

The Official Chronology of the U.S. Navy in World War II

by

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Introduction

"This nation has placed its destiny in the hands and heads and hearts of its millions of free men and women; in its faith in freedom under the guidance of God. Freedom means the supremacy of human rights everywhere. Our support goes to those who struggle to gain those rights or keep them. Our strength is in our unity of purpose. To that high concept there can be no end save victory".

Franklin Delano Roosevelt
6 January 1941

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When I first came on board the Naval Historical Center Ships' Histories Branch in May 1976 under a bicentennial summer internship while working toward my master's degree in history from the University of Maryland, I received a copy of the "U.S. Navy Chronology, World War II" that I was enjoined to keep practically under lock and key, since copies of it were so scarce. I have used that well-worn volume often over the past 22 years.

I joined the Contemporary History Branch in June 1992, to write the history of the Navy's in-country operations in the Vietnam War (1965-1968). Little did I realize the detour I would take from the more current conflict. As commemoration of the 50th anniversary of World War II drew near, those who contemplated a possible revision of the Chronology asked me to look it over. While the original had served its purpose as a reference work, the passage of time had revealed that merely republishing an old work would not suffice in the light of the tremendous strides made in the research and writing of the U.S. Navy's World War II history.

The most obvious difference between this work and the original is size. The original chronology was the smallest of those produced by the major services; the Air Force's was the largest, followed by the Army's. The Navy's, by comparison, was a highly selective listing of ship losses interspersed with cursory narratives of significant events. The period between the onset of hostilities in Europe to the attack on the Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor was conspicuous by its brevity.

The inclusion of commissioning dates for all battleships and aircraft carriers in the original provided the user with a misleading yardstick for the growth of the Navy during the war, especially when far more cruisers and destroyers and amphibious ships and craft came down the ways and were commissioned or placed in service.

Additions to the chronology are legion. Importantly, the scholarship of Jürgen Rohwer and Vernon L. Miller provides us with valuable information on German, Japanese, and Italian submarine and antisubmarine operations. The former pinpoints which axis submarines sank which U.S. Navy ships, while the latter identified--as far as can be ascertained--which Japanese ships or aviation units were responsible for sinking which American submarines in the Pacific during World War II. Likewise, John D. Alden's "U.S. Submarine Attacks During World War II" proved invaluable in the effort to encompass the operations of the U.S. Navy's submarines against the Axis powers; gaps in Alden's work have been filled in wherever possible by consulting the ULTRA and JANAC (Joint Army-Navy Assessment Committee) studies in the SRH (Special Research Histories) series. Additionally, Dr. Rohwer's excellent two-volume chronology of the war at sea (co-authored with G. Hummelchen) served as an inspiration for this new work.

Readers who compare this new volume with the previous one will find that a fleet of additions have been made in the category of war losses. Purportedly, the original work omitted references to the losses of U.S. naval vessels below the size of tank landing ship, but one found motor torpedo boats (much smaller than LSTs) mentioned throughout, while important amphibious ships--notably tank landing craft, and infantry landing craft--were not. All district craft had likewise been omitted. The addition of the aforementioned material should give readers a more balanced view of the losses suffered by the U.S. Navy during World War II.

The original edition also ignored the "damage" suffered by Japanese, German, or Italian ships in combat with American ships and aircraft; only sinkings were recounted--and even those were predominantly major combatants. That curious omission skewed the picture of the outcome of naval battles such as those that characterized the Solomons campaign, in which comparatively few sinkings occurred but heavy damage was sustained. So wherever it could be ascertained with some degree of certainty what enemy ships were damaged in encounters with American ships or planes, the damaged enemy vessel is mentioned. In addition, the U.S. Navy's operations against German blockade runners, largely omitted from the original, are included in this work. References to Vichy French naval vessels sunk or damaged by American submarines earned mention in the original work, but the losses suffered by the French in battle off Casablanca in November 1942 were not--an oversight rectified in this edition.

Since it was specifically a U.S. "Navy" chronology for World War II, those who compiled the original apparently made a conscious effort to ignore the activities of Allied or Axis merchant ships. As historians have come to understand naval operations within the framework of a broader "maritime" perspective, I have added coverage of wartime merchant operations where they intersect "naval" operations. The continuation of trade when the United States was neutral led to detention of U.S. merchant ships and the seizure of cargoes deemed contraband by the belligerents. Furthermore, the British interference with U.S. commerce during 1939 is important in comprehending the U.S. attitude toward Great Britain at that point in the war. Furthermore, noting incidents where American merchantmen rescued British sailors from their torpedoed ships illustrates the fact that U.S. merchantmen traveled in dangerous waters in the course of their lawful occasions. Some might question broadening the scope to cover merchant ship-related activities, but by widening the definition of a "naval" chronology to include the "maritime" aspects of the war at sea one cannot ignore the activities of the American

merchant marine, especially as it impacted the course of the war at sea. Likewise, the massive U.S. submarine campaign against Japanese merchant shipping was not addressed in the original. Its omission in a U.S. Navy chronology is inexplicable when one considers that the submarine war against Japan played a significant part in disrupting logistics to its far-flung empire.

Perhaps one aspect of the original work that prompted the most questions was the vague or simplistic terminology used throughout. The word "collision" prompts one to envision one ship cutting another in two, or a ship running into an iceberg (like the ill-fated *Titanic*). The word "collision" seemed ambiguous when one checked war diaries and action reports of the ships involved, and often what was termed a "collision" was in effect a nautical "fender-bender." Refueling at sea has always required seamanship of a high order, especially where conditions of wind and wave make it particularly hazardous, and ships occasionally come together during those evolutions, as they would do during rearmament or revictualing. Many of the collisions noted in this new text occur during amphibious operations, and reflect congested waters off busy beachheads.

Research into the instances of "accidental explosion" turned up incidents that ranged from a ship's firing into herself accidentally to bombs exploding on board an aircraft that had just landed on a carrier flight deck to a turret explosion; in this new work the reason for the damage is clarified wherever possible. The vague references in the original to "United States forces" when it came to scuttlings led to research to verify the agent(s) of destruction wherever possible, while the cumbersome phrase "coastal defense guns" became simply "shore batteries" and "United States naval gunfire" became "friendly fire" where appropriate, the latter a term understood by a generation conversant with the words of more recent conflicts in Vietnam and the Persian Gulf.

As much as possible, the nomenclature of enemy vessels (such as the replacement of "raider" with the correct "auxiliary cruiser" or "armed merchant cruiser" and "armored ship" for "pocket battleship" for example) has been rendered more accurately. Unless otherwise specified, Japanese naval vessels are designated with the nationality (Japanese destroyer, Japanese cargo ship, etc.); where a army-chartered or civilian ship is referred to, the nationality plus either "army" or "merchant" will be used to differentiate (as well as can be determined) those types of ships from naval vessels. Additionally, in keeping with current scholarship, the names of Japanese individuals are rendered in their proper order, with the surname preceding the given name.

Any opinions and errors of fact or interpretation in the pages that follow are mine alone, and neither reflect nor represent the views of the Department of the Navy or the Naval Historical Center.

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No laborer can perform his work without good material and good tools. I would like to thank Bernard F. Cavalcante, head of the Operational Archives Branch, and his magnificent staff, Kathleen M. Lloyd, Richard M. Walker, Regina T. Akers, John L. Hodges, and Ariana T. Jacob, who were never too busy to facilitate my research in the virtually hundreds of pertinent action reports, war diaries, command and biography files; I particularly appreciate their very patient assistance when I came to them in the midst of their often hectic workday with yet another request. Other groups of people who took my frequent visits in stride: the staff of the Navy Department Library, consisting of Jean Hort, Glenn Helm, Tonya Montgomery, David Brown, Davis Elliott and Barbara Auman; Captain Mike Roberts, USNR (particularly for his help concerning Axis submarine sinkings); likewise, my old friends and colleagues in the Ships' Histories Branch, John C. Reilly Jr., James L. Mooney, Raymond A. Mann, and Cherie Watson also cooperated cheerfully in allowing me to check the pertinent files in the office that had been my professional "home" for more than a decade. Barry Zerby of the National Archives also provided timely research assistance. The Center's naval reservists, led by Captain William Galvani, USNR, contributed to the project by putting the contents of the original chronology on diskette, a very necessary first step.

This chronology is dedicated to those men and women who served in the United States Navy during World War II, who continued to build upon the traditions of those who had served in the past, and who forged new traditions for the current generation to follow. I also dedicate this work to my wife Linda, and my children Christine and Bobby, who often put up with my bringing my work home, and my father, Lieutenant Commander Wilmer H. Cressman, USN (Retired), who served in the transport *Susan B. Anthony* (AP-73) in the Mediterranean (1943) and in the attack cargo ship *Almaack* (AKA-10) in the Pacific (1944-1945). He and my mother (who died in 1988) provided me with a stable and loving and nurturing home in my formative years as I grew to love the profession of naval history.

Robert J. Cressman

Chapter I: 1939

September

- **September 1, Fri. --**

World War II begins as Germany invades Poland with a power and rapidity that convincingly demonstrates to the world the *blitzkrieg*, or "lightning war." Italy announces its neutrality. Ultimately, the global conflict set in motion on this late summer day will engulf much of the globe and wreak far-reaching changes in the world order.

The U.S. Navy in September 1939 is, for the most part, concentrated on the west coast of the United States, reflecting the nation's traditional interest in the Far East and its isolationist leanings away from Europe. Although the matter is discussed as hostilities have loomed on the horizon late in August 1939, there are no plans to use U.S. naval vessels to repatriate American citizens except in "collecting small groups [of Americans] in the Mediterranean area for transportation to places where they can move to safe ports for embarkation."

Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OpNav) sends dispatch to commanders in chief of Asiatic Fleet, United States Fleet, Atlantic Squadron, Special Service Squadron and Squadron 40-T: "Reliably informed [that] German submarines are set to operate on Atlantic trade routes and that a dozen German merchant vessels will operate as armed raiders [and that] neutral merchantmen may expect Great Britain may institute similar practices as in last war." Additional addressees to this warning include the three new warships on shakedown cruises: light cruiser *St. Louis* (CL-49) (at Punta Delgada, Azores), destroyer *Anderson* (DD-411) (at Montreal, Canada) and submarine *Spearfish* (SS-190) (en route from New York City to Bahia, Brazil).

Hydrographic Office begins issuing, by despatch and bulletin, special warnings of restrictions and dangers to navigation incident to the outbreak of hostilities between Germany and Poland. Special Warning Number One is that the German government has announced that Danzig Bay is a danger area due to military operations taking place there.

President Roosevelt appoints Admiral William D. Leahy, who has recently retired as Chief of Naval Operations, as Work Projects Administrator for the Territory of Puerto Rico (see 11 September).

Light cruiser *Marblehead* (CL-12) transports marines from Chinwangtao, China, to Shanghai. The emergency movement is to bring the Fourth Marine Regiment to full strength in the event that the Japanese take advantage of the European war to force an incident at Shanghai.

German armored ship *Admiral Graf Spee*, which has left Wilhelmshaven on 21 August for the South Atlantic, makes rendezvous with tanker *Altmark* southwest of the Canary Islands. The fuel oil carried in *Altmark's* bunkers was obtained in August at Port Arthur, Texas. *Admiral Graf Spee's* sistership *Deutschland*, which had departed Wilhelmshaven on 24 August, is deployed to raid commerce in the North Atlantic.

- **September 3, Sun. --**

Great Britain and France declare war on Germany in accordance with their prewar pledges to Poland. Australia and New Zealand follow. Irish Free State, however, a British dominion, declares its neutrality.

German submarines (previously deployed to operating areas in late August) begin attacks upon British shipping: during these early operations, *U 30* (*Kapitanleutnant* Fritz-Julius Lemp) torpedoes (without warning) British passenger liner *Athenia* south of Rockall Bank, 56°44'N, 14°05'W; 28 American citizens are among the dead. U.S. freighter *City of Flint*, Swedish yacht *Southern Cross*, Norwegian freighter *Knute Nelson*, and British destroyers HMS *Electra* and HMS *Escort* rescue survivors. Despite having been given strict orders that all merchant vessels are to be treated in accordance with naval prize law (giving a warning before attacking) Lemp's torpedoing *Athenia* in the belief that she is an armed merchant cruiser gives the British the erroneous impression that Germany has commenced unrestricted submarine warfare (see 16 and 22 September and 8 November).

Within a fortnight, *U 30* is herself a victim, when she is bombed by Skuas from British carrier HMS *Ark Royal* on 14 September 1939. With a slightly damaged bow and two torpedo tubes out of action, *U 30* puts in to Reykjavik, Iceland, on 19 September to land a seriously wounded man before she returns to sea.

European war comes to the Americas: less than three hours after the British declaration of war on Germany, light cruiser HMS *Ajax* intercepts German freighter *Olinda*, outward bound from Montevideo, Uruguay, off the River Plate, 34°58'S, 53°32'W. Not having a prize crew available to seize the enemy merchantman, *Ajax* shells and sinks her (see 4 September).

British Home Fleet deploys aircraft carriers to seek out and destroy German submarines: HMS *Ark Royal* off the northwestern approaches to the British Isles, HMS *Courageous* and HMS *Hermes* off the southwestern approaches (see 17 September).

U.S. freighter *Saccarappa*, with a cargo of phosphates and cotton, is seized by British authorities (see 8 September).

- **September 4, Mon. --**

British passenger liner *Athenia* sinks as the result of damage sustained the previous day when torpedoed by German submarine *U 30*. After the sinking of *Athenia* is confirmed through radio intelligence and news broadcasts, the German Naval War Staff radios all U-boats at sea that the Führer has ordered that no hostile action be taken "for the present" against passenger ships, even if they are travelling in convoy (see 16 September). Publicly, Germany will continue to deny responsibility for the sinking of *Athenia* until the post-war Nuremberg Trials bring the truth to light.

Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OpNav) orders Commander Atlantic Squadron to establish, as soon as possible, a combined air and ship patrol to observe and report, in cipher, the movements of warships of warring nations, east from Boston along a line to 42°30'N, 65°00'W then south to 19°N then around the seaward outline of the Windward and Leeward Islands, to the British island of Trinidad.

European war again comes to the Americas: British light cruiser HMS *Ajax* intercepts German freighter *Carl Fritzen* 200 miles east-southeast of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, 33°22'S, 48°50'W, and sinks the merchantman with gunfire.

Captain Alan G. Kirk, U.S. Naval Attaché, and Commander Norman R. Hitchcock, Assistant Naval Attaché and Assistant Naval Attaché for Air, are flown to Galway, Ireland, where they interview *Athenia's* surviving officers and men. The attaché's investigation concludes that *Athenia* was torpedoed by a submarine.

President Roosevelt proclaims the neutrality of the United States in the war between Germany and France, Poland, the United Kingdom, India, Australia and New Zealand, and orders the Navy to form a Neutrality Patrol (see below).

Chief of Naval Operations (Admiral Harold R. Stark) directs Commander Atlantic Squadron (Rear Admiral Alfred W. Johnson) to maintain an offshore patrol to report "in confidential system" the movements of all foreign men-of-war approaching or leaving the east coast of the United States and approaching and entering or leaving the Caribbean. U.S. Navy ships are to avoid making a report of foreign men-of-war or suspicious craft, however, on making contact or when in their vicinity to avoid the performance of unneutral service "or creating the impression that an unneutral service is being performed" (see 9 October). The patrol is to extend about 300 miles off the eastern coastline of the United States and along the eastern boundary of the Caribbean (see 6 September). Furthermore, U.S. naval vessels are to report the presence of foreign warships sighted at sea to the district commandant concerned.

Destroyers *Davis* (DD-395) and *Benham* (DD-397) (two 327-foot Coast Guard cutters will be assigned later) are designated as the Grand Banks Patrol. They are to render rescue and other neutral assistance in emergencies and to observe and report ("in confidential system") movements of all foreign warships. They are to patrol across existing steamer lanes to the southward of the Grand Banks and to approximately 50° Maritime Commission (Hydrographic Office Special Warning No. 9) directs that all U.S. merchant ships en route to or from Europe are not to steer a zig zag course, are not to black out at night, and are to paint the U.S. flag on each side of the hull, on hatches fore and aft, and on sun decks of passenger vessels, and to illuminate the colors flying from the flagstaff at night. In Hydrographic Office Special Warning No. 12 (promulgated the same day), U.S. merchant vessels engaged in domestic, "near-by foreign" or transpacific trade are not required to paint the flag on hull, hatches and decks, but otherwise are to follow the other instructions contained in Special Warning No. 9.

U.S. freighter *Black Osprey*, bound for Rotterdam, Holland, and Antwerp, Belgium, is stopped by British warship off Lizard Head and ordered into the port of Weymouth, one of the five "contraband control bases" (the others are Ramsgate, Kirkwall, Gibraltar and Haifa) established by the British government (see 13 September and 31 October). Freighter *Lehigh*, bound for Hamburg, Germany, is detained by the British (see 7 September).

Philippine motorship *Don Isidro*, on her maiden voyage en route from her builders' yard at Kiel, Germany, to Manila, P.I., clears the Suez Canal; U.S. government immediately protests British authorities having removed, at Port Said, two German engineers (on board "to guarantee construction and

demonstrate proper manning" of the new vessel) from *Don Isidro* (which is under the American flag) as illegal and a violation of the neutral rights of the United States (see 29 April 1940).

U.S. steamship *President Roosevelt* off-loads British Scott-Paine-type motor torpedo boat *PT 9* at New York; *PT 9* will be the prototype for the motor torpedo boats constructed by the Electric Boat Company.

Commander Atlantic Squadron (Rear Admiral Alfred W. Johnson) begins to establish the off-shore Neutrality Patrol. Seaplane tenders *Gannet* (AVP-8) and *Thrush* (AVP-3) sail for San Juan, Puerto Rico, to establish a seaplane base there.

Rear Admiral Charles E. Courtney relieves Rear Admiral Henry E. Lackey as Commander Squadron 40-T, on board light cruiser *Trenton* (CL-11), the squadron flagship, at Villefranche-sur-Mer, France. Squadron 40-T had been formed in 1936 to protect American lives and property during the Spanish Civil War; its ships operate directly under the control of the Chief of Naval Operations.

French authorities remove two seamen of German nationality from U.S. freighter *Exochorda* at Marseilles, France.

British Northern Patrol (7th and 12th Cruiser Squadrons) commences operation between Shetland and Faeroe Islands, and Iceland. Light cruisers *HMS Caledon*, *HMS Calypso*, *HMS Diomedea*, *HMS Dragon*, *HMS Effingham*, *HMS Emerald*, *HMS Cardiff* and *HMS Dunedin* are the ships that undertake this work. The patrol stops 108 merchantmen over the next three weeks, ordering 28 into the port of Kirkwall to have their cargoes inspected.

Cruiser Division 7 (Rear Admiral Andrew C. Pickens) sails to establish patrol off the eastern seaboard between Newport, Rhode Island, and Norfolk, Virginia. Heavy cruisers *Quincy* (CA-39) and *Vincennes* (CA-44) depart first, *San Francisco* (CA-38) (flagship) and *Tuscaloosa* (CA-37) follow. The ships, burning running lights, are to observe and report the movements of foreign men-of-war, and, as required, render prompt assistance to ships or planes encountered.

British steamer *Olivegrove* is stopped, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U 33* 200 miles northwest of Spain, 49°05'N, 15°58'W; upon receiving *Olivegrove's* distress signal, U.S. passenger liner *Washington*, en route to the British Isles to evacuate American citizens from the European war zone, alters course and increases speed to reach the scene. Meanwhile, *U 33's* commanding officer, *Kapitanleutnant* Hans-Wilhelm von Dresky, treats the British survivors courteously, and aids in their rescue by having distress rockets fired to guide *Washington* to the two lifeboats containing the 33-man crew, which she picks up without loss.

U.S. freighter *Lehigh*, detained by British authorities since 5 September, is released; freighter *Warrior* is detained by the British (see 18 September).

U.S. passenger liner *Santa Paula* is hailed by British cruiser (unidentified) 30 miles off Curaçao, N.W.I. and ordered to stop; after a delay of 20 minutes, *Santa Paula* is allowed to proceed (see 8 September 1939). Tanker *I.C. White* is challenged by cruiser (nationality unidentified) 15 miles off Baranquilla, Colombia, but is allowed to proceed without further hindrance.

Incident to the European war, the U.S. Naval Observatory is closed to all visitors except those specifically authorized by the Secretary of the Navy.

President Roosevelt proclaims a "limited national emergency" and orders enlisted strength of all armed forces increased--naval enlisted men from 110,813 to 145,000; Marine Corps from 18,325 to 25,000--and authorizes recall to active duty of officers, men, and nurses on retired lists of Navy and Marine Corps.

Undersecretary of State Sumner Welles and British Ambassador to the U.S. Lord Lothian have "off-the-record talk" (at the former's request) concerning the brief detention of U.S. passenger liner *Santa Paula* the day before. Lord Lothian is informed that *Santa Paula's* captain had been asked "to give formal assurances whether there were any German passengers on board, the implication being that if the captain had not given such assurances, the officers of the cruiser would have boarded [*Santa Paula*] to search for German passengers and possibly might have taken some off." Undersecretary Welles goes on to say that "any act by British cruisers affecting American ships in waters so close to the United States involving possible boarding of them and taking off of civilian passengers would create a very highly unfortunate impression upon American public opinion at this time and was something undesirable in itself, since if civilian passengers actually had been taken off, such act would be clearly counter to international law." Lord Lothian agrees and promises to "take the necessary steps to prevent occurrences of this kind from happening."

Allies announce a long-range blockade of Germany.

British authorities seize cargo (phosphates and cotton) of U.S. freighter *Saccarappa*; after the items deemed contraband are unloaded, the ship is released to continue on her voyage.

U.S. freighter *Wacosta*, bound from Glasgow, Scotland, to New York, is stopped by German submarine (unidentified). *Wacosta* is detained for three hours while the Germans examine her papers and search her holds, but is permitted to proceed.

U.S. steamship *President Harding* is detained by French authorities and various items of her cargo (including 135 tons of copper and 34 tons of petroleum products) seized as contraband. The ship is released promptly.

Canada declares war on Germany.

U.S. freighter *Hybert* is detained for two hours by a U-boat (unidentified); *Hybert* is released but the Germans warn the merchantman not to use her radio for 24 hours.

- **September 11, Mon. --**

Germany announces counterblockade of Allies.

Admiral William D. Leahy, USN (Ret.), former Chief of Naval Operations (1937-1939), takes office as Governor of Puerto Rico.

Navy charts barkentine *Bear of Oakland* for operations in the U.S. Antarctic Service and commissions her as auxiliary *Bear* (AG-29). The U.S. Navy originally acquires *Bear*, built in Scotland for the sealing trade, to rescue the survivors of the ill-fated Greeley Arctic Expedition in 1884. The Navy transfers the ship to the U.S. Treasury Department in 1885 for deployment in the Revenue

Cutter Service (later U.S. Coast Guard). In 1929, the Coast Guard transfers her to private ownership. Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd, USN (Ret.) acquires *Bear* in 1932 for use in Antarctic exploration. (The expedition will be under the command of Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd, USN (Ret.) (Byrd is appointed commanding officer of the expedition on 13 July 1939). Civilian sources provide scientific staff and dog drivers; sailors, marines and soldiers perform the supporting aviation, radio, photography, commissary, carpentry, and mechanical duties, as well as operate tractors and light tanks and the Armour Institute of Technology's *Snow Cruiser*, the unique vehicle developed for polar exploration.

U.S. tanker *R.G. Stewart* is stopped by shot fired across her bow by German submarine *U 38* about 253 miles west of Ushant, France, 48°17'N, 11°16'W. Soon thereafter, *U 38* shells, torpedoes and sinks British motor tanker *Inverliffey*; *R.G. Stewart* rescues the tanker's crew and later transfers them to U.S. freighter *City of Joliet* for transportation to Antwerp, Belgium.

German armored ship *Admiral Graf Spee* provisions from tanker *Altmark*; security measure of launching the warship's AR 196 pays dividends, as British heavy cruiser HMS *Cumberland* is spotted closing the area. *Admiral Graf Spee* and her consort alter course and are thus not sighted.

USAAC 21st Reconnaissance Squadron (B-18s) (Major Howard Craig, USAAC) reports to Commander Atlantic Squadron for duty in connection with the Neutrality Patrol. It is based at Miami, Florida.

Instructions to Neutrality Patrol are modified to include covering the approaches to the Gulf of Mexico through the Yucatan Channel and the Straits of Florida.

U.S. freighter *Black Eagle* is detained by British authorities at the Downs, the roadstead in the English channel off the coast of Kent (see 19 September).

- **September 13, Wed. --**

Submarine *Squalus* (SS-192), which had accidentally sunk off Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on 23 May during a scheduled test dive (of her 59-man crew, 26 men perish and 33 are rescued by McCann Rescue Chamber), arrives under tow at Portsmouth Navy Yard for extensive repairs. She is decommissioned on 15 November 1939, renamed *Sailfish* (SS-192) on 9 February 1940, and recommissioned on 15 May 1940.

U.S. freighter *Sea Arrow* is launched at Oakland, California, the first major ocean-going vessel of that type completed on the west coast since World War I. The ship is later acquired by the Navy on 8 July 1940 and converted to the seaplane tender *Tangier* (AV-8).

U.S. freighter *Black Osprey*, detained at Weymouth, England, by British authorities since 5 September 1939, is released (see 31 October 1939).

Norwegian motor vessel *Ronda* strikes mine off Terschelling island, Netherlands, 54°10'N, 04°34'E; two U.S. citizens perish. Survivors (including four Americans) are subsequently rescued by Italian freighter *Providencia*.

Dutch minesweeper *Willem van Ewijck* is lost off Terschelling on 8 September 1939 to a Dutch mine.

- **September 14, Thu. --**

Atlantic Squadron Neutrality Patrol assets deployed this date: destroyers *Davis*

(DD-395), *Jouett* (DD-396), *Benham* (DD-397) and *Ellet* (DD-398) operate between Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Placentia Bay, Newfoundland (Grand Banks Patrol); destroyers *Hamilton* (DD-141) and *Leary* (DD-158) operate off Georges Shoals; *Goff* (DD 247) and *Hopkins* (DD-249) and PBY-2s (VP 54), supported by minesweeper [small seaplane tender] *Owl* (AM-2) operate out of Narragansett Bay; destroyers *Decatur* (DD-341), *Barry* (DD-248), *Reuben James* (DD-245) and auxiliary [high speed transport] *Manley* (AG-28), with shore-based VP 52 and VP 53 (P2Y-2s) operate out of Chesapeake Bay; destroyers *Babbitt* (DD-128) and *Claxton* (DD-140) patrol the Florida Straits; heavy cruisers *San Francisco* (CA-38) and *Tuscaloosa* (CA-37), destroyers *Truxtun* (DD-229), *Simpson* (DD-221), *Broome* (DD-220) and *Borie* (DD-215) and patrol squadrons VP 33 (PBX-3s) and VP 51 (PBX-1s), supported by small seaplane tenders *Lapwing* (AVP-1), *Thrush* (AVP-3) and *Gannet* (AVP-8) watch the Caribbean and the Atlantic side of the Lesser Antilles; heavy cruisers *Quincy* (CA-39) and *Vincennes* (CA-44) operate off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina; held in reserve in Hampton Roads is a striking force consisting of carrier *Ranger* (CV-4) (her embarked air group consisting of squadrons VB 4, VF 4, VS 41 and VS 42) and battleships *New York* (BB-34) and *Texas* (BB-35). *Arkansas* (BB-33) and gunnery training ship (ex-» battleship) *Wyoming* (AG-17) are carrying out training cruise for USNR midshipmen. The destroyers find the going rough on the Grand Banks; they will be replaced by 327-foot Coast Guard cutters that will be administratively assigned to Destroyer Division 18.

U.S. freighter *City of Joliet* is detained by French authorities and her cargo examined (see 5 October).

- **September 16, Sat. --**

Naval Attaché in Berlin reports that *Grossadmiral* Erich Raeder, Commander in Chief of the German Navy, has informed him that all submarine commanders had reported negatively concerning the sinking of British passenger liner *Athenia* (see 22 September and 8 November).

British Admiralty, reflecting the need to protect the Atlantic lifeline necessary to Britain's survival, announces establishment of convoy system for its merchant shipping; first Halifax-United Kingdom convoy (HX 1) sails--eighteen ships escorted by Canadian destroyers HMCS *St. Laurence* and HMCS *Saguenay*.

German submarine *U 31* inaugurates U-boat campaign against convoys when she attacks westbound convoy OB 4, torpedoing and sinking British merchant steamer *Aviemore* in the North Atlantic, 49°11'N, 13°38'W.

U.S. freighter *Shickshinny* is detained at Glasgow, Scotland, by British authorities (see 18 September).

- **September 17, Sun. --**

USSR, its western border secure after its 23 August 1939 ceasefire with the Japanese along the Manchukuo-Mongolia frontier, invades eastern Poland.

British use of Home Fleet aircraft carriers to hunt German submarines, begun on 3 September, ends after *U 29* torpedoes and sinks HMS *Courageous* southwest of the British Isles, 50°10'N, 14°45'W. *Courageous* is the first capital ship lost by any of the combatants. "A wonderful success," the German U-boat High Command War Diary exults, "and confirmation of the fact that the English defense forces are not as effective as they advertise themselves to be."

U.S. freighter *Black Condor* is detained by British authorities (see 24 September).

- **September 18, Mon. --**

President Roosevelt authorizes Coast Guard to enlist 2,000 additional men and to build two training stations.

Heavy cruiser *San Francisco* (CA-38) arrives at San Juan, Puerto Rico, and reports that Dominican authorities are exercising proper precautions to learn promptly of the entry of any belligerent warship into Semana Bay, Dominican Republic.

U.S. freighter *Warrior*, detained by British authorities since 7 September, is released after her cargo of phosphates is requisitioned. Freighter *Shickshinny*, detained since 16 September at Glasgow, Scotland, is permitted to sail without unloading cargo deemed by British authorities to be contraband. *Shickshinny*, however, is to unload those items at Mersey, England.

U.S. freighter *Eglantine* is stopped by German submarine, ordered not to use her radio, and to send her papers to the U-boat for examination. The Germans allow *Eglantine* to proceed, but advise her not to use her radio for three hours.

- **September 19, Tue. --**

VP 21 (PBYs), assigned to the Asiatic Fleet to provide aerial reconnaissance capability to safeguard the neutrality of the Philippines, departs Pearl Harbor for Manila, P.I. The squadron will fly via Midway, Wake, and Guam (see 25 September). Seaplane tender (destroyer) *Childs* (AVD-1) will provide support at Wake, the least developed place on the movement westward.

U.S. freighter *Black Hawk* is detained by British authorities (see 4 October); freighter *Black Eagle*, detained by the British since 12 September at the Downs, is released.

- **September 20, Wed. --**

Squadron 40-T departs Villefranche, France; flagship, light cruiser *Trenton* (CL-11) (Rear Admiral Charles E. Courtney) and destroyer *Jacob Jones* (DD-130) head for Lisbon, Portugal; destroyer *Badger* (DD-126) for Marseilles, France (see 23 September).

U.S. freighters *Ethan Allen* and *Ipswich* are detained by British authorities (see 30 September).

- **September 21, Thu. --**

President Roosevelt asks for repeal of arms embargo provision of Neutrality Act of 1937 (see 4 November).

- **September 22, Fri. --**

German submarine *U 30* arrives at Wilhelmshaven, Germany, where her commanding officer, *Kapitanleutnant* Fritz-Julius Lemp, informs Commander U-boats, in private, that he [Lemp] believes himself responsible for sinking British passenger liner *Athenia* (see 8 November).

U.S. freighter *Syros* is detained by French authorities (see 10 October).

- **September 23, Sat. --**

Squadron 40-T arrives at Lisbon, Portugal; en route, flagship, light cruiser

Trenton (CL-11) (Rear Admiral Charles E. Courtney) intercepts distress signal from British freighter *Constant* which reports being pursued by what she believes to be a German U-boat. Rear Admiral Courtney sends destroyer *Jacob Jones* (DD-130) to provide water and provisions to the English merchantman.

- **September 24, Sun.** --

Seaplane tender *Langley* (AV-3) arrives at Manila, P.I., to serve as the flagship for Commander Aircraft Asiatic Fleet (Commander Arthur C. Davis) (see 25 September).

U.S. freighter *Black Condor*, detained by British authorities since 17 September, is released.

- **September 25, Mon.** --

VP 21 arrives at Manila, P.I.; it will be tended by *Langley* (AV-3), which arrived the previous day.

- **September 26, Tue.** --

German armored ships *Admiral Graf Spee* and *Deutschland*, poised in the South and North Atlantic, respectively, receive their orders to begin commerce raiding operations.

- **September 27, Wed.** --

Warsaw falls; Poland surrenders unconditionally to Germany and the USSR. After the fall of Poland, the war on the western front degenerates into a stalemate, sometimes derisively called the *sitzkrieg* ("sitting war") after the *blitzkrieg* that had crushed Polish resistance in September.

Commandant of the Coast Guard informs Commander of the Boston Division that upon withdrawal of destroyers from the Grand Banks Patrol, the patrol will be maintained by two *Campbell*-class 327-foot cutters.

U.S. freighter *Executive* is detained by French authorities at Casablanca, French Morocco (see 29 September).

- **September 28, Thu.** --

Hawaiian Detachment, U.S. Fleet, is established in response to Japan's continuing undeclared war against China that has been underway since 7 July 1937. The establishment of the Hawaiian Detachment, to be based at Pearl Harbor, necessitates changing the schedules of the supply ships and oilers needed to provide logistics support.

- **September 29, Fri.** --

Poland is partitioned by Germany and the Soviet Union.

U.S. freighter *Executive*, detained at Casablanca, French Morocco, since 27 September, is released by French authorities, provided that she proceed to Bizerte, Tunisia.

British warships operating on the Northern Patrol continue to stop neutral merchantman; between this date and 12 October, 63 vessels are stopped, of which 20 are detained at Kirkwall for the inspection of their cargoes.

Battleship *Arizona* (BB-39) engineering plant is sabotaged, San Pedro, California. A thorough FBI investigation into the occurrence opines that the

deed is done to embarrass certain ship's officers rather than cause serious damage.

- **September 30, Sat. --**

Rear Admiral Hayne Ellis relieves Rear Admiral Alfred W. Johnson as Commander Atlantic Squadron on board the squadron's flagship, battleship *Texas* (BB-35).

Vice Admiral Adolphus Andrews (Commander Scouting Force) assumes command of Hawaiian Detachment, breaking his flag in heavy cruiser *Indianapolis* (CA-35). Andrews will shift his flag to carrier *Enterprise* (CV-6) on 3 October prior to the detachment's move to its operating base (see 5 October).

European war again comes to the Americas: German armored ship *Admiral Graf Spee* stops and sinks British steamship *Clement* 75 miles southeast of Pernambuco, Brazil, 09°05'S, 34°05'W (see 1 and 5 October).

U.S. freighters *Ethan Allen* and *Ipswich*, detained by British authorities since 20 September, are released. Cargo destined for Bremen and Hamburg, however, is seized and taken off *Ipswich*.

October

- **October 1, Sun. --**

As of this date, the U.S. Navy consists of 396 commissioned ships divided amongst the major U.S. Fleet commands afloat: Battle Force (Battleships, Cruisers, Destroyers, and Aircraft), Submarine Force, and Base Force; the Scouting Force (Cruisers and Aircraft); the Atlantic Squadron; the Asiatic Fleet; the Special Service Squadron and Squadron 40-T. There are 175 district craft in service in the following naval districts: First (headquarters in Boston, Massachusetts), Third (New York), Fourth (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), Fifth (Norfolk, Virginia), Sixth, Seventh and Eighth (Charleston, South Carolina), Ninth (Great Lakes, Illinois), Eleventh (San Diego, California), Twelfth (San Francisco, California), Thirteenth (Seattle, Washington), Fourteenth (Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii), Fifteenth (Balboa, Canal Zone) and Sixteenth (Cavite, Philippine Islands); vessels not in commission (but includes those ordered recommissioned incident to the expansion of the fleet) number 151; 5 district craft are carried as not in service. Vessels listed as "in service" include some used for USNR or Naval Militia training. Vessels not in commission include those loaned to the states of Pennsylvania, California, New York and Massachusetts for use as maritime school ships, the Maritime Commission and the Sea Scouts; as well as "relics" like the Civil War vintage *Hartford*, the Spanish-American War prize *Reina Mercedes*, and Spanish-American War veterans *Olympia* and *Oregon*. Interestingly, the 1 October 1939 list contains the gunboat *Panay* (PR-5), bombed and sunk by Japanese naval aircraft in the Yangtze River on 12 December 1937.

Word of German armored ship *Admiral Graf Spee's* sinking of British freighter *Clement* reaches British Admiralty, which begins disposition of ships to meet the threat posed by the surface raider in the South Atlantic (see 5 October).

- **October 2, Mon. --**

Act of Panama is approved by Conference of Foreign Ministers of American

Republics meeting in Panama City, establishing a Pan-American neutrality zone 300 miles wide off the coasts of the United States and Latin America.

German government notifies the United States that merchant vessels must submit to visit and search, and that neutral merchant vessels refrain from suspicious actions when sighting German men-of-war and that they stop when summoned to do so. Maritime Commission, and State and Navy Department representatives who meet to contemplate the request consider it proper and should be complied with.

Chief of Naval Operations instructs all planning agencies within the naval establishment to accord precedence to the preparation of ORANGE (Japan) war plans.

River gunboat *Tutuila* (PR-4) is damaged when she is accidentally rammed by Chungking Ferry Boat Co. *Ferry No. 2* at Chungking, China.

Norwegian motor vessel *Hoegh Transporter* is sunk by mine off St. John Island, entrance to Singapore harbor; the two Americans among the passengers survive, one is uninjured.

- **October 4, Wed. --**

U.S. Naval Attaché in Berlin reports that *Grossadmiral* Erich Raeder, Commander in Chief of the German Navy, has informed him of a plot wherein U.S. passenger liner *Iroquois*, that had sailed from Cobh, Ireland, with 566 American passengers on 3 October, would be sunk (ostensibly by the British) as she neared the east coast of the United States under "*Athenia* circumstances" for the apparent purpose of arousing anti-German feeling. Admiral Raeder gives credence to his source in neutral Ireland as being "very reliable" (see 5, 8 and 11 October).

U.S. freighter *Black Hawk*, detained by British authorities since 19 September, is released.

- **October 5, Thu. --**

Hawaiian Detachment is formed and sent to its new operating base, Pearl Harbor, T.H.; carrier *Enterprise* (CV-6) (flagship), two heavy cruiser divisions, two destroyer squadrons and a light cruiser flagship, a destroyer tender and a proportionate number of small auxiliaries make up the force.

Navy Department informs U.S. passenger liner *Iroquois* of word received late the previous day concerning the plot to sink the ship as she nears the east coast. "As a purely precautionary measure," President Roosevelt announces this day, "a Coast Guard vessel and several navy ships from the [neutrality] patrol will meet the *Iroquois* at sea and will accompany her to an American port" (see 8 and 11 October).

British Admiralty and French Ministry of Marine form eight "hunting groups" in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans to counter the threat posed by German armored ship *Admiral Graf Spee*. That same day, the object of that attention, *Admiral Graf Spee*, captures British freighter *Newton Beech* in the South Atlantic at 09°35'S, 06°30'W.

U.S. freighter *Exeter* is detained by French authorities at Marseilles, France (see 6 October); freighter *City of Joliet*, detained by the French since 14 September, is released.

Secretary of State Cordell Hull requests Chargé d'Affaires ad interim in Germany Alexander C. Kirk, to ascertain why German authorities have detained Swedish motorship *Korsholm* (at Swinemünde), Estonian steamship *Minna* (at Kiel), and Norwegian steamship *Brott* (at Sivinemünde). All of the neutral merchantmen carry cargoes of wood pulp or wood pulp products consigned to various American firms. These are the first instances of cargoes bound for the United States held up for investigation by German authorities. While no U.S. ships are detained, cargoes bound for American concerns in neutral (Finnish, Estonian, Latvian, and Norwegian) merchant ships come under scrutiny by the Germans (see 10 October and 8 and 27 December).

- **October 6, Fri. --**

Last organized Polish resistance ceases at Kock.

U.S. freighters *Black Gull* and *Black Falcon* are detained by British authorities (see 10-11 and 17 October, respectively).

U.S. freighter *Exeter*, detained at Marseilles, France, the previous day, is released. She subsequently reports having been examined several times by French naval authorities.

- **October 7, Sat. --**

German armored ship *Admiral Graf Spee* stops and boards British freighter *Ashlea* in the South Atlantic at 09°00'S, 03°00'W, and after transferring her crew to *Newton Beech*, sinks *Ashlea* with demolition charges.

U.S. freighter *Black Heron* is detained by British authorities at Weymouth, England (see 16 October).

- **October 8, Sun. --**

Coast Guard cutter *Campbell* joins U.S. passenger liner *Iroquois*, followed later by destroyers *Davis* (DD-395) and *Benham* (DD-397). The four ships proceed in company to New York (see 11 October).

German armored ship *Admiral Graf Spee* takes on board crews of British freighters *Ashlea* and *Newton Beech* in the South Atlantic and sinks the latter with demolition charges.

- **October 9, Mon. --**

President Roosevelt, in memorandum for the Acting Secretary of the Navy, expresses displeasure with "the slowness of getting the East Coast, Caribbean, and Gulf Patrol under way," the "lag between the making of contacts and the follow-up of the contact," and the weakness of the liaison between the Navy, the Coast Guard and the State Department. The Chief Executive emphasizes that "in this whole patrol business time is of the essence and loss of contact with surface ships will not be tolerated." Roosevelt urges that patrol planes and naval or Coast Guard ships "may report the sighting of any submarine or suspicious surface ship in plain English" (see 20 October).

German armored ship *Deutschland* seizes U.S. freighter *City of Flint*, en route from New York to the United Kingdom, as "contraband carrier" and places a prize crew on board (see 21, 23, 24, 27 and 28 October and 3 November).

British Northern Patrol continues operations between the Shetlands, Faeroes, and Iceland; light cruiser HMS *Belfast* captures German passenger ship *Cap Norte*.

- **October 10, Tue. --**

German armored ship *Admiral Graf Spee* stops and puts prize crew on board British freighter *Huntsman* in the South Atlantic at 08°30'S, 05°15'W.

U.S. freighter *Patrick Henry* is detained by British authorities (see 22 October). British authorities remove from freighter *Black Gull* (detained since 6 October) 293 sacks of American mail addressed to Rotterdam, Holland, and 10 to Antwerp, Belgium. This is among the first instances of the British removing mail addressed to neutral countries and opening and censoring sealed letter mail sent from the United States (see 11 October).

U.S. freighter *Syros*, detained by French authorities since 14 September, is released.

Norwegian freighter *Brott*, detained at Sivinemünde, Germany, since early October with a cargo of wood pulp/wood pulp products, is released by German authorities to proceed on her voyage to the United States.

- **October 11, Wed. --**

Submarine rescue vessel *Pigeon* (ASR-6), driven aground at Tsingtao, China, by a severe hurricane on 31 August, is refloated.

U.S. passenger liner *Iroquois* arrives safely in New York harbor, having been accompanied for three days by Coast Guard cutter *Campbell* and destroyers *Davis* (DD-395) and *Benham* (DD-397). *Iroquois* will later be acquired by the Navy on 22 July 1940 and will be converted to a hospital ship. As *Solace* (AH-5) she will play an important role at Pearl Harbor (see 7 December 1941).

U.S. freighter *Sundance* is detained at London, England, by British authorities (see 25 October); freighter *Black Tern* is detained at Weymouth, England (see 12 and 28 October); freighter *Black Gull*, detained by the British since 6 October, is released.

- **October 12, Thu. --**

German submarines attack convoys of French and British shipping; *U 48* shells and sinks French motor tanker *Emile Miguet* (from convoy KJ 2S) at 50°15'N, 14°50'W, and later torpedoes and sinks British freighter *Heronspool* (convoy OB 17S) at 50°13'N, 14°48'W. U.S. merchantmen rescue the survivors: freighter *Black Hawk* rescues *Emile Miguet's* crew, passenger liner *President Harding* rescues *Heronspool's*.

British warships operating on the Northern Patrol continue to stop neutral merchantman; between this date and 26 October, 112 vessels are stopped, of which 23 are detained at Kirkwall for the inspection of their cargoes.

British seizure of U.S. mail continues: authorities at the contraband control station at Weymouth remove 94 sacks addressed to Rotterdam, 81 to Antwerp and 184 to Germany, from U.S. freighter *Black Tern*, which had been detained

the day before; authorities at the Downs remove 77 sacks of parcel post, 33 sacks of registered mail, and 156 sacks of regular mail addressed to the Netherlands, in addition to 65 sacks of mail addressed to Belgium, 4 to Luxembourg, 3 to Danzig, and 259 to Germany, from Dutch motorship *Zaandam*.

- **October 13, Fri. --**

U.S. freighter *Iberville* is detained by British authorities (see 24 October); freighter *Oakman* is detained by the British (see 27 October).

German submarine *U 47* penetrates defenses of British fleet base at Scapa Flow, Orkney Islands, shortly before midnight and attacks. Her initial spread of torpedoes causes no damage to battleship HMS *Royal Oak* and aircraft repair vessel HMS *Pegasus* (see 14 October).

- **October 14, Sat. --**

German submarine *U 47* quickly carries out second attack in the confines of Scapa Flow, Orkney Islands, and torpedoes battleship HMS *Royal Oak*, 58°55'N, 02°59'W, which sinks in 13 minutes.

German armored ship *Deutschland* sinks Norwegian freighter *Lorentz W. Hansen* 420 miles east of Newfoundland, 49°05'N, 43°44'W.

U.S. freighter *Scanstates* is detained at Kirkwall, Orkneys, by British authorities; freighter *Exporter* is detained at Gibraltar by the British (see 20 and 27 October, respectively).

U.S. freighter *Nashaba* is detained at Le Havre by French authorities (see 25 October).

- **October 15, Sun. --**

German armored ship *Admiral Graf Spee* meets tanker *Altmark* and refuels (see 17 October).

- **October 16, Mon. --**

German tanker *Emmy Friedrich*, whose cargo includes refrigerants needed for the magazine cooling systems in armored ship *Admiral Graf Spee*, then on a raiding foray into the Atlantic, departs Tampico, Mexico. Neutrality Patrol assets, including carrier *Ranger* (CV-4) and heavy cruiser *San Francisco* (CA-38), are mobilized to locate and trail the ship if the need arises (see 24 October).

U.S. freighter *Gateway City* is detained by British authorities (see 31 October); freighter *Black Heron*, detained by the British at Weymouth, England, since 7 October, is released.

17, Tue. --

U.S. freighter *Cranford* is detained by British authorities (see 21 October); freighter *Black Falcon*, detained by the British since 6 October, is released.

German armored ship *Admiral Graf Spee* transfers crew of British freighter *Huntsman* to tanker *Altmark*; *Huntsman* is then sunk with demolition charges at 16°00'S, 17°00'W.

- **October 18, Wed. --**

Naval landing force from gunboats *Asheville* (PG-21) and *Tulsa* (PG-22) and destroyer *Whipple* (DD-217) is withdrawn from Kulangsu, China, where it had

been protecting the American Consulate and the Hope Memorial Hospital since 17 May.

U.S. freighter *West Hobomac* is detained by British authorities (see 25 October).

German armored ship *Admiral Graf Spee* transfers crews of British freighters *Newton Beech* and *Ashlea* to tanker *Altmark*. The two German ships then part company for a time (see 28 October).

- **October 19, Thu.** --

Gunboat *Erie* (PG-50) arrives off Manzanillo, Mexico, on neutrality patrol; she will monitor movements of German freighter *Havelland* until 11 December. Commander Special Service Squadron (Rear Admiral John W. Wilcox Jr.) commends the gunboat's work as "the outstanding event" of offshore patrol work conducted by the Squadron.

- **October 20, Fri.** --

Commander Atlantic Squadron informs his ships to use plain language radio reporting of contacts.

U.S. freighter *Scanstates*, detained at Kirkwall, Orkneys, by British authorities since 14 October, is released.

- **October 21, Sat.** --

U.S. freighter *City of Flint*, under prize crew from German armored ship *Deutschland*, puts in to Tromsø, Norway, for water. Norwegian government, however, orders the ship to leave; she sails for Soviet waters (see 23, 24, 27 and 28 October and 3 November).

U.S. freighter *Meanticut* is detained at Gibraltar by British authorities and ordered to proceed to Oran to discharge certain cargo earmarked for delivery to Italy (see 27 October).

- **October 22, Sun.** --

U.S. freighters *Endicott* and *West Gambo* are detained by French authorities and portions of their cargo ordered ashore as contraband; 750 bales of carbon black from *West Gambo* and 2,276 bars of copper and 1,796 bags of carbon black from *Endicott* (see 2 November).

U.S. steamship *President Hayes* is detained by British naval authorities at Alexandria, Egypt, and searched for contraband (see 23 October); freighter *Patrick Henry*, detained by the British since 10 October, is released.

German armored ship *Admiral Graf Spee* stops British freighter *Trevanion*, embarks her crew, and sinks the ship at 19°40'S, 04°02'W.

- **October 23, Mon.** --

U.S. freighter *City of Flint* arrives at Murmansk (see 24, 27 and 28 October and 3 November).

U.S. freighter *Tulsa* is detained at London by British authorities (see 9 November).

U.S. steamship *President Hayes*, detained by British naval authorities at Alexandria, Egypt, the previous day, is released, but not before a consignment of rubber earmarked for delivery to Genoa, Italy, is unloaded. The cargo is held at

Alexandria for about two weeks, and then reloaded on board steamship *President Polk*. The President of the shipping concern involved (American President Lines) subsequently requests the Department of State to protest methods employed by the British naval authorities at Port Said and Alexandria in searching that company's vessels. "The fact that [the] British...allowed this eventual delivery," the shipping company executive complains, "indicates that [the] shipment ought never have been interfered with in [the] first place."

- **October 24, Tue. --**

British light cruiser HMS *Orion* and Canadian destroyer HMCS *Saguenay* locate German tanker *Emmy Friedrich* in the Yucatan Channel; British light cruiser HMS *Caradoc* subsequently intercepts *Emmy Friedrich* whose crew scuttles her to avoid capture.

British steamships *Menin Ridge* and *Ledbury* are attacked and sunk by German submarine *U 37* (torpedoes and gunfire, respectively) 36°01'N, 07°22'W. U.S. freighter *Crown City* rescues the only five survivors from the 27- man crew of *Menin Ridge* and *Ledbury's* entire 33-man crew.

Soviet authorities intern U.S. freighter *City of Flint's* German prize crew from armored ship *Deutschland* at Murmansk (see 27-28 October and 3 November).

U.S. freighter *Wacosta* is detained by British authorities (see 8 November); freighter *Iberville*, detained by the British since 13 October, is released after cargo due to be discharged at Antwerp and Rotterdam, Holland, is seized as contraband. British authorities at Kirkwall remove 468 bags of U.S. mail destined for Gothenborg, Sweden and 18 for Helsinki, Finland, from Finnish freighter *Astrid Thorden*.

- **October 25, Wed. --**

U.S. freighter *Sundance*, detained at London, England, by British authorities since 11 October, is released; freighter *West Hobomac*, detained by the British since 18 October, is released.

U.S. freighter *Nashaba*, detained at Le Havre by French authorities since 14 October, is released.

- **October 26, Thu. --**

U.S. freighter *Black Eagle* is detained by British authorities (see 5 November).

U.S. Consul at Gibraltar William E. Chapman confers informally with British naval authorities there concerning protracted delays in detention of American merchantmen (see 27 October).

- **October 27, Fri. --**

U.S. freighter *City of Flint* is again placed under German naval prize crew from armored ship *Deutschland* (see 28 October and 3 November).

U.S. Consul at Gibraltar William E. Chapman meets informally with British Colonial Secretary there, and objects to protracted delay in detention of U.S. merchantmen, especially freighter *Exporter*, which has on board diplomatic pouches bound for Athens, Greece. Consul Chapman's low-key approach bears fruit. *Exporter*, detained since 14 October, is released later that day, as are freighters *Oakman* (detained since 13 October) and *Meanticut* (detained since 21 October).

- **October 28, Sat. --**
U.S. freighter *City of Flint*, again under German control, sails from Murmansk for Norwegian waters. At no time during *City of Flint's* enforced stay at Murmansk has the ship's master, Captain Joseph A. Gainard (an inactive USNR officer) been allowed to communicate with the U.S. Embassy in Moscow (see 3 November).

U.S. freighter *Black Tern*, detained at Weymouth, England, by British authorities since 11 October, is released.

German armored ship *Admiral Graf Spee* makes rendezvous with tanker *Altmark* near Tristan de Cunha. The warship refuels from the auxiliary, and transfers British freighter *Trevanion's* crew to her.
- **October 30, Mon. --**
U.S. freighter *Scanpenn* is detained by British authorities at Kirkwall, Orkneys; freighter *Hybert* is detained by British authorities at the Downs the same day (see 11 and 5 November, respectively).
- **October 31, Tue. --**
U.S. freighter *Black Osprey* is detained at the Downs by British authorities; freighter *Gateway City*, detained by the British since 16 October, is released after cargo billed for delivery at Antwerp and Rotterdam, Holland, is seized as contraband.

November

- **November 1, Wed. --**
U.S. freighter *Exminster* is detained at Gibraltar by British authorities (see 6 November).
- **November 2, Thu. --**
U.S. freighters *Endicott* and *West Gambo*, detained by French authorities since 22 October and portions of their cargo ordered ashore as contraband, are released and clear LeHavre, France.
- **November 3, Fri. --**
U.S. freighter *City of Flint* is restored to U.S. control at Haugesund, Norway.
- **November 4, Sat. --**
Neutrality Act of 1939 becomes law. It repeals the arms embargo and substitutes a policy of "cash and carry," prohibits U.S. vessels and citizens from entering combat zones, and establishes National Munitions Control Board composed of the Secretaries of State, Treasury, War, Navy and Commerce.

President Roosevelt declares area around British Isles a combat zone.
- **November 5, Sun. --**
U.S. freighter *Black Condor* is detained by British authorities at Weymouth, England (see 17 November); freighter *Scanmail* is detained by the British at Kirkwall, Orkneys. Part of her cargo is seized; steamship *President Polk* is detained by the British at Port Said, Egypt, and certain items of her cargo confiscated for inquiry; freighter *Black Eagle*, detained by the British since 26 October, is released.

- **November 6, Mon. --**
U.S. freighter *Exeter* is detained at Gibraltar by British authorities. She is released the same day after 700 bags of U.S. mail are removed from the ship (see 8 and 10 November). Freighter *Exminster*, detained at Gibraltar by the British since 1 November, is released without any confiscation of cargo.
- **November 7, Tue. --**
Naval Attaché, Berlin, is informed by an official of the German Navy Ministry that it had been "definitely established that no German U-boat had torpedoed the *Athenia*." The German Navy considers the incident "closed as far as the Navy was concerned" and possesses only "an academic interest in how the ship was sunk."
- **November 8, Wed. --**
U.S. freighter *Exeter* is detained by French authorities (see 8 and 10 November).

U.S. freighter *Express* is detained by British authorities at Gibraltar but is released the same day after her cargo is examined; freighter *Tulsa*, detained at London by the British since 23 October, is released; freighter *Wacosta*, detained by the British since 24 October, is released after cargo billed for delivery to Rotterdam, Holland, is seized as contraband.
- **November 10, Fri. --**
U.S. freighter *Exeter*, detained by French authorities since 8 November, is released after 1,400 bales of cottonseed hulk consigned to a Swiss buyer are removed as contraband.
- **November 11, Sat. --**
U.S. freighter *Nishmaha* is detained by British authorities at Gibraltar (see 17 November); freighter *Yaka* is detained by the British and her cargo examined (see 5 and 6 December).
- **November 12, Sun. --**
U.S. freighter *Express*, with cargo earmarked for Greece, Turkey, and Rumania, is detained by British authorities at Malta (see 23 November).
- **November 13, Mon. --**
British steamship *Sirdhana*, bound for Hong Kong, blunders into British minefield off Singapore; 10 U.S. citizens (a troupe of magicians) are among the survivors. There are no casualties.

U.S. freighter *Black Hawk* is detained by British authorities at Ramsgate, England.
- **November 15, Wed. --**
Interior Department motorship *North Star* (U.S. Antarctic Service) departs Boston, Massachusetts for the south polar regions (see 12 January 1940).

German armored ship *Admiral Graf Spee* stops and sinks British tanker *Africa Shell* 160 miles northeast of Lourenco Marques, 24°45'S, 35°00'E; Japanese freighter *Tihuku Maru* happens upon the scene of the action but is unmolested.
- **November 16, Thu. --**
U.S. freighter *Lafcomo* is detained by British authorities at Weymouth, England; freighter *West Harshaw* is detained by the British at Ramsgate.

German armored ship *Admiral Graf Spee* stops Dutch freighter *Mapia* in Indian Ocean but, since the latter is a neutral ship, permits her to proceed unharmed.

- **November 17, Fri. --**

U.S. freighter *Black Gull* is detained by British authorities.

U.S. freighter *Nishmaha*, detained at Gibraltar since 11 November, is given option of submitting to further detention or proceeding to Barcelona and thence to Marseilles to unload items seized by British authorities. *Nishmaha's* master chooses the latter (see 23 November). On the same day the British allow *Nishmaha* to clear Gibraltar, however, they detain U.S. freighter *Examiner* and seize 11 bags of first-class mail (see 4 December). Freighter *Black Condor*, detained by the British at Weymouth, England, since 5 November, is released after part of her cargo and 126 bags of mail are seized.

- **November 20, Mon. --**

U.S. freighter *Excambion* is detained at Gibraltar by British authorities (see 27 November).

- **November 21, Tue. --**

"Navicert" system is instituted by U.S. in an attempt to avoid incidents at sea. U.S. merchant ships are to obtain clearances for their cargoes (certificates of non-enemy origin for all items) prior to leaving port.

U.S. freighter *Express*, detained by British authorities at Malta since 12 November, is released and allowed to proceed on her voyage after declaring the nature of her cargo (see 23 November).

- **November 22, Wed. --**

Auxiliary *Bear* (AG-29) departs Boston, Massachusetts, as part of the U.S. Antarctic Service [Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd, USN (Ret.)] to investigate and survey the land and sea areas of Antarctica (see 14 January 1940).

U.S. freighter *Exmouth* is detained at Gibraltar by British authorities (see 5 December).

- **November 23, Thu. --**

U.S. freighter *Express*, released from her detention at Malta on 21 November by British authorities, continues on her voyage to Greece, Turkey, and Rumania.

U.S. Consul at Gibraltar William E. Chapman declines to consent to execute agreement wherein the master of freighter *Nishmaha* (detained since 11 November) will agree to proceed via Barcelona, Spain, to Marseilles to unload cargo deemed contraband by the Gibraltar Contraband Control board (see 24 November). Secretary of State Hull subsequently (27 November) approves Consul Chapman's action with respect to U.S. merchantmen which left the U.S. with cargoes prior to the Neutrality Act of 4 November.

- **November 24, Fri. --**

U.S. freighter *Nishmaha*, her master having signed agreement (see 23 November) under protest to proceed to Marseille, France, via Barcelona, Spain, clears Gibraltar.

- **November 25, Sat. --**

Destroyer *Yarnall* (DD-143) drifts aground in Lynnhaven Roads; refloated that

same day, she enters the Norfolk Navy Yard for repairs on 26 November. *Yarnall* had only been in commission since 4 October 1939.d÷

- **November 26, Sun. --**
German armored ship *Admiral Graf Spee* and tanker *Altmark* rendezvous in South Atlantic (see 27 and 29 November).
- **November 27, Mon. --**
U.S. freighter *Effingham* is detained at Ramsgate, England, by British authorities (see 7 December);

Freighter *Azalea City* is detained at London (see 11 December). Freighter *Excambion*, detained at Gibraltar by the British since 20 November, is released.

German armored ship *Admiral Graf Spee* refuels from tanker *Altmark* in South Atlantic (see 29 November).
- **November 28, Tue. --**
USSR denounces its 1932 Non-Aggression Pact with Finland (see 30 November).

U.S. freighter *Winston Salem* is detained at Ramsgate, England, by British authorities (see 7 December).
- **November 29, Wed. --**
Submarine *S 38* (SS-143) is damaged by explosion of after storage battery, Olongapo, P.I.; four sailors suffer injuries.

U.S. freighter *Nishmaha* is detained by French authorities at Marseilles; her cargo (cotton, paraffin and beef casings) is held pending the decision of the Contraband Committee in London (see 8 December).

U.S. freighter *Extavia* is detained at Gibraltar by British authorities (see 14 December).

German armored ship *Admiral Graf Spee* re-embarks from accompanying tanker *Altmark* all British merchant marine officers from the six ships that the "pocket battleship" has sunk up to that point. The officers are to be taken back to Germany; the crewmen remain imprisoned on board *Altmark* (see 16 February 1940).
- **November 30, Thu. --**
USSR invades Finland, which will receive not only American aid but British and French as well; the Finnish struggle (albeit against an initially inept Soviet invasion force) arouses the admiration of many (see 14 December).

Destroyer *Reuben James* (DD-245) is damaged by grounding, Lobos Cay, Cuba.

U.S. freighter *Extavia*, with cargo destined for Istanbul, Turkey, and the Piraeus, Greece, is detained at Gibraltar by British authorities.

December

- **December 1, Fri. --**
Submarine Division 14 arrives on the Asiatic Station, the first modern reinforcements received by the Asiatic Fleet in many years. Submarines

comprising the division are *Pickarel* (SS-177) (flag), *Porpoise* (SS-172), *Perch* (SS-176), *Pike* (SS-173), *Tarpon* (SS-175) and *Permit* (SS-178).

