV, USNR
MEYER, Louis D., 558 75 69, ANM3c, V6, USNR
BAYERS, Norman E., 285 49 97, S1c(ARM), V6, USNR

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(12-c1)

Serial: 0050

JUL 29 1945

SECRET

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Lieut. John Frances GERAGHTY, MC, USN, attached to ACORN 34, a passenger in the plane was also killed.

The foregoing rescue operations were completed on 30 June 1945 when a PBX-5A and crew of the Fifth Air Force which ditched because of gas shortage during the mission, and Lt. Scott with Second Lieut. Naylor-Foote were rescued, by PHM of GTU 73.4.7.

- B. 1. Patrol Bombing Squadron 104 flew 150 patrol mission aggregating 1520.6 flight hours. There were 34 test and ferry flights totaling 153.4 flight hours. Total flight hours for the month, 1674.0 hours.
2. The following ammunition and explosives were expended:

190,000 rounds of .50 calibre
255 AN-Mk30 100 pound bombs
6 AN-M64 500 pound bombs
9 AN-M57 250 pound bombs
92 Mk 50X-A1 100 pound Incendiary Clusters
3 55-gallon Napalm bombs.

3. The following damage was inflicted on the enemy:

Ships Sunk:

48 vessels consisting of 11 SD, 21 Luggers,
8 Landing Craft, 3 Riverboats, 2 Cargo Barges,
1 River Freighter, 1 Tug, 1 Junk.
Total Tonnage Sunk.....4,755 tons

Ships Damaged:

79 vessels consisting of 49 Luggers, 6 SD, 5 River-
boats, 4 Cargo Barges, 3 Landing Craft, 3 Landing
Craft, 3 Motor Launches, 2 Trawlers, 2 Tugs,
2 Junks, 1 FTD, 1 CM, 1 PC.

Total Tonnage Damaged:.....4,635 tons.

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(12-ci)

Serial: 0050

JUL 29 1945

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 June 1945 through 30 June 1945
(-9 Zone Time).

Land Targets:

Destroyed: 18 trucks, 2 automobiles, 2 warehouses,
1 Barracks, 1 Blockhouse, 1 Garage.

Damaged: 16 trucks, 6 Barracks, 1 Radar Station
1 Warehouse, 1 Blockhouse, 1 Railroad Depot,
1 Wharf, 1 Derrick.

4. Operational casualties sustained during period
were as follows:

Eight of the squadrons planes were holed by anti-aircraft fire with one landing at Chanting, China on 28 June 1945 where it was temporarily repaired and returned to base two days later. Six squadron personell were wounded by enemy antiaircraft fire, they were:

Lt. Comdr., Whitney WRIGHT, PFC, USN.
Ensign Joseph H. FISHER, USNR, Navigator
FEIGEL, H.W., AOM3c, Waist Gunner
Ensign J.R. MILLER, USNR, Navigator
HARRIS, E.C., AOM2c, Bombadier
MC GUIRK, Donald E., AOM3c.

III. Units of Aircraft Seventh Fleet Assigned to reporting
command during subject period:

U.S.S. TANGIER
U.S.S. ORCA
U.S.S. SAN CARLOS (Admin. only)
U.S.S. BARATARIA
ACORN 19
ACORN 34
CASU 56
CASU 57

00146

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(12-ci)

Serial: 0050

JUL 29 1945

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 June 1945 through 30 June 1945
(-9 Zone Time.)

CASU 61-3
CASU 61-4
CASU 62
CEMU 606
Patrol Bombing Squadron 17
Patrol Bombing Squadron 25 (detachment)
Patrol Bombing Squadron 28
Patrol Bombing Squadron 71 (detachment) 30 June 1945
Patrol Bombing Squadron 104
Patrol Bombing Squadron 119
Patrol Bombing Squadron 117

IV. Designation of next higher echelon of command:

A. Commander Task Force Seventy three, and Commander Aircraft Seventh Fleet, Rear Admiral F. D. Wagner, USN.

V. Position:

A. 1 June 1945 through 30 June 1945, Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen, Captain C. B. Jones, U. S. Navy, and Staff at Clark Field, Luzon, Philippine Islands.

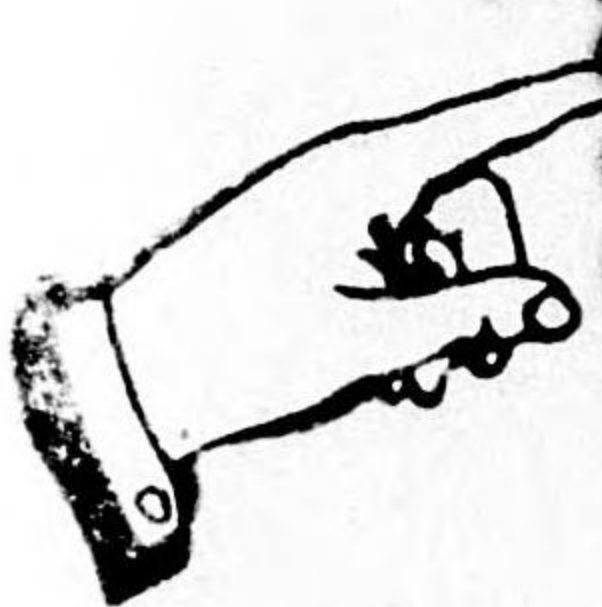
C. B. JONES.

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ComAirPac



00131

A12-1/(12-ci)

Serial: 0044

JUL 15 1945

SECRET

**Subject: War Diary - 1 May 1945 through 31 May 1945
(-9 Zone Time).**

- CASU 61-3
- CASU 61-4
- CASU 62
- CEMU 606
- Patrol Bombing Squadron 104
- Patrol Bombing Squadron 117
- Patrol Bombing Squadron 28
- Patrol Bombing Squadron 119
- Patrol Bombing Squadron 137 (detachment 1 May to 27 May 1945)
- Patrol Bombing Squadron 17
- Patrol Bombing Squadron 25 (detachment)
- VH-4 (detachment 1 May to 4 May 1945)
- VJ-9 (detachment 27 May to 31 May 1945)

IV. Designation of next higher echelon of command:

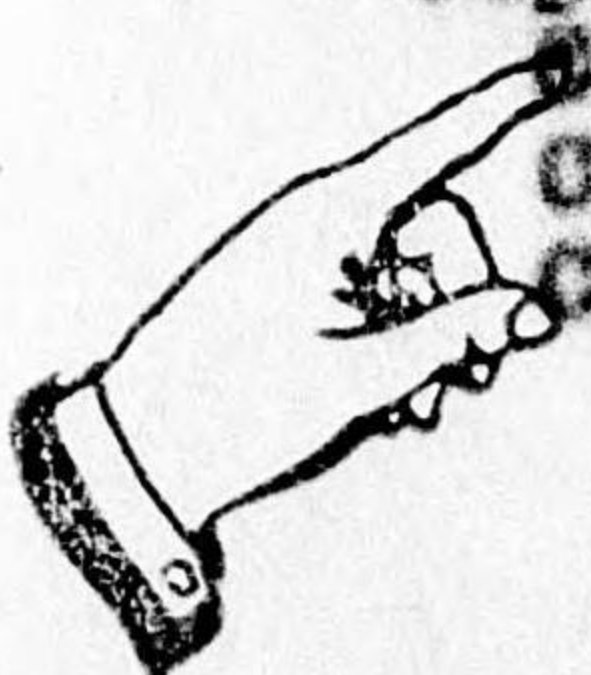
- A. Commander Task Force Seventh Three, and Commander Aircraft Seventh Fleet, Rear Admiral F.D. Wagner, USN.

V. Position:

- A. 1 May 1945 through 31 May 1945, Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventean, Captain C. B. Jones, U. S. Navy, and Staff at Clark Field, Luzon, Philippine Islands.

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A12-1/(12-ci)

Serial: 0044

JUL 15 1945

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 May 1945 through 31 May 1945
(-9 Zone Time).

3. The following damage was inflicted on the enemy:

Land Targets (Destroyed):

1 Railroad Station, 2 Buildings, 2 Houses,
2 Freight Cars, 1 Railroad Building.

Land Targets (Damaged):

7 Butanol Plants at and near Mato, Kagi, Shoka,
Shenel and Taito all on Formosa. 16 Buildings,
1 Sawmill, 2 Warehouses, 2 Houses, 1 Depot,
several sections of rail, 1 Bridge, 1 Personnel
and supply area, 1 Switching Station, 4 Rail-
yards, 1 Locomotive and train of cars, 2 factories,
1 assembly plant, 1 Truck, 1 Switch Tower and
3 Trains of railroad cars.

4. Operational casualties sustained during the period
were two planes holed by antiaircraft fire and one
crewman, turret gunner, W.G. DAMERAL, ACMle,
suffering sharpnel wounds to his hands.

III. Units of Aircraft Seventh Fleet assigned to reporting
command during subject period:

U.S.S. TANGIER
U.S.S. ORCA
U.S.S. SAN CARLOS (Admin. only)
U.S.S. BARATARIA
ACORN 19
ACORN 34
CASU 9.1 (1 May to decommissioning 14 May 1945)
CASU 39 (2) (1 May to 27 May 1945)
CASU 56
CASU 57

A12-1/(12-01)

Serial: 0044

JUL 15 1945

SECRET

Subject: War Diary 1 May 1945 through 31 May 1945
(-9 Zone Time).

MIDDLETON, Jesse L., 855 26 87, ARM30, USNR
WILSON, Paul D., 357 47 29, ARM30, USNR
KAUTZ, Fred (n) Jr., 886 31 58, AOM30, USNR
BRUSSI, Lene G., 885 31 21, S1c, USNR

On 19 May 1945 Lieut(jg) W.C. VOIGELBANG, USNR, flying PB4Y-2 BuNo 59422 failed to return from a combat patrol of Hainan Island and the Gulf of Tonkin. No word of his fate has been received. The following officers and men are missing in action:

Lieut(jg) Walter G. VOIGELBANG, (A1), USNR, 240722.
Lieut(jg) Robert E. GRAHER, (A1), USNR, 314881.
Ensign Alvin R. MARTIN, (A1), USNR, 368864.
BROOKS, Edward W., 663 21 85, AMM1c, USNR
ORONOK, Louis J., 563 74 08, AMM2c, USNR
SWIFT, Carl N., 614 70 61, AMM1c, USNR
HULICK, Donald C., 711 21 35, ARM2c, USNR
RISBY, Jackie E., 839 46 96, AOM3c, USNR
LONG, Walter T., 758 54 38, AOM2c, USNR
MOLTER, Robert G., 613 60 88, S1c(AOM), USNR
SMITH, Leonel L., 866 16 57, S1c(AOM), USNR

C. 1. The detachment of Patrol Bombing Squadron 137 from 1 May 1945 through 27 May 1945 flew 38 strike sorties and 33 sector searches for a total of 473 flight hours.

2. The following ammunition and explosives were expended:

43 AN-M30 100 pound bombs.
21 AN-M57 250 pound bombs.
27,650 rounds of .50 caliber.
1500 rounds of .30 caliber.
320 5" aircraft rockets.

A12-1/(12-01)

Serial: 0044

JUL 15 1945

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 May 1945 through 31 May 1945
(-9 Zone Time).

Land Targets Damaged:

13 Trucks, 4 Locomotives, 51 Railroad cars,
4 Barracks areas, 1 Smelting Plant, 1 Mine
Installations, 2 Airfield installations, 13
Blockhouses, 2 Warehouses, 1 Power House, 2
Storage Tanks, 1 Gun Emplacement, 1 Artillery
area.

4. Operational casualties sustained during the
period were as follows:

Eight of the squadrons planes were holed by
antiaircraft fire as a result of which four
of the squadrons personnel, WILSON, R.W.,
Sic; SWIFT, Carl H., AM10; FAIR, H.H.,
Sic were wounded and tail gunner WHITTEN,
Lloyd Allen was killed.

On 1 May 1945, Lieut. J. W. HOLT, PFC, U.S.
Navy, took off on routine search patrol of
Hainan Island and the Gulf of Tonkin in PB4Y-2
BuNo 59559. He failed to return from this flight
or to communicate with base radio, and no word
has been received as to his fate. The follow-
ing officers and men are missing in action:

Commander H.M. DRAKE, USN, 70026, Staff, Operations
Officer, FAW-17.

Lieut. John W. HOLT, USN, 146598

Ensign Firmin J. URBAN, (A1), USNR, 351308

Ensign Marshall C. BAKER, (A1), USNR, 363868

MOE, John F., 510 00 87, ACMM, USN.

SMITH, Milton F., 224 04 54, AORM, USN

BUSSE, Adolph H., 611 62 87, AOM10, USNR

BARR, Henry B., 641 41 96, AOM20, USNR

BANDA, Livio J., 817 26 33, AMMP30, USNR

A12-1/(12-01)

Serial: 0044

JUL 15 1945

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 May 1945 through 31 May 1945
(-9 Zone Time).

B. 1. Patrol Bombing Squadron 119 flew 147 sorties aggregating 1457 hours and in addition flew 14 ferry and test flights totalling 30 hours.

2. The following ammunition and explosives were expended:

264 AN-M30 100 pound bombs.
43 AN-M57 250 pound bombs.
155,090 rounds of .50 caliber.

3. The following damage was inflicted on the enemy:

Ships Sunk or Destroyed:

23 vessels, consisting of 2 Fox Tare Dogs, 7 Sugar Dogs, 3 Riverboats, 4 Large Junks, 2 Tugboats, 5 Barges, 1 Subchaser.

Total Tonnage Destroyed.....4,135 tons.

Ships Damaged:

27 vessels, consisting of 7 Sugar Dogs, 7 Riverboats, 3 Tugboats, 4 Barges, 1 Lugger, 1 Trawler, 4 large Junks, 2 Subchasers.

Total Tonnage Damaged.....4,140 tons.

Planes Destroyed in Air:

1 Val.

Land Targets Destroyed:

35 Trucks, 9 Locomotives, 11 Railroad cars,
3 Blockhouses, 1 Radio-Radar Station and 2 Barracks
area.

Al2-1/(12-ci)

Serial: 0044

JUL 15 1945

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 May 1945 through 31 May 1945
(-9 Zone Time).

of Lingayen, Luzon, P.I., the propeller tore a large hole in the cockpit, broke the PPC's left arm and caused minor lacerations to the copilot.

On 14 May 1945 Lieut. Ira "B" WEST, PPC, on combat patrol in PB4Y-1 BuNo 38875 was forced to land at Chanting, China after being shot up during an attack on a heavily armed lugger about 40 miles north of the Pescadores Islands. The plane was surveyed, all the crew were returned to the squadron with no serious injuries.

On 19 May 1945 all members of Lieut. Richard S. JAMESON's crew in PB4Y-1 BuNo 38890 were killed while on combat patrol. The plane sent a message to base 2.3 hours after take-off that it was ditching, giving positions. Search by PBM's, PB4Y-1's and a B-17 for two days revealed only scattered wreckage of the plane evidencing an explosion on impact with no survivors. Positions were 20-20N, 118-30E. There was no indication of enemy action. Personnel of the crew were as follows:

Lieut. Richard S. JAMESON, (A1), USNR
Lieut. (jg) Eugene V. BRISKINE, (A1), USNR
Ensign David W. LANQUIST, (A1), USNR
GARRISON, James W., 357 90 55, AM3c, USNR
ANNETT, Charles R., 859 48 72, AM3c, USNR
SKENS, Roger H., 725 86 73, AM3c, USNR
RIDGE, William H., 605 33 62, AM2c, USNR
FANELLI, Donald G., 815 95 73, AM3c, USNR
DOWNSWORTH, Willard S., 704 85 78, AM3c, USNR
SCHOMWALDER, George T. Jr., 652 78 00, AM2c, USNR
MORRIS, Louis F., 605 92 37, AM3c, USNR

Al2-1/(12-01)

Serial: 0044

JUL 15 1945

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 May 1945 through 31 May 1945
(-9 Zone Time).

On 13 May 1945 Lieut (jg) John J. MALLOY, 250802, USNR, PFC of PB4Y-1 BuNo. 38879; WHITNEY, Clarence O. Jr., 869 00 51, ARM30(T), USNR were killed while ditching their aircraft while on combat patrol. One wing tank had been punctured by ack-ack during an attack on shipping in Haiphong, Indo-China, resulting in loss of gasoline as a result of this and being lost in bad weather, the plane ran out of gas and was ditched about 60 miles west of Lingayen, Luzon, P.I. The remainder of the crew were rescued by the U.S.S. CONWAY (DD-507) after about 19 hours in the water. All were injured, some severely, they were as follows:

Ensign Forest D. GOODMAN, 390332, USNR
Ensign Austing S. WADE, Jr., 390944, USNR
SPANGLER, Jasper C., 563 29 53 ARM1c, USNR
ARMSTRONG, Joseph B., 383 16 81, ARM30, USNR
REASON, Samuel D., 835 54 79, ARM30, USNR-I
BRISTER, Eugene (n), 842 29 03, ARM30(AB), USNR
STRUBLE, Andrew C., 756 95 82, S1c, USNR
LENTZ, John A., 869 46 19, S1c, USNR
WEST, Raymond B., 677 18 86, ARM30, USNR

On 13 May 1945 PB4Y-1 BuNo 38869 piloted by Lieut. Thomas G. MC AULIFF, was a loss as a result of ditching in Lingayen Gulf due to exhaustion of gasoline supply. There were no serious injuries to the crew.

On 13 May 1945 PB4Y-1 BuNo 38870 was surveyed following an emergency landing at Mangalden, Luzon, P.I. The plane was on combat patrol piloted by Lieut. Stanley A. Wood, PFC when the No. 2 propeller came off about 100 miles northwest

A12-1/(12-01)

Serial: 0044

JUL 15 1945

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 May 1945 through 31 May 1945
(-9 Zone Time)

Ships Sunk:

33 vessels, being 1 SC, 4 SD, 4 Luggers,
5 Barges, 2 Riverboats, 1 Ferry, 2 Motor
Launches, 10 Landing Craft VB Type, 1 PC,
2 Tugs.

Total Tonnage Sunk.....1,525 tons.

Ships Damaged:

7 vessels, being 1 SD, 4 Luggers, 2 Tugs.

Total Tonnage Damaged.....410 tons.

Planes in Air:

Damaged: 1 Val and 1 Betty.

Planes on Ground:

Destroyed: 1 Betty.

Land Targets: Destroyed:

1 Blockhouse, 5 Buildings, 1 Highway Bridge,
2 Automobiles, 1 Bus, 23 Trucks, 1 Motorcycle.

Land Targets: Damaged:

4 Barracks, 5 Buildings, 6 Blockhouses, 1 Radio
Station, 1 Mining Plant, 2 Trains, 1 Automobile,
30 Trucks.

4. Operational casualties sustained during the
period were as follows:

A12-1/(32-01)

Serial: 0044

JUL 15 1945

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 May 1945 through 31 May 1945
(-9 Zone Time)

3. Combat Aircraft Service Unit 9.1 serviced Patrol Bombing Squadron 119 from 1 May 1945 to 14 May 1945 when it was decommissioned and absorbed by Combat Aircraft Service Unit 57 which serviced Patrol Bombing Squadron 104 from 1 May 1945 to 14 May 1945 and from 14 May to 31 May 1945. Combat Aircraft Service Unit 57 serviced both Patrol Bombing Squadrons 104 and 119. Combat Aircraft Service Unit 39 serviced Patrol Bombing Squadron 137 from 1 May until its departure for Samar on 27 May 1945 at which time it also departed for Samar.
4. From 27 May 1945 through 31 May 1945 a detachment of three planes (Avengers) of VJ-9 operated from Clark Field doing daily target towing for surface vessels at Subic Bay.

II. Operational sorties under Task Unit 73.4.1 during the subject period:

- A.
 1. Patrol Bombing Squadron 104 flew 142 patrol missions, aggregating 1482.3 flight hours. There were 30 test and ferry flights totalling 70.3 hours. Total flight hours were 1552.6.
 2. The following ammunition and explosives were expended:

140,660 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition, 315 AN-M30 100 pound bombs, 60 AN-M57 250 pound bombs, 4 AN-M64 500 pound bombs, 59 AN-M6 100 pound incendiary clusters.
 3. The following damage was inflicted on the enemy by this squadron during subject period:

A12-1/(12-01)

Serial: 0044

JUL 15 1945

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 May 1945 through 31 May 1945
(-9 Zone Time)

Commander Aircraft Seventh Fleet Airmailgrams 061326 and 051400 May 1945 ordered following changes numbers 3 and 4 respectively to Operations Plan 1-45 effective 7 May 1945: Delete VH-4 with 6 PBM-3R and substitute (2) VPE-28 with 6 PBM-3D. Delete Commander Rigbee and Orca substitute Commander G.E. Coleman and Barataria. Base in Lingayen Gulf, conduct air sea rescue operations as directed by Commanding General, Fifth Air Force.

