

JAPANESE MONOGRAPH No. 91

The "A-GO" Operations Log, Supplement
May - June 1944

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PREFACE

Through Instruction No. 126 to Japanese Government, 12 Oct 45, entitled "Institution for war Records Investigation", steps were initiated to exploit military historical records and official reports of the Japanese War Ministry and the Japanese General Staff.* Upon the dissolution of the War Ministry and the General Staff, and the transfer of their former functions to the Demobilization Bureau, the general research job continued and resulted in the development of a series of historical monographs. Detailed instructions covering the preparation of these monographs were included in memoranda 15 December 1945 and 21 November 1946, subject "Japanese Operational Histories".

The basic material contained in this operational record was developed by former officers, on duty in command and staff units within major units during the period of operations. It should be noted at once, that the enormous destruction by aerial bombardment and fire has practically wiped out the Tokyo records; much of this material was reconstructed from memory.

The paucity of original orders, plans and unit journals, which are normally essential in the preparation of this type of record, most of which were lost or destroyed during field operations or bombing raids rendered the task of compilation most difficult; particularly distressing has been the complete lack of official strength reports, normal in AG or G-3 records. However, while many of the important orders, plans and estimates have been reconstructed from memory and therefore are not textually identical with the originals, they are believed to be generally accurate and reliable. Further data as a result of continuing research and the occasional recovery of hitherto unavailable original documents will be covered in the subsequent publication of "supplements" by the Demobilization Bureau.

* The action under this memorandum and incidental detailed instructions, which followed, were initiated by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, GHQ, charged with responsibility for execution of the program under G.O. No. 9, SCAP, 2 October 1945.

In order to protect the interest of the United States, in the exploitation of Japanese Military Information, sub-paragraph 4 of G.O. No. 9 further provided for the screening of enemy documents and established inventories in Japanese Governmental archives. Careful examination of the first records submitted by the Japanese Government in the summer of 1946 detected a misconception on the part of the Japanese as to what should be included in comparative histories; in a memorandum issued by Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, on 21 November 1946, the Imperial Japanese Government was directed to record the operations of the Japanese forces more extensively. The G-2 Section thereafter assumed coordination of the entire program, including the establishment of a small historical research section within the ATIS (Allied Translator and Interpreter Section.)

Daily Record of Operations "A"1.

Date: 3 May 42.

Principal dispatches, etc:

Order No 373 by the Imperial Headquarters, Naval Section. Present Operational policy to which the combined fleet must conform.

Date: 4 May.

(TN No entry).

Date: 5-6-7-8 May.

Notes: Communications in the Marshall Area is active.

Dispatches from the Hawaii Area Command are numerous.

Strict air security is being maintained over the Midway area, and there is possibility of an attack by a strong force.

Date: 9 May.

(TN No entry).

Date: 10 May.

(TN No entry).

Date: 11 May.

Notes: The Diversion Attack Force (Submarine No 4, Submarine No 1, Submarine No 3, Submarine No 1, and the 2 Destroyer Squadron) left the Linga anchorage (south of SINGAPORE) at 0300 hours.

Date: 12 May.

Notes: The 1 Carrier Division, Submarine No 5, and Submarine No 10 departed from Linga anchorage.

Date: 13 May.

(TN No entry).

Date: 14 May.

Notes: The Diversion Attack Force reached TAWI-TAWI at 1650 hours. The INAZUMA was sunk by mines at 0400 hours outside Tawi-Tawi Harbor.

Date: 15 May.

Notes: The 1 Carrier Division, Submarine No 5, and Submarine No 10 reached TAWI-TAWI at 1100 hours.

Date: 16 May.

Notes: The 2 Carrier Division, 3 Carrier Division, and the MUSASHI reached TAWI-TAWI at 1915 hours.

Date: 17 May.

Notes: A powerful enemy force landed at WAKDE and SARMI. The air strength in the area north of AUSTRALIA is 12 fighters and six land-based attack planes.

Principal dispatches, etc: A portion of the enemy's task force attacked various points in JAVA.

Date: 18 May.

Notes: Cruising maneuvers were held by Carrier Divisions 1 and 2 of 1 Task Fleet.

The 1 Air Fleet started deployment which will be completed by the 26th.

Date: 19 May.

Notes: The Commander of 1 Task Fleet (Commander of Task Force) issued instructions to all men.

Summary of instructions:

1. Disregard damages.
2. Portion of the unit will be sacrificed when deemed necessary, for overall success.
3. If communications should become unsatisfactory, the commanders of each unit will be expected to use his own discretion.

Date: 20 May.

Notes: Operation "A*" begun. The 1 Task Fleet completed mobilization at TAWI-TAWI. Stand-by time is to be six hours later this day.

The Base Fleet will start deployment on the 23rd and deployment will be completed on the 26th. Supplementary supplies from JAPAN have been delayed due to weather and other conditions. Two hundred and seventy eight aircrafts must be transported by air by the end of the month.

The total of 94 carrier planes attacked MARCUS Island in five waves.

A reconnaissance plane, based on TINIAN, sighted an enemy task force consisting of two aircraft carriers, four battleships, and eight

other ships in the area 150 sea miles southwest of MARCUS Island.

Date: 21 May.

Notes: Twenty enemy carrier-based aircraft attacked MARCUS Island at dawn. Orders issued to the Central Pacific Area Fleet to strengthen security, especially in the BONIN Islands, East Carolines, and the Marianas Area. Air reconnaissance was reinforced from IWOJIMA and TINIAN.