- **December 2, Sat. --**
German armored ship *Admiral Graf Spee* stops British freighter *Doric Star*; the warship then torpedoes, shells, and sinks the merchantman at 19°15'S, 05°05'E.
- **December 3, Sun. --**
German armored ship *Admiral Graf Spee* stops British freighter *Tairoa*; the warship then sinks the merchantman at 21°30'S, 03°00'E. Ironically, the same day Commodore Commanding South Atlantic Station, Commodore Henry H. Harwood, orders his three cruisers to concentrate off the River Plate estuary on 12 December (see 13 December).
- **December 4, Mon. --**
U.S. freighter *Examiner*, detained at Gibraltar since 17 November by British authorities, is released.
- **December 5, Tue. --**
U.S. freighter *Exochorda* is detained at Gibraltar by British authorities, who maintain that the 45 tons of tin plate among the vessel's cargo is contraband. The latter maintain that the cargo must be taken to Marseilles and unloaded there; the manager of the shipping firm (Export Lines) maintains that the ship cannot proceed to a belligerent port without violating the Neutrality Act. Until the impasse is resolved, the merchantman remains at Gibraltar (see 13 December).
Freighter *Exmouth*, detained at Gibraltar since 22 November, is released.

U.S. freighter *Yaka* is detained at the Downs by British authorities (see 6 December).
- **December 6, Wed. --**
U.S. freighter *Yaka*, detained at the Downs by British authorities the previous day, is released.

German armored ship *Admiral Graf Spee* refuels from tanker *Altmark* in South Atlantic, roughly 1,700 miles from Montevideo, Uruguay.
- **December 7, Thu. --**
Rear Admiral George J. Meyers, Commander Base Force, dies of coronary thrombosis on board his flagship, auxiliary *Argonne* (AG-31), San Pedro, California (see 28 December).

U.S. freighters *Effingham* and *Winston Salem*, detained at Ramsgate, England, by British authorities since 27 and 28 November, respectively, are released; the latter proceeds to Rotterdam where her cargo of 2,782 bales of cotton is seized by British authorities.

U.S. freighter *Exmoor* is detained at Gibraltar by British authorities (see 15 December).

German armored ship *Admiral Graf Spee* stops and sinks British freighter *Streonshalh* at 25°01'S, 27°50'W.
- **December 8, Fri. --**
Duties of the former Technical Division, Office of Naval Operations, concerned

with matters of research and invention, is transferred to Office of the Technical Aid to the Secretary of the Navy.

Secretary of State Hull urges U.S. Chargé d'Affaires in the United Kingdom Johnson to urge the Contraband Commission in London to release U.S. freighter *Nishmaha* (then at Marseilles, France), which has been held 25 days "a most unreasonable detention" (see 19 December).

U.S. Consul General in Hamburg Keblinger reports that German prize control authorities are detaining more than 125 neutral ships in German ports: at least 40 Swedish, 12 Danish, 5 Norwegian, 40 Finnish, 14 Estonian and 14 Latvian, comprising practically all neutral vessels clearing Baltic or Scandinavian ports with cargoes of goods that are on the German contraband list (see 27 December).

- **December 9, Sat. --**

U.S. freighter *Explorer* is detained at Gibraltar by British authorities (see 23 December).

German tanker *Nordmeer* sails from Curaçao, N.W.I. (see 5 January 1940).

- **December 10, Sun. --**

U.S. freighter *Steel Engineer* is detained at Gibraltar by British authorities (see 11 December).

- **December 11, Mon. --**

U.S. freighter *Azalea City*, detained at London by British authorities since 27 November, is released to proceed to Antwerp, and Rotterdam, Holland, after certain cargo is detained for guaranties. Freighter *Steel Engineer*, detained at Gibraltar by the British the previous day, is released.

- **December 13, Wed. --**

British heavy cruiser HMS *Exeter*, light cruiser HMS *Ajax*, and New Zealand light cruiser HMNZS *Achilles* (Commodore Henry H. Harwood, RN, flag in *Ajax*), which had rendezvoused the previous day, engage German armored ship *Admiral Graf Spee* in the Battle of the River Plate. The "pocket battleship" knocks *Exeter* out of action and damages her consorts, but is compelled by the damage inflicted by her lesser-gunned adversaries (which are fought, as First Lord of the Admiralty Winston S. Churchill writes, "with the utmost resolution and skill") to retire toward Montevideo, Uruguay. *Exeter*, badly damaged, withdraws to the Falkland Islands (see 14 December.). The U.S. Navy studies the Battle of the River Plate from a perspective of drilling gunners to maintain fire by local (rather than a centralized director) control. To this end, a scenario similar to the River Plate engagement is included in an exercise in 1940. In addition, the Director of Fleet Training considers the "proper use of smoke either as a defense measure or as a means of covering movements of an attacking force" extremely important, and points out the demonstrable effectiveness of a smoke screen "as a means of protection for light forces" employed by Commodore Harwood in the battle with *Admiral Graf Spee*.

U.S. freighter *Exochorda*, detained at Gibraltar by British authorities since 5 December, is released.

- **December 14, Thu. --**

League of Nations, in response to the Soviet invasion of Finland on 30 November, expels the USSR from its membership.

Heavy cruiser *Vincennes* (CA-44) and destroyers *Evans* (DD-78) and *Twiggs* (DD-127) (the latter destroyer having shadowed British destroyer HMS *Hereward* a short time before) trail Australian light cruiser HMAS *Perth* which is prowling the Gulf of Yucatan waiting for the emergence of German passenger liner *Columbus*. The Americans maintain such a close and persistent surveillance of the Australian warship that *Perth's* commanding officer, Captain Harold B. Farncomb, RAN, is said to have remarked in exasperation, "Queer idea of 'neutrality' these Americans have!"

German freighter *Arauca* departs Vera Cruz, Mexico, followed subsequently by passenger liner *Columbus*, the third largest ship in Germany's merchant marine. Destroyer *Benham* (DD-397), soon joined by destroyer *Lang* (DD-399), trails *Columbus*. A succession of U.S. ships will, over ensuing days, send out plain-language position reports (see 15-20 December).

German armored ship *Admiral Graf Spee* puts in to Montevideo, Uruguay, for repairs. British light cruiser HMS *Ajax* and New Zealand light cruiser HMNZS *Achilles* maintain patrol off the 120-mile wide River Plate estuary. British heavy cruiser HMS *Cumberland* reinforces *Ajax* and *Achilles* that night.

Interior Department motorship *North Star* (U.S. Antarctic Service), with the permission of the British government, visits Pitcairn Island to take on water and discovers the islanders in need of certain foodstuffs and medical supplies, which she provides. The provisions include flour, sugar, potatoes, matches, lard, gasoline and lubricating oil. The supplies will be replaced in New Zealand with funds turned over to Rear Admiral Byrd by the Chief Magistrate.

U.S. freighter *Extavia*, detained at Gibraltar by British authorities since 29 November, is released.

- **December 15, Fri. --**

Destroyer *Jouett* (DD-396) relieves *Benham* (DD-397) at sea; the latter attempts to locate German freighter *Arauca*, while *Jouett* joins *Lang* (DD-399) in shadowing passenger liner *Columbus*.

British RFA oiler *Olynthus* refuels light cruiser HMS *Ajax* at Samborombon Bay, off the coast of Argentina; heavy cruiser HMS *Cumberland* covers the evolution lest German armored ship *Admiral Graf Spee* should attempt to sortie.

U.S. freighter *Exmoor*, detained at Gibraltar by British authorities since 7 December, is released.

- **December 16, Sat. --**

Destroyers *Schenck* (DD-159) and *Philip* (DD-76), soon joined by *Lea* (DD-118), relieve destroyers *Jouett* (DD-396) and *Lang* (DD-399) in trailing German passenger liner *Columbus* off Key West, Florida. *Jouett* and *Lang* steam to join destroyer *Davis* (DD-395) in attempting to locate freighter *Arauca*. *Schenck* soon proceeds on other assigned duties.

British light cruiser HMS *Ajax*, heavy cruiser HMS *Cumberland* and New Zealand light cruiser HMNZS *Achilles* patrol off River Plate estuary; *Ajax's* Seafox reconnoiters the area.

- **December 17, Sun. --**

Destroyers *Ellis* (DD-154) and *Cole* (DD-155) relieve *Lea* (DD-118) and *Philip* (DD-76) of shadowing German passenger liner *Columbus*.

British RFA oiler *Olynthus* refuels New Zealand light cruiser HMNZS *Achilles* off Rouen Bank, the southernmost channel of the River Plate estuary. Light cruiser HMS *Ajax* and heavy cruiser HMS *Cumberland* cover the evolution.

German armored ship *Admiral Graf Spee*, her allotted time in neutral Uruguayan waters for repair of damage received in the Battle of the River Plate having expired, and her crew transferred to freighter *Tacoma*, puts to sea from Montevideo, Uruguay, and is scuttled about five miles west-southwest of the entrance of Montevideo harbor, 35°11'S, 56°26'W. The destruction of *Admiral Graf Spee* comes, as First Lord of the Admiralty Winston S. Churchill later declares "like a flash of light and colour on the scene, carrying with it an encouragement to all who are fighting, to ourselves, and to our Allies" (see 30 December 1939 and 1 January 1940). *Admiral Graf Spee* had sunk nine British merchantmen during her cruise, totalling 50,089 tons of shipping. Not a single life had been lost in the process. In World War I, the famed German raider *Emden* had sunk 16 ships of 66,146 tons before her demise under the guns of Australian cruiser HMAS *Sydney*.

U.S. freighters *Meanticut* and *Excalibur* are detained by British authorities at Gibraltar (see 18 and 31 December, respectively).

- **December 18, Mon. --**

Destroyers *Greer* (DD-145) and *Upshur* (DD-144) relieve destroyers *Ellis* (DD-154) and *Cole* (DD-155) of shadowing German passenger liner *Columbus*. Later that same day, heavy cruiser *Tuscaloosa* (CA-37) replaces the destroyers in trailing the passenger ship.

U.S. freighter *Meanticut*, detained by British authorities at Gibraltar the previous day, is released.

- **December 19, Tue. --**

British destroyer HMS *Hyperion* intercepts German passenger liner *Columbus* 450 miles east of Cape May, New Jersey; the latter is scuttled to prevent capture. Two crewmen perish in the abandonment. Heavy cruiser *Tuscaloosa* (CA-37) rescues *Columbus's* survivors (567 men and 9 women stewardesses) and sets course for New York City, the only U.S. port that can handle such a large and sudden influx of aliens.

British light cruiser HMS *Orion* intercepts German freighter *Arauca* off Miami, Florida; the latter puts in to Port Everglades to avoid capture. Destroyer *Truxtun* (DD-229) has trailed the merchantman at one point; destroyer *Philip* (DD-76) is present when *Arauca* reaches sanctuary. USAAC B-18 (21st Reconnaissance Squadron), however, witnesses the shot that *Orion* fires over *Arauca's* bow (in the attempt to force the latter to heave-to) splashing *inside* American territorial waters off Hialeah, Florida. Learning of this incident, Secretary of State Cordell Hull instructs U.S. Ambassador to the Court of St. James Joseph P. Kennedy to remind the British Foreign Office that, as neutrals, the American republics are entitled to have their waters "free from the commission of any hostile act by any non-American belligerent nation." The U.S. Navy eventually commissions *Arauca* as refrigerated storeship *Saturn* (AF-40).

U.S. freighter *Nishmaha* is free to sail from Marseilles to continue her voyage, but port conditions and weather prevent her from sailing as scheduled.

- **December 20, Wed.** --

Submarine tender *Bushnell* (AS-2), operating out of Tutuila, Samoa, as a survey ship under the auspices of the Hydrographic Office, completes Pacific Island surveys, having covered a total of 76,000 nautical square miles since commencing that work on 1 July.

Heavy cruiser *Tuscaloosa* (CA-37) disembarks scuttled German passenger liner *Columbus's* "distressed mariners" at Ellis Island, New York City.

Destroyer *Twiggs* (DD-127), on neutrality patrol in Yucatan Channel, relieves *Evans* (DD-78) of duty trailing British RFA tanker *Patella*.

German armored ship *Admiral Graf Spee's* former commanding officer, *Kapitan zur See* Hans Langsdorff, commits suicide at Montevideo, Uruguay.

U.S. freighter *Exochorda* arrives at Naples with the 45 tons of tin plate condemned by the British prize court at Gibraltar among her cargo, having been permitted to sail by her master's agreeing to ship the 45 tons of tin to Marseilles from Genoa. Another 100 tons of tin, however, consigned to a Swiss buyer, are put on the "detained list" and held in Genoa at the disposal of the British consul. That turn of affairs prompts U.S. Ambassador in Italy William Phillips, to take up the matter with the British Ambassador, who expresses his awareness of the "irritation and resentment...in American commercial and shipping circles" over the seemingly "arbitrary, careless, and casual" methods shown by the British contraband control people.

U.S. freighters *Oakwood*, bound for Genoa, Italy, and *Executive*, bound for Greece, Turkey, and Rumania, are detained by British authorities at Gibraltar (see 23 December 1939 and 3 January 1940, respectively).

- **December 21, Thu.** --

Destroyer *Twiggs* (DD-127), on neutrality patrol in Yucatan Channel, continues trailing British RFA tanker *Patella*.

- **December 22, Fri.** --

Destroyer *Philip* (DD-76) relieves *Twiggs* (DD-127) of neutrality patrol duty trailing British RFA tanker *Patella* off east coast of Florida; while en route to Fort Lauderdale, *Twiggs* observes British light cruiser HMS *Orion* off Port Everglades and anchors to keep an eye on the British warship as the latter prowls the coast.

- **December 23, Sat.** --

Typhoon passes within 100 miles of Guam, M.I.; although the gale force winds cause little damage to Navy property, they cause widespread crop and property damage in the native quarters.

U.S. freighters *Explorer* (detained at Gibraltar since 9 December) and *Oakwood* (detained there since 20 December) are released by British authorities.

- **December 27, Wed.** --

Department of State dispatches "vigorous protest" to British Foreign Office concerning the British practice of removing and censoring U.S. mail from British and U.S. and neutral ships (see 2 January 1940).

U.S. Consul General in Hamburg Keblinger reports that German prize control authorities have released all but seven neutral vessels detained in German ports for the evaluation of cargo deemed contraband.

U.S. freighter *Oakwood*, en route from Gibraltar to Genoa, is intercepted by French naval vessel and diverted to Villefranche after boarding officer mistakes notation in log as an order to proceed to Marseilles. Once the mistake is realized, the ship is released to proceed on her way within a few hours.

- **December 28, Thu. --**

Rear Admiral William L. Calhoun assumes duty as Commander Base Force and breaks his flag in auxiliary *Argonne* (AG-31).

Rear Admiral Julius C. Townsend, Commandant Fourth Naval District and Philadelphia Navy Yard, dies of bronchial cancer at U.S. Naval Hospital, Brooklyn, N.Y.

U.S. freighter *Exilona* is detained at Gibraltar by British authorities.

- **December 29, Fri. --**

U.S. steamship *President Adams* is detained at Port Said, Egypt, by British authorities. Cargo suspected of being contraband is discharged at Alexandria, Egypt.

- **December 30, Sat. --**

Uruguayan government gives German freighter *Tacoma* 24 hours to leave the port of Montevideo, deeming the ship an auxiliary war vessel since she had assisted various maneuvers of armored ship *Admiral Graf Spee* and embarked her crew when that warship was scuttled (see 1 January 1940).

- **December 31, Sun. --**

U.S. freighter *Excalibur*, detained at Gibraltar by British authorities since 17 December, is released.

Chapter II: 1940

January

- **January 1, Mon. --**

Tenth Naval District with headquarters at San Juan, Puerto Rico, is established, Commander Reuben L. Walker is first commandant (see 26 February).

U.S. freighter *City of Flint*, her odyssey almost at an end, is damaged in collision with British steamship *Baron Blytheswood*. Repairs to *City of Flint* will keep her at Narvik, Norway, for another six days.

U.S. freighter *Exeter* is detained at Gibraltar by British authorities.

Uruguayan government interns German freighter *Tacoma* at Montevideo as an auxiliary war vessel.

Charles Edison of New Jersey becomes Secretary of the Navy; he had been Acting Secretary since the death of Claude A. Swanson on 7 July 1939. Department of State releases statement to press telling of the delivery of "vigorous protest" (dated 27 December 1939) to the British Foreign Office concerning the British removing and censoring U.S. mail from British and U.S. and neutral ships.
- **January 3, Wed. --**

U.S. freighter *Mormacsun* is intercepted by British naval vessel and diverted to Kirkwall, Scotland, into the zone designated as a combat area. Freighter *Nashaba* is detained by British authorities at Gibraltar; freighter *Executive*, detained at Gibraltar since 20 December 1939, is released to proceed on her voyage to Greece, Turkey, and Rumania.
- **January 4, Thu. --**

U.S. freighter *Exiria* is detained at Gibraltar by British authorities.◻
- **January 5, Fri. --**

German tanker *Nordmeer* reaches Vigo, Spain, after her voyage from the Netherlands West Indies.
- **January 6, Sat. --**

Admiral James O. Richardson relieves Admiral Claude C. Bloch as Commander in Chief U.S. Fleet on board battleship *Pennsylvania* (BB-38) at Pearl Harbor, T.H.◻ Admiral Charles P. Snyder hoists flag as Commander Battle Force on board battleship *California* (BB-44).

U.S. passenger liner *Manhattan* is detained at Gibraltar by British authorities (see 7 January).
- **January 7, Sun. --**

U.S. freighter *City of Flint* departs Narvik for Baltimore, Maryland. For his "skill, fine judgement [sic], and devotion to duty" during *City of Flint's* ordeal, Captain Joseph A. Gainard, the freighter's master, will receive the Navy Cross.

U.S. passenger liner *Manhattan*, detained at Gibraltar by British authorities the previous day, is released.◻

German freighter *Konsul Horn* escapes from Aruba and, disguised as a Soviet merchantman, manages to deceive U.S. Navy patrol planes from the Neutrality Patrol and British light cruiser HMS *Enterprise* (see 6 February).

- **January 9, Tue. --**
U.S. freighter *Western Queen* is detained at Gibraltar for several hours by British authorities.
- **January 10, Wed. --**
U.S. steamship *President Van Buren*, bound for Genoa, Italy, and New York, is detained at Port Said, Egypt, and subsequently discharges items of cargo, deemed as contraband, at Alexandria, Egypt, before being allowed to proceed.
- **January 11, Thu. --**
Fleet Landing Exercise (FLEX) No. 6 begins at Culebra, Puerto Rico. Lack of transports compels the Navy to substitute combatant ships in that role for purposes of the exercise; an important exception is the prototype high speed transport *Manley* (APD-1), converted from a World War I-emergency program "flush-deck, four-pipe" destroyer, which amply proves her worth.

Gunboat *Charleston* (PG-51) suffers damage when she runs aground at Colon, C.Z.

U.S. freighter *Tripp* is detained at Gibraltar by British authorities (see 13 January).
- **January 12, Fri. --**
Interior Department motorship *North Star* (U.S. Antarctic Service) reaches Bay of Whales, Antarctica, and immediately begins discharging cargo to establish West Base. Ice conditions prohibit unloading at the original chosen site, King Edward VII Land.
- **January 13, Sat. --**
U.S. freighter *Narbo*, bound for Italy, Yugoslavia, and Greece, is detained at Gibraltar by British authorities (see 14 January). Freighter *Tripp*, detained at Gibraltar by the British since 11 January, is released, but not before some items of her cargo are seized as contraband.
- **January 14, Sun. --**
Auxiliary *Bear* (AG-29) reaches Bay of Whales, Antarctica. Along with Interior Department motorship *North Star*, *Bear* will establish the two bases to be used in the U.S. Antarctic Service's 1939-1941 expedition under Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd, USN (Ret.).◻

British Minister in Panama Charles Dodd transmits response of British government to note sent by the President of Panama on behalf of the 21 American Republics concerning the violation of American neutrality that occurred in the Battle of the River Plate. The British "reserve their full belligerent rights in order to fight the menace presented by German action and policy and to defend that conception of law and that way of life, which they believe to be as dear to the peoples and Governments of America as they are to the peoples and Governments of the British Commonwealth of Nations" (see 12 February and 8 March).

U.S. freighter *Narbo* detained at Gibraltar by British authorities the previous day, is released to continue her voyage to Italy, Yugoslavia, and Greece, but not before some items from her cargo are removed as contraband.

- **January 15, Mon. --**

Joint amphibious exercise begins in the Monterey, California, area, to provide training for the Army and Navy in planning and executing Joint operations, to train Army troops in embarking and disembarking, and to afford an opportunity for elements of the GHQ Air Force and Navy patrol squadrons to work together and with ground forces (see 22 January). Commander Battle Force (Admiral Charles P. Snyder) conducts the Navy portion of the exercise.

Japanese fishing schooner *No. 1 Seiho Maru* is stranded on reef off southeast coast of Guam, M.I. A detail of Guam Militia (12th Company) renders necessary assistance during salvage operations (see 21 January).

Minesweeper *Penguin* (AM-33) rescues the 24-man crew.

- **January 17, Wed. --**

U.S. passenger liner *Manhattan* and freighter *Excambion* are detained at Gibraltar by British authorities; the former is kept there for only a few hours before being allowed to proceed (see 23 January).

British Foreign Office replies to U.S. protest on treatment of mail, concluding that "His Majesty's Government find themselves unable to share the views of the United States government that their [the British] action in examining neutral mail in British or neutral shipping is contrary to their obligations under international law."

- **January 18, Thu. --**

British commence censorship of air mail passing through Bermuda; censor there removes through-bound mail for European destinations from Lisbon-bound Pan American Airways Boeing 314 *American Clipper*. A written protest is lodged and no assistance in the unloading process is offered.

- **January 19, Fri. --**

Auxiliary *Bear* (AG-29) steams eastward to begin flight operations in the vicinity of Biscoe Bay; the ship's embarked Barkley-Grow floatplane (Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd, navigator) reconnoiters Sulzberger Bay to determine leads in the ice to permit *Bear's* movement further to the east.

- **January 20, Sat. --**

United States protests British treatment of American shipping in the Mediterranean.

U.S. freighter *Examelia* is detained at Gibraltar by British authorities (see 31 January); passenger liner *Washington*, bound for Genoa, is detained only a few hours before being allowed to proceed.

- **January 21, Sun. --**

Auxiliary *Bear* (AG-29) follows leads in the ice spotted on the 19th; the ship's Barkley-Grow floatplane flies over the northern limits of the Edsel Ford Mountains.

Minesweeper *Penguin* (AM-33) transfers 24 survivors of Japanese fishing schooner *No. 1 Seiho Maru*, stranded off the southeast coast of Guam, M.I., on 15 January, to Japanese freighter *Saipan Maru*.☐

British light cruiser HMS *Liverpool* stops Japanese passenger liner *Asama Maru* 35 miles off Nozaki, Chiba Prefecture, Japan, and removes 21 Germans from the ship. All but nine are naval reservists, survivors of the scuttled passenger liner *Columbus*; the nine civilians are released. The incident further strains relations between Great Britain and Japan.

U.S. freighter *Nishmaha* is detained at Gibraltar by British authorities (see 22 January).

- **January 22, Mon. --**

Joint amphibious exercise concludes in the Monterey, California, area, having afforded the Fleet profitable experience in joint planning. It also demonstrates interservice cooperation.

Light cruiser *Helena* (CL-50) arrives at Buenos Aires, Argentina, on her shakedown cruise (see 29 January).☐

Rear Admiral Adolphus E. Watson becomes Commandant Fourth Naval District and Commandant Philadelphia Navy Yard in the wake of the death of Rear Admiral Julius C. Townsend on 28 December 1939.

U.S. freighter *Excellency* is detained at Gibraltar by British authorities (see 23 January); freighter *Nishmaha*, detained there the previous day, is released.

- **January 23, Tue. --**

Great Britain and France announce they will attack any German vessels encountered in Pan-American Safety Zone.

Destroyer *J. Fred Talbott* (DD-247) arrives at Wreck Bay, Galapagos Islands, to assist U.S. tuna boat *City of San Diego* (see 24 January).

U.S. freighter *Excambion*, detained at Gibraltar by British authorities since 17 January, is released to proceed on her voyage to Genoa, Italy, but not before 470 sacks of mail (bound for Germany and Italy) are seized; freighter *Excellency*, detained at Gibraltar the previous day, is released.

- **January 24, Wed. --**

Interior Department motorship *North Star* (U.S. Antarctic Service) departs Bay of Whales, Antarctica for Valparaiso, Chile, for additional supplies and equipment to establish East Base. Construction of West Base commences immediately at the site chosen that lies at 78°29'06"S, 163°50'10"W, two miles from the edge of the ice barrier and five miles northeast of the site of Little America I and Little America II, the previous Byrd expedition bases. Until the main building is completed for habitation, the men live in regulation army tents (see 11 February).

Gunboat *Erie* (PG-50) joins destroyer *J. Fred Talbott* (DD-247) at Wreck Bay, Galapagos Islands, to assist U.S. tuna boat *City of San Diego*. The gunboat takes on board the craft's chief engineer (pneumonia) and sails the following day for Balboa, where the man will be transferred ashore for medical attention.

- **January 25, Thu. --**
Auxiliary *Bear* (AG-29) (U.S. Antarctic Service) reaches 77°43'S, 143°52'W; it marks the deepest penetration by any ship into the Antarctic region.
- **January 26, Fri. --**
United States-Japanese Trade Treaty of 1911 expires.

Minesweeper *Quail* (AM-15) arrives at Palmyra Island with first construction party to begin building a naval air station there.
- **January 27, Sat. --**
U.S. freighter *Cold Harbor*, bound for Odessa, is detained at Gibraltar by British authorities (see 30 January).
- **January 28, Sun. --**
U.S. freighter *Sarcoxic* is detained temporarily at Gibraltar for several hours by British authorities; freighter *Waban*, bound for Italy and Greece, is also held there briefly but is allowed to proceed after one item of cargo is seized as contraband and 34 detained for investigation.
- **January 29, Mon. --**
British Admiralty orders that no American ships should, under any circumstances, be diverted into the war zone delineated by President Roosevelt in the provisions of the Neutrality Act.

Light cruiser *Helena* (CL-50) steams from Buenos Aires, Argentina, to Montevideo, Uruguay, on her shakedown cruise (see 2 February).

U.S. freighter *Exochorda* is detained at Gibraltar by British authorities (see 1 February).
- **January 30, Tue. --**
U.S. freighters *Examelia* (detained at Gibraltar since 20 January) and *Cold Harbor* (detained there since 27 January) are released by British authorities.
- **January 31, Wed. --**
U.S. passenger liner *Washington* is detained for several hours at Gibraltar by British authorities, but is allowed to proceed the same day; freighter *Jomar* is also detained there (see 1 February).

February

- **February 1, Thu. --**
President Roosevelt writes First Lord of the Admiralty Winston S. Churchill, concerning the detention of U.S. merchantmen, and frankly informs him of adverse American reaction to the British policy. "The general feeling is," Roosevelt informs Churchill, "that the net benefit to your people and the French is hardly worth the definite annoyance caused to us."

U.S. freighter *Exminster* is detained by British authorities at Gibraltar (see 9 February); freighters *Exochorda* (detained since 30 January) and *Jomar* (detained since 31 January) are released.
- **February 2, Fri. --**
Light cruiser *Helena* (CL-50), at Montevideo, Uruguay, on her shakedown cruise, sends party to inspect wreck of German armored ship *Admiral Graf Spee*.

U.S. passenger liner *Manhattan* is stopped by French auxiliary patrol vessel *Vaillant* about 25 miles southeast of Cape St. Vincent, Portugal, and ordered to proceed to Gibraltar for examination (see 3-4 February).

- **February 3, Sat. --**

Light cruiser *Helena* (CL-50) departs Montevideo, Uruguay, for Brazilian waters as her shakedown cruise continues (see 5 February).[□]

U.S. passenger liner *Manhattan* is detained at Gibraltar by British authorities (see 4 February).

- **February 4, Sun. --**

U.S. passenger liner *Manhattan*, detained at Gibraltar the previous day, is released, but not before British authorities seize 390 sacks of German mail. American diplomatic mail pouches, however, are not disturbed.

- **February 5, Mon. --**

Light cruiser *Helena* (CL-50) arrives at Santos, Brazil, on her shakedown cruise (see 10 February).

U.S. freighter *Exford* is detained at Gibraltar by British authorities (see 13 February).

- **February 6, Tue. --**

German freighter *Konsul Horn*, which had departed Aruba on 7 January, reaches Norwegian waters having eluded or deceived the U.S. Neutrality Patrol as well as British and French warships.

- **February 8, Thu. --**

U.S. freighter *Scottsburg* is detained at Gibraltar by British authorities (see 9 February).⁸

- **February 9, Fri. --**

U.S. freighter *Scottsburg*, detained at Gibraltar by British authorities the previous day, is released.

- **February 10, Sat. --**

Light cruiser *Helena* (CL-50) departs Santos, Brazil, winding up her shakedown cruise.

U.S. freighter *West Chatala* is detained for several hours at Gibraltar by British authorities but is released to continue her voyage.

- **February 11, Sun. --**

U.S. Antarctic Service West Base main building is completed sufficiently to permit occupation. Over the next two months, the base--three buildings connected to an elaborate system of tunnels and caches--is finished by the time the sun sets for the winter on 21 April.

- **February 12, Mon. --**

War again comes to the Americas: British heavy cruiser HMS *Dorsetshire* stops German freighter *Wakama* 12 miles off Cabo Frio, Brazil; *Wakama's* crew scuttles her so that their ship will not fall into British hands (see 16 March).

U.S. Ambassador to Brazil Jefferson Caffery reports to Secretary of State Hull on 20 March 1940 that the Brazilian government's protesting *Dorsetshire's*

stopping *Wakama* had not pleased the British. The British maintained that they were protecting Brazilian commerce. "Indeed you are not," the Brazilian Minister for Foreign Affairs Oswaldo Aranha retorts, "you are definitely not protecting our commerce by maintaining your warships off our coast. It is apparent to me that your blockade of Germany is plainly ineffective. If it were effective, you could stop the German boats [sic] on the other side before they entered German ports."

- **February 13, Tue.** --
U.S. freighter *Exford*, detained at Gibraltar by British authorities since 5 February, is released.
- **February 14, Wed.** --
U.S. passenger liner *Manhattan* is detained at Gibraltar for several hours by British authorities but allowed to proceed; not as fortunate is freighter *Exermont*, which is also detained there (see 16 February).
- **February 15, Thu.** --
President Roosevelt embarks in heavy cruiser *Tuscaloosa* (CA-37) at Pensacola, Florida, for a cruise to Panama and the west coast of Central America to discuss Pan-American defense and to inspect the Panama Canal.

Destroyer *Goff* (DD-247) collides with and sinks harbor tug *Wicomico* (YT-26) in Hampton Roads, off Naval Operating Base, Norfolk. *Goff*, her bow damaged in the mishap, rescues *Wicomico's* 11-man crew.
- **February 16, Fri.** --
U.S. freighter *Excalibur* is detained for several hours by British authorities at Gibraltar but is released; freighter *Exermont*, detained since 14 February, is allowed to proceed as well.

British destroyer HMS *Cossack* violates Norwegian territorial waters, boards German tanker *Altmark* in Jøssingfjord, and recovers 303 merchant seamen from ships destroyed by German armored ship *Admiral Graf Spee* during her commerce-raiding activities.
- **February 17, Sat.** --
U.S. freighter *Exhibitor* is detained by British authorities at Gibraltar (see 21 February).
- **February 21, Wed.** --
U.S. freighter *Sahale* is detained by British authorities at Gibraltar (see 22 February); freighter *Exhibitor*, detained since 17 February, is allowed to proceed. ◻
- **February 22, Thu.** --
U.S. freighter *Sahale*, detained by British authorities at Gibraltar the previous day, is released.
- **February 23, Fri.** --
U.S. freighter *Lehigh* is detained for several hours at Gibraltar by British authorities, but is allowed to proceed the same day.
- **February 24, Sat.** --
U.S. freighter *Scottsburg* is detained for several hours at Malta by British authorities, but is allowed to proceed the same day. ◻

- **February 25, Sun. --**
U.S. freighter *West Camargo* is stopped by unidentified French cruiser off north coast of Venezuela, 11°30'N, 66°20'W; French make no attempt to board but only request information "where from, where bound, and what cargo" before allowing the merchantman to proceed after a 20 minute delay.

U.S. freighter *Exochorda* is detained for several hours at Gibraltar by British authorities, but is allowed to proceed.
- **February 26, Mon. --**
Captain Raymond A. Spruance relieves Commander Reuben L. Walker as Commandant Tenth Naval District.

U.S. passenger liner *Washington* is detained at Gibraltar by British authorities.
- **February 27, Tue. --**
U.S. freighter *Sundance* is detained at Gibraltar by British authorities.
- **February 29, Thu. --**
U.S. freighter *Cold Harbor* is detained at Gibraltar by British authorities.

March

- **Mar 1, Fri. --**
U.S. freighter *Exeter* is detained at Gibraltar by British authorities (see 4 March).
- **Mar 2, Sat. --**
U.S. passenger liner *Manhattan* is detained at Gibraltar by British authorities, but is released the same day. Some 80 of 200 items of cargo, however, are detained subject to guarantees as to their destinations.
- **Mar 4, Mon. --**
U.S. freighter *Exeter*, detained at Gibraltar by British authorities since 1 March, is released, but not before 155 sacks of mail for Germany are removed, as are 95 sacks for Italy and 59 for Switzerland. Some 140 sacks previously removed from other neutral ships, however, are brought on board and the ship is permitted to sail.
- **Mar 8, Fri. --**
War again comes to the Americas: Canadian destroyer HMCS *Assiniboine* stops German freighter *Hannover* in Mona Passage, off the coast of the Dominican Republic, at which point the merchantman's crew sets fire to the ship and abandons her. Boarding party from British light cruiser HMS *Dunedin*, however, saves *Hannover* from destruction. Conflicting representations by British and German diplomats as to *Hannover's* exact position prompt the Dominican government to drop the question of violation of territorial waters (see 24 May). *Hannover* will ultimately be converted into the escort carrier HMS *Audacity*. The effort expended to capture *Hannover*, however, allows German freighters *Mimi Horn* and *Seattle* to escape the Caribbean and make a break for Germany.

Mimi Horn is scuttled to avoid capture in Denmark Strait on 28 March; *Seattle* is lost during the early phases of the invasion of Norway on 8-9 April.
- **Mar 9, Sat. --**
U.S. freighter *Exmoor* is detained at Gibraltar by British authorities (see 11 March).

- **Mar 10, Sun.** --
U.S. freighters *Explorer*, *Exchester*, and *West Cohas* are detained at Gibraltar by British authorities; all are released, however, after only several hours.
- **Mar 11, Mon.** --
U.S. freighter *Exmoor*, detained at Gibraltar by British authorities since 9 March, is released.
- **Mar 12, Tue.** --
Russo-Finnish War ends. Finnish desire to win back territory lost to Soviet encroachment (city of Viborg and areas along Finland's eastern borders) will push them closer toward the Axis.
- **Mar 13, Wed.** --
Fleet Landing Exercise (FLEX) No. 6 concludes at Culebra, Puerto Rico. The Fleet Marine Force makes progress in developing techniques for rubber boat landings, getting heavy combat materiel ashore, and improving ship-to-shore supply.
- **Mar 16, Sat.** --
President of Panama transmits protest to King of England over British violation of Pan-American Neutrality Zone in the *Wakama* Incident that took place off the coast of Brazil on 12 February.
- **Mar 21, Thu.** --
Auxiliary *Bear* (AG-29) and Interior Department motorship *North Star* (U.S. Antarctic Service) depart Bay of Whales for the United States. Staying behind are the men who will spend the long winter night at East and West Bases.
- **Mar 25, Mon.** --
Heavy cruiser *Augusta* (CA-31) is damaged when she strikes an uncharted pinnacle in Coron Bay, P.I.

April

- **April 2, Tue.** --
U.S. Fleet departs West Coast for maneuvers in Hawaiian waters. Fleet Problem XXI is the last of the large prewar fleet exercises that mark the culmination of the training year. Conducted in two phases, Parts II and VI of the annual fleet exercises, it takes place in the waters of the Pacific in the vicinity of Hawaii to the westward. Part II exercises two fleets (the augmented Battle Force vs. the augmented Scouting Force) of approximately equal strength, one side concentrated and the other widely dispersed, in scouting, screening, and conducting major fleet engagements. Part VI exercises two fleets of approximately equal strength (the same opponents as in Part II), each dispersed, in scouting, screening, protecting convoys, seizing and defending advanced bases, and conducting major fleet engagements. The worsening world situation will prompt the cancellation of Fleet Problem XXII.
- **April 3, Wed.** --
Destroyer *Crosby* (DD-164) accidentally sinks U.S. fishing boat *Lone Eagle* in collision in heavy seas off Point Arguello, California; *Crosby* rescues the seven-man crew.

- **April 5, Fri. --**
Operation *wilfred*: British mining of Norwegian waters begins.
- **April 7, Sun. --**
Destroyer *J. Fred Talbott* (DD-247) departs Canal Zone to rendezvous at sea with Japanese steamship *Maru* (see 13 April).

Destroyer *Twiggs* (DD-127), on neutrality patrol off the coast of Cuba, attempts to tow Norwegian freighter *Spind* off rocks six miles off Cape San Antonio, but is unsuccessful in two tries. Salvage tug *Warbler*, however, frees the merchantman from her predicament. *Twiggs* resumes her patrol. 8, Mon.

Norway protests British minelaying operations off the Norwegian coast. Amidst growing tensions in this region, U.S. freighter *Charles R. McCormick* arrives at Bergen, Norway, en route to her ultimate destination of Narvik. Freighter *Flying Fish* is also in Norwegian waters.
- **April 9, Tue. --**
Operation *weserobung*: Germany invades Denmark and Norway, claiming that they are only establishing a "protectorate." Norway, however, declares that a state of war exists with Germany.☐

Joint Planning Committee of the Joint Board submits a new general estimate of the world situation in relation to American defense and preparations for war. This is part of the revision of existing plans, and for developing or completing new plans of the *rainbow* series. Formulators of the *rainbow* plans envision multiple, simultaneous enemies, instead of individual enemies each designated by a single color (ORANGE, for example, stands for Japan).

Submarine tender *Bushnell* (AS-2), operating as a survey ship under the auspices of the Hydrographic Office, arrives in Venezuelan waters to commence hydrographic surveys of the Cape San Roman-to-Bahia Vela de Coro region (see 15 June).

Destroyer *Williams* (DD-108) transports hydrographic survey party to Palmetto Island, British West Indies.
- **April 10, Wed. --**
President Roosevelt, acting under the Neutrality Act of 1939, issues proclamation extending the combat zone to include the northwestern part of the USSR on a line to the southern point of Svalbard, a Norwegian possession, to the northwestern tip of the combat zone issued in the President's proclamation of 4 November 1939.
- **April 11, Thu. --**
Rear Admiral Claude C. Bloch relieves Rear Admiral Orin G. Murfin as Commandant Fourteenth Naval District and Navy Yard Pearl Harbor, T.H.
- **April 12, Fri. --**
Submarine rescue vessel *Falcon* (ASR-2) and U.S. freighter *El Oceano* are damaged when they collide in heavy fog in Buzzards Bay, near Hen and Chickens Lightship.
- **April 13, Sat. --**
Destroyer *J. Fred Talbott* (DD-247) returns to Canal Zone after providing medical assistance to passenger on board Japanese steamship *Arimasan Maru*.

The warship's medical officer remains with his patient until the Japanese vessel reaches Balboa.

- **April 15, Mon.** --
Naval Reserve affairs pertaining to the administration of naval districts are transferred to the Naval Reserve Policy Division, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, to prepare for expansion.

- **April 16, Tue.** --
Captain Albert C. Read relieves Captain Aubrey W. Fitch as Commandant Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida.

Great Britain issues mobilization order for men who turn 27 years of age during the months of April and May 1940.□

Iceland declares its independence and asks the United States to recognize it as such.

- **April 19, Fri.** --
Japanese government informs United States that Japan has no aggressive intentions toward the Netherlands East Indies.
- **April 20, Sat.** --
Captain George J. McMillin relieves Captain James T. Alexander as Governor of Guam and Commandant U.S. Naval Station, Guam.□

U.S. freighters *Flying Fish* and *Charles McCormick* are reported safe at Norwegian ports; concern had been expressed over their safety in view of the German invasion of Norway. They had been shifted from Bergen to neighboring, safer places.

- **April 21, Sun.** --
U.S. Military Attaché Captain Robert E. Losey is killed in German bombing raid on Dombas, Norway. U.S. Minister to Sweden Frederick A. Sterling orders Naval attaché Lieutenant Commander Ole E. Hagen to proceed to receive Captain Losey's remains.
- **April 24, Wed.** --
U.S. Naval Attaché (Lieutenant Commander Ole E. Hagen) escorts party of American citizens evacuated from Oslo to the interior of Norway and thence across the border into neutral Sweden, into Stockholm.
- **April 25, Thu.** --
President Roosevelt issues proclamation declaring that a state of war exists between Germany and Norway, and issues neutrality proclamation concerning same. In addition, he issues proclamation prohibiting Norwegian submarines from entering American waters.
- **April 29, Mon.** --
Although the British explanation concerning the removal of German engineers from Philippine motorship *Don Isidro* at Port Said on 5 September 1939 fails to satisfy the Department of State, the U.S. government nevertheless considers the incident closed "on the assumption that similar instances will not be permitted to occur in the future."

- **April 30, Tue. --**
Fire and rescue party detailed by Commandant Sixth Naval District extinguishes blaze in Norwegian tanker *Willy* (loaded with aviation gasoline) lying in the Cooper River off Charleston, South Carolina. The sailors save the ship and the city's waterfront.

May

- **May 1, Wed. --**
Naval Air Station, San Juan, Puerto Rico, is established effective this date, and designated as an activity of the Tenth Naval District. Captain Virgil C. Griffin, Jr., is the first commanding officer.
- **May 3, Fri. --**
Greenland, a crown colony of Denmark, seeks U.S. protection, so that Danish sovereignty can be maintained during the German occupation of the homeland.
- **May 7, Tue. --**
President Roosevelt orders U.S. Fleet to remain in Hawaiian waters indefinitely as a deterrent to Japan (see 5 July and 7 October).
- **May 8, Wed. --**
River gunboat *Tutuila* (PR-4) is damaged when she runs aground on a reef and becomes stranded as she shifts her anchorage at Chungking, China (see 13 May).
- **May 10, Fri. --**
Germany invades the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg. The Netherlands and Belgium declare war on Germany.

British troops occupy Iceland.

British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain resigns; First Lord of the Admiralty Winston S. Churchill becomes prime minister.

Secretary of State Hull reiterates that the United States will not stand for any country establishing a protectorate over the Netherlands East Indies. Japanese Foreign Minister indicates his country's desire to maintain the political and economic status quo in that region.

- **May 11, Sat. --**
President Roosevelt issues proclamations (1) recognizing the state of war that exists between Germany and Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands; (2) proclaiming American neutrality in the conflict; and (3) restricting belligerent submarines from using American ports and territorial waters, exclusive of the Panama Canal Zone.

British and French troops occupy Curaçao and Aruba, Netherlands West Indies. President Roosevelt announces that these actions are not contrary to the Monroe Doctrine.

- **May 13, Mon. --**
River gunboat *Tutuila* (PR-4), stranded on a reef in the Yangtze River off Chungking, China, since 8 May, is refloated.

Dutch Royal Family and government flees to London, England.

- **May 14, Tue.** --
 German troops smash through French lines at Sedan, and move toward the English Channel.

Dutch Army capitulates to Germany.
- **May 15, Wed.** --
 British Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill ("Former Naval Person") pleads for U.S. aid in a personal message to President Roosevelt. Churchill's request is six-fold. First, he requests the loan of 40 or 50 "older destroyers" to bridge the gap between what the Royal Navy has on hand and what is under construction; second, he asks for "several hundred" of the latest planes; third, he asks for anti-aircraft "equipment and ammunition"; fourth, he asks that the U.S. continue to provide Britain with steel; fifth, he asks that a U.S. squadron visit Irish ports; and sixth, he intimates that the U.S. "keep that Japanese dog quiet in the Pacific, using Singapore in any way convenient" (see 16 May and 11 June).▣

U.S. Minister in Uruguay, Edwin C. Wilson, reports to Secretary of State Hull that there has been an increase in "Nazi activities" in Uruguay. He notes "indifference and apathy...and in certain cases something worse evidenced by the Uruguayan government. The situation, Wilson warns, "has serious possibilities" (see 20 May).
- **May 16, Thu.** --
 President Roosevelt asks Congress to appropriate \$546 million for the Army, \$250 million for the Navy and Marine Corps, and \$100 million for the President to provide for emergencies affecting the national security and defense. He also asks for authorizations for the Army, Navy and Marine Corps to make contract obligations in the further sum of \$186 million, and to the President an additional authorization to make contract obligations for \$100 million. He also suggests that 50,000 planes a year be built.

President Roosevelt responds noncommittally to Prime Minister Churchill's telegram of the previous day. Addressing the possible loan of destroyers, Churchill's first concern, the President informs the "Former Naval Person" that such a step cannot be taken without "specific authorization of the Congress" and that U.S. defense requirements assumed priority. He also informs Churchill that the U.S. Fleet would remain concentrated in Hawaiian waters, "at least for the time being."
- **May 17, Fri.** --
 President Roosevelt announces plans for recommissioning 35 more "flush deck" destroyers to meet the requirements of fleet expansion and the Neutrality Patrol.
- **May 18, Sat.** --
 British Prime Minister Churchill, in telegram to President Roosevelt, tells of British perseverance but suggests that "if American assistance is to play any part it must be available [soon]."
- **May 20, Mon.** --
 British Prime Minister Churchill, in telegram to President Roosevelt concerning the recent meeting of Lord Lothian (British Ambassador to the U.S.) with the Chief Executive, acknowledges U.S. difficulties but expresses continuing

interest in destroyers. "If they were here in 6 weeks," Churchill states, "they would play an invaluable part."❑

President Roosevelt, in memorandum to Undersecretary of State Sumner Welles, expresses concern over the situation in Uruguay as reported by U.S. Minister Edwin C. Wilson, on 15 May. "Is there some way," Roosevelt asks Welles, "in which the Minister of Uruguay in Washington and Mr. Wilson in Montevideo can get word to the Uruguayan Government that the United States is concerned...?" Undersecretary Welles, in his response to the President that same day reports that the Uruguayan government has taken steps to investigate Nazi activities in Montevideo (see 26 May).

- **May 21, Tue.** --

German troops reach the English Channel west of Abbeville, France, splitting the Allied armies and encircling their northern remnant.

- **May 24, Fri.** --

President of Panama addresses diplomatic notes to the government of the Dominican Republic, supporting its position in the *Hannover* incident of 8 March, to the British and German governments, calling attention to their violation of the Pan-American Neutrality Zone, and to the Chairman of the Inter-American Neutrality Committee in Rio de Janeiro, directing that body's attention to the case.

Allied Supreme Command decides to evacuate its forces from Norway.

- **May 25, Sat.** --

Minor Landing and Base Defense Exercise begins at San Clemente Island, California (see 1 June).

- **May 26, Sun.** --

U.S. Minister in Uruguay Edwin C. Wilson, in telegram to Secretary of State Hull, reports tension between the Uruguayan and German governments over the former's searching homes and businesses of Germans and charges by the latter that the Uruguayan police were employing "rough methods" in their investigations (see 30 May).

Operation *dynamo*: evacuation of British, French, and Belgian troops from Dunkirk, France, begins, aided by poor flying weather that limits German aerial operations (see 4 June).

- **May 28, Tue.** --

National Defense Advisory Committee is established, which includes in its membership former automobile manufacturer William S. Knudsen, corporate executive Edward R. Stettinius, labor leader Sidney Hillman, and economist Leon Henderson. There is, however, no head to this group, that only serves to advise President Roosevelt on defense issues (see 7 January 1941).❑

Belgium surrenders to Germany.❑

Ambassador to France William C. Bullitt (through a telegram to Secretary of State Hull) urgently asks President Roosevelt to send a cruiser to Bordeaux, France (1) to bring arms and ammunition urgently required by the French police to quell a feared "Communist uprising" as German forces near Paris and other industrial centers and (2) to take away the French and Belgian gold reserves. "If

you cannot send a cruiser of the *San Francisco* [CA 38] class to Bordeaux," Bullitt implores, "please order the *Trenton* (CL-11) at Lisbon [Squadron 40-T flagship] to take on fuel and supplies at once for a trip to America and order her today to Bordeaux." Consequently, heavy cruiser *Vincennes* (CA-44) departs Hampton Roads in company with destroyers *Truxtun* (DD-229) and *Simpson* (DD-221), bound for the Azores on the first leg of the voyage undertaken in response to the ambassador's second concern (see 9 June).

Ambassador Bullitt also urges that the Atlantic Fleet be sent to the Mediterranean as "one of the surest ways" to obtain British and French cooperation in keeping German attacks away from the U.S. (see 30 May).

- **May 29, Wed.** -- French auxiliary cruiser *Ville d'Oran* loads 200 tons of gold (French reserve) for shipment to Casablanca (see 9-10 June).
- **May 30, Thu.** -- President Roosevelt (through Secretary of State Hull) rejects Ambassador Bullitt's request of 28 May to send the fleet to the Mediterranean. "The presence of the fleet in the Pacific at this time," Hull reminds the ambassador, "is a very practical contribution to the maintenance of peace in the Pacific."

U.S. Minister in Uruguay Edwin C. Wilson reports "deteriorating" situation in Montevideo in telegram to Secretary of State Hull. Wilson describes the Uruguayan government as "well meaning but weak, undecided and confused," with things "drifting" and "people... climbing on the Nazi band wagon." Wilson also warns that an "armed movement is a possibility" (see 31 May).

- **May 31, Fri.** -- U.S. Ambassador to Argentina Norman Armour and U.S. Minister in Uruguay Edwin C. Wilson confer in Montevideo about the deteriorating situation in Uruguay, and jointly suggest (in telegram to Secretary of State Hull) that "if the situation in the Far East permits," sending a "large U.S. naval force, 40 or 50 vessels...to the east coast of South America." A naval visit of that nature, the diplomats believe "would strengthen the position of those who desire to combat Nazism, as well as restore the confidence of those who are now wavering" and that the stationing of a U.S. naval squadron "more or less permanently in these waters would be an added assurance that we are prepared to give effective and immediate assistance if required."▣

In reply to U.S. Minister in Uruguay Wilson's telegram of the previous day, Secretary of State Hull informs the envoy in Montevideo that President Roosevelt has ordered heavy cruiser *Quincy* (CA-39) to proceed immediately to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and thence directly to Montevideo for "friendly visits of courtesy" (see 12 June).▣

Chief of the Division of the American Republics (Laurence Duggan) of the State Department suggests to Undersecretary of State Welles that President Roosevelt's decision "to detach two or three cruisers to go down the east coast [of South America]" be made public "in order to put a little iron in the veins of our friends in those countries."

June

- **June 1, Sat. --**

Undersecretary of State Sumner Welles, commenting on U.S. Minister in Uruguay Wilson's suggestion to send 40 or 50 naval vessels to South American waters, suggests "if some way can be found by which at least three or four heavy cruisers and a reasonable number of destroyers can be kept on the East Coast [of South America] this summer." That same day, Welles informs U.S. Ambassador to Brazil Jefferson Caffery that heavy cruiser *Quincy* (CA-39) is en route to Rio de Janeiro and Montevideo "to furnish a reminder of the strength and the range of action of the armed forces of the United States.

Battleship *Washington* (BB-56) is launched at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. She is the first American battleship to go down the ways since *West Virginia* (BB-48), 19 November 1921.

Minor Landing and Base Defense Exercise at San Clemente Island, begun on 25 May, concludes; for the first time one of the newly organized USMC Defense Battalions carries out the mission of defending an advanced base against a landing force supported by aircraft and ships.

U.S. freighter *Charles R. McCormick*, the American flag displayed prominently, departs Bergen, Norway, for the United States.

- **June 2, Sun. --**

Chief of Naval Operations (Admiral Harold R. Stark) sends memorandum to President Roosevelt that addresses options concerning the situation in South America; of those proposed, the President believes that the only solution lies in dispatching one additional 8-inch gun cruiser to South America, continuing destroyer shakedown cruises to South American waters, and utilizing ships already in the Atlantic Squadron, thus not weakening the fleet in the Pacific.

U.S. steamship *President Roosevelt* departs Galway, Ireland, with 720 American citizens fleeing European war zone. Passenger liner *Manhattan* departs Genoa, Italy, the same day with 1,905 passengers.

- **June 4, Tue. --**

Operation *dynamo*, begun on 26 May, is completed; all told, some 848 vessels of every size and displacement take part in the extraction of 338,226 men (including 123,000 French). Among the individuals who take part in this operation in a volunteer capacity is Charles Herbert Lightoller, the former second officer of the ill-fated passenger liner *Titanic*.

- **June 5, Wed. --**

Miscellaneous auxiliary *Bear* (AG-29) arrives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, having proceeded from Antarctica via Valparaiso, Chile, the Panama Canal, and Key West, Florida.

- **June 9, Sun. --**

Allies complete evacuation of British, French, and Norwegian troops from Norway.

Heavy cruiser *Vincennes* (CA-44) and destroyers *Truxtun* (DD-229) and *Simpson* (DD-221), reach Casablanca, French Morocco, having touched briefly at Ponta Delgada, Azores (4-6 June) en route. *Vincennes's* mission is to load the

200 tons of gold brought to Casablanca by French auxiliary cruiser *Ville d'Oran*. The precious metal cargo (Bank of France gold reserves) will be transported to New York for deposit in U.S. banks (see 10 and 20 June). This is not the first time a cruiser is dispatched on a mission of this kind. Light cruisers *Nashville* (CL-43) and *Honolulu* (CL-48) bring back \$25 million in gold, stabilization funds lent to the Bank of England but brought back because of wartime fears in the late summer-early autumn of 1938. The money is delivered to the Federal Reserve Bank in New York on 11 October 1938.

Destroyer *Dickerson* (DD-157), from Squadron 40-T, departs Casablanca, French Morocco, with American nationals who desire passage on board U.S. passenger (liner *Washington*, which is slated to leave Lisbon the next day for Ireland and the United States. *Washington* departs Bordeaux for Lisbon with 813 U.S. citizens on board (see 10-11 and 15 June).

- **June 10, Mon. --**

Italy declares war on France and Great Britain; Italian troops invade France. President Roosevelt, in speech at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, declares that the Italian declaration of war on France is like "the hand that held the dagger has struck it in the back of its neighbor."□

Norway capitulates to German forces.

Canada declares war on Italy.

Rear Admiral David M. LeBreton relieves Rear Admiral Charles E. Courtney as Commander Squadron 40-T on board light cruiser *Trenton* (CL-11) at Lisbon, Portugal.

Heavy cruiser *Vincennes* (CA-44), escorted by destroyers *Truxtun* (DD-229) and *Simpson* (DD-221), departs Casablanca, French Morocco, for New York (see 20 June).

U.S. passenger liner *Washington* arrives at Lisbon, Portugal, to embark American nationals desiring passage to the United States; destroyer *Dickerson* (DD-157) arrives the same day with her passengers who are to embark in the liner (see 11 and 15 June).

Destroyer *O'Brien* (DD-415) arrives at Bahia, Brazil, her shakedown cruise (see 14 June).

- **June 11, Tue. --**

Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa declare war on Italy.□

President Roosevelt declares Mediterranean area and mouth of Red Sea to be combat zones in accordance with Neutrality Act.□ ◻ ◻ -- British Prime Minister Churchill, in telegram to President Roosevelt sent via the British Embassy in Washington, again raises the need for destroyers with the Italian entry into the war and the possibility of having to deal with more submarines. "To this," Churchill declares, "the only counter is destroyers. Nothing is so important as for us to have 30 or 40 old destroyers you have already had reconditioned."

U.S. passenger liner *Washington*, en route from Lisbon, Portugal, to Galway, Ireland, with 1,020 U.S. passengers, to embark more American citizens returning to the United States, is stopped by German submarine *U 101* at

42°12'N, 12°50'W. The submarine, mistakenly believing the ship to be a Greek vessel, orders *Washington* abandoned preparatory to being sunk. Blinker signals exchanged between the two ships soon result in the Germans' confirming *Washington's* neutral identity and allowing her to proceed without further hindrance (see 15 June).

- **June 12, Wed. --**

Navy Department awards contracts for 22 new warships.☐

Japan-Thailand Non-Aggression Pact is announced.☐

Heavy cruiser *Quincy* (CA-39) arrives at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for a port visit while she is en route to Montevideo, Uruguay (see 17 June).

- **June 13, Thu. --**

Rear Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr., relieves Vice Admiral Charles A. Blakely as Commander Aircraft, Battle Force, on board carrier *Yorktown* (CV-5) at Lahaina Roads, Maui, T.H. Halsey receives the temporary rank of vice admiral.

- **June 14, Fri. --**

President Roosevelt signs Naval Expansion Act increasing the carrier, cruiser, and submarine tonnage of the Navy by 167,000 tons, auxiliary shipping by 75,000; and the useful number of authorized naval aircraft to 4,500 planes.

German troops occupy Paris, France.

Destroyer *O'Brien* (DD-415) departs Bahia, Brazil, on her shakedown cruise, bound for Buenos Aires, Argentina (see 20 June).

- **June 15, Sat. --**

Soviet forces, as allowed by the Nazi-Soviet pact, occupy Lithuania. The U.S. refuses to acknowledge this annexation or those of the two other Baltic states that the USSR will occupy two days later (see 17 June).

President Roosevelt approves Act of Congress to increase naval aviation to a strength of not more than 10,000 aircraft, vice 4,500.☐

British Prime Minister Churchill, in telegram to President Roosevelt, again asks for destroyers, calling the matter one "of life and death." Britain will carry on the struggle "whatever the odds," the "Former Naval Person" declares to the President, "but it may well be beyond our resources unless we receive every reinforcement and particularly do we need this reinforcement on the sea."

Submarine tender *Bushnell* (AS-2) completes hydrographic surveys off the coast of Venezuela from Cape San Roman to Bahia Vela de Coro. Having begun on 9 April, she covered an area of 2,200 nautical square miles in the course of her work.

U.S. passenger liner *Washington* sails from Galway, Ireland, for the United States with an additional 852 American citizens, making a total of 1,872 passengers, embarked. She will arrive at New York unmolested.

- **June 17, Mon. --**

Soviet forces occupy Estonia and Latvia.☐

France sues for an armistice with Germany. France's collapse prompts concern for the disposition of the French fleet. French Minister for Foreign Affairs Paul

Baudouin privately informs Deputy U.S. Ambassador to France Anthony J. Drexel Biddle, Jr., that the fleet "would never be surrendered to Germany." To guarantee that pledge, Boudouin informs Biddle that Admiral François Darlan has been appointed as Minister of Marine (see 18 June).▣

Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Harold R. Stark asks for \$4 billion to construct the "Two-Ocean Navy."

Heavy cruiser *Quincy* (CA-39) departs Rio de Janeiro, Brazil for Montevideo, Uruguay (see 20 June 1940).

- **June 18, Tue. --**

Secretary of State Hull directs Deputy U.S. Ambassador to France Anthony J. Drexel Biddle, Jr., to inform the French government that if France fails to keep its fleet out of German hands, France would "permanently lose the friendship and goodwill of the Government of the United States." Although those sentiments "deeply pained" the French, Minister for Foreign Affairs Baudouin reiterates that the French fleet "would never be surrendered to Germany."▣

U.S. Minister in Uruguay Edwin C. Wilson reports that Uruguayan government has arrested eight Nazi leaders and that Uruguay's Chamber of Deputies, in secret session the day before, has begun considering a report on Nazi activities in their country.

- **June 20, Thu. --**

Bureau of Ships is established with Rear Admiral Samuel M. Robinson as chief; Bureau of Construction and Repair and Bureau of Engineering are abolished.

Office of Undersecretary of the Navy is created for duration of emergency (see 22 August).

Heavy cruiser *Vincennes* (CA-44), escorted by destroyers *Truxtun* (DD-229) and *Simpson* (DD-221), arrives at New York Navy Yard and transfers the Bank of France gold reserves ashore for deposit in U.S. banks.

Destroyer *Herbert* (DD-160), attached to Squadron 40-T, departs Lisbon for French Morocco (see 21 June).

Heavy cruiser *Quincy* (CA-39) reaches Montevideo, Uruguay, as part of the American effort to counteract German propaganda in Latin America (see 21, 27 and 30 June).

Destroyer *O'Brien* (DD-415) reaches Buenos Aires, Argentina, as her shakedown cruise to Latin American ports continues (see 25 June).

Light cruiser *Phoenix* (CL-46) departs Lahaina, Maui, T.H., for the Panama Canal Zone, on the first leg of her goodwill cruise to the Pacific coast of South America (see 3 July).▣

Vichy France opens northern Indochina to Japanese military mission and supporting troops.

- **June 21, Fri. --**

Heavy cruiser *Wichita* (CA-45), with Commander Cruiser Division Seven (Rear Admiral Andrew C. Pickens) embarked, arrives at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, en

route to join heavy cruiser *Quincy* (CA-39) at Montevideo, Uruguay (see 27 June).

Destroyer *Herbert* (DD-160) arrives at Casablanca, French Morocco (see 23 June).

Destroyer *Dickerson* (DD-157), attached to Squadron 40-T, departs Lisbon for Bilbao, Spain (see 22 June).

- **June 22, Sat. --**

Franco-German armistice is signed at Compiegne, France. France is divided: one zone is occupied by the Germans; the other administered by the French government from the city of Vichy. Free French government is established in exile in England by General Charles DeGaulle. Among the terms of the armistice is the specification that the French fleet, except portions necessary to safeguard France's colonial interests, will be gathered in French metropolitan ports and demobilized and disarmed under German and Italian control.☐

Destroyer *Dickerson* (DD-157) arrives at Bilbao, Spain; she will remain there, safeguarding American interests, until 3 July.