73.4.8 Unassigned.

73.4.9 Special Duty Unit.

Heron, Barataria 2 AVP
Operate and base as directed by Task Force Commander.

- B. Status of Squadrons and Service Units under operational control of reporting command during subject period.
1. Task Unit 73.4.1, Luzon Search, under direct operational control of Captain C.B. Jones, U.S. Navy, during the subject period was based at Clark Field, Luzon, Philippine Islands. ACORN 34 and CEMU 606 were constructing and maintaining the camp.
 2. Under this unit Patrol Bombing Squadron 119, 104 from 1 May through 31 May 1945 and a detachment of Patrol Bombing Squadron 137 from 1 May through 27 May 1945 when it departed for Samar, Philippine Islands, conducted day search and offensive reconnaissance and strike missions from Clark Field, Luzon, Philippine Islands, normally covering sectors 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 23 and 24 under Search Plan King with one plane daily in each sector with the exception of sector 20 which was usually covered by two planes and sectors 22, 23 and 24 which were covered by one plane.

Al2-1/(12-01)

Serial: 0044

JUL 15 1945

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 May 1945 through 31 May 1945
(-9 Zone Time)

73.4.2 Mindoro Search, Commander H.W. MacDonald,
U.S. Navy.

VPB-117 12 PB4Y-1
Base at McGuire Field, Mindoro, conduct
day search and offensive reconnaissance and strike
missions as ordered by the Commanding General,
Fifth Air Force, either directly or through the
Task Force or Group Commander.

73.4.3 Unassigned.

73.4.4 Lingayen, Night Search, Commander
M.K. Fleming, U.S. Navy.

Tangier 1 AV
VPB-28 12 PEM-3D
VPB-17 (detachment) at Leyte proceed
Lingayen when relieved. (Commander
Aircraft Seventh Fleet Dispatch
261607 April 1945)

Commander Aircraft Seventh Fleet Airmail-
gram 061327 May 1945 ordered following change
number 3 to Operations Plan 1-45 effective
7 May 1945:

Delete VPB-28 with 12 PEM-3D and substitute VPB-17
with 6 PEM-5 and 6 PEM-3D.
Base in Lingayen Gulf. Conduct night search and
offensive reconnaissance.

73.4.5 Unassigned.

73.4.6 Unassigned.

73.4.7 Lingayen Rescue, Commander E.O. Riggsbee.
U.S. Navy.

Oroa 1 AVP
VH-4 6 PEM-3R

Al2-1/(12-01)

Serial: 0044

JUL 15 1945

SECRET

From: The Commander Fleet Air Wing SEVENTH.
To : The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Subject: War Diary - 1 May 1945 through 31 May 1945
(-9 Zone Time)
Reference: (a) Cominch Ltr. serial 7152, dated 29 October 1943.
(b) PacFlt Conf. Ltr. 10L-45 dated 1 January 1945.

I. A. Designation and Composition.

1. Commander Aircraft, Seventh Fleet Operations Plan No. 1-45 dated 20 March 1945 became effective at 0001 Zebra 1 April 1945 and cancelled Commander Aircraft Seventh Fleet Operations Plan No. 10-44 dated 27 December 1944.
2. Task Organizations of reporting command under Operations Plan 1-45:

73.4 Northern Group, Captain C.B. Jones, U.S. Navy.

Base in Luzon - Mindoro area, North of 12° North Latitude, and operate day and night search and offensive reconnaissance, rescue and strike missions as ordered by Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, either directly or through Task Force Commander.

73.4.1 Luzon Search, Captain C.B. Jones, U.S. Navy.

VPB-104	12 PB4Y-1
VPB-119	12 PB4Y-2
½ VPB-137	6 PV-1

Base at Clark Field, Luzon, conduct search and offensive reconnaissance and strike missions as ordered by the Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, either directly or through the Task Force or Group Commander.

00113

A12-1/(12-ci)

Serial: 0039

001457

JUN 28 1945

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 April 1945 through 30 April 1945
(-9 Zone Time).



- ACORN 34
- ACORN 19
- CASU 9.1
- CASU 39 (1/2)
- CASU 56
- CASU 57
- CASU 61-3
- CASU 61-4
- CBMU 606
- Patrol Bombing Squadron 104
- Patrol Bombing Squadron 117
- Patrol Bombing Squadron 28
- Patrol Bombing Squadron 119
- Patrol Bombing Squadron 137 (detachment)
- VH 4 (detachment)

IV. Designation next higher Echelon of Command:

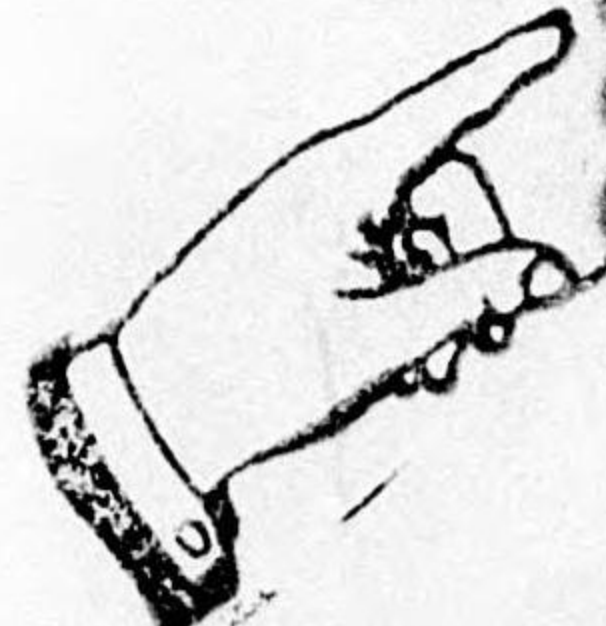
- A. Commander Task Force Seventy Three, and Commander Aircraft, Seventh Fleet, Rear Admiral F.D. Wagner, USN.

V. Position:

- A. 1 April through 30 April 1945, Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen and Staff at Clark Field, Luzon, Philippine Islands.

C. B. JONES.

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AL2-1/(12-01)

Serial: 0039

JUN 28 1945

~~SECRET~~

Subject: War Diary - 1 April 1945 through 30 April 1945
(-9 Zone Time).

3. The following damage was inflicted on the enemy:

Ships Sunk:

1 SC, 1 Lugger, 1 Tug Boat.

Total..... 770 tons

Ships Damaged:

1 SAS, 1 SD, 1 Trawler, 4 Luggers

Total.....2330 tons

Aircraft:

1 Oscar Destroyed
1 Oscar Damaged in air

4. On 5 April 1945 Lieut(jg) E.B. Deiss, 240525, USNR flying PV 597 failed to return from routine search of Sector 4. No word of his fate has been received. The following officers and men are missing in action:

DEISS, Elmer B., Lieut(jg), (A1), 240525, USNR
HUDGENS, Joseph H., Lieut(jg) (A1), 298892, USNR
CANILL, John J., AOM3c, V6, 810 59 26, USNR
NIGHT, Francis L., ARM3c, 832 63 18, USN-I
LAUTO, Charles F., AME2c, 707 43 82, V6, USNR
WEISKER, Arthur C., AME2c, 377 94 17, V6, USNR

III. Units of Aircraft Seventh Fleet assigned to reporting command during subject period:

U.S.S. TANGIER
U.S.S. ORCA
U.S.S. SAN CARLOS (Admin. only)
U.S.S. BARATARIA

A12-1/(12-c1)

Serial: 0039

JUN 28 1945

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 April 1945 through 30 April 1945
(-9 Zone Time).

GAIHER, Walter R., 657 11 97, AOM1c, V6, USNR
GUTHRIE, Barney D.Jr., 837 44 87, AMMF2c, V6, USNR
ATHIN, Edward L.Jr., 841 80 58, ARM3c, V6SV, USNR
MCKEON, John P., 762 21 19, AOM3c, V6, USNR
THAYER, Raymond N.Jr., 757 02 28, S1c, V6, USNR
BALLARD, Jack O., 263 82 04, S1c(ARM), V6, USNR

(b) On 11 April 1945, Lt.(jg) A.L. Althans, USNR, 251106, flying PB4Y-2 Bu. No. 59414, failed to return from routine search of the Formosa Straits area. No word of his fate has been received. The following officers and men are missing in action:

ALTHANS, Aubrey L., Lt(jg), 251106, USNR
MATHEWS, William C., Lt(jg), (A1), 301664, USNR
KIRBY, Donald C., Ensign (A1), 378780, USNR
ADAMS, James W., 618 64 51, AMF1c, V2, USNR
BOGACZ, Casimer J., 300 93 15, AMF1c (T), USNR
STEIN, George H., 618 08 45, ARM1c, (T), V6SV, USNR

CHRISTIANO, Francis J., 805 31 60, AMMF2c, V6SV, USNR
JAKUBIAK, Edward A., 821 93 44, AOM2c, V6SV, USNR
BAGLEY, Charles A., 890 40 50, AOM3c, SV, USNR
HARNER, Wilson W., 627 04 97, AOM2c, V6, USNR
ELFREICH, Harold H., 293 19 49, S1c(ARM), V6, USNR
LAWRENCE, Bearl A., 850 80 93, ARM3c, V6SV, USNR

B. The detachment of Patrol Bombing Squadron 137 flew eighty seven patrol missions aggregating 625.5 hours.

The following ammunition and explosives were expended:

34,500 rounds .50 calibre ammunition
1830 rounds .30 calibre ammunition
51 - 100 pound G.P. Bombs
27 - 250 pound Para Demo Bombs
214 - 5" Rockets

A12-1/(12-c1)

Serial: 0039

JUN 28 1945

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 April 1945 through 30 April 1945
(-9 Zone Time).

4. During subject period seven of this squadron's planes were holed by antiaircraft fire one of which, PB4Y-2 Bureau Number 59543, was so badly damaged it had to be surveyed. One aircraft was damaged from the debris and force of the explosion of a Sugar Charlie Sugar which was being strafed as the plane passed over it at three hundred feet altitude. The following personnel were wounded by antiaircraft fire during the month:

Assign G.K. SMITH, 368759, USNR
BARR, H.B., ACM2c, 641 41 96, USNR
LEE, R.C., AMM3c, 381 72 89, USN

Two crews were reported missing during the period as follows:

(a) On 1 April 1945, Lt. Comdr. R.C. Bales, USN, 76157, Commanding Officer of Patrol Bombing Squadron One Hundred Nineteen took off on routine search patrol of the China Coast in PB4Y-2 Bu.No. 59452. He failed to return from this flight, and no word has been received as to his fate. The plane was last seen about 1300I in the vicinity of Hangchow Harbor. The following officers and men are missing in action:

BALES, Raymond C., Lt. Comdr., USN, 76157
OBERT, Roscoe M., Lieut. (A1), USNR, 170946
FOX, Robert L. Jr., Lieut(jg), (A1), USNR, 306119
SUHL, Robert I. 212 68 24, AMM1c, USN
PEES, Everett F., 376 61 02, ACOM(AA)(T)(AB), USN
WAGNER, William J., 316 89 93, ACOM(AA)(T), USN.
HOWARD, Joseph A., 382 32 47, ACOM(AA)(T)(AB), USN

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

ALB-1/(12-017)

Serial: 0039

JUN 28 1945

~~SECRET~~

Subject: War Diary - 1 April 1945 through 30 April 1945
(-9 Zone Time).

3. As a result of these operational sorties the following damage was inflicted upon the enemy:

Ships Sunk or Destroyed (Merchant):

Forty eight (48) vessels, consisting of 1 Sugar Able Sugar, 13 River Boats, 3 Sugar Charlies, 6 Sugar Dogs, 1 Fox Tare Dog, 4 Luggers, 5 Barges, 2 Tugs, 9 large Junks, 2 Sampans, aggregating eleven thousand, six hundred twenty (11,620) tons.

Ships Damaged:

Thirty one (31) vessels, consisting of 1 Fox Tare Dog, 3 River Boats, 2 Sugar Dogs, 4 Luggers, 2 Barges, 1 Unidentified, and 18 small Junks, aggregating two thousand nine hundred fifteen (2,915) tons.

War Ships Destroyed:

Two Gunboats, one PT Boat.

War Ships Damaged:

One Gunboat, or small Subchaser.

Planes:

Destroyed in Air:	1 Plane	(1 Val)
Probably destroyed in Air:	1 Plane	(1 Oscar)
Destroyed on ground:	2 Planes	(2 Oscars)
Damaged on ground:	3 Planes	(3 Oscars)

Land Targets:

Destroyed: 2 Locomotives, 14 Railroad Cars, 1 Truck, 3 Block Houses.

Damaged: 3 Pillboxes, 9 Block Houses, 6 Railroad Cars, 3 Bridges, 3 Radar installations, 1 Railroad dockyard, 2 Barracks areas.

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(12-01)

Serial: 0039

JUN 28 1945

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 April 1945 through 30 April 1945
(-9 Zone Time).

Damaged: 10 Freight Cars, 5 Warehouses, 13 Block
Houses, several Barracks, 1 Railroad Station,
1 Power Plant, 1 Military Camp area, 1 Radar Station
and 2 Radio Stations.

4. During the subject period 5 of the squadrons
planes were holed and damaged by antiaircraft
fire. As a result of this antiaircraft fire
eleven of the squadron personnel were wounded.
Thornton, R.M., AM1c, V6, USNR, 604 00 29 died as
a result of his wounds on 27 April 1945. The
other ten were:

Lieut. W.E. FULWIDER (A1), USNR, (112029).
Lieut(jg) H.E. HAGLE (A1), USNR, (337414).
FRENCH, J.W., S1c, 840 83 40, V6, SV.
SIMPSON, V.H., AMM3c, 633 90 27, USNR
DEVINE, J.P., AM1c, 642 11 65, USNR
WYTHOVEN, C.E., AM1c, 667 03 45, USNR
MITCHELL, G.A., AMM3c, 608 60 83, USNR
SWAN, S. (n), AM1c, 225 14 65, USN.
PERRET, A.P., AM1c(AB), 407 31 79, USNR
COOPER, J.N., AMM3c, 848 45 68, USNR

One PB4Y-1, BuNo. 38749, was a total loss when
a wheels down landing was made on a beach at
Dingalan Bay, East Luzon, P.I. The crew was
uninjured.

1. Patrol Bombing Squadron 119 flew one hundred thirty seven
(137) sorties aggregating fourteen hundred ninety one
(1491) hours, and in addition flew two (2) ferry flights
aggregating ten (10) hours.
2. The following ammunition and explosives were expended:
 - 160 x 100 lb. G.P. Bombs.
 - 23 x 250 lb. G.P. Bombs.
 - 104,475 rounds of .50 caliber.

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(12-31)

Serial: 0039

JUN 28 1945

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 April 1945 through 30 April 1945
(-9 Zone Time).

2. The following ammunition and explosives were expended:

133, 250 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition, 377 AN-M30 100 pound GP bombs, 62 AN-M57 250 pound GP bombs, 32 AN-M64 500 pound GP bombs, 15 AN-M6 100 pound Incendiary Clusters and 471 AN-M113 1 tail fuzes were expended.

3. The following damaged was inflicted on the enemy by this squadron during the subject period:

Ships Sunk:

51 vessels, consisting of 17 Sugar Dogs, 2 Trawlers, 22 Luggers, 6 River Boats, 3 Barges, 1 Ocean-Going Tug.

Total Tonnage Sunk.....5,855 tons.

Ships Damaged:

41 vessels, consisting of 1 Fox Tare Charlie, 18 Sugar Dogs, 2 Trawlers, 16 Luggers, 2 River Boats, 1 Powered Junk, 1 Tug.

Total Tonnage Damaged.....5,795 tons.

Planes:

Destroyed in Air: 3 planes, being 1 Sally, 1 Topsy and 1 Betty.

Damaged in Air: 1 Betty.

Land Targets:

Destroyed: 1 Locomotive, 4 Trucks, 1 Sedan and 5 Block Houses (small forts).

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

AL2-1/(12-01)

Serial: 0039

JUN 28 1945

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 April 1945 through 30 April 1945
(-9 Zone Time).

73.4.9 Special Duty Unit.

Heron, Barataria 2 AVP
Operate and base as directed by Task Force
Commander.

B. Status of Squadrons and Service Units under operational
control of reporting command during subject period.

1. Task Unit 73.4.1, Luzon Search, under direct
operational control of Captain C. B. Jones, U.S.
Navy, during the subject period was based at
Clark Field, Luzon, Philippine Islands. ACOM 34
and CMA 606 were constructing and maintaining
the camp.
2. Under this unit Patrol Bombing Squadrons 119, 104
and 137 serviced by Combat Aircraft Service Units (F)
9.1, 39 and 57 respectively conducted day search
and offensive reconnaissance and strike missions
normally covering sectors 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8,
9 and 10 under Search Plan JIG through 27 April
1945 daily with one plane in each sector with the
exception of sector 5 which was normally covered
by two planes. From 28 April through 30 April 1945
the same procedure was normally followed under
Search Plan KING in Sectors, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18,
19, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24 with two planes in
Sector 20.

II. Operational sorties under Task Unit 73.4.1 during subject
period:

- A. 1. Patrol Bombing Squadron 104 flew 139 patrol
missions, aggregating 1546.1 flight hours.
There were also 30 ferry and test flights
aggregating 86.7 flight hours. Total flight
hours 1632.8.

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(12-01)

Serial: 0039

JUN 28 1945

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 April 1945 through 30 April 1945
(-9 Zone Time).

73.4.2 Mindoro Search, Commander H.W. MacDonald,
U. S. Navy.

VFB-117 12 PB4Y-1

Base at McHaire Field, Mindoro, conduct day search and offensive reconnaissance and strike missions as ordered by the Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, either directly or through the Task Force or Group Commander.

73.4.3 Unassigned.

73.4.4 Lingayen Night Search, Commander
M. K. Fleming, U. S. Navy.

Tangier 1 AV

VFB-28

VFB-17 (detachment) at Leyte proceed Lingayen when relieved. (Commander Aircraft Seventh Fleet Dispatch 261607 April 1945)

Base in Lingayen Gulf. Conduct night search and offensive reconnaissance.

73.4.5 Unassigned.

73.4.6 Unassigned.

73.4.7 Lingayen Rescue, Commander E. O. Rigbee,
U. S. Navy.

Orea 1 AVP

VH-4 6 PHM-3R

Base in Lingayen Gulf, conduct air-sea rescue operations as directed by Commanding General, Fifth Air Force.

73.4.8 Unassigned.

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(12-01)

Serial: 0039

JUN 28 1945

SECRET

From: The Commander Fleet Air Wing SEVENTEEN.
To : The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Subject: War Diary - 1 April 1945 through 30 April 1945
(-9 Zone Time).
Reference: (a) ComInch Ltr. serial 7152 dated 29 October 1943.
(b) PacFlt Conf. Ltr. 101-45 dated 1 January 1945.

I. A. Designation and Composition.

1. Commander Aircraft Seventh Fleet Operations Plan No. 1-45 dated 20 March 1945 became effective at 0001 Zebra 1 April 1945 and cancelled Commander Aircraft Seventh Fleet Operations Plan No. 10-45 dated 27 December 1944.
2. Task Organizations of reporting command under Operations Plan 1-45:

73.4 Northern Group, Captain C. B. Jones, U.S. Navy.
Base in Luzon - Mindoro area, North of 12° North Latitude, and operate day and night search and offensive reconnaissance, rescue and strike missions as ordered by Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, either directly or through Task Force Commander.

73.4.1 Luzon Search, Captain C.B. Jones, U.S. Navy.

VFB-104	12 PR4Y-1
VFB-119	12 PR4Y-2
½ VFB-137	6 PV-1

Base at Clark Field, Luzon, conduct search and offensive reconnaissance and strike missions as ordered by the Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, either directly or through the Task Force or Group Commander.

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(12-01)

Serial:0035

JUN 18 1945

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 March 1945 through 31 March 1945
(-9 Zone time).

Patrol Bombing Squadron 119
Patrol Bombing Squadron 137 (detachment) 11 March
through 31 March 1945.
Hospital Squadron 4 (detachment) 9 March through
31 March 1945.
Photographic Squadron 5 (detachment) 11 March through
31 March 1945.