The 1 Task Fleet reviewed operational procedures (on Flagship TAIHO).

Date: 22 May.

Notes: Flagship OYODO of the Combined Fleet left Tokyo Bay at 1300 hours and headed towards the Katsurajima Anchorage.

Enemy submarines are active in the vicinity of TAWI-TAWI.

Flagship CHITOSE of 3 Carrier Division was torpedoed during maneuvers. No damage.

Date: 24 May.

Notes: A total of 185 enemy carrier-based airplanes attacked WAKE Island in seven waves.

Date: 25 May.

Notes: Tanker, TATEKAWA Maru (vanguard tanker of the task force) was torpedoed and sunk by an enemy submarine in Davao Bay.

Date: 26 May.

(TN No entry)

Date: 27 May.

Notes: Enemy attack unit started landing on BIAK Island.

Twenty-one land-based attack planes of 23 Carrier Division are to leave for SORONG via Davao and WASHIN.

A reconnaissance plane from the 1 Air Fleet reconnoitered the Tulagi area from TRUK to Buin Airfield.

Aircraft carriers (Saratoga class) - one.

Converted carriers - two. two.

Battleships - four.

Cruisers - five.

Destroyers - three.

Unknown -	one.
Small ships -	50.
Large transports -	seven.
Medium transports -	16.
Small transports -	23.
Sea trucks -	40.

These ships were anchored at various ports in the FLORIDA Islands and off LUNGA.

A review of operational procedures was held by the task force for Operation "A*" (on TAIHO).

Principal dispatches, etc:

Orders of the Combined Fleet: A part of the forces disposed in the Mariana and Caroline areas and the air force in the homeland scheduled to be assigned to the same area will be diverted to the western New Guinea area.

Remarks: Approximate strength of force to be diverted:

Fighter aircraft - about 70 (of these, 50 are in JAPAN).

Observation aircraft - about four.

Bomber aircraft - about 16.

Date: 29 May.

Notes: The enemy carried out full-scale reconnaissance and attack on strateg' points in the Central Pacific Area.

The attack of one enemy land-based attack plane and four fighter aircraft on BIAK was repulsed.

Air photographic reconnaissance shows four cruisers, two submarines, eight destroyers, nine medium transports, 10 small transports anchored in Humboldt Bay and five destroyers and nine transports cruising outside the bay.

Date: 30 May.

Around 1000 hours, communications with reconnaissance planes was broken in the vicinity at 200° and 450 sea miles from TRUK, and another in the vicinity at 135° and 500 sea miles from PALAU.

Raiding air reconnaissance was carried out against MAJURO Island and the vicinity of Port FIESCH. (TH Presumably FINSCHAFEN.) (Air unit 121 and 151 of 22 Carrier Division.)

A. Port MAJURO.

Regular aircraft carriers -	five.
Converted carriers -	two.
Battleships -	three.
Cruisers -	three.
Destroyers -	10.
Transports -	two.
Tankers -	six.

A total of 31 at anchor.

Regular aircraft carriers -	two.
Battle cruisers -	three.
Destroyers -	eight.

A total of 13 departing from the port.

Remarks:

Two regular aircraft carriers are of the Essex class.

One regular aircraft carrier is of the Enterprise class.

Two carriers are of the Casablanca class.

One battleship is of the Iowa class.

It is not known whether two of the aircraft carriers are regular or converted carriers.

B. Port FINSCHAFEN.

Large transports -	five.
Medium transports -	six.
Small transports -	five.
Destroyers -	three.
Total -	nineteen.

Date: 31 May.

Operation KOH.

Operation KOH designates the escort operations and transporting of the 2 Amphibious Brigade which is to reinforce BIAK Island. The

participating forces are now making preparations in DAVAO. Invasion of the island is planned for approximately 3 June.

The 16 Squadron with the AOBA, KINU, URANAMI, and SHIKINAMI.

The 5 Squadron with the MYOKO, HAGURO, FUSO, and ITSUKU-SHIMA.

Destroyer Group 10.

" " 27.

Air strength capable of participating in Operation KON:

SCRONG:

Fighter aircraft - two.

Land-based attack planes - four.

BABO:

Fighter aircraft - 10.

KAU:

Fighter aircraft - six.

WASHIN:

Land-based attack planes - eight or more.

Fighter aircraft - 18.

Land-based attack planes - 12.

Furthermore, there are 48 fighter aircraft, eight reconnaissance planes, and two bombers, totaling 76 planes, that are being diverted from IAP to WASHIN via DAVAO. Expected date of arrival is 1 or 2 June.

The 5 Squadron and the FUSO arrived at DAVAO.

Principal dispatches, etc:

Order of the Combined Fleet.

Date of Biak Invasion changed to 4 June.

Date: 31 May.

Notes: Raiding air reconnaissance against KWAJALEIN. (Results of photographic readings.)

Kwajalein Anchorage:

Destroyers - eight.

Small ships - nine.

Small ship tenders - one.

Transports -	15.
Tankers -	one.
Others -	20.
Kwajalein airfield:	
B-24's -	one.
Medium land-based attack	
planes -	seven.
Small aircraft -	three.
Transport aircraft -	one.
Ruot Anchorage:	
Destroyers -	two.
Transports -	two.
Ruot Airfield:	
Medium aircraft -	five.
Small aircraft -	84.

Raiding air reconnaissance against the ADMIRALTY Islands.

In the anchorage:

Aircraft carriers, Saratoga class -	one.
Battleships -	one.
Cruisers -	one.
Small-type ships -	40.
Transports -	one.