Prince Konoye Fumimaro forms new Japanese cabinet with General Tojo Hideki as Minister of War and Matsuoka Yosuke as Minister of Foreign Affairs.

- **June 23, Sun. --**

Portuguese police arrest 30 sailors (three of whom are injured in the fracas) from light cruiser *Trenton* (CL-11) in street brawl in Santo Amaro Oerias, a suburb of Lisbon.

Destroyer *Herbert* (DD-160) proceeds from Casablanca, French Morocco, to Lisbon with American refugees.

- **June 24, Mon. --**

Charles Edison, who had devoted himself to accelerating naval construction and to technical advances in the naval service, resigns as Secretary of the Navy. Lewis Compton, Assistant Secretary of the Navy since 9 February, becomes Acting Secretary. Edison will become Governor of New Jersey.☐ -- France signs armistice with Italy.☐

Japan requests that British close the Burma Road, thus severing the Allied supply line to China.☐

Rear Admiral Charles A. Blakely relieves Rear Admiral Joseph R. Defrees as Commandant, Eleventh Naval District and Commandant Naval Operating Base, San Diego, California.

- **June 25, Tue. --**

Franco-German armistice becomes effective and hostilities cease.

Act of Congress abolishes Construction Corps of the Navy; constructors are given line officer status designated for Engineering Duty Only (EDO). In addition, the status of those line officers who had previously been designated for Aeronautical Engineering Duty Only (AEDO) were redesignated EDO.☐

Destroyer *O'Brien* (DD-415) departs Buenos Aires, Argentina, for Rio Grande du Sol, Brazil (see 27 June).

- **June 27, Thu. --**

Rumania yields to Soviet ultimatum and cedes Bessarabia and northern Bukovina.

President Roosevelt declares a national emergency and invokes Espionage Act of 1917 to exercise control over shipping movements in territorial waters and in vicinity of the Panama Canal.

President Roosevelt establishes National Defense Research Committee (Dr. Vannevar Bush, chairman) to correlate and support scientific research on the mechanisms and devices of war; among its members are officers of the Navy and War Departments.▣

Heavy cruiser *Wichita* (CA-45), with Commander Cruiser Division Seven (Rear Admiral Andrew C. Pickens) embarked, departs Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, en route to join heavy cruiser *Quincy* (CA-39) at Montevideo, Uruguay (see 30 June).▣

Destroyer *O'Brien* (DD-415) reaches Rio Grande du Sol, Brazil, as her shakedown cruise to Latin American ports continues (see 29 June).

- **June 29, Sat. --**

Presidential yacht *Potomac* (AG-25), accompanied by auxiliary *Cuyahoga* (AG-26), departs Washington Navy Yard with President Roosevelt embarked, for a cruise down the Potomac River (see 30 June).▣

Destroyer *O'Brien* (DD-415) departs Rio Grande du Sol, Brazil, bound for Santos, Brazil, as her shakedown cruise to Latin American ports continues (see 1 July).

- **June 30, Sun. --**

Naval ships and district craft on hand (all types)--1,099. Personnel: Navy--160,997; Marine Corps--28,364; Coast Guard--13,766. Total personnel--203,127.

Heavy cruiser *Wichita* (CA-45), with Commander Cruiser Division Seven (Rear Admiral Andrew C. Pickens) embarked, reaches Montevideo, Uruguay, joining heavy cruiser *Quincy* (CA-39) to begin a tour of Latin American ports "to furnish a reminder of the strength and the range of action of the armed forces of the United States" (see 3 July and following).

Presidential yacht *Potomac* (AG-25), accompanied by auxiliary *Cuyahoga* (AG-26), returns to Washington Navy Yard with President Roosevelt embarked, after a cruise down the Potomac River.

July

- **July 1, Mon. --**

Navy awards contracts for 44 ships.

Headquarters Marine Aircraft Wing, Fleet Marine Force (Brigadier General Ross E. Rowell, USMC) is established at the Marine Corps Base, San Diego, California.

U.S. Ambassador to France William C. Bullitt has lengthy private interview with the President of the French Council of Ministers, Marshal Henri Philippe Pétain, in which the latter informs the envoy that orders had been given "to every captain of the French Fleet to sink his ship rather than permit [it] to fall

into German hands." The same day, Bullitt also has interview with Admiral François Darlan, who informs him that if the Germans should demand the Fleet, it had orders to leave at once for Martinique and Guantanamo to place its ships in U.S. hands. He echoes Marshal Pétain's declaration that French ships had orders to scuttle if the Germans attempt to seize them.

Destroyer *O'Brien* (DD-415) reaches Santos, Brazil, as her shakedown cruise to Latin American ports continues (see 3 July).

- **July 2, Tue. --**

Congress passes Export Control Act giving the President the power, whenever he deems "necessary in the interest of national defense" to prohibit or curtail the exportation of military equipment, munitions, tools, and materials.

- **July 3, Wed. --**

Operation *catapult*: British warships attack French naval vessels at Mers-el-Kebir, near Oran, Algeria, sinking battleship *Bretagne* and damaging battleship *Provence* and battlecruiser *Dunkerque*, and sinking seaplane tender *Commandant Teste* and destroyer *Mogadore*; French men-of-war in British ports (principally Portsmouth or Plymouth) are seized.

Heavy cruisers *Wichita* (CA-45) (Rear Admiral Andrew C. Pickens) and *Quincy* (CA-39) depart Montevideo, Uruguay, for Brazilian waters.

Light cruiser *Phoenix* (CL-46) reaches Balboa, C.Z. (see 5 July).

Destroyer *O'Brien* (DD-415) departs Santos, Brazil, for Para, Brazil (see 9 July).

Destroyer *Dickerson* (DD-157), attached to Squadron 40-T, departs Bilbao, Spain, for Lisbon, Portugal (see 5 July).

- **July 5, Fri. --**

Vichy France breaks off diplomatic relations with Great Britain.◻

President Roosevelt invokes Export Control Act against Japan by prohibiting exportation, without license, of strategic minerals and chemicals, aircraft engines, parts, and equipment.

Admiral James O. Richardson arrives in Washington for conferences with the President and Navy and State Department officials concerning the retention of the U.S. Fleet in Hawaiian waters. He will depart to return to the fleet on 17 July.

Light cruiser *Omaha* (CL-4) relieves light cruiser *Trenton* (CL-11) as flagship for Squadron 40-T (Rear Admiral David M. LeBreton) at Lisbon, Portugal.

Heavy cruisers *Wichita* (CA-45) (Rear Admiral Andrew C. Pickens) and *Quincy* (CA-39) reach Rio Grande du Sol, Brazil.

Light cruiser *Phoenix* (CL-46) departs Balboa, C.Z., for Valparaiso, Chile (see 12 July).

- **July 8, Mon. --**

British launch two attacks to disable French battleship *Richelieu* at Dakar. In the first, four depth charges dropped over the side of motor boat from carrier HMS *Hermes* fail to explode. In the second, FAA Swordfish TSR (torpedo spotting reconnaissance) planes (No. 814 Squadron) torpedo *Richelieu*, rendering her

incapable of steaming at more than half power. Her main battery, however, is unaffected.

- **July 9, Tue. --**

Destroyer *O'Brien* (DD-415) reaches Para, Brazil, in the course of her shakedown cruise (see 12 July).

Coast Guard cutter *Campbell* arrives at Boston, Massachusetts, with U.S. Consul to Greenland James K. Penfield, Governor of North Greenland E. Brun, and a group of Danish officials to discuss commerce and trade of Greenland, due to the interruption of direct contact with Denmark, Greenland's mother country.

- **July 10, Wed. --**

Battle of Britain begins with first concentrated German air attacks on British convoys in the English Channel.

- **July 11, Thu. --**

William Franklin [Frank] Knox of Illinois, publisher of the *Chicago Daily News*, takes office as Secretary of the Navy. President Roosevelt's choice of Knox, who had been the Republican Party's vice presidential nominee in the 1936 election, reflects the Chief Executive's desire for bipartisan support of his policies.◻

Heavy cruisers *Wichita* (CA-45) (Rear Admiral Andrew C. Pickens) and *Quincy* (CA-39) depart Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, for Santos, Brazil.

Captain Laurence Wild relieves Captain Edward W. Hanson as Governor of American Samoa and Commandant of Naval Station, Tutuila, Samoa.

- **July 12, Fri. --**

Light cruiser *Phoenix* (CL-46) reaches Valparaiso, Chile, for a six-day visit "to cultivate friendly relations" (see 18 July).

Destroyer *O'Brien* (DD-415) departs Pará, Brazil, for La Guaira, Venezuela (see 16 July).

Destroyers *Walke* (DD-416) and *Wainwright* (DD-420) reach Paracatu, Brazil, en route to Rio de Janeiro. Both destroyers are transporting marines to join the detachments in heavy cruisers *Wichita* (CA-45) and *Quincy* (CA-39).

U.S. passenger liner *Manhattan* departs Lisbon, Portugal, with approximately 800 American citizens and their families.

- **July 13, Sat. --**

Heavy cruisers *Wichita* (CA-45) (Rear Admiral Andrew C. Pickens) and *Quincy* (CA-39) reach Santos, Brazil.

Destroyers *Walke* (DD-416) and *Wainwright* (DD-420) depart Pará, Brazil, for Rio de Janeiro.

- **July 15, Mon. --**

Light cruiser *Trenton* (CL-11) sails from Lisbon with members of the royal family of the Duchy of Luxembourg embarked (see 25 July).

- **July 18, Thu. --**

Heavy cruisers *Wichita* (CA-45) (Rear Admiral Andrew C. Pickens) and *Quincy* (CA-39) depart Santos, Brazil, to pay a return call at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Light cruiser *Phoenix* (CL-46) departs Valparaiso, Chile, for Callao, Peru (see 22 July).

- **July 19, Fri.** --

President Roosevelt signs Naval Expansion ("Two Ocean Navy") Act providing, among other things, for 1,325,000 tons of combatant shipping, 100,000 tons of auxiliary shipping, and 15,000 aircraft; this legislation will expand the fleet 70 percent.▣

Presidential yacht *Potomac* (AG-25), with President Roosevelt embarked, departs Washington Navy Yard for cruise in Chesapeake Bay, accompanied by auxiliary *Cuyahoga* (AG-26) (see 21 July).▣

Heavy cruisers *Wichita* (CA-45) (Rear Admiral Andrew C. Pickens) and *Quincy* (CA-39) reach Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; destroyers *Walke* (DD-416) and *Wainwright* (DD-420) arrive the same day and transfer their marine passengers; *Walke's* to *Wichita* and *Wainwright's* to *Quincy*.

- **July 20, Sat.** --

Destroyers *Walke* (DD-416) and *Wainwright* (DD-420) depart Rio de Janeiro for Rio Grande du Sol, Brazil (see 23 July).

- **July 21, Sun.** --

Presidential yacht *Potomac* (AG-25), with President Roosevelt embarked, returns to Washington Navy Yard after a cruise in Chesapeake Bay, accompanied by auxiliary *Cuyahoga* (AG-26).

- **July 22, Mon.** --

Light cruiser *Phoenix* (CL-46) reaches Callao, Peru (see 26 July).

- **July 23, Tue.** --

Destroyers *Walke* (DD-416) and *Wainwright* (DD-420) reach Rio Grande du Sol, Brazil (see 29 July).

- **July 25, Thu.** --

Heavy cruisers *Wichita* (CA-45) (Rear Admiral Andrew C. Pickens) and *Quincy* (CA-39) depart Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for Bahia, Brazil.

Light cruiser *Trenton* (CL-11) arrives at Annapolis, Maryland, and disembarks members of the royal family of the Duchy of Luxembourg.

- **July 26, Fri.** --

President Roosevelt invokes Export Control Act and prohibits exportation, without license, of aviation gasoline and certain classes of iron and steel scrap; this legislation halts flow of those important commodities to Japan.

Light cruiser *Phoenix* (CL-46) departs Callao, Peru, concluding her goodwill cruise to Chilean and Peruvian' | waters. She reaches Balboa, C.Z., on 30 July, and returns to the fleet at San Pedro on 7 August.

- **July 27, Sat.** --

Presidential yacht *Potomac* (AG-25), with President Roosevelt, Secretary of the Navy Knox and House Naval Affairs Committee chairman Carl Vinson embarked, departs Washington Navy Yard for Norfolk Navy Yard, accompanied by auxiliary *Cuyahoga* (AG-26) (see 29 July).

- **July 29, Mon. --**
 Presidential yacht *Potomac* (AG-25), with President Roosevelt, Secretary of the Navy Knox and House Naval Affairs Committee chairman Carl Vinson embarked, reaches Norfolk Navy Yard, accompanied by auxiliary *Cuyahoga* (AG-26). Roosevelt and his guests inspect the yard and Naval Operating Base before reembarking in *Potomac* and travelling to Fortress Monroe, which the President inspects, as well as the USAAC Langley Field and the Newport News Ship Building and Drydock Company (see 30 July).

Destroyers *Walke* (DD-416) and *Wainwright* (DD-420) depart Rio Grande du Sol, Brazil, for Buenos Aires, Argentina.

- **July 30, Tue. --**
 Act of Havana, providing for the emergency establishment of a regime of provisional administration under specified conditions "when islands or regions in the Americas now under the possession of non-American nations are in danger of becoming the subject of barter of territory or change of sovereignty" is signed by 21 nations at the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the American Republics.▣

Presidential yacht *Potomac* (AG-25), accompanied by auxiliary *Cuyahoga* (AG-26), returns to Washington Navy Yard with President Roosevelt embarked.

Destroyers *Walke* (DD-416) and *Wainwright* (DD-420) reach Buenos Aires, Argentina.▣

- **July 31, Wed. --**
 Heavy cruisers *Wichita* (CA-45) (Rear Admiral Andrew C. Pickens) and *Quincy* (CA-39) reach Bahia, Brazil.▣

British Prime Minister Churchill, in telegram sent from the U.S. Ambassador to the Court of St. James (Joseph P. Kennedy) to Secretary of State Hull, again asks President Roosevelt for the loan of destroyers. In the previous ten days, the Royal Navy has suffered the loss of four of its destroyers and damage to seven. "If we cannot get reinforcement," Churchill states, "the whole fate of the war may be decided by this minor and easily remediable factor.

August

- **August 1, Thu. --**
 Navy establishes Alaskan Sector as a military command within the Thirteenth Naval District.
- **August 2, Fri. --**
 President Roosevelt and his cabinet have "long discussion" in cabinet meeting concerning "ways and means to sell directly or indirectly" 50 or 60 destroyers to the British. There is no dissent "that the survival of the British Isles under German attack might very possibly depend on their [the British] getting these destroyers." All present agree that legislation to accomplish that goal is necessary.
- **August 3, Sat. --**
 USSR annexes Lithuania as a Soviet Socialist Republic.

Rear Admiral H. Kent Hewitt relieves Rear Admiral John W. Wilcox, Jr., as Commander Special Service Squadron on board gunboat *Erie* (PG-50).

Destroyers *Walke* (DD-416) and *Wainwright* (DD-420) depart Buenos Aires, Argentina, for Santos, Brazil.

- **August 5, Mon. --**

Chief of Naval Operations establishes general ground rules to govern the exchange of scientific and technical information with the British mission under Sir Henry Tizard; arrival of the Tizard Mission begins the Anglo-American effort to jointly develop a wide range of weapons, sensors, and the technical equipment during the war.

Lord Lothian, British Ambassador to the U.S., provides President Roosevelt with a note concerning the facilities which the British were prepared to "extend to the United States Government..."

Rear Admiral John W. Greenslade and French Vice Admiral Georges A.M.J. Robert conclude agreement concerning status of Vichy French warships and aircraft in French West Indies. Ships in question are carrier *Bearn*, light cruiser *Emile Bertin*, training cruiser *Jeanne d'Arc* and auxiliary cruisers *Esterelle*, *Quercy*, and *Barfleur*; aircraft are 44 SBC-4s, 15 Hawk 75s (export version of USAAC P-36) and 6 Belgian Brewster fighters (export version of USN F2A) (see 2-3 November).

Heavy cruisers *Wichita* (CA-45) (Rear Admiral Andrew C. Pickens) and *Quincy* (CA-39) depart Bahia for Pernambuco, Brazil.

- **August 6, Tue. --**

U.S. Army transport *American Legion* reaches Petsamo, Finland, to embark American nationals returning to the United States from European countries (Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands) in which they had been residing (see 16 August).

Destroyers *Walke* (DD-416) and *Wainwright* (DD-420) reach Santos, Brazil.

- **August 9, Fri. --**

Heavy cruisers *Wichita* (CA-45) (Rear Admiral Andrew C. Pickens) and *Quincy* (CA-39) reach Pernambuco, Brazil.

Gunboat *Erie* (PG-50) (Rear Admiral H. Kent Hewitt, Commander Special Service Squadron, embarked) departs Panama Canal Zone for a goodwill visit to Ecuador (see 12 August).

Destroyers *Walke* (DD-416) and *Wainwright* (DD-420) depart Santos, Brazil, for Rio de Janeiro.

- **August 10, Sat. --**

President Roosevelt inspects Portsmouth (New Hampshire) Navy Yard and then cruises in presidential yacht *Potomac* (AG-25), to Nahant, Massachusetts, escorted by destroyer *Mayrant* (DD-402), and thence to Boston Navy Yard, which the Chief Executive inspects as well (see 11-12 August).

Destroyers *Walke* (DD-416) and *Wainwright* (DD-420) reach Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Japanese naval blockade of coast of China is extended to South China.

- **August 11, Sun. --**
Presidential yacht *Potomac* (AG-25) (with President Roosevelt embarked), escorted by destroyer *Mayrant* (DD-402), proceeds from Boston Navy Yard to Mattapoisett, Massachusetts (see 12 August).
- **August 12, Mon. --**
Presidential yacht *Potomac* (AG-25) (with President Roosevelt embarked), escorted by destroyer *Mayrant* (DD-402), proceeds from Mattapoisett, Massachusetts to Newport, R.I. There the Chief Executive, accompanied by Secretary of the Navy Knox, Senator David I. Walsh and Rear Admiral Edward C. Kalbfus, inspects the Torpedo Station and the Naval Training Station. Later the same day, the President reembarks in *Potomac* and cruises to the Submarine Base at New London, observing submarine operations en route. Roosevelt inspects the base and the nearby facilities of the Electric Boat Company before reembarking in *Potomac* for the final leg of the voyage to the Washington Navy Yard, which is reached later the same day.

Gunboat *Erie* (PG-50) (Rear Admiral H. Kent Hewitt, Commander Special Service Squadron, embarked) arrives at Guayaquil, Ecuador, for a goodwill visit.

- **August 13, Tue. --**
President Roosevelt confers with Secretary of the Navy Knox, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, and Undersecretary of State Sumner Welles concerning the transfer of destroyers to Britain. Consequently, Roosevelt informs British Prime Minister Churchill (in telegram sent from Acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles to Ambassador Kennedy) that among other items previously sought "it may be possible to furnish to the British Government... at least 50 destroyers..." Roosevelt states, though, that such aid could only be given provided that "the American People and the Congress frankly recognized in return...the national defense and security of the United States would be enhanced." The President thus insists that (1) should British waters be rendered untenable the British Fleet would be sent to other parts of the Empire (and neither turned over to the Germans nor sunk) and (2) that the British government would grant authorization to use Newfoundland, Bermuda, the Bahamas, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Trinidad and British Guiana as naval and air bases, and to acquire land there through 99-year leases to establish those bases (see 15 August).◻

Commander in Chief Asiatic Fleet (Admiral Thomas C. Hart) shifts flag from heavy cruiser *Augusta* (CA-31) to submarine *Porpoise* (SS-172), Tsingtao, China, and travels to Shanghai, arriving the next day and transferring to yacht *Isabel* (PY-10). It is the first time a CINCAF (a submariner himself) has taken passage in a submarine in this fashion.

Heavy cruisers *Wichita* (CA-45) (Rear Admiral Andrew C. Pickens) and *Quincy* (CA-39) depart Pernambuco, Brazil, for Montevideo, Uruguay.

- **August 14, Wed. --**
Destroyers *Walke* (DD-416) and *Wainwright* (DD-420) depart Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for Bahia.

- **August 15, Thu. --**
 British Prime Minister Churchill responds, encouraged and grateful, to President Roosevelt's telegram of 13 August 1940; "the worth of every destroyer that you can spare to us is measured in rubies..." The "moral value of this fresh aid from your Government and your people at this critical time will be very great and widely felt."

Assistant Chief of Naval Operations Rear Admiral Robert L. Ghormley, Major General Delos C. Emmons (USAAC), and Brigadier General George V. Strong (USA) arrive in London for informal staff conversations with British officers.▣

Naval Air Station, Miami, Florida, is established, Commander Gerald F. Bogan in command.▣

Destroyers *Walke* (DD-416) and *Wainwright* (DD-420) reach Bahia, Brazil.
- **August 16, Fri. --**
 President Roosevelt, in press conference, announces that the U.S. government is discussing with the British government the acquisition of naval and air bases to defend the Western Hemisphere and the Panama Canal. Secrecy, however, continues to shroud the ongoing discussions concerning the transfer of destroyers to the British.

U.S. Army Transport *American Legion* departs Petsamo, Finland, for New York; on board is Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Martha of Norway and her three children, who have been invited to come to the United States by President Roosevelt. The last neutral ship permitted to leave Petsamo, *American Legion* also carries a crated twin-mount 40-millimeter Bofors gun "with standard sights...spare parts, and 3,000 rounds of ammunition. Shipment of the gun, an almost Herculean effort that involves trucking the weapon the entire length of Sweden, has required the cooperation of the British, Swedish, and Finnish governments.
- **August 17, Sat. --**
 German government establishes "total blockade" of the British Isles, and warns that all ships will be sunk without warning.

Destroyers *Walke* (DD-416) and *Wainwright* (DD-420) depart Bahia, Brazil, for Pará, Brazil.
- **August 18, Sun. --**
 President Roosevelt and Prime Minister MacKenzie King of Canada sign Ogdensburg Agreement, providing for Permanent Joint Board for the Defense of the United States and Canada (see 26 August 1940).
- **August 21, Wed. --**
 Destroyers *Walke* (DD-416) and *Wainwright* (DD-420) reach Pará, Brazil.
- **August 22, Thu. --**
 James V. Forrestal, former Administrative Assistant to the President and Wall Street broker, becomes first Undersecretary of the Navy. His office will become the most important coordinating agency for procurement and materiel in the Navy Department.
- **August 23, Fri. --**
 Heavy cruisers *Wichita* (CA-45) (Rear Admiral Andrew C. Pickens)

(Commander, Cruiser Division 7, embarked) and *Quincy* (CA-39) arrive at Montevideo, Uruguay.

Destroyers *Walke* (DD-416) and *Wainwright* (DD-420) wind up their shakedown/goodwill cruise in Latin American waters, departing Pará for Guantanamo Bay.

- **August 26, Mon. --**

Permanent Joint Board on Defense, United States and Canada, set up by President Roosevelt and Canadian Prime Minister W.L. MacKenzie King on 18 August 1940, convenes in Ottawa, Canada. U.S. representatives are: Fiorello H. LaGuardia (President, U.S. Conference of Mayors), Lieutenant General Stanley D. Embick, USA, (Commanding Fourth Corps Area), Captain Harry W. Hill and Commander Forrest P. Sherman (War Plans Division, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations), Lieutenant Colonel Joseph T. McNarney, USAAC, and John D. Hickerson (Assistant Chief, Division of European Affairs, Department of State).

- **August 27, Tue. --**

President Roosevelt signs joint resolution authorizing him to call Army Reserve components and National Guard into federal service for one year.

Legislation is enacted authorizing the appointment of naval aviators of the Navy and Marine Corps reserve to the line of the regular Navy and Marine Corps, in order to augment the Naval Academy as a source of regular aviators.■

President Roosevelt confers with Secretary of the Navy Knox, Secretary of War Stimson and Secretary of State Hull concerning a compromise to resolve the impasse that has arisen over the proposed destroyers-for-bases agreement. Subsequently, Roosevelt meets with Admiral Harold R. Stark, Chief of Naval Operations, Secretary of the Navy Knox and Secretary of State Hull, and British Ambassador Lord Lothian; these men review the proposal arrived at earlier that day. Admiral Stark certifies that the destroyers involved are no longer essential to the defense of the United States, thus clearing the way for their transfer.

Attorney General Robert H. Jackson delivers to President Roosevelt a ruling in which the legal framework for the transfer of destroyers to the British can be accomplished.

- **August 28, Wed. --**

Destroyers *Biddle* (DD-151) and *Blakeley* (DD-150) escort U.S. Army transport *American Legion* on the final leg of her voyage from Petsamo, Finland, to New York City. The 40-millimeter Bofors gun she carries is subsequently shipped to the Naval Proving Ground at Dahlgren, Virginia.

Heavy cruisers *Wichita* (CA-45) (Rear Admiral Andrew C. Pickens) and *Quincy* (CA-39) depart Montevideo, Uruguay, for Buenos Aires, Argentina.

- **August 29, Thu. --**

Heavy cruisers *Wichita* (CA-45) (Rear Admiral Andrew C. Pickens) and *Quincy* (CA-39) reach Buenos Aires, Argentina.■ -- Rear Admiral John Downes relieves Rear Admiral William C. Watts as Commandant, Ninth Naval District, and Commanding Officer, Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Illinois.

- **August 30, Fri. --**
Rear Admiral Charles S. Freeman relieves Rear Admiral Edward B. Fenner as Commandant Thirteenth Naval District and Commandant Puget Sound Navy Yard.▣

Vichy France consents to Japanese military occupation of ports, airfields, and railroads in northern Indochina.

- **August 31, Sat. --**
President Roosevelt calls 60,000 National Guardsmen into federal service.

September

- **September 2, Tue. --**
Secretary of State Hull and British Ambassador Lord Lothian exchange notes concluding the agreement to trade destroyers for bases; the U.S. will provide, by executive agreement, 50 over-age (World War I Emergency Program) destroyers in return for 99-year leases on bases in the Bahamas, Antigua, St. Lucia, Trinidad, Jamaica, and British Guiana. The British provide bases at Newfoundland and Bermuda as outright gifts.
- **September 3, Wed. --**
President Roosevelt announces the "destroyers-for-bases" agreement; Commander Destroyers, Atlantic Squadron (Captain Ferdinand L. Reichmuth) is placed in charge of the transfer operation.▣

Light cruiser *St. Louis* (CL-49) sails from Norfolk, Virginia; embarked is the board, headed by Rear Admiral John F. Greenslade, which will evaluate base sites recently acquired from the British (see 5 September).

- **September 5, Thu. --**
Secretary of the Navy Knox and Commander Aircraft Scouting Force depart San Francisco, California, in XPB2Y-2 for Pearl Harbor.

Light cruiser *St. Louis* (CL-49) arrives at Hamilton, Bermuda with Greenslade Board embarked (see 8 September).

- **September 6, Fri. --**
Destroyers *Aaron Ward* (DD-132), *Buchanan* (DD-131), *Crowninshield* (DD-134), *Hale* (DD-133), *Abel P. Upshur* (DD-193), *Welborn C. Wood* (DD-195), *Herndon* (DD-198) and *Welles* (DD-257) arrive at Halifax, Nova Scotia, along with destroyer *Russell* (DD-414), with Commander Destroyers, Atlantic Fleet (Captain Ferdinand L. (Reichmuth) embarked, and destroyer tender *Denebola* (AD-12). "By the long arm of coincidence" (as British Prime Minister Churchill puts it) the Royal Navy crews assigned to man the ships arrive simultaneously (see 9 September).

The warm generosity with which the U.S. meets the British request for ships contrasts markedly with the cold response to the Uruguayan government's request to purchase three destroyers. U.S. Minister to Uruguay Edwin C. Wilson recounts (2 October) an interview with "a leading Uruguayan" who complains: "Having been exhorted to cooperate in continental defense, we want to build up our pitifully non-existent Navy, and we ask you to let us have two or three old destroyers that have been lying useless in your ports since the last war. You handed over fifty of these destroyers to Great Britain, and we see pictures

reproduced in the papers of quantities of these ships tied up in your ports, looking like so many toy vessels in a shop window. Yet, you tell us that you find it impossible to let us have even a single one of these." Secretary of State Hull confidentially informs Minister Wilson (13 September) that the Navy Department believes "that the strategic situation in the North Atlantic does not permit the disposal of any destroyers to Uruguay at the present time, the more so as this would inevitably lead to similar requests from other American republics for [the] purchase of destroyers."

Secretary of the Navy Knox and Commander Aircraft, Scouting Force arrive at Pearl Harbor, T.H., in XPB2Y-2. The Secretary is visiting the fleet as it carries out operations in Hawaiian waters (see 9 September).

- **September 8, Sun.** --
Light cruiser *St. Louis* (CL-49) departs Hamilton, Bermuda, for Norfolk, with Greenslade Board embarked (see 10 September).
- **September 9, Mon.** --
Germany warns that all ships in war zones prescribed by Axis are subject to attack regardless of nationality.

First eight destroyers are transferred to Britain under destroyers-for-bases agreement at Halifax, Nova Scotia. *Aaron Ward* (DD-132) becomes HMS *Castleton*, *Buchanan* (DD-131) becomes HMS *Campbeltown*, *Crowninshield* (DD-134) becomes HMS *Chelsea*, *Hale* (DD-133) becomes HMS *Caldwell*, *Abel P. Upshur* (DD-193) becomes HMS *Clare*, *Welborn C. Wood* (DD-195) becomes HMS *Chesterfield*, *Herndon* (DD-198) becomes HMS *Churchill*, *Welles* (DD-257) becomes HMS *Cameron*.

Navy awards contracts for 210 new construction ships including 12 aircraft carriers and 7 battleships.■

Aircraft carrier *Yorktown* (CV-5) and submarine *Shark* (SS-174) are damaged in collision, Hawaiian Operating Area.■

Secretary of the Navy Knox breaks his flag in carrier *Enterprise* (CV-6) to observe operations; *Enterprise* is being used as fleet flagship for a trial period by Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet (Admiral J.O. Richardson). Knox will fly in to Pearl Harbor in the *Enterprise* Air Group Commander's SBC to emphasize the rapid pace of modern naval operations.

- **September 10, Tue.** --
Light cruiser *St. Louis* (CL-49) arrives at Norfolk, with Greenslade Board embarked (see 12 September).
- **September 12, Thu.** --
Light cruiser *St. Louis* (CL-49) departs Norfolk, with Greenslade Board embarked, bound for her ultimate destination on this leg of the voyage, St. John's, Newfoundland (see 16 September).
- **September 16, Mon.** --
President Roosevelt signs Selective Training and Service Act, thus establishing the first peacetime draft in the history of the United States.

Light cruiser *St. Louis* (CL-49), with Greenslade Board embarked, arrives at St. John's, Newfoundland (see 18 September).

- **September 17, Tue. --**
Special Service Squadron (Rear Admiral H. Kent Hewitt), consisting of gunboats *Erie* (PG-50) and *Charleston* (PG-51) and destroyers *J. Fred Talbott* (DD-156) and *Tattnall* (DD-125), is disbanded.
- **September 18, Wed. --**
Second group of ships involved in the transfer to Britain--*Kalk* (DD-170), *Maddox* (DD-168), *Cowell* (DD-167), *Foote* (DD-169), *Hopewell* (DD-181), *Abbot* (DD-184), *Thomas* (DD-182) and *Doran* (DD-185)--arrive at Halifax, Nova Scotia (see 23 September).

Light cruiser *St. Louis* (CL-49), with Greenslade Board embarked, shifts from St. John's, Newfoundland, to Argentia (see 21 September).
- **September 19, Thu. --**
Battleship *Oklahoma* (BB-37) collides with U.S. tug *Goliath*, Puget Sound, Washington.
- **September 20, Fri. --**
Third group of ships involved in the destroyers-for-bases agreement--*Mackenzie* (DD-175), *Haraden* (DD-183), *Williams* (DD-108), *Thatcher* (DD-162), *McCook* (DD-252) and *Bancroft* (DD-256)--arrive at Halifax, Nova Scotia (see 24 September).
- **September 21, Sat. --**
Rear Admiral H. Kent Hewitt hauls down his flag as Commander Special Service Squadron; gunboat *Erie* (PG-50) is assigned to the Fifteenth Naval District and sistership *Charleston* (PG-51) to the Thirteenth.

Light cruiser *St. Louis* (CL-49), with Greenslade Board embarked, departs Argentia for Boston (see 23 September).
- **September 22, Sun. --**
Vichy France signs pact at Hanoi ceding airfields and agreeing to admit Japanese troops into northern Indochina.
- **September 23, Mon. --**
Second group of ships involved in the transfer to Britain is turned over to Royal Navy crews at Halifax, Nova Scotia. *Kalk* (DD-170) becomes HMS *Hamilton*, *Maddox* (DD-168) becomes HMS *Georgetown*, *Cowell* (DD-167) becomes HMS *Brighton*, *Foote* (DD-169) becomes HMS *Roxborough*, *Hopewell* (DD-181) becomes HMS *Bath*, *Abbot* (DD-184) becomes HMS *Charlestown*, *Thomas* (DD-182) becomes HMS *St. Albans*, and *Doran* (DD-185) becomes HMS *St. Marys*.

Light cruiser *St. Louis* (CL-49), with Greenslade Board embarked, arrives at Boston, but sails for Norfolk the same day (see 25 September).
- **September 24, Tue. --**
Defense Communication Board is established; membership includes Director of Naval Communications (Rear Admiral Leigh Noyes).

Third group of ships involved in the destroyers-for-bases agreement are turned over to the Royal Canadian Navy at Halifax, Nova Scotia. *Mackenzie* (DD-175) becomes HMCS *Annapolis*, *Haraden* (DD-183) becomes HMCS *Columbia*, *Williams* (DD-108) becomes HMCS *St. Clair*, *Thatcher* (DD-162) becomes

HMCS *Niagara*, *McCook* (DD-252) becomes HMCS *St. Croix* and *Bancroft* (DD-256) becomes HMCS *St. Francis*.

Operation *menace*, the British-Free French attempt to take Dakar, commences this day (see 25 September).

- **September 25, Wed. --**
Heavy cruiser *Louisville* (CA-28) departs Colon, C.Z., for Recife, Brazil, on the first leg of her goodwill cruise to Latin American ports.

Light cruiser *St. Louis* (CL-49), with Greenslade Board embarked, arrives at Norfolk (see 29 September 1940).

Operation *menace*, the British-Free French attempt to take Dakar, is abandoned as Vichy French resistance proves surprisingly vigorous.

French port of Nouméa, New Caledonia, sides with Free France.

- **September 27, Fri. --**
Germany, Italy, and Japan sign Tripartite Pact at Berlin, thus establishing the Berlin-Rome-Tokyo Axis.

- **September 29, Sun. --**
Midway Detachment, Third Defense Battalion, Fleet Marine Force (Major Harold C. Roberts, USMC) arrives on Midway Island to begin construction of defenses. The marines are transported by cargo ship *Sirius* (AK-15) and light minelayers *Pruitt* (DM-22), *Sicard* (DM-21), and *Tracy* (DM-19).

Light cruiser *St. Louis* (CL-49), with Greenslade Board embarked, departs Norfolk for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (see 2 October).

October

- **October 1, Tue. --**
Coast Guard cutter *Campbell* reports to Chief of Naval Operations for duty. She will then proceed to Lisbon, Portugal (see 18 and 22 October).

- **October 2, Wed. --**
Light cruiser *St. Louis* (CL-49), with Greenslade Board embarked, arrives at Guantanamo Bay (see 19 October).

- **October 5, Sat. --**
Secretary of the Navy Knox places all Organized Reserve divisions and aviation squadrons of the Organized Reserve on short notice for call to active duty and grants authority to call fleet reservists as necessary. Before this date, Naval Reserve personnel had been ordered to active duty on a voluntary basis only.

Fourth group of ships involved in the destroyers-for-bases agreement--*Branch* (DD-197), *Hunt* (DD-194), *Mason* (DD-191), *Satterlee* (DD-190), *Laub* (DD-263), *Aulick* (DD-258), *Edwards* (DD-265) and *McLanahan* (DD-264)--arrive at Halifax, Nova Scotia (see 6 October).

- **October 6, Sun. --**
Fourth group of ships involved in the destroyers-for-bases agreement are turned over to Royal Navy crews at Halifax. *Branch* (DD-197) becomes HMS *Beverley*, *Hunt* (DD-194) becomes HMS *Broadway*, *Mason* (DD-191) becomes HMS *Broadwater*, *Satterlee* (DD-190) becomes HMS *Belmont*, *Laub* (DD-263)

becomes HMS *Burwell*, *Aulick* (DD-258) becomes HMS *Burnham*, *Edwards* (DD-265) becomes HMS *Buxton*, and *McLanahan* (DD-264) becomes HMS *Bradford*.

- **October 7, Mon.** --
Admiral James O. Richardson arrives in Washington for conferences with the President and Navy and State Department officials concerning the retention of the U.S. Fleet in Hawaiian waters as a deterrent to Japan. He will depart to return to the fleet on 11 October (see 1 February 1941).

Heavy cruiser *Louisville* (CA-28) arrives at Recife, Brazil, as she begins her goodwill cruise to Latin American ports.
- **October 8, Tue.** --
Legislation approved authorizes the appointment to commissioned rank in the Line of the Regular Navy of those Naval Reserve officers who receive their commissions upon graduation from the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps.

United States advises American citizens to leave the Far East (see 14 October).

Japan protests U.S. embargo on aviation gasoline and scrap metal.
- **October 10, Thu.** --
Auxiliary *Bear* (AG-29) sails from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for the Antarctic.
- **October 12, Sat.** --
Commander Atlantic Squadron (Rear Admiral Hayne Ellis), in destroyer *Rhind* (DD-404) visits Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The timely goodwill visit came in the wake of an extensive cabinet shakeup by the Haitian president the previous day. Rear Admiral Ellis later wrote that *Rhind's* visit had a "very soothing effect on the minds of the people" in the Haitian port.

Carrier *Wasp* (CV-7), off the Virginia capes, launches 24 USAAC P-40s and 9 O-47s to gather data on comparative take-off runs of naval and army aircraft. For the first time Army planes are flown off a Navy carrier.
- **October 13, Sun.** --
Surveying ship *Bowditch* (AG-30) arrives at Placentia Harbor, Newfoundland, to make hydrographic surveys, having transported army engineers who will make a shore requirements survey.
- **October 14, Mon.** --
Heavy cruiser *Louisville* (CA-28) departs Recife, Brazil, for Rio de Janeiro, as she continues "showing the flag" in Latin American waters.◻

Department of State announces that the U.S. passenger liners *Monterey*, *Mariposa*, and *Washington* are being sent to the Far East to repatriate American citizens from that region in view of prevailing "abnormal conditions" there. This move is made because of the shortage of accommodations on the ships already engaged in the Far East trade. *Monterey* is to go to Yokohama, Japan, and Shanghai, China; *Mariposa* will proceed to Shanghai and Chinwangtao, China, and Kobe, Japan.
- **October 15, Tue.** --
Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Florida is established, Captain Charles P. Mason in command.

- **October 16, Wed. --**
Sixteen million men register for the draft under Selective Training and Service Act.■

Fifth group of ships involved in the destroyers-for-bases agreement--*Twiggs* (DD-127), *Philip* (DD-76), *Evans* (DD-78), *Wickes* (DD-75), *McCalla* (DD-253), *Rodgers* (DD-170), *Conner* (DD-72), *Conway* (DD-70), *Stockton* (DD-73) and *Yarnall* (DD-143)--arrive at Halifax, Nova Scotia (see 23 October).
- **October 18, Fri. --**
Coast Guard cutter *Campbell* arrives at Lisbon, Portugal (see 22 October).■ -- Heavy cruiser *Louisville* (CA-28) arrives at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, as she continues "showing the flag" in Latin American waters.
- **October 19, Sat. --**
Light cruiser *St. Louis* (CL-49), with Greenslade Board embarked, departs Guantanamo Bay for San Juan, Puerto Rico (see 20 October).
- **October 20, Sun. --**
Oiler *Ramapo* (AO-12) delivers district patrol craft *YP-16* and *YP-17* at Apra Harbor to augment the local defenses at Guam.

Light cruiser *St. Louis* (CL-49), with Greenslade Board embarked, arrives at San Juan, Puerto Rico (see 21 October).
- **October 21, Mon. --**
Light cruiser *St. Louis* (CL-49), with Greenslade Board embarked, departs San Juan for return visit to Hamilton, Bermuda (see 24 October).
- **October 22, Tue. --**
Squadron 40-T (Rear Admiral David M. LeBreton) is disbanded. Coast Guard cutter *Campbell* assumes "to a certain extent the duties previously performed by Squadron 40-T.
- **October 23, Wed. --**
Japan gives one-year notice of abrogation of North Pacific Sealing Convention of 1911.

Fifth group of ships involved in the destroyers-for-bases agreement are turned over to Royal Navy crews at Halifax, Nova Scotia. *Twiggs* (DD-127) becomes HMS *Leamington*, *Philip* (DD-76) becomes HMS *Lancaster*, *Evans* (DD-78) becomes HMS *Mansfield*, *Wickes* (DD-75) becomes HMS *Montgomery*, *McCalla* (DD-253) becomes HMS *Stanley*, *Rodgers* (DD-170) becomes HMS *Sherwood*, *Conner* (DD-72) becomes HMS *Leeds*, *Conway* (DD-70) becomes HMS *Lewes*, *Stockton* (DD-73) becomes HMS *Ludlow*, and *Yarnall* (DD-143) becomes HMS *Lincoln*.
- **October 24, Thu. --**
Heavy cruiser *Louisville* (CA-28) departs Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for Montevideo, Uruguay, as she continues to "show the flag" in Latin American waters.

Light cruiser *St. Louis* (CL-49), with Greenslade Board embarked, arrives at Hamilton, Bermuda (see 25 October).

German freighter *Helgoland* sails from Puerto Colombia, Colombia; despite the efforts of destroyers *Bainbridge* (DD-246), *Overton* (DD-239), and *Sturtevant*

(DD-240) to pursue her over the ensuing days, *Helgoland* will make good her attempt to escape the confines of the Caribbean (see 3 November and 30 November).

- **October 25, Fri. --**

Japanese naval land attack planes (13th *Kokutai*) raiding Chungking, China, follow a course that takes them directly over the U.S. Embassy and river gunboat *Tutuila* (PR-4). Due to what is later explained as a malfunctioning release mechanism, Japanese bombs fall north, east, and west of the embassy and the gunboat, the nearest falling 300 yards away. In response to American protests, Japanese naval authorities will advise the air commander in the region "to take necessary steps to prevent the recurrence of such incidents" (see 15 June and 30 July 1941).

Light cruiser *St. Louis* (CL-49), with Greenslade Board embarked, departs Hamilton, Bermuda, for Norfolk (see 27 October).

- **October 27, Sun. --**

Light cruiser *St. Louis* (CL-49) arrives at Norfolk, thus winding up her mission transporting the Greenslade Board to evaluate base sites acquired from the British in exchange for the provision of destroyers.

- **October 28, Mon. --**

Italy invades Greece.

Heavy cruiser *Louisville* (CA-28) arrives at Montevideo, Uruguay, as she continues to "show the flag" in Latin American waters.

- **October 30, Wed. --**

Because of delay in the arrival of crews assigned to the last of the destroyers to be transferred to the Royal Navy, Commander Destroyers, Atlantic Squadron (Captain Ferdinand L. Reichmuth) departs Halifax, Nova Scotia, in destroyer tender *Denebola* (AD-12). Destroyer *Russell* (DD-414) accompanies the tender.

- **October 31, Thu. --**

British forces occupy Crete in response to Italian invasion of Greece.

German auxiliary minelayer *Passat* begins laying mines in Bass Strait, the body of water between Australia and Tasmania (see 1, 7, and 8 November).

German freighter *Rio Grande* sails from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; she eludes the Neutrality Patrol and ultimately reaches Bordeaux, France, six weeks later.

November

- **November 1, Fri. --**

Atlantic Squadron (Rear Admiral Hayne Ellis) is renamed Patrol Force, U.S. Fleet

Submarine Force, Scouting Force, ceases to exist; in its stead are two type commands: Submarines Scouting Force, Pacific Fleet, and Submarines, Atlantic Fleet. Rear Admiral Wilhelm L. Friedell becomes Commander Submarines, Scouting Force.

Naval Air Station, Alameda, California, is established, Captain Frank R. McCrary in command.

German auxiliary minelayer *Passat* completes laying mine barrage off Australian coast in Bass Strait (see 7-8 November).

- **November 2, Sat. --**
Rear Admiral John W. Greenslade arrives in Fort-de-France, Martinique, to confer with Vice Admiral Georges A.M.J. Robert on the economic distress of Martinique and Guadeloupe, and the status of French warships and aircraft there (see 3 November).
- **November 3, Sun. --**
Typhoon devastates Guam, M.I., rendering the U.S. Navy Yard at Piti a shambles, damaging the Marine Barracks, blowing away dwellings and poultry, destroying crops and completely disrupting the lives of the native farmers; it also reduces the Pan American Airways hotel to "kindling wood." In addition, one of the recently arrived district patrol craft (*YP-16* or *YP-17*) is sunk; dredge *YM-13*, being used to dredge a channel near Sumay, Guam, is blown ashore. Greek freighter *Axios*, in the harbor for repairs, parts her moorings at the height of the typhoon, and despite the fact that she possesses neither harbor chart nor pilot miraculously escapes foundering on nearby reefs. Governor of Guam (Captain George J. McMillin) later praises the people of the island for their "cheerful willingness and unremitting effort...to repair or replace their homes that reflected "character of which any group...might be proud."

Heavy cruiser *Louisville* (CA-28) departs Montevideo, Uruguay, for Buenos Aires, Argentina, as she continues to "show the flag" in Latin American waters.▣

Rear Admiral John W. Greenslade departs Fort-de-France, Martinique, after concluding talks with Vice Admiral Georges A.M.J. Robert. Among Admiral Greenslade's recommendations: that every effort be made to alleviate the distress of the inhabitants by easing restrictions on frozen assets to allow for purchase of food, medical supplies and gasoline for automobiles and trucks; that the naval observer and U.S. vice consul maintain careful and complete liaison with Vice Admiral Robert; that a patrol plane make daily visits to Fort-de-France to improve communications and survey the situation from the air; and that the patrols off Martinique and Guadeloupe be continued.

German freighter *Helgoland*, which had departed Colombian waters on 24 October, skirts the Antilles near St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, in her bid for freedom (see 30 November).

- **November 4, Mon. --**
Heavy cruiser *Louisville* (CA-28) arrives at Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- **November 5, Tue. --**
President Roosevelt, in his bid for a third term, defeats Republican challenger Wendell Willkie for the presidency.
- **November 7, Thu. --**
British freighter *Cambridge* is sunk by mine (laid by German auxiliary minelayer *Passat* on 31 October-1 November) off Wilson's Promontory, Australia (see 8'- November).

- November 8, Fri. --**
Admiral Nomura Kichasaburo is appointed Japanese Ambassador to the United States.

U.S. freighter *City of Rayville* is sunk by mine (laid by German auxiliary minelayer *Passat* on 31 October-1 November) east of Cape Otway, Bass Strait, Australia; *City of Rayville* is first U.S. merchant ship sunk in World War II. Third Engineer Mack B. Bryan, who drowns during the abandonment, is the first merchant marine casualty of World War II. The other 37 crewmen (one of whom is injured) reach safety at Apollo Bay.
- November 11, Mon. --**
Twenty-one FAA Swordfish TSR (torpedo spotting reconnaissance) planes, flown by 16 crews from carrier HMS *Illustrious* (No. 815 and No. 819 Squadrons) and five crews from HMS *Eagle* (No. 813 and No. 824 Squadrons), launched from *Illustrious*, begin night attack against Italian fleet at Taranto, Italy (Operation *judgment*) (see 12 November).
- November 12, Tue. --**
British attack (Operation *judgment*) against Italian fleet at Taranto concludes. At the cost of two Swordfish lost (one crew is captured), battleships *Littorio* and *Caio Duilio* are damaged and *Conte de Cavour* sunk; heavy cruiser *Trento* and destroyer *Libeccio* are hit by dud bombs. Battleships *Vittorio Veneto*, *Andrea Doria*, and *Julio Cesare* sail for Naples; heavy units of the Italian Fleet will not base at Taranto until May 1941. Word of the Taranto raid is received in the Navy Department with "great satisfaction." Secretary of the Navy Knox asks the Special Naval Observer in London, Rear Admiral Robert L. Ghormley, to "learn more details of how the attack was carried out, especially as to what extent aerial torpedoes were used." Knox tells Ghormley the successful operation "did not a little to promote an most optimistic attitude hereabouts." *Littorio* returns to service by 9 March 1941, *Caio Duilio* by 15 May 1941. Only *Conte de Cavour* is never again operational.

Heavy cruiser *Louisville* (CA-28) departs Buenos Aires, Argentina, for Santos, Brazil, as she continues her goodwill cruise in Latin American waters.
- November 13, Wed. --**
Acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles, on the strength of a report that French battleships *Richelieu* (then at Dakar) and *Jean Bart* (then at Casablanca) were to be moved, perhaps to Toulon, France (within the German sphere of influence), requests the Chargé d'Affaires ad interim in Spain, H. Freeman Matthews, to let the appropriate French authorities know that the U.S. government would be prepared to contemplate purchase of both capital ships if the French government were willing to dispose of them with the agreement that they would not be used in the present war (see 16, 18 and 22 November).■
- November 15, Fri. --**
Destroyer *Plunkett* (DD-431), on Neutrality Patrol off Tampico, Mexico, observes German freighter *Orinoco* and tanker *Phrygia* making preparations for sea (see 16 December).■ -- Heavy cruiser *Louisville* (CA-28) arrives at Santos, Brazil, as she continues her goodwill cruise in Latin American waters.
- November 16, Sat. --**
Destroyer *McCormick* (DD-223), on Neutrality Patrol off Tampico, Mexico,

foils attempt by German freighter *Orinoco* to make a break for European waters. Destroyer *Plunkett* (DD-431), by her very presence, thwarts German tanker *Phrygia's* bid for freedom; *Phrygia's* crew scuttles her.■

In accordance with Acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles's request of 13 November, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim H. Freeman Matthews meets with Marshal Henri Philippe Pétain concerning the possible move of French battleships *Richelieu* and *Jean Bart*. Pétain assures the U.S. envoy that the two capital ships would be used to defend French territory and would never be used against the British. "Under present circumstances," Pétain informs Matthews, "I have neither the right nor the possibility of selling them" (see 18 and 22 November). 17, Sun. --

PBYs (VP 54) inaugurate flight operations from Bermuda; seaplane tender (destroyer) *George E. Badger* (AVD-3) provides support.

- **November 18, Mon.** --

Acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles directs Chargé d'Affaires ad interim H. Freeman Matthews to communicate President Roosevelt's concern over the French battleships *Richelieu* and *Jean Bart* being moved to a port such as Toulon to Marshal Henri Philippe Pétain, and reiterate the United States' offer to acquire those two ships "as well as any other vessels of the French Navy" (see 21 November).

- **November 20, Wed.** --

Hungary joins the Axis.

- **November 21, Thu.** --

Sixth and last group of ships involved in the destroyers-for-bases agreement--*Bailey* (DD-269), *Meade* (DD-274), *Shubrick* (DD-268), *Swasey* (DD-273), *Claxton* (DD-140), *Fairfax* (DD-93), *Robinson* (DD-88), *Ringgold* (DD-89), *Sigourney* (DD-81) and *Tillman* (DD-135)--arrives at Halifax, Nova Scotia. Turnover of the last ten ships is under the charge of Commander Destroyer Squadron 33 (Captain Schuyler F. Heim) (see 26 November).

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim H. Freeman Matthews meets with Marshal Henri Philippe Pétain concerning the French battleships *Richelieu* and *Jean Bart*; the French admiral responds immediately: "Then why not leave those vessels at Dakar and Casablanca where they now are? I shall keep them there and if there should be any change in this plan I will give you previous notice." This information, received in Washington on the morning of 22 November, is communicated through channels by the President to the "Former Naval Person" (Prime Minister Churchill) on the 23rd.

- **November 23, Sat.** --

Rumania joins the Axis.

Commander in Chief, Asiatic Fleet (Admiral Thomas C. Hart) shifts his flag from heavy cruiser *Augusta* (CA-31) to sistership *Houston* (CA-30) at Manila, P.I. *Augusta* departs this day to proceed to the United States via waters north of the Hawaiian chain to investigate reports of Japanese tankers operating in the region.

- **November 25, Mon. --**
Heavy cruiser *Louisville* (CA-28) departs Santos, Brazil, for Rio Grande du Sol, continuing her goodwill cruise in Latin American waters.
- **November 26, Tue. --**
Sixth and last group of ships involved in the destroyers-for-bases agreement are turned over to Royal Navy crews at Halifax, Nova Scotia. *Bailey* (DD-269) becomes HMS *Reading*, *Meade* (DD-274) becomes HMS *Ramsey*, *Shubrick* (DD-268) becomes HMS *Ripley*, *Swasey* (DD-273) becomes HMS *Rockingham*, *Claxton* (DD-140) becomes HMS *Salisbury*, *Fairfax* (DD-93) becomes HMS *Richmond*, *Robinson* (DD-88) becomes HMS *Newmarket*, *Ringgold* (DD-89) becomes HMS *Newark*, *Sigourney* (DD-81) becomes HMS *Newport* and *Tillman* (DD-135) becomes HMS *Wells*.
- **November 27, Wed. --**
Battle of Cape Spartivento: two U.S. Naval Observers, Lieutenant Commander A. Dayton Clark in British battlecruiser HMS *Renown*, and Lieutenant Commander Frederick P. Hartman in light cruiser HMS *Southampton*, witness the action that takes place between British and Italian forces off the coast of Sardinia. ▣
- **November 29, Fri. --**
Destroyers *Simpson* (DD-221) and *Broome* (DD-210), on Neutrality Patrol off Tampico, Mexico, trail German freighters *Idarwald* (see 8 December) and *Rhein* (see 11 December) as the latter ships make a bid for freedom.

Heavy cruiser *Louisville* (CA-28) arrives Rio Grande du Sol, Brazil, as she continues her goodwill cruise in Latin American waters.
- **November 30, Sat. --**
United States lends \$50 million to China for currency stabilization and grants an additional \$50 million credit for purchase of supplies.

German freighter *Helgoland*, which has eluded the Neutrality Patrol, reaches St. Nazaire, France.

December

- **December 1, Sun. --**
Headquarters for Alaskan units of Coast Guard is established at Ketchikan.
- **December 3, Tue. --**
President Roosevelt embarks in heavy cruiser *Tuscaloosa* (CA-37) at Miami, Florida, to inspect base sites acquired from the British under the destroyers-for-bases agreement. During the cruise, he will broach the lend-lease concept that he will implement upon his return to Washington (see 11 March 1941).

Heavy cruiser *Louisville* (CA-28) departs Rio Grande du Sol, Brazil, to pay a return call at Rio de Janeiro, as her goodwill cruise continues in Latin American waters.
- **December 4, Wed. --**
Admiral William D. Leahy, USN (Retired) tenders his resignation as Governor of Puerto Rico effective the following day (see 5 December).

- **December 5, Thu. --**
Admiral Leahy takes oath of office as Ambassador to Vichy France (see 23 December).

Seaplane tender (destroyer) *George E. Badger* (AVD-3) runs aground in high winds off Hamilton, Bermuda, but is refloated without damage.
- **December 6, Fri. --**
Heavy cruiser *Louisville* (CA-28) returns to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, as she continues to "show the flag" in Latin American waters.
- **December 8, Sun. --**
Destroyer *Sturtevant* (DD-240) stands by while British light cruiser HMS *Diomedes* intercepts German freighter *Idarwald*. *Idarwald's* crew, however, scuttles their ship near the Yucatan Channel to prevent her capture by the British.
- **December 10, Tue. --**
Naval Air Station, Tongue Point, Oregon, is established; although incomplete when placed in operation, it is being prepared for operation of patrol planes.
- **December 11, Wed. --**
German freighter *Rhein*, having been trailed by destroyer *Simpson* (DD-221) and, later, *MacLeish* (DD-220), is intercepted by Dutch destroyer leader *Van Kinsbergen* near the Florida Straits, and is scuttled by her own crew to avoid capture. *MacLeish* and *McCormick* (DD-223) are present as the German ship's bid to escape fails.
- **December 12, Thu. --**
Rear Admiral John M. Smeallie, Commandant Sixteenth Naval District and Commandant Cavite Navy Yard, is hospitalized at Caracao, P.I., after attempted suicide (see 27 December).

Admiral Smeallie's worsening condition results in his being ordered to Naval Hospital, Mare Island, California, for further treatment, and ultimately to the naval hospital in Washington, D.C.

Lord Lothian, British Ambassador to the United States, dies in Washington, D.C. President Roosevelt, at sea in heavy cruiser *Tuscaloosa* (CA-37), sends telegram to King George VI of England expressing his regrets at Lord Lothian's passing. "I am very certain," Roosevelt informs the King, "that if he had been allowed by Providence to leave us a last message he would have told us that the greatest of all efforts to retain democracy in the world must and will succeed.
- **December 15, Sun. --**
Headquarters, Eighth Naval District, closed at Charleston, South Carolina, and established at New Orleans, Louisiana; Captain Thaddeus A. Thomson, Jr., is Acting Commandant.
- **December 16, Mon. --**
Patrol Wing 10 is formed in Asiatic Fleet organization.

Heavy cruiser *Louisville* (CA-28) departs Rio de Janeiro, for Bahia, Brazil, as she continues her goodwill cruise in Latin American waters.

- **December 17, Tue. --**
Rear Admiral Ernest J. King relieves Rear Admiral Hayne Ellis as Commander Patrol Force, U.S. Fleet, on board battleship *Texas* (BB-35).
- **December 18, Wed. --**
Heavy cruiser *Louisville* (CA-28) arrives at Bahia, Brazil, as she continues to "show the flag" in Latin American waters.
- **December 19, Thu. --**
Palmyra Island is placed under control of Secretary of the Navy.
- **December 20, Fri. --**
President Roosevelt names a four-man defense board, to be headed by industrialist William A. Knudsen, to prepare defense measures and expedite aid to Great Britain.
- **December 23, Mon. --**
Admiral William D. Leahy (USN, Retired), newly appointed Ambassador to Vichy France, accompanied by his wife Louise, embarks in heavy cruiser *Tuscaloosa* (CA-37) at Norfolk, Virginia, for the transatlantic passage to take up his diplomatic post "at a very critical time in the relations between the United States and France." Destroyers *Madison* (DD-425) and *Upshur* (DD-144) escort *Tuscaloosa* on the initial stage of her voyage.

Naval Air Station, Key West, Florida, is established.
- **December 27, Fri. --**
Captain Eugene T. Oates assumes temporary duty as Commandant Sixteenth Naval District and Cavite Navy Yard (see 11 January 1941).
- **December 30, Mon. --**
Heavy cruiser *Tuscaloosa* (CA-37) arrives at Lisbon, Portugal, and disembarks Admiral and Mrs. Leahy, who will then proceed to Vichy via Madrid and Barcelona, Spain, and Montpellier, France (see 8 January 1941).

Chapter III: 1941

January

- **Jan 3, Fri.**
Heavy cruiser *Tuscaloosa* (CA-37) departs Lisbon, Portugal, for Norfolk, Virginia, having transported Admiral William D. Leahy, USN (Retired), U.S. Ambassador to France, on the transatlantic leg of his journey to his diplomatic post.
- **Jan 5, Sun.**
Heavy cruiser *Louisville* (CA-28) arrives at Simonstown, South Africa (see 6 January).
- **Jan 6, Mon.**
Heavy cruiser *Louisville* (CA-28) departs Simonstown for New York, having taken on board \$148,342,212.55 in British gold for deposit in American banks (see 22 January).
- **Jan 7, Tue.**
Office of Production Management is established under industrialist William S. Knudsen, labor leader Sidney Hillman, Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox and Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson.
- **Jan 8, Wed.**
Admiral William D. Leahy, USN (Retired) presents his credentials as Ambassador to France at Vichy.
- **Jan 9, Thu.**
Transport *William Ward Burrows* (AP-6) arrives at Wake Island with first increment of workmen (Contractors Pacific Naval Air Bases) to begin building a naval air station there.
- **Jan 10, Fri.**
Auxiliary *Bear* (AG-29) returns to Bay of Whales, Antarctica, to evacuate West Base; the evacuation is under the supervision of Commander Richard H. Cruzen, second-in-command of the U.S. Antarctic Service.

During air attack on British force off Malta, carrier HMS *Illustrious* is bombed and damaged by *Luftwaffe* JU 87s; Lieutenant Commander Frederick P. Hartman, U.S. Naval Observer on board, is consequently commended for gallantry in action.
- **Jan 11, Sat.**
Rear Admiral Harold M. Bemis relieves Captain Eugene T. Oates as Commandant, Sixteenth Naval District and Navy Yard, Cavite, P.I. Captain Oates had been acting commandant since the incapacitation of Rear Admiral John M. Smeallie in December 1940.
- **Jan 16, Thu.**
President asks Congress for immediate appropriation of \$350 million for 200 new merchant ships.

- **Jan 17, Fri.**
Rear Admiral Thomas Withers relieves Rear Admiral Wilhelm L. Friedell as Commander Submarines Scouting Force, on board light cruiser *Richmond* (CL-9) (force flagship) at Pearl Harbor, T.H.