CASU (F) 9.1
CASU (F) 39
CASU (F) 56
CASU (F) 57
CASU (F) 61-3
CASU (F) 61-4
ACORN 19
ACORN 34
CBMU 606

IV. Designation of next higher echelon of Command.

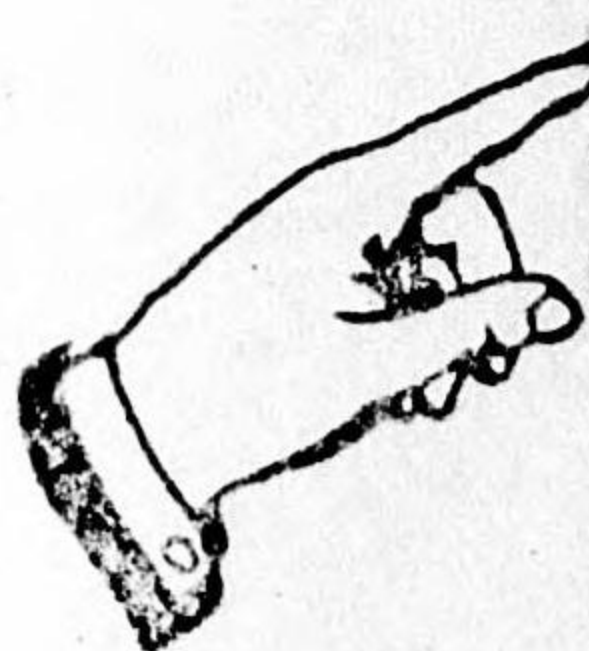
(A). Commander Task Force SEVENTY THREE, and Commander
Aircraft SEVENTH FLEET - Rear Admiral F.D. WAGNER, USN.

V. Position.

(A). 1 March through 31 March 1945 Commander Fleet Air
Wing Seventeen and Staff at Clark Field, Luzon, P.I.

C. B. JONES.

Copy to:
STF 73
Com7thFlt
ComAirPac



UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(12-ci)

Serial: 0035

JUN 18 1945

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 March 1945 through 31 March 1945
(-9Zone time).

(C) Patrol Bombing Squadron 137 (detachment):

1. This squadron averaged 6 planes at Clark Field during the period 11 March to 31 March 1945. These planes made 53 flights for a total of 397.5 hours. Each flight averaging 7.5 hours per flight.
2. The following ammunition and explosives were expended:

21,850 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition, 116 five inch rockets and 31-100 pound G.P. bombs, 17-250 pound para-demon and 1170 rounds of .30 caliber ammunition.
3. The following damage was inflicted on the enemy:

Ships Damaged:

1 PA, 1 PC, 1 Luger, 1 FTC, 1 Ferry.
Total tonnage damaged.....8440 tons.

Aircraft:

1 Oscar (damaged in air)

III. Units of Aircraft Seventh Fleet assigned to reporting command during subject period:

U.S.S. TANGIER
U.S.S. ORCA
U.S.S. BARATARIA
U.S.S. SAN CARLOS (Admin. only)
Patrol Bombing Squadron 20
Patrol Bombing Squadron 28
Patrol Bombing Squadron 104
Patrol Bombing Squadron 117 (detachment) 4 to 16 March
Patrol Bombing Squadron 117

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(12-e1)

Serial: 0035

JUN 18 1945

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 March 1945 through 31 March 1945
(-9 Zone time).

Planes In Air:

Destroyed:

9 Planes, being 2 Jakes, 1 Paul, 2 Topsy's,
1 Frank, 1 Val, 1 Jill, and 1 Billy.

Probably Destroyed:

5 Planes, being 4 Oscars and 1 Tony.

Damaged:

4 Planes, being 3 Oscars and 1 Frank.

Planes on Ground:

Destroyed:

3 Planes, being 1 Dinah, 1 Zeke and 1 Kate.

Damaged:

2 Oscars.

Land Targets:

Destroyed:

1 Locomotive

Damaged:

1 Troop Train (6-car), 2 Troop Trucks (3-ton).

4. During the subject period seven of the squadrons planes were holed by antiaircraft fire. Two crewmen, BROWN, Howard L., 837 38 00, AMMP3c (CA) SV USN, and WEBBER, Lee (n), 668 03 82, AMMLc(T) (AB)(CA) V6, USNR were wounded as a result of antiaircraft fire.

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(12-01)

Serial: 0035

JUN 18 1945

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 March 1945 through 31 March 1945
(-9 Zone time).

The following members of the crew died as a result of the action:

- GREENE, Francis W., Ensign, (A1), USNR, 378771.
- JANSON, Robert J., AMMF2c, 866 07 81, SV V6, USNR.
- WILSON, Andrew J., AMMF2c, 337 70 35, USN.
- MEO, Nicholas J., ACM3c, 814 31 87, V6, USNR.
- DOSS, James L., ACM2c, (AB), 844 28 18, SV USN.
- GIPSON, Calvin C., S1c(AMM), 859 39 82, SV V6, USNR.

(B) Patrol Bombing Squadron 104:

1. Flew 134 patrol missions, aggregating 1623.5 flight hours and 7 tracking missions, aggregating 92.9 flight hours, also 35 ferry and test flights for 93.6 hours. Total flight hours 1810.
2. The following ammunition and explosives were expended. 104,100 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition, 386 AN-M30 100 pound bombs, 24 AN-M57 250 pound bombs, 27 AN-M64 500 pound bombs, 4 AN-M6 incendiary cluster bombs and 437 AN-M113A1 tail fuzes.
3. The following damage was inflicted on the enemy:

Ships Sunk:

59 ships, consisting of 2 FTC, 4 SC, 27 SD,
19 Luggers, 1 Escort Ship, 1 Landing Craft, 1 Tug,
1 Barge and 3 Special Assault Boats:

Total Tonnage Sunk.....12,950 tons.

Ships Damaged:

70 ships, consisting of 1 FTB, 3 FTC, 1 SE(S), 1 SC,
35 SD, 13 Luggers, 3 Barges, 3 Tugs, 5 Landing Craft,
1 Converted Trawler, 1 Picket Boat, 2 Special
Assault Boats and 1 Motor Launch.

Total Tonnage Damaged.....25,895 tons.

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(12-ci)

Serial: 0035

JUN 18 1945

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 March 1945 through 31 March 1945
(-9 Zone time).

Planes:

Destroyed in Air:	6 Planes (4 Oscars, 1 Jill, 1 Jake).
Probably destroyed in Air:	1 Plane (1 Oscar).
Damaged in Air:	1 Plane (1 Sally).
Destroyed on Ground:	2 Planes (1 Sally, 1 Betty).
Damaged on Ground:	1 Plane (1 Topsy).

Land Targets:

Destroyed:	4 Railroad Trains, 2 Trucks.
Damaged:	1 Radar Tower.

4. During subject period seven of the squadrons planes were holed by antiaircraft fire. Lt(jg) W. G. Vogelsang and E. W. Brooks, AMMflc received wounds from shrapnel. On 22 March 1945, Lt(jg) V. J. Evans flying PB4Y-2 Bu.No. 59426 was shot down two miles north of Amoy, China. Advice of this was received by despatch from ComNavGroup China on 26 March 1945. The following members of the crew came into the hands of friendly forces and were ultimately returned:

EVANS, Virgil J., Lt(jg), (A1), USNR, 240716.
LINDSLEY, Kirby J. Jr., (A1), USNR, 378785.
PEARCE, John R. Jr., AMMflc, 563 73 31, V6, USNR.
WARR, James A., ARMlc(T), 563 01 64, V6, USNR.
(Seriously Wounded)
WALKER, Maurice L., ARM3c, 865 89 40, V6, USNR.
REIS, Ernest F., S1c(AGM), 816 73 90, SV V6, USNR.
BILL, D., (accredited press correspondent - passenger).

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(12-e1)

Serial: 0035

JUN 18 1945

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 March 1945 through 31 March 1945
(-9 Zone time).

II. Operational sorties under direct active operational control of Commander Task Unit 73.8.1, Captain C.B. Jones, U. S. Navy, during subject period.

(A) Patrol Bombing Squadron 119:

1. Flew one Hundred thirty nine (139) operational sorties aggregating seventeen hundred forty one (1741) flight hours, plus 8 utility and ferry flights for 20 hours. Total flight hours, 1761.
2. The following ammunition and explosives were expended:
130 x 250 lb. G.P. bombs.
394 x 100 lb. G.P. bombs.
20 x 100 lb. Incendiary bombs.
138,880 rounds of .50 calibre ammunition.
3. As the result of operational sorties the following damage was inflicted upon the enemy:

Ships (Merchant)

Sunk or destroyed: 35 vessels (consisting of 1 Fox Tare Baker, 1 Fox Baker, 5 Sugar Charlies, 2 Fox Tare Charlies, 4 Fox Tare Dogs, 12 Sugar Dogs, 6 Luggers, 3 Barges, 1 Launch) aggregating 26,566 tons.

Damaged: 52 vessels (consisting of 2 Fox Tare Bakers, 5 Fox Tare Charlies, 3 Fox Tare Dogs, 1 Sugar Baker Sugar, 3 Sugar Charlie Sugars, 17 Sugar Dogs, 2 River Boats, 4 Luggers, 4 Barges, 5 Victor Charlies, 3 LCM's, 2 Tugs, 1 Launch) aggregating 44,650 tons.

War Ships:

Damaged: 2 Destroyer Escorts, 1 Gunboat.

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(12-ci)

Serial: 0035

JUN 18 1945

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 March 1945 through 31 March 1945
(-9 Zone time).

2. Units of Aircraft, Seventh Fleet under direct active operational control Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen from 1 March through 31 March 1945.

(a) Task Unit 73.8.1 conducted long range search missions and offensive reconnaissance in accordance with Search Plan Jig from its base at Clark Field, Luzon, Philippine Islands, normal coverage was one plane per day in sectors 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 and two planes in sector 5.

(1) The first aircraft and crews of Patrol Bombing Squadron 104 (Liberators) arrived 1 March 1945 and sector searches commenced 2 March 1945.

(2) The first aircraft and crews of Patrol Bombing Squadron 119 (Privateers) arrived 1 March 1945 and sector searches commenced 2 March 1945.

(3) The first aircraft and crews of one half of Patrol Bombing Squadron 137 (Venturas) arrived 11 March 1945, and sector searches commenced 12 March 1945.

C. The status of service units connected with reporting command during subject period was as follows:

(a) Constructing and maintaining the camp at Clark Field were Acorn 34 and C.B.M.U. 606.

(b) Casu (F) 9, 39, and 57 at Clark Field to service respectively VFB-119, 104, and 137.

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

AL2-1/(12-ci)

Serial: 0035

JUN 18 1945

SECRET

From: The Commander Fleet Air Wing SEVENTEEN.
To : The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Subject: War Diary - 1 March 1945 through 31 March 1945
(-9 Zone time).
Reference: (a) ComAir7thFlt. Secret Ltr. serial 00119 of
25 July 1944.
(b) CinCPac Conf. Ltr. 101-45.

I. A. Designation and Composition.

1. From 1 March through 31 March 1945 Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen, Captain C. B. Jones, U. S. Navy, was designated Commander of long range search group, Task Group 73.8 pursuant to an amendment dated 29 January 1945 (CTF 73 despatch 290530 January 1945) to Operation Plan ComAir7thFlt No. 10-44 dated 27 December 1944; and was assigned all Naval Air Operating squadrons based in the Philippines north of 12 degrees North Latitude.

B. Operation Plan ComAir7thFlt. No. 10-44 dated 27 December 1944 as amended 29 January 1945 by ComAir7thFlt. despatch 290530 January 1945.

1. Commander Task Group 73.8 Long Range Search Group, Captain C. B. Jones, U. S. Navy, from 1 March through 31 March 1945 under the tactical control of Commanding General, Fifth Air Force.
 - (a). Commander Task Unit 73.8.1, Captain C.B. Jones, U.S. Navy, at Clark Field, Luzon, Philippine Islands.
 - (b) Commander Task Unit 73.8.2, Commander H. W. MacDonald, U.S. Navy, at Maguire strip, Mindoro, Philippine Islands.

0056

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(12-FN)

Serial: 0023

MAY 16 1945

SECRET

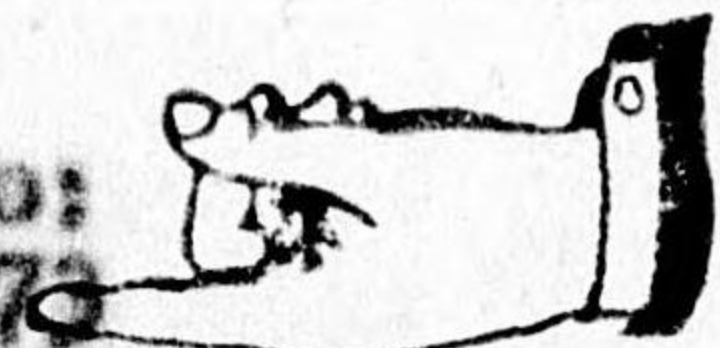
Subject: War Diary - 1 February 1945 Through 28 February
1945 (-9 Zone Time).

3. Position:

- 1 - 4 February 1945 - Commander Fleet Air Wing
Seventeen and STAFF based
aboard U.S.S. TANGIER in
Lingayen Gulf.
- 5 - 25 February 1945 - Commander Fleet Air Wing
Seventeen and STAFF at
Mangaldan, North Luzon,
Philippine Islands.
- 26 - 28 February 1945 - Commander Fleet Air Wing
Seventeen and STAFF at Clark
Field, North Luzon, Philippine
Islands.

C. B. JONES.

Copy to:
CTF 73
Com7thFlt.
ComAirPac.



UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(12-rn)

Serial: 0023

MAY 16 1945

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 February 1945 Through 28 February
1945 (-9 Zone Time).

Field (March); Combat Aircraft Service Unit
62 to Clark Field (March), ACORN 19 to Mindoro
(March 15).

E. Units of Aircraft SEVENTH FLEET assigned to Commander
Fleet Air Wing Seventeen as of 8 February 1945 by
enclosure (B) of Commander Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET
secret letter of 8 February 1945, serial 0024 set
forth for purposes of illustration:

- (a) U.S.S. TANGIER
U.S.S. BARATARIA
U.S.S. ORCA
U.S.S. SAN CARLOS (Administration only)
Patrol Bombing Squadron 28
Patrol Bombing Squadron 71
Patrol Bombing Squadron 119
Patrol Bombing Squadron 104) When north Luzon
Patrol Bombing Squadron 111) fields are ready.
Patrol Bombing Squadron 137)
Combat Aircraft Service Unit 56.
Combat Aircraft Service Unit 57.
Combat Aircraft Service Unit 62.

(b) The following is quoted from said letter.

"Enclosure (B) shows the assignment of units as
of this date but there is nothing rigid therein
and changes may be expected frequently as the
situation dictates."

(c) Refer to paragraph 1B subsection 2 above as to
units over which direct active operational con-
trol was exercised during subject period.

2. Designation of next higher echelon of Command.

A. Commander Task Force SEVENTH FLEET, and Commander
Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET - Rear Admiral F. D.
WAGNER, U. S. Navy.

A13-1/(12-rn)

Serial: * 0023

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

MAY 16 1945

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 February 1945 Through 28 February
1945 (-9 Zone Time).

8 February 1945.

- (2) An advance echelon of Combat Aircraft Service Unit 57 to service Liberators.
- (3) An advance echelon of Combat Aircraft Service Unit 9.1 to service Liberators.
- (4) Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 606.
- (5) Aircraft Service Emergency Units 1, 2, and 3 further assigned temporary duty to Patrol Bombing Squadron 71.

D. Commander Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET Bi-Weekly station list for 15 February 1945 as affecting reporting command is set forth as follows:

(1) At Lingayen Gulf:

U.S.S. ORCA with Patrol Bombing Squadron 17 for air sea rescue; U.S.S. BARATARIA tending Patrol Bombing Squadron 71 for night searches; one half of Patrol Bombing Squadron 17 to air sea rescue of Fifth Air Force; Combat Aircraft Service Unit 61-3.

(2) At Mangaldan:

ACORN 34; Combat Aircraft Service Unit 9.1; Combat Aircraft Service Unit 57, and Aircraft Emergency Service Units 1, 2, and 3 supporting Patrol Bombing Squadron 71 at the airstrip.

(3) Prospective movements under said station list excluding those connected with planned operations were:

Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen to assume operation of land planes at Clark Field; Patrol Bombing Squadron 104 to Clark (March); Patrol Bombing Squadron 111 to Mindoro (March); Patrol Bombing Squadron 119 to Clark (March); Patrol Bombing Squadron 137 (6 planes) to Clark

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(12-m)

Serial 0023

MAY 16 1945

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 February Through 28 February
1945 (-9 Zone Time).

to carry out the mission of Task Unit
73.8.1 during subject period.

- (b) Task Unit 73.8.2 under Command of Commander H. W. Mac Donald U. S. Navy, composed of Patrol Bombing Squadron 117 (LIBERATORS) together with three Liberators aircraft from Patrol Bombing Squadron 111, conducted long range searches from Maguire Airstrip, Mindoro, Philippine Islands under the tactical control of Commanding General, Fifth Air Force.
2. Units of Aircraft SEVENTH FLEET under direct active operational control Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen from 1 February 1945 through 28 February 1945.
- (a) Task Unit 73.8.1 inactive status-see subparagraph 1 (a) under Section B above.
- (b) Task Unit 73.8.2 (LIBERATORS) composed of Patrol Bombing Squadron 117 and three aircraft of Patrol Bombing Squadron 111 conducted long range search missions and offensive reconnaissance in accordance with Search Plan HOW through 4 February 1945 and thereafter under Search Plan JIG from its base at Maguire Strip, Mindoro, Philippine Islands.
- (c) Combat Aircraft Service Unit (F) 56 based at Maguire Strip, Mindoro, Philippine Islands for maintenance and service of Liberators of Patrol Bombing Squadron 117 and three Liberator aircraft of Patrol Bombing Squadron 111.
- C. The status of service units connected with reporting command as of 15 February 1945 at Mangaldan was as follows:
- (1) The third and last ship transporting ACORN 34 arrived. The first two having arrived

A12-1/(12-m)

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

Serial: 0023

SECRET

MAY 16 1945

From: The Commander Fleet Air Wing SEVENTEEN.
To : The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Subject: War Diary - 1 February 1945 Through 28 February 1945 (-9 Zone Time).
Reference: (a) ComAir7thFt Sec. Ltr. Serial 00119 of 25 July 1944.
(b) CinCPac Conf. Ltr. 161-45.

1. A. Designation and Composition.

During subject period Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen (Captain C.B. JONES, U.S. Navy) was designated Commander of long range search group, Task Group 73.8, pursuant to an amendment dated 29 January 1945 (despatch 290530 CTF 73, January 1945) to Operation Plan, Commander Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET, No. 10-44 dated 27 December 1944, and all Naval Air Operating Squadrons, Tenders, and CASU's supporting such squadrons based in the Philippines north of 12 degrees North Latitude were assigned to Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen.

B. Operation Plan, Commander Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET, No. 10-44, dated 27 December 1944 as amended 29 January 1945 (despatch 290530, Commander Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET, January 1945).

1. Commander Task Group 73.8 Long Range Search Group

Captain C. B. JONES, U.S. Navy, from 1 February 1945 through 28 February 1945, under the tactical control of Commanding General, Fifth Air Force.

- (a) CTU 73.8.1 Captain C. B. JONES, U.S. Navy - Composed of Patrol Bombing Squadron 119 (PRIVATEERS), Patrol Bombing Squadron 104 (LIBERATORS), and one half of Patrol Bombing Squadron 137 (VENTURAS) as an operating Task Unit was in an inactive status. It was considered impractical to operate from Mangaldai and the North Luzon field (Clark), its proposed operating base, was not ready. Therefore these squadrons could not come forward.

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(12-rn)

Serial: 008

SECRET

MAR 1 1945

From: The Commander Fleet Air Wing SEVENTEEN.
To : The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Subject: War Diary - 1 January 1945 through 31 January 1945.
(-9 Zone Time).
Reference: (a) ComAir7thFlt Secret Ltr. serial 00119 of
25 July 1944.
(b) CinCPac Conf. Ltr. 1CL-45.

I. A. Designation and Composition.

1. From 1 January through 2 January 1945 Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen operated as Commander Task Group 73.4 in accordance with Commander Task Force 73 (Commander Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET) Operations Plan No. 10-44 dated 27 December 1944. During this period Commander Task Group 73.4 was landbased at Morotai, Netherlands East Indies, under the tactical control of the Commanding General, Thirteenth Air Force.
2. From 3 January 1945 through 23 January 1945 Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen, Captain C. B. JONES, U.S. Navy, was based aboard the USS TANGIER in San Pedro Bay, Leyte Gulf, Philippine Islands. On 4 January 1945 Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen assumed the administrative functions of Commander Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET.
3. From 29 January 1945 through 31 January 1945 Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen, Captain C. B. JONES, U.S. Navy, designated Commander of long range search group Task Group 73.8, in accordance with an amendment dated 29 January 1945 to Operations Plan No. 10-44. Task Group 73.8 composed of Task Unit 73.8.1 at Lingayen, Luzon, Philippine Islands and Task Unit 73.8.2 at San Jose, Mindoro, Philippine Islands.