There were approximately 150 large and small aircraft on the airfield.

Principal dispatches, etc:

Orders of the Combined Fleet, 2219.

Orders issued to 1 Air Fleet to assume formation for Operation "A" to give decisive battle in the seas near PALAU.

Remarks: Judging from the results of the raiding air reconnaissance in the Marshall, Solomon, and Admiralty Areas and from radio reports, there are signs of enemy ships becoming active in ESPIRITO SANTO. Northwest of NEW GUINEA, there is a possibility of enemy action in connection with Operation KON.

Date: 1 June.

(TN No entry).

Date: 2 June.

Notes: Fighter aircraft, attack aircraft, and Navy "SUI" dive bomber unit (TN Presumably "SUISHI", dive bombers) of 1 Air Fleet participated in the attack on the Biak Island area.

Reconnaissance against BROWN Island (seaplane unit 151):

Eniwetok area:

Cruisers -	two.
Destroyer -	one.
Transports -	17.
Tanker -	one.
Small aircraft -	20.
Medium aircraft -	10.
Large aircraft -	30.

ENCHABI* area:

Large transports -	three.
Small aircraft -	10.
Medium aircraft -	10.

The Kon unit cruised out from DAVAO.

Principal dispatches, etc:

Orders of 1 Air Fleet.

Brief of the second raiding air reconnaissance:

Air Unit 121: MAJURO, BROWN.

Air Unit 151: ADMIRALTY, South Sea Area, Tulagi region.

The raid reconnaissance is scheduled to take place as soon as possible, after the 3rd.

Date: 3 June.

Notes: The Kon Unit was approached by two B-24's, 330 sea miles southeast of DAVAO. According to another report, there is a great possibility of the movement of strong enemy force into the same region.

Supply Unit No 2 of the Task Force, consisting of the GENYO Maru, AZUSA Maru, and two destroyers cruised out from TAWI-TAWI. Destination

Point I (approximately 130 sea miles east of the northern part of MINDANAO).

Principal dispatches, etc:

DENREISAKU 114 (TW Operational Wire Order) of the Combined Fleet (communications number 031420): Attack group No 2 of the Base Force will concentrate and form in the Halmahera area. Advance bases are to be at SORONG and BABO. Rear bases are to be at WASHIN and KAU.

Wire Order of the Combined Fleet (2200): Operation KON temporarily suspended. FUSO of 5 squadron is to return to original unit.

Date: 4 June.

Notes: The 1 Air Fleet (fighter aircraft -22; bomber aircraft - nine) attacked enemy ships at BIAK in conjunction with army aircraft. Aside from the above-mentioned ships, Army reconnaissance aircraft sighted two aircraft carriers (later found to be an error) and 10 to 20 other ships in the vicinity of BIAK Island. The attack was carried out by 17 fighters, six bombers, and 17 army aircraft.

Date: 5 June.

Notes: A raiding reconnaissance was made on MAJURO at 1050 hours.

Regular aircraft carriers - six (all of either the Essex or Enterprise class). Half of them had 60 small fighters on the flight deck.

Converted carriers - eight (among them, two of the Independence class).

Battleships -	six.
Cruisers -	eight or more.
Destroyers -	16 or more.
Tankers -	10.

There were many other ships.

Reconnaissance against the ADMIRALTY: Due to clouds, the reports are doubtful. However, there were one aircraft carrier, two battleships or cruisers, and three destroyers anchored on the southern side of Port ADOLA*.

TAKASAKI and ASHIZURI were sunk by mines in the SULU Sea (6° 33 minutes north, 120° 13 minutes).

Principal dispatches, etc:

Orders by the Task Force: Supply Unit No 2 will stand by at point J (anchorage in Surigao Strait).

Date: 6 June.

Notes: Reconnaissance planes from MEREYON* Base sighted a force organized around one carrier and four landing crafts at 145° and 470 sea miles from the same island.

Destroyer MINATSUKI was sunk in an encounter with an enemy submarine in the vicinity of TAWI-TAWI while escorting OKIGAWA Maru. (There were 45 survivors).

Date: 7 June.

Notes: HAYANAMI was torpedoed and sunk at 1242 hours by an enemy submarine south of TAWI-TAWI while sub-chasing.

The 5 Squadron and Destroyer Group 10, which were transferred to the Kon Unit, cruised out from DAVAO, KAZAKUMO of Destroyer Group 10 was sunk by a mine at the mouth of Port DAVAO at 0330 hours.

Principal dispatches, etc:

Orders of the Combined Fleet: Squadron 5 and Destroyer Group 10 (KAZAKUMO, ASAGUMO) will be transferred to the Kon Unit.

Date: 8 June.

Notes: Destroyer Group 19 (SHIKINAMI, URANAMI) and Destroyer Group 17 (SHIRATSUYU, SHIGURE, SAMIDARE, HARUSAME) under the command of Squadron Command 16 of the Kon Operational Unit, encountered enemy aircraft, one battleship, four cruisers, and eight destroyers.

HARUSAME - sunk.

SHIRATSUYU - slightly damaged and flooded.

SHIKINAMI and SAMIDARE - slightly damaged.

Four land-based attack planes of 1 Air Fleet attacked WAKDE and six bombers of the same fleet attacked BIAK.

Date: 9 June.

Notes: Raiding reconnaissance carried out against MAJURO at 0930 hours. The enemy ships which were anchored during the previous reconnaissance had departed, and 10 transports and two destroyers remained within the reef.