Battle of Koh Chang: Vichy French retaliate against Thai moves against Cambodia. French squadron (Rear Admiral Jules Terraux) consisting of light cruiser *Lamotte-Picquet*, colonial sloops *Amiral Charner* and *Dumont D'Urville* and sloops *Tahure* and *Marne*, decisively defeats a Thai Navy force in a surface gunnery and torpedo action fought in the Gulf of Siam, sinking coast defense ship *Dhonburi* and torpedo boats *Cholbury* and *Songkhla* and damaging coast defense ship *Sri Ayuthia* and torpedo boat *Trat* in about two hours.
- **Jan 18, Sat.**
German Consul General in San Francisco, California, displays the prescribed German Reich flag from the consular office in recognition of German national holiday. At noon this day the flag is taken down in the presence of what is described as "a large shouting throng of people" and torn to pieces. German Chargé d'Affaires Hans Thomsen makes "most emphatic protest" over the incident (see 19 January and 25 June).
- **Jan 19, Sun.**
Secretary of State Cordell Hull responds to German Chargé d'Affaires Hans Thomsen's protest over the incident concerning the tearing down of the Reich flag over the consulate in San Francisco, promising a full investigation (see 25 June).⁸
- **Jan 22, Wed.**
Heavy cruiser *Louisville* (CA-28) arrives at New York, with \$148,342,212.55 in British gold brought from Simonstown, South Africa, to be deposited in American banks.
- **Jan 24, Fri.**
Interior Department motorship *North Star* arrives at Bay of Whales, Antarctica, to take part in evacuating West Base of U.S. Antarctic Service.
- **Jan 25, Sat.**
Keel of battleship *Wisconsin* (BB-64) is laid at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. She will be the last battleship ever built by the U.S. Navy.
- **Jan 29, Wed.**
U.S.-British-Canadian staff conversations begin in Washington to determine joint strategy in case of U.S. involvement in the war.
- **Jan 30, Thu.**
Germany announces that ships of any nationality bringing aid to Great Britain will be torpedoed.
- **Jan 31, Fri.**
Vice Admiral William S. Pye relieves Admiral Charles P. Snyder as Commander Battle Force.

Vice Admiral Walter S. Anderson becomes Commander Battleships Battle Force.

West Base, U.S. Antarctic Service, is closed.

February

- **Feb 1, Sat.**

Navy Department announces reorganization of U.S. Fleet, reviving old names Atlantic Fleet and Pacific Fleet; Asiatic Fleet remains unchanged.

Marine Corps expansion occurs as the 1st and 2d Marine Brigades are brought up to division strength.

Rear Admiral H. Fairfax Leary relieves Rear Admiral Husband E. Kimmel as Commander Cruisers Battle Force.

Admiral Husband E. Kimmel relieves Admiral J.O. Richardson as Commander in Chief U.S. Fleet in battleship *Pennsylvania* (BB-38) at Pearl Harbor, T.H.

Vice Admiral Wilson Brown Jr. relieves Vice Admiral Adolphus Andrews as Commander Scouting Force.

Rear Admiral John H. Newton relieves Rear Admiral Gilbert J. Rowcliff as Commander Cruisers Scouting Force.

Auxiliary *Bear* (AG-29) and Interior Department motorship *North Star* depart Bay of Whales; they will proceed via different routes to rendezvous off Adelaide Island to evacuate Antarctic Service's East Base (see 24 February).

- **Feb 3, Mon.**

Navy Department General Order No. 143 creates three independent fleets, each commanded by an admiral. Admiral Husband E. Kimmel becomes Commander in Chief U.S. Pacific Fleet (and also Commander in Chief U.S. Fleet in the event that two or more fleets operate together); Patrol Force U.S. Fleet becomes U.S. Atlantic Fleet under command of Admiral Ernest J. King; Admiral Thomas C. Hart continues as Commander in Chief U.S. Asiatic Fleet.

During routine exercises in Hawaiian Operating Area off Oahu, destroyers *Dale* (DD-353) and *Hull* (DD-350) contact what they believe is a submarine. With all U.S. boats accounted for, Commander Destroyers Battle Force orders *Lamson* (DD-367) to join *Dale* and *Hull*. The ships are to maintain contact and to take offensive action only if attacked. *Mahan* (DD-364) joins in search as well. With speculation that the only possible reason a submarine would be in those waters would be to obtain supplies or land agents, *Lamson* accordingly searches the shoreline east of Diamond Head (see 4 February).

- **Feb 4, Tue.**

Fleet Landing Exercise (FLEX) No. 7 begins in Culebra-Vieques, Puerto Rico, area, with all available ships of the Atlantic Fleet and elements of the 1st Marine Division and the U.S. Army's First Division, to train "Army and Navy Forces in the amphibious operations incident to a Joint Overseas Expedition." Unlike FLEX No. 6 in 1940, bona fide transports are available for, and participate in, the maneuvers.

Search for submarine off Oahu, begun the previous day, continues. After destroyers *Dale* (DD-353) and *Hull* (DD-350) return to Pearl Harbor, destroyers *Flusser* (DD-368) and *Drayton* (DD-366) join *Lamson* (DD-367) in the hunt. Ultimately, however, the search is called off.

- **Feb 13, Thu.**
Light cruisers *Brooklyn* (CL-40), *Philadelphia* (CL-41), and *Savannah* (CL-42) and stores issue ship *Antares* (AKS 3) arrive at Midway with the remainder of the 3d Defense Battalion (Lieutenant Colonel Robert H. Pepper, USMC).
- **Feb 14, Fri.**
Fleet Landing Exercise No. 7, which had begun on 4 February, concludes in Culebra-Vieques, Puerto Rico, area.
- **Feb 15, Sat.**
Naval Air Station, Kaneohe Bay, Oahu, T.H., is established, Commander Harold M. Martin in command.
- **Feb 19, Wed.**
Rear Admiral William P. Blandy relieves Rear Admiral William R. Furlong as Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance.

Coast Guard Reserve is established.
- **Feb 21, Fri.**
Carrier *Enterprise* (CV-6) arrives off Oahu and launches 30 USAAC P-36s that will be based on Wheeler Field.
- **Feb 24, Mon.**
Auxiliary *Bear* (AG-29) and Interior Department motorship *North Star* rendezvous off Adelaide Island to begin evacuation of East Base of U.S. Antarctic Service. Heavy pack-ice south of this area, however, prevents the ships from reaching East Base. The two vessels retire north to Dallman Bay. The time spent in the Mechior Archipelago, however, is not unfruitful, as *North Star's* people conduct surveys, make soundings, and make a geological study of the island group, in addition to collecting further examples of flora and fauna. *Bear*, meanwhile, gets underway soon thereafter to attempt to find a way through the pack ice to reach East Base. She is unsuccessful. Amidst growing concern over whether or not a full or partial evacuation can take place since mid-March, and the shortening of the polar days, is approaching, *North Star*, running short of supplies and fuel, is sent to Punta Arenas, Chile, to replenish and return if required (see 22 March).

March

- **Mar 1, Sat.**
Support Force Atlantic Fleet (Rear Admiral Arthur L. Bristol) composed of destroyers and patrol plane squadrons and supporting auxiliaries is established for protection of convoys in North Atlantic.

Europe
Bulgaria joins the Axis as German troops occupy the country.
- **Mar 3, Mon.**
Pacific
Heavy cruisers *Chicago* (CA-29) (Rear Admiral John H. Newton, Commander Cruisers Scouting Force) and *Portland* (CA-33), light cruisers *Brooklyn* (CL-40) and *Savannah* (CL-42), destroyers *Clark* (DD-361), *Conyngham* (DD-371), Cummings (DD-365), *Cassin* (DD-372), *Case* (DD-370), *Shaw* (DD-373),

Tucker (DD-374), *Reid* (DD-369), and *Downes* (DD-375), and oiler *Sangamon* (AO-28), depart Pearl Harbor for Samoa (see 9 March 1941).

- **Mar 7, Fri.**

Atlantic

Carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) encounters foundering U.S. lumber schooner *George E. Klinck* in storm off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, and rescues her crew.

Pacific

Transport *William P. Biddle* (AP-15), escorted by light cruiser *Concord* (CL-10), arrives at Pago Pago, Samoa, and disembarks the Seventh Defense Battalion, the first unit of the Fleet Marine Force deployed to the Southern Hemisphere in World War II.

- **Mar 9, Sun.**

Pacific

Heavy cruisers *Chicago* (CA-29) (Rear Admiral John H. Newton, Commander Cruisers Scouting Force) and *Portland* (CA-33), light cruisers *Brooklyn* (CL-40) and *Savannah* (CL-42), nine destroyers and oiler *Sangamon* (AO-28), that had departed Pearl Harbor on 3 March arrive at Samoa (see 12 March).

- **Mar 10, Mon.**

Pacific

Japan steps in to mediate undeclared war between France and Thailand; France cedes territory to Thailand and gives Japan monopoly of Indochinese rice crop and right to airfield at Saigon.

Rear Admiral Edward J. Marquart is detached as Commander Minecraft Battle Force.

- **Mar 11, Tue.**

United States

Congress passes Lend-Lease Act; "cash and carry" provisions of Neutrality Act of 1939 are changed to permit transfer of munitions to Allies. Although criticized by isolationists, the Act proves to be the primary means by which the United States will provide Great Britain, the USSR, and other belligerents with war material, food, and financial aid without the U.S. having to enter combat.

- **Mar 12, Wed.**

Pacific

Heavy cruisers *Chicago* (CA-29) (Rear Admiral John H. Newton, Commander Cruisers Scouting Force) and *Portland* (CA-33), accompanied by destroyers *Clark* (DD-361), *Conyngham* (DD-371), *Cassin* (DD-372), *Downes* (DD-375), and *Reid* (DD-369) depart Samoan waters for Sydney, Australia (see 20 March).

Light cruisers *Brooklyn* (CL-40) and *Savannah* (CL-42), and destroyers *Case* (DD-370), *Shaw* (DD-373), *Cummings* Auckland, New Zealand (see 17 March).

Oiler *Sangamon* (AO-28), that had accompanied the aforementioned cruisers and destroyers from Pearl Harbor, sails to return to Hawaiian waters.

United States

Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, Texas, is established.

- **Mar 17, Mon.**

Pacific

TG 9.2 (Captain Ellis S. Stone), comprising light cruiser *Brooklyn* (CL-40) and *Savannah* (CL-42) and destroyers *Case* (DD-370) and *Shaw* (DD-373), and *Tucker* (DD-374), arrive at Auckland, New Zealand, beginning a three-day goodwill visit (see 20 March).

Atlantic

Heavy cruiser *Vincennes* (CA-44) arrives at Pernambuco, Brazil, en route to her ultimate destination of Simonstown, South Africa (see 20 March).

Coast Guard cutter *Cayuga* departs Boston, Massachusetts, with South Greenland Survey Expedition, composed of State, Treasury, War, and Navy Department representatives, embarked. The expedition's mission is to locate sites of airfields, seaplane bases, radio and meteorological stations and aids to navigation on Greenland's soil (see 31 March).

- **Mar 18, Tue.**

Pacific

Rear Admiral William R. Furlong breaks his flag as Commander Minecraft Battle Force.

- **Mar 19, Wed.**

Pacific

Destroyers *Aylwin* (DD-355) and *Farragut* (DD-348) are damaged by collision during night tactical exercises in Hawaiian Operating Area, 23°35'N, 158°14'W. One man dies on board *Aylwin*.

- **Mar 20, Thu.**

Pacific

Heavy cruisers *Chicago* (CA-29) (Rear Admiral John H. Newton, Commander Cruisers Scouting Force) and *Portland* (CA-33) and destroyers *Clark* (DD-361), *Conyngham* (DD-371), *Reid* (DD-369), *Cassin* (DD-372) and *Downes* (DD-375), arrive at Sydney, Australia, beginning a three-day goodwill visit (see 23 March).

TG 9.2 (Captain Ellis S. Stone), comprising light cruiser *Brooklyn* (CL-40) and *Savannah* (CL-42) and destroyers *Case* (DD-370) and *Shaw* (DD-373), and *Tucker* (DD-374), concludes its port visit to Auckland, New Zealand and sails for Tahiti (see 25 March).⁸

Atlantic

Heavy cruiser *Vincennes* (CA-44) departs Pernambuco, Brazil, for Simonstown, South Africa (see 20 March).

- **Mar 22, Sun.**

Antarctic

Emergency evacuation of East Base, U.S. Antarctic Service, Marguerite Bay, is carried out. Two R4C flights (Aviation Chief Machinist's Mate Ashley C. Snow and Radioman First Class Earl B. Perce, naval aviation pilots) bring out the entire complement of 24 people to Mikkelson Island, the emergency landing field 25 miles northeast of Adelaide Island, whence they are taken on board *Bear* (AG-29), which soon sails for Punta Arenas, Chile, to rendezvous with Interior Department motorship *North Star*.

- **Mar 23, Mon.**

Pacific

Heavy cruisers *Chicago* (CA-29) (Rear Admiral John H. Newton, Commander

Cruisers Scouting Force) and *Portland* (CA-33) and destroyers *Clark* (DD-361), *Conyngham* (DD-371), *Reid* (DD-369), *Cassin* (DD-372) and *Downes* (DD-375), depart Sydney, Australia, for Brisbane (see 25 March).

- **Mar 25, Wed.**

Pacific

Heavy cruisers *Chicago* (CA-29) (Rear Admiral John H. Newton, Commander Cruisers Scouting Force) and *Portland* (CA-33) and destroyers *Clark* (DD-361), *Conyngham* (DD-371), *Reid* (DD-369), *Cassin* (DD-372) and *Downes* (DD-375), arrive at Brisbane, Australia, beginning a three-day good-will visit (see 28 March).

TG 9.2 (Captain Ellis S. Stone), comprising light cruisers *Brooklyn* (CL-40) and *Savannah* (CL-42) and destroyers *Case* (DD-370), *Shaw* (DD-373) and *Tucker* (DD-374), arrive at Tahiti.

- **Mar 27, Thu.**

Atlantic

U.S.-British-Canadian staff discussions in Washington end; ABC-1 Staff Agreement embodies the basic strategic direction of the war in the event of U.S. entry, making the defeat of Germany a priority and establishing a Combined Chiefs of Staff. U.S. Atlantic Fleet is to help the Royal Navy convoy ships across the Atlantic. The agreement inextricably links the U.S. Navy in the effort against Germany.

Pacific

TG 9.2 (Captain Ellis S. Stone), comprising light cruisers *Brooklyn* (CL-40) and *Savannah* (CL-42) and destroyers *Case* (DD-370), *Shaw* (DD-373) and *Tucker* (DD-374), depart Tahiti for Pearl Harbor.

- **Mar 28, Fri.**

Mediterranean

British fleet defeats Italian fleet in Battle of Cape Matapan; three Italian heavy cruisers and two destroyers are sunk, and a battleship and a destroyer damaged.

Pacific

Heavy cruisers *Chicago* (CA-29) (Rear Admiral John H. Newton, Commander Cruisers Scouting Force) and *Portland* (CA-33) and destroyers *Clark* (DD-361), *Conyngham* (DD-371), *Reid* (DD-369), *Cassin* (DD-372) and *Downes* (DD-375), depart Brisbane, Australia, for Suva, Fiji Islands (see 1 April).

- **Mar 29, Sat.**

Atlantic

Heavy cruiser *Vincennes* (CA-44) arrives at Simonstown, South Africa (see 30 March).

Coast Guard receives report that crew of Italian merchantman *Villarperosa*, interned at Wilmington, North Carolina, is sabotaging the ship. The Coast Guard investigates reports that the crews of Italian and German vessels in American ports had received orders to "sabotage and disable" them (see 30 March).

- **Mar 30, Sun.**

Atlantic

Heavy cruiser *Vincennes* (CA-44) departs Simonstown, South Africa, for New York, with a cargo of gold for deposit in the United States (see 16 April).

As the result of Coast Guard investigation of report that crew of Italian merchantman *Villarperosa* was sabotaging their ship, United States takes protective custody of two German, 26 Italian, and 35 Danish ships in American ports; Coast Guardsmen take over the vessels. Executive order consequently imprisons 850 Italian and 63 German officers and men.

Pacific

Element of the First Defense Battalion (5-inch artillery, Detachment "A") arrives at Palmyra Island in stores issuing ship *Antares* (AKS-3) to begin construction of defenses.

Elements of the First Defense Battalion (5-inch artillery, Detachment "B", and Machine Gun Battery, Detachment "A") arrive at Johnston Island in high speed minesweeper *Boggs* (DMS-3) to begin construction of defenses.

- **Mar 31, Mon.**

Atlantic

South Greenland Survey Expedition, in Coast Guard cutter *Cayuga*, arrives at Godthaab, Greenland, to take up its task.

April

- **Apr 1, Tue.**

Pacific

Heavy cruisers *Chicago* (CA-29) (Rear Admiral John H. Newton, Commander Cruisers Scouting Force) and *Portland* (CA-33) and destroyers *Clark* (DD-361), *Conyngham* (DD-371), *Reid* (DD-369), *Cassin* (DD-372) and *Downes* (DD-375) arrive at Suva, Fiji Islands (see 3 April 1941).

Antarctic

Interior Department motorship *North Star* and auxiliary *Bear* (AG-29) of the U.S. Antarctic Service, depart Punta Arenas, Chile; the former will proceed back to the United States via the west coast of South America, the latter via the east coast (see 5 and 18 May, respectively).

- **Apr 3, Thu.**

Pacific

Heavy cruisers *Chicago* (CA-29) and *Portland* (CA-33) and destroyers *Clark* (DD-361), *Conyngham* (DD-371), *Reid* (DD-369), *Cassin* (DD-372) and *Downes* (DD-375) depart Suva, Fiji Islands, for Pearl Harbor (see 10 April).

- **Apr 6, Sun.**

Europe

German troops invade Yugoslavia and Greece; Italy declares war on Yugoslavia.

- **Apr 7, Mon.**

Atlantic

Naval Operating Base, Bermuda, is established, Captain Jules James in command.

- **Apr 9, Wed.**

Atlantic

Battleship *North Carolina* (BB-55) is commissioned at New York Navy Yard, the first new U.S. Navy battleship to enter the fleet since *West Virginia* (BB-48) was commissioned in 1923.

Secretary of State Cordell Hull and Danish Minister to the United States Henrik de Kauffman sign Agreement Relating to the Defense of Greenland.

- **Apr 10, Thu.**

- Atlantic

- President Roosevelt, equating the defense of the United Kingdom to the defense of the United States, authorizes, under Lend-Lease, the transfer of 10 "Lake"-class Coast Guard cutters to the Royal Navy. Coast Guardsmen will train the British crews in the waters of Long Island Sound (see 30 April, 2, 12, 20 and 30 May).

- Pacific

- Heavy cruisers *Chicago* (CA-29) and *Portland* (CA-33) and destroyers *Clark* (DD-361), *Conyngham* (DD-371), *Reid* (DD-369), *Cassin* (DD-372) and *Downes* (DD-375) arrive at Pearl Harbor, thus winding up the Australia-New Zealand good-will cruise.

- **Apr 11, Fri.**

- United States

- President proclaims that the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden are no longer combat areas and are open to U.S. shipping.

- Atlantic

- Destroyer *Niblack* (DD-424), while rescuing survivors of Dutch freighter *Saleier* (torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-52* the day before at 58°04'N, 30°48'W, after the dispersal of convoy OB 306) depth charges what is believed to be a German U-boat off Iceland. A thorough investigation by the German navy, however, will conclude that none of their submarines are in the vicinity at the time of *Niblack's* attack. The U.S. Navy's conclusion is that *Niblack* has depth-charged a false contact.

- **Apr 13, Sun.**

- General

- Soviet-Japanese Non-Aggression Pact is signed.

- **Apr 15, Tue.**

- United States

- President Roosevelt signs executive order allowing Navy, Marine Corps, and Army Air Corps individuals to sign contracts with the Central Aircraft Manufacturing Company (CAMCO) in China for one year, after which time the men can rejoin their respective services with no loss in rank. This is the first step toward forming the American Volunteer Group (AVG), which will become known as the "Flying Tigers." Over half of the pilots in the AVG will be from the Navy and Marine Corps.

- **Apr 16, Wed.**

- Atlantic

- Heavy cruiser *Vincennes* (CA-44) arrives at New York, having transported gold from Simonstown, South Africa.

- **Apr 17, Thu.**

- Europe

- Yugoslavia capitulates to Axis.

- Atlantic

- Egyptian steamship *Zamzam* is shelled and sunk by German auxiliary cruiser *Atlantis* (*Schiffe 16*, aka "Raider C") in South Atlantic; 138 Americans (including 24 British-American Ambulance Corps drivers) are among rescued passengers. Even U.S. citizens travelling in ostensibly neutral ships find themselves at risk. [*Zamzam* was en route from New York to Mombasa, Kenya. After debarking, the ambulance unit was to travel by rail to Kisumu, Uganda and then overland towards Lake Chad, Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, and link up with Free French elements in the East African campaign. They carried enough supplies and spare parts (including 600,000 Lucky Strike cigarettes) to remain in the field for a year.]

- Purportedly, the surreptitious photographs snapped of *Atlantis* by *Life* magazine photographer Carl Mydans, who is serendipitously among the passengers, will prove helpful in providing the Royal Navy with a record of the auxiliary cruiser's appearance. [Note: The *Life* Magazine photographer aboard the *Zamzam* was not Carl Mydans. Embarking *Zamzam* in Recife, Brazil was *Life* Magazine photographer David E. Scherman and Charles J.V. Murphy, a reporter for *Fortune* Magazine. Murphy had been with the Admiral Byrd expedition to Antarctica in 1932-33 as a media reporter. *Zamzam* had been scheduled to arrive in Recife via Port au Spain on 1 April 41, but was delayed due to heavy weather during the passage of the Caribbean Sea until 08 April. Murphy and Scherman had flown into Recife from New York via San Juan and Para' (Belem) in hopes of catching up with *Zamzam* which had departed New York on 20 March.]

- **Apr 21, Mon.**

- Pacific

- Battleship *Arizona* (BB-39) and destroyer *Davis* (DD-395) collide while fueling during exercises in Hawaiian Operating Area.

- **Apr 22, Tue.**

- General

- Authorized enlisted strength of regular navy is increased to 232,000.

- **Apr 23, Wed.**

- Mediterranean

- Greece signs armistice with Germany.

- **Apr 24, Thu.**

- Atlantic

- Neutrality Patrol is extended east to 26°W.

- **Apr 25, Fri.**

- Atlantic

- Coast Guard cutter *Ingham* relieves Coast Guard cutter *Campbell* at Lisbon, Portugal.

- **Apr 26, Sat.**

- Atlantic

- Neutrality Patrol is ordered extended southward to 20°S. Accordingly, carrier

task group patrols are inaugurated this date when carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) (embarked squadrons: VF 72, VS 71, and VS 72) departs Hampton Roads accompanied by heavy cruiser *Quincy* (CA-39) and destroyers *Livermore* (DD-429) and *Kearny* (DD-432). TG 2, as the force is designated, will steam 5,292 miles before it arrives at Bermuda on 12 May.

- **Apr 27, Sun.**

Pacific

American-Dutch-British Conference at Singapore ends, having reached agreement on combined operating plan of local defense forces in the event of war with Japan; Captain William R. Purnell, Chief of Staff to Admiral Thomas C. Hart, Commander in Chief Asiatic Fleet, is senior U.S. representative.

- **Apr 30, Wed.**

Atlantic

First four "Lake"-class Coast Guard cutters are turned over to the Royal Navy: *Pontchartrain* becomes HMS *Hartland*; *Tahoe* becomes HMS *Fishguard*; *Mendota* becomes HMS *Culver*, and *Itasca* becomes HMS *Gorleston* (see 2, 12, 20 and 30 May).

May

- **May 1, Thu.**

United States

Office of Public Relations is established as an independent office directly under the Secretary of the Navy, "to serve as liaison between the people and their Navy and, within the limits of military security, to keep the public informed of the activities of the Navy."

- **May 2, Fri.**

Atlantic

Admiral Ernest J. King breaks his flag as Commander in Chief Atlantic Fleet in heavy cruiser *Augusta* (CA-31), at Newport, Rhode Island.

Fifth "Lake"-class Coast Guard cutter, authorized for transfer on 10 April under Lend-Lease, is turned over to the Royal Navy. *Chelan* becomes HMS *Lulworth* (see 12, 20 and 30 May).

- **May 6, Tue.**

Canal Zone

Carrier *Yorktown* (CV-5) suffers slight damage (a long dent and scraped paint) when the ship's prominent "knuckle" rubs one side of Miraflores Lock, during night transit of the Panama Canal.

- **May 9, Fri.**

Atlantic

TG 1, comprising carrier *Ranger* (CV-4) (VF 41, VS 41 and VS 42), heavy cruiser *Vincennes* (CA-44), and destroyers *Sampson* (DD-394) and *Eberle* (DD-430), sets out from Bermuda to begin a 4,675-mile neutrality patrol that will conclude at Bermuda on 23 May.

German submarine *U-110* is damaged in action with British destroyers HMS *Bulldog* and HMS *Broadway* [ex- U.S. destroyer *Hunt* (DD-191)] and corvette HMS *Aubretia*. Boarding party from *Bulldog* recovers a veritable cryptanalysis

windfall, including an intact *enigma* machine and important current codes. *Broadway* is damaged in the encounter by collision with *U-110*, which sinks the following day. *U-110's* commanding officer, *Kapitanleutnant* Fritz-Julius Lemp (who had been in command of *U-30* when she had sunk British liner *Athenia* on 3 September 1939) is not among the survivors rescued.

- **May 12, Mon.**

Ambassador Nomura Kichasaburo presents Secretary of State Cordell Hull with Japanese proposal for establishment of "just peace in the Pacific."

Three "*Lake*"-class Coast Guard cutters, authorized for transfer on 10 April under Lend-Lease, are turned over to the Royal Navy. *Champlain* becomes HMS *Sennen*; *Sebago* becomes HMS *Walney*, and *Cayuga* becomes HMS *Totland* (see 20 and 30 May).

- **May 14, Wed.**

Pacific Fleet Exercise No. 1 commences off coast of California. The maneuvers involve a landing on San Clemente Island and a bombardment exercise in which heavy cruisers and destroyers bombard shore targets (see 18 June).

- **May 15, Thu.**

During paratroop training at Camp Kearney, California, Second Lieutenant Walter A. Osipoff, USMC, becomes fouled in static cable and ripcord lines and dangles 100 feet to the rear of the R2D from which he was to jump. Efforts to bring him into the plane are unsuccessful. Seeing his plight, Lieutenant W.W. Lowery and Naval Aviation Pilot J. R. McCants take off in an SOC and effect a daring mid-air rescue.

- **May 18, Sun.**

Auxiliary *Bear* (AG-29) reaches Boston, Massachusetts, winding up her work in support of the U.S. Antarctic Service's 1939-1941 expedition.

- **May 20, Tue.**

Mediterranean

German airborne troops invade Crete.

Atlantic

TG 2 (Rear Admiral Robert C. Giffen), comprising carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) (VF 71, VS 72, VMB 2), heavy cruiser *Quincy* (CA-39) and destroyers *Livermore* (DD-429) and *Kearny* (DD-432), departs Bermuda to conduct a 4,170-mile neutrality patrol that will conclude at Bermuda on 3 June.

Ninth "*Lake*"-class Coast Guard cutter, authorized for transfer on 10 April under Lend-Lease, is turned over to the Royal Navy: *Shoshone* becomes HMS *Languard* (see 30 May).

- **May 21, Wed.**

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Robin Moor*, en route to South Africa and Mozambique, is stopped and sunk by German submarine *U-69* (torpedo and gunfire) about 700 miles off the west coast of Africa, 06°10'N, 25°40'W. *Robin Moor*--her nationality prominently reflected in the U.S. flags painted on her sides--is the first American merchantman sunk by a U-boat in World War II. There are no casualties among her 38-man crew and eight passengers, and *U-69's*

commanding officer, *Kapitanleutnant* Jost Metzler, provides the Americans with rations (see 3, 8 and 20 June).

- **May 24, Sat.**

Construction or acquisition of 550,000 tons of auxiliary shipping for the Navy is authorized.

Atlantic

Battle of Denmark Strait: British battle cruiser HMS *Hood* is sunk, and battleship HMS *Prince of Wales* damaged, by German battleship *Bismarck* (which is damaged by a shell from the latter capital ship) and heavy cruiser *Prinz Eugen*. British Home Fleet elements at sea then pursue the German battleship; carrier HMS *Victorious* launches FAA Swordfish that in the prevailing poor visibility conditions almost attack Coast Guard cutter *Modoc*, which is in the vicinity searching for survivors of ships sunk in convoy HX German submarine torpedoes had wreaked great destruction against the ships in HX 126: *U-94* had sunk British steamers *Harpagus* and *Norman Monarch* and Norwegian motor tanker *John P. Pederson*; *U-556* had damaged British motor tanker *San Felix* and sunk British motor tanker *British Security* and motorship *Darlington Court*; *U-111* had sunk British steamer *Cockaponset*; *U-98* had sunk British steamer *Rothermere*; *U-109* had sunk British steamer *Marconi*; and *U-93* had sunk Dutch motor tanker *Elusa*. *Bismarck*, although damaged by an aerial torpedo, eludes her shadows and disappears, while detaching her consort, *Prinz Eugen*, to conduct independent operations. One of the pursuing ships is British battleship HMS *Rodney*, en route to the United States for a refit at Boston when she is rerouted to participate in the hunt for *Bismarck*; on board is U.S. Naval Observer Lieutenant Commander Joseph H. Wellings, who witnesses the ensuing battle from that unique vantage point.

PBYs (VP 52) operating from seaplane tender *Albemarle* (AV-5) at Argentia, Newfoundland, and braving foul weather and dangerous flying conditions, search for *Bismarck* in the western Atlantic.

- **May 25, Sun.**

State Department informs German Chargé d'Affaires Hans Thomsen that an investigation into the incident concerning the tearing down of the Reich flag over the German consulate in San Francisco, California, on 18 January has yielded the fact that the individual involved was a U.S. Navy enlisted man who was tried and found guilty by court-martial for the offense, and was serving "an appropriate sentence."

- **May 26, Mon.**

Atlantic

Naval observer Ensign Leonard B. Smith, USNR, flying an RAF Catalina (Coastal Command No. 209 Squadron) sights *Bismarck*. British fleet units alter course accordingly and converge on the lone German capital ship. The same day, another naval observer, Lieutenant James E. Johnson, flying another RAF Catalina (Coastal Command No. 240 Squadron) maintains contact with the German battleship as well.

- **May 27, Tue.**

Atlantic

President issues proclamation that an unlimited national emergency confronts

the United States, requiring that American military, naval, air, and civilian defenses be readied to repel any and all acts or threats of aggression directed toward any part of the Western Hemisphere. In a separate address to the nation to acquaint it with "cold, hard fact" that the conflict in Europe has developed into a "world war for world-domination." The President announces that the Atlantic Neutrality Patrol has been extended and that the Atlantic Fleet, greatly increased during the past year, is being constantly built up. He also mentions the dangers posed by "Nazi battleships of great striking-power" that pose "an actual military danger to the Americas," undoubtedly a reference to the recent operations of German battleship *Bismarck*. The President states the national policy as two-fold: active resistance "to every attempt by Hitler to extend his Nazi domination to the Western Hemisphere, or to threaten it," and "his every attempt to gain control of the seas, and giving "every possible assistance to Britain and to all who, with Britain, are resisting Hitlerism or its equivalent with force of arms." The delivery of supplies to Britain, Roosevelt tells the nation, "is imperative. This can be done; it must be done; it will be done."

German battleship *Bismarck* is overwhelmed and sunk by British naval force, 300 nautical miles west of Ushant, France, 48°10'N, 16°12'W.

- **May 29, Thu.**

- Atlantic

- In the event that Germany invades Spain and Portugal, the Joint Board (the oldest inter-service agency, established in 1903 to facilitate Army-Navy planning) approves a plan for an occupation of the Portuguese Azores Islands; the joint Marine Corps-Army effort is to be headed by Major General Holland M. Smith, USMC (Commanding General 1st Marine Division).

- TG 3, comprising carrier *Ranger* (CV-4) (VB 5, VF 5, and VS 5), heavy cruiser *Tuscaloosa* (CA-37), and destroyers *McDougal* (DD-358) and *Eberle* (DD-430), departs Bermuda for a 4,355-mile neutrality patrol that will conclude there on 8 June.

- **May 30, Fri.**

- Last "Lake"-class Coast Guard cutter, authorized for transfer on 10 April under Lend-Lease, is transferred to the Royal Navy: *Itasca* becomes HMS *Gorleston*.

- **May 31, Sat.**

- Atlantic

- TG 1 (Rear Admiral Arthur B. Cook), comprising *Yorktown* (CV-5) (VF 41, VS 41, VS 42, and VT 5), heavy cruiser *Vincennes* (CA-44), and destroyers *Sampson* (DD-394) and *Gwin* (DD-433), departs Bermuda for 4,550-mile neutrality patrol that will conclude at Hampton Roads, Virginia, on 12 June.

June

- **Jun 1, Sun.**

- Atlantic

- South Greenland Patrol (Commander Harold G. Belford, USCG), is established to operate from Cape Brewster to Cape Farewell to Upernivik; Coast Guard cutters *Modoc*,

- *Comanche* and *Raritan*, together with unclassified auxiliary vessel *Bowdoin* (IX-50) make up the force.

Crete capitulates to the Germans.

- **Jun 2, Mon.**
Rear Admiral Edward J. Marquart becomes Commandant New York Navy Yard.

Atlantic

Aircraft escort vessel *Long Island* (AVG 1) is commissioned at Newport News, Virginia. Converted from Maritime Commission C-3 type freighter *Mormacmail* in just 67 working days, *Long Island* is the first of a type of what come to be classified as "escort carriers" that will prove invaluable in the prosecution of the war in both Atlantic and Pacific theaters.

- **Jun 3, Tue.**
Cape Town, South Africa-bound British ship rescues 35 survivors of U.S. freighter *Robin Moor*, sunk by German submarine *U-69* on 21 May (see 8 June).

- **Jun 6, Fri.**
Bill is signed authorizing the government to requisition foreign merchant ships lying idle in U.S. ports.

Naval Air Station, Balboa, Canal Zone, is established.

- **Jun 8, Sun.**
Brazilian freighter *Osorio* rescues 11 survivors of U.S. freighter *Robin Moor*, sunk by German submarine *U-69* on 21 May.

- **Jun 9, Mon.**
Intelligence sources having indicated that Germany has no plans for invading Spain and Portugal, the President suspends planning for the joint occupation of the Azores.

- **Jun 12, Thu.**
All members of the U.S. Naval Reserve, not in a deferred status, are called to active duty.

- **Jun 14, Sat.**
Atlantic
Central North Atlantic patrols commence with battleship/destroyer task groups; *Texas* (BB-35) and accompanying destroyers inaugurate these patrols (see 20 June).

- **Jun 15, Sun.**
Pacific
Japanese land attack planes bombing Chungking, China, drop their ordnance near river gunboat *Tutuila* (PR-4), U.S. military attaché's office and U.S. Navy canteen. Japanese Admiral Shimada Shigetaro expresses regret over the incident and assures U.S. representatives that the bombing is "wholly unintentional." U.S. military and naval attachés privately concur, however, that the bombing "was either criminal carelessness or [with] deliberate intent to bomb Embassy and gunboat..."

Naval Air Station, Kodiak, Alaska, is established.

Atlantic

TF 3 (Rear Admiral Jonas H. Ingram) begins patrol operations from Brazilian

ports of Recife and Bahia; the force consists of four *Omaha* (CL-4)-class light cruisers and five destroyers.

- **Jun 16, Mon.**

State Department requests that the German government "remove from United States territory all German nationals in anywise connected with the German Library of Information in New York, the German Railway and Tourist Agencies, and the Trans-Ocean News Service," and that those agencies and their affiliates "shall be promptly closed." In addition, all German consular officers, agents, clerks and employees thereof of German nationality shall be removed from American territory and that the consular establishments be promptly closed. The German government is given until 10 July to comply. This move is made because of suspicion that the agencies aforementioned "have been engaged in activities...of an improper and unwarranted character" and "wholly outside the scope of their legitimate duties."

Rear Admiral Joseph K. Taussig is detached as Commandant Fifth Naval District and Commander Naval Operating Base, Norfolk, Virginia.

- **Jun 18, Wed.**

Pacific Fleet Exercise No. 1, which commenced off coast of California on 14 May, concludes.

- **Jun 19, Thu.**

Germany and Italy request closure of U.S. consulates.

- **Jun 20, Fri.**

Atlantic

President Roosevelt addresses message to Congress concerning the German sinking of U.S. freighter *Robin Moor* on 21 May. The President notes that *Robin Moor's* destruction is a "warning to the United States may use the high seas of the world only with Nazi consent. Were we to yield on this we would inevitably submit to world-domination at the hands of the present leaders of the German Reich. We are not yielding," the President declares, "and we do not propose to yield."

Undersecretary of State Sumner Welles sends this message to the German Embassy for the information of the German government (see 24 June, 19 and 26 September and 3 November).

Battleship *Texas* (BB-35) and destroyers *Mayrant* (DD-402), *Rhind* (DD-404), and *Trippe* (DD-403) are sighted by German submarine *U-203* within what the German navy regards as the war, or "blockade" zone in the Atlantic. The American force, however, unaware of the U-boat, outdistances the submarine and frustrates its attempted attack. In the wake of this incident, the commander in chief of the German navy (*Grossadmiral* Erich Raeder) orders that American warships can only be attacked if they cross the western boundary of the blockade area by 20 or more miles, or within the 20-mile strip along the western edge of the blockade zone.

TG 2.6, comprising carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) (VF 71, VS 72, and VMB 1), heavy cruiser *Tuscaloosa* (CA-37), and destroyers *Anderson* (DD-411) and *Rowan* (DD-405), departs Hampton Roads for a 4,320-mile neutrality patrol that will conclude at Bermuda on 4 July.

Submarines *O 6* (SS-167), *O 9* (SS-170) and *O 10* (SS-171) conduct deep submergence trials out of Portsmouth, N.H.; while *O 6* and *O 10* conduct their test dives without incident, *O 9*, the last boat to make the test dive, accidentally sinks (cause unknown) off the Isles of Shoals, southeast of Portsmouth, 42°59'48"N,

- **Jun 21, Sat.**

State Department requests closing of all Italian consulates in U.S. territory; the "continued functioning of Italian consular establishments in territory of the United States," Undersecretary of State Sumner Welles informs Italian Ambassador Don Ascanio dei principi Colonna, "would serve no desirable purpose." The Italian government is informed that such withdrawals and closures be effected before 15 July.

- **Jun 22, Sun.**

Germany, Italy, and Rumania declare war on the Soviet Union and invade along a front from the Arctic to the Black Sea.

Atlantic

After all hopes of finding any survivors from the sunken submarine *O 9* (SS-170) are lost and continued diving operations in the vicinity deemed hazardous, Secretary of the Navy Knox personally conducts memorial ceremony, held on board submarine *Triton* (SS-201), over last known location of the lost boat.

- **Jun 24. Tue.**

German Chargé d'Affaires Hans Thomsen replies to Undersecretary of State Sumner Welles's 20 June note concerning the *Robin Moor* sinking. "I have the honor to advise you," Thomsen writes, "that I do not find myself in a position to pass on...the text of a message to Congress from the President of the United States for the information of my government" (see 19 and 26 September and 3 November).

- **Jun 25, Wed.**

Finland declares war on the Soviet Union.

Atlantic

TG 2.7, comprising light cruisers *Philadelphia* (CL-41) and *Savannah* (CL-42) and destroyers *Lang* (DD-399) and *Wilson* (DD-408), depart Hampton Roads for a 4,762-mile neutrality patrol that will conclude on 8 July at Bermuda.

- **Jun 27, Fri.**

Hungary declares war on the Soviet Union.

During German submarine attacks on convoy HX 133, Dutch steamship *Maasdam* is torpedoed and sunk by *U-564* approximately 300 miles south of Iceland; among the survivors are marines under Major Walter L. Jordan, USMC, the advance detail for the Marine Detachment at the American Embassy in London.

- **Jun 28, Sat.**

Albania declares war on the Soviet Union.

President issues executive order creating the Office of Scientific Research and Development (Dr. Vannevar Bush, chairman) which will replace the National

Defense Research Committee. The new office will coordinate and supplement scientific research relating to the defense effort.

Atlantic

Destroyer *Madison* (DD-425) is damaged when she runs aground on the southeast tip of Moratties Shoal, Placentia Harbor, Argentia, Newfoundland.

- **Jun 29, Sun.**

Atlantic

TG 2.8, comprising carrier *Yorktown* (CV-5) (VF 42, VS 42, VMO 1, and half of VMS 1), heavy cruisers *Quincy* (CA-39) and *Vincennes* (CA-44), and destroyers *Wainwright* (DD-419), *Hammann* (DD-412), *Mustin* (DD-413), and *Stack* (DD-406), departs Hampton Roads for neutrality patrol. *Yorktown*, accompanied by *Wainwright* and *Stack*, depart the patrol on 10 July, returning to Hampton Roads on the 12th; *Quincy*, *Vincennes*, *Hammann*, and *Mustin* continue the cruise, putting in to Bermuda on 15 July.

- **Jun 30, Mon.**

Naval vessels on hand (all types)--1,899. Personnel: Navy--284,427; Marine Corps--54,359; Coast Guard--19,235. Total personnel--358,021.

Vichy France severs relations with the Soviet Union.

July

- **Jul 1, Tue.**

Naval Coastal Frontiers are established: North Atlantic, Southern, Caribbean, Panama, Pacific Southern, Pacific Northern, Hawaiian, and Philippine. Their commanders are responsible for the direction of local patrol, convoy escort, and antisubmarine warfare operations. Mobilization of all Organized, Fleet, and local defense divisions of the Naval Reserve is completed on this date.

Atlantic

Task Forces are organized by Commander in Chief Atlantic Fleet (Admiral Ernest J. King) to support defense of Iceland and to escort convoys between the U.S. and Iceland. TF 1 (Rear Admiral David M. LeBreton) based at Narragansett Bay and Boston; TF 2 (Rear Admiral Arthur B. Cook) based at Bermuda and Hampton Roads; TF 3 (Rear Admiral Jonas H. Ingram) based at San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Guantanamo; TF 4 (Rear Admiral Arthur L. Bristol) based at Narragansett Bay; TF 5 (Rear Admiral Richard S. Edwards), TF 6 and TF 8 (Rear Admiral Edward D. McWhorter), TF 7 (Rear Admiral Ferdinand L. Reichmuth) based at Bermuda; TF 9 (Rear Admiral Randall Jacobs); and TF 10 (Major General Holland M. Smith, USMC).

Patrol Wing 7 (the redesignated Patrol Wing, Support Force) (Captain Harold M. Mullinix) (TG 4.2) is established at Argentia, Newfoundland, for operations in North Atlantic.

Northeast Greenland Patrol (Commander Edward H. "Iceberg" Smith, USCG) (TG 6.5) is organized at Boston, Massachusetts, by the Coast Guard; it consists of cutters *Northland* and *North Star*, and auxiliary *Bear* (AG-29).

- **Jul 2, Wed.**

Pacific

Japan recalls its merchant ships from Atlantic Ocean and calls up more than one million army conscripts.

- **Jul 4, Fri.**

Atlantic

PBYs (VP 72) begin operations based in seaplane tender (destroyer) *Goldsborough* (AVD-5), out of Reykjavik, Iceland, covering the movement of marines to Iceland.

- **Jul 5, Sat.**

Atlantic

Destroyer *Charles F. Hughes* (DD-428) rescues 14 survivors (including four American Red Cross nurses) from the sunken Norwegian steamship *Vigrid*, which had been torpedoed while straggling from convoy HX 133 by German submarine *U-371* on 24 June, at 58°58'N, 36°35'W.

U.S. Ambassador to the United Kingdom John Winant reports on 11 July 1941 that of the 27 American Red Cross nurses were travelling to serve in England; 9 had arrived safely, 10 had been rescued (4 in serious condition) and 8 were missing.

- **Jul 6, Sun.**

Atlantic

Transport *Munargo* (AP-20) and U.S. Army transport *Chateau Thierry* arrive at Tunugdliarfik Fjord, Greenland, to disembark men and unload equipment to establish an air base there.

- **Jul 7, Mon.**

Atlantic

President announces to Congress that an executive agreement has been made with Iceland for U.S. troops to occupy that country; the Navy is ordered to take all steps necessary to maintain communications between the United States and Iceland. TF 19 (Rear Admiral David M. LeBreton) lands 1st Marine Brigade (Provisional) (Brigadier General John Marston, USMC) at Reykjavik, the Icelandic capital. The replacement of the British garrison frees those troops for combat duty elsewhere.

1st Marine Aircraft Wing (Lieutenant Colonel Louis E. Woods, USMC) is established at Quantico, Virginia.

- **Jul 8, Tue.**

Patrol Wing 8 (Commander John D. Price) is established at Norfolk, Virginia.

- **Jul 10, Thu.**

2d Marine Aircraft Wing (Brigadier General Ross E. Rowell, USMC) is established at San Diego, California.

- **Jul 12, Sat.**

Office of the Coordinator of Research and Development is established to unify the Navy's research activities, and to evaluate the best ways of advising tactical officers of air, ground, and sea forces of the "latest applications of science to the problems of modern warfare."

Naval Air Station, Quonset Point, Rhode Island, is established.

- **Jul 15, Tue.**
Atlantic
Naval Air Station and Naval Operating Base, Argentia, Newfoundland, are established.
- **Jul 16, Wed.**
Atlantic
Transport *West Point* (AP-23) (former U.S. passenger liner *America*) sails from New York City with German and Italian consular officials and their families, bound for Lisbon, Portugal. British government has granted *West Point* safe-conduct for the voyage (see 24 and 26 July, and 1 August).

TG 2.7, comprising light cruisers *Philadelphia* (CL-41) and *Savannah* (CL-42) and destroyers *Meredith* (DD-434) and *Gwin* (DD-433), departs Bermuda for 3,415-mile neutrality patrol that will conclude there on 25 July.
- **Jul 17, Thu.**
Atlantic
VP 72 concludes its operations out of Reykjavik, Iceland, from seaplane tender (destroyer) *Goldsborough* (AVD-5).
- **Jul 18, Fri.**
Prince Konoye Fumimaro forms new Japanese cabinet; Vice Admiral Toyoda Teijiro succeeds Matsuoka Yosuke as Minister for Foreign Affairs.

24, Thu.
Atlantic
Transport *West Point* (AP-23) disembarks German and Italian consular officials and their families at Lisbon, Portugal (see 26 July and 1 August).

Pacific
Japanese forces occupy northern French Indochina (see 26 July).
- **Jul 26, Sat.**
Pacific
In response to the Japanese occupation of northern French Indochina on 24 July, President Roosevelt freezes Japanese and Chinese assets in United States and cuts off the export of oil to Japan.

U.S. Army Forces, Far East (Lieutenant General Douglas MacArthur) is organized; Philippine military forces are called into service with U.S. Army.

Atlantic
Transport *West Point* (AP-23), at Lisbon, Portugal, embarks American and Chinese consular staffs from Germany, German-occupied countries, and Italy, and sails for the United States. In addition, *West Point* embarks the 21 American ambulance drivers who had been passengers on board the Egyptian steamship *Zamzam* when she had been sunk by German auxiliary cruiser *Atlantis* on 17 April (see 1 August). [The other three members of the detachment were accounted for as follows: (1) Commander of the BAAC field unit, Francis J. 'Frank' Vicovari of New York remained aboard the *Atlantis* due to the extent of his shrapnel injuries during the attack of April 17th (There had been 9 passengers wounded in the attack -- 3, who were serious, including Frank remained aboard *Atlantis*, the other passengers and crew transferred aboard the NDL freighter *Dresden*. The other wounded American died of his injuries

several days later and was buried-at-sea. A British doctor was also wounded and transferred to the Dutch flagged prizeship *Silva Plana* in September, arriving Bordeaux in November). Frank would not return to the United States until released in the 2nd of 3 such operations under the RAMP (Returned Allied Military Personnel) scheme. Frank was exchanged for (2) German archeologists, detained in the United States. This 2nd exchange took place in Lisbon, Portugal during March of 1944 (1st Goteburg, Sweden October 42; 3rd Seville, Spain, May 44). Frank had been held in the Marlag und Milag du Nord interment camp near Bremen, Germany since his arrival and transfer from the French port of St. Nazaire on Christmas Eve, 1941. (2) The other 2 members of the BAAC team, David Stewart and Tom Greenough had escaped from a German transport train while the guards watching over the 21 drivers slept. After several days they walked safely across the border into unoccupied France. After meeting with Free-French officials, they were granted passage to Lisbon and arrived in the USA just 5-days ahead of the other 21 members of the BAAC.]

- **Jul 28, Mon.**

Japan freezes U.S. assets.

- **Jul 29, Tue.**

Pacific

Japanese occupy southern French Indochina with French permission.

- **Jul 30, Wed.**

Atlantic

TG 2.5, comprising carrier *Yorktown* (CV-5) (VF 42, VS 41, and VT 5), light cruiser *Brooklyn* (CL-40), and destroyers *Roe* (DD-418), *Grayson* (DD-435), and *Eberle* (DD-430), departs Hampton Roads, Virginia, for 3,998-mile neutrality patrol that will conclude at Bermuda on 10 August.

Pacific

During Japanese bombing raid on Chungking, China, one bomb falls eight yards astern of river gunboat *Tutuila* (PR-4). While the bomb causes no damage to the ship, *Tutuila's* motor boats are badly damaged and the motor sampan cut loose from its moorings. There are no casualties (see 31 July).

- **Jul 31, Thu.**

Economic Defense Board is created.

Pacific

Japanese government assures U.S. government that the previous day's bombing of river gunboat *Tutuila* (PR-4) at Chungking, China, is "an accident 'pure and simple'."

August

- **Aug 1, Fri.**

Pacific

Naval Air Station, Midway Island is established, Commander Cyril T. Simard in command.

Atlantic

Naval Operating Base, Trinidad, is established.

Transport *West Point* (AP-23) arrives at New York with American and Chinese passengers.

- **Aug 3, Sun.**

President Roosevelt departs Washington, D.C., by train for Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut, where he arrives later the same day, boarding presidential yacht *Potomac* (AG-25) that evening. Accompanied by auxiliary *Calypso* (AG-35), *Potomac* sails for Point Judith, R.I., where the ship anchors for the night.

- **Aug 4, Mon.**

Atlantic

New River (North Carolina) Maneuvers begin with the 1st Marine Division and the First Infantry Division, U.S. Army, engaging in amphibious exercises. Aircraft escort vessel *Long Island* (AVG-1) participates and provides close air support in a test of that type of ship in that role.

Presidential yacht *Potomac* (AG-25), accompanied by *Calypso* (AG-35), proceeds to South Dartmouth, Massachusetts, where she embarks Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Martha of Norway and her party. After a day of fishing ("with some luck") the Chief Executive personally takes the helm of a Chris-Craft motorboat and transports his guests back to the place whence they came. That night, *Potomac*, again accompanied by *Calypso*, shifts to Menemsha Bight, Vineyard Sound, Massachusetts, where they join heavy cruisers *Augusta* (CA-31) and *Tuscaloosa* (CA-37) and five destroyers.

- **Aug 5, Tue.**

Atlantic

President Roosevelt transfers from presidential yacht *Potomac* (AG-25) to heavy cruiser *Augusta* (CA-31); soon thereafter, *Augusta* and *Tuscaloosa* (CA-37) and five destroyers sail for Argentia, Newfoundland. The President's flag, however, remains in *Potomac* and she, in company with *Calypso*, will proceed via Cape Cod Canal to New England waters, maintaining a fiction of presidential presence (see 7 August).

Pacific

Heavy cruisers *Northampton* (CA-26) and *Salt Lake City* (CA-25) arrive at Brisbane, Australia, for a goodwill visit.

- **Aug 6, Wed.**

Atlantic

TF 16 (Rear Admiral William R. Monroe), formed around carrier *Wasp* (CV-7), battleship *Mississippi* (BB-41), heavy cruisers *Quincy* (CA-39) and *Wichita* (CA-45), and five destroyers, delivers U.S. Army troops, transported in transport *American Legion* (AP-35), stores ship *Mizar* (AF 120), and cargo ship *Almaack* (AK-27) to Reykjavik, Iceland. Carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) flies off USAAF P-40s and PT-13s (33d Pursuit Squadron) to Iceland to provide cover for the soldiers' arrival.

Pacific

Executive order transfers Coast Guard's Honolulu District from the Treasury Department to the Navy in the first step toward shifting the Coast Guard to naval control (see 11 September and 1 November).

- **Aug 7, Thu.**
President Roosevelt arrives at Placentia Bay, Newfoundland, in heavy cruiser *Augusta* (CA-31); this day he fishes from the flagship's forecastle and inspects base development at Argentia (see 9 August).
- **Aug 8, Fri.**
Japanese Ambassador Nomura suggests conference between President Roosevelt and Japanese Prime Minister Konoye.
- **Aug 9, Sat.**
Atlantic
Atlantic Charter Conference: British battleship HMS *Prince of Wales*, with British Prime Minister Winston L.S. Churchill embarked, arrives at Placentia Bay, Newfoundland, escorted by destroyer HMS *Ripley* [ex-U.S. destroyer *Shubrick* (DD-268)] and Canadian destroyers HMCS *Restigouche* and *Assiniboine*. In this first meeting between the two men, Churchill calls upon President Roosevelt on board heavy cruiser *Augusta* (CA-31); the two confer over luncheon and dinner before the prime minister returns to *Prince of Wales*.
- **Aug 10, Sun.**
Atlantic
Atlantic Charter Conference continues: President Roosevelt, transported in destroyer *McDougal* (DD-358), attends divine services in British battleship HMS *Prince of Wales* as guest of Prime Minister Churchill, Placentia Bay, Newfoundland. About 250 U.S. sailors and marines attend the service as well, wherein hymns "O God, Our Help in Ages Past," "Onward, Christian Soldiers," and "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" [the Navy hymn] are sung by all hands. "O God Our Help in Ages Past" was also sung during the funeral service for the late Lord Lothian, the British Ambassador to the United States, at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., on 15 December 1940.—÷ After inspecting the topsides of the British battleship, the President returns in *McDougal* to heavy cruiser *Augusta* (CA-31); that night, the chief executive hosts the Prime Minister at dinner.
- **Aug 11, Mon.**
Atlantic
Atlantic Charter Conference continues: President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill confer twice on board heavy cruiser *Augusta* (CA-31).
- **Aug 12, Tue.**
Atlantic
Atlantic Charter Conference concludes as President Roosevelt confers with Prime Minister Churchill on board heavy cruiser *Augusta* (CA-31). Discussions have concerned British needs for support, joint strategy, and the political character of the postwar world. The Atlantic Charter, the joint declaration that result from the meetings, outline goals in the war against Germany and emphasize the principles of freedom, self-determination, peace, and cooperation. Roosevelt privately reassures Churchill that when the United States enters the war, it would accord the defeat of Germany first priority. He also pledges that U.S. warships would escort British merchant ships between the United States and Iceland. After the last meeting, Prime Minister Churchill embarks in battleship HMS *Prince of Wales* and departs Placentia Bay. Soon thereafter, *Augusta*, accompanied by the same ships that had steamed with her to

Newfoundland, sails for Blue Hill Bay, Maine, to rendezvous with presidential yacht *Potomac* (AG-25) and *Calypso* (AG-35).

Maneuvers at New River, North Carolina, conclude.

- **Aug 13, Wed.**

Pacific

Heavy cruisers *Northampton* (CA-26) and *Salt Lake City* (CA-25), arrive at Port Moresby, Papua, Australian Territory of New Guinea, for a goodwill visit.

- **Aug 14, Thu.**

Atlantic

President Roosevelt, on board heavy cruiser *Augusta* (CA-31), returning from the Atlantic Charter conference, witnesses exhibition of flight operations by aircraft escort vessel *Long Island* (AVG 1) off Cape Sable, Nova Scotia.

Roosevelt had been instrumental in championing conversion of merchant vessels to auxiliary aircraft carriers. *Long Island's* embarked scouting squadron (VS 201) is equipped with F2As and SOCs. That afternoon, *Augusta* reaches Blue Hill Bay, Maine, where the chief executive reembarks in presidential yacht *Potomac* (AG-25).

Submarine chaser *PC 457* is accidentally sunk in collision with U.S. freighter *Norluna* off Puerto Rico.

Pacific

During Japanese bombing raid on Chungking, China, Japanese planes approach the city from the east, passing directly over the U.S. Embassy chancery and the river gunboat *Tutuila* (PR-4). There is no repetition of the incident of 30 July.

- **Aug 15, Fri.**

Pacific

Naval Air Station, Palmyra Island, and Naval Air Facility, Johnston Island, are established.

Atlantic

TG 2.5, comprising carrier *Yorktown* (CV-5) (VF 42, VS 41, and VT 5), light cruiser *Brooklyn* (CL-40) and destroyers *Roe* (DD-418), *Grayson* (DD-435), and *Eberle* (DD-430), departs Bermuda to begin 4,064-mile neutrality patrol that will conclude at Bermuda on 27 August.

President Roosevelt fishes with "indifferent luck" off Deer Island from presidential yacht *Potomac* (AG-25); the ship anchors in Pulpit Harbor, Penobscot Bay for the night.

- **Aug 16, Sat.**

Atlantic

Presidential yacht *Potomac* (AG-25) reaches Rockland, Maine, and disembarks President Roosevelt and his party. The chief executive returns by train to Washington the following morning.

Pacific

Heavy cruisers *Northampton* (CA-26) and *Salt Lake City* (CA-25) arrive at Rabaul, New Britain, British New Guinea, for a goodwill visit.

- **Aug 17, Sun.**

President Roosevelt and Secretary of State Hull confer with Japanese

Ambassador Nomura and state conditions for resuming conversations or arranging a Pacific conference.

Atlantic

Panamanian (ex-Danish) freighter *Sessa* is torpedoed and sunk about 300 miles southwest of Iceland, 61°26'N, 30°50'W (see 6 September). The freighter's assailant is unknown.

- **Aug 18, Mon.**

President Roosevelt announces that the United States is ferrying combat aircraft to British in Near East via Brazil and Africa.

- **Aug 19, Tue.**

Pacific

Wake Detachment, 1st Defense Battalion, Fleet Marine Force (Major Lewis A. Hohn, USMC), arrives at Wake Island in cargo ship *Regulus* (AK-14) to begin work on defense installations.

- **Aug 22, Fri.**

Atlantic

Destroyer *Hughes* (DD-410) is damaged when accidentally rammed by British freighter *Chulmleigh* at Reykjavik, Iceland.

- **Aug 25, Mon.**

British and Soviet forces invade Iran from south and north respectively.

Atlantic

TG 2.6 (Rear Admiral H. Kent Hewitt), comprising *Wasp* (CV-7), light cruiser *Savannah* (CL-42), and destroyers *Meredith* (DD-434) and *Gwin* (DD-433), departs Hampton Roads, Virginia, on a neutrality patrol that will conclude at Bermuda on 10 September.

- **Aug 26, Tue.**

Ship Warrants Act is invoked by Executive Order, empowering President to direct Maritime Commission to establish cargo handling, ship repair, and maintenance priorities for merchant ships.

- **Aug 27, Wed.**

Japan protests shipment of U.S. goods to Vladivostok, Soviet Far East, through Japanese waters.

Atlantic

German submarine *U-570*, attacked by an RAF Hudson (No. 269 Squadron), is captured intact by British surface force in the North Atlantic. The Royal Navy thoroughly evaluated the submarine, the first to be captured intact for intensive study; the U-boat served as HMS *Graph* until it was wrecked in 1944. Among the ships that captured the submarine was Canadian destroyer HMCS *Niagara*, formerly USS *Thatcher* (DD-162), one of the fifty destroyers transferred in the destroyers-for-bases agreement of August 1940.

- **Aug 28, Thu.**

Supply, Priorities, and Allocations Board is established.

Hostilities in Iran cease.

Atlantic

TG 2.7, comprising aircraft escort vessel *Long Island* (AVG 1) (VGS 1), light cruiser *Nashville* (CL-43) and destroyers *Livermore* (DD-429) and *Kearny* (DD-432) departs Bermuda. It will conclude the patrol--the first involving the prototype "escort carrier"--at Bermuda on 9 September.

September

- **Sep 1, Mon.**

Atlantic

Navy assumes responsibility for trans-Atlantic convoys from point off Argentina to meridian of Iceland.

Commander in Chief Atlantic Fleet (Admiral Ernest J. King) designates a task group as a Denmark Strait Patrol to operate in waters between Iceland and Greenland.

Pacific

U.S. Consul General in Shanghai, China (Clarence Gauss), Commander Yangtze Patrol (Rear Admiral William A. Glassford) and Commanding Officer Fourth Marine Regiment (Colonel Samuel L. Howard, USMC) recommend that all naval forces in China (river gunboats and marines) be withdrawn.

- **Sep 4, Thu.**

Atlantic

Destroyer *Greer* (DD-145), while tracking German submarine *U-652* 175 miles southwest of Iceland, is attacked but not damaged. Soon thereafter, *Greer* damages the U-boat with depth charges.

- **Sep 6, Sat.**

Destroyer *Lansdale* (DD-426) rescues only three survivors from Panamanian freighter *Sessa*, sunk on 17 August; 24 crewmen (one of whom is an American) perish.

- **Sep 7, Sun.**

Gulf of Suez

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Steel Seafarer* (carrying cargo earmarked for the British Army in Egypt) is bombed and sunk by German plane (identified as a JU 88) off the Shadwan Islands; her 36-man crew is rescued unharmed.

- **Sep 9, Tue.**

Naval Coastal Frontier Forces are formed.

- **Sep 11, Thu.**

Atlantic

President Roosevelt, in the wake of the *Greer-U 652* incident, announces order to Navy ("Shoot on Sight") to attack any vessel threatening U.S. shipping or ships under American escort. Roosevelt declares that if German or Italian vessels of war enter American-protected waters, they "do so at their own risk."

Executive order provides that such additional Coast Guard vessels, units, or people, should be transferred to the Navy as should be agreed upon between the Commandant of the Coast Guard and the Chief of Naval Operations (see 6 August and 1 November).