B. Operations Plan No. 10-44 dated 27 December 1944.

1. Commander Task Group 73.4 - Captain C. B. JONES, USN, from 1 January 1945 through 3 January 1945.

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(12-rn)

Serial: 008

SECRET

MAR 1 1945

Subject: War Diary - 1 January 1945 through 31 January 1945.
(-9 Zone Time).

2. Units of Aircraft, Seventh Fleet, under direct operational control Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen from 1 January 1945 through 31 January 1945.
 - (a) Task Unit 73.4.3 (Liberators) - Patrol Bombing Squadron 101 conducted long range searches from Morotai, Netherlands East Indies from 1 January 1945 through 2 January 1945 in accordance with Search Plan "HOW".
 - (b) Task Unit 73.4.2 (Venturas) - Patrol Bombing Squadron 130 conducted searches from Morotai, Netherlands East Indies, from 1 January 1945 through 2 January 1945 in accordance with Search Plan "HOW".
 - (c) Patrol Bombing Squadron 71 (PBV-5As) - Based at Morotai, Netherlands East Indies, from 1 January 1945 through 2 January 1945 in an inactive status awaiting the call forward.
 - (d) Patrol Aircraft Service Unit ONE-TWO - Based at Morotai from 1 January 1945 through 2 January 1945 for maintenance and service of Liberator aircraft of Patrol Bombing Squadron 101. (On 13 January 1945 PATSU 1-2 was commissioned as Combat Air Service Unit FIFTY SIX).
 - (e) Patrol Aircraft Service Unit ONE-EIGHT - Based at Morotai from 1 January 1945 through 2 January 1945 for maintenance and service of Ventura aircraft of Patrol Bombing Squadron 130. (On 13 January 1945 PATSU 1-8 was commissioned as Combat Air Service Unit FIFTY NINE).
 - (f) Patrol Aircraft Service Unit SEVENTEEN-TWO - Based at Morotai from 1 January 1945 through 2 January 1945 for maintenance and service of PBV-5A aircraft of Patrol Bombing Squadron 71.

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(12-ra)

Serial: 008

MAR 1 1945

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 January 1945 through 31 January 1945.
(-9 Zone Time).

- C. Operations Plan No. 10-44 dated 27 December 1944 as amended 29 January 1945.
1. Commander Task Group 73.8 - Captain C. B. JONES, U.S. Navy, from 29 January 1945 through 31 January 1945.
 - (a) Task Unit 73.8.2, under command of Commander H. W. MacDONALD, U.S. Navy, composed of Patrol Bombing Squadron 117 (Liberators) together with three Liberator aircraft from Patrol Bombing Squadron 111, conducted long range searches from Maguire Airstrip, Mindoro, Philippine Islands, under the tactical control of the Commanding General, 310th Bomb Wing until 29 January 1945 when tactical control was assumed by Commanding General, Fifth Air Force.
- D. Units of Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET, under Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen for purposes of administration.
1. Patrol Bombing Squadron 33 - Operated with 46 pilots, 15 crews and 15 PBV-5 aircraft, flying DUMBO missions from Green Island, the Admiralty Islands, and the Schouten Islands, until called forward to Leyte for search and postal missions 15 January 1945. Throughout the month a detachment of six planes flew anti-submarine patrol from the USS SAN CARLOS (AVP51) in Leyte Gulf. In addition, during the past half of the month, three planes operated from the USS HALF MOON (AVP26) at Mindoro.
 2. Patrol Bombing Squadron 44 - Flew PBV-5A aircraft under the operational command of Commander Aircraft, Northern Solomons.
 3. Headquarters Squadron, Fleet Air Wing Seventeen - Based at Seaplane Repair Base, Mios Woendi Lagoon, Schouten Islands. Dissolved 20 January 1945.
 4. USS HERON - From 1 January 1945 through 31 January 1945.

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(12-rn)

Serial: 008

SECRET

MAR 1 1945

Subject: War Diary - 1 January 1945 through 31 January 1945.
(-9 Zone Time).

II. Designation of Next Higher Echelon of Command.

- A. Commander Task Force SEVENTY THREE, Naval Air Force, and Commander Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET - Rear Admiral F. D. WAGNER, U.S. Navy.

III. Position.

2 January 1945 - Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen flew from Morotai, Netherlands East Indies to San Pedro Bay, Leyte Gulf, Philippine Islands, and there based aboard USS TANGIER.

23 January 1945- Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen, flew from Leyte to Lingayen Gulf and there based aboard USS CURRITUCK.


27- 31 January 1945- Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen and Staff were based aboard USS TANGIER, in Lingayen Gulf.

IV. Important Orders Received:

A. On 4 January 1945 at 1500 Item ~~Commander~~ Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen aboard USS TANGIER at Leyte was directed to assume the administrative functions of Commander Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET, including the CVE replacement pool at Samar Island, Philippine Islands.

B. On 31 January 1945 Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen was placed in command of operations north of twelve degrees north latitude.

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C. B. JONES.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(12-rn)

Serial: 006

1 January 1945.

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 December through 31 December 1944.

flew anti-submarine patrol from Leyte Gulf, Philippine Islands.

(b) Patrol Bombing Squadron FORTY-FOUR flew PBV-5A under the operational command of ComAirNorSols.

(c) Headquarters Squadron, Fleet Air Wing SEVENTEEN. Based at Seaplane Repair Base, Mios Woendi Lagoon, Schouten Islands.

(d) Seaplane Repair Base, Mios Woendi Lagoon, Schouten Islands, operated in support of aircraft of Fleet Air Wing SEVENTEEN for seaplane repair and a base for Fleet Air Wing SEVENTEEN, Headquarters Squadron.

2. Designation of next Higher Echelon of Command.
Commander Task Force SEVENTY-THREE (Commander Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET).
- Rear Admiral F. D. Wagner, U. S. Navy.

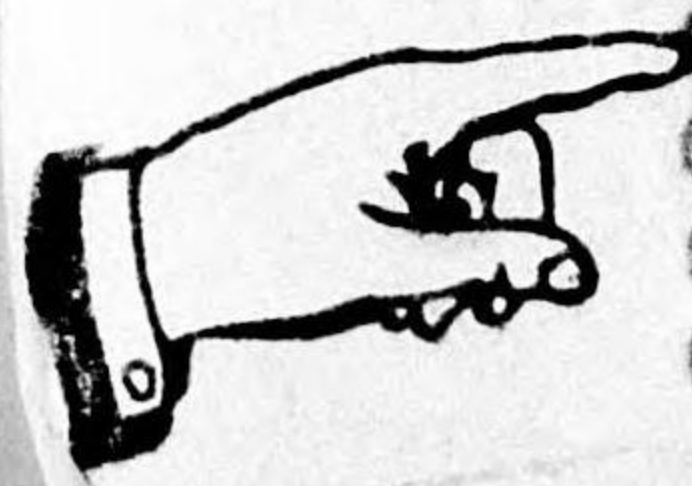
3. Daily Position:

Morotai, Netherlands East Indies, throughout the month of December.

4. Important Orders Received or Decisions Reached -
On 27 December 1944, CTF 73 ordered the Commander Fleet Air Wing SEVENTEEN to base on the U.S.S. TANGIER, at Leyte commencing 2 January 1945 and to prepare for the movement of his staff aboard the U.S.S. TANGIER prior to 10 January 1945.

C. B. JONES.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(12-rn)

Serial: 006

1 January 1945.

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 December through 31 December 1944.

damaged on the ground. Eight ships totaling 4,150 tons were sunk and five totaling 6,700 tons were damaged. Total sorties flown were 121 with flying time totaling 1,361 hours.

Bombs and ammunition expended were as follows:

267 - AN MK 30 100# GP Bombs.
59 - AN MK 43 500# GP Bombs.
84,530 - Rounds .50 Calibre-belted 2-2-1.

- (b) Patrol Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED FOUR - Conducted long range searches from Morotai, Netherlands East Indies from 1 December 1944 through 23 December 1944 and was served by PATSU 1-2 and a detachment from PATSU 1-3. Complement was 60 officers, 151 men and 13 PB4Y-1 airplanes. On 9 December 1944, two crews and one plane were transferred to TACLOBAN Leyte, Philippine Islands reporting for duty to Commander Fleet Air Wing TEN. Other detachments followed in two and three plane elements until on 23 December 1944 the entire squadron had been transferred to TACLOBAN. In operations from Morotai, the squadron sank 13,000 tons of shipping. On land, one steam roller and one radar station were destroyed. Five enemy aircraft were destroyed in the air and one on the water. One officer was killed in an air raid after a forced landing at TACLOBAN and one enlisted man was missing. One enlisted man was lost due to enemy action over Borneo.
- (c) Patrol Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED THIRTY SEVEN - Conducted searches from Morotai, Netherlands East Indies from 1 December 1944 through 28 December 1944 when relieved by Patrol Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED THIRTY. It formed Task Unit

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(12-rn)

Serial: 006

1 January 1945.

SECRET

From: The Commander Fleet Air Wing SEVENTEEN.
To : The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Subject: War Diary - 1 December through 31 December 1944.
Reference: (a) PacFlt Conf. Ltr. 20CL-44.
(b) PacFlt Conf. Ltr. 16CL-44.
(c) ComAir7thFlt Secret Ltr., serial 00119
of 25 July 1944.

1. Designation and Composition.

A. Designation.

Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen, Captain C. B. Jones, USN, operated from 1 December 1944 through 31 December 1944 as Commander Task Group 73.4 in accordance with Commander Task Force 73 (Commander Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET), Operation Plan No. 8-44 dated 15 October. During this period, Fleet Air Wing SEVENTEEN based at MOROTAI, Netherlands East Indies, under tactical control of the Commanding General Thirteenth Air Force.

B. Operations Plan No. 8-44 dated 15 October 1944.

1. Commander Task Group 73.4 - Captain C. B. Jones, USN.

2. Units of Aircraft, Seventh Fleet under direct operational control Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen.

(a) Patrol Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED ONE - Conducted long range searches from Morotai, Netherlands East Indies from 1 December 1944 through 31 December 1944 and in conjunction with Patrol Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED FOUR formed Task Unit 73.4.3. PATSU 1-2 maintained the squadron's PB4Y-1 airplanes. Personnel consisted of 52 pilots and 14 flight crews plus five A-V(S) officers. During this period 5 enemy aircraft were destroyed in flight and four destroyed on ground or water. Three squadron aircraft were damaged while airborne and two were

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(12-rn)

Serial: 006

1 January 1945.

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 December through 31 December 1944.

Bombs and ammunition expended were as follows:

45 - AN MK 40 23# Parafrag Bombs.
12 - AN MK 47 500# GP Bombs.
60 - AN MK 57 250# GP Bombs.

- (f) Patrol Aircraft Service Unit ONE-THREE -
Based at Morotai from 1 December 1944
through 31 December 1944 for maintenance
and service of PB4Y aircraft of Patrol
Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED FOUR.
 - (g) Patrol Aircraft Service Unit ONE-TWO -
Based at Morotai from 1 December 1944
through 31 December 1944 for maintenance
and service of PB4Y aircraft of Patrol
Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED ONE.
 - (h) Patrol Aircraft Service Unit ONE-EIGHT -
Based at Morotai from 1 December 1944
through 31 December 1944 for maintenance
and service of PV-1 aircraft of Patrol
Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED THIRTY SEVEN.
 - (i) Patrol Aircraft Service Unit SEVENTEEN-TWO -
Based at Morotai from 1 December 1944
through 31 December 1944 for maintenance
and service of PB5A aircraft of Patrol
Bombing Squadron SEVENTY ONE.
- C. Additional Units of Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET under
Commander Fleet Air Wing SEVENTEEN for purposes
of administration.
- (a) Patrol Bombing Squadron THIRTY-THREE.
Operated with 46 pilots, 15 crews and
14 PB5s flying Dumbo missions from
Green I., Emirau I., Treasury I., and
the Admiralty I. Anti-submarine patrol
was flown from WOENDI, Schouten Islands
and after 15 December 1944 six crews

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(12-rn)

Serial: 006

1 January 1945.

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 December through 31 December 1944.

73.4.2. During the period the squadron's Venturas destroyed an enemy radio station at Tobi Island, luggers and barges at Tawi Tawi, a bridge at Manado, Celebes. At Toli Toli in the Celebes a seaplane base was damaged and a Pete destroyed.

- (d) Patrol Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED THIRTY - Conducted searches from Morotai from 29 December 1944 through 31 December 1944. The squadron's Venturas relieved those of Patrol Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED THIRTY SEVEN, and for the last three days of the month formed Task Unit 73.4.2. All searches were negative during the period.
- (e) Patrol Bombing Squadron SEVENTY ONE - Based at Morotai, Netherlands East Indies, flew fifty-seven Black Cat missions in PBV-5A aircraft from 1 December 1944 through 18 December 1944. Dumbo operations in conjunction with the Second Emergency Rescue Squadron of the Army were continued through 4 December 1944, four missions being flown. On 6 December Lieut.(jg) Shelley failed to return from a night mission. Special searches for the missing plane were flown daily until 10 December with negative results. On 16 December a despatch was received from Commander, SEVENTH FLEET stating that the plane had crashed in Sarangani Bay, Mindanao on 6 December. The pilot and one man were killed, six survivors were rescued by guerrillas and were flown back to the base 20 December. Joint operations with PT boats engaged in nightly anti-barge patrol between Halmahera and Morotai were started 24 December. Two camouflaged barges were sunk the night of 24/25 December. The squadron operated 15 PBV-5As with 18 crews.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

Serial: 005

1 - DEC 1944

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 November through 30 November 1944.

46 pilots, 15 crews and 14 PBY-5s flying five daylight searches a day from 1 November 1944 through 30 November 1944. The squadron was based at Leyte Gulf on the USS HALF MOON.

- B. Patrol Bombing Squadron FORTY-FOUR - Flew PBY-5A under the operational command of Commander Aircraft, Northern Solomons.
- C. Headquarters Squadron, Fleet Air Wing SEVENTEEN - Based at Seaplane Repair Base, Mios Woendi Lagoon, Schouten Islands from 1 November 1944 through 30 November 1944. Operated for maintenance and service of PBY-5 aircraft of Fleet Air Wing SEVENTEEN.
- D. Seaplane Repair Base, Mios Woendi Lagoon, Schouten Islands, operated in support of aircraft of Fleet Air Wing SEVENTEEN for seaplane repair. Base for Fleet Air Wing SEVENTEEN, Headquarters Squadron from 1 November 1944 through 30 November 1944.

2. Designation of Next Higher Echelon of Command.

Commander Task Force SEVENTY THREE (Commander Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET) - Rear Admiral F. D. WAGNER, U.S. Navy.

3. Daily Position.

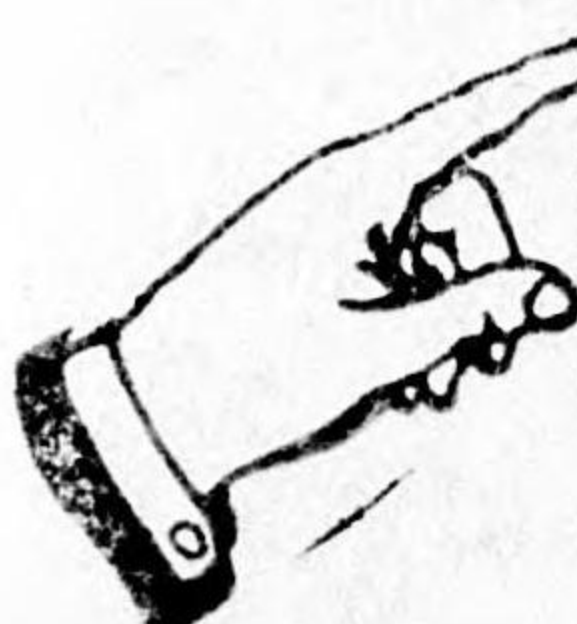
Morotai, Netherlands East Indies, throughout the month of November.

4. Important Orders Received or Decisions Reached - None.

C. B. JONES.

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Serial: 005

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

SECRET

1 - DEC 1944

Subject: War Diary - 1 November through 30 November 1944.

special rescue and evacuation missions. All of the flights were made with one Army and one Navy pilot at the controls and the remainder of the crew evenly divided between Army and Navy Personnel.

Bombs and ammunition expended were as follows:

37 - AN MK-57 250# GP bombs
4,370 - Rounds of .50 caliber.
2,580 - Rounds of .30 caliber.

(f) Patrol Aircraft Service Unit ONE-THREE -

Based at Morotai from 1 November 1944 through 30 November 1944 for maintenance and service of PB4Y aircraft of Patrol Bombing Squadron 115 and its successor Patrol Bombing Squadron 115 and its successor Patrol Bombing Squadron 104.

(g) Patrol Aircraft Service Unit ONE-TWO -
Based at Morotai from 1 November 1944 through 30 November 1944 for maintenance and service of PB4Y aircraft of Patrol Bombing Squadron 101.

(h) Patrol Aircraft Service Unit ONE-EIGHT -
Based at Morotai from 1 November 1944 through 30 November 1944 for maintenance and service of PV-1 aircraft of Patrol Bombing Squadron 146 and its successor Patrol Bombing Squadron 137.

(i) Patrol Aircraft Service Unit SEVENTEEN-TWO -
Based at Morotai from 23 November 1944 through 30 November 1944 for maintenance and service of PBY-5A aircraft of Patrol Bombing Squadron 71.

2. Additional Units of Aircraft, Seventh Fleet under Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen for purposes of administration.

A. Patrol Bombing Squadron THIRTY-THREE - Operated with

A12-1/(12-on)

Serial: 005

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

SECRET

1 - DEC 1944

Subject: War Diary - 1 November through 30 November 1944.

were 18 flight crews and 15 planes. Planes of the squadron sank or destroyed during the period approximately 19,500 tons of shipping and damaged 31,000 tons. They also sank one 150 foot gunboat and two 90 foot armed patrol craft. Also destroyed were two buildings and two oil tanks at Kudat, Borneo. In the air one TONY and one TESS were destroyed, while a PETE, a ZEKE and an OSCAR were probably destroyed. Personnel losses were two officers and five men killed in action, one man transferred to hospital for treatment, one officer and three men under treatment of the Medical Officer, Fleet Air Wing Seventeen Headquarters Squadron at Mios Woendi Lagoon, Schouten Islands.

Bombs and ammunition expended were as follows:

45 - AN MK-30 100# GP Bombs
254 - AN MK-57 250# GP Bombs
10 - AN MK-64 500# GP Bombs
102,075 - Rounds of .50 calibre ammunition

- (d) Patrol Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED FORTY SIX - Conducted searches from Morotai 1 November 1944 through 29 November 1944. The squadron was composed of 43 officers and 74 enlisted men. It formed Task Unit 73.4.2.
- (e) Patrol Bombing Squadron SEVENTY ONE - Conducted Black Cat and Daylight missions from 25 November 1944 through 30 November 1944. On 24 November 1944 ten PBY-5As and sixteen crews were present at Morotai. Five planes patrolled five sectors each night, the average length of flight being 625 miles and their duration 13.1 hours. The squadron loaned two of its planes to the Second Emergency Rescue Squadron of the Army. These planes and crews were used to provide Daylight coverage for Army strikes and for

A12-1/(12-cn)

Serial: 005

SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

1 - DEC 1944

Subject: War Diary - 1 November through 30 November 1944.

PATSU 1-8 and PATSU 1-2. Plane maintenance was supplied by PATSU 1-2. During November two enemy aircraft were destroyed in flight and seven destroyed on ground or water. Thirteen enemy aircraft were damaged on the ground. Twelve ships totaling twelve thousand eight hundred tons were sunk or destroyed and thirty six vessels representing approximately 30,000 tons were damaged. During the month seven planes were lost, four of which were destroyed on the field by enemy action. One officer and four men were killed in a landing at sea. One officer and four men, missing since 26 October 1944, were reported rescued and evacuated to a hospital.

Bombs and ammunition expended were as follows:

12 - AN MK-30 100# GP Bombs
364 - AN MK-57 250# GP Bombs
4 - AN MK-41 500# GP Bombs
173,000 - Rounds of .50 caliber, 2-2-1 ratio.