Reconnaissance against the ADMIRALTY at 0900 hours:

A. Anchorage:

Battleship -	one.
Cruisers -	three.
Transports -	20.
Destroyers -	20 or less.

B. Airfield:

Large fighters-	55.
Small fighters -	80.
Total -	135.

C. Seas east of the ADMIRALTYS:

Two large transports and three destroyers navigating Co 150°
(TH Presumably course).

Destroyer TANIKAZE torpedoed and sunk outside Port TAWI-TAWI
while sub-chasing (126 survivors).

Principal dispatches, etc:

Order of the Combined Fleet: Reconnoiter BROWN and KMAJALIN;
strengthen patrols in all areas.

Date: 10 June.

Squadron 1, consisting of the YAMATO, MUSASHI, Destroyer Squadron 2,
HOSHIRO, and two destroyers were transferred into the Kon Operational
Unit under the command of 1 Squadron. The said unit departed from
TAWI-TAWI at 1600 hours.

Reconnaissance against HOLLANDIA (Army aircraft):

Cruisers -	three.
Destroyers -	three.
Large transports -	19.
Medium transports -	25.

Two of the observation planes which left SAIPAN in the morning
has not returned. (Reconnaissance patrol strengthened.)

Formation of sub-chaser unit; commander is commander of 3 Destroyer
Squadron.

Strength:

Destroyers -	two.
Minesweeper -	one.
Sub-chasers -	three.
Aircraft -	some.

Purpose: Attack enemy submarines in the Southern Philippine area.

Principal dispatches, etc:

Order of the Combined Fleet: Attack Groups 1 and 2 of the Base Force will prepare for decisive battle.

Remarks: Attack Group No 2, which was scheduled to be dispatched to the Halmahera area, returned to the Tinian area.

Date: 11 June.

Notes: Enemy task force attacked the MARIANAS at 0720 hours. Our patrol planes sighted enemy carrier planes approximately 300 sea miles east of GUAM.

At 1150 hours, our patrol planes sighted a large enemy unit including aircraft carriers 170 sea miles east of GUAM. At 1300 to 1500 hours, enemy aerial attack was carried out against SAIPAN, TINIAN, ROTA, and GUAM, simultaneously. They then temporarily retreated to the east.

1. A second wave totaling approximately 190 airplanes attacked SAIPAN.

Shot down - 40 (ground fire).

Damage - slight.

2. First wave attacking TINIAN totaled approximately 140 airplanes.

Second wave: No battle results; no damage.

3. A total of approximately 139 airplanes attacked GUAM. They were intercepted by eight fighters.

Shot down - seven.

Damaged and unaccounted for - four fighter aircrafts.

This evening, an attack was carried out against the enemy task force with a portion of the forces in the MARIANAS.

Principal dispatches, etc:

Orders of the Combined Fleet: YAMAGUMO and NOWAKI will be assigned to the Kon Unit.

Remarks: YAMAGUMO and NOWAKI (Submarine 10) are escorting 1 Squadron.

Date: 12 June.

Notes: Enemy task force attacked the Mariana Base again at approximately 0230 hours.

1. At 0420 to 0930 hours, a total of approximately 480 aircraft attacked SAIPAN in four waves.

Shot down - 25.

Airfield damaged beyond use.

2. At 0240 to 1713 hours, a total of approximately 700 aircraft attacked GUAM in nine waves.

Shot down - 32.

Airfield damaged beyond use.

3. 0730 to 1500 hours, a total of 175 aircraft attacked TINIAN in four waves.

Shot down - six.

Airfield could not be used until evening.

4. At 1000 hours, six aircraft attacked ROTA and several attacked PAGAN.

Attacks to be made against the enemy task force will be governed by the policies in Operation "A*" and efforts will be made to determine enemy conditions. No definite attacks will be made against the enemy task force other than surprise attacks until the enemy's plan is definitely known.

At approximately 0300 hours, our contact planes confirmed the sinking of an enemy ship. (At the same time, our land-based attack planes reported completion of torpedo attacks.)

The convoy (escorting ships - seven; ships - 13), which departed from SAIPAN for YOKOHAMA, previous to the aerial attacks of the enemy task force, engaged in battle with enemy carrier aircraft for

approximately eight hours from 0930 hours in the vicinity 200 sea miles northwest of SAIPAN. Torpedo-boat ŌTORI and three ships were sunk. Several other ships are also feared to have been sunk.

BOKUYŌ Maru (B2726 tons) (TN "B" normally represents battleships, but these ships are listed as transports) was sunk while under repair at Port SAIPAN. KEIYŌ Maru (B6441 tons) was damaged and beached.

The 2 Destroyer Squadron of 1 Division reached BACHAN* at 0800 hours. The Kon Unit (Organized around 1 Division, consisted of two battleships, five cruisers, eight destroyers, and approximately other ships) is anchored and making preparations at BACHAN*.

The Enemy Situation on 12 June;

A. From reconnaissance on the morning of the 12th and from documents taken from enemy air crews shot down over SAIPAN, enemy strength is estimated as follows:

Group 1: Organized around two large aircraft carriers, one small aircraft carrier, and one battleship.

Location: Ninety sea miles east of SAIPAN at 0550 hours.

Group 2: Organized around two aircraft carriers. Location: Ninety sea miles northeast of SAIPAN at 0500 hours.

Group 3: Organized around five aircraft carriers. Location: Unknown at 0640 hours.

Group 4: Organized around two large aircraft carriers, two small aircraft carriers, and three battleships. Location: Ninety sea miles southeast of SAIPAN at 1230 hours.