German submarines attack convoy SC 42; unarmed Panamanian freighter *Montana* is torpedoed and sunk by *U-105* at 63°40'N, 35°50'W.

Gulf of Suez

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Arkansan* is damaged by anti-aircraft shell fragments during heavy air raid on Port Suez; there are no reported casualties among the 38-man crew.

- **Sep 12, Fri.**

Atlantic

Coast Guard cutter *Northland*, assisted by cutter *North Star*, seizes Norwegian trawler *Buskoe* in MacKenzie Bay, Greenland, thwarting *Buskoe's* mission of establishing and servicing German radio weather stations in that region. This is the first capture of a belligerent ship by U.S. naval forces in World War II.

- **Sep 14, Sun.**

Army General Headquarters (GHQ) maneuvers commence in Louisiana. Army's neglect of aviation support for its ground troops during the interwar period compels it to ask the Navy to provide planes to take part. Five Navy (VB 2, VF 41, VF 72, VS 5, and VS 42) and four Marine Corps (VMF 111, VMO 151, VMSB 131, and VMSB 132) squadrons take part in the large-scale war games.

Atlantic

As TF 15 proceeds toward Iceland, destroyer *Truxtun* (DD-229) reports submarine emerging from the fog 300 yards away, but low visibility and uncertainty as to the position of *MacLeish* (DD-220), also in the screen of TF 15, prevents *Truxtun* from opening fire. After the submarine submerges, *Truxtun*, *MacLeish* and *Sampson* (DD-394) make depth charge attacks with no verifiable result.

- **Sep 18, Thu.**

Atlantic

U.S. Navy ships escort eastbound British trans-Atlantic convoy for first time: TU.4.1.1 (Captain Morton L. Deyo), comprising destroyers *Ericsson* (DD-440), *Eberle* (DD-430), *Ellis* (DD-154), *Dallas* (DD-199), and *Upshur* (DD-144), assumes ocean escort duties for convoy HX 150, 150 miles south of Newfoundland.

- **Sep 19, Fri.**

Secretary of State Cordell Hull sends note to German Chargé d'Affaires Hans Thomsen concerning settlement of the *Robin Moor* incident, citing reparations to the amount of \$2,967,092.00. German Embassy acknowledges receipt of the note the same day (see 26 September 1941).

- **Sep 20, Sat.**

Atlantic

Army shore battery fires across the bow of destroyer *Charles F. Hughes* (DD-428) as TU 4.1.2 (Commander Fred D. Kirtland) enters Hvalfjörður, Iceland in foggy weather conditions.

German submarines attack convoy SC 44; among the ships lost in the onslaught are Panamanian freighter *Pink Star* (ex-Danish *Landby*) and tanker *T.J. Williams*, torpedoed and sunk by *U-552* at 61°36'N, 35°07'W and 61°34'N, 35°11'W, respectively.

- **Sep 24, Wed.**
Atlantic
Destroyer *Eberle* (DD-430), in TU 4.1.1, screening convoy HX 150, rescues crew of British freighter *Nigaristan*, which has suffered an engine room fire.
- **Sep 25, Thu.**
Atlantic
U.S. Navy escorts (see 18 September) turn over convoy HX 150 to British escort vessels at the Mid-Ocean Meeting Point (MOMP). All convoyed vessels reach port safely.
- **Sep 26, Fri.**
Atlantic
Navy orders protection of all ships engaged in commerce in U.S. defensive waters--by patrolling, covering, escorting, and by reporting or destroying German and Italian naval forces encountered.

German Chargé d'Affaires Hans Thomsen replies to Secretary of State Hull's note of 19 September concerning reparations for the loss of *Robin Moor*: referring to the notes of 20 June and 19 September 1941, Thomsen replies that "the two communications made are not such as to lead to an appropriate reply by my government" (see 3 November).
- **Sep 27, Sat.**
First Maritime Commission EC-2 type freighter (Liberty Ship), *Patrick Henry*, is launched at Baltimore, Maryland. This standardized type of ship is to be put into mass production in American shipyards to fulfill the need for merchant vessels in a wartime economy.
- **Sep 28, Sun.**
Army GHQ Maneuvers in Louisiana conclude.
- **Sep 30, Tue.**
Atlantic
TU 4.1.5 (Commander William K. Phillips) assumes escort duty for convoy . During the rough passage to the MOMP, which concludes on 9 October, all destroyers of the unit, *Mayo* (DD-422) (flagship), *Broome* (DD-210), *Babbitt* (DD-128), *Leary* (DD-158) and *Schenck* (DD-159) suffer varying degrees of storm damage.

TU 4.1.3 (Commander Dennis L. Ryan) assumes escort duty for convoy ON 20 at the MOMP (see 2 October).

Rear Admiral Harold M. Bemis, incapacitated by illness, is relieved as Commandant, Sixteenth Naval District and Navy Yard, Cavite, P.I., by Captain Herbert J. Ray (see 5 November)."

October

- **Oct 1, Wed.**
United States, British, and Soviet representatives conclude three-day conference in Moscow on aid to the Soviet Union.

Secretary of the Navy Knox approves "popular" names for naval combat aircraft: "Avenger" (Grumman TBF), "Buccaneer" (Brewster SB2A), "Buffalo"

(Brewster F2A), "Catalina" (Consolidated PB2Y), "Coronado" (Consolidated PB2Y), "Corsair" (Vought F4U), "Dauntless" (Douglas SBD), "Devastator" (Douglas TBD), "Helldiver" (Curtiss SB2C), "Kingfisher" (Vought OS2U/Naval Aircraft Factory OS2N), "Mariner" (Martin PBM), "Sea Ranger" (Boeing PBB patrol bomber), "Seagull" (Curtiss SO3C), and "Vindicator" (Vought SB2U). Names supplement the Navy's letter-number designations, which remain unchanged and continue to be used in correspondence. As can be seen, the name "Avenger" is assigned well *before* either Pearl Harbor (7 December 1941) or the slaughter of torpedo planes at the Battle of Midway (4-6 June 1942). These two events are commonly believed to have motivated the assignment of this particular nickname to the TBF/TBM series. The name "Seagull" is also applied unofficially to the Curtiss SOC series which is in use in cruiser-based observation squadrons. Ironically, the SO3C proves a failure in service, and the SOC it was designed to replace serves on.

Sale of War Savings Bonds to naval personnel is inaugurated on this date; under the direction of a Coordinator for War Savings Bonds, Supply Corps officers are designated as issuing agents and assigned to 28 major shore activities. Actual sales of the bonds will amount to \$61,000,000--over 50 in excess of the predicted sales.

- **Oct 2, Thu.**

President Roosevelt rejects Japanese Prime Minister Konoye's request to meet and discuss Pacific and Far Eastern questions.

Atlantic

Destroyer *Winslow* (DD-359), in screen of convoy ON 20, is detached from TU 4.1.3 to proceed to the assistance of Dutch motor vessel *Tuva*, torpedoed by German submarine *U-575* at 54°16'N, 26°36'W. Although *Winslow* finds the freighter still afloat, the destroyer depth charges a "doubtful" submarine contact in the vicinity and upon her return is unable to locate any survivors. *Winslow* rejoins ON 20 the following morning. The Dutch freighter's crew, however, is apparently rescued by another ship, for the *Lloyd's List of Shipping Losses: World War II* lists only one man missing from among the complement of 35.

Coast Guard cutter *Campbell* scuttles irreparably damaged British tanker *San Florentino* (torpedoed by German submarine *U-575* at 52°50'N, 34°40'W and 52°42'N, 34°51'W).

- **Oct 5, Sun.**

Atlantic

Destroyer *Mayo* (DD-422), escorting convoy HX 152, after seeing Swedish motor vessel *Kaaparen* showing a string of lights for five minutes, thus jeopardizing the convoy, hails the offender and threatens to open fire if the practice is not stopped.

- **Oct 7, Tue.**

Atlantic

TU 4.1.1 (Captain Marion Y. Cohen) assumes escort duty for convoy ON 22 at the MOMP. Although there are no U-boat attacks on the convoy, ships of TU 4.1.1 carry out depth charges attacks on suspicious contacts (see 8 and 9 October).

- Oct 8, Wed.**
Atlantic
 Destroyer *Dallas* (DD-199), in screen of convoy ON 22, depth charges a contact (later evaluated as "non-submarine") about 450 miles southwest of Reykjavik, Iceland, 58°54'N, 29°31'W.

Oiler *Salinas* (AO-19), with convoy [???], is damaged by heavy seas, and is convoyed to Iceland by destroyer *Broome* (DD-210).
- Oct 9, Thu.**
Atlantic
 Destroyer *Upshur* (DD-144), in screen of convoy ON 22, carries out depth charge attack (like *Dallas's* the previous day, evaluated as "non-submarine") about 405 miles southeast of Cape Farewell, 56°47'N, 34°05'W.
- Oct 10, Fri.**
Atlantic
 TG 14.3 (Rear Admiral H. Kent Hewitt), comprising carrier *Yorktown* (CV-5), battleship *New Mexico* (BB-40), heavy cruiser *Quincy* (CA-39), light cruiser *Savannah* (CL-42), and Destroyer Divisions 3 and 16, sails from Argentia, Newfoundland, for Casco Bay, Maine. Encountering heavy weather en route, *Yorktown*, *New Mexico*, *Quincy*, *Savannah*, and destroyers *Rhind* (DD-404), *Hammann* (DD-412), *Anderson* (DD-411), *Sims* (DD-409), *Mayrant* (DD-402), *Rowan* (DD-405), *Hughes* (DD-410), and *Trippe* (DD-403) will all suffer damage before the force reaches Casco Bay on 13 October.

Pacific
 Captain Lester J. Hudson relieves Captain Richard E. Cassidy as Commander, South China Patrol, on board river gunboat *Mindanao* (PR-8) at Hong Kong, B.C.C.
- Oct 14, Tue.**
Atlantic
 German submarine *U-553* encounters convoy SC 48 and summons help (see 15-18 October).
- Oct 15, Wed.**
Atlantic
 German submarine *U-553* begins onslaught against convoy SC 48, torpedoing and sinking British motorship *Silvercedar* at 53°36'N, 30°00'W, and Norwegian freighter *Ila* at 53°34'N, 30°10'W, before the U-boat is driven off by Canadian destroyer HMCS *Columbia* [ex-U.S. destroyer *Haraden* (DD-183)]. *U-432*, *U-502*, *U-558* and *U-568*, followed by *U-73*, *U-77*, *U-101* and *U-751* converge on the convoy, and one of these boats, *U-568*, torpedoes and sinks British steamer *Empire Heron* at 54°55'N, 27°15'W, before being driven off by British corvette HMS *Gladiolus*. Consequently, TU 4.1.4 (Captain Hewlett Thebaud), comprising four U.S. destroyers, is directed to proceed to SC 48's aid as the west-bound convoy it had been escorting, ON 24, is dispersed (see 16-18 October).
- Oct 16, Thu.**
Atlantic
 Battle to protect convoy SC 48 continues. German submarines *U-502* and *U-568* reestablish contact before retiring upon arrival of TU 4.1.4 (Captain Hewlett

Thebaud). Destroyer *Livermore* (DD-429) sweeps ahead of the convoy, depth-charges *U-553*; destroyer *Kearny* (DD-432), sweeping astern, drops charges to discourage tracking submarines. Later, *U-502* and *U-568*, augmented by *U-432*, *U-553*, and *U-558* renew attack upon SC 48. The U-boats commence a determined assault on SC 48 during the night of 16-17 October.

Destroyer *Charles F. Hughes* (DD-428), while escorting convoy HX 154, rescues the only seven survivors of British freighter *Hatasu* (torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-431* on 2 October, 600 miles east of Cape Race), at 51°56'N, 35°58'W.

Pacific

Destroyers *Peary* (DD-225) and *Pillsbury* (DD-227) are damaged in collision during night exercises in Manila Bay, P.I.

- **Oct 17, Fri.**

Pacific

General Tojo Hideki becomes Japanese Premier as Konoye Government resigns.

Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet (Admiral Husband E. Kimmel) sends two submarines to Midway and two to Wake on "simulated war patrols" (see 26 October).

Navy orders all U.S. merchant ships in Asiatic waters to put into friendly ports.

Atlantic

Battle to protect convoy SC 48 continues. SC 48 is the first U.S. Navy-escorted convoy to engage German submarines in battle, but despite the presence of the three modern U.S. destroyers and two flush-deckers--*Decatur* (DD-341) and HMCS *Columbia* [ex-U.S. destroyer *Haraden* (DD-183)], and four Canadian corvettes, the enemy torpedoes six ships and an escort vessel in a total elapsed time of four hours and forty-seven minutes. *U-432* sinks Greek steamer *Evros* at 57°00'N, 24°30'W, Panamanian steamer *Bold Venture* and Norwegian motor tanker *Barfonn* at 56°58'N, 25°04'W; *U-558* sinks British tanker *W.C. Teagle* at 57°00'N, 25°00'W, and Norwegian steamship *Rym* at 57°01'N, 24°20'W. *U-553* sinks Norwegian steamer *Erviken* at 56°10'N, 24°30'W, and conducts unsuccessful approach on destroyer *Plunkett* (DD-431). Destroyer *Kearny* (DD-432) is torpedoed by *U-568* southwest of Iceland, 57°00'N, 24°00'W; 11 of *Kearny's* crew are killed, 22 injured (see 18 October). Soon thereafter, *U-101* torpedoes and sinks British destroyer HMS *Broadwater* [ex-U.S. destroyer *Mason* (DD-191)], at 57°01'N, 19°08'W. Lost on board the British flush-decker are two survivors from *Ervinger* and nine from *W.C. Teagle*. Escorted by *Greer* (DD-145), the damaged *Kearny* proceeds to Hvalfjordur, Iceland. There she will undergo repairs alongside repair ship *Vulcan* (AR-5) and eventually return to the United States. Iceland-based PBYs (VP 73) arrive to provide air coverage for SC 48.

Destroyer *Charles F. Hughes* (DD-428) and *Gleaves* (DD-423), while screening convoy HX 154, depth-charge suspicious contacts at 54°40'N, 33°59'W, and 54°40'N, 33°59'W (see 19 October).

- **Oct 18, Mon.**

Atlantic

PBY (VP 73) drops package containing blood plasma and transfusion gear for

use in treating the wounded on board *Kearny* (DD-432); *Monssen* (DD-435) retrieves the package but the gear becomes disengaged and sinks. PBM (VP 74) repeats the operation a few hours later; this time the drop is successful and *Monssen* retrieves the medical supplies intact. Destroyers *Plunkett* (DD-431), *Livermore* (DD-429) and *Decatur* (DD-341), meanwhile, make concerted depth charge attacks on sound contacts at 54°53'N, 33°08'W with no visible results. German submarines break off operations against SC 48.

- **Oct 19, Sun.**

Atlantic

Destroyer *Charles F. Hughes* (DD-428) and *Gleaves* (DD-423), while screening convoy HX 154, depth-charge suspicious contacts at 59°58'N, 23°15'W, and 60°00'N, 23°20'W, and 59°57'N, 22°41'W.

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Lehigh* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-126* about 75 miles off Freetown, Sierra Leone, 08°26'N, 14°37'W. While there are no fatalities, four men are slightly injured.

- **Oct 20, Mon.**

Atlantic

PBYs (VP 73) provide air coverage for convoy ON 26.

- **Oct 22, Wed.**

Pacific

Battleships *Oklahoma* (BB-36) and *Arizona* (BB-39) are damaged in collision in Hawaiian Operating Area.

- **Oct 25, Sat.**

Atlantic

TF 14 (Rear Admiral H. Kent Hewitt), formed around carrier *Yorktown* (CV-5) (VF 42, VB 5, VS 5 and VT 5), battleship *New Mexico* (BB-40), light cruisers *Savannah* (CL-42) and *Philadelphia* (CL-41), and nine destroyers, departs Portland, Maine, to escort a convoy ("Cargo") of British merchantmen.

TU 4.1.3 (Commander Richard E. Webb) escorts convoy HX 156; destroyer *Hilary P. Jones* (DD-427) carries out depth charge attacks on suspicious contact but, after spying a school of porpoises, ceases fire.

South and Northeast Greenland Patrols are merged and renamed Greenland Patrol; it is designated as TG 24.8 of the Atlantic Fleet.

- **Oct 26, Sun.**

Pacific

Submarines *Narwhal* (SS-168) and *Dolphin* (SS-169) arrive off Wake Island on simulated war patrols.

- **Oct 27, Mon.**

Atlantic

TU 4.1.6 (Commander George W. Johnson) screens convoy ON 28. During the day, destroyers *DuPont* (DD-152) and *Sampson* (DD-394) each carry out two depth charge attacks against suspected U-boat contacts.

Destroyer *Hilary P. Jones* (DD-427) is damaged by heavy seas while screening convoy HX 156.

- **Oct 29, Wed.**

Atlantic

TU 4.1.3 (Commander Richard E. Webb) escorts convoy HX 156; destroyer *Hilary P. Jones* (DD-427) carries out depth charge attack on suspicious contact.

TU 4.1.6 (Commander George W. Johnson) screens convoy ON 28. During the day, destroyers *Lea* (DD-118), *DuPont* (DD-152), *MacLeish* (DD-220), and *Sampson* (DD-394) depth charge suspected U-boat contacts.

- **Oct 30, Thu.**

Atlantic

Oiler *Salinas* (AO-19), in convoy ON 28, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-106* about 700 miles east of Newfoundland. Only one of *Salinas's* crew is injured. TU 4.1.6 (Commander George W. Johnson), screening ON 28, attacks sound contacts; destroyer *Bernadou* (DD-153) carries out five depth charge attacks and fires at what was most likely German submarine *U-67*, forcing her to submerge; *DuPont* (DD-152) carries out three depth charge attacks; *MacLeish* (DD-220) and *Sampson* (DD-394) one apiece. *Lea* (DD-118) escorts *Salinas* (which will reach port under her own power); they will be joined en route by Coast Guard cutter *Campbell* and tug *Cherokee* (AT-66).

TU 4.1.1 (Captain Marion Y. Cohen) contacts MOMP-bound convoy HX 157 at 45°43'N, 55°37'W. The convoy will not be attacked by U-boats (see 1 November).

- **Oct 31, Fri.**

Atlantic

Destroyer *Reuben James* (DD-245), while escorting 42-ship convoy HX 156, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-552* off western Iceland, 51°59'N, 27°05'W; 115 men are killed. No merchantmen in HX 156 are attacked. Despite the heavy oil slick in the vicinity and the need to investigate sound contacts, destroyer *Niblack* (DD-424) rescues 36 men (one of whom dies of wounds on 2 November); *Hilary P. Jones* (DD-427) picks up 10. The loss of *Reuben James*, the first U.S. naval vessel to be lost to enemy action in World War II, proves a temporary detriment to Navy recruiting efforts.

TU 4.1.6 (Commander George W. Johnson), screening ON 28, carries out vigorous attacks on sound contacts: destroyer *Babbitt* (DD-128) carries out two, while *Buck* (DD-420), *DuPont* (DD-152) (which is attacked by U-boat but missed), *Leary* (DD-158) and *Sampson* (DD-394) one attack apiece.

November

- **Nov 1, Sat.**

Executive order places Coast Guard under jurisdiction of Department of the Navy for duration of national emergency.

Pacific

Pacific Escort Force is formed at Pearl Harbor to protect transports and certain merchant vessels carrying troops and valuable military cargoes between Hawaii and the Far East.

Atlantic

PBYs (VP 73) provide air coverage for convoy ON 30.

Destroyers *Dallas* (DD-199), *Ellis* (DD-154), and *Eberle* (DD-430), screening convoy HX 157, carry out depth charge attacks on sound contacts off St. John's, Newfoundland.

- **Nov 2, Sun.**

Atlantic

TF 14 (Rear Admiral H. Kent Hewitt) (see 25 October 1941 for composition) reaches MOMP and exchanges convoy "Cargo" for CT 5, eight British transports carrying 20,000 British troops earmarked for the Middle East. Convoy CT 5's first destination is Halifax, Nova Scotia.

PBMs (VP 74) provide air coverage for convoy ON 30.

- **Nov 3, Mon.**

Secretary of State Hull releases to the press the correspondence of June and September detailing the German refusal to pay reparations for sinking U.S. freighter *Robin Moor* on 21 May.

Atlantic

PBYs (VP 73) provide air coverage for convoy ON 31.

Destroyer *Upshur* (DD-144), escorting convoy HX 157, depth charges sound contact (later determined to be most likely a whale or blackfish) at 56°56'N, 49°21'W.

- **Nov 4, Tue.**

Atlantic

PBYs (VP 73) provide air coverage for convoy ON 31.

British RFA oiler *Olwen* reports German surface raider attack at 03°04'N, 22°42'W. Commander-in-Chief, South Atlantic, Vice Admiral Algernon U. Willis, RN, orders heavy cruiser HMS *Dorsetshire* (accompanied by armed merchant cruiser HMS *Canton*) to investigate. Light cruiser HMS *Dunedin* and special service vessels HMS *Queen Emma* and *Princess Beatrix* are ordered to depart Freetown, Sierra Leone to join in the search. *Dorsetshire* and *Canton* part company, with the former heading southeast and the latter steaming toward a position to the northwest, to be supported by TG 3.6, light cruiser *Omaha* (CL-4) and destroyer *Somers* (DD-381), which are at that time well to the northwest of the reported enemy position. Light cruiser *Memphis* (CL-4) and destroyers *Davis* (DD-395) and *Jouett* (DD-396), near to *Olwen's* position, search the area without result; *Omaha* and *Somers* search unsuccessfully for survivors (see 5-6 November).

- **Nov 5, Wed.**

Atlantic

Oiler *Laramie* (A0 16) is rammed by Panamanian freighter *Montrose*, Tunugdliark Fjord, Narsarsuak, Greenland, but suffers no damage in the accidental encounter caused by stormy weather.

Search for German raider reported by British RFA oiler *Olwen* the previous day continues; Commander-in-Chief South Atlantic (Vice Admiral Algernon U. Willis, RN) informs British ships of the unsuccessful efforts by the five U.S. ships (two light cruisers and three destroyers) involved in the search the previous day (see 6 November).

Pacific

Rear Admiral Francis W. Rockwell relieves Captain Herbert J. Ray as Commandant, Sixteenth Naval District and Commander, Philippine Naval Coastal Frontier. Ray had been acting in that capacity due to the illness of Rear Admiral Harold M. Bemis.

- **Nov 6, Thu.**

Atlantic

Unsuccessful search for German raider reported by British RFA oiler *Olwen* on 4 November is not entirely fruitless: TG 3.6, light cruiser *Omaha* (CL-4) (Captain Theodore E. Chandler) and destroyer *Somers* (DD-381), en route to Recife, Brazil, returning from the 3,023-mile patrol, captures German blockade runner *Odenwald*, disguised as U.S. freighter *Willmoto*, in Atlantic equatorial waters, 00°40'N, 28°04'W. Boarding party from *Omaha* (Lieutenant George K. Carmichael) reaches *Odenwald* as Germans explode charges to scuttle the ship. *Omaha's* sailors, however, joined by a diesel engine specialist from *Somers*, prevent *Odenwald's* loss while the cruiser's SOCs and her accompanying destroyer screen the operation. The three ships then proceed to Trinidad because of possible complications with the Brazilian government; in view of the precarious fuel state in the American ships, *Somers's* crew ingeniously rigs a sail that cuts fuel consumption and allows her to reach her destination with fuel to spare. British RFA oiler *Olwen* subsequently reports that she had made the "raider" signal when what was probably a surfaced submarine had fired upon her at dawn on 4 November 1941. Ten U.S. and British warships had searched for two days for a phantom enemy.

Destroyer *Madison* (DD-425), on the flank of convoy ON 39, carries out depth charge attack at 45°50'N, 40°40'W; investigation later proves their quarry to have been a whale.

- **Nov 7, Fri.**

Atlantic

Destroyers *Lansdale* (DD-426), *Charles F. Hughes* (DD-428), and *Gleaves* (DD-423), while in TU 4.1.2 escorting convoy ON 30, make depth charge attacks on sound contact. Destroyer *Madison* (DD-425) sights bleeding whale soon thereafter, leading to the conclusion that the warships had attacked a large marine mammal.

- **Nov 8, Sat.**

Atlantic

Destroyer *Niblack* (DD-424) damages Norwegian freighter *Astra* in collision, Reykjavik, Iceland.

Naval Operating Base, Iceland, is established; Rear Admiral James L. Kauffman is the first commandant.

- **Nov 9, Sun.**

Atlantic

TU 4.1.4 (Captain Alan G. Kirk) departs Argentia, Newfoundland, to screen 31-ship convoy HX 159. It is the first escort task unit that includes in its composition a Coast Guard cutter, *Campbell*. The convoy will not be attacked by U-boats although the presence of whales and blackfish result in attacks on sound contacts on five occasions (see 11, 12, and 13 November).

- **Nov 10, Mon.**

- Atlantic

- U.S.-escorted convoy WS 12 (Rear Admiral Arthur B. Cook), formed around carrier *Ranger* (CV-4) and transporting more than 20,000 British soldiers (see 2 November) in six U.S. Navy transports, sails from Halifax.

- Destroyer *Ericsson* (DD-440), screening convoy HX 157, depth charges sound contact later evaluated as a "doubtful" submarine.

- Pacific

- Commander in Chief Asiatic Fleet (Admiral Thomas C. Hart) receives permission to withdraw river gunboats from the Yangtze and USMC forces from China.

- **Nov 11, Tue.**

- Atlantic

- Destroyer *Edison* (DD-439), en route to rendezvous with convoy ON 34, depth charges sound contact.

- Destroyer *Decatur* (DD-341), screening convoy HX 159, depth charges sound contact off the Grand Banks; it is later evaluated as a "doubtful" submarine.

- **Nov 12, Wed.**

- Atlantic

- TU 4.1.3 (Commander Richard E. Webb) assumes escort duty for convoy ON 34.

- Destroyer *Decatur* (DD-341), screening convoy HX 159, twice depth charges sound contacts that are later evaluated as "non-submarine." Destroyer *Badger* (DD-126), depth charges sound contact that is later evaluated as perhaps *Decatur's* wake. Coast Guard cutter *Campbell* reports sound contact and conducts search; she is joined by destroyer *Livermore* (DD-429).

- **Nov 13, Tue.**

- Atlantic

- Destroyer *Edison* (DD-439), screening convoy ON 34 southwest of Iceland, depth charges sound contact.

- Destroyer *Decatur* (DD-341), screening convoy HX 159, depth charges sound contact; although it is regarded as a good contact, the ensuing search yields no evidence of a submarine.

- **Nov 14, Fri.**

- Pacific

- Marines are ordered withdrawn from Shanghai, Peiping, and Tientsin, China.

- Atlantic

- Destroyer *Benson* (DD-421) and *Niblack* (DD-424), screening convoy ON 34, depth charge sound contacts.

- Destroyer *Edison* (DD-439), en route to MOMP in TU 4.1.1 to screen convoy ON 35, attacks a sound contact southwest of Iceland at 62°53'N, 24°30'W.

- **Nov 15, Sat.**

- United States

- Army GHQ maneuvers begin in North and South Carolina. Two U.S. Navy (VB

8 and VS 8) and two Marine Corps (VMF 111 and VMF 121) squadrons take part in the large-scale war games.

Atlantic

TU 4.1.1 (Captain Marion Y. Cohen) assumes escort duty for convoy ON 35 at the MOMP. There will be no U-boat attacks on the convoy, but nearly continuous heavy weather between 16 and 25 November result in 16 of the 26 ships straggling.

- **Nov 16, Sun.**

Atlantic

TU 4.1.5 (Commander William K. Phillips) clears Argentia, Newfoundland, to assume escort duty for convoy HX 160; between 17 and 28 November, heavy seas will cause varying degrees of damage to destroyers *Mayo* (DD-422), *Nicholson* (DD-424), *Babbitt* (DD-128), *Leary* (DD-158) and *Schenck* (DD-159). The convoy will not be attacked by U-boats (see 19, 20 and 27 November).

- **Nov 17, Mon.**

Congress amends the Neutrality Act of 1939 by Joint Resolution; U.S. merchant ships can now be armed and can enter war zones.

Bureau of Navigation directs that naval district personnel who received Armed Guard training be assigned to Little Creek, Virginia, or San Diego, California, for further instruction. They will be transferred to Armed Guard centers at New York, New York, and Treasure Island, California, for assignment to merchant ships.

Special Japanese envoy Kurusu Saburo arrives in Washington and confers with Secretary of State Cordell Hull.

Atlantic

Destroyers *Benson* (DD-421) and *Edison* (DD-439), screening convoy ON 34, depth charge submarine contacts.

TU 4.1.5 (Commander William K. Phillips) intercepts and joins convoy HX 160; although none of the destroyers in the task unit will be damaged by enemy action, all--*Mayo* (DD-422), *Babbitt* (DD-128), *Leary* (DD-158), *Schenck* (DD-159), and *Nicholson* (DD-442)--will suffer storm damage of varying degrees between this date and 28 November.

German blockade runner *Odenwald*, captured by light cruiser *Omaha* (CL-4) and destroyer *Somers* (DD-381) on 6 November, is escorted into San Juan, Puerto Rico, by *Somers* and turned over to U.S. authorities.

- **Nov 19, Wed.**

Atlantic

Destroyer *Leary* (DD-158), with TU 4.1.5, escorting convoy HX 160, depth charges a sound contact.

- **Nov 20, Thu.**

Ambassador Nomura presents Japan's "final proposal" to keep peace in the Pacific.

Atlantic

Destroyer *Nicholson* (DD-424), with TU 4.1.5, escorting convoy HX 160, depth charges a sound contact at 50°30'N, 50°40'W.

- **Nov 21, Fri.**
United States
 Office of the Chief of Naval Operations mistakenly informs Naval Air Station, New York, of the imminent delivery of infantile paralysis serum from Navy Medical Supply Depot, Brooklyn, for further transport to Norfolk by 1000 on the following day and thence to Bermuda. It is soon discovered, however, that no such serum exists in Brooklyn or anywhere east of Milwaukee. Urgent ensuing search locates the needed serum in Milwaukee, whence it is flown to Chicago, where American Air Lines holds a plane to make the necessary connection for the flight to New York (see 22 November).

Atlantic
 Lend-Lease is extended to Iceland.

Pacific
 Destroyer *Shaw* (DD-373) and oiler *Sabine* (AO-25) are damaged in collision in Hawaiian Operating Area.
- **Nov 22, Sat.**
United States
 Naval Air Station, New York SNJ-2 delivers needed infantile paralysis serum to Norfolk. It ultimately arrives in Bermuda on time.
- **Nov 23, Sun.**
 U.S. occupies Surinam, Dutch Guiana, pursuant to agreement with the Netherlands government to protect bauxite mines.

Atlantic
 TU 4.1.6 (Commander Gilbert C. Hoover) assumes escort duty for convoy HX 161; the convoy will not be attacked by U-boats during its passage (see 24 November).
- **Nov 24, Mon.**
Atlantic
 Destroyer *DuPont* (DD-152) in North Atlantic with TU 4.1.6, escorting convoy HX 161, is damaged in collision with merchant ship *Thorshovdi*.

British light cruiser *Dunedin* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-124* north of Pernambuco, Brazil, at approximately 03°00'S, 26°00'W (see 27 November).
- **Nov 25, Tue.**
Pacific
 Japanese troop transports en route to Malaya are sighted off Formosa.

Submarines *Triton* (SS-201) and *Tambor* (SS-198) arrive off Wake Island on simulated war patrols.
- **Nov 26, Wed.**
 Secretary of State Hull submits final proposal to Japanese envoys for readjustment of U.S.-Japanese relations.

Pacific
 Japanese carrier task force (Vice Admiral Nagumo's, Chuichi), formed around six aircraft carriers, sails from remote Hittokappu Bay in the Kuriles, its departure shrouded in secrecy. Its mission, should talks between United States

and Japan fail to resolve the diplomatic impasse over Far Eastern and Pacific questions, is to attack the U.S. Pacific Fleet wherever it is found in Hawaiian waters.

Tug *Sonoma* (AT-12) sails from Wake Island with Pan American Airways barges *PAB No. 2* and *PAB No. 4* in tow, bound for Honolulu.

- **Nov 27, Thu.**

Admiral Harold R. Stark, Chief of Naval Operations, sends "war warning" message to commanders of the Pacific and Asiatic Fleets. General George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff, sends a similar message to his Hawaiian and Philippine Department commanders.

Pacific

U.S. passenger liner *President Madison*, chartered for the purpose, sails from Shanghai, China, with the 2d Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment (Lieutenant Colonel Donald Curtis, USMC) embarked, bound for the Philippines (see 28 November).

Atlantic

Destroyer *Babbitt* (DD-128), with TU 4.1.5, escorting convoy HX 160, depth charges a sound contact.

U.S. freighter *Nishmaha* rescues 72 survivors (five of whom succumb to their wounds) from British light cruiser HMS *Dunedin*, sunk by German submarine *U-124* on 24 November. *Nishmaha* transports the survivors to Trinidad.

- **Nov 28, Fri.**

Pacific

Carrier *Enterprise* (CV-6) sails for Wake Island in TF 8 (Vice Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr.) to ferry USMC F4Fs (VMF 211) to the atoll. Occasioned by the "war warning" of the previous day, the deployment is part of eleventh-hour augmentation of defenses at outlying Pacific bases. Halsey approves "Battle Order No. 1" (28 November) that declares that *Enterprise* is operating "under war conditions." "Steady nerves and stout hearts," the carrier's captain concludes, "are needed now." Supporting PBY operations will be carried out from advanced bases at Wake and Midway.

Seaplane tender *Wright* (AV-1), arrives at Wake Island, with Marine Aircraft Group 21 people to establish an advance aviation base.

U.S. passenger liner *President Harrison*, chartered for the purpose, sails from Shanghai, China, with the 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment (Lieutenant Colonel Curtis T. Beecher, USMC) and regimental staff (Colonel Samuel L. Howard, USMC) embarked, bound for the Philippines. "Stirring scenes of farewell," U.S. Consul Edwin F. Stanton reports to Secretary of State Hull, accompany the marines' departure.

During their storm-fraught passage to rendezvous with the river gunboats proceeding from Shanghai to Manila, submarine rescue vessel *Pigeon* (ASR-6) experiences steering casualty; minesweeper *Finch* (AM-9), which loses both anchors in the tempest, stands by to render assistance, and eventually, after three tries, manages to take the crippled ship in tow the following day.

- **Nov 29, Sat.**

Pacific

River gunboats *Luzon* (PR-7) and *Oahu* (PR-6) (Rear Admiral William A. Glassford, Commander Yangtze Patrol, in *Luzon*) depart Shanghai for Manila. *Oahu* (PR-6) is the sistership of river gunboat *Panay* (PR-5), which had been bombed and sunk by Japanese naval aircraft near Nanking, China, on 12 December 1937.

Atlantic

TU 4.1.2 (Commander Fred D. Kirtland), accompanied by salvage vessel *Redwing* (ARS-4) and oiler *Sapelo* (AO-11), assumes escort for convoy HX 162 (see 1 December).

TU 4.1.4 (Captain Alan G. Kirk) assumes escort duty for convoy ONS 39; the convoy will not be attacked by U-boats during its passage. ONS 39, however, will encounter considerable stormy weather that causes varying degrees of topside damage to destroyers *Plunkett* (DD-431), *Livermore* (DD-429), *Decatur* (DD-341) and *Cole* (DD-155).

Destroyer *Woolsey* (DD-437), screening convoy HX 161, despite having been hampered by propulsion problems the previous days, depth charges suspicious contact without result.

- **Nov 30, Sun.**

Pacific

Japanese Foreign Minister Tojo rejects U.S. proposals for settling Far East crisis.

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I 10* reconnoiters Suva Bay, Fiji.

U.S. passenger liner *President Madison* arrives at Olongapo, P.I., and disembarks the 2d Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment (Lieutenant Colonel Donald Curtis, USMC). *President Madison* will then proceed on to Singapore.

River gunboats *Luzon* (PR-7) and *Oahu* (PR-6) (Rear Admiral William A. Glassford, Commander Yangtze Patrol, in *Luzon*) rendezvous with submarine rescue vessel *Pigeon* (ASR-6) and minesweeper *Finch* (AM-9); they will remain in company until 3 December.

Atlantic

Destroyer *Decatur* (DD-341), in TU 4.1.4 (Captain Alan G. Kirk), escorting convoy ONS 39, carries out depth charge attack on suspicious contact, 59°24'N, 27°03'W.

Army GHQ Maneuvers in North and South Carolina conclude.

December

- **Dec 1, Mon.**

Atlantic

Patrol Wing 9 (Lieutenant Commander Thomas U. Sisson) is established at Quonset Point, Rhode Island.

German submarine *U-575* encounters and tracks unarmed U.S. tanker *Astral*, the latter en route from Aruba, N.W.I., to Lisbon, Portugal, with a cargo of 78,200 barrels of gasoline and kerosene. After seeing that *Astral* is unarmed and bears

prominent neutrality markings, however, the U-boat's commanding officer, *Kapitanleutnant* Gunther Heydemann, allows the American ship to pass unmolested. Subsequently, another submarine in the vicinity, *U-43*, encounters *Astral* and attacks her, but her torpedoes miss their mark (see 2 December).

TU 4.1.2 (Commander Fred D. Kirtland), accompanied by salvage vessel *Redwing* (ARS-4) and oiler *Sapelo* (AO-11), while escorting convoy HX 162, encounters heavy weather that scatters 35 merchantmen. Destroyers *Charles F. Hughes* (DD-428), *Madison* (DD-425), *Lansdale* (DD-426), *Wilkes* (DD-441) and *Sturtevant* (DD-240) all suffer storm damage of varying degrees (see 7 December).

Destroyer *Livermore* (DD-429), escorting convoy ONS 39, is dispatched to investigate darkened merchantman steaming on opposite course. *Livermore* trails her and after determining her to be Panamanian freighter *Ramapo*, en route to join convoy SC 56, allows her to continue her voyage after being warned not to radio a report of contact with a convoy.

Pacific

President orders a "defensive information patrol" of "three small ships" established off the coast of French Indochina; he specifically designates yacht *Isabel* (PY-10) (reserve flagship for Commander in Chief Asiatic Fleet) as one of the trio of vessels (see 3 and 6 December). Schooner *Lanikai* is acquired and commissioned, but the start of the war results in her planned mission being cancelled. The third vessel, schooner *Molly Moore*, is selected for the mission but is never taken over. *Lanikai's* civilian career had seen her used as a "prop" in the filming of motion picture "Hurricane" that starred Dorothy Lamour and Jon Hall.

U.S. passenger liner *President Harrison* arrives at Olongapo, P.I., with the remaining elements of the 4th Marine Regiment (Colonel Samuel L. Howard, USMC) withdrawn from Shanghai. *President Harrison* soon sails to bring out the last marines from China (see 8 December).

As river gunboats *Luzon* (PR-7) and *Oahu* (PR-6) (Rear Admiral William A. Glassford, Commander Yangtze Patrol, in *Luzon*), submarine rescue vessel *Pigeon* (ASR-6) and minesweeper *Finch* (AM-9) proceed toward Manila, they become the object of curiosity by Japanese forces in the vicinity; first a floatplane circles the formation, then seven Japanese warships of various types.

- **Dec 2, Tue.**

U.S. freighter *Dunboyne* receives first naval Armed Guard crew. By the end of World War II, the U.S. Navy will arm some 6,236 merchantmen; approximately 144,970 officers and enlisted men will defend these merchant vessels in every theater of war.

Atlantic

German submarine *U-43* again attacks unarmed U.S. tanker *Astral* and this time torpedoes and sinks her at 35°40'N, 24°00'W. There are no survivors from the 37-man merchant crew.

Weather encountered by convoy ONS 39, being escorted by TU 4.1.4 (Captain Alan G. Kirk) worsens to the extent that the watch on board destroyer *Plunkett*

(DD-431) cannot be relieved because officers and men cannot safely traverse the weather decks.

TU 4.1.5 (Commander William K. Phillips) clears Reykjavik, Iceland, to rendezvous with convoy ON 41, which due to poor weather will be 48 hours late to the MOMP. Over the ensuing period at sea, TU 4.1.5 battles "consistently severe" weather conditions that will cause varying degrees of damage to all of the ships in the task unit. Although ships of the unit carry out attacks (see 5, 9 and 11 December), there will be no U-boat attacks on the merchantmen under their protection.

TU 4.1.6 (Commander Gilbert C. Hoover), escorting convoy HX 161, encounters heavy weather; destroyer *Bernadou* (DD-153) suffers storm damage; destroyers *Roe* (DD-418) and *Lea* (DD-118) each lose a man overboard. Neither sailor is recovered (see 4 December).

Pacific

Submarine *Trout* (SS-202) arrives off Midway Island on simulated war patrol.

- **Dec 3, Wed.**

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Sagadahoc* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-124* in South Atlantic, 21°50'S, 07°50'W. One man of the 37-man crew is lost.

Destroyer *Mayo* (DD-422), in TU 4.1.5 en route to MOMP and convoy ON 41, encounters two British ships, HMS *Tenacity* and merchantman *Meademere*, burning navigation lights south of Iceland; when they fail to answer challenge, *Mayo* illuminates them with starshells, at which point they turn off lights and answer challenge promptly.

Pacific

Yacht *Isabel* (PY-10) sails for coast of French Indochina, deployed in accordance with President Roosevelt's "defensive information patrol" order.

Submarine *Argonaut* (SS-166) arrives off Midway Island on simulated war patrol.

- **Dec 4, Thu.**

Pacific

River gunboats *Luzon* (PR-7) and *Oahu* (PR-6) (Rear Admiral William A. Glassford, Commander Yangtze Patrol, in *Luzon*), followed later by submarine rescue vessel *Pigeon* (ASR-6) and minesweeper *Finch* (AM-9), reach Manila.

River gunboat *Mindanao* (PR-8) (Captain Lester J. Hudson, Commander South China Patrol, embarked) sails from Hong Kong, British Crown Colony, for Manila. She is the last U.S. Navy ship to depart Chinese waters prior to war. Luzon Stevedoring Company tug *Ranger* follows subsequently, carrying spare parts and 800 3-inch shells for *Mindanao's* main battery (previously stored ashore at Hong Kong). Only two U.S. naval vessels remain in Chinese waters: river gunboat *Wake* (ex-*Guam*) (PR-3) at Shanghai to maintain communications until a radio station is established at the Consulate General with Navy equipment, and river gunboat *Tutuila* (PR-4) at Chungking, where she furnishes essential services to the U.S. Embassy. *Wake* had received her new name on 23 January 1941 to clear the name *Guam* for a new large cruiser (CB 2).

Carrier *Enterprise* (CV-6) ferries USMC F4Fs (VMF 211) to Wake Island; TF 8 (Vice Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr.) then shapes a course to return to Pearl Harbor. TF 8 is slated to reach Pearl on 6 December. Heavy weather on 5-6 December, however, will result in a delay in fueling the force's destroyers and push back the time of arrival in Pearl from the afternoon of the 6th to the morning of the 7th. That same day, a routine scouting flight from the carrier sights Honolulu-bound tug *Sonoma* (AT-12) with Pan American Airways barges *PAB No. 2* and *PAB No. 4* in tow. *Sonoma*, armed with only two .30-caliber machine guns, will eventually reach Honolulu on 15 December 1941, with her tows.

Japanese naval land attack plane (Chitose *Kokutai*) reconnoiters Wake Island undetected.

Atlantic

TU 4.1.5 (Commander William K. Phillips) reaches MOMP to escort convoy ON 41 which has been delayed by bad weather.

TU 4.1.6 (Commander Gilbert C. Hoover), encounters "mountainous" seas as it continues to escort convoy HX 161; destroyer *Roe* (DD-418) suffers two sailors hurt when torpedo breaks loose atop her after deckhouse.

- **Dec 5, Fri.**

Pacific

Japan assures the U.S. that her troop movements in French Indochina are only precautionary.

Carrier *Lexington* (CV-2) in TF 12 (Rear Admiral John H. Newton) sails for Midway to ferry USMC SB2Us (VMSB 231) to that atoll. Like *Enterprise* (CV-6)'s deployment to Wake, *Lexington's* to Midway is in response to the "War Warning" of 27 November.

Atlantic

TU 4.1.3 (Commander George W. Johnson) assumes escort duty for convoy HX 163 in North Atlantic.

Destroyer *Babbitt* (DD-128), in TU 4.1.5 escorting convoy ON 41, depth-charges suspected submarine contact without result.

- **Dec 6, Sat.**

Pacific

Yacht *Isabel* (PY-10) is sighted by floatplane from Japanese seaplane carrier *Kamikawa Maru* at about 13°24'N, 112°21'E. Later in the day, *Isabel* receives orders to return to Manila.

Atlantic

Destroyer *Decatur* (DD-341), in TU 4.1.4 (Captain Alan G. Kirk), escorting convoy ONS 39, carries out depth charge attack on suspicious contact, 51°54'N, 41°53'W.

- **Dec 7, Sun.**

Atlantic

TU 4.1.2 (Commander Fred D. Kirtland), accompanied by salvage vessel *Redwing* (ARS-4) and oiler *Sapelo* (AO-11), while escorting convoy HX 162,

reaches the MOMP; 21 of the 35 merchantmen scattered by the storm encountered on 1 December have rejoined by this time.

Pacific

Unarmed U.S. Army-chartered steam schooner *Cynthia Olson* is shelled and sunk by Japanese submarine *I 26* about 1,000 miles northwest of Diamond Head, Honolulu, T.H., 33°42'N, 145°29'W. She is the first U.S. merchantman to be sunk by a Japanese submarine in World War II. There are no survivors from the 33-man crew or the two Army passengers.

Japanese Type A midget submarine attempts to follow general stores issue ship *Antares* (AKS-3) into the entrance channel to Pearl Harbor; summoned to the scene by the auxiliary vessel, destroyer *Ward* (DD-139), on channel entrance patrol, with an assist from a PBY (VP 14), sinks the intruder with gunfire and depth charges. Word of the incident, however, works its way with almost glacial slowness up the chain of command.

Army radar station at Opana Point, Oahu, soon thereafter detects an unusually large "blip" approaching from the north, but the operator reporting the contact is told not to concern himself with the matter since a formation of USAAF B-17s is expected from the west coast of the United States. The army watch officer dismisses the report as "nothing unusual." The "blip" is the first wave of the incoming enemy strike.

Consequently, "like a thunderclap from a clear sky" Japanese carrier attack planes (in both torpedo and high-level bombing roles) and bombers, supported by fighters, totaling 353 planes from naval striking force (Vice Admiral Nagumo Chuichi) attack in two waves, targeting ships of the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor, and nearby military airfields and installations. Japanese planes torpedo and sink battleships *Oklahoma* (BB-37) and *West Virginia* (BB-48), and auxiliary (gunnery training/target ship) *Utah* (AG-16). On board *Oklahoma*, Ensign Francis G. Flaherty, USNR, and Seaman First Class James R. Ward, as the ship is abandoned, hold flashlights to allow their shipmates to escape; on board *West Virginia*, her commanding officer, Captain Mervyn Bennion, directs his ship's defense until struck down and mortally wounded by a fragment from a bomb that hits battleship *Tennessee* (BB-43) moored inboard; on board *Utah*, Austrian-born Chief Watertender Peter Tomich remains at his post as the ship capsizes, securing the boilers and making sure his shipmates have escaped from the fireroom. Flaherty, Ward, Bennion, Tomich and Bennion's falling in action sets in motion a chain of events that will result in Mess Attendant First Class Doris Miller becoming the first African-American to be awarded the Navy Cross. Miller, a brawny, broad-shouldered former high school football player, is recruited to carry the mortally wounded captain from the bridge. Their egress temporarily blocked by fires, however, the men are compelled to remain on the bridge. Miller mans a .50-caliber machine gun and later tells interviewers modestly that he believes he may have damaged two low-flying Japanese planes. Sadly, Miller will not survive the war; he will perish with escort carrier *Liscome Bay* (CVE-56) on 24 November 1943 off the Gilberts.

Japanese bombs also sink battleship *Arizona* (BB-39); the cataclysmic explosion of her forward magazine causes heavy casualties, among them Rear Admiral Isaac C. Kidd, Commander Battleship Division 1, who thus becomes the first U.S. Navy flag officer to die in combat in World War II. Both he and *Arizona's*

commanding officer, Captain Franklin van Valkenburgh, are awarded Medals of Honor, posthumously. In addition, the ship's senior surviving officer on board, Lieutenant Commander Samuel G. Fuqua, directs efforts to fight the raging fires and sees to the evacuation of casualties from the ship; he ultimately directs the abandonment of the doomed battleship and leaves in the last boat. He is awarded the Medal of Honor.

When *Arizona* explodes, she is moored inboard of repair ship *Vestal* (AR-4); the blast causes damage to the repair ship, which has already been hit by a bomb. *Vestal's* captain, Commander Cassin Young earns the Medal of Honor by swimming back to his ship after being blown overboard by the explosion of *Arizona's* magazines, and directing her beaching on Aiea shoal to prevent further damage in the fires consuming *Arizona*.

Battleship *California* (BB-44) is hit by both bombs and torpedoes and sinks at her berth alongside Ford Island; during the battle, Ensign Herbert C. Jones, USNR, organizes and leads a party to provide ammunition to the ship's 5-inch antiaircraft battery; he is mortally wounded by a bomb explosion. Gunner Jackson C. Pharris, leading an ordnance repair party, is stunned by concussion of a torpedo explosion early in the action but recovers to set up an ammunition supply train, by hand; he later enters flooding compartments to save shipmates. Chief Radioman Thomas J. Reeves assists in maintaining an ammunition supply party until overcome by smoke inhalation and fires; Machinist's Mate Robert R. Scott, although his station at an air compressor is flooding, remains at his post, declaring "This is my station and I will stay and give them [the antiaircraft gun crews] air as long as the guns are going." Jones, Pharris, Reeves and Scott all receive the Medal of Honor (Jones, Reeves and Scott posthumously).

Japanese bombs damage destroyers *Cassin* (DD-372) and *Downes* (DD-375), which are lying immobile in Drydock No. 1.

Minelayer *Oglala* (CM-4) is damaged by concussion from torpedo exploding in light cruiser *Helena* (CL-50) moored alongside, and capsizes at her berth; harbor tug *Sotoyomo* (YT-9) is sunk in floating drydock *YFD-2*. Contrary to some secondary accounts, *Utah* (a converted battleship) is not attacked because she resembled an aircraft carrier, she is attacked because, in the excitement of the moment, she looked sufficiently like the capital ship she once had been. Of the other sunken ships, *California*, *West Virginia*, *Oglala*, and *Sotoyomo* are raised and repaired; *Cassin* and *Downes* are rebuilt around their surviving machinery; all are returned to service. *Oklahoma*, although raised after monumental effort, is never repaired, and ultimately sinks while under tow to the west coast to be broken up for scrap. The hulks of *Arizona* and *Utah* remain at Pearl as memorials.

Battleship *Nevada* (BB-36), the only capital ship to get underway during the attack, is damaged by bombs and a torpedo before she is beached. Two of her men are later awarded the Medal of Honor: Machinist Donald K. Ross for his service in the forward and after dynamo rooms and Chief Boatswain Edwin J. Hill (posthumously) for his work in enabling the ship to get underway and, later, in attempting to release the anchors during the attempt to beach the ship.

Battleships *Pennsylvania* (BB-38), *Tennessee* (BB-43), and *Maryland* (BB-46), light cruiser *Honolulu* (CL-48), and floating drydock *YFD-2* are damaged by

bombs; light cruisers *Raleigh* (CL-7) and *Helena* (CL-50) are damaged by torpedoes; destroyer *Shaw* (DD-373), by bombs, in floating drydock *YFD-2*; heavy cruiser *New Orleans* (CA-32), destroyers *Helm* (DD-388) and *Hull* (DD-350), destroyer tender *Dobbin* (AD-3), repair ship *Rigel* (AR-11), and seaplane tender *Tangier* (AV-8), are damaged by near-misses of bombs; seaplane tender *Curtiss* (AV-4) is damaged by crashing carrier bomber; garbage lighter *YG-17* (alongside *Nevada* at the outset) is damaged by strafing and/or concussion of bombs.

Destroyer *Monaghan* (DD-354) rams, depth-charges, and sinks Type A midget submarine inside Pearl Harbor proper, during the attack. This particular Type A may have been the one whose periscope harbor tug *YT-153* attempts to ram early in the attack.

Light minelayer *Gamble* (DM-15) mistakenly fires upon submarine *Thresher* (SS-200) off Oahu, 21°15'N, 159°01'W.

Thresher mistakes *Gamble* for destroyer *Litchfield* (DD-336) (the latter ship assigned to work with submarines in the Hawaiian operating area), the ship with which she is to rendezvous. *Gamble*, converted from a flush-deck, four-pipe destroyer, resembles *Litchfield*. Sadly, the delay occasioned by the mistaken identity proves fatal to a seriously injured sailor on board the submarine, who dies four hours before the boat finally reaches port on the 8th, of multiple injuries suffered on 6 December 1941 when heavy seas wash him against the signal deck rail.

Carrier *Enterprise* (CV-6) Air Group (CEAG, VB 6 and VS 6) search flight (Commander Howard L. Young, CEAG), in two-plane sections of SBDs, begins arriving off Oahu as the Japanese attack unfolds; some SBDs meet their doom at the hands of Japanese planes; one (VS 6) is shot down by friendly fire. Another SBD ends up on Kauai where its radio-gunner is drafted into the local Army defense force with his single .30-caliber machine gun. Almost all of the surviving planes, together with what observation and scouting planes from battleship (VO) and cruiser (VCS) detachments, as well as flying boats (VP) and utility aircraft (VJ) that survive the attack, take part in the desperate, hastily organized searches flown out of Ford Island to look for the Japanese carriers whence the surprise attack had come.

Navy Yard and Naval Station, Pearl Harbor; Naval Air Stations at Ford Island and Kaneohe Bay; Ewa Mooring Mast Field (Marine Corps air facility); Army airfields at Hickam, Wheeler, and Bellows; and Schofield Barracks suffer varying degrees of bomb and fragment damage. Japanese bombs and strafing destroy 188 Navy, Marine Corps, and USAAF planes. At NAS Kaneohe Bay, Aviation Chief Ordnanceman John W. Finn mounts a machine gun on an instruction stand and returns the fire of strafing planes although wounded many times. Although ordered to leave his post to have his wounds treated, he returns to the squadron areas where, although in great pain, he oversees the rearming of returning PBVs. For his heroism, Finn is awarded the Medal of Honor.

Casualties amount to: killed or missing: Navy, 2,008; Marine Corps, 109; Army, 218; Civilian, 68; Wounded: Navy, 710; Marine Corps, 69; Army, 364; Civilian, 35. One particular family tragedy prompts concern in the Bureau of Navigation (later Bureau of Naval Personnel) on the matter of brothers serving in the same

ship, a common peacetime practice in the U.S. Navy. Firemen First Class Malcolm J. Barber and LeRoy K. Barber, and Fireman Second Class Randolph H. Barber, are all lost when battleship *Oklahoma* (BB-37) capsizes. The Bureau considers it in the "individual family interest that brothers not be put on the same ship in war time, as the loss of such a ship may result in the loss of two or more members of the family, which might be avoided if brothers are separated." The Bureau, however, stops short of specifically forbidding the practice. On 3 February 1942, it issues instructions concerning the impracticality of authorizing transfers of men directly from recruit training to ships in which relatives are serving, and urges that brothers then serving together be advised of the undesirability of their continuing to do so. Authorizing commanding officers to approve requests for transfers to facilitate separation, the Bureau directs in July 1942 that commanding officers of ships not forward requests for brothers to serve in the same ship or station. This is too late, however, to prevent the five Sullivan brothers from serving in light cruiser *Juneau* (CL-52) (see 13 November 1942). Acts of heroism by sailors, marines, soldiers and civilians (from telephone exchange operator to yard shop worker), in addition to those enumerated above, abound. Among the civilians who distinguish themselves this day is Tai Sing Loo, the yard photographer, who has a scheduled appointment to take a picture of the marine Main Gate guards. During the attack, he helps the marines of the Navy Yard fire department fight fires in dry dock number one and later, in the wake of the morning's devastation, delivers food to famished leathernecks.

Japanese losses amount to fewer than 100 men, 29 planes of various types and four Type A midget submarines. A fifth Type A washes ashore off Bellows Field and is recovered; its commander (Ensign Sakamaki Kazuo) is captured, becoming U.S. prisoner of war number one.

Japanese Naval Aviation Pilot First Class Nishikaichi Shigenori, from the carrier *Hiryu*, crash-lands his Mitsubishi A6M2 Type 0 carrier fighter (ZERO) on the island of Niihau, T.H. He surrenders to the islanders who disarm him and confiscate his papers but, isolated as they are, know nothing of the attack on Pearl Harbor. "Peaceful and friendly," Nishikaichi is not kept in custody but is allowed to roam the island unguarded (see 9, 12-14 December).

First night recovery of planes in World War II by the U.S. Navy occurs when *Enterprise* turns on searchlights to aid returning SBDs (VB 6 and VS 6) and TBDs (VT 6) that had been launched at dusk in an attempt to find Japanese ships reported off Oahu. Friendly fire, however, downs four of *Enterprise's* six F4Fs (VF 6) (the strike group escort) that are directed to land at Ford Island. Other *Enterprise* SBDs make a night landing at Kaneohe Bay, miraculously avoiding automobiles and construction equipment parked on the ramp to prevent just such an occurrence.

Damage to the battle line proves extensive, but carriers *Enterprise* and *Lexington* (CV-2) are, providentially, not in port, having been deployed at the eleventh hour to reinforce advanced bases at Wake and Midway. *Saratoga* (CV-3) is at San Diego on this day, preparing to return to Oahu. The carriers will prove crucial in the coming months (see Chapter VI, February-May 1942). Convinced that he has proved fortunate to have suffered as trifling losses as he has, Vice Admiral Nagumo opts to set course for home, thus inadvertently

sparing fuel tank farms, ship repair facilities, and the submarine base that will prove invaluable to support the U.S. Pacific Fleet as it rebuilds in the wake of the Pearl Harbor disaster.

Midway Island is bombarded by Japanese Midway Neutralization Unit (Captain Kaname Konishi) consisting of destroyers *Ushio* and *Sazanami*; Marine shore batteries (6th Defense Battalion) return the fire, claiming damage to both ships. One of the submarines deployed on simulated war patrols off Midway, *Trout* (SS-202), makes no contact with the enemy ships; the other, *Argonaut* (SS-166), is unable to make a successful approach, and *Ushio* and *Sazanami* retire from the area. Subsequent bad weather will save Midway from a pounding by planes from the Pearl Harbor Attack Force as it returns to Japanese waters.

Damage control hulk *DCH 1* (IX-44), formerly destroyer *Walker* (DD-163), being towed from San Diego, California, to Pearl Harbor, by oiler *Neches* (AO-5), is cast adrift and scuttled by gunfire from *Neches* at 26°35'N, 143°49'W.

Japanese declaration of war [N.B.: the so-called "Fourteen Point message" is **not** a declaration of war; it merely declares an impasse in the ongoing diplomatic negotiations. The Imperial Rescript declaring a state of war between the Japanese Empire and the United States is not issued until the next day, in Tokyo. *pwc*] reaches Washington, D.C., after word of the attack on Pearl Harbor has already been received in the nation's capital.

President orders mobilization.

- **Dec 8, Mon.**

U.S. declares war on Japan. In his address to the nation, President Roosevelt describes December 7th, 1941 as "a date which will live in infamy."

Potomac River Naval Command with headquarters at Washington, D.C., and Severn River Naval Command with headquarters at Annapolis, Maryland, are established.

Pacific

Japanese submarine *I 123* mines Balabac Strait, P.I.; *I 124* the entrance to Manila Bay.

Striking Force, Asiatic Fleet (Rear Admiral William A. Glassford) departs Iloilo, P.I., for Makassar Strait, N.E.I.

Seaplane tender (destroyer) *William B. Preston* (AVD-7) is attacked by fighters and attack planes from Japanese carrier *Ryujo* in Davao Gulf, P.I.; *William B. Preston* escapes, but two PBVs (VP 101) she is tending are strafed and destroyed on the water.

Japan interns U.S. Marines and nationals at Shanghai, Tientsin and Chinwangtao, China. River gunboat *Wake* (PR-3) maintained at Shanghai as station ship and manned by a skeleton crew, is seized by Japanese Naval Landing Force boarding party after attempt to scuttle fails.

Wake, the only U.S. Navy ship to surrender during World War II, is renamed *Tatara* and serves under the Rising Sun for the rest of the war. British river gunboat HMS *Peterel*, however, moored nearby in the stream of the Whangpoo River, refuses demand to surrender and is sunk by gunfire from Japanese coast defense ship *Idzumo*. American-flag merchant small craft seized by the Japanese at Shanghai: tug *Meifoo No. 5*, tug *Mei Kang*, *Mei Nan*, *Mei Ying* and *Mei Yun*.

U.S. passenger liner *President Harrison*, en route to evacuate marines from North China, is intentionally run aground at Sha Wai Shan, China, and is captured by the Japanese. Repaired and refloated, *President Harrison* is renamed *Kakko Maru* and later, *Kachidoki Maru* (see 12 September 1944). Among the baggage awaiting shipment out of occupied China along with the North China Marines are the bones of *Peking Man*, which are never seen again. Their fate remains a mystery to this day.

Japanese forces land on Batan Island, north of Luzon.

Japanese forces land on east coast of Malay Peninsula. RAF Hudsons bomb invasion shipping off Kota Bharu, Malaya, setting army cargo ship *Awajisan Maru* afire; destroyers *Ayanami* and *Shikinami* and submarine chaser *Ch 9* take off *Awajisan Maru's* crew.