- (b) Patrol Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIFTEEN - Conducted long range searches from Morotai from 1 November 1944 through 8 November 1944, at which time it was relieved by Patrol Bombing Squadron 104. Patrol Bombing Squadron 115 in conjunction with Patrol Bombing Squadron 101 formed Task Unit 73.4.3. It had a complement of 49 officers and 178 men operating 12 PB4Y-1 aircraft (plus 4 spares). In this first week in November the squadron accounted for a 140 foot auxiliary, a JAKE, and protected survivors in the water from a strafing attack from a TOJO. One officer and one man received minor injuries during the period.
- (c) Patrol Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED FOUR - Conducted long range searches from Morotai from 8 November 1944 through 30 November 1944, relieving Patrol Bombing Squadron 101. Personnel consisted of 56 pilots, one A-V(RS), three A-V(S) officers and 153 men. There

A12-1/(12-cn)

Serial: 005

SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

1 December 1944.

From: The Commander Fleet Air Wing SEVENTEEN.
To: The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Subject: War Diary - 1 November through 30 November 1944.
Reference: (a) PacFlt Conf. Ltr. 2CL-44.
(b) PacFlt Conf. Ltr. 16CL-44.
(c) ComAir7thFlt Secret Ltr, serial 00119, of
25 July 1944.

1. A. Designation and Composition.

Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen - Captain C. B. JONES,
U.S. Navy.

Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen operated from 1 November 1944 through 30 November 1944 in an administrative and operational status as Commander Task Group 73.4 in accordance with Commander Task Force 73 (Commander Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET) Operations Plan No. 8-44 dated 15 October 1944. During this period Commander Task Group 73.4 was land based at Morotai, Netherlands East Indies, operating under the operational control of the Commanding General, Thirteenth Air Force the following patrol bombing squadrons 101, 115 relieved by 104, 146 and 71.

B. Operations Plan No. 8-44 dated 15 October 1944.

1. Commander Task Group 73.4 - Capt. C. B. JONES, USN.

2. Units of Aircraft, Seventh Fleet under Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen for purposes of operation and administration.

(a) Patrol Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED ONE - Conducted long range searches from Morotai from 1 November 1944 through 30 November 1944. Personnel consisted of 43 pilots and 14 flight crews, plus four A-V(S) officers. One replacement crew was received from Commander Fleet Air Wing TWO on 11 November 1944 and four replacement crews were received on 13 November 1944. Operating complement was then nineteen crews. One crew was relieved and evacuated from area on 16 November 1944. Personnel were based at a camp set up by

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Serial: 0033

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

8 - DEC 1944

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 October through 31 October 1944.

- 5. Patrol Aircraft Service Unit ONE-TWO - Based at Owi from 1 October to 18 October 1944, and from 19 October 1944 at Morotai for maintenance and service of PB4Y aircraft of Patrol Bombing Squadron 101.
- 6. Patrol Aircraft Service Unit ONE-EIGHT - Based at Pityilu from 1 October to 11 October and from 18 October to 31 October at Morotai for maintenance and service of PV-1 aircraft of Patrol Bombing Squadron 146.

4. Designation of Next Higher Echelon of Command.

Commander Task Force SEVENTY THREE (Commander Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET) - Rear Admiral F. D. WAGNER, U.S. Navy.

5. Daily Position.


Fleet Air Wing Seventeen administration was based at Seaplane Repair Base #2, Mios Woendi Lagoon, Schouten Islands, throughout the month of October. Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen assumed operational control of Task Group 73.4 at Owi on 15 October and moved up to Morotai on 19 October with this Group.

6. Important Orders Received or Decisions Reached.

Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen assumed operational control as Commander Task Group 73.4 on 15 October 1944, according to Commander Task Force 73 (Commander Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET) Operations Plan No. 8-44.

C. B. JONES.

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A12-1/(12-cn)

Serial: 0033

SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

8 - DEC 1944

Subject: War Diary - 1 October through 31 October 1944.

Ammunition expended during October was as follows:

43 - AN MK-30 100# GP bombs
9 - AN MK-33 300# GP bombs
64 - AN MK-57 250# GP bombs
154,000 - Rounds of .50 calibre machine gun
ammunition

3. Patrol Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED FORTY SIX -

Composed of 43 officers and 74 enlisted men and operated under basic orders of CINCUS despatch 264838 of May 1943 and under verbal orders of Commander Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET. The squadron conducted sector searches, strikes and training flights, total time being 739.6 hours. From 1 October 1944 to 15 October it was based on Pityilu Island, Admiralties. On 16 October departed from Manus to report at Commanding General, Fifth Air Force at Owi to await call forward to Morotai, for which destination departed on 18 October 1944. Patrol Bombing Squadron 146 destroyed 2 ships and 6 barges during October and also 3 planes, damaging another. Land targets were bombed and strafed inflicting damage on fuel dumps at Sanga Sanga, Tawi Tawi Island, installations at Tawi Tawi and warehouses at Gorontola, northeast Celebes. During these operations three planes were lost with all hands.

Ordnance expenditures:

154 - 100# GP bombs
4 - 500# GP bombs
7,800 - Rounds of .30 calibre ammunition
16,700 - Rounds of .50 calibre ammunition
16 - Three-inch rockets
32 - Five-inch explosive head rockets

4. Patrol Aircraft Service Unit ONE-THREE - Based at Owi from 1 October to 18 October 1944, and from 19 October to 31 October 1944 at Morotai for maintenance and service of PB4Y aircraft of Patrol Bombing Squadron 115.

A12-1/(12-cn)

Serial: 0033

SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

8 - DEC 1944

Subject: War Diary - 1 October through 31 October 1944.

and three enlisted men are in friendly hands in enemy territory. The average daily availability was seven planes. Bombs and ammunition expended were as follows:

35 - AN MK-57 GP 250# bombs
300 - AN MK-30 GP 100# bombs
18 - MK-1 100# Incendiary Clusters
160,000 - Rounds of .50 calibre, 2-2-1

2. Patrol Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIFTEEN -

Conducted long range searches from Owi, Schouten Islands, from 1 October 1944 through 18 October 1944, and from Morotai 19 October 1944 through 31 October 1944. This squadron, in conjunction with Patrol Bombing Squadron 101, formed Task Unit 73.2.3 from 1 October to 14 October and Task Unit 73.4.3 from 14 October to 31 October 1944. It operated with a complement of 49 officers and 178 enlisted men operating 12 PB4Y-1 aircraft (plus 4 spares). The squadron was based at Owi on PATSU 1-3 for aircraft maintenance and on ACORN EIGHT for quarters and messing.

Search operations were under the immediate operational control of Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen. During this month Patrol Bombing Squadron 115 sank or destroyed 16 ships including a 10,200 ton tanker and 5 luggers or river boats, and several barges, inflicting serious damage on another medium freighter transport. Eight planes were destroyed, two in the air and the remainder on the ground. Another seven planes were damaged on the ground. There were no casualties resulting from the squadron's operations and one plane was consigned to salvage following an emergency landing with its landing gear shot up from enemy machine gun fire. Average daily availability was 10 PB4Y-1's. A total of 1463 hours was flown in searches.

A12-1/(12-cn)

Serial: 0033

SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

8 - DEC 1944

Subject: War Diary - 1 October through 31 October 1944.

3. Operations Plan No. 8-44 dated 15 October 1944.
 - A. Commander Task Group 73.4 - Capt. C. B. JONES, USN.
 - B. Units of Aircraft, Seventh Fleet under Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen for purposes of administration and operation.
 1. Patrol Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED ONE - Conducted long range searches from Owi, Schouten Islands, from 1 October 1944 through 18 October 1944, and from Morotai 19 October 1944 through 31 October 1944. This squadron was assigned for temporary duty to Commander Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET and for administration to Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen during October. From 14 October 1944 to 31 October 1944 Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen took over operational control. Personnel consisted of 55 pilots and 18 flight crews, plus 4 A-V(S) officers. At Owi personnel were based with ACORN EIGHT, at Morotai at a camp set up by PATSU 1-8 and PATSU 1-2. Plane maintenance was supplied by PATSU 1-2. Patrol Bombing Squadron 101 flew a total of 121 missions, covering designated search sectors, flying time during October totaling 1611 hours. A total of three enemy aircraft was destroyed in the air and 27 on the ground or water, damaging severely 8 more on the ground. Twenty-two ships and 2 barges totaling approximately 52,700 tons were sunk or destroyed and severe damage was inflicted on another 13 ships and 4 barges totaling approximately 5950 tons. In addition, all the large buildings at the seaplane base of Lalos, Northern Celebes, were destroyed. During the month five aircraft did not return from patrol. Five officers and twelve men were killed in action. Two officers and ten men are missing. One officer and five men rescued but not as yet returned. Two enlisted men injured in a landing at sea and rescued, were evacuated. Four officers, including Commander Justin A. Miller, commanding officer,

8 - DEC 1944

SECRETSubject: War Diary - 1 October through 31 October 1944.

- F. Patrol Bombing Squadron THIRTY FOUR - Operated at Woendi flying anti-submarine patrols until 22 October 1944 when part of the squadron proceeded to Leyte. Together with a part of Patrol Bombing Squadron 33 they were based at Leyte on the USS HALF MOON and the USS SAN CARLOS under Commander Task Group 73.7.
- G. Patrol Bombing Squadron TWENTY NINE - Composed of 12 PB4Y-5's and 12 flight crews and was based temporarily aboard the USS TANGIER at Morotai from 1 October 1944 to 31 October 1944. Black Cat missions, armed night patrols and anti-submarine patrols were conducted, resulting in sinking or seriously damaging an estimated 10,400 tons of shipping.
- H. Patrol Aircraft Service Unit SEVENTEEN-ONE - Based at SRB #2, Woendi, Schouten Islands during October and operated for maintenance and service of Fleet Air Wing Seventeen aircraft present.
- I. Patrol Aircraft Service Unit SEVENTEEN-THREE -
1. Patrol Aircraft Service Unit 17-3-1 - Based on USS TANGIER for maintenance and service of PB4Y-5 aircraft.
 2. Patrol Aircraft Service Unit 17-3-2 - Based on board USS HALF MOON for maintenance and service of PB4Y-5 aircraft.
 3. Patrol Aircraft Service Unit 17-3-3 - Based aboard USS ORCA for maintenance and service of PB4Y-5 aircraft.
 4. Patrol Aircraft Service Unit 17-3-4 - Based aboard USS SAN CARLOS for maintenance and service of PB4Y-5 aircraft.

8 - DEC 1944

SECRETSubj: War Diary - 1 October through 31 October 1944.

(c) Patrol Planes Present - PBV-5 aircraft of all squadrons while at SRB, Woendi for repairs and services and for anti-submarine patrol.

2. Additional Units of Aircraft, Seventh Fleet under Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen for purposes of administration.
 - A. USS HALF MOON - From 1 October 1944 to 21 October 1944 anchored off Morotai with personnel of Patrol Bombing Squadron 33 aboard, conducting night operations. On 23 October 1944 arrived at Leyte running night patrols with PBV-5 aircraft.
 - B. USS SAN CARLOS - Arrived 1 October 1944 at Owi to refuel, load on bombs. Proceeded to Hollandia to reprovision, then, under secret orders, proceeded to Leyte where it operated PBV-5 aircraft until 31 October 1944.
 - C. USS SAN PABLO - Operated as flagship for Commander Task Unit 70.2.1 under Commander Task Group 70.2 in accordance with Commander Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET Operations Plan No. 6-44 of 18 July 1944. Tended an average of four PBV-5 aircraft and four and one-half flight crews of Patrol Bombing Squadron 11 during the month. USS SAN PABLO operated from 1 October 1944 to 4 October 1944 at Woendi Lagoon and from 6 October 1944 to 31 October 1944 at Morotai Island.
 - D. Patrol Bombing Squadron ELEVEN - Operated from USS SAN PABLO and carried out day and night anti-submarine patrols and rescue missions.
 - E. Patrol Bombing Squadron THIRTY THREE - Operated 47 pilots and 13 crews with 15 planes flying night searches, anti-submarine patrols and DUMBO missions from Woendi until 22 October 1944 when part of the squadron proceeded to Leyte. Together with part of Patrol Bombing Squadron 34 they were based at Leyte on the USS HALF MOON and the USS SAN CARLOS under Commander Task Group 73.7

A12-1/(12-on)

Serial: 0033

SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

8 - DEC 1944

From: The Commander Fleet Air Wing SEVENTEEN.
To: The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Subject: War Diary - 1 October through 31 October 1944.
Reference: (a) PacFlt Conf. Ltr. 2CL-44.
(b) PacFlt Conf. Ltr. 16CL-44.
(c) ComAir7thFlt Secret Ltr. serial 00119 of 25 Jul 1944.

1. A. Designation and Composition.

Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen - Capt. C.B. JONES, USN.

Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen operated from 1 October 1944 through 14 October 1944 in an administrative and operational status as Commander Task Group 73.4 in accordance with Commander Task Force 73 (Commander Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET) Operations Plan No. 7-44 dated 27 August 1944. From 15 October 1944 through 31 October 1944 Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen operated in an administrative and operational status as Commander Task Group 73.4 in accordance with Commander Task Force 73 (Commander Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET) Operations Plan No. 8-44 dated 15 October 1944.

B. Operations Plan No. 7-44 dated 27 August 1944.

1. Commander Task Group 73.4 - Capt. C. B. JONES, USN.

(a) Headquarters Squadron, Fleet Air Wing Seventeen - Based at SRB, Mios Woendi Lagoon, Schouten Islands, from 1 October 1944 to 31 October 1944. Operated for maintenance and service of PBV-5 aircraft of Fleet Air Wing Seventeen.

(b) Seaplane Base, Woendi - Operated in support of aircraft of Fleet Air Wing Seventeen effecting minor repairs and checks to operating aircraft. Base for Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen and staff from 1 October 1944 through 31 October 1944. Base for Fleet Air Wing Seventeen, Headquarters Squadron from 1 October through 31 October 1944.

00142

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(05-cn)

1 - OCT 1944

Serial: 0031

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 September 1944 through 30 September 1944.

5. Daily Position.

Fleet Air Wing Seventeen administration based at Seaplane Repair Base No. 1, Los Negros, Admiralty Islands from 1 September to 7 September 1944. On 7 September 1944 moved aboard the USS SAN CARLOS for transportation to Seaplane Repair Base, Mios Woendi Lagoon, Schouten Islands arriving 9 September 1944. Based at Seaplane Repair Base No. 2, Mios Woendi Lagoon, Schouten Islands from 9 September through 30 September 1944.

6. Important Orders received or decisions reached.

- 1. Movement of Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen and Staff from Seaplane Repair Base No. 1, Los Negros Islands to Seaplane Repair Base No. 2, Mios Woendi Lagoon as outlined in paragraph (5) above.
- B. Movement of Fleet Air Wing Seventeen, Headquarters Squadron from Seaplane Repair Base No. 1, Los Negros Island to Seaplane Repair Base No. 2, Mios Woendi Lagoon, Schouten Islands with transportation furnished by the USS HERON, departing 26 September 1944 and arriving 29 September 1944.

7. Ordnance Expended.

Patrol Bombing Squadron 101 -

43,000 rounds of .50 calibre ammunition
95 AN MK-30 100 pound GP bombs

Patrol Bombing Squadron 115 -

116,000 rounds of .50 calibre ammunition
115 AN MK-30 100 pound GP bombs
37 AN MK-112 tail fuses, 4/5 second delay
72 AN MK-103 nose fuses, instantaneous

USS HALF MOON -

139 rounds 20mm ammunition

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Com7thFlt
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A. W. AMES,
Acting.

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(05-on)

1 - OCT 1944

Serial: 0031

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 September 1944 through 30 September 1944.

aircraft present.

L. Patrol Aircraft Service Unit SEVENTEEN-THREE

1. Patrol Aircraft Service Unit SEVENTEEN-THREE-ONE -

Based on USS TANGIER for maintenance and service of PBY-5 aircraft.

2. Patrol Aircraft Service Unit SEVENTEEN-THREE-TWO -

Based on board the USS HALF MOON for maintenance and service of PBY-5 aircraft.

3. Patrol Aircraft Service Unit SEVENTEEN-THREE-THREE -

Based aboard USS ORCA for maintenance and service of PBY-5 aircraft.

4. Patrol Aircraft Service Unit SEVENTEEN-THREE-FOUR -

Based aboard USS SAN CARLOS for maintenance and service of PBY-5 aircraft.

5. Patrol Aircraft Service Unit SEVENTEEN-THREE-FIVE -

Based aboard USS SAN PABLO for maintenance and service of PBY-5 aircraft.

3. Designation of Next Higher Echelon of Command.

Commander Task Force SEVENTY THREE (Commander Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET) - Rear Admiral F. D. WAGNER, U.S. Navy.

4. Identifying Order as Task Group or Unit Commander.

Commander Task Force SEVENTY THREE (Commander Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET) Operation Plan No. 7-44 dated 27 August 1944.

A12-1/(05-on)

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

Serial: 0031

1 October 1944.

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 September 1944 through 30 September 1944.

Solomons area for air-sea rescue purposes. From 23 September 1944 anti-submarine search sectors were flown from Seaplane Repair Base, Los Negros Islands.

- G. Patrol Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED AND ONE - Commander J. A. MILLER, USN conducted long range searches from Owi, Schouten Islands during the month of September. Squadron based with ACORN-8 and maintenance furnished by PATSU 1-2. During September Patrol Bombing Squadron 101 conducted 139 search missions ranging from 750 miles to 1100 miles. During September attacks were made and serious damage inflicted on 9 enemy merchant vessels and one warship. In addition one enemy plane, a KATE, was shot down and destroyed. No personnel or plane losses were sustained during September.
- H. Patrol Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIFTEEN - Commander J. R. COMPTON, USN based on Owi, Schouten Islands and conducted daily searches ranging from 750 miles to 1000 miles. Maintenance and service to aircraft were provided by PATSU 1-3 and quarters and messing by ACORN-8. During September, nine successful attacks were made on small enemy surface craft sinking or severely damaging all. No personnel casualties or plane damage were sustained during September.
- I. Patrol Aircraft Service Unit ONE-THREE - Operated for the purpose of maintenance and service of PB4Y-1 aircraft of Patrol Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIFTEEN and based at Owi, Schouten Islands.
- J. Patrol Aircraft Service Unit ONE-TWO - Operated for the purpose of maintenance and service of PB4E-1 aircraft of Patrol Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED ONE and based at Owi, Schouten Islands.
- K. Patrol Aircraft Service Unit SEVENTEEN-ONE - Based at Seaplane Repair Base No. 2, Woendi, Schouten Islands, during September and operated for maintenance and service of Fleet Air Wing Seventeen

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(05-on)

Serial: 0031

1 October 1944.

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 September 1944 through 30 September 1944.

- C. USS SAN PABLO - Based at Mios Woendi Lagoon, Schouten Islands and operated in support of anti-submarine patrol planes of Patrol Bombing Squadron 11, being operated by Commander Task Group 70.2 and Commander Task Unit 70.2.1.
- D. Patrol Bombing Squadron ELEVEN - Three planes and four crews operated from USS SAN PABLO based at Mios Woendi Lagoon and carried out day and night anti-submarine patrols. Black Cat night search and attacks missions were carried out from tenders based at Middleburg until all operations were discontinued for move to Morotai on 17 September 1944. Upon arrival, operations of night search and attack missions were again resumed.
- E. Patrol Bombing Squadron THIRTY THREE - Conducted Black Cat searches from USS ORCA based at Middleburg, Dutch New Guinea from 1 September 1944 through 16 September 1944. No searches were conducted on nights of 17 and 18 during which time operations were changing from the Middleburg area to Morotai Island in Halmaheras. On 19 September 1944 night search and attack missions were resumed from the USS SAN CARLOS with personnel and administration transferred to the USS SAN CARLOS. On 29 September 1944 personnel and administration were transferred to the USS HALF MOON at Morotai and night operations continued. Nightly search and attacks missions were flown during entire month of September with the exception of two nights mentioned above, with exceptionally successful results.
- F. Patrol Bombing Squadron FIFTY TWO - Based aboard the USS TANGIER from 1 September 1944 through 20 September 1944. Patrol Bombing Squadron 52 flew a total of 56 air-sea rescue missions in first 20 days of September covering Fifth Air Force strikes on Dutch New Guinea and the eastern Celebes area. From 20 September through 30 September 1944 squadron administration based at Seaplane Repair Base, MANUS with planes based at Treasury, Green, Emirau and Los Negros Islands, engaged in covering strikes in Northern

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(05-on)

Serial: 0031

1 October 1944.

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 September 1944 through 30 September 1944.

(c) Patrol Planes Present - PBV-5 aircraft of all squadrons while in air-sea rescue operations in transit to forward areas and while at Seaplane Repair Base, Woendi for repairs and service.

2. Additional Units of Aircraft, Seventh Fleet under Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen for purposes of administration.

A. USS HALF MOON - From 1 September to 17 September anchored off southeast coast of Middleburg Island, Dutch New Guinea, tending planes of Patrol Bombing Squadron 11 conducting operational night strikes. On 17 September 1944 departed Middleburg enroute to Morotai, anchoring off Morotai 0932 18 September 1944 and began tending planes of Patrol Bombing Squadron 11 engaged in night operations. On 21 September 1944 transferred personnel of Patrol Bombing Squadron 11 aboard USS TANGIER and received personnel of Patrol Bombing Squadron 29 (formerly Patrol Squadron 101) on board. At 1410 29 September 1944 personnel of Patrol Bombing Squadron 33 were taken aboard and personnel of Patrol Bombing Squadron 29 transferred to USS TANGIER. At 1840, 30 September 1944 fired 139 rounds of 20mm ammunition at an enemy plane. No casualties were sustained.