Reconnaissance is continuing to ascertain the presence of an invasion unit. A supply force appears to be on the move east of SAIPAN.

B. Appearance of enemy submarines in conjunction with the movement of their task force has decreased somewhat, but it appears that they are concentrating in the MARIANAS, CAROLINES, and the South Philippine Island area for concentrated attack upon our shipping.

Date: 13 June.

One hundred to 200 carrier-borne aircraft attacked SAIPAN, TINIAN, and GUAM in waves between 0430 and 0500 hours, followed by strafing attacks by several aircraft throughout the day.

The enemy bombarded TINIAN and GUAM and moderately throughout the day with three aircraft carriers, eight battleships, two cruisers, and 22 destroyers. Targets of the shelling were the coastal positions gun emplacements, roads, and jetties. We are on the lookout for enemy landings.

The main force of our Task Force left Tawi-Tawi anchorage. Two fighter planes left RABAU to reconnoiter the ADMIRALTY Islands, but were forced to return by bad weather.

Combined Fleet Order:

- A. Prepare for Operation "A*".
- B. Temporarily suspend Operation KON.
- C. Transfer 1 and 5 Squadrons, 2 Destroyer Squadron, 10 and 4 Destroyer Divisions back to the Task Force.

Combined Fleet Order:

- A. Task Force 2 and 3 and other units of the Base Force, which were deployed as reinforcements in the HALMAHERA area, were dispatched to the West Caroline area.
- B. The remaining forces of the 23 Carrier Division will be transferred to the Southwest Area Force and the Southwest Area Force will continue operations in the New Guinea area.

Enemy Situation on 13 June.

- A. A reconnaissance plane, which reconnoitered the area north of TRUK, spotted four units in which two to three aircraft carriers were included, 400 sea miles north of TRUK between 0630 and 0930 hours.
- B. A reconnaissance plane, which reconnoitered the Mariana area from IWOJIMA, spotted a unit, in which two aircraft carriers and two battleships were included, moving north at a point 170 sea miles north of GUAM at 1530 hours.
- C. Our patrol plane spotted a unit comprised of one aircraft carrier and 10 other vessels at a point 70 sea miles east of GUAM.

Date: 14 June.

The enemy fleet continues to operate near the MARIANA Islands.

A. The following naval craft cruised in the area designated at about 0500 hours, and bombarded SAIPAN and TINIAN, respectively:

Three battleships and 18 destroyers in the Saipan area.

Two aircraft carriers, three battleships, and five destroyers in the area east of TINIAN.

Two battleships and five destroyers in the area west of TINIAN.

Later, eight or nine battleships, five or six cruisers, and a considerable number of destroyers cruised near SAIPAN and bombarded the east, west, and south coast of SAIPAN, as well as taking soundings and minesweeping west of SAIPAN. TINIAN was later bombarded by two cruisers and two destroyers.

B. Attack by enemy carrier-borne aircraft: Fifty attacked TINIAN; 180 in 16 waves (throughout the day) attacked GUAM; and a few attacked ROTA.

C. About 0900 hours, eight battleships, eight aircraft carriers, 14 cruisers, and a considerable number of other craft operated within sight of ROTA.

The patrol plane, which left TRUK, spotted a unit moving west at 352° and 350 sea miles from TRUK. It was composed of six aircraft carriers (of which two had islands), five battleships and cruisers, four destroyers, three tankers, and three transports (believed to be a supply convoy).

Reconnaissance of ADMIRALTY Islands: Two fighters dispatched from RABAUL spotted two cruisers and two destroyers leaving the harbor, and four large and four medium aircraft carriers, 10 battleships, and 80 transports at anchor. The main force of our Task Force arrived at GIMARASU* Anchorage.

Date: 15 June.

Formation for decisive battle by all units of Operation "A" can be completed by the 19th at the latest.

The enemy has started landing at SAIPAN.

TINIAN is bombarded occasionally by surface craft at night.

The enemy carried out sorties with 80 airplanes in 15 waves (0515 - 1645 hours).

About 80 enemy carrier-borne aircraft raided CHICHISHIMA. (Lasted an hour, starting from 1410 hours.)

About 60 enemy carrier-borne aircraft raided IWOJIMA in two waves. Interception was made with 37 fighters. Considerable damage was inflicted on the enemy, but 28 of our aircraft did not return.

Combined Fleet Order: Move out for Operation "A*".

Combined Fleet Order of the Day: The destiny of our Empire lies in the outcome of this battle. Each member will fight to the end. Imperial Headquarters Naval Section Directive No _____: Move out for Operation "A*".

A patrol plane from TRUK spotted a unit composed of three aircraft carriers and several other vessels at 335° and 400 sea miles from TRUK at 0720 hours.

Towards evening, 11 fighters from TRUK attacked enemy surface units east of SAIPAN. Direct hits were made with torpedoes on one battleship and one cruiser. Direct hits were made with torpedoes on two transports.

Main force of our Task Force moved out of GIMARASU*.

SHIRATSUYU, which was guarding the 1 Supply Unit of the Task Force, rammed the tanker SEIYO MARU and sank.

Plans of the Combined Fleet:

Using for the most part bases at IWOJIMA, MARCUS Island, TRUK, MEREYON*, YAP, and PAPAU and bases at MARIANA when the situation permits, the land-based air force will attack the enemy and await the arrival of the Task Force. At the opportune moment, 7 Air Attack Force, less forces dispersed in HOKKAIDO and the KURIL Islands, and the Yokosuka Air Expeditionary Force will throw their full strength with the task force and the land-based air force against the invading enemy task force. The 15th is the tentative date set for the decisive battle.