Japanese planes bomb Hong Kong, Singapore, and the Philippine Islands. Extensive damage is inflicted on USAAF aircraft at Clark Field, Luzon, P.I. During Japanese bombing of shipping in Manila Bay, U.S. freighter *Capillo* is damaged by bomb, set afire, and abandoned (see 11 December).

Japanese naval land attack planes (Chitose *Kokutai*) bomb Wake Island, inflicting heavy damage on airfield installations and VMF 211's F4Fs on Wake islet. The four-plane VMF 211 patrol is out of position to deal with the incoming raid (there is no radar on Wake). Pan American Airways Martin 130 *Philippine Clipper* (being prepared for a scouting flight with an escort of two VMF 211 F4Fs when the attack comes) in the aftermath of the disaster precipitately evacuates Caucasian airline staff and passengers only (Pan American's Chamorro employees are left behind). Another individual who somehow fails to get a seat on the outgoing flying boat is an official from the Bureau of the Budget who was on Wake to go over construction costs.

Japanese force slated to assault Wake Island (Rear Admiral Kajioka Sadamichi) sails from Kwajalein, in the Marshall Islands.

Japanese floatplanes (18th *Kokutai*) bomb Guam, M.I., damaging minesweeper *Penguin* (AM-33) and miscellaneous auxiliary *Robert L. Barnes* (AG-27). *Penguin*, abandoned, is scuttled in deep water by her crew.

Robert L. Barnes, maintained in reduced commission as a floating oil depot, her seaworthiness reduced by age and deterioration, had served since 1 July 1937 as the training ship for Guamanian mess attendants recruited on the island.

Atlantic

Destroyers *Niblack* (DD-424), *Benson* (DD-421) and *Tarbell* (DD-143), part of TU 4.1.3 escorting convoy HX 163, depth-charge sound contacts that are later classified as non-submarine.

- **Dec 9, Tue.**

Pacific

Japanese seize Tarawa and Makin, Gilbert Islands.

Japanese submarines *RO 63*, *RO 64*, and *RO 68* bombard Howland and Baker Islands in the mistaken belief that American seaplane bases exist there.

Transport *William Ward Burrows* (AP-6), en route to Wake Island, is re-routed to Johnston.

Japanese submarine *I 10* shells and sinks unarmed Panamanian-flag motorship *Donerail* 200 miles southeast of Hawaii, 08°00'N, 152°00'W. There are only eight survivors of the 33-man crew; all seven passengers perish.

Japanese Naval Aviation Pilot First Class Nishikaichi Shigenori, from the carrier *Hiryu*, who had crash-landed his Mitsubishi A6M2 fighter Type 0 carrier fighter on Niihau on 7 December, is placed under guard by the islanders; attempts this day and the next to transport him to Kauai are frustrated by bad weather (see 12-14 December).

Japanese naval land attack planes (Chitose *Kokutai*) bomb defense installations on the islets of Wilkes and Wake, Wake Island.

China declares war on Japan, Germany, and Italy.

Japanese occupy Bangkok, Thailand.

River gunboat *Mindanao* (PR-8), en route from Hong Kong to Manila, encounters Japanese fishing vessel *No. 3 South Advance Maru*, stops her, and takes her 10-man Formosan crew prisoner. *Mindanao* leaves the craft adrift at 16°42'N, 118°53'E, and steams on, reaching her destination the following day.

Submarine *Swordfish* (SS-193), in initial U.S. submarine attack of the war, torpedoes Japanese ship 150 miles west of Manila at 14°30'N, 119°00'E. Her claim of a sinking, however, is not confirmed in enemy records.

Atlantic

TU 4.1.5 (Commander William K. Phillips) continues its escort duty with convoy ON 41; destroyers *Babbitt* (DD-128) and *Mayo* (DD-422) depth-charge sound contacts; *Babbitt's* at 57°19'N, 33°09'W. Destroyer *Schenck* (DD-159), operating independently from TU 4.1.5 while escorting U.S. freighter *Ozark*, carries out "well conducted" depth charge attack on sound contact at 52°19'N, 39°37'W.

- **Dec 10, Wed.**

Atlantic

PBYs (VP 52) supported by seaplane tender (destroyer) *Greene* (AVD-13) and small seaplane tender *Thrush* (AVP-3), begin antisubmarine patrols over the south Atlantic from Natal, Brazil, and thus inaugurate operations from Brazilian waters.

Battleship *New Mexico* (BB-40), en route to Hampton Roads, Virginia, accidentally rams and sinks U.S. freighter *Oregon*, bound for Boston, Massachusetts, south of Nantucket Lightship, 35°55'N, 69°45'W.

TU 4.1.1 (Captain Marion Y. Cohen) assumes escort duty for convoy HX 164; the ships will not be attacked by enemy submarines. While escorting oiler *Mattole* (AO-17) to join the main convoy, destroyer *Gleaves* (DD-423) carries out depth charge attack on sound contact at 45°50'N, 53°35'W. The contact is later classified as "doubtful" submarine.

Pacific

Cavite Navy Yard, P.I., is practically obliterated by Japanese land attack planes (Takao *Kokutai* and 1st *Kokutai*). Destroyers *Peary* (DD-226) and *Pillsbury* (DD-227), submarines *Seadragon* (SS-194) and *Sealion* (SS-195), minesweeper *Bittern* (AM-36), and submarine tender *Otus* (AS-20), suffer varying degrees of

damage from bombs or bomb fragments; ferry launch *Santa Rita* (YFB-681) is destroyed by direct hit. Submarine rescue vessel *Pigeon* (ASR-6) tows *Seadragon* out of the burning wharf area; minesweeper *Whippoorwill* (AM-35) recovers *Peary*, enabling both warships to be repaired and returned to service. *Bittern* is gutted by fires. Antiaircraft fire from U.S. guns is ineffective. During bombing of Manila Bay area, unarmed U.S. freighter *Sagoland* is damaged.

While flying to safety during the raid on Cavite, Lieutenant Harmon T. Utter's PBV (VP 101) is attacked by three Japanese Mitsubishi A6M2 Type 0 carrier fighters (ZERO) (3rd *Kokutai*); Chief Boatswain Earl D. Payne, Utter's bow gunner, shoots down one, thus scoring the U.S. Navy's first verifiable air-to-air "kill" of a Japanese plane in the Pacific War. Utter, as a commander, will later coordinate the carrier air strikes that lead to the destruction of Japanese battleship *Yamato* (see 7 April 1945).

Japanese forces land on Camiguin Island and at Gonzaga and Aparri, Luzon. Off Vigan, minesweeper *W.10* is bombed and sunk by USAAF P-35 at 17°32'N, 120°22'E; destroyer *Murasame* and transport *Oigawa Maru* are strafed; the latter, set afire, is beached to facilitate salvage. USAAF B-17s bomb and damage light cruiser *Naka* and transport *Takao Maru*; the latter is run aground at 17°29'N, 120°26'E (see 5 March 1942). Off Aparri, minesweeper *W.19* is bombed by a B-17 and grounded (total loss) at 18°22'N, 121°38'E; light cruiser *Natori* is also damaged by a B-17. The B-17 is probably the one flown by Captain Colin P. Kelly, Jr., who is awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, posthumously, for heroism when Japanese fighters attack his bomber over Clark Field as he returns from his mission over Aparri.

British battleship HMS *Prince of Wales* and battle cruiser HMS *Repulse* (Admiral Sir Tom S.V. Phillips, RN) are sunk by Japanese land attack planes off Kuantan, Malaya. Four U.S. destroyers that had been sent to help screen Phillips's ships, having arrived at Singapore too late to sortie with the British force, search unsuccessfully for survivors before returning to Singapore.

Governor of Guam, M.I. (Captain George J. McMillin) surrenders the island to Japanese invasion force (Rear Admiral Goto Aritomo). District patrol craft *YP-16* and *YP-17*; open lighters *YC-664*, *YC-665*, *YC-666*, *YC-667*, *YC-6687*, *YC-670*, *YC-671*, *YC-672*, *YC-673*, *YC-674*, *YC-685*, *YC-717*, *YC-718*; dredge *YM-13*; water barges *YW-50*, *YW-55*, *YW-58*; and miscellaneous auxiliary *Robert L. Barnes* (AG-27) are all lost to the Japanese occupation of that American Pacific possession.

SBD (CEAG) from carrier *Enterprise* (CV-6) sinks Japanese submarine *I 70* in Hawaiian Islands area, 23°45'N, 155°35'W. Plane is flown by a VS 6 pilot.

Japanese naval land attack planes (Chitose *Kokutai*) bomb Marine installations on Wilkes and Wake islets, Wake Island. During the interception of the bombers, Captain Henry T. Elrod, USMC, executive officer of VMF 211, shoots down a Mitsubishi G3M2 Type 96 land attack plane (NELL); this is the first USMC air-to-air "kill" of the Pacific War. Japanese submarines *RO 65*, *RO 66*, and *RO 67* arrive off Wake. Shortly before midnight, submarine *Triton* (SS-201), patrolling south of the atoll, encounters a Japanese warship, probably a picket for the oncoming assault force (see 11 December).

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Mauna Ala*, re-routed back to Portland, Oregon, because of Japanese submarines lurking off the U.S. west coast, runs aground off the entrance to the Columbia River; she subsequently breaks up on the beach, a total loss.

- **Dec 11, Thu.**

Germany and Italy declare war on United States.

United States declares war on Germany and Italy.

Pacific

Secretary of the Navy Knox arrives on Oahu to personally assess the damage inflicted by the Japanese on 7 December.

Submarine *Triton* (SS-201), patrolling south of Wake Island, attacks the Japanese ship she has encountered shortly before midnight; she is unsuccessful.

Wake Island garrison (Commander Winfield S. Cunningham) repulses Japanese invasion force (Rear Admiral Kajioka Sadamichi); Marine shore battery gunfire (1st Defense Battalion) sinks destroyer *Hayate* and damages destroyers *Oite*, *Mochizuki*, and *Yayoi*, and *Patrol Boat No. 33* (high-speed transport); USMC F4Fs (VMF 211) bomb and sink destroyer *Kisaragi* and strafe and damage light cruiser *Tenryu* and armed merchant cruiser *Kongo Maru*. Later the same day, USMC F4F (VMF 211) bombs and most likely damages submarine *RO 66* south of Wake. U.S. submarines deployed off Wake, *Triton* to the south and *Tambor* (SS-198) to the north, take no active part in the battle. Following the abortive assault, Japanese naval land attack planes (Chitose *Kokutai*) bomb marine gun batteries on Peale islet.

Japanese submarine *I 9* shells unarmed U.S. freighter *Lahaina* about 800 miles northeast of Honolulu, T.H., 27°42'N, 147°38'W (see 12 and 20 December).

Japanese make landings at Legaspi, Luzon.

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Capillo*, damaged by bomb on 8 December 1941, is partially scuttled by U.S. Army demolition party, off Corregidor, P.I. (see 29 December). Freighter *Sagoland*, damaged by bombs the previous day, sinks in Manila Bay.

Atlantic

TU 4.1.5 (Commander William K. Phillips) detaches destroyers *Babbitt* (DD-128) and *Leary* (DD-158), low on fuel because of the delayed arrival of convoy ON 41 at the MOMP, to proceed to Argentia. En route to that place, *Babbitt* depth charges sound contact without result at 51°37'N, 43°08'W.

TU 4.1.6 (Commander John S. Roberts) assumes escort duty at MOMP for convoy ON 43, which has been badly scattered by heavy weather conditions (see 13 and 15 December). Convoy HX 163, being escorted by TU 4.1.3 (Commander George W. Johnson), encounters same abominable weather.

12, Fri.

Naval Air Transport Service (NATS) is established.

U.S. government seizes French ships in U.S. ports.

Pacific

Secretary of the Navy Knox departs Oahu after inspecting the damage done by the Japanese attack of 7 December.

Japanese reconnaissance flying boats (Yokohama *Kokutai*) bomb Wake Island in pre-dawn raid. Later in the day, land attack planes (Chitose *Kokutai*) bomb Wake.

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Vincent* is shelled and sunk by Japanese armed merchant cruisers *Aikoku Maru* and *Hokoku Maru* about 600 miles northwest of Easter Island, 22°41'S, 118°19'E, and her entire crew captured.

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Lahaina*, shelled and torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I 9* the previous day, sinks (see 21 December).

Japanese Naval Aviation Pilot First Class Nishikaichi Shigenori begins, with aid of Harada Yoshio, a Japanese resident of Niihau, to terrorize the inhabitants of the island into returning papers confiscated on 7 December. In response to this campaign of intimidation, the islanders flee to the hills (see 13 December).

Submarine *S 38* (SS-143) mistakenly torpedoes and sinks Norwegian merchantman *Hydra II* west of Cape Calavite, Mindoro, P.I., believing her to be a Japanese auxiliary. *Hydra II* had been en route from Bangkok, Thailand, to Hong Kong, when she is diverted to Manila by the outbreak of war.

During Japanese bombing of shipping off Cebu, in the Visayan Sea, Philippine passenger vessel *Governor Wright* is sunk, 12°55'N, 123°55'E.

USAAF B-17 (19th Bombardment Group) bombs Japanese shipping off Vigan, P.I., damaging transport *Hawaii Maru*.

Dutch submarines operate off Malaya against Japanese invasion shipping. *K XII* torpedoes and sinks army cargo ship *Toro Maru* off Kota Bharu, 06°08'N, 102°16'E; *O 16* torpedoes and damages army cargo ships *Tozan Maru*, *Kinka Maru*, and *Asosan Maru* off Patani/Singora.

Japanese minelayer/netlayer *Naryu* is damaged by marine casualty, Tomogashima Channel.

13, Sat.

Congress, to meet the demand for trained enlisted men, authorizes the retention of enlisted men in the Navy upon the expiration of their enlistments when not voluntarily extended.

Pacific

Japanese planes attack Subic Bay area and airfields in Philippines. During bombing of shipping in Manila Bay by naval land attack planes (Takao *Kokutai*), unarmed U.S. tankship *Manatawny* is damaged (see 11 January 1942).

Occupation of Niihau by Japanese Naval Aviation Pilot First Class Nishikaichi Shigenori ends: a party of Hawaiians sets out for Kauai to inform the outside world of events on Niihau; in the meantime, Nishikaichi burns his plane (it will not be until July 1942 that the U.S. Navy will be able to obtain an intact ZERO to study) and the house in which he believes his confiscated papers are hidden. Later, in confrontation with a local Hawaiian, Benny Kanahele, a scuffle to grab the pilot's pistol ensues. Although Kanahele is shot three times, he picks up

Nishikaichi bodily and dashes the pilot's head into a stone wall, killing him; Harada Yoshio, the Japanese resident of Niihau who had allied himself with the pilot, commits suicide. Kanahale survives his injuries. On the basis of the report by the islanders who have arrived on Kauai after a 15-hour trip, meanwhile, Commander, Kauai Military District (Colonel Edward W. FitzGerald, USA) dispatches expedition (squad of soldiers from Company M, 299th Infantry) in Coast Guard light house tender *Kukui* to proceed from Kauai to Niihau (see 14 December).

Japanese cargo ship *Nikkoku Maru* is stranded and wrecked off Hainan Island, 18°00'N, 110°00'E.

Gunboat *Erie* (PG-50) receives 50 Japanese POWs at Puntarenas, Costa Rica, from Costa Rican government, and sends prize crew to take charge of motor vessel *Albert*.

Atlantic

Destroyer *Woolsey* (DD-437), sweeping astern of convoy ON 43, depth charges sound contact at 57°55'N, 32°05'W.

- **Dec 14, Sun.**

Pacific

TF 11 (Vice Admiral Wilson Brown Jr.), comprising carrier *Lexington* (CV-2), three heavy cruisers, nine destroyers, and oiler *Neosho* (AO-23), sails for the Marshall Islands, to create a diversion to cover TF 14's attempt to relieve Wake Island (see 15 and 16 December).

Japanese reconnaissance flying boats (Yokohama *Kokutai*) bomb Wake Island. Later in the day, naval land attack planes (Chitose *Kokutai*) raid Wake, bombing airfield installations.

Destroyer *Craven* (DD-382) collides with heavy cruiser *Northampton* (CA-26) during underway refueling and is damaged. The ships are part of TF 8 operating north of Oahu.

Norwegian motorship *Hoegh Merchant* is torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine *I 4* about 20 miles east-northeast of Oahu. All hands (35-man crew, 5 passengers) survive the loss of the ship.

Coast Guard lighthouse tender *Kukui* reaches Niihau with squad of soldiers from Company M, 299th Infantry (Lieutenant Jack Mizuha); the detachment learns of the denouement of the events that have transpired on Niihau since 7 December.

Japanese gunboat *Zuiko Maru*, wrecked and driven aground by storm, sinks off Matsuwa Jima, Kuriles, 48°05'N, 153°43'E.

Gunboat *Erie* (PG-50), off coast of Costa Rica, boards and takes charge of motor vessel *Sea Boy*, and takes off a Japanese POW; she orders *Sea Boy* into Balboa the following day.

USAAF B-17s bomb and damage Japanese cargo ship *Ikushima Maru* and oiler *Hayatomo* off Legaspi, Luzon.

With its operating area rendered untenable by Japanese control of the air, Patrol Wing 10 (Captain Frank D. Wagner) departs Philippines for Netherlands East

Indies. Seaplane tender (destroyer) *Childs* (AVD-1), with Captain Wagner embarked, sails from Manila.

Submarine *Seawolf* (SS-197) torpedoes Japanese seaplane carrier *San'yo Maru* off Aparri, P.I.; one torpedo hits the ship but does not explode.

Submarine *Swordfish* (SS-193), attacking Japanese shipping off Hainan Island, torpedoes army transport *Kashii Maru*, 18°08'N, 109°22'E.

Navy boarding party (Lieutenant Edward N. Little) transported in commandeered yacht *Gem*, seizes French motor mail vessel *Marechal Joffre*, Manila Bay. Majority of the crewmen, pro-Vichy or unwilling to serve under the U.S. flag, are transported ashore (see 17-18 December).

- **Dec 15, Mon.**

- Pacific

- Seaplane tender *Tangier* (AV-8), oiler *Neches* (AO-5), and four destroyers sail for Wake Island.

- Japanese reconnaissance flying boats (Yokohama *Kokutai*) bomb Wake Island.

- Johnston Island is shelled by Japanese submarine *I 22*; although one shell lands astern and another passes over her forecandle, transport *William Ward Burrows* (AP-6) is apparently unseen by the enemy submariners. She is not hit and escapes.

- Kahului, Maui, T.H., is shelled by Japanese submarine from the Second Submarine Squadron. Possible candidates for having carried out the shelling are *I 2*, *I 3*, *I 4*, *I 5*, *I 6*, or *I 7*.

- Philippine steamship *Vizcaya* is scuttled in Manila Bay.

- Atlantic

- TU 4.1.2 (Commander Fred D. Kirtland) clears Reykjavik for the MOMP, escorting convoy ON 45; destroyer *Sturtevant* (DD-240), escorting cargo vessel *Alchiba* (AK-23), depth-charges sound contact at 62°05'N, 24°15'W (see 16 December).

- Destroyer *Benson* (DD-421), detached from TU 4.1.3 and convoy HX 163 at the MOMP, searches for survivors of steamer *Nidardal*, reported sinking at 56°07'N, 21°00'W (later amended to 56°07'N, 23°00'W) (see 16 December).

- Convoy ON 43, struggling through rough seas and high winds, being escorted by TU 4.1.6 (Commander John S. Roberts), is dispersed.

- United States

- Admiral Ernest J. King is offered the post of Commander in Chief U.S. Fleet. He accepts (see 18, 20 and 30 December).

- **Dec 16, Tue.**

- Atlantic

- Carrier *Yorktown* (CV-5) departs Norfolk, Virginia, the first carrier reinforcement dispatched to the Pacific.

- Convoy ON 45, escorted by TU 4.1.2 (Commander Fred D. Kirtland), is dispersed because of bad weather.

Destroyer *Benson* (DD-421) sights white distress rocket at 0241 and alters course in hopes of locating survivors of merchantman *Nidardal*; the intense darkness in which the search is being conducted renders it barely possible to see the surface of the ocean from the bridge, and the loudness of the wind makes it unlikely that a hail can be heard no more than 50 to 100 feet from the ship. *Benson* searches throughout the daylight hours but finds no trace of the missing ship or her crew. She abandons the search at nightfall and proceeds to Reykjavik.

Pacific

TF 14 (Rear Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher), comprising carrier *Saratoga* (CV-3) (with VMF 221 embarked), four destroyers; heavy cruisers *Astoria* (CA-34) (flagship), *Minneapolis* (CA-36), and *San Francisco* (CA-38); and five destroyers, sails from Pearl Harbor. These ships will overtake the force formed around *Tangier* (AV-8) and *Neches* (AO-5) and their consorts that is to relieve Wake Island.

Japanese Pearl Harbor Attack Force (Vice Admiral Nagumo Chuichi) detaches carriers *Hiryu* and *Soryu*, heavy cruisers *Tone* and *Chikuma*, and two destroyers (Rear Admiral Abe Hiroaki) to reinforce second planned attack on Wake Island.

Japanese naval land attack planes (Chitose *Kokutai*) bomb Wake.

Submarine *Tambor* (SS-198), damaged by operational casualty, retires from the waters off Wake.

Submarine *Swordfish* (SS-193), attacking Japanese convoy south of Hainan Island, torpedoes army transport *Atsutasan Maru*, 18°06'N, 109°44'E.

Gunboat *Erie* (PG-50) boards Panamanian motor vessel *Santa Margarita* and orders her to proceed to Puntarenas, Costa Rica. Later the same day, the gunboat tows disabled motor boat *Orion* into Puntarenas.

- **Dec 17, Wed.**

Pacific

Vice Admiral William S. Pye, Commander, Battle Force, becomes acting Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet, pending the arrival of Rear Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, who is ordered on this date to relieve Admiral Husband E. Kimmel.

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I 7* reconnoiters Pearl Harbor.

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Manini* is torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine *I 175* 180 miles south of Hawaii, 17°45'N, 157°03'E (see 27 and 28 December).

USMC SB2Us (VMSB 231), led by a plane-guarding PBY (VP 21) (no ships are available to plane-guard the flight), arrive at Midway, completing the longest over-water massed flight (1,137 miles) by single-engine aircraft. The squadron had been embarked in *Lexington* (CV-2) when the outbreak of war cancelled the projected ferry mission on 7 December 1941.

Japanese submarine *RO 66* is sunk in collision with sistership *RO 62* off Wake Island.

Philippine steamship *Corregidor*, crowded with about 1,200 passengers fleeing Manila for Mindanao, hits an Army mine off Corregidor and sinks with heavy loss of life. Motor torpedo boats *PT-32*, *PT-34*, and *PT-35* pick up 282 survivors

(196 by *PT-32* alone) distributing them between Corregidor and the requisitioned French steamship *Si-Kiang*; seven of those rescued die of injuries suffered in the tragedy. Dr. Jurgen Rohwer, in his volume on Axis submarine successes, attributes the sinking to a mine laid by Japanese submarine *I 124* on 8 December 1941 off Corregidor, P.I. Interestingly, *Corregidor* was formerly the British seaplane carrier *HMS Engadine*, which took part in the Battle of Jutland in 1916.

Navy takes over French motor mail vessel *Marechal Joffre*, Manila Bay (see 18 December).

Japanese land at Miri, Sarawak, Borneo.

- **Dec 18, Thu.**

President Roosevelt signs Executive Order No. 8984 that provides that Commander in Chief U.S. Fleet will take supreme command of the operating forces of all Navy fleets and coastal frontier commands, and be directly responsible to the President.

In another executive order, President Roosevelt directs a commission, to be headed by retired Supreme Court Chief Justice Owen J. Roberts (Roberts Commission), to "ascertain and report the facts relating to the attack made by the Japanese armed forces upon the Territory of Hawaii on December 7, 1941...to provide bases for sound decisions whether any derelictions of duty or errors of judgment on the part of United States Army or Navy personnel contributed to such successes as were achieved by the enemy on the occasion mentioned; and if so, what these derelictions or errors were, and who were responsible therefor." In addition to Justice Roberts, the commission's membership includes retired Admiral William H. Standley and Rear Admiral Joseph W. Reeves; Major General Frank R. McCoy, USA (Retired) and Brigadier General Joseph T. McNarney, USA (see 23 January 1942).

Congress passes First War Powers Act.

Caribbean

State Department announces that Rear Admiral Frederick J. Horne and Admiral Georges Robert, French High Commissioner at Martinique, French West Indies, have reached an agreement neutralizing French Caribbean possessions.

Pacific

French motor mail vessel *Marechal Joffre*, manned by a scratch crew that includes aviation personnel from Patrol Wing Ten, departs Manila Bay for Borneo. *Marechal Joffre* will be formally acquired by the Navy on 20 April 1942, and will serve as the transport *Rochambeau* (AP-63).

Dutch Dornier 24 bombs and sinks Japanese destroyer *Shinonome* off Miri, Borneo.

- **Dec 19, Fri.**

Pacific

TF 8 (Vice Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr.), formed around carrier *Enterprise* (CV-6), heavy cruisers, and destroyers, sails from Pearl Harbor proceeding to waters west of Johnston Island and south of Midway to cover TF 11 and TF 14 operations (see 14-16 December). Destroyer *Craven* (DD-382), in TF 8, is

damaged by heavy sea soon after departure, however, and returns to Pearl for repairs.

Japanese naval land attack planes (*Chitose Kokutai*) bomb Wake Island, targeting installations on Wake and Peale islets.

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Prusa* is torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine *I 172* about 150 miles south of Hawaii, 16°45'N, 156°00'W (see 27 December).

United States

U.S. Naval Academy Class of 1942 is graduated early, due to the National Emergency.

- **Dec 20, Sat.**

In the wake of the signing of Executive Order No. 8984, Admiral Ernest J. King is announced as the designated Commander in Chief U.S. Fleet (see 30 December).

Pacific

SBDs (VB 6 and VS 6) from carrier *Enterprise* accidentally bomb submarine *Pompano* (SS-181) twice, at 20°10'N, 165°28'W, and 20°15'N, 165°40'W.

PBY (VP 23) arrives at Wake Island to deliver information to the garrison concerning the relief efforts then underway (see 21 December).

Survivors of U.S. freighter *Lahaina* (sunk on 11 December by Japanese submarine *I 9*), aided by Coast Guard cutter *Tiger*, reach land at Sprecklesville Beach, near Kahului, Maui, having lost four of their number during their ordeal in their one lifeboat.

Japanese troops land at Davao, Mindanao, P.I.

Unarmed U.S. tankship *Emidio* is shelled, torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine *I 17* about 25 miles west of Cape Mendocino, California, 40°33'N, 125°00'W (see 21 December).

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Agwiworld* is shelled by Japanese submarine *I 23* off the coast of California, 37°00'N, 122°00'W.

- **Dec 21, Sun.**

Pacific

PBY (VP 23) departs Wake Island; Japanese concern over the potential presence of patrol planes at Wake, occasioned by the large amount of radio traffic that accompanies the sole PBY's arrival at the island, prompts advancing the date of the first carrier strikes. Consequently, planes from carriers *Soryu* and *Hiryu* bomb Wake Island for the first time. Later that day, land attack planes (*Chitose Kokutai*) bomb Wake.

Naval local defense forces in Philippine Islands (Rear Admiral Francis W. Rockwell) move headquarters to Corregidor.

Destroyer *Paul Jones* (DD-230) is damaged when her starboard propeller strikes a sunken object off Makassar, N.E.I.

Coast Guard cutter *Shawnee* rescues 31 survivors of U.S. tanker *Emidio*, sunk the previous day by *I 17* off Cape Mendocino, California, from Blunt's Reef Lightship.

Atlantic

Light cruiser *Omaha* (CL-4) and destroyer *Somers* (DD-381), operating out of Recife, Brazil, encounter darkened ship that acts suspicious and evasive when challenged. *Omaha* fires starshell and illuminates the stranger; *Somers* sends armed boarding party that learns that the merchantman nearly fired upon is Soviet freighter *Nevastroi*.

Destroyer *Edison* (DD-439), in TU 4.1.3 en route to MOMP to pick up convoy ON 47, depth-charges sound contact without result.

- **Dec 22, Mon.**

President Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Churchill open discussions in Washington (*arcadia* Conference) leading to establishment of Combined Chiefs of Staff. The *arcadia* conference, which lasts into January 1942, results in a formal American commitment to the "Germany First" strategy. In addition, the United States and Britain agree to form a Combined Chiefs of Staff as the supreme body for Allied war planning, to confer regularly in Washington. The Anglo-American allies also agree that there should be one supreme commander directing operations in each theater.

Pacific

Japanese bombers and attack planes, covered by fighters, from carriers *Soryu* and *Hiryu*, bomb Wake Island for the second time; the last two flyable USMC F4Fs (VMF 211) intercept the raid. One F4F is shot down, the other is badly damaged.

American troops (Task Force South Pacific) (Brigadier General Julian F. Barnes, USA) arrive at Brisbane in convoy escorted by heavy cruiser *Pensacola* (CA-24). This is the first U.S. Army troop detachment to arrive in Australia.

Japanese submarine *I 19* shell unarmed U.S. tanker *H.M. Storey* southwest of Cape Mendocino, California, 34°35'N, 120°45'W, but fails to score any hits and the American ship escapes.

Japanese commence invasion of Luzon, landing troops at Lingayen, P.I.; submarine *S 38* (SS-143) torpedoes and sinks Japanese army transport *Hayo Maru* in Lingayen Gulf, 16°00'N, 120°00'E.

USAAF B-17s bomb and damage Japanese army oiler *No. 3 Tonan Maru* off Davao, P.I.

Atlantic

TU 4.1.3 (Commander George W. Johnson), assumes escort duty at MOMP for convoy ON 47; the convoy is dispersed the following day.

- **Dec 23, Tue.**

U.S.-British War Council composed of President Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Churchill, and their chief naval, military, and civilian advisers meets for the first time in Washington, D.C.

Pacific

Wake Island (Commander Winfield S. Cunningham) is captured by naval landing force (Rear Admiral Kajioka Sadamichi) that overcomes gallant resistance offered by the garrison that consists of marines, sailors, volunteer civilians (Contractors Pacific Naval Air Bases) and a USAAF radio detachment.

Japanese *Patrol Boat No. 32* and *Patrol Boat No. 33* (old destroyers converted to high speed transports) intentionally run ashore to facilitate landing of troops, are destroyed by marine shore batteries (1st Defense Battalion). Planes from carriers *Hiryu* and *Soryu*, as well as seaplane carrier *Kiyokawa Maru* provide close air support for the invasion. Open cargo lighter *YCK 1* is lost to Japanese occupation of the atoll, as are civilian tugs *Pioneer* and *Justine Foss*, and dredge *Columbia*.

Uncertainty over the positions of and number of Japanese carriers and reports that indicate Japanese troops have landed on the atoll compel Vice Admiral William S. Pye, Acting Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet, to recall TF 14 (Rear Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher) while it is 425 miles from its objective.

Palmyra Island is shelled by Japanese submarines *I 71* and *I 72*.

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Montebello* is torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine *I 21* about four miles south of Piedras Blancas light, California, 35°30'N, 121°51'W. *I 21* machine-guns the lifeboats, but miraculously inflicts no casualties. *I 21* later also shells unarmed U.S. tanker *Idaho* near the same location.

Japanese submarine *I 17* shells unarmed U.S. tanker *Larry Doheny* southwest of Cape Mendocino, California, 40°00'N, 125°00'W, but the American ship escapes.

USAAF B-17s bomb Japanese ships in Lingayen Gulf and off Davao, damaging minesweeper *W.17* and destroyer *Kuroshio* off the latter place. USAAF P-40s and P-35s strafe landing forces in San Miguel Bay, Luzon, damaging destroyer *Nagatsuki*.

Submarine *Seal* (SS-183) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Soryu Maru* off Vigan, Luzon, 17°35'N, 120°12'E.

Japanese troops land at Kuching, Sarawak, Borneo. Off the invasion beaches, Dutch submarine *K XIV* torpedoes and sinks transport *Hokkai Maru*, army transport *Hiyoshi Maru*, and damages army cargo ship *Nichiran Maru* and transport *Katori Maru*.

Atlantic

TU 4.1.4 (Commander Richard E. Webb) assumes escort duty for convoy HX 166; the ships reach their destination without being attacked by U-boats.

- **Dec 24, Wed.**

Pacific

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Absaroka* is shelled by Japanese submarine *I 17* about 26 miles off San Pedro, California, 33°40'N, 118°25'W; although abandoned, she is later reboarded and towed to San Pedro.

Unarmed U.S. steamship *Dorothy Philips* is shelled by Japanese submarine *I 23* off Monterey Bay, California.

Seaplane tender *Wright* (AV-1) disembarks Marine reinforcements (Batteries "A" and "C," 4th Defense Battalion) at Midway.

Second Marine Brigade (Colonel Henry L. Larsen, USMC) is formed at Camp Elliott, California, to defend American Samoa (see 6 and 20 January 1942).

Japanese land at Lamon Bay, Luzon.

Motor torpedo boat *PT-33* is damaged by grounding on reef five miles northwest of Cape Santiago, Luzon, 13°46'N, 120°40'E.

During Japanese bombing of shipping in Manila Bay by naval land attack planes (Takao *Kokutai* and 1st *Kokutai*), seized French steamship *Si-Kiang* is set afire off Mariveles; of the 8-man USMC guard detachment on board (from 1st Separate Marine Battalion), two marines are killed and three wounded. Tug *Napa* (AT-32) assists in fire-fighting efforts.

Dutch submarine *K XVI* torpedoes and sinks Japanese destroyer *Sagiri* off Kuching, Sarawak, 01°34'N, 110°21'E.

- **Dec 25, Thu.**

- Pacific

- Admiral Thomas C. Hart turns over all remaining naval forces in the Philippines to Rear Admiral Francis W. Rockwell (Commandant Sixteenth Naval District). After Japanese bombers destroy PBYs (VPs 101 and 102) earmarked to transport him and his staff south, Hart sails in submarine *Shark* (SS-174) (held in readiness for that eventuality) to establish new Asiatic Fleet headquarters in Java (see 1 January 1942). During Japanese bombing of shipping in Manila Bay, submarine *Sturgeon* (SS-187) is straddled but is not damaged.

- British surrender Hong Kong. U.S. freighter *Admiral Y.S. Williams*, under repairs in that port for damage incurred in a grounding that had occurred on 24 September, is intentionally damaged to prevent use by the Japanese. The merchantman is salvaged, however, and is renamed *Tatsutama Maru*. U.S. steamship (ex-yacht) *Hirondelle* (also under repairs in the Crown Colony when caught there by the outbreak of hostilities) and Philippine steamship *Argus* are captured. *Hirondelle* is renamed *Gyonan Maru* and will survive the war. *Argus* is refitted and commissioned in the Japanese Navy as the gunboat *Hong Kong Maru*; for her fate under her new owners, see 19-21 June 1943. Philippine steamship *Churruca* is scuttled.

- Japanese land at Jolo, P.I. Submarine *Sealion* (SS-195), damaged by bombs at Cavite, P.I., on 10 December, is scuttled by demolition crew.

- Carrier *Saratoga* (CV-3) diverted from the attempt to relieve Wake Island, flies off USMC F2As (VMF 221) to Midway. These will be the first fighter aircraft based there.

- **Dec 26, Fri.**

- Pacific

- Manila, P.I., is declared an open city but Japanese bombing continues unabated. Japanese naval land attack planes (Takao *Kokutai* and 1st *Kokutai*) bomb shipping in Manila Bay; destroyer *Peary* (DD-226) is damaged by near-misses.

- Motor torpedo boat *PT-33*, damaged by grounding on 24 December five miles northwest of Cape Santiago, Luzon, 13°46'N, 120°40'E, is burned to prevent capture.

- Dutch Army planes bomb and sink Japanese minesweeper *W.6* and collier *No. 2 Unyo Maru* off Kuching, Sarawak, 01°34'N, 110°21'E.

Japanese destroyer *Murasame* and minesweeper *W.20* are damaged by marine casualties off Takao, Formosa.

Seaplane tender *Tangier* (AV-8), diverted from the attempt to relieve Wake Island, disembarks Battery "B," 4th Defense Battalion and ground echelon of VMF 221 at Midway to augment that garrison's defenses.

Atlantic

Submarine chaser *PC 451* accidentally rams and sinks U.S. tug *Nancy Moran* off east coast of Florida.

- **Dec 27, Sat.**

Pacific

Destroyer *Allen* (DD-66) rescues first of two groups of survivors from U.S. freighter *Manini* (sunk by Japanese submarine *I 175* on 17 December) at 21°29'N, 159°36'E.

Coast Guard cutter *Tiger* rescues 14 survivors of U.S. freighter *Prusa*, sunk by Japanese submarine *I 172* on 19 December. A second group of 11 survivors reaches safety after a 2,700-mile voyage, rescued by a Fijian government vessel and taken to Boruin, Gilberts.

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Connecticut* is shelled by Japanese submarine *I 25* about 10 miles west of the mouth of the Columbia River.

Submarine *Perch* (SS-176) torpedoes Japanese supply ship *Noshima* in South China Sea, 22°14'N, 115°13'E.

Six PBVs (VP 101) bomb Japanese shipping at Jolo, P.I. against heavy fighter opposition; four Catalinas are lost.

Japanese bomb shipping in Manila Bay and Pasig River (Takao *Kokutai* and 1st *Kokutai*). Philippine customs cutters *Arayat* and *Mindoro* and motor vessel *Ethel Edwards* are set afire, while lighthouse tender *Canlaon* is destroyed by a direct hit. Steamship *Taurus* is scuttled in the Pasig River (see 29 December).

- **Dec 28, Sun.**

Pacific

Destroyer *Patterson* (DD-392) rescues second of two groups of survivors from sunken U.S. freighter *Manini* at 21°06'N, 161°55'E.

Destroyer *Peary* (DD-226) is damaged when mistakenly bombed and strafed by RAAF Hudsons off Kina, Celebes, N.E.I.

Japanese destroyer *Akikaze* and army cargo ships *Kamogawa Maru* and *Komaki Maru* are damaged by marine casualties east of Luzon.

- **Dec 29, Mon.**

Pacific

Corregidor is bombed for the first time by Japanese naval land attack planes (Takao *Kokutai* and 1st *Kokutai*), ending "normal" above-ground living there. During the bombings that day, submarine tender *Canopus* (AS-9) is damaged in Mariveles Harbor, 14°25'N, 120°30'E; river gunboat *Mindanao* (PR-8) is damaged by near-misses off Corregidor. Bombs also set fire to Philippine freighter *Don Jose* and the hulk of U.S. freighter *Capillo* off Corregidor. Minesweeper *Finch* (AM-9) puts out the blaze on board both ships; *Don Jose* is

later moved to the south side of the island to ensure a clear shipping channel. *Finch* repeats the procedure on 1 January 1942, but since the crew never returns to the damaged merchantman, *Don Jose* is never salvaged. Philippine presidential yacht *Casiana* is bombed and sunk near the Fort Mills dock; Philippine steamship *Bicol* and motor vessel *Aloha* are scuttled in Manila Bay. *Finch* later assists Navy-commandeered tug *Trabajador* in dumping unused mines in Manila Bay, an operation those two ships will repeat the following day as well. Cable Censor, Manila (Lieutenant Frederick L. Worcester, USNR) clears Pasig River of interisland shipping and tugs and other ships that have drawn heavy bombing from Japanese planes, thus saving area from further destruction and the shipping for use in maintaining communications between Bataan and Corregidor and in patrol work. This action is later praised as "commendable assumption of authority and action by non-nautical" district officers.

Japanese submarine *RO 60*, returning from the Wake Island operation, is irreparably damaged by grounding, Kwajalein Atoll, 09°00'N, 167°30'E.

Atlantic

TU 4.1.5 (Commander William K. Phillips) assumes guard for east-bound convoy HX 167. U.S. freighter *Stonestreet* is damaged by evaporator explosion; one man is killed and three injured. Destroyer *Simpson* (DD-221) puts medical officer and corpsman on board promptly to treat the injured; *Stonestreet* is directed to return to St. John's; U.S. PBY provides cover. During the voyage to Iceland, HX 167 will not encounter any enemy submarines but poor navigation by the convoy will result in a critical fuel state for the "shortlegged" flush-deck destroyers (see 3 January 1942).

- **Dec 30, Tue.**

Admiral Ernest J. King assumes duties as Commander in Chief U.S. Fleet. To avoid use of what he considers the pejorative acronym CINCUS ("Sink Us"), he introduces COMINCH ("Comm Inch").

Pacific

Japanese submarine *I 1* shells Hilo, Hawaii; seaplane tender (destroyer) *Hulbert* (AVD-6), moored to a pier adjacent to the one damaged by the bombardment, is not damaged.

Navy-commandeered tug *Ranger* lands volunteer raiding party on Sangley Point. The sailors bring out diesel generators and diesel oil needed on Corregidor to provide auxiliary power.

- **Dec 31, Wed.**

Pacific

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz assumes command of Pacific Fleet in ceremonies on board submarine *Grayling* (SS-209) at Pearl Harbor.

Japanese submarines shell Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii.

While returning from attempting to aid destroyer *Peary* (DD-226) (see 28 December), small seaplane tender *Heron* (AVP-2) is damaged but fights off, over a seven-hour span, a series of attacks by Japanese reconnaissance flying boats (Toko *Kokutai*) and land attack planes off Ambon, N.E.I. *Heron* shoots down one seaplane whose crew refuses rescue.

Submarine rescue vessel *Pigeon* (ASR-6) transports armed party [Lieutenant (j.g.) Malcolm M. Champlin, USNR] to Sangley Point which brings out Luzon Stevedoring Company lighter loaded with 97 mines and eight truckloads of aerial depth charges; *Pigeon* then tows the barge to a point four and a half miles off Sangley Point and capsizes it in 11 fathoms of water. The sailors also destroy the aircraft repair shop at Cavite and one irreparable PBV.

U.S. cargo/passenger ship *Ruth Alexander*, en route from Manila to Balikpapan, Borneo, is bombed and irreparably damaged by Japanese flying boat in Makassar Strait, N.E.I., 01°00'N, 119°10'W, one man is killed in the bombing. She sinks on 2 January 1942. Dutch Dornier 24 later rescues all 48 survivors.

Japanese destroyer *Yamagumo* is damaged by mine off Lingayen.

Philippine steamships *Magellanes* and *Montanes* are scuttled, most likely at Manila.

Chapter IV: 1942

January

- **January 1, Thu.**

General

President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill sign the Joint Declaration of the United Nations; only the United States and Britain had discussed the document's creation, but ultimately representatives of 24 other nations, including the Soviet Union and China, will affix their signatures to it. There will be no separate peace agreements; the signatories pledge to fight until the Axis is defeated.

Pacific

Admiral Thomas C. Hart (Commander in Chief, Asiatic Fleet) arrives in Surabaya, Java, N.E.I., after his passage from Manila, P.I., in submarine *Shark* (SS-174).

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Malama*, en route from Honolulu to Manila, is bombed and sunk by floatplane from Japanese armed merchant cruiser *Aikoku Maru* at 26°21'N, 153°24'W. *Aikoku Maru* takes the 35-man crew and the 8 passengers prisoner.

Japanese army cargo ship *Teiun Maru* (ex-German *Bremerhaven*) is sunk by mine (U.S. or Japanese) off mouth of Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, 16°05'N, 120°20'E.

Japanese oiler *Toen Maru* is damaged by mine southwest of Hong Kong, B.C.C.

Atlantic

Admiral Royal E. Ingersoll succeeds Admiral Ernest J. King as Commander in Chief Atlantic Fleet.

- **January 2, Fri.**

Pacific

Manila and Cavite, P.I., fall to the Japanese.

- **January 3, Sat.**

Pacific

Japanese collier *Moji Maru* is sunk by mine southwest of Hong Kong, B.C.C.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Meiko Maru* is sunk by accidental gasoline explosion off Hainan Island, 15°01'N, 112°48'E.

Atlantic

Critical fuel states in the "shortlegged" flush-deck destroyers in the screen of convoy HX 167 prompts the adoption of the expedient of cargo ship *Delta* (AK-29) fueling destroyers *Babbitt* (DD-128) and *Schenck* (DD-159). Weather again worsens, however, preventing *Leary* (DD-158) from fueling; she is sent to Casco Bay to refuel.

Light cruiser *Omaha* (CL-4) and destroyer *Somers* (DD-381) encounter two ships in succession that fail to answer challenges; *Omaha* sends armed boarding party each time to obtain information. The vessels prove to be Greek freighter *Marika Protopapa* and Norwegian merchantman *Tercero*.

- **January 4, Sun.**
Pacific
USAAF B-17s bomb Japanese warships in Malalag Bay, Davao, P.I., and damage heavy cruisers *Myoko* and *Nachi*.
- **January 5, Mon.**
Pacific
Submarine tender *Canopus* (AS-9) is damaged by bombs, Lilimbom Cove, Mariveles, P.I.

Submarine *Pollack* (SS-180) torpedoes Japanese cargo ship *Heijo Maru* 80 miles east-southeast of Tokyo Bay, Honshu, 34°15'N, 140°08'E.

Atlantic
Convoy ON 49, escorted by TU 4.1.1, reaches its dispersal point without incident.
- **January 6, Tues.**
Pacific
Second Marine Brigade (Brigadier General Henry L. Larsen, USMC) embarked in troop transports (former Matson Line passenger liners) *Lurline*, *Monterey* and *Matsonia*, and cargo ship *Jupiter* (AK-43) and ammunition ship *Lassen* (AE-3) sails from San Diego, California, for Pago Pago, American Samoa. Initial escort is provided by TF 17 (Rear Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher), formed around carrier *Yorktown* (CV-5) (see 20 January).

Japanese amphibious force lands at Brunei Bay, Borneo.
- **January 7, Wed.**
General
Navy's authorized aircraft strength is increased from 15,000 to 27,500.

Pacific
Submarine *Pollack* (SS-180) torpedoes and sinks Japanese collier *No.1 Unkai Maru* south of Honshu, 34°27'N, 139°59'E.
- **January 8, Thu.**
Pacific
Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I-19* reconnoiters Pearl Harbor.
- **January 9, Fri.**
Pacific
Submarine *Pollack* (SS-180) torpedoes and sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Teian Maru* (ex-Yugoslav *Tomislav*) 40 miles south-southwest of Inubozaki, Japan, 35°00'N, 140°36'E.
- **January 10, Sat.**
Pacific
Destroyer *Paul Jones* (DD-230) rescues survivors from Dutch steamships *Camphuijs* (sunk on 9 January by Japanese submarine *I-158* at 04°40'S, 111°47'E) and *Benkoelen* (also sunk on the 9th by Japanese submarine *I-165* at 04°50'S, 112°50'E).

Submarine *Pickrel* (SS-177) torpedoes and sinks Japanese gunboat *Kanko Maru* at mouth of Davao Gulf, off Cape San Augustin, P.I., 06°19'N, 125°54'E.

Submarine *Stingray* (SS-186) torpedoes and sinks Japanese cargo ship *Harbin Maru* in South China Sea off the south coast of Hainan Island, 17°40'N, 109°20'E.

Dutch submarine *O-19* torpedoes and sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Akita Maru* and torpedoes merchant cargo ship *Tairyu Maru* at the mouth of the Gulf of Siam, 07°40'N, 102°50'E.

- **January 11, Sun.**

Pacific

Carrier *Saratoga* (CV-3) is torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I-6*, 500 miles southwest of Oahu, T.H., 19°00'N, 165°00'W.

Naval Station Pago Pago, Samoa, is shelled by Japanese submarine.

Japan declares war on the Netherlands; invasion of Netherlands East Indies begins as Japanese Central Force (Vice Admiral Hirose Sueto) lands Army 56th Regimental Combat Group and 2d Kure Special [Naval] Landing Force at Tarakan; naval paratroops (1st Yokosuka Special Landing Force) occupy Menado. Eastern Force (Rear Admiral Kubo Kuji) then follows up the airborne assault on Menado with 1st Special Landing Force going ashore at Menado and Kema, Celebes. These operations will secure control of the northern approaches to the Java Sea.

U.S. Army transport *Liberty Glo* is torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I-166* about 10 miles southwest of Lombok Strait, 08°54'S, 115°28'E. Although destroyer *Paul Jones* (DD-230) and Dutch destroyer *Van Ghent* take the damaged ship in tow and beach her on the shores of Bali, *Liberty Glo* will be written off as a total loss.

U.S. tankship *Manatawny* sinks in Manila Bay as the result of damage received on 13 December 1941.

Atlantic

Operation Paukenschlag ("roll of the kettledrums") descends upon the eastern seaboard of the U.S. like a "bolt from the blue." The first group of five German submarines takes up station off the east coast of the United States on this date. Over the next month, these boats (*U-66*, *U-109*, *U-123*, *U-125* and *U-130*) will sink 26 Allied ships; the presence of the enemy off the eastern seaboard takes U.S. Navy antisubmarine forces by surprise (see 14 January and following).

- **January 12, Mon.**

General

Authorized enlisted strength of the U.S. Navy is increased to 500,000.

Pacific

Dutch army shore battery sinks Japanese minesweepers *W.13* and *W.14* off Tarakan, Borneo; destroyer *Asagumo* is damaged when she runs aground off Tarakan.

Japanese submarine *I-121* mines Clarence Strait, the body of water connecting Van Diemen Gulf and the Timor Sea, off Australia's northern territory, at the approaches to Darwin, the Asiatic Fleet's main logistics base (see 16 January).

- **January 14, Wed.**

Atlantic

Panamanian tanker *Norness* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-123* at 40°26'30"N, 70°54'30"W;; destroyer *Ellyson* (DD-454) and Coast Guard cutter *Argo* (WPC 100) rescue 30 men, while fishing boat *Malvina* picks up nine and brings them to Newport, Rhode Island.

- **January 15, Thu.**

General

Third Conference of Foreign Ministers of the American Republics convenes at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to secure a unanimous and binding resolution for the American republics to sever relations with the Axis powers (see 28 January).

Pacific

American-British-Dutch-Australian (ABDA) Supreme Command is established at the Grand Hotel, Lembang, Java. General Sir Archibald Wavell, British Army, assumes supreme command of all forces in area; Lieutenant General George H. Brett, USAAF, is deputy commander; Admiral Thomas C. Hart is to command naval forces.

Atlantic

Storm with wind velocity of more than 80 knots and gusts of over 100 knots hits Hvalfjordur, Iceland; heavy cruiser *Wichita* (CA-45) is damaged in collisions with U.S. freighter *West Nohno* and British trawler *HMS Ebor Wyke*, and in grounding near Hrafneyri light. Storm conditions last until 19 January and cause heavy damage among patrol planes based there and tended by seaplane tender *Albemarle* (AV-5).

- **January 16, Fri.**

General

War Production Board is established to supplant Office of Production Management.

Pacific

Japanese invade Burma from Thailand.

Japanese submarines continue mining the approaches to Darwin, Northern Territory: *I-122* mines Clarence Strait, *I-123* Bundas Strait, and *I-124* the waters off Darwin itself (see 20 January).

Japanese cargo ship *Taishu Maru* is wrecked when she runs aground off Okushiri Island, Hokkaido, 42°00'N, 139°00'E.

During a routine search from carrier *Enterprise* (CV-6), TBD (VT 6) flown by Aviation Chief Machinist's Mate Harold F. Dixon (Naval Aviation Pilot) fails to return to the ship and force-lands at sea at about 04°20'S, 169°30'E due to fuel starvation. Dixon and his two-man crew have no food and no water (see 19 February).

- **January 17, Sat.**

Pacific

Japanese submarine *I-60* is sunk by British destroyer *HMS Jupiter* 25 miles north-northwest of Krakatoa, Java, 06°00'S, 105°00'E.

Japanese transport *Fukusei Maru* is stranded and wrecked off Yangtze Estuary, 31°00'N, 122°00'E.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *San Jose* is sunk in collision with freighter *Santa Elisa* off Atlantic City, New Jersey, 39°15'N, 74°09'W.

- **January 18, Sun.**

General

Germany, Italy, and Japan sign new military pact in Berlin.

Pacific

River gunboat *Tutuila* (PR-4), stranded at Chungking by Sino-Japanese hostilities since 1937, is decommissioned and her crew flown out of China.

Submarine *Plunger* (SS-179) torpedoes and sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Eizan Maru* (ex-Panamanian *Aurora*) off mouth of Kii Suido, Honshu, 33°30'N, 135°00'E.

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Frances Salman* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-552* off St. John's, Newfoundland. There are no survivors from the 28-man crew.

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Allan Jackson* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-66* about 50 miles east of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, 35°57'N, 74°20'W; destroyer *Roe* (DD-418) rescues the 13 survivors from the 35-man crew.

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Malay* is shelled and damaged by German submarine *U-123* off Oregon Inlet, North Carolina, 35°25'N, 75°23'W. Freighter *Scania* provides fire-fighting assistance while the tanker's assailant pursues other game (Latvian freighter *Ciltvaria*). Although *Malay* is torpedoed by *U-123* upon the U-boat's return and damaged further, the holed tanker reaches Hampton Roads safely the next day. One man perishes in the shelling; four drown when the ship is abandoned after she is torpedoed.

- **January 19, Mon.**

Pacific

Motor torpedo boat *PT-31* is damaged when her engines fail because of what is believed to be sabotaged gasoline and she runs aground on reef north of Mayagao Point, Bataan, P.I.

Atlantic

In attacks against unescorted coastal shipping, unarmed U.S. steamship *City of Atlanta* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-123* off the North Carolina coast at 35°42'N, 75°21'W; railroad ferry *Seatrain Texas* rescues the three survivors of the 46-man crew.

German submarine *U-66* torpedoes and sinks Canadian steamer *Lady Hawkins* at 35°00'N, 72°30'W (see 28 January).

- **January 20, Tue.**

Pacific

Second Marine Brigade (Brigadier General Henry L. Larson, USMC) arrives at Pago Pago, Samoa, in transports *Lurline*, *Matsonia*, and *Monterey*, along with cargo ship *Jupiter* (AK-43) and ammunition ship *Lassen* (AE-3), to protect that portion of the important lifeline to Australia. Cover for the operation is provided

by TF 8 formed around carrier *Enterprise* (CV-6) (Vice Admiral William F. Halsey Jr.) and TF 17 (Rear Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher) formed around carrier *Yorktown* (CV-5). The two carrier task forces then set course for the Japanese-held Marshalls and Gilberts to carry out the initial raids on the enemy's defensive perimeter (see 1 February).

Motor torpedo boat *PT-31*, damaged by grounding the day before, is burned by crew to prevent capture, 14°45'N, 120°13'E.

Submarine *S-36* (SS-141) is damaged when she runs aground on Taka Bakang Reef, Makassar Strait, Celebes, N.E.I., 04°57'N, 118°31'E (see 21 January).

Destroyer *Edsall* (DD-219) and Australian minesweeper HMAS *Deloraine* sink Japanese submarine *I-124* off Darwin, Australia.

Japanese gunboat *Aso Maru* and auxiliary minesweeper *No.52 Banshu Maru* are sunk by mines, Subic Bay, Luzon, P.I., 14°45'N, 120°17'E.

Japanese merchant storeship *Sendai Maru* is damaged by unknown cause off mouth of Davao Gulf.

Japanese convoy is reported in Makassar Strait, bound for Balikpapan, Borneo (see 21 January).

- **January 21, Wed.**

- Pacific

- In response to the movement of the Japanese convoy sighted the previous day in Makassar Strait, a U.S. task force (Rear Admiral William A. Glassford), consisting of light cruisers *Boise* (CL-47) (flagship) and *Marblehead* (CL-12) and four destroyers sails from Koepang, Timor, to engage it. En route, however, *Boise* steams across an uncharted pinnacle in Sape Strait, N.E.I., and suffers sufficient damage to eliminate her from the force. Turbine trouble limits *Marblehead* (the ship to which Glassford transfers his flag) to only 15 knots, so the admiral orders the destroyers (Commander Paul H. Talbot) ahead (see 24 January).

- Submarine *S-36* (SS-141), damaged by grounding on 20 January, is scuttled by her crew in Makassar Strait.

- **January 22, Thu.**

- Pacific

- Japanese reinforcements land in Subic Bay area.

- Japanese land on Mussau Island, north of New Ireland.

- Allied forces evacuate Lae and Salamaua, New Guinea.

- TF 11 (Vice Admiral Wilson Brown Jr.), formed around carrier *Lexington* (CV-2), departs Oahu to raid Wake Island (see 23 January).

- Destroyers *Gridley* (DD-380) and *Fanning* (DD-385) are damaged in collision 150 miles northwest of American Samoa as TF 8 proceeds toward the Marshalls and Gilberts.

- Survey vessel *Sumner* (AG 32) arrives at Bora Bora, Society Islands, and commences survey work at that place (see 29 January and 12 February).

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Norvana* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-123* south of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. There are no survivors, and pieces of wreckage from the ship when she explodes hit her attacker.

- **January 23, Fri.**

Pacific

Roberts Commission, whose work had begun on 18 December 1941, concludes its investigation to "ascertain and report the facts relating to the attack made by the Japanese armed forces upon the Territory of Hawaii on December 7, 1941..." The exhibits gathered amount to 2,173 printed pages.

Japanese land at Balikpapan, Borneo, N.E.I.

Japanese occupy Rabaul, New Britain, and land at Kieta, Bougainville, Solomons.

Japanese force lands on southwest coast of Bataan peninsula; local Army commander inserts naval battalion of sailors and marines (Commander Francis J. Bridget) into the battle as a stopgap. It blocks enemy progress. Motor torpedo boat *PT-34* is damaged in action with Japanese armed launch while on patrol off Bataan Peninsula.

Oiler *Neches* (AO-5) is torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine *I-72*, off Hawaiian Islands, 21°01'N, 160°06'W. The loss of the oiler supporting TF 11 (Vice Admiral Wilson Brown Jr.) forces cancellation of the projected raid on Wake.

Destroyer *Edsall* (DD-219) is damaged by explosion of own depth charges during attack on submarine contact in Howard Channel, Clarence Strait, one of the approaches to Darwin, Australia.

Submarine *Seadragon* (SS-194) damages Japanese merchant cargo ship *Fukuyo Maru* off the northern coast of French Indochina, 12°00'N, 109°00'E.

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. collier *Venore* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-66* about 20 miles southeast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, 35°50'N, 75°20'W (see 25 January).

- **January 24, Sat.**

Pacific

Battle off Balikpapan (Battle of Makassar Strait) occurs when four U.S. destroyers (Commander Paul H. Talbot) (DesDiv 59) attack Japanese Borneo invasion convoy. Destroyer *John D. Ford* (DD-228) is damaged by gunfire (01°20'N, 117°01'E) but sinks transport *Tsuruga Maru*; destroyer *Parrott* (DD-218) sinks transport *Sumanoura Maru*; destroyers *Paul Jones* (DD-230) and *Pope* (DD-225) sink transport *Tatsukami Maru*; *Paul Jones* sinks cargo ship *Kuretaki Maru*; *Parrott* sinks *Patrol Boat No.37*, 00°10'N, 118°00'E. USAAF B-17s and Dutch Martin 139s and Brewster 339s bomb invasion shipping, sinking transports *Nana Maru* and *Jukka Maru*, 00°10'N, 118°00'E.

Naval battalion (Commander Francis J. Bridget) drives Japanese troops back to Longoskawayan and Quinauan Points on Bataan Peninsula.

Japanese land at Kendari, Celebes; Kavieng, New Ireland; and Subic Bay.

Submarine tender *Canopus* (AS-9) is damaged by bombs, Lilimbom Cove, Mariveles.

Submarine *Swordfish* (SS-193) sinks Japanese gunboat *Myoken Maru* north of Kema, Celebes, 01°26'N, 125°08'E.

Caribbean

Submarine *S-26* (SS-131) is accidentally rammed and sunk by submarine chaser *PC-460* in Gulf of Panama, 08°13'N, 79°21'E. *PC-460* rescues three survivors. Despite a search by the patrol craft and the other three submarines in company, *S-21* (SS-126), *S-29* (SS-134) and *S-44* (SS-155), no other survivors are found; 46 men lose their lives in the mishap.

- **January 25, Sun.**

Pacific

Japanese submarine *I-73* shells Midway Island.

Japanese destroyer *Hatsuharu* is damaged by U.S. aircraft east of Kendari, Celebes.

Atlantic

German submarine *U-125* attacks unarmed U.S. tanker *Olney*, forcing the latter aground off Cape Lookout, North Carolina, 37°55'N, 74°56'W. *Olney* is subsequently removed from her predicament, however, repaired, and returned to service.

U.S. steamer *Tennessee* rescues one boatload of 21 survivors from U.S. collier *Venore*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-66* on 25 January; two survivors reach port in a second boat. U.S. motor tanker *Australia* rescues the only other surviving sailor the same day. Seventeen men of *Venore's* crew perish.

- **January 26, Mon.**

Atlantic

First U.S. Expeditionary Force to Europe in World War II arrives in Northern Ireland.

U.S. freighter *West Ivis* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-125* off the eastern seaboard. There are no survivors from either the 36-man civilian crew or the 9-man Armed Guard.

- **January 27, Tue.**

Pacific

Submarine *Gudgeon* (SS-211) torpedoes and sinks Japanese submarine *I-73* 240 miles west of Midway, 28°24'N, 178°35'E.

Submarine *Seawolf* (SS-197) delivers ammunition to Corregidor, P.I., and evacuates naval and army pilots.

USAAF B-17s bomb and damage Japanese seaplane carrier *Sanuki Maru* off Balikpapan, Borneo.

Naval Air Station, Puunene, Maui, T.H., is established.

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Francis E. Powell* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-130* about eight miles northeast of Winter Quarter Lightship,

37°45'N, 74°53'W; a Coast Guard boat from the Assateague Island station and U.S. tanker *W. C. Fairbanks* rescue the 28 survivors from the 32-man crew. U.S. tanker *Halo* is torpedoed and damaged by *U-130* about 17 miles northeast of Diamond Shoals Lightship, 35°33'N, 75°20'W.