B. USS SAN CARLOS - Departed Green Island 2 September 1944 and arrived Manus Island 1600 on 4 September 1944. Departed Manus 7 September 1944 furnishing transportation for administration, equipment and personnel of Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen to Seaplane Repair Base, Mios Woendi Lagoon, Schouten Islands arriving 9 Sep 1944. The USS SAN CARLOS then proceeded to Middleburg, Dutch New Guinea and operated in support of Fleet Air Wing Seventeen aircraft on night search and attack missions. Departed Middleburg 17 September 1944 for Morotai Island and resume support of Black Cat operations. Departed Morotai 30 September 1944 to proceed to Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea to report to Commander SEVENTH FLEET under dispatch orders.

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

AL2-1/(05-cn)

Serial: 0031

1 October 1944.

SECRET

From: The Commander Fleet Air Wing SEVENTEEN.
To: The Commander in Chief, UNITED STATES FLEET.
Subject: War Diary - 1 September 1944 through 30 September 1944.
Reference: (a) PacFlt Conf. Ltr. 20L-44.
(b) PacFlt Conf. Ltr. 16CL-44.
(c) ComAir7thFlt Secret ltr. serial 00119 dated
25 July 1944.

1. A. Designation and Composition.

Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen - Capt. C.B. JONES, USN

Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen operated from 1 September 1944 through 30 September 1944 in an administrative and operational status as Commander Task Group 73.4 in accordance with CTF-73 (ComAir 7thFlt) Operations Plan 7-44 dated 27 August 1944.

B. Operations Plan No. 7-44 dated 27 August 1944.

1. Commander Task Group 73.4 - Capt. C. B. JONES, USN.

(a) Headquarters Squadron, Fleet Air Wing Seventeen based at Seaplane Repair Base, MANUS from 1 September to 26 September 1944. Operated for maintenance and service of PBV-5 aircraft of Fleet Air Wing Seventeen. Headquarters Squadron departed Seaplane Repair Base, MANUS 26 September 1944 aboard the USS HERON enroute to Seaplane Repair Base, Mios Woendi Lagoon, Schouten Islands, arriving 29 September 1944 for continued duty in maintenance and service to Fleet Air Wing Seventeen aircraft.

(b) Seaplane Base, Woendi - Operated in support of aircraft of Fleet Air Wing Seventeen effecting minor repairs and checks to operating aircraft. Base for Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen and Staff from 9 September through 30 September 1944. Base for Fleet Air Wing Seventeen, Headquarters Squadron from 29 September through 30 September 1944.

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN



A12-1/(05-cn)
Serial: 0027

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 August 1944 through 31 August 1944.

Fleet Air Wing Seventeen administration based at Sea-plane Repair Base on Los Negros Island, Admiralty Islands during August 1944.

6. Ordnance Expended.

Ordnance expended by Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED ONE and Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED FORTY SIX listed below. Ordnance expenditures for Patrol Squadrons for month of August not determined.

Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED ONE ordnance expended:

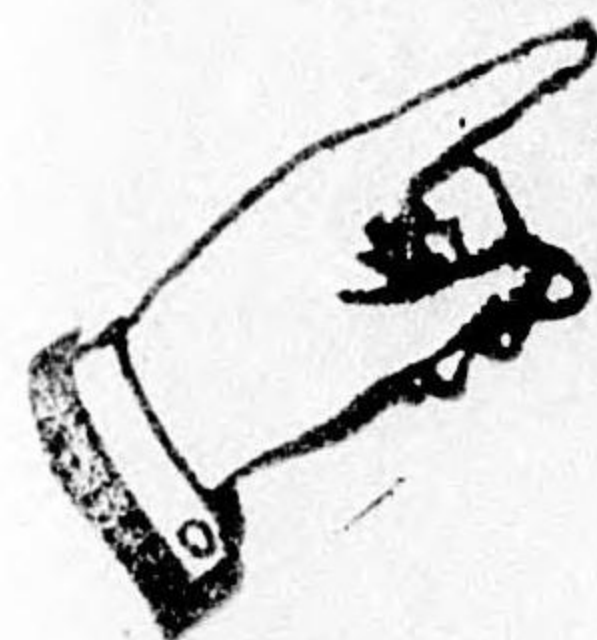
52,500 rounds .50 calibre ammunition.
145 AN MK-30 100 pound GP bombs.
87 AN MK-57 250 pound GP bombs.

Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED FORTY SIX ordnance expended:

21,000 rounds .50 calibre ammunition.
202 three-inch aircraft rockets.

C. B. JONES.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(05-en)
Serial: 0027

1 - SEP 1944

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 August 1944 through 31 August 1944.

- K. Patrol Squadron THIRTY FOUR - Based aboard USS ORCA at Mios Woendi Lagoon from 1 August 1944 to 21 August 1944 inclusive. Operated from USS ORCA based at Middleburg Island, Dutch New Guinea from 22 August 1944 through 31 August 1944. Patrol Squadron THIRTY FOUR conducted night search and attack missions during entire month of August with good results.
- L. Patrol Squadron FIFTY TWO - Based aboard USS WRIGHT from 1 August 1944 through 3 August 1944 and based aboard USS TANGIER from 4 August 1944 through 31 August 1944. Patrol Squadron FIFTY TWO conducted air-sea rescue missions during month of August.
- M. Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIFTEEN - Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIFTEEN (TU 73.3.2) conducted searches from OWI Island in the Schouten Group from 1 August 1944 through 31 August 1944. From 1 August through 18 August four daily sector searches were flown ranging from 750 to 800 miles radius. Attacks were frequently made on small enemy shipping and shore installations with good results. From 18 August through 31 August 1944 VB-115 conducted five daily searches of 750 to 800 miles radius. Attacks made with good results and on various occasions planes were attacked by enemy fighters but received minor damage and no personnel casualties.
3. Designation of Next Higher Echelon of Command.
Commander Task Force SEVENTY THREE (Commander Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET) - Rear Admiral F. D. WAGNER, U.S. Navy.
4. Identifying Order as Task Group or Unit Commander.
Commander Task Force 73 (ComAir7thFlt) Operations Plan No. 5-44 dated 20 July 1944 and Commander Task Force 73 (ComAir7thFlt) Operations Plan No. 7-44 dated 27 August 1944.
5. Daily Position.

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(05-on)
Serial: 0027

1 - SEP 1944

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 August 1944 through 31 August 1944.

Seeadler Harbor with 2 Mackay Barges in tow at 0730K, 15 August 1944 for Mios Woendi Lagoon. Arrived Mios Woendi Lagoon 18 August 1944 and began operation in support of anti-submarine patrols conducted by Patrol Squadron ELEVEN through 31 August 1944.

- D. PATSU ONE-THREE - Based at OWI Island in Schouten Islands and operated in support of Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIFTEEN for purposes of maintenance, quarters and messing.
- E. PATSU ONE-TWELVE - Based aboard USS WRIGHT and at Seaplane Repair Base, Manus for maintenance of PBV-5 aircraft.
- F. PATSU SEVENTEEN-ONE - Based at Seaplane Repair Base, Woendi for maintenance and service of PBV-5 aircraft at Woendi.
- G. PATSU SEVENTEEN-TWO - Based at Seaplane Repair Base, Manus for maintenance and service of PBV-5 aircraft at Manus.
- H. PATSU SEVENTEEN-THREE-ONE - Based on USS TANGIER for maintenance and service of operating aircraft.
- I. PATSU SEVENTEEN-THREE-THREE - Based on USS ORCA for maintenance and service of aircraft of Patrol Squadron THIRTY FOUR conducting night operations.
- J. PATROL Squadron ELEVEN - From 1 August 1944 to 10 August 1944 administration based at Samarai, New Guinea with part of squadron operated from USS WRIGHT conducting air-sea rescue and anti-submarine patrol until 4 August 1944. Upon departure of USS WRIGHT three planes moved to and based aboard USS ORCA for conducting anti-submarine patrol. Remainder of squadron based at Seaplane Repair Base, Woendi, and began night search and attack patrols on 6 August 1944. On 21 August 1944 began conducting night operations missions from USS ORCA. Moved aboard USS HALF MOON for night operations from 26 August 1944 through 31 August 1944. Part of Patrol Squadron ELEVEN based at Seaplane Repair Base, Woendi.

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(05-on)
Serial: 0027

1 - SEP 1944

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 August 1944 through 31 August 1944.

undergoing minor repairs and checks at Mios,
Woendi Lagoon.

2. Additional Units of Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET under Com-
mander Fleet Air Wing SEVENTEEN for purposes of admini-
stration.
 - A. USS WRIGHT - From 1 August 1944 through 4 August
1944 based at Mios Woendi Lagoon and engaged in
supporting operations of Patrol Squadron FIFTY TWO
conducting air-sea rescue missions. Departed Mios
Woendi Lagoon 0900K, 4 August 1944 under instruc-
tions of Commander Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET to pro-
ceed to Palm Island, Queensland, Australia via
Humboldt Bay, New Guinea for delivery of supplies,
material and personnel from Palm Island, Australia,
Samarai, New Guinea and Finschafen, New Guinea to
Commander Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET (Logistics Section),
Los Negros, Admiralty Islands. Arrived Humboldt Bay
0600, 5 August 1944. Arrived Palm Island, Australia
0730K, 10 August 1944. Departed Palm Island for
Samarai 2130K, 10 August 1944 with 42 aircraft engines
aboard. Arrived Samarai 1615K, 12 August 1944.
Arrived Seeadler Harbor 1500K, 20 August 1944. Un-
loaded cargo for Commander Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET
(Logistics Section) and Commander Fleet Air Wing
SEVENTEEN at Manus Island and proceeded south to
Brisbane, Australia for ship repairs and recreation
for crew and remained through 31 August 1944.
 - B. USS ORCA - Based at Mios Woendi Lagoon from 1 August
1944 through 21 August 1944 as base for Patrol Squad-
ron THIRTY FOUR aircraft conducting night search and
attack operations. Departed Mios Woendi 1000K, 21
August 1944 and arrived Middleburg Island 22 August
1944. Continued support of and as base for Patrol
Squadron THIRTY FOUR conducting night missions through
31 August 1944.
 - C. USS SAN PABLO - Based at Seeadler Harbor, Manus from
1 August 1944 through 14 August 1944. Departed

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(05-on)
Serial: 0027

1 - SEP 1944

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 August 1944 through 31 August 1944.

- (b) Headquarters Squadron, Fleet Air Wing Seventeen - Based at Seaplane Repair Base, Manus. Operated for maintenance and service of PBV-5 aircraft of Fleet Air Wing Seventeen.
- (c) PBV-5 aircraft at Samarai for repairs - Various units undergoing minor repairs while NAF, Samarai underwent dis-establishment.
- (d) 5 AVRs - Two based and operated NAF, Samarai. One based and operated Seaplane Repair Base, Manus in support of operating aircraft. Two based and operated NAF, Palm Island, Queensland, Australia until evacuation of Fleet Air Wing Seventeen Facility.
- (e) LCT-169 - Based and operated in support of NAF, Samarai.
- (f) LCT-254 - Based and operated in support of NAF, Palm Island until facility was evacuated.

C. Operations Plan No. 7-44 dated 27 August 1944.

1. Commander Task Group 73.4 - Capt. C.B. JONES, USN.

- (a) Headquarters Squadron, Fleet Air Wing Seventeen - Based at Seaplane Repair Base, Manus and operated in support of PBV-5 aircraft for maintenance and service.
- (b) Seaplane Base, Wcendi - Under construction and operated in support of aircraft of Fleet Air Wing Seventeen effecting minor repairs. Base for Patrol Squadron ELEVEN administration and aircraft undergoing repairs and in standby status.
- (c) Patrol planes present - Planes of Patrol Squadron THIRTY FOUR and Patrol Squadron ELEVEN from 27 August 1944 through 31 August 1944 not in actual night operations and while

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(05-on)
Serial: 0027

1 - SEP 1944

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 August 1944 through 31 August 1944.

operational control of CTU 73.3.1 engaged in air-sea rescue operations.

(b) Commander Task Unit 73.3.2 - Cdr. J.A. MILLER, USN.

- (1) 12 PB4Y aircraft - Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED ONE based at Mokerang, Los Negros Island from 1 August 1944 through 18 August 1944 and conducted daily long-range searches, sectors ranging from 800 to 1000 miles. Sector searches produced negative results for most part but frequent bombing and strafing runs were made on Japanese installations in sectors. Beginning 19 August 1944 Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED ONE conducted search missions from OWI in Schouten Islands. From 19 August 1944 through 26 August 1944 search missions were flown from OWI ranging from 250 to 1000 miles. Enemy surface units were sighted during these searches and attacks made resulted in the sinking of various light units. Enemy planes including fighters were sighted on various searches, none of which chose to attack the search planes. There were no plane losses. One aviation ordnanceman first class was killed by a 7.7 mm during an attack which sank an enemy lugger 22 August 1944.

2. Commander Task Group 73.4 - Capt. C.B. JONES, USN.

- (a) Naval Air Facility, Samarai - Undergoing dis-establishment from 1 August 1944 through 26 August 1944 but also effecting minor repairs on aircraft of Fleet Air Wing Seventeen. Stop-over for Fleet Air Wing Seventeen aircraft while in transit to and from Australia for major overhaul. Base for Patrol Squadron ELEVEN from 1 August 1944 to 10 August 1944.

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(05-cn)
Serial: 0027

1 - SEP 1944

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 1 August 1944 through 31 August 1944.

Squadron ONE HUNDRED FORTY SIX flew a total of 244 flights of kinds listed above from 1 August 1944 to 26 August 1944 inclusive.

- (3) USS HALF MOON - From 1 August 1944 enroute from Brisbane, Australia to Palm Island, Queensland, Australia arriving 1630K, 4 August 1944. Proceeded Samarai Island, New Guinea from Palm Island, Queensland, Australia. Departed Samarai, New Guinea 1200K, 10 August 1944 with barge in tow. USS HALF MOON staged through Seeadler Harbor and Woendi Lagoon enroute to Middleburg Island, Dutch New Guinea and began supporting night operations of Patrol Squadron ELEVEN aircraft on 26 August 1944.
- (4) USS HERON - Based at Humboldt Bay, Hollandia, New Guinea in support of transit aircraft and emergency operations of aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET.
- (5) 2 AVRs - Based at Manus Island and operated in support of CTU 73.3.1 aircraft.
- (6) Seaplane Base, Manus Island - Under construction. Base for Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen administration from 1 August 1944 through 26 August 1944. Base for Fleet Air Wing Seventeen Headquarters Squadron administration from 1 August 1944 through 26 August 1944. Base for Patrol Squadron THIRTY THREE administration and aircraft engaged in reconnaissance, anti-submarine patrol and air-sea rescue operations from 1 August 1944 through 26 August 1944. Base for Patrol Squadron ONE HUNDRED ONE administration and Patrol Squadron ONE HUNDRED ONE aircraft under

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12-1/(05-en)
Serial: 0027

1 - SEP 1944

SECRET

From: The Commander Fleet Air Wing SEVENTEEN.
To: The Commander in Chief, UNITED STATES FLEET.
Subject: War Diary - 1 August 1944 through 31 August 1944.
Reference: (a) PacFlt Conf. Ltr. 20CL-44.
(b) PacFlt Conf. Ltr. 16CL-44.

1. A. Designation and Composition.

Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen - Capt. C.B. JONES, USN.

Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen operated from 1 August 1944 through 26 August 1944 inclusive in an administrative and operational status as Commander Task Group 73.3 and Commander Task Unit 73.3.1 in accordance with Commander Task Force 73 (Commander Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET) Operations Plan No. 5-44. From 27 August 1944 through 31 August 1944 Commander Fleet Air Wing SEVENTEEN operated in an administrative and operational status as Commander Task Group 73.4 in accordance with Commander Task Force 73 (Commander Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET) Operations Plan No. 7-44.

B. Operations Plan No. 5-44 dated 20 July 1944.

1. Commander Task Group 73.3 - Capt. C.B. JONES, USN.

(a) Commander Task Unit 73.3.1 - Capt. C.B. JONES, USN.

- (1) 19 PBY-5 aircraft - Patrol Squadron THIRTY THREE and aircraft of Patrol Squadron ONE HUNDRED ONE based at Manus engaged in reconnaissance, anti-submarine patrol and air-sea rescue from 1 August 1944 through 26 August 1944.
- (2) 14 PV-1 aircraft - Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED FORTY SIX based at Pityilu Island and carried out daily sector searches, training flights consisting of aircraft rocket runs and night landings. Bombing

A12/(05-on)
Serial: 0023

SECRET

From: The Commander Fleet Air Wing SEVENTEEN.
To: The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.

Subject: War Diary - 3 July 1944 to 31 July 1944.

Reference: (a) Pacific Fleet Conf. Ltr. 2CL-44.
(b) Pacific Fleet Conf. Ltr. 16CL-44.

1. A. Designation and Composition.

Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen - Capt. C.B. JONES, USN

On 3 July 1944 Capt. C. B. JONES, USN, relieved Commodore Thos. S. COMBS, USN, as Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen and operated through 20 July 1944 as Commander Task Group 73.4 in an administrative and maintenance status in accordance with CTF-73 (ComAir7thFlt) Operation Plan 4-44. From 20 July 1944 Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen operated in an administrative and operational status as CTG 73.3, CTU 73.3.1 and CTG 73.4 in accordance with CTF-73 (ComAir7thFlt) Operation Plan 5-44.

B. Operation Plan 4-44.

1. Task Group 73.4 - Capt. C. B. JONES, USN.

(a) Naval Air Facility, Samarai, New Guinea -

Base for CTG 73.4 (Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen) administration. Base for maintenance, service and repair of PBV-5 aircraft of Fleet Air Wing Seventeen. Base for Fleet Air Wing Seventeen Headquarters Squadron administration and for Patrol Squadron ELEVEN administration from 19 July 1944.

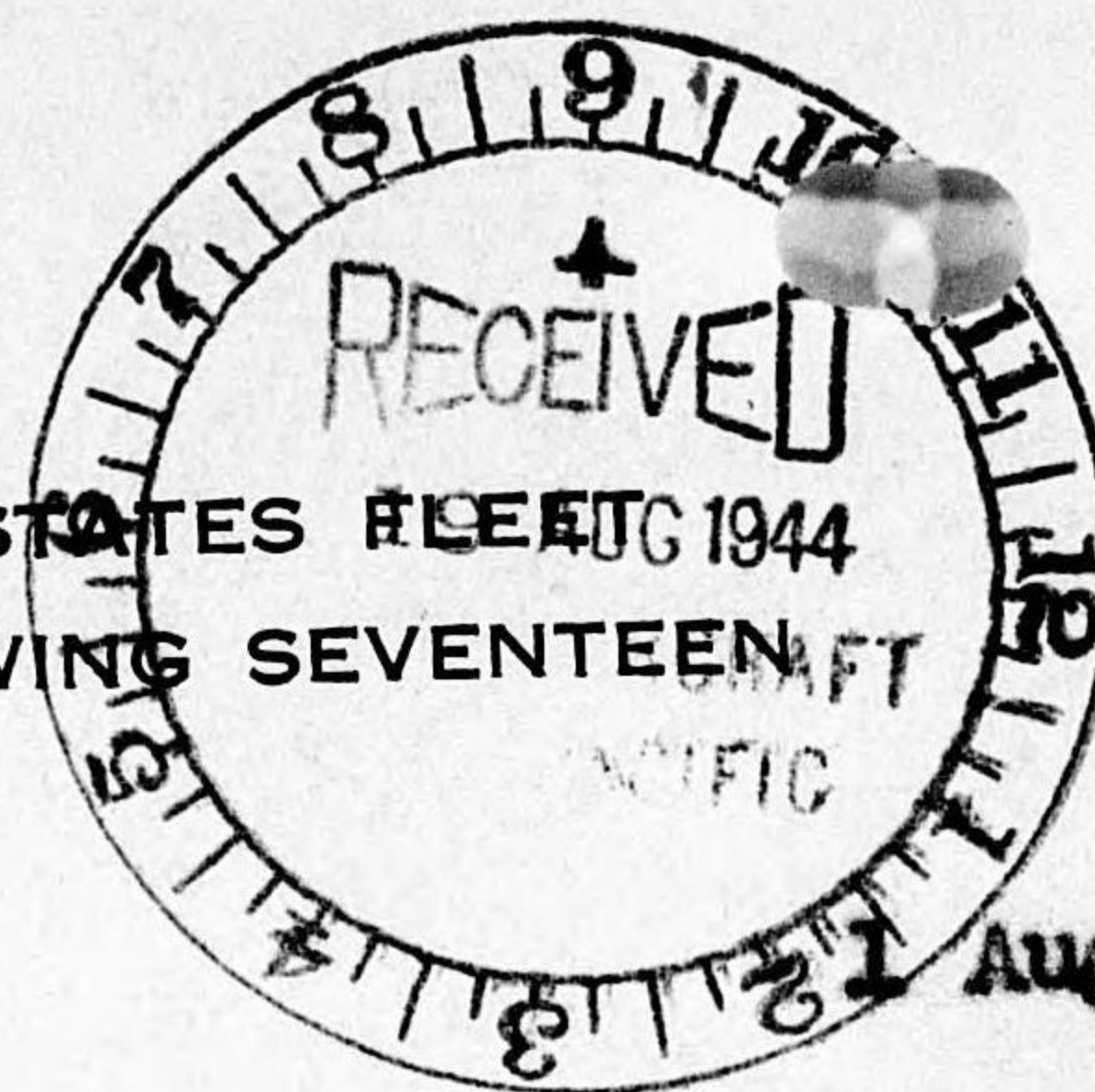
(b) Naval Air Facility, Manus -

Under construction.