Enemy Situation Near SAIPAN on 15 June.

A. Between 0430 and 0500 hours, 28 large and 40 special transports plus a battleship and 50-60 other surface craft approached the west coast of SAIPAN. At 0520 hours, about 70 large and 100 small landing craft were lowered. About 0650 hours, the landing craft divided into two groups and made an attempt to land on the west coast of SAIPAN and TINIAN. Intense shelling by our coastal guns forced them to withdraw temporarily.

B. At 0900 hours, the enemy made another attempt to land at Saipan Harbor. Part of the unit landed, but the greater part kept circling offshore. After heated engagements along the shore following the initial landings, the enemy landed at Point SUSUBE*. About 1200 hours, the enemy succeeded in capturing positions north and east of OREAI* Airfield and established positions with tanks. Army units and the Yokosuka 1 Suicide Unit counterattacked without success.

C. A complete picture of the enemy task force (those which were detected): About two groups are in the Saipan area, one group in the Bonin area, one or two groups 450 sea miles north of TRUK, and two other groups, consisting of troopship convoys and converted aircraft carriers are in the same area. One troopship convoy is near SAIPAN under strong surface craft protection.

Date: 16 June.

The enemy task force continues to attack various points in the MARIANAS.

A. After 0500 hours, about 200 carrier-borne aircraft attacked GUAM. Starting at 0715 hours, GUAM was bombarded for two hours by three aircraft carriers, three battleships, 12 cruisers, and 12 destroyers. At 1100 hours, one Iowa Class battleship was sunk 25 (TN Presumably sea miles) from GUAM. (Relieved due to our submarine action).

B. About 50 enemy (TN presumably aircraft) raided TINIAN, and the airfield was put out of action until 1800 hours.

C. About 100 enemy aircraft raided IWOJIMA and 11 enemy aircraft were shot down. Our casualty consisted of 11 dead.

D. Several large enemy aircraft raided YAP.

Reconnaissance of ADMIRALTY Island: Enemy task force and others which were seen on the 14th could not be spotted. Seven ships, probably battleships, eight large transports or cruisers, and five destroyers were seen.

At 0200 hours, twenty-odd B-29's raided Northern KYUSHU from CHINA.

Enemy Situation near SAIPAN on 16 June.

A. Twenty enemy aircraft flew over SAIPAN and carried out continuous bombing and strafing. About 200 landing craft are situated west of Saipan Harbor. Ships were coming and going continually.

B. Enemy naval craft and troopship convoy as seen from TINIAN: Three battleships, five cruisers, twenty-odd destroyers, and 14 transports were seen, and most of them were located west of SAIPAN. A task force built around two aircraft carriers and 10 transports was spotted east of TINIAN.

C. A patrol plane from TRUK spotted two task forces organized around two aircraft carriers about 330 sea miles north of TRUK between 0600 and 0830 hours, and another group consisting of two aircraft carriers, two battleships or cruisers, and 12 destroyers heading southeast at 200° and 350 sea miles from TRUK at 0538 hours. (Leaving an oil trail for 80 sea miles.)

Reply to the Emperor from the Commander of the Combined Fleet:
"Your humble subject is filled with awe upon receiving word from Your Majesty through Your Majesty's Chief of Staff. All members of the Fleet and Army Units under my command, in obedience to Your Majesty's Command, will fight and achieve victory by the Grace of God. Our garrison in the Saipan area intends to annihilate the enemy, and the task forces intend to annihilate the enemy task force at an opportune time when the enemy is occupied with the landings on SAIPAN. Thus,

the wishes of Your Imperial Majesty shall be fulfilled." (16 June 44.)

Date: 17 June.

Our striking force replenished supplies and departed to arrive west of SAIPAN at dawn of the 19th. There are many enemy submarines transmitting messages in the area of the task force which arrived in the morning. Therefore, care must be exercised against enemy flying boats.

Our submarine units are slowly concentrating in the Mariana area. It is possible that about 20 submarines will be assembled by the 20th.

Attack on enemy task force: One night fighter and five attack planes, which left TRUK at 1650 hours, attacked a convoy which included 20 transports at 330° and 400 sea miles from TRUK and sank 13 transports and left one destroyer listing heavily. Thirty-one fighters, 17 bombers, and two land bombers, which left the Yap area, attacked an enemy task force 30 sea miles east of TINIAN and destroyed two or three aircraft carriers and left a destroyer or a transport burning (1930 hours).

Intelligence on enemy task forces:

A. Saipan and Tinian Area:

Four or five converted aircraft carriers.

Four or five battleships.

Four to six cruisers.

About 30 destroyers.

About 60 transports.

B. Area north of ROTA:

Six aircraft carriers.

Eight battleships.

Eighteen cruisers or destroyers.

Saipan airfield No 1 fell into enemy hands and four or five enemy flying boats landed at SAIPAN about 1400 hours. (Attack by part of the bombers which landed at GUAM is expected.)

The enemy raided GUAM with hundred-odd airplanes throughout

the day, and the airfield is temporarily out of commission.

About 36 (TH Presumably aircraft) raided 20 BANKA* on ROTA.

Damages were slight.

There is no change in the situation at TINIAN, and a battle is raging at SAIPAN.

Date: 18 June.

Attack by land-based air attack unit: A total of 57 aircraft (49 fighters, six land reconnaissance, and one reconnaissance, and one bomber), which were concentrating in the Palau and Yap areas, took off to attack a enemy task force southeast of SAIPAN at 1230 hours.