U.S. steamship *Coamo* rescues 71 survivors of Canadian steamer *Lady Hawkins* that had been sunk by *U-66* on 19 January.

- **January 28, Wed.** Third Conference of Foreign Ministers of the American Republics at Rio de Janeiro is concluded. Despite the efforts of Argentina and Chile, Pan-American unity is preserved; within days, all Latin American nations that had not already done so (except Argentina and Chile) sever ties with Germany, Italy, and Japan.

Pacific

Japanese land on Rossel Island off New Guinea.

Atlantic

PBO (VP 82) on an antisubmarine sweep astern of convoy HX 172 attacks a surfaced submarine in the North Atlantic off Newfoundland at 43°50'N, 53°50'E. Although pilot (Aviation Machinist's Mate First Class Donald F. Mason) reports "sighted sub, sank same" no U-boat is lost on this date.

- **January 29, Thu.**

Pacific

Japanese land at Badoeng Island and Mampawan, Celebes.

Minesweeper *Quail* (AM-15) bombards Japanese troop concentrations at Longskawayan Point, Luzon.

Oiler *Ramapo* (AO-12) arrives at Bora Bora, Society Islands, to support survey operations being carried out by *Sumner* (AG 32), which had arrived at that place on 22 January (see 12 February).

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *Florence Luckenbach* is torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine *I-64* about 15 miles east of Madras, India, 12°55'N, 80°33'E; there are no casualties among the 38-man crew and all hands reach Madras by lifeboat.

Atlantic

Coast Guard cutter *Alexander Hamilton* (WPG-34) is torpedoed by German submarine *U-132* off Reykjavik, Iceland, 64°10'N, 22°56'W (see 31 January).

PBYs (VP 52) operating out of Natal, Brazil, are fired upon by British freighter *Debrett* owing to difficulty of mutual identification.

- **January 30, Fri.**

Pacific

Japanese naval land attack planes (*Genzan Kokutai*) bomb Allied shipping at Keppel Harbor, Singapore, Straits Settlements; transport *Wakefield* (AP-21), waiting to embark passengers, is damaged by a bomb, as are British transports (ex-passenger liners) *Duchess of Bedford* and *Empress of Japan* and freighter *Madura*. Transport *West Point* (AP-23) is straddled and showered with fragments, but suffers no damage. She provides medical assistance to *Wakefield*. Both U.S. transports subsequently embark passengers that include dockyard workers from Singapore and their families, in addition to Royal Navy officers

and enlisted men and a small RAF contingent. The ships will then proceed to Batavia, Java, N.E.I., and thence on to Colombo, Ceylon.

Atlantic

Coast Guard cutter *Alexander Hamilton* (WPG-34), torpedoed by German submarine *U-132* the previous day, is scuttled by gunfire of destroyer *Ericsson* (DD-440) off Reykjavik, Iceland.

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Rochester* is torpedoed, shelled, and sunk by German submarine *U-106* off the Chesapeake Lightship, 37°10'N, 73°58'W; three crewmen perish in the initial torpedo explosion. Destroyer *Roe* (DD-418) rescues the 29 survivors.

- **January 31, Sat.**

General

Office of Procurement and Material is established in the office of the Under Secretary of the Navy; Vice Admiral Samuel M. Robinson, Chief of the Bureau of Ships, is named its director. He must build, from the ground up, an organization that will assure the flow of vital materials essential to the production of ships, planes, and other munitions. He will instill in the production program the need for more production and greater speed, and will apply himself to breaking complex bottlenecks in production, settling conflicts in priorities, solving labor difficulties and curing the multitudinous ills besetting the Navy's production efforts.

Pacific

TF 11 (Vice Admiral Wilson Brown Jr.), formed around carrier *Lexington* (CV-2), departs Pearl Harbor to cover the retirement of TF 8 (Vice Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr.) and TF 17 (Rear Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher) from the Marshalls and Gilberts (see 1 February).

Japanese troops land on Amboina Island, N.E.I.

Destroyer *Helm* (DD-388) evacuates civilian radio operators and weather observers from Howland and Baker Islands; she is bombed by a Japanese reconnaissance flying boat (*Yokohama Kokutai*) off Baker, but is not damaged.

Atlantic

British tanker *San Arcadio* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-107* at 38°10'N, 63°50'W (see 11 February).

British tanker *Tacoma Star* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-109* at 37°33'N, 69°21'W; destroyer *Roe* (DD-418), on temporary duty with the Fifth Naval District defense forces due to the increase in ship sinkings off Cape Hatteras, is sent to rescue survivors.

February

- **February 1, Sun.**

Pacific

TF 8 (Vice Admiral William F. Halsey Jr.), formed around carrier *Enterprise* (CV-6) and TF 17 (Rear Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher), formed around carrier *Yorktown* (CV-5), raid the Marshall and Gilbert Islands; TF 8 concentrates on Kwajalein and Wotje, with heavy cruiser *Chester* (CA-27) bombarding Maleolap atoll; TF 17 targets enemy installations on Jaluit, Makin, and Mili. TF

11 (Vice Admiral Wilson Brown Jr.), formed around carrier *Lexington* (CV-2) supports the operations from the vicinity of Christmas Island.

At Kwajalein, SBDs (VB 6 and VS 6) and TBDs (VT 6) from *Enterprise* sink transport *Bordeaux Maru* and damage light cruiser *Katori*, submarine *I-23*, minelayer *Tokiwa*, auxiliary netlayer *Kashima Maru*, auxiliary submarine chaser *No.2 Shonan Maru*, submarine depot ship *Yasukuni Maru*, oiler *Toa Maru*, tanker *Hoyo Maru*, and army cargo ship *Shinhei Maru*; in the bombing of shore installations, Rear Admiral Yatsushiro Sukeyoshi (Commander Sixth Base Force) becomes the first Imperial Navy flag officer to die in combat when an SBD scores a direct hit on his headquarters. Off Wotje, gunfire from heavy cruisers *Northampton* (CA-26) and *Salt Lake City* (CA-25) sink gunboat *Toyotsu Maru*; destroyer *Dunlap* (DD-384) shells and sinks auxiliary submarine chaser *No.10 Shonan Maru*.

Japanese retaliatory air attacks (*Chitose Kokutai*) on TF 8 result in damage to carrier *Enterprise* (near-miss of crash of land attack plane), 10°33'N, 171°53'E, and heavy cruiser *Chester* (by bomb dropped by carrier fighter), 08°45'N, 171°33'E.

Planes from *Yorktown* cause less damage, due to a paucity of targets at the objective; nevertheless, SBDs (VS 5) bomb and strafe gunboat *Nagata Maru* at Makin, while SBDs (VB 5) bomb and strafe cargo ship *Kanto Maru* at Jaluit. Rear Admiral Fletcher detaches three of his four destroyers to look for downed TBD (VT 5) reported in the water astern of TF 17. During the search, a Japanese reconnaissance flying boat (*Yokohama Kokutai*) attacks (but does not damage) destroyer *Sims* (DD-409). Soon thereafter, two F4Fs (VF 42) splash the flying boat. The TBD crew, however, is never found in the prevailing poor weather.

Motor torpedo boats and USAAF P-40s repulse Japanese landing attempt on southwest Bataan. PT 32 damages Japanese minelayer *Yaeyama* off Subic Bay.

Naval Base, Sydney, Australia, is established.

Atlantic

Seventh Naval District with headquarters at Key West, Florida, is reestablished.

Caribbean

Naval Air Stations, St. Lucia, British West Indies, and British Guiana; and Naval Auxiliary Air Facility, Antigua, British West Indies, are established.

• **February 2, Mon.**

Pacific

Submarine *Seadragon* (SS-194) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Tamagawa Maru* off Cape Bolinao, Luzon, P.I., 17°16'N, 119°48'E, but misses army cargo vessel *Nisshu Maru* in the same attack.

Japanese minesweeper *W.9* is sunk, and minesweepers *W.11* and *W.12* damaged, by Dutch mines off Ambon, N.E.I., 03°42'S, 128°10'E.

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. tanker *W.L. Steed* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-103* about 90 miles east of the mouth of the Delaware River, 38°25'N, 72°43'W. Exposure to the frigid weather will eventually kill 34 of the 38-man crew who survive the loss of the ship at the outset (see 4, 6, and 12 February).

- **February 3, Tue.**

Pacific

Submarine *Trout* (SS-202) delivers ammunition to Corregidor, P.I., and removes gold, silver, securities and mail. She uses the gold as ballast on the return voyage to Pearl Harbor.

Japanese naval land attack planes (*Takao Kokutai*) bomb ABDA operating base at Surabaya; other naval land attack planes (*1st Kokutai*) bomb Malang, Java. These raids indicate for the first time that substantial Japanese air forces have been moved south. En route home from Malang, 1st Kokutai aircraft report presence of Allied naval force (Rear Admiral Karel W.F.M. Doorman, RNN) off Madoera (see 4 February).

Atlantic

Panamanian freighter *San Gil* is torpedoed, shelled, and sunk by German submarine *U-103* approximately 15 miles south of Fenwick Island light, 38°05'N, 74°40'W. Two crewmen perish in the attack; Coast Guard cutter *Nike* (WPC-112) rescues the 38 survivors.

- **February 4, Wed.**

Pacific

Australian-New Zealand naval command is established (Vice Admiral H. Fairfax Leary).

Japanese reconnaissance flying boats (*Toko Kokutai*) contact and shadow allied force (Rear Admiral Karel W.F.M. Doorman, RNN) of four cruisers and accompanying destroyers (sighted the previous day by 1st Kokutai aircraft) attempting transit of Madoera Strait to attack Japanese Borneo invasion fleet. On the strength of that intelligence, Japanese naval land attack planes (*Takao*, *Kanoya*, and *1st Kokutais*) bomb Doorman's ships, damaging heavy cruiser *Houston* (CA-30) (*1st Kokutai*) and light cruiser *Marblehead* (CL-12) (*Kanoya Kokutai*), 07°23'S, 115°47'E. Dutch light cruisers *De Ruyter* and *Tromp* are slightly damaged by near-misses (*1st Kokutai*). *Marblehead's* extensive damage (only by masterful seamanship and heroic effort does she reach Tjilatjap after the battle) results in her being sent back to the United States via Ceylon and South Africa; despite the loss of turret III (one-third of her main battery), *Houston*, however, remains.

Asiatic Fleet (Admiral Thomas C. Hart) ceases to exist organizationally (not formally abolished). Units of Asiatic Fleet are organized into Naval Forces, Southwest Pacific Area (Vice Admiral William A. Glassford).

Submarine *Sculpin* (SS-191) torpedoes Japanese destroyer *Sukukaze* as the latter patrols off Staring Bay, south of Kendari, Celebes, 04°00'S, 123°00'E.

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. tanker *India Arrow* is torpedoed, shelled, and sunk by German submarine *U-103* about 20 miles southeast of Cape May, New Jersey, 38°48'N, 73°40'W. Two of her men perish when the ship is shelled; 24 drown when two lifeboats are swamped. Fishing skiff *Gitana* rescues the 12 survivors 12 miles off Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Canadian armed merchant cruiser HMCS *Alcantara* comes across lifeboat from torpedoed U.S. tanker *W.L. Steed* (sunk by German submarine *U-103* on 2 February) and rescues the three survivors she finds (see 6 and 12 February).

- **February 5, Thu.**

Pacific

Submarine *Seadragon* (SS-194) evacuates a nucleus group of people from the naval communications/radio intelligence unit, and associated equipment, from Corregidor, to set up facilities on Java.

Japanese planes bomb Allied shipping off Soembawa Island, N.E.I.; after destroyer *Paul Jones* (DD-230) is damaged by near-miss, she then rescues survivors of Dutch merchantman *Tidore*, which had run aground in an attempt to avoid Japanese bombs.

Atlantic

Naval Operating Base, Londonderry, Northern Ireland, is established to serve as a turnaround point for transatlantic convoys.

Unarmed U.S. tanker *China Arrow* is torpedoed, shelled, and sunk by German submarine *U-103* off Winter Quarter Lightship, 37°44'N, 73°18'W (see 7 February).

United States

National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland, is established in this Washington, D.C. suburb.

- **February 6, Fri.**

General

Naval Coastal Frontiers--Eastern, Gulf, Caribbean, Panama, Hawaiian, Northwest, Western, Philippine--are redesignated as Sea Frontiers.

U.S. and Britain establish Combined Chiefs of Staff.

Pacific

Japanese land reinforcements at Lingayen Gulf.

Japanese artillery on the Cavite coast, near Ternate, shell Corregidor, Fort Hughes, Fort Frank, Fort Drum and anchorage of Inshore Patrol off South Harbor, Corregidor; river gunboat *Luzon* (PR-7) is hit by a shell in her vacant admiral's quarters; there are no casualties.

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Major Wheeler*, en route from Fajardo, Puerto Rico, to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-107*. There are no survivors from the 35-man crew.

British freighter *Hartlepool* comes across lifeboat from torpedoed U.S. tanker *W.L. Steed* (sunk by German submarine *U-103* on 2 February) and rescues the two survivors she finds; one of them will die in hospital on 10 February of exposure (see 12 February).

- **February 7, Sat.**

General

President signs Executive Order 9054 establishing War Shipping Administration (WSA) to bring the control and operation of all U.S. merchant shipping under a

single head. The WSA's most pressing task is to mobilize the shipping capacity of the country (the majority of which is still in private hands by the end of the year 1941) to bring it under single control so that vessels can be allocated more readily on the basis of overall shipping needs of the U.S. and the Allies (see 9 February).

Pacific

Commander Naval Forces Southwest Pacific Area (Vice Admiral William A. Glassford) establishes headquarters at the port of Tjilatjap, on Java's south coast.

Yacht *Isabel* (PY-10) rescues all 187 survivors from Dutch freighter *Van Cloon*, which had been torpedoed and shelled earlier that day by Japanese submarine *I-155* and beached in a sinking condition off Java, 06°25'S, 111°25'E.

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I-25* reconnoiters Sydney, Australia.

Japanese submarines *RO-61* and *RO-62* are damaged in collision, Kwajalein atoll.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *West Jaffrey* is stranded off Halfbald Island, Nova Scotia, 43°36'N, 66°02'W, and wrecked. There are no casualties to either the merchant crew or the 14-man Armed Guard.

Coast Guard cutter *Nike* (WPC-112) rescues all 37 survivors of U.S. tanker *China Arrow*, sunk by German submarine *U-103* off Winter Quarter Lightship on 5 February.

U.S. freighter *Mary* is damaged in collision with freighter *Palimol* at 24°50'N, 66°00'W, and proceeds to San Juan, Puerto Rico, for repairs.

• **February 8, Sun.**

Pacific

Japanese submarine *I-69*, which has been reconnoitering the atoll since 21 January, shells Midway.

Japanese troops land at Gasmata, New Britain.

Submarine *S-37* (SS-142) attacks Japanese convoy in Makassar Strait, and torpedoes destroyer *Natsushio* south of Makassar City, Celebes, 05°10'S, 119°24'E. *S-37* survives resultant depth-charging (see 9 February).

Japanese infiltration force at Quinauan Point, Bataan, is mopped up, supported by armed motor launches from submarine tender *Canopus* (AS-9) (Lieutenant Commander H.H. Goodall). Japanese planes, however, attack the boats, bombing and strafing them, killing three and wounding 15 (including Goodall).

British submarine HMS *Trusty* shells Japanese merchant coaster *Se Go* off Poulo Condore, French Indochina.

Atlantic

British freighter *Ocean Venture* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-108* at 37°05'N, 74°45'W (see 9 February).

• **February 9, Mon.**

General

Rear Admiral Emory S. Land, Chief of the Maritime Commission, is appointed Director of the War Shipping Administration. As WSA director, he is responsible only to the President.

Admiral William H. Standley, USN (Ret.), former Chief of Naval Operations (1935-1937), is named Ambassador to the USSR.

Pacific

Twelve USAAF B-17s are released to Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet for operational control; they will cover the advance of TF 11 (Vice Admiral Wilson Brown Jr.) into the South Pacific.

Transport *St. Mihiel* (AP-32) is damaged by grounding off MacNamara Point, Alaska.

Submarine *Trout* (SS-202) torpedoes and sinks Japanese gunboat *Chuwa Maru* 53 miles off Keelung, Formosa, 25°30'N, 122°38'E.

Japanese carrier *Kaga* is damaged when she runs aground on an uncharted reef, Palau, Palau Islands.

Japanese transport *Kurama Maru* is torpedoed and sunk, agent unknown, 28°25'N, 122°03'N.

Japanese destroyer *Natsushio*, torpedoed by submarine *S-37* (SS-142) off Makassar the previous day, sinks.

Japanese planes bomb Batavia, Surabaya, and Malang, Java.

Japanese troops land on Singapore Island.

Atlantic

Transport *Lafayette* (AP-53) (ex-French liner *Normandie*) burns at New York pier and capsizes at her berth.

Destroyer *Roe* (DD-418), at approximately 36°24'N, 74°34'W, rescues 14 survivors from British freighter *Ocean Venture*, sunk the previous day by German submarine *U-108*.

• **February 10, Tue.**

Pacific

USAAF LB-30s bomb and damage Japanese seaplane carrier *Chitose* in Makassar Strait south of Celebes.

Japanese submarine *I-69* shells Midway but is immediately bombed and damaged by USMC F2As (VMF 221).

Atlantic

Submarine *R-5* (SS-82) fires three torpedoes at what she later reports as a German U-boat at 35°00'N, 65°45'W, but the attack is not successful. By the time *R-5* has reloaded, the enemy is gone. While *R-5's* captain is criticized for erring in judgment for failing to follow up his contact during darkness and continuing the attack, his inexperience (*R-5* is his first command) is considered, as is the fact that it is that commanding officer's first war patrol. *R-5's* quarry may have been *U-564*, which sinks Canadian motor tanker *Victrolite* at 36°12'N, 67°14'W the same day.

- **February 11, Wed.**

Pacific

Submarine *Shark* (SS-174) is sunk by Japanese destroyer *Yamakaze* about 120 miles east of Manado, Celebes, 01°45'N, 127°15'E. There are no survivors from *Shark's* 58-man crew.

Caribbean

U.S. Army troops arrive at Curacao and Aruba, N.W.I., to assume occupation duty (with the cooperation of the British and Dutch governments) at this naval operating base whose primary mission will be port security, convoy routing, and protection of tankers transporting oil to U.S. ports.

Atlantic

PBM (VP 74) rescues nine survivors adrift in a lifeboat from British tanker *San Arcadio*, sunk by German submarine *U-107* on 31 January.

Europe

Admiral William D. Leahy, USN (Retired), Ambassador to France, receives instructions from President Roosevelt that the U.S. government has learned that French ships are to be used to transport war materiel between France and Tunisia, and that unless the French government gives assurances that no military aid would go forward to any Axis power, and that French ships would not be used in the furtherance of Axis acts of aggression in any theater of war, the ambassador would be recalled to the United States "for consultation in a determination of American future policy with regard to the government of Vichy" (see 20-21 February).

- **February 12, Thu.**

Pacific

Destroyer *Whipple* (DD-217) is damaged in collision with Dutch light cruiser *De Ruyter*, Prigi Bay, Java.

USAAF B-17s bomb Japanese shipping off Surumi, damaging transport *Kozui Maru* and merchant cargo vessel *Kinryu Maru*.

Auxiliary [survey vessel] *Sumner* (AG 32) completes survey work of Bora Bora, Society Islands and publishes Hydrographic Office Field Chart No.1 for those waters.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Dixie Sword* founders and sinks in Nantucket Sound, 41°35'N, 69°59'W.

British freighter *Raby Castle* comes across lifeboat from torpedoed U.S. tanker *W.L. Steed* (sunk by German submarine *U-103* on 2 February) and rescues the one survivor she finds; sadly, he will die on board on 15 February, of exposure.

- **February 13, Fri.**

Pacific

Chartered U.S. passenger ship *President Taylor*, transporting 900 troops to occupy Canton Island, runs aground on a reef off her destination, and becomes stranded.

Atlantic

Destroyer *Ericsson* (DD-440) accidentally sinks Icelandic trawler *Greedir* in collision off Hvalfjordur, Iceland.

- **February 14, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine *Sargo* (SS-188) delivers ammunition to Polloc Harbor, Mindanao, P.I., and evacuates USAAF ground crews (14th Bombardment Squadron).

Submarine *Swordfish* (SS-193) torpedoes and sinks Japanese transport *Amagisan Maru* off Davao, P.I., 06°45'N, 126°54'E.

Admiral Thomas C. Hart, USN, is relieved as Commander in Chief Allied Naval Forces in Southwest Pacific by Vice Admiral Conrad E. L. Helfrich, RNN.

Japanese army paratroopers assault Palembang, Sumatra. During ensuing Allied air attacks on Japanese invasion convoy, RAF Blenheims bomb and sink merchant ship *Inabasan Maru* off Palembang.

ABDA Float orders task force (Rear Admiral Karel W.F.M. Doorman) to proceed and attack Japanese Palembang-bound expeditionary force. As Doorman's ships--two Dutch light cruisers, a Dutch flotilla leader, one British heavy cruiser, one Australian light cruiser, four Dutch destroyers and six American--heads toward its objective, Dutch destroyer *Van Ghent* runs aground on a reef north of Banka Island; irreparably damaged, she is scuttled; sistership *Banckert* takes off the crew (see 15 February).

On request from local British naval authorities, light cruiser *Boise* (CL-47), at Ceylon en route to Bombay, India, for repairs following her grounding in Sape Strait on 21 January, provides her two SOCs (VCS 9) to augment routine RAF Catalina searches from the seaplane station at Kogalla, Ceylon. *Boise's* planes fly morning and evening search flights for the next three days.

PBY (VP 73) accidentally bombs submarine *Thresher* (SS-200), returning from a war patrol, southwest of Oahu, T.H.

Japanese submarine *I-23* is last reported south of Oahu, T.H. She is not heard from again, and her fate is unknown.

- **February 15, Sun.**

Pacific

Singapore surrenders to the Japanese.

Japanese army paratroops secure vital oil refineries at Palembang, on southeast Sumatra, N.E.I.; enemy capture of this territory establishes sea and air control of the Karimata Channel and Gaspar Strait.

Having proceeded through Gaspar Strait to the north of Banka and failed to contact the Japanese force (which has already reached Banka Strait), ABDA striking force (Rear Admiral Karel W.F.M. Doorman, RNN) is attacked by Japanese naval land attack planes (*Genzan*, *Mihoro*, and *Kanoya Kokutais*) as well as carrier attack planes from carrier *Ryujo*. Australian light cruiser HMAS *Hobart* is straddled, while near misses damage U.S. destroyers *Barker* (DD-213) and *Bulmer* (DD-222), which will need to retire to Australia for repairs.

U.S. Army transport *Meigs*, U.S. freighters *Mauna Loa* and *Portmar*, and Australian coaster *Tulagi*, escorted by heavy cruiser *Houston* (CA-30), destroyer Peary (DD-226) and Australian corvettes HMAS *Swan* and HMAS *Warrego* sails from Darwin, Australia, for Timor (see 16 and 19 February).

Atlantic

Brazilian steamship *Buarque* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-432* 30 miles southwest of Cape Henry, 36°35'N, 75°20'W (see 16 February).

U.S. tanker *Point Breeze* suffers explosion in engine room that damages steering gear, forcing the ship to go around off Throggs Neck, New York; one man is killed and one is blown overboard. *Point Breeze* later floats free and is towed to New York for repairs.

- **February 16, Mon.**

Caribbean

Operation NEULAND begins with simultaneous attacks on Dutch and Venezuelan oil ports to disrupt production and flow of petroleum products vital to the Allied war effort; German submarine *U-156* shells refinery on Aruba, N.W.I. and torpedoes and damages U.S. tanker *Arkansas* as she lies alongside Eagle Dock; a second torpedo misses the ship and runs up on the beach. There are no casualties among the 37-man crew. The enemy does not emerge from the action unscathed, however, for the explosion of a shell prematurely in a gun barrel injures two men on board *U-156*, which will receive permission to put in to Martinique (see 20-21 February).

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. tanker *E.H. Blum* blunders into U.S. minefield off Cape Henry, Virginia, 36°57'N, 75°52'W and is damaged by mine and breaks in half (see 17 February).

Coast Guard cutter *Calypso* (WPG-104) rescues 42 survivors from Brazilian steamship *Buarque*, that had been sunk by German submarine *U-432* the day before (see 17 February).

Pacific

Japanese planes bomb U.S. Timor-bound convoy, escorted by heavy cruiser *Houston* (CA-30) and destroyer Peary (DD 226); U.S. Army transport *Miegs* and U.S. freighter *Mauna Loa* are damaged by near-misses. On board the latter, one crewman is killed; of the 500 troops embarked, one is killed and 18 wounded. *Houston's* heavy antiaircraft fire saves the convoy from destruction, but the imminent fall of Timor results in the recall of the convoy and its routing back to Darwin (see 19 February).

- **February 17, Tue.**

Pacific

Seabees (First Naval Construction Battalion) arrive at Bora Bora, Society Islands.

Submarine *Triton* (SS-201) torpedoes and sinks Japanese gunboat *No. 5 Shin'yo Maru* off Nagasaki, Japan, 32°14'N, 127°14'E.

Japanese destroyer *Ayanami* is damaged when she fouls an uncharted reef 2.4 nautical miles off Durai, Anambas Islands.

Atlantic

Coastal minesweeper *Detector* (AMc-75) is accidentally sunk in collision with U.S. tanker *Oswego* 300 yards east-northeast of Finn's Ledge Buoy, at the entrance to the north channel at Boston, Massachusetts. There are no casualties.

Coastal minesweeper *Paramount* (AMc-92) accidentally runs aground off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, and is abandoned without loss. Coast Guard cutter *Dione* (WPG-107) provides assistance. *Paramount* is salvaged and returned to service.

Destroyer *Jacob Jones* (DD-130) rescues 16 men from Brazilian steamship *Buarque*, that had been sunk by German submarine *U-432* on 15 February; U.S. steamship *Eagle* rescues 16 more, thus accounting for all survivors.

Coast Guard cutter *Woodbury* (WPC-155) rescues all hands (40 men) from mined tanker *E.H. Blum*. Both halves of the ship are later salvaged and rejoined, and *E.H. Blum* returns to active service.

- **February 18, Wed.**

Atlantic

Destroyer *Truxtun* (DD-229) and stores issuing ship *Pollux* (AKS-2) run aground during storm near Placentia Bay, Newfoundland; the former just east of Ferryland Point and the latter off Lawn Point. Minesweeper *Brant* (AM-24) arrives on scene and contributes rescue parties as well as brings medical officer and corpsmen from destroyer tender and Support Force flagship *Prairie* (AD-15). The tragedy produces deep admiration for the lifesaving efforts of the local population. "Hardly a dozen men from both ships would have been saved," one observer writes later, "had it not been for the superb work of the local residents." Many men jeopardize their own lives frequently to save the American sailors; several hang by lines over the cliffs to keep survivors from dragging over sharp rocks as they are pulled up from the beach below; others go out in a dory, risking swamping several times in the rough waves; after working all day rescuing *Truxtun's* people, some of the local inhabitants then toil all night rescuing *Pollux's* men with a stamina that defies description. Though poor, the men, women, and children of the town of St. Lawrence turn out to outfit the "survivors with blankets, warm clothes, boots, fed them, cleaned them up as best they could and turned them in their own beds." Subsequently, they turn a deaf ear to offers to pay for food and clothing used in succoring the shipwrecked Americans. Destroyer *Wilkes* (DD-441) also runs aground off Lawn Head, 46°53'N, 55°28'W, but manages to free herself from her predicament and escape the fates of *Truxtun* and *Pollux*.

Brazilian tanker *Olinda* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-432* at 37°30'N, 75°00'W (see 19 February).

Caribbean

U.S. freighter *Mokihana* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-161* while lying at anchor at Port of Spain, Trinidad, 12°55'N, 80°33'E; there are no casualties among the 36-man merchant crew or 9-man Armed Guard.

- **February 19, Thu.**

Pacific

Japanese forces land on Bali, N.E.I.

Battle of Badoeng Strait begins as Allied naval force (Rear Admiral Karel W.F.M. Doorman, RNN) of three cruisers and accompanying destroyers attacks retiring Japanese Bali occupation force (Rear Admiral Kubo Kyuji) in Badoeng Strait. Destroyer *Stewart* (DD-224) is damaged by gunfire of destroyers *Oshio* and *Asashio*, 07°18'S, 112°46'E. Dutch destroyer *Piet Hien* is sunk; 30 of her survivors find motor whaleboat jettisoned by destroyer *John D. Ford* (DD-228) and proceed unaided to Java. Dutch light cruisers *Java* and *Tromp* are damaged by Japanese gunfire. Japanese destroyers *Ushio* and *Michisio* are damaged by Allied gunfire.

Japanese carrier striking force (Vice Admiral Nagumo Chuichi) attacks Darwin, Australia; 189 planes from carriers *Akagi*, *Kaga*, *Hiryu* and *Soryu* bomb shipping, airfields, and shore installations; carrier bombers sink destroyer *Peary* (DD 226), 12°30'S, 130°50'E, U.S. Army Transport *Miegs* and U.S. freighter *Mauna Loa* (on board the latter all hands--37-man crew and seven passengers--survive); and damage seaplane tender (destroyer) *William B. Preston* (AVD-7). U.S. freighter *Portmar* is damaged and beached (one of her 34-man crew is killed; two of the 300 embarked soldiers perish as well; 12 men are injured); freighter *Admiral Halstead* (carrying drummed gasoline) is damaged as well (she suffers no casualties). In related actions, U.S. freighter *Florence D*, under charter to the Army and carrying a cargo of ammunition, rescues eight-man PBV (VP 22) crew (Lieutenant Thomas H. Moorer) off north coast of Australia, near Darwin, and later comes under attack by Japanese carrier aircraft that bomb and sink the ship (one man of Moorer's crew and three of the 37-man ship's complement are killed in action); Australian minesweeper HMAS *Warrnambol* and mission boat *St. Francis* rescue the survivors. Japanese carrier planes also bomb and sink Philippine motorship *Don Isidro* (chartered by the U.S. Army to run supplies to Corregidor) off northwest coast of Bathurst Island, 11°00'S, 130°00'E; 11 of the 67-man crew and one of the 16 embarked soldiers are killed. HMAS *Warrnambol* rescues the surviving crew and passengers. Japanese naval land attack planes (*Kanoya* and *Ist Kokutais*) bomb airfield at Darwin.

Submarine *S-37* (SS-142) is damaged by grounding off the northeast corner of Lembogan Island, Lombok Strait, N.E.I., but continues on patrol.

Aviation Chief Machinist's Mate Harold F. Dixon (Naval Aviation Pilot) and his two-man crew (VT 6), whose plane ditched due to fuel exhaustion on 16 January, reach Danger Islands, 10°48'S, 165°49'E, having spent 34 days at sea in their rubber boat. They have subsisted on occasional fish speared with a pocket knife, two birds, and rain water. While the straight line distance traveled measures 450 miles, the estimated track is approximately 1,200 miles. Dixon is awarded the Navy Cross for heroism, leadership, and resourcefulness.

Atlantic

Destroyer *Dallas* (DD-199) rescues 46 survivors from Brazilian tanker *Olinda*, sunk the day before by German submarine *U-432*.

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Pan Massachusetts* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-128* about 20 miles off Cape Canaveral, Florida, 28°27'N, 80°08'W; Coast Guard lighthouse tender *Forward* (WAGL-160) and British tanker *Elizabeth Massey* rescue 18 survivors from the 38-man crew.

U.S. freighter *Lake Oswega* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-96* in the North Atlantic, 43°14'N, 54°45'W. Although *U-96* sees three lifeboats pull away from the ship, no survivors from the 30-man merchant complement or the seven-man Armed Guard are ever found.

Caribbean

Transport *William P. Biddle* (AP-15) arrives at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and disembarks the 9th Defense Battalion.

- **February 20, Fri.**

General

Commander in Chief U.S. Fleet directs Atlantic and Pacific Fleets to establish Amphibious Forces.

Pacific

TF 11 (Vice Admiral Wilson Brown Jr.), en route to attack Rabaul, is spotted by Japanese reconnaissance flying boats (*Yokohama Kokutai*). Although the American attack is cancelled, Japanese naval land-based bombers (*4th Kokutai*) attack TF 11, centering their efforts upon *Lexington* (CV-2). In the ensuing battle off Bougainville, combat air patrol F4Fs (VF 3) and SBDs (VS 2) (the latter utilized in the anti-torpedo plane role) and ships' antiaircraft fire annihilate the enemy formations. In the battle, Lieutenant Edward H. O'Hare (VF 3) shoots down five bombers in six minutes, a phenomenal performance that earns him the Medal of Honor.

Submarine *Swordfish* (SS-193) embarks Philippine President Manuel Quezon, his wife and two children, Vice President Sergio Osmeña, and other Philippine government officials off Mariveles.

In the wake of the Japanese carrier strike the day before, Darwin, Australia, is abandoned as an Allied naval base. RAF and USAAF air operations from the field outside the port, however, will continue.

Japanese invade Timor Island, N.E.I.

Destroyer *Stewart* (DD-224), damaged by shellfire in the Battle of Badoeng Strait the previous night, suffers further damage when, improperly shored and placed on blocks, she rolls on her port side in a Dutch floating drydock at Surabaya, Java.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Delplata* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-156* about 60 miles west of Martinique, 14°45'N, 62°10'W. Small seaplane tender *Lapwing* (AVP-1) rescues the 52 survivors (including the 13-man Armed Guard) and then scuttles the irreparably damaged merchantman with gunfire.

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Azalea City* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-432* about 125 miles east-southeast of Ocean City, Maryland, 38°00'N, 73°00'W. There are no survivors from the 38-man crew.

Europe

Admiral William D. Leahy writes to President Roosevelt that he expects a recall "for consultation" since the French have not responded positively to Roosevelt's message of 11 February. President Roosevelt, while sympathetic to Admiral Leahy's position, subsequently informs his ambassador to Vichy that "to hold the

fort [in Vichy] is as important a military task as any other in these days." Leahy is thus retained in France. On the same day that Leahy writes to the President, however, German submarine *U-156* puts in to Martinique to put ashore one of the men wounded by the premature barrel explosion on 16 February (see 21 February).

- **February 21, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine *Triton* (SS-201) sinks Japanese merchant cargo vessel *Shokyu Maru* in East China Sea, 60 miles south of Quelpart Island, 32°10'N, 126°28'E.

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. tanker *J.N. Pew* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-67* about 225 miles west of Aruba, D.W.I., 12°40'N, 74°00'W; two survivors reach the coast of Colombia, 35 miles east of Riohacha (see 14 March).

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Republic* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-504* about three miles east of Jupiter Inlet, Florida, 27°05'N, 80°15'W; three crewmen perish in the initial explosion, while two drown in the abandonment. One lifeboat reaches shore unaided (18 men on board) while U.S. tanker *Cities Service Missouri* rescues six men from a second boat (see 23 February).

Europe

Admiral Leahy receives instruction to see Admiral Darlan immediately about German submarine *U-156's* receiving assistance at Martinique. Unless the Vichy French can assure the U.S. government that no Axis ships or planes will be allowed to enter French ports or territory in the Western Hemisphere, and that unless such assurances are rigidly maintained, the United States "will take such action in the interest of security of the Western Hemisphere as it may judge necessary and in accordance with existing inter-American obligations." Leahy writes in his diary that everything points to his early recall to Washington "for consultation" (see 16 April).

- **February 22, Sun.**

Pacific

Submarine *Swordfish* (SS-193) disembarks Philippine President Manuel Quezon and his party (embarked since 20 February) at San Jose, Panay, P.I., to continue their journey out of the archipelago.

Atlantic

U.S. tanker *Cities Service Empire* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-128* 25 miles north of Bethel Shoals, 28°00'N, 80°22'W. Destroyer *Biddle* (DD-151) rescues survivors from life rafts while Coast Guard cutter *Vigilant* (WPC-154) goes alongside and rescues men directly from the burning ship. All told, 3 of the 9-man Armed Guard are lost, in addition to 11 of the 41-man civilian complement.

Unarmed U.S. tanker *W.D. Anderson* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-504* about 12 miles northeast of Jupiter Point Lighthouse, 27°09'N, 79°56'W. The sole survivor of the 36-man crew swims ashore at Stewart, Florida.

Unarmed U.S. freighter *West Zeda* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-129* about 125 miles southeast of Trinidad, B.W.I., 09°13'N, 69°04'W.

Schooner *Emeralda* rescues the entire 35-man crew, who suffer no casualties in the encounter with the U-boat.

- **February 23, Mon.**

Pacific

Japanese submarine *I-17* shells oil refinery at Ellwood, California.

Submarine *Tarpon* (SS-175) is damaged when she runs aground in Boling Strait, N.E.I. and becomes stranded (see 24 February).

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Lihue* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-161* about 275 miles west of Martinique, 14°30'N, 64°45'W; *Lihue*, damaged, engages *U-161* in a surface gunnery action before the freighter is subsequently abandoned and the crew rescued by British tanker *British Governor*. Canadian armed merchant cruiser HMCS *Prince Henry* places a salvage party on board in attempt to save *Lihue*. Minesweeper *Partridge* (AM-16) tries to tow *Lihue* to safety, but the crippled merchantman sinks short of St. Lucia, the intended destination. There are no casualties to either the 36-man merchant crew or the 9-man Armed Guard.

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Sun* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-502* about 54 miles north of Aruba, 13°02'N, 70°41'W, and although initially abandoned is reboarded. She is ultimately repaired and returned to service; there are no casualties among the 36-man crew (see 5 July).

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Republic*, torpedoed by German submarine *U-504* on 21 February, having drifted onto reefs off Hobe Sound, Florida, sinks.

- **February 24, Tue.**

Pacific

TF 16 (Vice Admiral William F. Halsey Jr.) raids Wake Island to destroy Japanese installations there. SBDs and TBDs (VB 6, VS 6, VT 6) from carrier *Enterprise* (CV-6) and SOCs (VCS 5) from heavy cruisers *Northampton* (CA-26) and *Salt Lake City* (CA-25) bomb installations on Wake. Bombardment unit consisting of *Northampton* and *Salt Lake City* and destroyers *Balch* (DD-363) and *Maury* (DD-401) (Rear Admiral Raymond A. Spruance) shells the atoll. Combined efforts of *Enterprise's* planes (bombing and strafing) and ships' gunfire sink guardboats *No.5 Fukyu Maru* and *No.1 Miho Maru*. Fortunately, the bombing and shelling of Wake harms none of the American marines, sailors and construction workers too badly wounded to have been evacuated in the initial increment of POWs, and the civilian workmen (Contractors Pacific Naval Air Bases) retained on the island to continue work on defenses. One SBD (VS 6) is lost, however, and its crew taken prisoner (see 13 March).

Small reconnaissance seaplane launched from Japanese submarine *I-9* reconnoiters Pearl Harbor.

Panamanian motor freighter *Snark* is mined while attempting to enter Nouméa, New Caledonia, without a pilot. Destroyer *Worden* (DD-352) tows the crippled ship out of the channel but has to abandon further salvage when the damaged vessel drifts and grounds hard and fast onto a reef.

Submarine *Swordfish* (SS-193) embarks U.S. High Commissioner to the Philippine Islands Francis B. Sayre and his party off Manila Bay (see 9 March). Their original destination is Surabaya, Java.

Submarines *Pike* (SS-172) and *Pickrel* (SS-177) are sent to assist stranded submarine *Tarpon* (SS-175) in Boling Strait, N.E.I.; in the event that they cannot free the grounded boat, they are to destroy her. Fortunately, *Tarpon* manages to work herself free by removing anchors, torpedoes, oil and ammunition.

- **February 25, Wed.**

General

Coast Guard assumes responsibility for U.S. port security.

Pacific

Japanese force lands on Bawean Island, 85 miles north of Surabaya, Java, and sets up a radio station (see 26 February).

Submarines *Perch* (SS-176) attacks what she identifies as a Japanese merchantman but is damaged by shellfire and is forced to break off action. *Perch* remains on patrol.

Japanese cargo ship *Fukushima Maru* runs aground on a reef and is wrecked, Katsura Bay, 35°09'N, 140°18'E.

- **February 26, Thu.**

Pacific

Submarine *S-38* (SS-143) bombards Japanese radio station on enemy-occupied Bawean Island, that had been set up the previous day.

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I-25* reconnoiters Melbourne, Australia.

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. bulk carrier *Marore* is torpedoed, shelled, and sunk by German submarine *U-432* off the North Carolina coast, 35°33'N, 74°58'W. U.S. tanker *John D. Gill* rescues 25 survivors; 15 more men land at Coast Guard Big Kinnakeet Lifeboat Station. There are no casualties.

U.S. tanker *R.P. Resor* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-578* five miles off Sea Girt, Delaware, 39°47'N, 73°26'W; of the 41-man merchant crew and 8 Armed Guard sailors on board, one civilian and one Armed Guard sailor are rescued by submarine chaser *PC-507*. Coast Guard cutters *Icarus* (WPC-110) and *Antietam* (WPC-128), yacht *Zircon* (PY-16) and coastal minesweeper *AMc-200* converge on the scene; Eagle Boat *PE-55* attacks sound contact in the vicinity without result (see 1 March).

U.S. tanker *Cassimir* is sunk in collision with U.S. freighter *Lara* 48 miles from Frying Pan Shoals lightship, 33°28'N, 77°34'W.

- **February 27, Fri.**

Pacific

Battle of Java Sea is fought as Allied naval force (Rear Admiral Karel W.F.M. Doorman, RNN) of five cruisers and 11 destroyers in Java Sea near Surabaya attacks Japanese support force (Rear Admiral Takagi Takeo) covering Java invasion convoy. Japanese gunfire proves ineffective, as heavy cruisers *Nachi* and *Haguro* expend 1,271 8-inch rounds but achieve only five hits. Of those five, four are duds: one each on *Houston* (CA-30) and British heavy cruiser HMS *Exeter*, and two on Dutch light cruiser *De Ruyter*. The only shell that does explode reduces *Exeter's* speed. Japanese heavy cruiser *Haguro* torpedoes and sinks Dutch destroyer *Kortenaer*; survivors are rescued by British destroyer

HMS *Encounter*. Japanese destroyer gunfire sinks British destroyer HMS *Electra* (see 28 February); while British destroyer HMS *Jupiter* is sunk by mine laid earlier that day by Dutch minelayer *Gouden Leeuw*. Allied gunfire damages Japanese destroyers *Asagumo* and *Minegumo*; U.S. destroyers' torpedo attack proves ineffective (see 28 February).

Seaplane tender *Langley* (AV-3), carrying 32 USAAF P-40s earmarked for the defense of Java, is bombed by Japanese naval land attack planes (*Takao Kokutai*) 75 miles south of Tjilatjap, Java, 08°58'S, 109°02'E. Irreparably damaged, the ship that had once been the U.S. Navy's first aircraft carrier (she had been converted to a seaplane tender in 1936) is shelled and torpedoed by destroyer *Whipple* (DD-217). Necessity to clear the area precludes knowing exactly when *Langley* sinks.

U.S. freighter *Sea Witch* delivers 27 crated USAAF P-40s to Tjilatjap, Java, but the planes will be destroyed on the docks to deny their use by the victors.

Submarine *Narwhal* (SS-167) damages Japanese fleet tanker *Manju Maru* 28°55'N, 138°15'E.

Atlantic

Joint U.S.-Mexican Defense Commission is established.

- **February 28, Sat.**

Pacific

Battle of Java Sea, begun late the previous afternoon, concludes. Japanese heavy cruiser *Haguro* torpedoes and sinks Dutch light cruiser *De Ruyter* (Doorman's flagship, in which he is lost) while *Nachi* torpedoes and sinks Dutch light cruiser *Java*; remnants of the Allied force flee to Surabaya, sheltering briefly there before trying to escape to Australia. In the wake of the battle, submarine *S-37* (SS-142) encounters boat from the sunken *De Ruyter* and recovers two U.S. Navy sailors who had been serving in a liaison capacity in the Dutch ship. Before continuing on patrol, the U.S. submariners provide the Dutch seamen with rations. *S-37's* sistership *S-38* (SS-143) rescues survivors from sunken British destroyer HMS *Electra*.

Japanese land on north coast of Java. **Battle of Sunda Strait** begins shortly before midnight as heavy cruiser *Houston* (CA-30) and Australian light cruiser HMAS *Perth* (Captain Hector M. L. Waller, RAN), attempting to retire from Java, accidentally encounter Japanese transport force and escorting ships (Rear Admiral Takagi Takeo) in Banten Bay, Java, and engage them (see 1 March).

Minesweeper *Whippoorwill* (AM-35), while searching waters south of Tjilatjap for survivors of sunken seaplane tender *Langley* (AV-3), rescues crew of British freighter *City of Manchester*, that had just been torpedoed, shelled and sunk by Japanese submarine *I-153* at 08°16'S, 108°52'E. Gunboat *Tulsa* (PG-22), in the vicinity on the same errand, takes on board the injured British merchant sailors and treats the wounded.

Atlantic

German submarine *U-578* torpedoes and sinks destroyer *Jacob Jones* (DD-130) off the Delaware capes, 38°42'N, 74°39'W.

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Oregon* is torpedoed, shelled, and sunk by German submarine *U-156* about 150 miles northeast of Mona Passage, 20°44'N, 67°52'W;

U-156 machineguns the crew trying to launch one of the lifeboats, killing six men. One group of 26 survivors reaches Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, on 4 March; U.S. tanker *Gulfpenn* rescues other group of four men the following day.

PBY (VP 73) mistakenly bombs and damages submarine *Greenling* (SS-213) outside submarine sanctuary off New London, Connecticut.

March

- **March 1, Sun.**

Atlantic and Pacific

Base Force, Pacific Fleet is redesignated Service Force Pacific; Train, Atlantic Fleet is redesignated Service Force Atlantic.

Pacific

Battle of Sunda Strait continues as heavy cruiser *Houston* (CA-30) and Australian light cruiser HMAS *Perth* (Captain Hector M.L. Waller, RAN), heading for Sunda Strait, are attacked by three Japanese cruisers and nine destroyers (Rear Admiral Kurita Takeo). In the melee, *Houston* (05°50'S, 105°55'E) and *Perth* are sunk by torpedoes and gunfire of Japanese heavy cruisers *Mogami* and *Mikuma*; Japanese minesweeper *W.2* and transports *Ryuho Maru*, *Tatsuno Maru*, *Sakura Maru* and *Horai Maru* are sunk, and landing ship *Shinshu Maru* damaged, by torpedoes fired by heavy cruiser *Mogami*; destroyers *Shirakumo* and *Harukaze* are damaged by gunfire. *Houston's* commanding officer, Captain Albert H. Rooks, killed while his ship is being abandoned, is later awarded the Medal of Honor (posthumously) in recognition of his heroism, courage, gallantry and distinguished service during the period between 4 and 27 February.

Japanese oiler *Tsurumi* is torpedoed by Dutch submarine *K-XV* east of Nicholas Point, Banten Bay, Java.

In another action in the wake of the Battle of the Java Sea, Japanese heavy cruisers *Myoko*, *Ashigara*, *Haguro* and *Nachi* engage three Allied ships (Captain Oliver L. Gordon, RN) fleeing Java, sinking British heavy cruiser HMS *Exeter* and destroyer HMS *Encounter*. U.S. destroyer *Pope* (DD-225), the third ship, escapes the cruisers but is located and bombed by floatplanes from seaplane carriers *Chitose* and *Mizuho*. Damaged by one close-miss, *Pope* is then located by carrier attack planes from *Ryujo* and bombed; scuttling is in progress when *Myoko* and *Ashigara* deliver the coup de grace with gunfire at 04°00'S, 111°30'E.

Japanese planes bomb Surabaya, Java; destroyer *Stewart* (DD-224), previously damaged on 19 and 20 February 1942, is damaged again, by bomb.

Japanese naval forces sweep the waters south of Java. Destroyer *Edsall* (DD-219) is sunk by gunfire of battleships *Hiei* and *Kirishima*, heavy cruisers *Tone* and *Chikuma*, and planes from carriers *Akagi* and *Soryu*; the amount of main battery shells expended in the attempt to sink the U.S. ship amounts to 297 15-inch and 844 eight-inch. *Edsall's* five enlisted survivors are executed at Kendari subsequently. Oiler *Pecos* (AO-6), with *Langley* (AV-3) survivors on board as well as evacuees from Java, is bombed and sunk by carrier bombers from *Akagi*, *Kaga*, *Hiryu*, and *Soryu*, south of Christmas Island, 14°27'S, 106°11'E.

Submarine *Perch* (SS-176) is depth-charged and damaged by Japanese destroyers *Amatsukaze* and *Hatsukaze*, 73 miles west of Bawean Island, Java Sea, 06°30'S, 113°50'E.

As Japanese invasion of Java proceeds, Allied planes bomb enemy ships off the beaches: RAF Wildebeests damage light cruiser *Kinu*, transport *Johore Maru*, and army cargo ship *Tokushima Maru*. Dutch Martin 139s, RAF Blenheims, RAAF (or RAF) Hudsons also claim damage to Japanese ships.

ABDA Command is dissolved as the fall of Java looms.

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I-25* reconnoiters Hobart, Tasmania.

Atlantic

PBO (VP 82), on an antisubmarine sweep, bombs and sinks German submarine *U-656* south of Newfoundland, 46°15'N, 53°15'W. *U-656* is the first U-boat sunk by U.S. Navy forces during World War II.

Tug *Sagamore* (AT-20) attempts to tow damaged U.S. tanker *R.P. Resor* (torpedoed by German submarine *U-578* on 27 February) to shallow water to permit salvage, but to no avail. The gutted ship sinks about 31 miles east of Barnegat, New Jersey.

- **March 2, Mon.**

Pacific

Japanese Main Body, Southern Force (Vice Admiral Kondo Nobutake) overtakes fleeing Allied ships southwest of Bali; heavy cruiser *Maya* and destroyers *Arashi* and *Nowaki* sink British destroyer HMS *Stronghold*; heavy cruisers *Atago* and *Takao* attack what they initially identify as a "Marblehead-class" cruiser and sink her with gunfire; their quarry is actually destroyer *Pillsbury* (DD-227), which is lost with all hands at 14°30'S, 106°30'E.

Submarine *Perch* (SS-176) is depth-charged and damaged by Japanese destroyer *Ushio*, Java Sea.

Submarine *S-38* (SS-143) attacks Japanese light cruiser *Kinu* but the latter evades all four torpedoes fired, 06°27'S, 112°12'E.

Submarine *Sailfish* (SS-192) torpedoes and sinks Japanese aircraft transport *Kamogawa Maru* north of Lombok Strait, 08°06'S, 115°57'E.

Japanese troops land at Zamboanga, Mindanao, P.I.

Bataan-based USAAF P-40s sink Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *No. 11 Kyo Maru* in Subic Bay.

Atlantic

Antisubmarine Warfare Unit, Atlantic Fleet is established at Boston, Massachusetts.

- **March 3, Tue.**

Pacific

Submarine *Perch* (SS-176), depth-charged and irreparably damaged by Japanese destroyers *Ushio* and *Sazanami*, is scuttled by her crew in Java Sea. All hands (59 men) survive the boat's loss and are taken prisoner.

Gunboat *Asheville* (PG-21) is sunk by gunfire of Japanese destroyers *Arashi* and *Nowaki* south of Java, 12°33'S, 111°35'E. *Asheville's* sole survivor will perish in POW camp in 1945.

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Mary* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-129* about 250 miles northeast of Paramaribo, Dutch Guiana, 08°25'N, 52°50'W (see 9 March).

- **March 4, Wed.**

Pacific

TG 16.5 (Vice Admiral William F. Halsey Jr.) raids Marcus Island; SBDs (VB 6, VS 6) from carrier *Enterprise* (CV-6) bomb Japanese installations there.

Operation K: two Japanese reconnaissance flying boats (Yokosuka Kokutai), refueled by submarines *I-15* and *I-19* at French Frigate Shoals, bomb Oahu, T.H., but cause no damage (see 10 March).

Submarine *Grampus* (SS-207) torpedoes and sinks Japanese tanker *No.2 Kaijo Maru* 145 miles south of Truk, 00°56'N, 149°31'E.

Submarine *Narwhal* (SS-167) torpedoes and sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Taki Maru* off Amami O Shima, south of Kyushu, 28°37'N, 129°10'E.

Submarine *S-39* (SS-144) torpedoes and sinks Japanese oiler *Erimo* south of Billiton Island, 04°19'S, 108°25'E.

Submarine *Sargo* (SS-188), while approaching Fremantle, Australia, is mistakenly attacked and damaged by an RAAF Hudson.

- **March 5, Thu.**

Pacific

Submarine *Salmon* (SS-182) torpedoes Japanese transport *Taito Maru* north of Lombok, N.E.I., 05°35'S, 112°35'E.

Japanese transport *Takao Maru*, damaged and driven aground off Vigan, Luzon, on 10 December 1941, is destroyed by Filipino saboteurs.

Atlantic

Coastal yacht *Alabaster* (PYc-21) collides with unidentified merchant ship while patrolling off Cape May, New Jersey, but since the damage suffered by neither ship is serious enough to hamper their operations, both vessels continue on their way.

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Collamer*, straggling from convoy HX 178, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-404* off the coast of Nova Scotia, 44°18'N, 63°10'W. British freighter *Empire Woodcock* rescues the 24 survivors from the 31-man crew.

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Mariana* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-126* east of Nassau, Bahamas, 22°14'N, 71°23'W. There are no survivors from the 36-man crew.

- **March 6, Fri.**

Atlantic

German submarine *U-129* torpedoes and sinks unarmed U.S. freighter *Steel Age*

about 130 miles northeast of Paramaribo, Dutch Guiana, 06°45'N, 53°15'W, and takes the sole survivor captive.

- **March 7, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine *Grenadier* (SS-210) torpedoes Japanese transport *Asahisan Maru* south of Shioyasaki, 36°27'N, 141°06'E.

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Barbara* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-126* approximately nine miles north-northwest of West Tortuga Island, Dominican Republic, 20°00'N, 73°56'W; a PBY rescues one group of survivors while the remainder reach shore. Later, *U-126* shells and sinks unarmed U.S. freighter *Cardonia* about five miles west-northwest of San Nicholas Mole, Haiti, 19°53'N, 73°27'W; 22 survivors reach safety at San Nicholas Mole less than five hours after the ship sinks (see 8 March).

U.S. freighter *Independence Hall*, straggling from convoy SC 73, founders and sinks off Sable Island, 43°55'N, 59°55'W. Ten of the 38-man merchant crew perish; there are no casualties among the 9-man Armed Guard.

Brazilian steamship *Arbutan* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-155* off the Virginia capes, 35°15'N, 73°55'W (see 8 March).

- **March 8, Sun.**

Pacific

Japanese naval force (Rear Admiral Kajioka Sadamichi) occupies Lae and Salamaua, New Guinea.

Japanese occupy Rangoon, Burma.

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I-25* reconnoiters Wellington, New Zealand.

Atlantic

Net tender *Mulberry* (YN-22) rescues 14 survivors from U.S. freighter *Cardonia*, sunk by German submarine *U-126* the day before.

Coast Guard cutter *Calypso* (WPC-104) rescues 54 survivors from Brazilian steamship *Arbutan*, sinks their lifeboats as a hazard to navigation, and transports the men to Little Creek, Virginia.

- **March 9, Mon.**

Pacific

Submarine *Swordfish* (SS-193) disembarks U.S. High Commissioner to the Philippine Islands Francis B. Sayre and his party (embarked since 24 February) at Fremantle, Australia. The collapse of the ABDA command has led to this change of destination.

Java surrenders to the Japanese.

Atlantic

Naval Air Transport Service Squadron (VR 1) is established at Norfolk, Virginia, for operations in Atlantic area.

U.S. freighter *Alcoa Scout* rescues survivors of U.S. freighter *Mary*, sunk by German submarine *U-129* on 3 March.

Brazilian steamship *Cayru* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-94* at 39°10'N, 72°02'W (see 11 March).

- **March 10, Tue.**

Pacific

TF 11 (Vice Admiral Wilson Brown Jr.), which includes ships of TF 17 (Rear Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher), on the heels of initial nuisance raids by RAAF Hudsons, attacks Japanese invasion fleet (Rear Admiral Kajioka Sadamichi) off Lae and Salamaua, New Guinea. SBDs (VB 2, VS 2, VB 5, VS 5) and TBDs (VT 2, VT 5), supported by F4Fs (VF 3 and VF 42) from carriers *Lexington* (CV-2) and *Yorktown* (CV-5) sink armed merchant cruiser *Kongo Maru*, auxiliary minelayer *Ten'yo Maru*, and transport *Yokohama Maru*; and damage light cruiser *Yubari*; destroyers *Yunagi*, *Asanagi*, *Oite*, *Asakaze*, and *Yakaze*; minelayer *Tsugaru*; seaplane carrier *Kiyokawa Maru*; transport *Kokai Maru*; and minesweeper *No.2 Tama Maru*. One SBD (VS 2) is lost to antiaircraft fire. USAAF B-17s and RAAF Hudsons conduct follow up strikes but inflict no appreciable additional damage. In a message to Prime Minister Churchill, President Roosevelt hails the raid as "the best day's work we've had." The success of the U.S. carrier strike (the first time in which two carrier air groups attack a common objective) convinces Japanese war planners that continued operations in the New Guinea area will require carrier support, thus setting the stage for confrontation in the Coral Sea (see 4-8 May).

Japanese invade Finschhafen, New Guinea.

Japanese collier *Kosei Maru* is sunk by mine in Lingayen Gulf, P.I., 16°05'N, 120°20'E.

USMC F2As (VMF 221) from Midway shoot down Japanese reconnaissance flying boat (*Yokosuka Kokutai*) attempting to reconnoiter the atoll.

Atlantic

U.S. tanker *Gulftrade* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-588* about two miles east of Barnegat, New Jersey, 39°50'N, 73°52'W; net tender *Larch* (YN-16) and Coast Guard cutter *Antietam* (WPC-128), along with Eagle Boat *PE-48* and Coast Guard motor lifeboats from the Barnegat station are sent to the scene. *Larch* rescues seven survivors; *Antietam* nine.

- **March 11, Wed.**

Pacific

Lieutenant General Douglas MacArthur and Rear Admiral Francis W. Rockwell depart Luzon, with their respective staffs, in motor torpedo boats *PT-32*, *PT-34*, *PT-35*, and *PT-41*, bound for Mindanao. For his role in the evacuation, as well as other operations in the Philippines since the start of hostilities, Lieutenant John D. Bulkeley, Commander, Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron 3, will receive the Medal of Honor (see 13 March).

Submarine *Pollack* (SS-180), operating in the East China Sea about 270 miles east of Shanghai, sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Fukushu Maru*, 30°53'N, 126°20'E and passenger-cargo ship *Baikal Maru*, 31°00'N, 126°32'E.

U.S. passenger ship *Mount McKinley* is stranded off Unimak Island, Aleutians; wrecked subsequently by heavy seas, the ship will be written off as a total loss.

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Texan* is torpedoed, shelled, and sunk by German submarine *U-126* about 40 miles east of Nuevitas, Cuba, 21°32'N, 76°24'W; Cuban fishing boat *Yoyo* rescues survivors.

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Caribsea* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-158* about 14 miles east of Cape Lookout, North Carolina, 34°40'N, 76°10'W; U.S. freighter *Norlindo* rescues survivors.

Coastal minesweeper *AMc-202*, at 40°32'N, 71°40'W, rescues seven survivors from Brazilian steamship *Cayru*, sunk by German submarine *U-94* on 9 March, and transports them to New London, Connecticut.

- **March 12, Thu.**

General

By executive order President Roosevelt combines duties of Commander in Chief U.S. Fleet and Chief of Naval Operations (see March 26).

Pacific

U.S. Army troops (Brigadier General Alexander M. Patch) arrive on New Caledonia to establish a base at Nouméa.

Atlantic

U.S. tanker *John D. Gill* is torpedoed and irreparably damaged by German submarine *U-158* off Frying Pan Shoals, 33°55'N, 77°39'W. Four of the seven-man Armed Guard are lost. Coast Guard cutter *CG-186* and cutter *Agassiz* (WPC-126) rescue one group of survivors, tanker *Robert H. Colley* the remainder. *John D. Gill* sinks the next morning.

German submarine *U-126* torpedoes unarmed U.S. freighters off the coast of Cuba, sinking *Olga* off Camaguey, 23°39'N, 77°00'W, and damaging *Colabee* about 10 miles off Cape Guajaba, 22°14'N, 77°35'W. *Colabee* drifts ashore and grounds on a shoal; Cuban ship *Oriente* rescues one group of survivors (and then tows the damaged ship off the shoal), tanker *Cities Service Kansas* the other. Cuban Navy vessels later salvage the ship.

First British armed trawlers sent to augment U.S. Navy patrol force efforts off the German submarine-plagued Eastern Seaboard, HMS *Wastwater* and HMS *Le Tigre*, begin patrol operations in Third Naval District waters. They are assigned duties off Atlantic City and Barnegat, New Jersey.

- **March 13, Fri.**

Pacific

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I-25* reconnoiters Auckland, New Zealand.

Lieutenant General Douglas MacArthur and Rear Admiral Francis W. Rockwell, with their respective staffs, reach Cagayan, Mindanao, after a 560-mile voyage in heavy to moderate seas, in motor torpedo boats *PT-32*, *PT-34*, *PT-35*, and *PT-41*. *PT-32* becomes disabled during the operation, and is scuttled by gunfire of submarine *Permit* (SS-178) one mile southwest of Taguayan Island, P.I., 10°58'N, 121°12'E.

Submarine *Gar* (SS-206) torpedoes and sinks Japanese victualling stores ship *Chichibu Maru* between six and ten miles southwest of Mikura Jima, south of Tokyo Bay, Japan, 33°53'N, 139°29.5'E.

Japanese minesweeper *No.2 Tama Maru* sinks as the result of damage inflicted by U.S. Navy carrier-based planes on 10 March during the Lae-Salamaua Raid.