(c) Naval Air Facility, Biak Island -

Under construction.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12/(05-cn)
Serial: 0023

1 August 1944.

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 3 July 1944 to 31 July 1944.

(d) Fleet Air Wing Seventeen units and aircraft
at Samarai -

Lct-169 (supply and transportation).
Fleet Air Wing Seventeen aircraft undergoing
repairs.
Three AVRS based and operated.

(e) LCT-169 -

Based at Samarai and operated for supply and
transportation in support of NAF, Samarai,
New Guinea.

(f) LCT-254 -

Based at NAF, Palm Island, Australia and
operated for supply and dis-assembly
of NAF, Palm Island.

(g) Five AVRS -

Three based and operated at NAF, Samarai,
New Guinea. Two based and operated at NAF,
Palm Island, Australia.

(h) USS HERON -

Operated in the movement of materials and
supplies for Fleet Air Wing Seventeen acti-
vities and participated in aircraft opera-
tions from Humboldt Bay and Woendi Island.

C. Operation Plan 5-44 (dated 20 July 1944).

1. Commander Task Group 73.3 - Capt. C. B. JONES, USN.

(a) CTU 73.3.1 - Capt. C. B. JONES, USN.

(1) 19 PBV-5 aircraft - Patrol Squadron
THIRTY THREE and aircraft of Patrol
Squadron ONE HUNDRED ONE based at Manus,
engaged in reconnaissance, anti-submarine

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12/(05-on)
Serial: 0023

1 August 1944.

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 3 July 1944 to 31 July 1944.

patrol and air-sea rescue. Patrol Squadron THIRTY THREE flew 31 Individual operational flights and Patrol Squadron ONE HUNDRED ONE flew 11 rescue missions from Seeadler Harbor during the period from 20 July 1944 to 31 July 1944 inclusive.

- (2) 14 PV-1 aircraft - Based at Pityilu Island and carried out daily sector searches and anti-submarine barrier patrol. The squadron flew a total of 100 flights from 20 July 1944 through 31 July 1944.
- (3) USS HALF MOON -
Based at Brisbane, Australia for repairs and recreation for the crew.
- (4) USS HERON -
Based at Humboldt Bay and Woendi Island and engaged in the operation of PBV-5 aircraft of Fleet Air Wing Seventeen.
- (5) Two AVRs -
Based at Manus Island and operated in connection with CTU 73.3.1 operations.
- (6) Seaplane Base, Manus Island -
Under construction. Base for Fleet Air Wing Seventeen administration from 24 July 1944. Base for Fleet Air Wing Seventeen Headquarters Squadron administration from 27 July 1944. Base for Patrol Squadron THIRTY THREE administration and aircraft from 29 July 1944. Base for Patrol Squadron ONE HUNDRED ONE administration and Patrol Squadron ONE HUNDRED ONE planes under operational control of CTU 73.3.1 from 29 July 1944.

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12/(05-on)
Serial: 0023

1 August 1944.

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 3 July 1944 to 31 July 1944.

(b) CTU 73.3.2 - Commander J. A. MILLER, USN.

Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED ONE based at Los Negros Island flew a total of 60 reconnaissance and bombing missions from 20 July 1944 through 31 July 1944 without losses in personnel or planes.

2. Commander Task Group 73.4 - Capt. C. B. JONES, USN.

(a) Naval Air Facility, Samarai, New Guinea -

Base for CTG 73.4 (Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen) administration until 24 July 1944 and for Headquarters Squadron until 27 July 1944. Base for Patrol Squadron ELEVEN and was operated as service, maintenance and repair base for Fleet Air Wing Seventeen aircraft. Base for LCT-169 and three AVRs.

(b) Headquarters Squadron, Fleet Air Wing Seventeen -

Based at Samarai, New Guinea until 24 July 1944 at which time it was transferred to Manus Island. Operated for the maintenance and service of PBV-5 aircraft of Fleet Air Wing Seventeen.

(c) PBV-5 Aircraft at Samarai for Repairs -

PBV-5 aircraft from Fleet Air Wing Seventeen undergoing maintenance and repairs.

(d) AVRs -

Three based and operated at NAF, Samarai, New Guinea. Two based and operated at NAF, Palm Island, Australia.

(e) LCT-169 -

Based and operated in support of NAF, Samarai, New Guinea.

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12/(05-on)
Serial: 0023

1 August 1944.

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 3 July 1944 to 31 July 1944.

(f) LCT-254 -

Based and operated at NAF, Palm Island,
Australia.

2. Designation of Next Higher Echelon of Command.
Commander Task Force 73 -
(Commander Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET)
Rear Admiral F. D. WAGNER, U.S. Navy.
3. Identifying Order as Task Group or Unit Commander.
Commander Task Force 73 (Commander Aircraft, SEVENTH
FLEET) Operation Plan 4-44, and Commander Task Force
73 (Commander Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET) Operation
Plan 5-44.
4. Daily Position.
Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen administration
was based at NAF, Samarai, New Guinea, from 3 July
1944 until 24 July 1944, at which time it departed
NAF, Samarai, arriving Manus Island on 27 July 1944.
5. Additional Units and Activities under Commander
Fleet Air Wing Seventeen for Purposes of Administration.
 - A. Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED ONE -
Based at Los Negros Island; carried out reconnais-
sance and bombing missions from 3 July 1944 until
20 July 1944.
 - B. Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIFTEEN -
Based at Biak Island, carrying out daylight offen-
sive reconnaissance and day and night bombing
missions.

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12/(05-on)
Serial: 0023

1 August 1944.

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 3 July 1944 to 31 July 1944.

C. Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED FORTY SIX -

Based at Pityilu Island, operating anti-submarine reconnaissance missions from 3 July 1944 until 20 July 1944. The squadron flew a total of 130 flights during this period.

D. Patrol Squadron ELEVEN -

Administration based at Samarai from 19 July 1944 and maintained operational planes at Woendi Island from 21 July 1944.

E. Patrol Squadron THIRTY THREE -

Carried out air-sea rescue in Biak Area and west of Biak area. Based aboard USS WRIGHT in Humboldt Bay from 3 July through 18 July 1944. Two-day period of 19 and 20 July 1944 carried out day searches based aboard USS TANGIER in Seeadler Harbor.

F. Patrol Squadron THIRTY FOUR -

Carried out day searches based aboard USS TANGIER in Seeadler Harbor from 3 July 1944 through 17 July 1944. From 18 July 1944 through 31 July 1944 inclusive, carried out night attack missions based aboard USS ORCA at Woendi Island.

G. Patrol Squadron FIFTY TWO -

Carried out night armed reconnaissance missions from 3 July 1944 to 16 July 1944 based aboard USS ORCA in Humboldt Bay. Carried out air-sea rescue missions based aboard USS WRIGHT at Woendi Island from 17 July 1944 through 31 July 1944.

H. Patrol Squadron ONE HUNDRED ONE -

Administration based at NAF, Samarai, New Guinea and maintained planes aboard USS TANGIER at Seeadler Harbor, NAF Samarai, and in Northern Solomons area conducting rescue missions.

I. USS TANGIER -

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12/(05-on)
Serial: 0023

1 August 1944.

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 3 July 1944 to 31 July 1944.

Flagship of Commander Task Force SEVENTY THREE
(Commander Aircraft, SEVENTH FLEET) based at
Seeadler Harbor.

J. USS WRIGHT -

Operated PBY-5 aircraft from Humboldt Bay and
Woendi Island.

K. USS SAN PABLO -

Based at Sydney, Australia for repairs and recrea-
tion for the crew and used for transportation of
units of Fleet Air Wing Seventeen.

L. USS HALF MOON -

Based in Humboldt Bay for operations of PBY-5 air-
craft and part time in Brisbane, Australia for
necessary repairs and recreation for the crew.

M. Naval Air Facility, Palm Island, Australia -

Undergoing decommissioning.

N. PATSU 1-2 -

Based on Los Negros Island and Biak Island for
maintenance of Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED ONE
and Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIFTEEN.

O. PATSU 1-8 -

Maintenance unit for Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED
FORTY SIX based at Pityilu Island.

P. PATSU 1-12 -

Based aboard USS WRIGHT, USS TANGIER and Seaplane
Base, Manus for maintenance of PBY-5 aircraft.

UNITED STATES FLEET
FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12/(05-on)
Serial: 0023

1 August 1944.

SECRET

Subject: War Diary - 3 July 1944 to 31 July 1944.

6. Important Orders Received.

The movement of Commander Fleet Air Wing Seventeen administration from NAF, Samarai, New Guinea to Naval Seaplane Base, Manus Island.

7. Ordnance Expended.

<u>Ordnance</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Expended</u>
Ammunition	.50 caliber	13,500 rounds
Bombs, 100 lb.	AN MK-30	122
Bombs, 250 lb.	AN MK-57	18
Bombs, 500 lb.	AN MK-64 TNT	8
Frag Clusters, 120 lb.	1A1	7
Fuses	AN MK-103	70
Fuses	AN MK-113	5
Fuses	AN MK-112	88
Primer Detonators	MK-16	148
Float Lights	MK-4	140

C. B. JONES.

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26 MAR 1944

A12/en
Serial: (0019)

- 10 -

SECRETSubject: War Diary of Task Group 73.1 from 2400 (LCT)
29 February 1944 to 1200 (LCT), 25 March 1944.

7. Ordnance Material Expended:

	<u>NUMBER</u>	
<u>Bombs -</u>		
1000 lb. GP	32	
500 lb. GP	38	
20 lb. fragmentation	<u>191</u>	Total -- 54,820 lbs.
<u>Ammunition -</u>		
50 caliber	10,550	
30 caliber	<u>1,500</u>	Total -- 12,050 rds.
<u>Smoke lights</u>	53	
<u>Torpedoes</u>	NONE	
<u>Guns jettisoned -</u>		
50 caliber	2	
30 caliber	2	

E. R. PECK.

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FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

26 MAR 1944

A12/on
Serial: (0019)

SECRET

Subject: War Diary of Task Group 73.1 from 2400 (LCT),
29 February 1944 to 1200 (LCT), 25 March 1944.

- (3) USS HERON - USS HERON was enroute Mackay, Queensland, Australia to Palm Island, Australia at the beginning of the month to salvage plane no. 69 of VP Squadron 34. Salvage operations, though delayed due to bad weather and choppy sea, were completed on 4 March 1944. The USS HERON got underway 5 March 1944 for Mackay, Queensland, Australia and arrived late in the evening 6 March 1944, where she continued to test barges. The HERON got underway 21 March 1944 for Samarai, New Guinea with barge under tow, arriving Samarai 25 March 1944.

(c) Naval Air Facilities -

- (1) Naval Air Facility, Palm Island, Australia was the base for Headquarters Squadron, Fleet Air Wing SEVENTEEN and acted as major overhaul base for the Wing.
- (2) Naval Air Facility, Samarai, New Guinea was operations base for Fleet Air Wing SEVENTEEN and carried out minor repair work.
- (3) Naval Air Facility, Namoi Bay, New Guinea was used as an auxiliary base to accommodate excess personnel from NAF, Samarai.

5. (a) Important Orders Received or Issued.

Commander Aircraft SEVENTH FLEET Operational Plan 1-44, effective 1200 (LCT), 25 March 1944.

(b) Important Decisions Reached.

None.

6. Important Material Received.

- (a) VP Squadron 52 received the following PBV-5's: Bureau Nos. 08383, 08311, and 08380 from VP Squadron 71.

FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12/cn
Serial: (0019)

26 MAR 1944

SECRET

Subject:

War Diary of Task Group 73.1 from 2400 (LCT),
29 February 1944 to 1200 (LCT), 25 March 1944.

- | | | |
|-----------|--|-------------------------------|
| 16 Mar 44 | (a) Six barges heavily strafed at Muschu Island with 1400 rds. of 50 caliber M/G | Barges seriously damaged |
| | (b) Barge type ship strafed off Seleo Island | Unobserved |
| | (c) Ammunition or fuel dump hit on shore at Tadji with two 500 lb. and two 1000 lb. GP bombs | Fires visible for sixty miles |

Many night patrols were carried out by the Catalinas of this squadron to search for enemy task forces that might be jeopardizing our forces which had recently landed on the Admiralty Islands. While carrying out these missions it was impossible to search and attack enemy shipping along the north coast of New Guinea.

(b) Seaplane Tenders -

- (1) USS SAN PABLO - USS SAN PABLO was at Namoi Bay, New Guinea on 1 March 1944, and having leaky fuel tanks was ordered to Milne Bay, New Guinea where she spent the next twelve days. On 12 March the SAN PABLO got underway and conducted radar and sound training exercises in company with USS DACE and USS S. FLOUNDER, returning to Milne Bay the same day. On 20 March the SAN PABLO went to Samarai, New Guinea to pick up and transport torpedoes and personnel to Seeadler Harbor, Admiralty Islands, making the passage there via Milne Bay, Buna, and Langemak Bay, arriving at Seeadler on 24 March and remaining there through 25 March 1944.
- (2) USS HALF MOON - USS HALF MOON was the advanced tender in Langemak Bay, New Guinea for the entire month. She tended planes of VP Squadron 34 which were engaged in air-sea rescue missions and of VP Squadron 33 which were engaged in armed night reconnaissance. Many red alerts occurred during the month but the HALF MOON experienced no damage nor casualties.

FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

26 MAR 1944

AL2/en
Serial: (0019)

SECRET

Subject: War Diary of Task Group 73.1 from 2400 (LCT),
29 February 1944 to 1200 (LCT), 25 March 1944.

	(b) One 500 lb. and two 1000 lb. GP bombs dropped on beached AK (500-1000 tons) and two barges in Humboldt Bay; one near miss	Probable damage
	(c) Ten frags dropped on Hollandia Peninsula	Silenced Anti-aircraft position
11 Mar 44	(a) Attacked two PC's in Humboldt Bay	Plane missing
	(b) Two 500 lb. and two 1000 lb. GP bombs dropped on unidentified AK	Unobserved
12 Mar 44	(a) Strafed three AK's (500-1000 tons) with 1500 rds. of 50 caliber M/G	Two on fire and sinking; third on reef (all abandoned)
	(b) Two 500 lb. and two 1000 lb. bombs with daisy cutters dropped on Muschu Island	Unobserved
	(c) Strafed two fishing boats off Vanimo	Unobserved
13 Mar 44	(a) Two 500 lb. and two 1000 lb. GP bombs and 29 frags dropped on several barges at Muschu Island	Four barges destroyed
	(b) Strafed one small ship off mouth of Sepik River	Unobserved
14 Mar 44	(a) Attacked 19 barges off Kairiru Island, Muschu Island and New Guinea coast with four 500 lb. GP bombs and 11 frags; strafed with 1600 rds. of 50 cal. and 400 rds. of 30 cal. M/G	One sunk, six severely damaged; remainder possibly damaged
	(b) Two 500 lb. and two 1000 lb. GP bombs dropped on Muschu Island	Unobserved
15 Mar 44	(a) One AK (2000-4500 tons) hit with one 500 lb. and one 1000 lb. GP bombs	Ship seriously damaged
	(b) One AK (2000-4500 tons) hit with one 500 lb. GP bomb	Damaged

FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12/cn
Serial: (0019)

26 MAR 1944

SECRET

Subject:

War Diary of Task Group 73.1 from 2400 (LCT),
29 February 1944 to 1200 (LCT), 25 March 1944.

- 7 Mar 44 (a) Two 500 lb. and two 1000 lb. GP bombs were dropped on three AK's (500-1000 tons) towing barges Missed
- 8 Mar 44 (a) Strafed six barges and one small fishing vessel off Lindenhafen Plantation with 1000 rds. of 50 caliber M/G Two barges sunk, three severely damaged; remainder slightly damaged
(b) Two 500 lb. and two 1000 lb. GP bombs were dropped on two AK's (1500-2500 tons), one AK (2000-4500 tons), and two sea trucks Near miss damaged one ship; later beached
(c) 25 frags were dropped on Muschu Island barracks area Unobserved
(d) One 500 lb. GP bomb dropped on AK (1000-1500 tons) off Tadjji Destroyed (down at stern, abandoned)
- 9 Mar 44 (a) Two large barges strafed with 450 rds. of 50 caliber M/G off of Rondahl Harbor Both damaged
(b) One 1000 lb. GP bomb dropped on AK (1500-2500 tons) in Humboldt Bay Sunk immediately
(c) 20 frags dropped and strafed tugboat with 500 rds. of 50 cal. M/G in Humboldt Bay Tugboat beached; 3 lifeboats sunk
(d) 9 frags dropped on Hollandia Peninsula Unobserved
(e) Two 500 lb. and two 1000 lb. GP bombs dropped on AK (2000-4500 tons) in Humboldt Bay. Two sure hits and one probable. Destroyed
- 10 Mar 44 (a) Strafed four 49-ft. barges at Rondahl Harbor and four 49-ft. barges at Cape Jacquinot with 1600 rds. of 50 and 100 rds. of 30 caliber M/G One destroyed, two badly damaged

FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12/cn
Serial: (0019)

26 MAR 1944

SECRET

Subject: War Diary of Task Group 73.1 from 2400 (LCT),
29 February 1944 to 1200 (LCT), 25 March 1944.

18 March 1944 - Lt. J.F. Merritt landed at sea ten miles northwest of Hansa Bay, New Guinea and rescued the pilot of an Army P-47.

20 March 1944 - Lt. (jg) L.M. Bates, Jr. landed at sea fifty miles northeast of Tadjil, New Guinea and rescued one member of the crew of an Army A-20, which had crashed.

25 March 1944 - Lt. J.F. Merritt landed off Iboki plantation, New Britain and embarked a wounded U.S. Naval officer.

In addition to the air-sea rescue missions many special missions were conducted, such as landing radar technicians and other Allied personnel on the various islands of the Admiralties.

The radar counter-measures plane which had been operated by this squadron was discontinued 16 March 1944.

- (3) VP Squadron 33 - This squadron was engaged in carrying out armed night reconnaissance patrols in the Bismarck Sea along the coasts of New Britain and New Guinea. The following is a list of contacts made with the enemy in these operations:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Results</u>
2 Mar 44	(a) 37 frags were dropped on Three Daughters Islands on shore batteries	Unobserved
5 Mar 44	(a) Two 500 lb. and two 1000 lb. bombs were dropped on AK (5500-8500 tons)	Unobserved
	(b) 30 frags were dropped on Sissano Peninsula area	Unobserved
	(c) Strafed seven barges off Cape Hoskins with 900 rds. of 50 cal. and 100 rds. of 30 caliber M/G	One barge ran on reef, two sunk, rest severely damaged
6 Mar 44	(a) Strafed one barge off Cape Hoskins with 500 rds. of 50 caliber M/G	Unobserved

26 MAR 1944

Al2/en
Serial: (0019)

SECRET

Subject: War Diary of Task Group 73.1 from 2400 (LCT),
29 February 1944 to 1200 (LCT), 25 March 1944.

- (1) VP Squadron 52 - This squadron was engaged in training and rest with the exception of flights involving transfer of three planes from VP-52 to VP-101, and the delivery of three of 101's planes to VP-71 at Tulagi, Solomon Islands. Three planes from VP-71 were transferred to VP-52.
- (2) VP Squadron 34 - This squadron's activities consisted of air-sea rescue work, general utility flights, and special missions. The outstanding missions of the above mentioned type are listed in the following chronological order:

9 March 1944 - Lt-Cdr. T.A. Christopher landed at Talasea, New Britain late in the evening about one mile from Japanese lines and embarked fourteen wounded Marines to Langemak Bay for hospitalization. The takeoff was made at night in the open sea.