Enemy Occupation Force was sighted and attacked at 150° and 40 sea miles from SAIPAN at 1545 hours.

Damage caused by fighters and bombers which returned to GUAM before 1800 hours were:

One transport suffered direct bomb hit and was listing.

Two transports were hit and white smoke was billowing.

Four enemy fighters and one bomber were shot down.

Reconnaissance of ADMIRALTY by one fighter at 0500 hours:

Four aircraft carriers (size unknown), six heavy cruisers, one battleship, 10 destroyers, and about 30 transports were spotted at anchor, and two destroyers were seen entering the harbor.

Reconnaissance of NEW GUINEA and Humboldt Bay:

Nine cruisers or destroyers, 69 large and medium transports, and four small transports were seen at anchor.

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Usable Airfields in Mariana Area on 18 June.

Location	Airfield	Types of Aircraft to be Accommodated
TINIAN	No 2 Airfield	Bombers, observation planes, reconnaissance planes, land reconnaissance planes.
	No 3 Airfield	Fighters, night fighters.
GUAM	No 1 Airfield	Fighters, observation planes, night fighters.
	No 2 Airfield	Observation planes, fighters, reconnaissance planes, land reconnaissance planes.
ROTA	ROTA Airfield	Fighters.

Enemy Situation in the Central Pacific Area on 18 June.

A. Saipan, Tinian, and Guam Areas:

Seven battleships.

Four to six converted aircraft carriers.

Five cruisers.

Twenty-odd destroyers.

Eleven transports.

B. Area southeast of SAIPAN: A unit organized around four aircraft carriers at 110° and 110 sea miles from SAIPAN (numerous converted aircraft carriers) was sighted. A unit organized around four transports was sighted at 155° and 40 sea miles from SAIPAN.

C. Area west of SAIPAN: A unit organized around six aircraft carriers [two regular aircraft carriers, two escort aircraft carriers (TH AE) (size unknown), and two aircraft carriers (size unknown)] was sighted at 256° and 240 sea miles from SAIPAN. The possibility of C being the main force of the enemy task force is great, and security has been strengthened.

Date: 19 June.

Our task force attacked the enemy task force.

Three fighters from GUAM attacked two converted aircraft carriers east of SAIPAN scoring direct hits on each of the carriers. RO 115 (TH submarine) attacked a Wasp-type aircraft carrier northwest of ROTA. The results are unknown.

Aside from those engaged in battle with our task force, there are 11 or 12 converted aircraft carriers, 11 battleships or cruisers, and numerous other vessels in the Mariana area which are divided into three or four groups. They are giving direct support to landings at SAIPAN and guarding and neutralizing our airfields on TINIAN, ROTA, and GUAM Islands.

Combined Fleet Order: All land-based air units will concentrate as many aircraft as possible on GUAM on the 20th and support our task force in their attack on enemy task force.

Report On Our Task Force's Attack on Enemy Task Force on 19 June.

A. The enemy task force, with which contact was lost at 0630 hours on the night of the 18th, was discovered at 260° , $150'$ from SAIPAN. The distance between our force and their force was 280 to 360 sea miles.

B. At approximately 0800 hours, the attacking units were dispatched for the initial attack.

Targets:

First group: Force organized around four or five large aircraft carriers and four battleships at 280° , about 100 sea miles from GUAM.

Second group: Force organized around three large aircraft carriers, two seaplane tenders, and one battleship at 316° , about 160 sea miles from GUAM.

Third group: Force organized around three large aircraft carriers, six battleships, and nine cruisers at 230° , about 80 sea miles from GUAM.

The 3 Carrier Division attacked the first group, scoring bomb hits on one large battleship and one cruiser.

The 1 Attack Unit, 1 Carrier Division, attacked the first group with unknown results.

The 2 Attack Unit, 2 Carrier Division took off to attack the third group, but failed to sight the enemy. However, as they were about to land on GUAM, they encountered and engaged approximately 190 enemy airplanes, of which they shot down 31. More than half of our planes were lost. Seven Type-99 carrier bombers (dive bombers) and one Sui carrier bomber landed on GUAM. One dive bomber was unfit for further action. The 2 Attack Unit, 1 Carrier Division, also went out to attack the third group, but the enemy were not sighted.

C. During the above battle, after the 1 Attack Unit had taken off, the flagship of the task force (TAIHO), was attacked with torpedoes from an enemy submarine at 0813 hours and sank at 1432 hours,

about 250 sea miles to the north. The task force commander hoisted the flag on the HAGURO. The SHOKAKU also received a torpedo attack at 1430 hours and sank.

D. Due to these circumstances, it was planned to disengage ourselves temporarily from the enemy in the North during the evening and to continue the operations after evaluating the battle results and our remaining air power.

Date: 20 June.

A. Our task force is engaged with the enemy task force.

B. Enemy airplanes landed on SAIPAN and ASRIT. Desperate ground fighting is proceeding on SAIPAN.

C. Approximately 760 enemy airplanes came to raid SAIPAN and TINIAN.

D. Approximately 43 planes raided GUAM. We engaged them in fierce fighting with 20 carrier fighters. No damages were incurred.

Report on Battle Situation Between Our Task Force and Enemy Task Force.

A. The enemy strength sighted on the morning of the 20th in the Mariana area was:

1. About 140 sea miles southeast of GUAM:

First group: One aircraft carrier, two battleships, and several cruisers.

2. About 130 sea miles east of SAIPAN:

Second group: Five battleships, 10-15 carriers, four battleships, and a force whose main body consisted of 15 cruisers (type of cruisers vague).

3. Surrounding SAIPAN and TINIAN: five battleships, two cruisers, 32 destroyers, and 31 transports.

B. Our task force temporarily withdrew from battle to replenish supplies and to reorganize. They intended to resume attack on the Mariana area on the 22nd in coordination with base forces assembling in that area. At 1025 hours, our patrol plane discovered an enemy task force consisting of one aircraft carrier, two battleships, and several other ships, at 3° and 280 sea miles from IAP. Our patrol plane withdrew to the northwest.

C. Our task force was attacked by enemy carrier-borne aircraft, resulting in the rapid sinking of the HITAKA and GENYO Maru and light damage to the HARUNA, MAYA, etc.

D. At 1735 hours, seven carrier attack planes and two carrier bombers were sent out with the intention of attacking the enemy task force, but they could not be found.

E. Since our task force had lost practically all of the carrier planes and since night fighting was impossible due to our inability to contact the enemy, we had to give up the attack on the enemy on the following day and night.

Comprehensive Situation Report of the Engagement Between Task Forces (By the task force commanders).

18th: Enemy task force sighted west of a chain of islands in the afternoon.

19th: Early in the morning, we commenced our attack, using our full strength against the enemy task force which consisted of three groups (10 aircraft carriers). In carrying out the attack, we did not pursue the enemy. Since the various units were scattered, it was planned to continue the attack on the 22nd, after first consolidating and replenishing the force.

20th: We formed in the vicinity of $15^{\circ} 00' N$, $133^{\circ} 00' E$. That evening, about 300 sea miles to the east, a group (two aircraft carriers, two battleships, and other ships) of the enemy task force was sighted. The task force, which became engaged in air combat, continued the dusk attack and dispatched an attack force. However, the torpedo-bomber unit failed to contact the enemy, and the various units withdrew to the northwest.

Comprehensive battle results:

1. Success: Over four aircraft carriers damaged or sunk.
Over 100 aircraft shot down.

2. Losses:

The TAIHO and the SHOKAKU, on the 19th, and the HITAKA,

on the 20th, were burned and sunk by one or two torpedoes from enemy submarines during air engagements. On the 20th, the HARUNA and the MAYA received slight damage.

3. Surviving carrier air power: 25 airplanes.

Date: 21 June.

A. Our task force is en route to Chujo Bay.

B. Patrol planes failed to sight the enemy task force today. Three of the patrol planes which went northeast from PALAU failed to return. At 1500 hours, a radio wave similar to the one used by the enemy task force was intercepted about 400 sea miles north of YAP.

C. Four carriers, four battleships, eight cruisers, 10 destroyers, and several transports were sighted near SAIPAN.

D. Sixty airplanes raided GUAM and 28 airplanes raided ROTA.

E. Our air fleet, en route to IWOJIMA, attacked enemy positions on SAIPAN with 12 long-range bombers.

Date: 22 June.

A. Enemy strength sighted today consisted of:

1. Task force organized around two aircraft carriers and one battleship at 30° and 540 sea miles from PALAU.

2. Ten battleships, 10 cruisers, 40 destroyers, 19 large transports, and 20 small transports around SAIPAN.

3. A large force including two aircraft carriers, about 250 sea miles west of SAIPAN.

B. It was planned to attack the enemy task force sighted at 30° and 340 sea miles from PALAU with seven long-range bombers (full strength) at PALAU. Most of them returned due to bad weather. A few attacked with uncertain results.

C. One carrier bomber (SUI), one carrier attack plane, and two long-range bombers from TRUK attacked an enemy convoy near SAIPAN with no effect. The carrier bomber and attack plane failed to return.

One long-range bomber was heavily damaged, one moderately damaged.

Date: 23 June.

A. Our task force is anchored in Chujo Bay.

B. Strength of the enemy task force in the Mariana area:

1. Within a 50 sea mile radius of SAIPAN: Over four aircraft carriers, three battleships, 10 cruisers, 10-15 destroyers, and 30 transports.

2. At 0920 hours, at 70° and 60 sea miles from SAIPAN: A force, composed of four aircraft carriers, four destroyers, and seven transports, was seen; however, it is considered the same force as the above.

3. At 1055 hours, at 265° and 100 sea miles from SAIPAN: A force, composed of two battleships and one cruiser, was seen.

C. Ten carrier fighters from GUAM were used to attack four aircraft carriers, 50 sea miles east of SAIPAN. No hits were obtained, and two failed to return due to damage.

D. Approximately 90 airplanes, which came to raid GUAM, were engaged in fierce combat by 22 of our carrier fighters. Fifteen were shot down (four of which are uncertain); five of our airplanes failed to return due to explosions. (TN Presumably in suicide attacks.)

E. There also were air raids on ROTA, PAGAN and SAIPAN.

Date: 24 June.

A. There were air raids on GUAM, ROTA, AND SAIPAN.

B. Two long-range bombers from PALAU attacked the convoy west of SAIPAN at 2030 hours with unknown results.

C. Enemy task force came to attack IWOJIMA at 0710 hours.

1. The task force was discovered before the attack. The Yawata Force (long-range bombers - 21, carrier fighters - 59, carrier attack planes - 27, carrier bombers - 9, shipborne reconnaissance plane - 4, total - 122) threw its fighters into fierce combat and routed the enemy airplanes. The carrier fighters intercepted 50 to 60 aircraft and shot down over 37. Twenty-four of our carrier