11 March 1944 - Lt-Cdr. T.A. Christopher landed near Wakeo Island (Schouten group) and rescued one officer and four men of the crew of a PT boat (No. 337) which was lost in action at Hansa Bay, New Guinea on 6 March 1944.

13 March 1944 - Lt. E.J. Fisher landed at sea off Alexishafen, New Guinea and rescued the crew of an Army A-20 which had been shot down by enemy anti-aircraft fire.

15 March 1944 - Lt-Cdr. T. A. Christopher and Lt. J.F. Merritt made a pre-dawn takeoff from Langemak Bay with six Army personnel and one native and landed them at Wuvulu (Maty Island) before dawn; then they proceeded to Hyane Harbor (Admiralty Islands). After refueling they took off in the afternoon and landed at Wuvulu after dark, re-embarking personnel and landing in Langemak Bay.

15 March 1944 - Lt. H.L. Dennison landed at sea near Kairiru Island and rescued a P-38 pilot shot down by enemy aircraft.

FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12/cn
Serial: (0019)

26 MAR 1944

SECRET

Subject: War Diary of Task Group 73.1 from 2400 (LCT),
29 February 1944 to 1200 (LCT), 25 March 1944.

- (3) USS HERON - USS HERON was enroute Mackay, Queensland, Australia to Palm Island, Australia at 2400 (LCT), 29 February 1944. 0800 position, 1 March: 18° 57.5' S, 146° 57' E. Anchored at Palm Island, Australia at 1045 (LCT), 1 March 1944. Underway at 1500 (LCT), 5 March 1944 for Mackay, Queensland, Australia. 2000 position: 19° 05' S, 147° 10' E. 0800 position, 6 March 1944: 20° 00' S, 148° 41' E. 1200 position: 20° 35' S, 149° 02' E. Anchored at Mackay, Queensland, Australia at 1832 (LCT), 6 March 1944. Underway at 0900 (LCT), 21 March 1944 for Samarai, New Guinea. 1200 position: 20° 54' S, 149° 17' E. 2000 position: 19° 57' S, 148° 38' E. 0800 position, 22 March 1944: 19° 01' S, 147° 08' E. 1200 position: 18° 34' S, 146° 42' E. 2000 position: 17° 32' S, 146° 12' E. 0800 position, 23 March 1944: 15° 55.5' S, 146° 37' E. 1200 position: 15° 25' S, 146° 50' E. 2000 position: 14° 33' S, 147° 10' E. 0800 position, 24 March 1944: 13° 18' S, 148° 24' E. 1200 position: 12° 56' S, 148° 45' E. 2000 position: 12° 10' S, 149° 15' E. 0800 position, 25 March 1944: 11° 08.3' S, 150° 21.3' E. 1200 position: 10° 39' S, 150° 35' E.

(c) Naval Air Facilities -

- (1) Naval Air Facility, Palm Island, Australia.
Position: 18° 43' S, 146° 36' E.
- (2) Naval Air Facility, Samarai, New Guinea.
Position: 10° 37' S, 150° 40' E.
- (3) Naval Air Facility, Namoai Bay, New Guinea.
Position: 10° 37' S, 150° 44' E.

4. Brief of Daily Operations.

(a) Squadrons -

26 MAR 1944

AL2/cn
Serial: (0019)

SECRET

Subject: War Diary of Task Group 73.1 from 2400 (LCT), 29 February 1944 to 1200 (LCT), 25 March 1944.

-
- (1) VP Squadron 52 - VP-52's daily position was Palm Island, Australia ($18^{\circ} 43' S$, $146^{\circ} 36' E$) from 2400 (LCT), 29 February 1944 to 1200 (LCT), 25 March 1944.
 - (2) VP Squadron 34 - VP-34's daily position was at the advanced tender in Langemak Bay, New Guinea ($06^{\circ} 40' S$, $147^{\circ} 52' E$) from 2400 (LCT), 29 February 1944 to 1200 (LCT), 25 March 1944.
 - (3) VP Squadron 33 - VP-33's daily position was at Samarai, New Guinea ($10^{\circ} 37' S$, $150^{\circ} 40' E$) from 2400 (LCT), 29 February 1944 to 1200 (LCT), 25 March 1944.

(b) Seaplane Tenders -

- (1) USS SAN PABLO - USS SAN PABLO was at Namoi Bay, New Guinea until 0700 (LCT), 1 March 1944 when she got underway for Milne Bay, New Guinea, arriving there alongside the USS DOBBIN at 1140 (LCT), 1 March 1944. The SAN PABLO got underway at 0700 (LCT), 12 March 1944 for the Milne Bay training area (between $150^{\circ} 46'$ and $150^{\circ} 15' E$) returning to the anchorage at 1900 (LCT), 12 March 1944. Underway at 0700 (LCT), 20 March 1944 for Samarai, New Guinea, mooring to the dock there at 0920 (LCT), 20 March 1944. Underway at 1630 (LCT) for Milne Bay, arriving there at 1850 (LCT), 20 March 1944. Underway for Buna, New Guinea at 0600 (LCT), 22 March 1944. Anchored at Buna, New Guinea at 1900 (LCT). Underway for Seeadler Harbor, Admiralty Islands at 0600 (LCT), 23 March 1944. Anchored off Lombrum Point, Seeadler Harbor at 1230 (LCT), 24 March 1944 and remained there until 25 March 1944.
- (2) USS HALF MOON - USS HALF MOON was the advanced tender in Langemak Bay for the entire period from 2400 (LCT), 29 February 1944 until 1200 (LCT), 25 March 1944. Its position was $06^{\circ} 40' S$ and $147^{\circ} 52' E$.

FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

26 MAR 1944

A12/on
Serial: (0019)

SECRET

From: The Commander Task Group SEVENTY THREE POINT ONE.
To: The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Subject: War Diary of Task Group 73.1 from 2400 (LCT), 29 February 1944 to 1200 (LCT), 25 March 1944.
Reference: (a) Cominch & CNO serial 7152 dated 29 October 1943.

1. (a) Designation and Composition.

Commander Task Group 73.1 -- Captain E.R. PECK, USN

(1) Task Unit 73.1.1

VP Squadron 52
VP Squadron 34
VP Squadron 33

(2) Task Unit 73.1.2

USS SAN PABLO
USS HALF MOON
USS HERON

(3) Naval Air Facilities

Naval Air Facility, Palm Island, Australia
Naval Air Facility, Samarai, New Guinea
Naval Air Facility, Namoai Bay, New Guinea

(b) Designation of Next Higher Echelon of Command.

Commander Task Force 73 -- Commodore T.S. COMBS, USN

2. Identifying Order.

Commander Task Force 73 Operations Plan No. 4-43.

3. Daily Position.

Task Group 73.1 operated from 2400 (LCT), 29 February 1944 to 1200 (LCT), 25 March 1944 from Samarai, New Guinea (10° 37' S, 150° 40' E).

(a) Squadrons -

Reg No. 0078

FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12/cn
Serial: (0018)

- 12 -

1 - MAR 1944

SECRET
Subject:

War Diary of Task Group 73.1 from 2400 (LCT), 31
January 1944 to 2400 (LCT), 29 February 1944.

NUMBER

00573

Flares -

MK-5

14

Float lights

65

Torpedoes (torpex heads)

3

Ammunition -

50 caliber

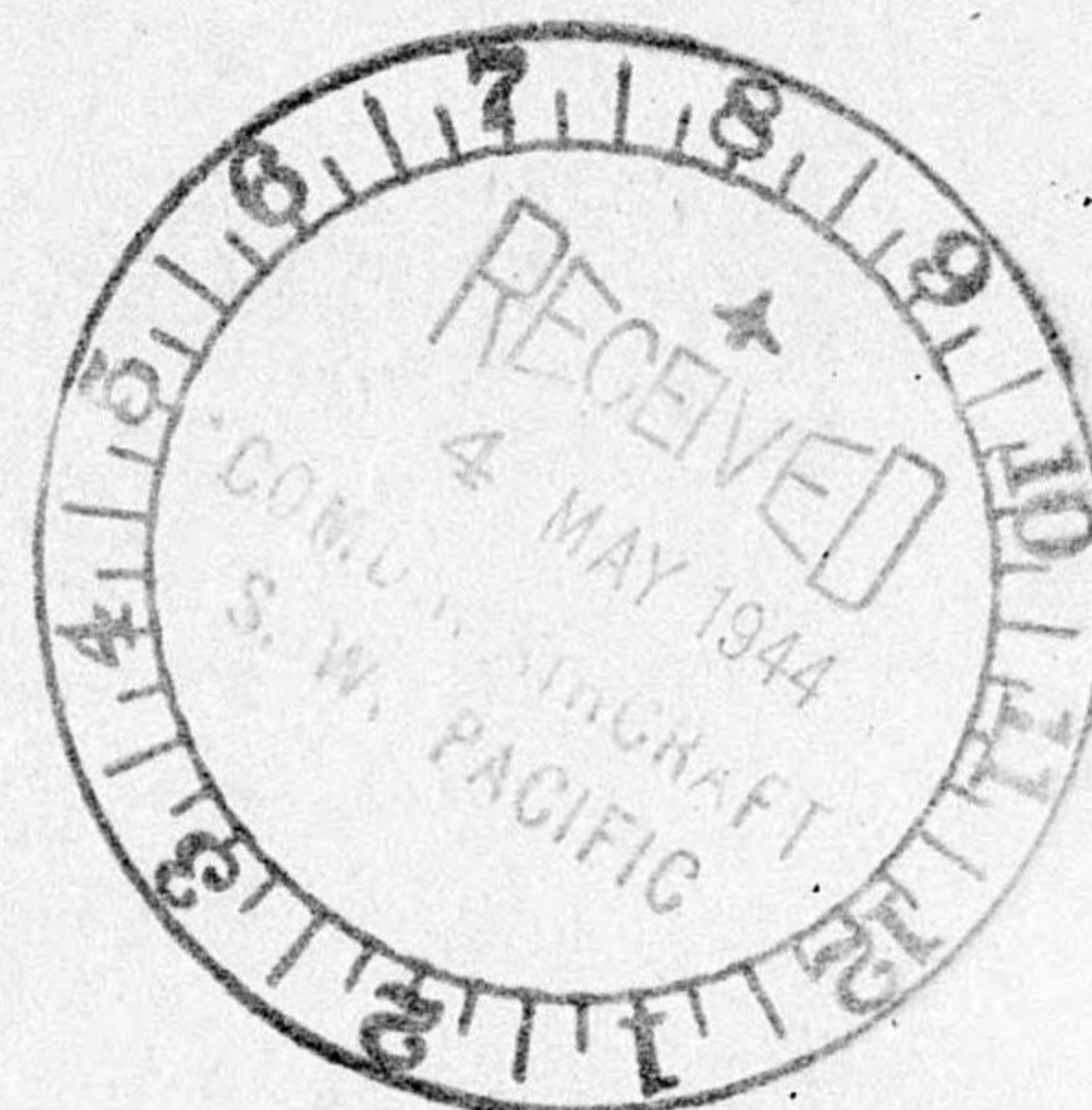
8625

30 caliber

2426

Guns jettisoned

NONE



E. R. PECK.

Copy to:
CTF 73
Com7thFlt



FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12/cn
Serial: (0018)

1 - MAR 1944

SECRET

Subject: War Diary of Task Group 73.1 from 2400 (LCT), 31
January 1944 to 2400 (LCT), 29 February 1944.

(2) Naval Air Facility, Samarai, New Guinea, was operations base for Fleet Air Wing SEVENTEEN and carried out minor repair work.

(3) Naval Air Facility, Namoi Bay, New Guinea, was used as an auxiliary base to accommodate excess personnel from NAF, Samarai.

5. (a) Important Orders Received or Issued.

None.

(b) Important Decisions Reached.

(1) It was decided to transfer VP Squadron 11 to Fleet Air Wing TEN and to have VP Squadron 33 report to Fleet Air Wing SEVENTEEN to replace it.

(2) VP Squadron 52 was to be relieved of air-sea rescue work at the advanced tender in order to report to Palm Island, Australia, on 12 February 1944. This squadron was to be replaced by VP Squadron 34, which was to report for air-sea rescue work on 12 February 1944.

(3) It was decided that the USS HALF MOON would replace the USS SAN PABLO as advanced tender on 24 February 1944.

6. No Important Material was Received During February.

7. Ordnance Material Expended:

	<u>NUMBER</u>
<u>Bombs</u> -	
1000 lb. GP	29
500 lb. GP	47
325 lb. depth charges	3
Fragmentation	253

FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12/cn
Serial: (0018)

1 - MAR 1944

SECRET

Subject: War Diary of Task Group 73.1 from 2400 (LCT), 31
January 1944 to 2400 (LCT), 29 February 1944.

and proceeded after the latter date to Milne Bay for fuel and provisions. Fifty-four red alerts were caused by Japanese planes in the vicinity of Langemak Bay and 19 bombs were dropped, doing no damage to the tender but scoring on other activities nearby. The USS SAN PABLO shot down one enemy aircraft.

- (2) USS HALF MOON was undergoing repairs at Brisbane, Queensland, Australia from 1 February to 14 February. It then proceeded to Palm Island to unload supplies for NAF, Palm Island; then proceeded to NAF, Samarai, discharging cargo there. After fueling and provisioning at Milne Bay and changing aircraft moorings in Namoai Bay, it proceeded to Langemak Bay to relieve the USS SAN PABLO as advanced tender, tending units of VP-34 Squadron.
- (3) USS HERON was undergoing repairs at Brisbane, Queensland, Australia at the beginning of the month, proceeding to Mackay, Queensland, Australia, to test and tow gasoline barges. Departing Mackay 15 February for Daru Island, New Guinea the USS HERON picked up a damaged Catalina at that point and transported it to NAF, Samarai, New Guinea, arriving at Samarai on 22 February 1944. The HERON then returned to Mackay, Queensland, Australia to continue testing gasoline barges; it departed from Mackay for Palm Island on 29 February to salvage a sunken Catalina.

(c) Naval Air Facilities -

- (1) Naval Air Facility, Palm Island, Australia was the base for Headquarters Squadron, Fleet Air Wing SEVENTEEN and acted as major overhaul base for the Wing.

FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12/cn
Serial: (0018)

1 - MAR 1944

SECRET

Subject: War Diary of Task Group 73.1 from 2400 (LCT), 31
January 1944 to 2400 (LCT), 29 February 1944.

month. Much less Japanese shipping was sighted in the Bismarck Sea during the remainder of the month of February, which resulted in a more intense search for barges along the north coast of New Britain and New Guinea. The results of this squadron's activities from 16 February to 29 February are listed as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Results</u>
16 Feb 44	(a) Two PC's, two AK's (500-1000 tons), and one AK (1500-2500 tons) were attacked, obtaining a near miss or a hit on one of the larger AK's with one 500 lb. GP bomb	One of the larger AK's possibly damaged or destroyed; it was sighted two days later on beach near scene of attack
	(b) One large AK (9000 tons) hit with one 500 lb. GP bomb on stern	Damaged
18 Feb 44	(a) Strafed six barges with 1000 rounds of 50 caliber M/G	Unobserved
24 Feb 44	(a) Dropped 21 frags on encampment on west end of Muschu Island	Unobserved
26 Feb 44	(a) Dropped four 500 lb., four 1000 lb., and 66 fragmentation bombs on encampment at Muschu Island	Many hits on buildings in center of the island
27 Feb 44	(a) Dropped 20 frags on Muschu Island and 3 frags on Tendanye Island	Unobserved

(b) Tenders -

(1) USS SAN PABLO was the advanced tender based at Langemak Bay from 1 February to 24 February

FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

AL2/en
Serial: (0018)

1 - MAR 1944

SECRET
Subject:

War Diary of Task Group 73.1 from 2400 (LST), 31
January 1944 to 2400 (LST), 29 February 1944.

- (3) VP Squadron 52 - During the first twelve days of February VP-52 engaged in air-sea rescue missions, night convoy coverage, and special missions. In addition, this squadron operated a radar counter-measures plane in the Bismarck Sea along the coasts of New Guinea, New Ireland, and New Britain. This plane, carrying four 250 lb. GP bombs, sighted a 3000 ton freighter in Wewak harbor; it made a successful attack, getting one or two hits and leaving the ship smoking and listing with the decks awash. This action is unique in that it was carried out at a moment's notice in the vicinity of many enemy planes. The first element of VP-52 departed from Port Moresby 12 February for Palm Island; the last element arrived 15 February. The squadron was based there for the remainder of the month. The squadron's operations from that date consisted of training, rescue search missions and rest. A general summary of the squadron's operation for the entire month is listed as follows:

<u>Missions</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Air-sea rescue alert missions (from Port Moresby and Langemak Bay)	165.1
Night convoy coverage missions (from Port Moresby)	69.3
Search for survivors (from Palm Island)	25.1
Utility (transport and other special missions from Port Moresby and Palm Island)	<u>63.7</u>
Total -----	323.2

- (4) VP Squadron 33 - VP-33 relieved VP-34 on 16 February 1944 and carried out armed night reconnaissance patrols for the remainder of the

FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12/cn
Serial: (0018)

1 - MAR 1944

SECRET

Subject: War Diary of Task Group 73.1 from 2400 (LCT), 31
January 1944 to 2400 (LCT), 29 February 1944.

This squadron's activities for the remainder of the month consisted of special missions of a very hazardous nature and air-sea rescue work for the Fifth Air Force.

On 15 February 1944 Lieut. (jg) Nathan G. Gordon made four landings near the beach at North Cape in Kavieng Harbor to rescue 15 Army airmen who were shot down by nearby enemy anti-aircraft fire. These landings were made under continuous fire from shore batteries. This action is considered to be one of the most outstanding operations ever carried out by Catalinas.

On 17 February 1944 Lieut. Orazio Simonelli rescued five Army airmen from a small island about ten miles southwest of Kavieng. This operation was carried out without the protection of fighter cover.

On 25 February 1944 Lieut. V.V. Utgoff picked up a sick man from the USS DRAYTON and proceeded to Buna but intercepted a message to pick up a downed Army pilot at 07° 36' S, 147° 29' E. He then proceeded to this position and picked up a pilot of a P-47 and returned to Langemak Bay with both the sick man and the rescued Army pilot.

On 28 February 1944 Lieut. (jg) W. Gillard proceeded to Hansa Bay with fighter cover and picked up an Army airman who had been shot down and made a forced landing at this point. The rescue was effected in a moderate sea with heavy swells, without injury to the plane. The fighter escort strafed ground positions nearby to draw fire away from the Catalina.

In the early morning of 27 February 1944 Lieut. J.F. Merritt landed six Army Rangers at the south end of Momote airstrip on Los Negros Island, while this island was still occupied by the Japanese. This party was picked up the following morning at dawn by Lieut.(jg) W.O. Pierce.

FLEET AIR WING SEVENTEEN

A12/cn
Serial: (0018)

1 - MAR 1944

SECRET

Subject: War Diary of Task Group 73.1 from 2400 (LCT), 31
January 1944 to 2400 (LCT), 29 February 1944.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Results</u>
2 Feb 44	(a) One AK (5500 tons) hit with two 500 lb. and two 1000 lb. bombs	Destroyed
8 Feb 44	(a) 11 medium barges and two small ships hit with 40 frags and 1200 rds. of 30 and 50 caliber M/G	Sank eight barges and destroyed three on beach
9 Feb 44	(a) 70 to 150 barges and three small ships attacked with four 500 lb. GP bombs with daisy cutter fuses, 30 frags and 1700 rds. of 30 and 50 caliber M/G	One barge sunk and 17 severely damaged
10 Feb 44	(a) Two luggers and three large barges and two small barges attacked with 40 frags and 1700 rds. of 30 and 50 caliber M/G (b) One AK (1000-1500 tons) attacked with three 325 lb. MK17 depth charges	Sank four barges and one set on fire Near miss; unable to locate AK after attack; probably sunk
13 Feb 44	(a) One AK (1000-1500 tons), one midget sub, and 5 small boats attacked with four 500 lb. GP bombs and 30 frags; 1700 rds. of 30 and 50 cal. M/G expended	AK beached and sunk; 5 boats loaded with personnel sunk; midget sub disappeared
14 Feb 44	(a) One AK (7000-9000 tons) and three PC's attacked with four 500 lb. bombs (b) Eight to ten barges strafed with 1200 rds. of 30 and 50 cal. M/G	Near miss on PC resulted in large oil slick near the stern; probably damaged Several damaged and beached
15 Feb 44	(a) One 10,000 AO and two DD's. AO hit with two 1000 lb. bombs and one 500 lb. bomb and near miss with five 500 lb. and four 1000 lb. bombs	AO beached and destroyed