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. schooner *Albert F. Paul* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-332* off the east coast of the United States, 26°00'N, 72°00'W. There are no survivors.

Chilean freighter *Tolten* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-404* off Barnegat, New Jersey, 40°10'N, 73°50'W; subsequently, plane en route from Langley Field to Mitchell Field sights one survivor on a life raft at 39°50'N, 73°40'W; Coast Guard cutter *Antietam* (WPC-128), coastal minesweeper *AMc-200* are sent to the scene; NAS Lakehurst sends three L-type blimps, one of which, L 2, ultimately sights the raft seen earlier that day. Net tender *Larch* (YN-16) rescues the one survivor of what was a crew of between 16 and 21 men.

- **March 14, Sat.**

Atlantic

Amphibious Force Atlantic Fleet (Rear Admiral Roland M. Brainard) is established.

Unarmed U.S. collier *Lemuel Burrows* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-404* off Atlantic City, New Jersey, 39°18'N, 74°16'W. Freighter *Sewalls Point* rescues one group of survivors; a boat from *James Elwood Jones* the other.

Panamanian motorship *Annetta I* rescues the last survivor of unarmed U.S. tanker *J.N. Pew*, sunk by German submarine *U-67* on 21 February; 33 of the 36-man crew are lost.

- **March 15, Sun.**

Atlantic

Coast Guard lighthouse tender *Acacia* (WAGL-200) is shelled and sunk by German submarine *U-161* south of Haiti.

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Ario* is torpedoed, shelled, and sunk by German submarine *U-158* 11 miles southwest of Cape Lookout, 34°20'N, 76°39'W. Destroyer *Dupont* (DD-152) rescues the 29 survivors of the 36-man crew.

U.S. tanker *Olean* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-158* 15 miles south of Cape Lookout, 34°24'N, 76°29'W. Coast Guard motor lifeboats from Cape Lookout and Fort Mason stations rescue 33 survivors.

While providing coverage for convoy ON 74, PBO (VP 82) bombs and sinks German submarine *U-503*, North Atlantic, 43°50'N, 48°45'W.

- **March 16, Mon.**

Pacific

Submarine *Permit* (SS-178) delivers ammunition to Corregidor, and evacuates second increment of naval radio and communications intelligence people.

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Australia* is torpedoed, shelled, and irreparably damaged by German submarine *U-332* off Diamond Shoals, 35°07'N, 75°22'W. U.S. freighter *William J. Salman* rescues survivors and transfers them to yacht *Ruby* (PY-21) for further transportation to Southport, North Carolina. *Australia*, sunk in shallow water, is written off as a total loss and her wreck demolished on 20 March.

British tanker *San Demetrio* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-404* at 37°03'N, 73°50'W (see 18 March).

- **March 17, Tue.**

Pacific

United States, in agreement with Allied governments, assumes responsibility for the strategic defense of entire Pacific Ocean.

Submarine *Grayback* (SS-208) sinks Japanese collier *Ishikari Maru* six miles west of Port Lloyd, Chichi Jima, Bonins, 27°05'N, 142°05'E.

Submarine *Permit* (SS-178) is damaged by depth charges off Tayabas Bay, P.I. but remains on patrol.

Europe

Naval Forces Europe (Vice Admiral Robert L. Ghormley) is established.

Atlantic

Destroyer *Stack* (DD-406) and carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) are damaged in collision while en route from Casco Bay, Maine, to Norfolk, Virginia.

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Acme* is torpedoed and damaged by German submarine *U-124* west of Diamond Shoals, 35°06'N, 75°23'W; *U-124* later torpedoed and sinks Greek freighter *Kassandra Louloudi* four miles west-southwest of Diamond Shoals gas buoy. Coast Guard cutter *Dione* (WPC-107) rescues 20 survivors from *Acme* and 35 from *Kassandra Louloudi*; steamship *Beta* rescues 22 men from the latter ship.

Honduran freighter *Ceiba* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-124* at 35°43'N, 73°49'W (see 19 March).

- **March 18, Wed.**

Pacific

River gunboat *Tutuila* (PR-4), decommissioned at Chungking, China, on 18 January, is leased to the Chinese government for the duration of the war.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Jumpro Maru* is sunk, agent unknown, off Tsushima Island.

Atlantic

U.S. tanker *E.M. Clark* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-124* about 22 miles southwest of Diamond Shoals, North Carolina, 34°50'N, 75°35'W. Venezuelan tanker *Catatumbo* rescues 23 of the tanker's complement. Unarmed U.S. tanker *Papoose* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-124* about 15 miles south of Cape Lookout, North Carolina, 34°17'N, 76°39'W (see 19 March 1942).

Yacht *Tourmaline* (PY-20) and Coast Guard cutter *Cuyahoga* (WPC-157) rescue eight survivors of British tanker *San Demetrio*, sunk by *U-404* on 16 March.

Unarmed U.S. tanker *W.E. Hutton* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-332* about 20 miles southeast of Cape Lookout, North Carolina, 34°05'N, 76°40'W; 13 of the ship's complement of 36 merchant sailors perish in the attack (see 19 March).

- **March 19, Thu.**

Pacific

Philippine President Manuel Quezon and 13 members of his party are transported from Dumaguete, Negros, to Oroquito, Mindanao, after a 240-mile voyage in motor torpedo boat *PT-41*.

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I-25* reconnoiters Suva, Fiji Islands.

Atlantic

Destroyer *Dickerson* (DD-157) rescues 14 of the 40-man crew of tanker *E.M. Clark*, sunk by *U-124* the previous day. Later, however, *Dickerson* is mistakenly fired upon and damaged by gunfire from U.S. freighter *Liberator* off Virginia capes; three men (including the ship's captain) are killed and six wounded. Later the same day, *Liberator* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-332*, three miles west of the Diamond Shoals Buoy, 35°05'N, 75°30'W; five crewmen perish. Tug *Umpqua* (AT-25) rescues 26 merchant sailors and the 4-man Armed Guard.

Destroyer *Hambleton* (DD-455), at 35°39'N, 71°10'W; rescues six survivors of Honduran freighter *Ceiba*, sunk by *U-124* on 17 March.

British motor vessel *Port Halifax* rescues the 23 survivors of U.S. tanker *W.E. Hutton*, sunk by German submarine *U-332* off Cape Lookout, North Carolina, the previous day.

High speed transport *Stringham* (APD 6) rescues the 31 survivors of U.S. tanker *Papoose*, irreparably damaged the previous day by German submarine *U-124*. On report of the master, who believes his ship can be saved, tug *Kewaydin* (AT-24) is sent to investigate salvage possibilities. *Papoose*, however, is beyond saving, and sinks the next day; *Kewaydin* proceeds to assist *Acushnet* (see below).

Damaged U.S. tanker *Acme* (torpedoed by German submarine *U-124* on 17 March) is taken in tow by tug *Acushnet* (AT-63) and taken to Norfolk.

- **March 20, Fri.**

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Oakmar* is shelled by German submarine *U-71* at 36°21'N, 68°50'W, and abandoned; submarine *R-6* (SS-83) is sent to her assistance. *U-71* torpedoes *Oakmar* and shells her until she sinks. Six men perish in the abandonment; the remainder (30 men) are rescued by Greek steamship *Panos Pladelis*.

- **March 21, Sat.**

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Esso Nashville* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-124*

off Frying Pan Lightship Buoy, 33°35'N, 77°22'W. High speed transport *McKean* (APD 5) rescues eight survivors from two lifeboats; Coast Guard cutters *Tallapoosa* (WPG-52) and *Agassiz* (WPC-126) recover the rest (21 men and 8 men, respectively). After *Esso Nashville* breaks in two, tug *Umpqua* (AT-25) tows the after end of the vessel to Morehead City, North Carolina. Later, *U-124* torpedoes tanker *Atlantic Sun* off Beaufort (North Carolina) Lightship, but inflicts little damage; there are no casualties among the 40-man merchant complement or the 5-man Armed Guard and *Atlantic Sun* reaches Beaufort without further incident.

- **March 22, Sun.**

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Naeco* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-124* at 33°59'N, 76°40'W. Coast Guard cutter *Dione* (WPC-107) rescues 10 survivors from one lifeboat and two men from the sea; minesweeper *Osprey* (AM-56) rescues one survivor from a raft; tug *Umpqua* (AT-25) takes off one man who had returned to the ship after she had been abandoned. All told, 24 men perish with the ship, which later breaks in half (the stern section sinking). Destroyer *Roper* (DD-147) scuttles the bow section with gunfire.

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Muskogee* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-123* at 28°00'N, 58°00'W. *U-123* draws near to the survivors on two rafts and questions them before clearing the area. None of the 34-man crew, however, are ever seen again.

- **March 23, Mon.**

Pacific

Submarine *Gato* (SS-212) is damaged when accidentally bombed by nonrigid airship (blimp) TC 13 off the entrance to San Francisco Bay, California.

Indian Ocean

Japanese occupy Andaman Islands, Bay of Bengal.

- **March 24, Tue.**

Pacific

Japanese naval planes (*12th Kokutai*) begin daily bombings of Corregidor.

- **March 25, Wed.**

Atlantic

Dutch tanker *Ocana* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-552* at 42°36'N, 64°25'W; destroyer *Mayo* (DD-422) rescues four survivors.

- **March 26, Thu.** Admiral Ernest J. King relieves Admiral Harold R. Stark as Chief of Naval Operations and thus becomes Commander in Chief U.S. Fleet and Chief of Naval Operations; Vice Admiral Frederick J. Horne (Vice Chief of Naval Operations) and Vice Admiral Russell Willson (COMINCH Chief of Staff) are his principal assistants.

Atlantic

TF 39 (Rear Admiral John W. Wilcox), including battleship *Washington* (BB 56), carrier *Wasp* (CV-7), heavy cruisers *Wichita* (CA-45) and *Tuscaloosa* (CA-37), and eight destroyers, sails from Portland, Maine, for Scapa Flow, to reinforce the British Home Fleet (see 27 March).

Commander Eastern Sea Frontier is given operational control of certain USAAF units for antisubmarine patrol duty in the Atlantic. Unity of command over Navy and USAAF units operating over water to protect shipping and conduct antisubmarine warfare is thus vested in the Navy.

Antisubmarine vessel *Atik* (AK-101) is torpedoed and sunk with all hands by German submarine *U-123* in the North Atlantic, 36°00'N, 70°00'W, after the "Q-ship's" gunfire damages the U-boat in a spirited encounter. *Atik* is the only U.S. Navy warship disguised as a merchantman that is lost to enemy action during World War II. Sistership *Asterion* (AK-100) will conduct a fruitless search for survivors (see 30 March).

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Dixie Arrow*, bound for Paulsboro, New Jersey, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-71* about 12 miles off the Diamond Shoals Lighted Buoy, off the coast of North Carolina, 34°59'N, 75°33'W. The ship breaks in half and sinks. Destroyer *Tarbell* (DD-142), directed to the scene by a Coast Guard plane, rescues 22 survivors; 11 merchant sailors either drown or burn to death, however, as the torpedo explosions set the ship's cargo of 86,136 barrels of crude oil afire.

Panamanian freighter *Equipoise* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-160* at 36°36'N, 74°45'W (see 27 March).

- **March 27, Fri.**

- Atlantic

- Commander TF 39 (Rear Admiral John W. Wilcox), taking an unaccompanied walk on deck of his flagship, battleship *Washington* (BB 56), is washed overboard and disappears in a heavy sea. Rear Admiral Robert C. Giffen becomes task force commander upon Wilcox's death.

- Destroyer *Greer* (DD-145) proceeds to position indicated by Army plane and rescues five survivors from Panamanian freighter *Equipoise*, sunk the previous day by *U-160*; later, *Greer* picks up an additional eight survivors from the sunken Panamanian merchantman.

- Europe

- British raiding force begins attack on port facilities in German-held St. Nazaire, France; destroyer HMS *Campbelltown* (former U.S. destroyer *Buchanan* [DD 132]), reconfigured to resemble a German torpedo boat, is to ram the caisson of the only drydock on the French coast capable of handling the battleship *Tirpitz*.

- Pacific

- Submarine *Gudgeon* (SS-211) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Nissho Maru* southeast of Kumun Island, 33°50'N, 127°33'E.

- Japanese collier *Yubari Maru* is sunk by Dutch planes off Koepang, Timor.

- Japanese transport/cargo ship *Kitano Maru* is sunk by Japanese mine off Mabilao, Lingayen Gulf, 16°10'N, 120°24'E.

- **March 28, Sat.**

- Atlantic

- Attack on St. Nazaire concludes with HMS *Campbelltown* successfully ramming the caisson in the drydock area.

- **March 29, Sun.**

Pacific

Fourth Defense Battalion, USMC, and VMF 212 arrive at Efate, New Hebrides.

Atlantic

U.S. steamship *City of New York* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-160* about 40 miles east of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, 35°16'N, 74°25'W. Before the ship is torpedoed a second time, the Armed Guard, who man their gun stations promptly, manages to get 12 rounds off at the U-boat's periscope. A second torpedo sinks the ship, with the Armed Guard leaving only when the bridge is awash (see 30-31 March and 11 April).

U.S. tanker *Paulsboro* is damaged in heavy seas off Overfalls Lightship; tug *Allegheny* (AT-19) is sent to her assistance.

U.S. freighter *Excelsior* suffers engine breakdown off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina; tug *Kewaydin* (AT-24) is sent to tow the ship to Norfolk.

- **March 30, Mon.**

General

Pacific War Council representing United States, Great Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Netherlands, and China is established in Washington, D.C., to plan war policy.

Pacific

Joint Chiefs of Staff order Pacific Ocean divided into two commands: Pacific Ocean Areas (Admiral Chester W. Nimitz) and Southwest Pacific Area (Lieutenant General Douglas MacArthur).

Submarine *Tambor* (SS-198) damages Japanese transport *Tatsuho Maru* off Brown Atoll, 13°00'N, 157°30'E.

Destroyer *Phelps* (DD-360), undergoing repairs in drydock at Pearl Harbor Navy Yard, is damaged when a railroad crane falls into the drydock.

Japanese forces occupy Christmas Island.

Submarine *Sturgeon* (SS-187) sinks Japanese transport *Choko Maru* off Makassar City, Celebes, N.E.I., 05°39'S, 119°00'E.

Atlantic

Debris sighted by plane at 34°52'N, 69°58'W includes five empty life rafts; no survivors are sighted in the area of the last reported position of antisubmarine vessel *Atik* (AK-101), sunk on 26 March by German submarine *U-123*.

PBY search of area in which U.S. steamship *City of New York* is torpedoed proves negative (see 31 March and 11 April).

North Russia

U.S. freighter *Effingham*, straggling 90 miles astern of Murmansk-bound convoy PQ 13, is torpedoed and set afire by German submarine *U-435* at 70°28'N, 35°44'E. The ship explodes and sinks; two men drown during the abandonment (see 2 and 4 April).

- **March 31, Tue.**

Indian Ocean

Submarine *Seawolf* (SS-197) is damaged by depth charges off Christmas Island, 10°26'S, 105°41'E.

Caribbean

Commander of All Forces Aruba and Curacao, Netherlands West Indies, is established (Rear Admiral Jesse B. Oldendorf).

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. tug *Menominee* and the barges that she is towing--*Allegheny*, *Barnegat*, and *Ontario*--are shelled by German submarine *U-754* about 50 miles off the mouth of Chesapeake Bay at 37°34'N, 75°25'W. *U-754* sinks *Menominee* and barges *Allegheny* and *Barnegat*; *Ontario*, with its dunnage cargo, remains afloat and provides a life preserver for the three men who had been on board each barge. Of *Menominee's* crew of 18 men, however, only two survive the U-boat's gunfire. Coast Guard lifeboat from the Metomkin Inlet station rescues the men from the barges while tanker *Northern Sun* rescues the tug crew's survivors. Later the same day, *U-754* torpedoes unarmed U.S. tanker *Tiger* as the American vessel, en route to Norfolk, waits to embark a pilot. One crewman dies in the initial explosion; the surviving 36 men of the ship's complement, in addition to a six-man Navy gun crew riding the ship as passengers, abandon the ship (see 1 and 2 April).

Unarmed U.S. tanker *T.C. McCobb*, en route to Caripito, Venezuela from Buenos Aires, Argentina, is shelled, torpedoed, and sunk by Italian submarine *Pietro Calvi* at 07°10'N, 45°20'W; one crewman drowns and one is killed by shellfire (see 8 and 10 April and 16 May).

Destroyer *Roper* (DD-147) and tug *Acushnet* (AT-63) rescue 124 survivors (including a newborn infant) of U.S. steamship *City of New York*, sunk by *U-160* off Cape Hatteras on 29 March (see 12 April).

April

- **April 1, Wed.**

Pacific

Naval Air Transport Service Squadron (VR) 2 is established at Alameda, California, for operations in the Pacific.

Japanese occupy Buka Island, Solomons.

Submarine *Seawolf* (SS-197) torpedoes Japanese light cruiser *Naka* off Christmas Island, 10°00'S, 105°00'E.

British submarine HMS *Truant* sinks Japanese merchant cargo ships *Yae Maru* and *Shunsei Maru* in Malacca Strait, 80 miles west-northwest of Penang, Malaya, 05°42'N, 98°57'E.

Atlantic

District patrol vessel *YP-52* rescues 42 survivors of U.S. tanker *Tiger*, torpedoed by German submarine *U-754* late the previous day. Coast Guard cutter *Jackson* (WPC-142) and Merritt, Chapman, and Scott salvage tug *Relief* take the damaged ship in tow (see 2 April).

- **April 2, Thu.**

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Liebre* is shelled by German submarine *U-123* at 34°11'N, 76°08'W, and abandoned. Arrival of British motor torpedo boat *MTB 332*, however, compels *U-123* to withdraw before she can finish the work of destroying *Liebre*. Of the 34-man crew, 26 reboard the ship, which is towed by salvage tug *Resolute* and British trawler *HMS St. Zeno* to Morehead City, North Carolina.

Unarmed U.S. freighter *David H. Atwater* is shelled by German submarine *U-552* east of Chincoteague Inlet, Virginia, 37°37'N, 75°10'W; destroyers *Noa* (DD-343) and *Herbert* (DD-160) are sent to the scene, but arrive too late to be of assistance. The sudden and savage nature of *U-552's* attack leaves *David H. Atwater's* crew little or no time to take to lifeboats. Of the 25-man complement, only three survive to be rescued by Coast Guard cutter *Legare* (WPC-144) and taken to Chincoteague Island Coast Guard station.

British minesweeper *HMS Harrier* rescues 17 men in lifeboat from U.S. freighter *Effingham*, sunk by German submarine *U-435* on 30 March 1942; six of those rescued later die of exposure (see 4 April).

Despite the efforts of a salvage crew, U.S. tanker *Tiger*, torpedoed by German submarine *U-754* on 31 March and taken in tow the previous day, sinks short of her destination, Norfolk, Virginia.

- **April 3, Fri.**

Pacific

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz is named Commander in Chief Pacific Ocean Areas (CINCPAC); his command encompasses the North, Central, and South Pacific. He retains his position as Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet (CINCPAC).

Light minelayers *Pruitt* (DM-22), *Preble* (DM-20), *Sicard* (DM-21), and *Tracy* (DM-19) mine French Frigate Shoals, Hawaiian Group, to prevent Japanese submarines from using the area as a refueling point for flying boat raids on Oahu.

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *Exhibitor* is bombed and damaged by Japanese reconnaissance flying boat near Calcutta, India, while proceeding to Colombo, Ceylon. The ship's gunfire drives off the enemy plane as it makes a second pass; only four of the men on board (43-man merchant complement and 9-man Armed Guard) are injured in the attack.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Otho*, en route to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from Takoradi, Gold Coast, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-754* about 200 miles east of Cape Henry, Virginia, 36°25'N, 71°57'W; survivors abandon ship in a raft and three boats (see 8 and 25 April).

U.S. freighter *West Irmo*, en route to Takoradi, Gold Coast, from Marshall, Liberia, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-505* at 02°10'N, 05°50'W, and abandoned. Ten longshoremen are lost in the explosion while the remainder of the ship's complement, 36 merchant seamen, the 8-man Armed Guard and 55 longshoremen, are rescued by British escort vessel *HMS Copinsay* (see 4 April).

- **April 4, Sat.**

Atlantic

U.S. tanker *Comol Rico* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-154*

about 225 miles north of Puerto Rico, 20°46'N, 66°46'W; three merchant sailors perish in the explosion of the torpedo (see 7 April).

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Byron D. Benson* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-552* approximately eight miles off Currituck Inlet, North Carolina, 36°08'N, 75°32'W; fires, fed by the ship's cargo of 91,500 barrels of crude oil, consume nine of the 37-man crew. Antisubmarine vessel ["Q ship"] *Asterion* (AK-100), nearby, reports the attack (see 5 April).

Russian patrol boat rescues 11 men in lifeboat from U.S. freighter *Effingham*, sunk by German submarine *U-435* on 30 March; four of those rescued later die of exposure. All told, 11 of the 34-man merchant crew perish, as does one of the 9-man Armed Guard.

British escort vessel *HMS Copinsay* attempts to tow the damaged U.S. freighter *West Irmo*, torpedoed the previous day by German submarine *U-505*, but the merchantman proves beyond saving. *Copinsay* hastens *West Irmo's* end with a depth charge.

- **April 5, Sun.**

Pacific

Japanese naval forces occupy Lorengau, Manus Island, Admiralty Islands, without opposition.

Indian Ocean

In Operation C, Japanese carrier striking force (Vice Admiral Nagumo Chuichi) raids Colombo, Ceylon. After reconnaissance floatplane from heavy cruiser *Tone* finds British heavy cruisers *HMS Cornwall* and *HMS Dorsetshire*, carrier bombers from *Akagi*, *Hiryu* and *Soryu* sink both ships. Japanese Second Expeditionary Fleet, Malay Force (Vice Admiral Ozawa Jisaburo) is divided into three groups to disrupt Allied shipping in the Bay of Bengal (see 6 April).

Atlantic

U.S. tanker *Catahoula*, about 100 miles into her voyage from San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic, to Wilmington, Delaware, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-154* at 19°16'N, 68°12'W; two merchant sailors perish in the explosion of the torpedo and five drown when the ship is abandoned (see 6 April).

Coast Guard cutter *Dione* (WPC-107) proceeds to the scene of the torpedoing of unarmed U.S. tanker *Byron D. Benson*, attacked by German submarine *U-552* the previous evening; high speed minesweeper *Hamilton* (DMS-18) does likewise, and during the search for the submarine, rescues 27 survivors; British trawler *HMS Norwich City* picks up one man. *Byron D. Benson* sinks two days later.

- **April 6, Mon.**

Indian Ocean

Japanese Operation C continues: Second Expeditionary Fleet, Malay Force (Vice Admiral Ozawa Jisaburo) raids Allied shipping off the east coast of India. Japanese Northern Group (Rear Admiral Kurita Takeo) attacks Allied convoy; unarmed U.S. freighter *Exmoor* is sunk by gunfire of heavy cruisers *Kumano* and *Suzuya*, and destroyer *Shirakumo*, 19°53'N, 86°30'E (there are no casualties among the 37-man crew), as are British merchantmen *Silksworth*, *Autolycus*,

Malda and *Shinkuang*. Southern Group (Captain Sakiyama Shakao), consisting of heavy cruisers *Mogami* and *Mikuma* and destroyer *Amagiri*, sink British merchantmen *Dardanus*, *Gandara* and *Indora*. Central Group, formed around carrier *Ryujo*, heavy cruiser *Chokai*, light cruiser *Yura*, and destroyers *Yugiri* and *Asagiri*, attacks shipping in a third area. After planes from carrier *Ryujo* attack unarmed U.S. freighter *Bienville*, heavy cruiser *Chokai* shells and sinks the American merchantman at 17°50'N, 84°50'E; Japanese gunfire renders all lifeboats useless and kills 19 of the 41-man crew. Five more crewmen die later of wounds suffered in the attack. Lost with the ship is its cargo of 500 monkeys (which are most likely earmarked for infantile paralysis research in the United States). Floatplanes from *Chokai* bomb unarmed U.S. freighter *Selma City* (17°40'N, 83°20'E) and British freighter *Ganges*, sinking both. Two men wounded by bomb fragments constitute the only casualties on board *Selma City*; her 29-man crew reaches Vizagapatam later the same day by boat. *Yura* and *Yugiri*, meanwhile, sink Dutch motorships *Banjoewangi* and *Batavia*, and British steamer *Taksang*. Planes from *Ryujo* bomb and sink British steamer *Sinkiang*, and Dutch motorship *Van der Capellen* (the latter sinks on 8 April) and, at Vizagapatam, bomb and damage British motorship *Anglo Canadian*.

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Washingtonian*, en route from Suez to Ceylon, is torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine *I-5* at 07°25'N, 73°05'E; all hands (39-man crew and two passengers) survive the attack and reach the Maldiv Islands in less than a day's rowing.

Pacific

Advance elements of the U.S. Army 41st Division reach Melbourne, Australia.

River gunboats *Mindanao* (PR-8) and *Oahu* (PR-6) engage Japanese landing barges, claiming the destruction of at least four, in a night surface action in Manila Bay. *Mindanao* is damaged by return fire.

Atlantic

Destroyer *Sturtevant* (DD-240), directed to the scene by a patrolling USAAF plane, rescues 31 merchant seamen and the 7-man Armed Guard from sunken U.S. tanker *Catahoula*, sunk by *U-154* on 5 April.

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Bidwell*, bound from Corpus Christi, Texas, to New York City, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-160* about 30 miles east of Cape Lookout, North Carolina, 34°25'N, 75°57'W, but manages to reach Hampton Roads under her own power. One man of her 33-man crew is lost in the torpedoing.

- **April 7, Tue.**

Atlantic

Destroyer *Wilkes* (DD-441) is damaged when accidentally rammed by British tanker *Davila*, Boston, Massachusetts.

Destroyer *Sturtevant* (DD-240), directed to the scene by a USN patrol plane, rescues the 39 survivors (including the entire 6-man Armed Guard detachment) of U.S. tanker *Comol Rico*, sunk by *U-154* on 4 April.

U.S. tanker *Pan Rhode Island*, off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, rescues 29 survivors of Norwegian freighter *Lancing*, torpedoed and sunk by German

submarine *U-552*, and 20 men from British tanker *British Splendour*, sunk by the same U-boat the same day.

- **April 8, Wed.**

General

Hydrographic Office and Naval Observatory are transferred from the Bureau of Navigation to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

Pacific

Submarine *Seadragon* (SS-194) delivers food to Corregidor, and evacuates the final increment of naval radio and communications intelligence people.

Atlantic

Submarine *Mackerel* (SS-204) is attacked by USAAF plane six miles south of Watch Hill light, but is not damaged in the accidental encounter.

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Bidwell*, bound from Corpus Christi, Texas, to New York City, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-160* about 30 miles east of Cape Lookout, North Carolina, 34°25'N, 75°57'W, but manages to reach Hampton Roads under her own power. One man of her 33-man crew is lost in the attack.

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Oklahoma*, en route from Port Arthur, Texas, to Providence, Rhode Island, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-123* about 12 miles off Brunswick, Georgia, 31°18'N, 80°59'W; *U-123* then proceeds to attack unarmed U.S. tanker *Esso Baton Rouge* approximately 15 miles off St. Simons Island, Georgia, 31°13'N, 80°05'W, torpedoing that ship as well. *U-123* returns and shells *Oklahoma*. Both tankers sink in shallow water, and survivors from both vessels (18 from the 37-man crew from *Oklahoma* and 36 of the 39-man crew from *Esso Baton Rouge*) meet and proceed together for Brunswick, which they reach with the help of a Coast Guard boat. Both ships are not lost to the war effort; they are refloated, repaired, and returned to service.

Yacht *Zircon* (PY-16) rescues 16 survivors (including one Armed Guard sailor) from U.S. freighter *Otho*, sunk by German submarine *U-754* on 3 April (see 25 April).

Panamanian merchantman *Santa Monica* rescues survivors from unarmed U.S. tanker *T.C. McCobb*, sunk by Italian submarine *Pietro Calvi* on 31 March (see 10 April and 16 May).

- **April 9, Thu.**

Pacific

Luzon Force (Major General Edward King, USA) on **Bataan** peninsula surrenders to Japanese. Gunboat *Mindanao* (PR-8) rescues soldiers attempting to escape from Bataan to Corregidor.

U.S. Navy facilities at Mariveles are demolished to prevent enemy use: Navy forces scuttle submarine tender *Canopus* (AS-9), minesweeper *Bittern* (AM-36), tug *Napa* (AT-32), and drydock *Dewey*. Ferry launches *San Felipe* (YFB-12), *Camia* (YFB-683), and *Dap Dap* (YFB-684), and *Canopus* motor launches, evacuate men and equipment to Corregidor.

Submarine *Snapper* (SS-185) delivers food to Corregidor.

Motor torpedo boats *PT-34* and *PT-41* engage Japanese light cruiser *Kuma* and torpedo boat *Kiji* in a running fight off Cape Tanon, the southern tip of Cebu,

P.I.; *Kuma* is hit by a dud torpedo and machine gun fire. Later that same day, *PT-34* is bombed and strafed by floatplanes from Japanese seaplane carrier *Sanuki Maru* and beached off Cauti Island, P.I., 10°16'N, 123°52'E. A second bombing and strafing attack by *Sanuki Maru's* planes destroys *PT-34*, which suffers two dead and three wounded from her six-man crew in the action.

Indian Ocean

Japanese Operation C continues: carrier striking force (Vice Admiral Nagumo Chuichi) raids Trincomalee, Ceylon, which has been cleared of shipping in expectation of the attack. Notwithstanding the precautions taken by the British, Japanese carrier bombers attack the ships they find returning to Trincomalee. British carrier HMS *Hermes* is sunk, as is Australian destroyer HMAS *Vampire*, British corvette HMS *Hollyhock*, depot ship HMS *Athelstane* and RFA oiler *British Sergeant*.

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Esparta*, en route from Honduras to New York, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-123* about 14 miles south of Brunswick, Georgia, 30°46'N, 81°11'W; one man perishes out of the merchantman's 40-man crew.

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Malchace* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-160* about 50 miles off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, 34°28'N, 75°56'W; Mexican freighter *Faja De Oro* rescues the 28 survivors (one crewman drowns when *Malchace* is abandoned).

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Atlas* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-552* off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, 34°27'N, 76°16'W; two of the 34-man crew die attempting to escape the fires fed by the cargo of 84,239 barrels of gasoline. Coast Guard cutter *CG 462* rescue the 32 men who survive the inferno. Later the same day, *U-552* torpedoes tanker *Tamaulipas* at 34°25'N, 76°00'W; British trawler HMS *Norwich City* rescues the 35 survivors (two crewmen perish when the tanker is abandoned). *Tamaulipas*, gutted by fires, sinks the following morning.

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Eugene V.R. Thayer*, en route to Caripito, Venezuela from Buenos Aires, Argentina, is pursued and shelled by Italian submarine *Pietro Calvi* at 02°20'S, 39°30'W; 11 of the tanker's crew are killed in the engagement that ends when *Eugene V.R. Thayer* is abandoned (see 10, 11 and 13 April).

Motor torpedo boat *PT-59*, on practice run in upper Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island, accidentally torpedoes cargo ship *Capella* (AK-13); tugs are on the scene immediately and anchor the damaged auxiliary in shoal water. Eight crewmen are injured in the mishap.

- **April 10, Fri.**

Pacific

Pacific Fleet is reorganized into type commands: Battleships (Rear Admiral Walter S. Anderson); Aircraft Carriers (Vice Admiral William F. Halsey Jr.); Cruisers (Rear Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher); Destroyers (Rear Admiral Robert A. Theobald); Service Force (Vice Admiral William L. Calhoun); Amphibious Force (Vice Admiral Wilson Brown, Jr.); Submarine Force (Rear Admiral Thomas Withers); and Patrol Wings (Rear Admiral John S. McCain). Old titles Battle Force and Scouting Force are abolished.

Submarine *Snapper* (SS-185) evacuates military personnel from Corregidor.

Minesweeper *Finch* (AM-9) is sunk by aerial bombs off Luzon, 14°22'N, 120°35'E.

Crews of river gunboats *Oahu* (PR-6), *Luzon* (PR-7), and *Mindanao* (PR-8) are transferred ashore to man U.S. Army guns at Fort Hughes, Manila Bay.

Japanese troops land on Cebu.

Submarine *Thresher* (SS-200) torpedoes and sinks Japanese (ex-Portuguese) merchant cargo ship *Maru* six miles north of Oshima, near the entrance to Tokyo Bay, Honshu, Japan, 34°59'N, 139°29'E.

Atlantic

U.S. tanker *Gulfamerica*, silhouetted by the lights of Jacksonville, Florida, is torpedoed and shelled by German submarine *U-123* at 30°14'N, 81°18'W. Some of the tanker's crew perish in the torpedo explosion or gunfire when *U-123* shells and machineguns the vessel; others drown as the ship is abandoned. Of the 41-man crew, 17 perish; 2 of the 7-man Armed Guard die in the attack. District patrol vessel *YP-32* aids in rescue of survivors. *Gulfamerica* capsizes and sinks on 16 April.

Norwegian freighter *Marpesia*, off Surinam, rescues 19 survivors from U.S. tanker *T.C. McCobb*, sunk by Italian submarine *Pietro Calvi* on 31 March (see 16 May).

Seaplane recovers 13 survivors from U.S. tanker *Eugene V.R. Thayer*, shelled on 9 April by Italian submarine *Pietro Calvi* (see 11 and 13 April).

- **April 11, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine *Trout* (SS-202) torpedoes Japanese fleet tanker *Nisshin Maru* west of Shionomisaki, Japan, 33°26'N, 135°38'E.

USAAF A-20s attack Japanese shipping off Lae, New Guinea, damaging cargo vessel *Taijun Maru*, 06°49'S, 147°02'E. *Taijun Maru*, deemed irreparable, is later scuttled.

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Harry F. Sinclair, Jr.*, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-203* seven miles south of Cape Lookout, North Carolina, 34°25'N, 76°30'W. Intense fires, fed by the tanker's 66,000 barrels of gasoline, consume the amidships section of the vessel; 10 of the 36-man crew perish in the flames. British armed trawler HMS *Hertfordshire* rescues 24 survivors, destroyer *Herbert* (DD-160) two. British (ex-French) armed trawler HMS *Senateur Duhamel* tows *Harry F. Sinclair, Jr.* into Morehead City, North Carolina.

British steamship *Ulysses* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-160* at 34°23'N, 75°35'W; high speed transport *Manley* (APD-1) rescues all hands (195 crew, 95 passengers).

British trawler HMS *St. Cathan* (one of the Royal Navy patrol vessels operating off the eastern seaboard) and Dutch freighter *Hebe* collide at 38°40'N, 73°00'W, both ships sink. District patrol vessel *YP-22* rescues 7 survivors from *St. Cathan* and 31 from *Hebe*; yachts *Azurlite* (PY-22) and *Beryl* (PY-23) participate in

rescue efforts and between them later transport the survivors (*Hebe's* entire 31-man crew and nine of the 39-man crew of *St. Cathan*) to Charleston, South Carolina.

After a patrol plane sights lifeboat at 38°40'N, 73°00'W, Coast Guard patrol boat 455 proceeds from Cape May, New Jersey, to the reported position, and there rescues last nine survivors of U.S. steamship *City of New York*, sunk by *U-160* off Cape Hatteras on 29 March, and transports them to Lewes, Delaware. All told, one Armed Guard sailor, 16 crewmen and seven passengers have perished in the loss of the ship.

Second group of 13 survivors from U.S. tanker *Eugene V.R. Thayer*, shelled on 9 April by Italian submarine *Pietro Calvi* reach the Brazilian coast north of Aracati (see 13 April).

- **April 12, Sun.**

Pacific

Motor torpedo boat *PT-35*, undergoing repairs on the marine railway at the Cebu Shipyard and Engineering Works, is destroyed by crew as Japanese capture Cebu, 10°18'N, 123°54'E.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Delvalle*, en route from New Orleans, Louisiana to Buenos Aires, Argentina, via St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-154* at 16°51'N, 72°25'W. One man from the 54-man crew drowns when the ship is abandoned; there are no casualties among the five passengers or the four-man Armed Guard. Canadian armed merchant cruiser *HMCS Prince Henry* rescues some of the survivors, the rest reach Jacmel, Haiti, via motor launch.

Panamanian motor tanker *Stanvac Melbourne* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-203* about 15 miles off Frying Pan Shoals, 33°53'N, 77°29'W; Coast Guard cutter *CG-186* rescues survivors, 41 merchant seamen and the 7-man Armed Guard.

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Esso Boston*, en route from Venezuela to Nova Scotia, is torpedoed and shelled by German submarine *U-130* at 21°42'N, 60°00'W and abandoned. The Germans question the survivors, offer food and water and provide directions to nearest land (see 13 April).

U.S. freighter *Leslie* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-123* approximately three miles southeast of Hetzel Shoals Gas Buoy, 28°37'N, 80°25'W; 27 survivors from the 31-man crew, and one passenger, reach the coast of Florida just north of Cape Canaveral. U.S. tanker *Esso Bayonne* rescues one other surviving crewman; he goes ashore at Key West the next day.

Coast Guard cutter *Vigilant* (WPC-154) runs aground during search for submarine off St. Lucie's Inlet, 27°03'N, 80°05'W, but emerges from the incident with only minor damage.

- **April 13, Mon.**

Pacific

Submarine *Grayling* (SS-209) torpedoes and sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Ryujin Maru* off southwest tip of Shikoku, Japan, 31°51'N, 132°50'E. Destroyer *Minazuki* drives off *Grayling* with depth charges.

Japanese transport *No.3 Hino Maru* is damaged by aircraft (nationality unspecified) off Koepang, Timor.

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Esso Boston*, torpedoed and shelled by German submarine *U-130* the previous day, sinks; the entire 37-man crew is rescued by destroyer *Biddle* (DD-151) and taken to San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Abandoned U.S. tanker *Eugene V.R. Thayer*, shelled on 9 April by Italian submarine *Pietro Calvi*, sinks off coast of Brazil.

- **April 14, Tue.**

Atlantic

Destroyer *Roper* (DD-147) sinks German submarine *U-85* off Virginia capes, 35°55'N, 75°13'W.

British freighter *Empire Thrush* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-203* approximately eight miles north of Diamond Shoals, 35°12'N, 75°14'W. Antisubmarine vessel ("Q-ship") *Asterion* (AK-100), masquerading as freighter *Evelyn* (her original mercantile name), picks up entire crew (and the captain's dog). The rescued sailors are enjoined not to reveal the fact that they were rescued by a "Q-ship" and to keep secret *Asterion's* true identity.

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Margaret* is sunk by German submarine *U-571* off the eastern seaboard while bound for New York from San Juan, Puerto Rico. Although the Germans see the crew lower a boat and put rafts over the side, none of the 29 sailors from *Margaret's* complement are ever seen again.

- **April 15, Wed.**

Pacific

Submarine bases at Kodiak and Dutch Harbor, Alaska, and naval air station at Barbers Point, Oahu, T.H., are established.

Last remaining motor torpedo boat in the Philippines, *PT-41*, her torpedoes expended and lacking gasoline to operate, is transferred to the Army to be moved overland to Lake Lanao. She is slated for service as a machine gun boat. The rapid Japanese advance across Mindanao, however, compels the Army to destroy *PT-41* to prevent her capture.

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Robin Hood*, en route to Boston, Massachusetts from Trinidad, B.W.I., is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-575* about 300 miles off Nantucket, 38°39'N, 66°38'W; three merchant sailors perish in the torpedo explosion while 11 men go down with the ship (see 23 April).

- **April 16, Thu.**

Pacific

Submarine *Tambor* (SS-198) torpedoes and sinks Japanese stores ship *Kitami Maru* 50 miles southeast of Kavieng, New Ireland, 03°00'S, 152°00'E.

Pacific

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Alcoa Guide* is shelled by German submarine *U-123* (which expended her last torpedo on 12 April) at 35°34'N, 70°08'W; *Alcoa Guide* tries to ram the U-boat without success. *U-123* pauses to allow the crew to abandon ship and then sinks the freighter with gunfire once the merchant

sailors (two of whom die of wounds suffered in action) have gotten away safely (see 19 April and 18 May).

Europe

Admiral Leahy receives cable from Washington with information that his recall "for consultation" will be announced shortly after the formation of a new Vichy government (see 18 April).

- **April 17, Fri.**

Pacific

Submarine *Searaven* (SS-196) begins rescue of stranded Australian sailors, airmen, and soldiers from Japanese-occupied Timor, N.E.I.

Europe

Admiral Leahy's recall "for consultation" is announced.

- **April 18, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine *Searaven* (SS-196) completes rescue of Australians from Japanese-occupied Timor, begun the previous evening.

Japanese troops land at Panay, Visayan Islands.

Halsey-Doolittle Raid: TF 16 (Vice Admiral William F. Halsey Jr.), formed around carriers *Enterprise* (CV-6) and *Hornet* (CV-8), approaches to within 650 miles of Japan. Discovery by Japanese guardboat *No.23 Nitto Maru* compels Vice Admiral Halsey to order *Hornet* to launch 16 USAAF B-25s (Lieutenant Colonel James H. Doolittle) earlier than planned. B-25s bomb targets in Tokyo, Yokosuka, Yokohama, Kobe, and Nagoya; one B-25 bombs and damages carrier *Ryuho* (being converted from submarine depot ship *Taigei*) at Yokosuka. Of the 16 B-25s launched, 15 are lost in occupied China, where brutal reprisals by Japanese against Chinese populace (Chekiang province) ensue; one B-25 lands intact at Vladivostok where it and its crew are interned by the Soviets. SBDs (VB 3, VB 6) and F4Fs (VF 6) from *Enterprise*, meanwhile, attack Japanese guardboats ("picket" boats) encountered near TF 16, damaging armed merchant cruiser *Awata Maru* and guardboats *Chokyu Maru*, *No.1 Iwate Maru*, *No.2 Asami Maru*, *Kaijin Maru*, *No.3 Chinyo Maru*, *Eikichi Maru*, *Kowa Maru*, and *No.26 Nanshin Maru*. Guardboats *No.23 Nitto Maru* and *Nagato Maru*, also damaged by SBDs and F4Fs from *Enterprise*, are sunk by gunfire of light cruiser *Nashville* (CL-43) (see 19 April). While the material damage inflicted by the bombers is small, the psychological effect of an air raid on the Japanese capital itself is great. Most importantly, the Halsey-Doolittle Raid ends all debate within the Japanese high command whether or not a thrust against the important U.S. advanced naval base at Midway should be attempted.

Carrier *Lexington* (CV-2), in TF 11 (Rear Admiral Aubrey W. Fitch), ferries USMC F2As (VMF 211) to Palmyra Island.

USAAF B-26s sink Japanese aircraft transport *Komaki Maru* in Rabaul harbor, 04°12'S, 152°10'E.

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Axtell J. Byles*, in a coastal convoy, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-136* off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, 35°32'N, 75°19'W,

but reaches Hampton Roads the next day; there are no injuries to any of the 39-man crew.

Europe

Change of government in Vichy France: Pierre Laval becomes Chief of Government, Minister of Interior, Foreign Affairs and Information.

- **April 19, Sun.**

Pacific

Japanese guardboat *No.21 Nanshin Maru*, damaged by *Enterprise* (CV-6) planes on 18 April, is scuttled by gunfire of light cruiser *Kiso*, 37°12'N, 151°15'E; guardboat *No.1 Iwate Maru* sinks as the result of damage inflicted by *Enterprise* planes on 18 April. Submarine *I-74* rescues *No.1 Iwate Maru's* crew and ultimately transfers them to *Kiso* on 22 April.

Caribbean

German submarine *U-130* shells oil installations at Curacao, N.W.I.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Steel Maker* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-136* west of Bermuda, 33°05'N, 70°36'W, all hands save one (36 crewmen, the 9-man Armed Guard, and one passenger) survive. "I am sorry to have to sink you and do this to you," one German officer says apologetically after the enemy has questioned the survivors about the ship, its cargo, and destination, "but this is war." He promises to send *Steel Maker's* position to enable the Americans to be rescued (see 22, 29 April and 18 May).

Destroyer *Broome* (DD-210) rescues 27 survivors from U.S. freighter *Alcoa Guide*, sunk by German submarine *U-123* on 16 April (see 18 May).

- **April 20, Mon.**

Mediterranean

Operation CALENDAR: carrier *Wasp* (CV-7), as part of the effort to reinforce fighter defenses of the embattled British island of Malta, launches 47 RAF Spitfires. Within four days, however, heavy German bombing raids on the besieged isle's airfields reduce the number of flyable Spitfires to six, necessitating a second ferry mission (see 9 May).

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. freighter *West Imboden*, her presence advertised by an accidental fire in her stack, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-752* about 200 miles off Nantucket lightship, 41°14'N, 65°54'W, and abandoned as she is being shelled by the U-boat. *U-752* nears one of the lifeboats and asks about casualties. "That's good," one German officer responds when told that the American merchant sailors have come through unharmed.

- **April 21, Tue.**

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Pipestone County*, en route from Trinidad, B.W.I., to Boston, Massachusetts, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-576* at 37°35'N, 66°20'W and abandoned by all hands (36-man merchant complement and the 9-man Armed Guard). *U-576* provisions one of the sunken freighter's four lifeboats after questioning some of the survivors (see 22 April, and 7 and 8 May).

Unarmed U.S. freighter *San Jacinto*, en route to San Juan, Puerto Rico, is torpedoed and shelled by German submarine *U-201* at 31°10'N, 70°45'W, and abandoned before she sinks. Lost with the ship are five merchant sailors and nine passengers; 74 crewmen and 95 passengers survive (see 23 April).

Europe

Louise Leahy, wife of Admiral William D. Leahy, USN (Retired), Ambassador to France, dies of an embolism in Vichy. Her death, on the eve of their departure from Vichy, is a "crushing emotional shock" to the admiral, "beyond the understanding of anyone who has not had an identical experience."

- **April 22, Wed.**

Atlantic

Destroyer *Bristol* (DD-453) rescues all 35 survivors of U.S. freighter *West Imboden*, sunk by German submarine *U-752* on 20 April.

Destroyer *Rowan* (DD-405) rescues 13 merchant seamen and 5 Armed Guard sailors from sunken U.S. freighter *Steel Maker*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-136* on 19 April (see 29 April and 18 May).

British steamship *Tropic Star* rescues two lifeboats full of survivors from sunken U.S. freighter *Pipestone County*, sunk by German submarine *U-576* on 21 April (see 7 and 8 May).

- **April 23, Thu.**

Atlantic

Destroyer *Greer* (DD-145) rescues 24 survivors of U.S. freighter *Robin Hood*, sunk on 15 April by German submarine *U-575*, and transports them to Hamilton, Bermuda.

Destroyer *Rowan* (DD-405) rescues surviving crew and passengers from U.S. freighter *San Jacinto*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-201* on 21 April.

U.S. tanker *Connecticut*, bound for Cape Town, South Africa, is torpedoed by German motor torpedo boat *LS 4* (Esan), from auxiliary cruiser *Michel*, in the South Atlantic, 23°00'S, 15°00'W. The second torpedo ignites the 84,200 barrels of gasoline, airplane engine and heating oils that *Connecticut* is carrying as cargo; the ensuing inferno engulfs two lifeboats as the crew abandons the burning ship. *Michel* picks up the survivors, who will subsequently be transferred to a supply ship and thence to POW camp at Fukuoka, Japan.

U.S. freighter *Lammont Du Pont*, bound for New York, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-125* at 27°10'N, 57°10'W; four men perish from among the combined 46-man merchant complement and the 9-man Armed Guard (see 25 April and 16 May).

- **April 24, Fri.**

Pacific

Submarine *Trout* (SS-202) torpedoes Japanese merchant transport *Tachibana Maru*, Susami Kii, 33°31'N, 135°29'E.

- **April 25, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine *Spearfish* (SS-190) torpedoes Japanese army transport *Toba Maru* off northwestern Luzon, 17°01'N, 120°15'E.

Atlantic

Norwegian motor vessel *Gallia* rescues one merchant sailor and five of the 10-man Armed Guard from U.S. freighter *Otho*, sunk by German submarine *U-754* on 3 April. All told, 23 of the 36-man merchant complement, four of the 10-man Armed Guard and four of seven passengers perish.

Swedish motor vessel *Astri* rescues 15 survivors from U.S. freighter *Lammont Du Pont*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-125* on 23 April (see 16 May). These men are subsequently transferred to light cruiser *Omaha* (CL-4).

- **April 26, Sun.**

Pacific

Submarine *Pickrel* (SS-177) damages Japanese hospital ship *Takasago Maru* in Manipa Strait, Malay Archipelago, 03°00'S, 127°00'E.

Japanese transport *No.2 Nankai Maru* is damaged by aircraft (nationality unspecified), Shortland Island.

Atlantic

Destroyer *Sturtevant* (DD-240) is sunk by mine off Marquesas Key, Florida.

Caribbean

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Alcoa Partner* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-66* approximately 80 miles northeast of Bonaire, N.W.I., at 13°32'N, 67°57'W; the ship's bauxite ore cargo causes the ship to sink before the men on board have time to launch boats. One boat floats free, however, and 25 men gather in it. Nine crewmen and a workaway, however, drown in the wake of the ship's loss. The survivors reach Bonaire the next day.

- **April 28, Tue.**

Atlantic

U.S. Escort Force (Rear Admiral Robert C. Giffen) departs Scapa Flow, Orkney Islands, to protect convoys to Russia.

District patrol craft *YP-77* is sunk in collision off Atlantic Coast.

- **April 29, Wed.**

Pacific

Japanese naval force (3d Kure Special Landing Force) occupies former RAAF seaplane base at Tulagi, Solomons (see 3-4 May).

Japanese seize Parang and Cotabato, Mindanao.

Atlantic

First coastal convoy leaves New York for the Delaware River.

Off Frying Pan Shoals, British steamship *Pacific Exporter* rescues 27 survivors (including the remaining four Armed Guard sailors) from U.S. freighter *Steel Maker*, sunk by German submarine *U-136* on 19 April (see 18 May).

U.S. tanker *Mobileoil*, proceeding alone, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-108* about 350 miles northwest of Turks Island, at 26°10'N,

66°15'W; all hands (43-man merchant crew and 9-man Armed Guard) survive the loss of the ship (see 2 May).

Caribbean

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Federal*, bound for Banes, Cuba, is shelled and sunk by German submarine *U-507* at 21°13'N, 76°05'W; heavy close-range fire from the U-boat's guns kill four crewman and wound one of the 33-man merchant complement, as well as destroy one lifeboat and prevent the tanker's crew from launching a second. U.S. Army transport *Yarmouth* arrives on the scene soon thereafter but only circles the survivors; fishing boats from Gibara, Cuba, rescue *Federal's* survivors from rafts while the one boat that was launched follows the Cuban boats to shore. The one wounded man dies subsequently.

- **April 30, Thu.**

Pacific

PBYs evacuate military and civilian personnel from Corregidor.

Submarine *Greenling* (SS-213) torpedoes Japanese ammunition ship *Seia Maru*, 09°32'N, 156°03'E.

Europe

Admiral Harold R. Stark assumes command of U.S. Naval Forces Europe.

May

- **May 1, Fri.**

Europe

Admiral William D. Leahy, USN (Ret.) ends service as Ambassador to Vichy France.

Pacific

Submarine *Grenadier* (SS-210) mistakenly torpedoes and sinks Soviet merchant ship *Angarstroi* about 90 miles west-southwest of Nagasaki, Japan, 32°00'N, 129°25'E.

Submarine *Triton* (SS-201) torpedoes and sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Calcutta Maru* about 180 miles north-northwest of Formosa, 28°06'N, 123°47'E.

8th Defense Battalion arrives on Wallis Island, from Tutuila, Samoa.

Atlantic

British battleship HMS *King George V* accidentally collides with, and sinks, destroyer HMS *Punjabi* during operations out of Scapa Flow, Orkney Islands; battleship *Washington* (BB-56), unable to maneuver to clear the wreckage, has to steam through it. *Punjabi's* exploding depth charges cause some concussion damage to *Washington's* fire control systems.

Naval Base and Naval Auxiliary Air Facility, Great Exuma, Bahama Islands, and Naval Base, Grand Cayman, British West Indies, are established.

- **May 2, Sat.**

Pacific

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz visits Midway to informally inspect defenses and present decorations. He will leave the following day.

Japanese special landing force (3d Kure Special Landing Force) lands on Florida Island, Solomons.

SBDs (VS 5) and TBDs (VT 5) from carrier *Yorktown* (CV-5) bomb Japanese submarine *I-21* in the Coral Sea. *I-21* reports being attacked by planes, but significantly fails to specify whether or not her attackers are land- or carrier-based; TF 17's approach to the Solomons thus remains undetected.

River gunboat *Mindanao* (PR-8) is scuttled off South Harbor, Corregidor.

Submarine *Drum* (SS-228) torpedoes and sinks Japanese seaplane carrier *Mizuho* off south coast of Honshu, 34°26'N, 138°14'E.

Submarine *Trout* (SS-202) torpedoes and sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Uzan Maru* off southeast coast of Honshu, 33°26'N, 135°52'E.

Atlantic

Yacht *Cythera* (PY-26) is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-402* off the coast of North Carolina; 66 men perish with the ship. *U-402* rescues the two survivors and transports them back to Germany as POWs.

Submarine chaser *PC-490* rescues all 52 survivors of U.S. tanker *Mobiloil*, sunk on 29 April by German submarine *U-108*.

- **May 3, Sun.**

Pacific

Submarine *Spearfish* (SS-190) evacuates naval and military officers, including nurses, from Corregidor. Those evacuees will be the last to leave "The Rock" by this method.

Japanese land on northern Mindanao.

Light cruiser *Nashville* (CL-43) departs Pearl Harbor under orders to fuel at Midway and then proceed on a foray into the Japanese fishing grounds off the Kamchatka Peninsula. Submarines *S-34* (SS-139) and *S-35* (SS-140) are to operate in support.

- **May 4, Mon.**

General

Commander in Chief U.S. Fleet (Admiral Ernest J. King) directs Coast Guard Auxiliary to organize civilian small craft as coastal pickets.

Pacific

Battle of the Coral Sea opens as TF 17 (Rear Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher) attacks Japanese Tulagi Invasion Force (Rear Admiral Shima Kiyohide) at Tulagi, Solomons, where elements of the Japanese 3d Kure Special Landing Force have gone ashore (as well as on neighboring Gavutu) to establish defenses. SBDs and TBDs (VB 5, VS 5, VT 5), supported by F4Fs (VF 42) from carrier *Yorktown* (CV-5) sink destroyer *Kikuzuki*, minesweeper *Tama Maru* and auxiliary minesweepers *Wa 1* and *Wa 2* and damage destroyer *Yuzuki*, minelayer *Okinoshima*, transport *Azumasan Maru*, and cargo ship *Kozui Maru*. Lieutenant John J. Powers of VB 5 participates all three strikes, receiving credit for one direct hit, two close-misses, and a persistent low-level strafing attack (see 7 and 8 May). Destroyer *Hammann* (DD-412) rescues two downed F4F pilots (VF 42) from Guadalcanal; destroyer *Perkins* (DD-377), however, sent to retrieve downed two-man TBD crew (VT 5) south of the island, does not locate the

missing men. The crew, though, reaches Guadalcanal and ultimately sails to the New Hebrides in a schooner with a Chinese crew.

Japanese transports sail from Rabaul, bound for Port Moresby.

Minesweeper *Tanager* (AM-5) is sunk by Japanese shore battery, Corregidor.

Submarine *Greenling* (SS-213) sinks Japanese gunboat *Kinjosan Maru* near Truk, Carolines, 08°44'N, 150°56'E.

Submarine *Trout* (SS-202) sinks Japanese gunboat *Kongosan Maru* off southeast coast of Honshu, Japan, 33°32'N, 136°05'E.

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Eastern Sword* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-162* approximately 12 miles off Georgetown, British Guiana, 07°10'N, 57°58'W (see 6 May).

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Norlindo* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-507* approximately 200 miles northeast of Havana, Cuba, 24°57'N, 84°00'W, and sinks, taking five crewmen with her (see 6 May). Eight hours later, *U-507* torpedoes and shells tanker *Munger T. Ball* at 25°17'N, 83°57'W; flames, fed by the ship's cargo of 65,000 barrels of gasoline, trap many crewmen. Only four sailors of the 34-man crew survive the inferno to be rescued by Norwegian motor vessel *Katy* later the same day. Before the day is over, *U-507* attacks a third tanker, the unarmed *Joseph M. Cudahy*, and torpedoes her approximately 74 miles northwest of the Dry Tortugas, 25°57'N, 83°57'W. Of the ship's 37-man complement, 27 perish in the attack (see 5 and 7 May).

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Delisle* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-564* 15 miles off Jupiter Inlet, Florida, 27°02'N, 80°03'W, and abandoned by the 34 survivors (30 crewmen and four workaways) of the 36 men that had been on board at the time of the attack. They row to shore, but return to the ship the following day to rig the ship for tow. Subsequently repaired, *Delisle* is returned to service.

Caribbean

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Tuscaloosa City* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-125* at 18°25'N, 81°35'W; the latter's officers, after questioning the survivors, give them directions to the nearest land and wish them well. U.S. steamship *Falcon* rescues all hands (34 souls all told) and transports them to Cartagena, Colombia.

- **May 5, Tue.**

Pacific

Japanese troops (61st Infantry Regiment, and supporting units) land on Corregidor, initially opposed by the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines. Submarine rescue vessel *Pigeon* (ASR-6) is bombed and sunk, 14°23'N, 120°36'E; tug *Genesee* (AT-55) and harbor tug *Vaga* (YT-116) are scuttled off Corregidor, 14°25'N, 120°30'E.

Japanese Imperial General Staff orders the Combined Fleet to assist in Army operations against Midway and the Aleutian Islands, Alaska.

U.S. freighter *John Adams* is torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine *I-21* 85 miles from Amadee lighthouse, Nouméa, New Caledonia, 23°11'S, 165°08'E; five of the 11-man Armed Guard drown when the ship is abandoned (see 9 May).

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Afoundria* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-108* about eight miles north of Le Male Light, Haiti, 20°00'N, 73°30'W. There are no casualties among the 38-man crew and eight passengers (see 6 May).

U.S. tanker *Java Arrow* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-333* at 27°30'N, 80°08'W, and abandoned, with the 39 survivors of the 41-man merchant complement, together with the six-man Armed Guard, taking to two lifeboats. Submarine chaser *PC-483* and a Coast Guard boat rescue the men. The ship is later reboarded and believed repairable. Subsequently, civilian tugs *Ontario* and *Bafshe* tow *Java Arrow* to Port Everglades, Florida.

Twelve survivors of U.S. freighter *Eastern Sword*, torpedoed by German submarine *U-162* the previous day, reach Georgetown, British Guiana (see 6 May).

Navy PBVs rescue the ten survivors of U.S. tanker *Joseph M. Cudahy*, attacked by German submarine *U-507* the day before (see 6 May).

- **May 6, Wed.**

Pacific

Corregidor and Manila Bay forts surrender to the Japanese. To deny the enemy use of river gunboats *Oahu* (PR-6) and *Luzon* (PR-7) and minesweeper *Quail* (AM-15), the ships are scuttled off Corregidor, 14°23'N, 120°35'E. Lost to Japanese occupation of the Philippines are district patrol craft *YP-97*; ash lighters *YA-52*, *YA-59*, and *YA-65*; miscellaneous district auxiliaries *YAG-2*, *YAG-3*, and *YAG-4*; open lighters *YC-178*, *YC-181*, *YC-537*, *YC-643*, *YC-644*, *YC-646*, *YC-647*, *YC-648*, *YC-649*, *YC-652*, *YC-653*, *YC-654*, *YC-669*, *YC-683*, *YC-714*, *YC-715*, and *YC-716*; floating derricks *YD-19*, *YD-47*, *YD-56*, and *YD-60*; covered lighters *YF-177*, *YF-178*, *YF-179*, *YF-180*, *YF-181*, *YF-212*, *YF-223*, *YF-224*, *YF-230*, and *YF-317*; ferry launches *San Felipe* (YFB-12), *Rosal* (YFB-682), *Camia* (YFB-683), *Dap Dap* (YFB-684), *Rivera* (YFB-685), *Magdalena* (YFB-687) and *Yacal* (YFB-688); dredge *YM-4*; fuel oil barge *YO-64*; pile driver *YP-D 22*; salvage pontoons *YSP-41*, *YSP-42*, *YSP-43*, *YSP-44*, *YSP-45*, *YSP-46*, *YSP-47*, *YSP-48*, *YSP-49*, and *YSP-50*; sludge removal barge *YSR-2*; harbor tugs *Banaag* (YT-104), *Iona* (YT-107), and *Mercedes* (YT-108); and water barge *YW-54*.

Fitted out with weapons, ammunition, provisions and clothing scrounged from abandoned Navy-commandeered tug *Ranger*, commanding officer, one other officer, and 16 men in 36-foot motor launch from *Quail* (AM-15) escape Manila Bay.

Submarine *Skipjack* (SS-184) sinks Japanese merchant passenger-cargo ship *Kanan Maru* about 26 miles northeast of Cam Ranh Bay, French Indochina, 12°33'N, 109°30'E.

Submarine *Triton* (SS-201), attacking Japanese convoy north-northeast of Keelung, Formosa, sinks cargo ship *Taiei Maru*, 28°42'N, 123°50'E, and transport/cargo ship *Taigen Maru*, 28°19'N, 123°28'E.

Naval Auxiliary Air Facility, Nawiliwili, Kauai, T.H., is established.

Atlantic

Auxiliary *Semmes* (AG-24) is damaged when she accidentally rams and sinks British (ex-French) armed trawler HMS *Senateur Duhamel* off Cape Lookout, North Carolina, 34°32.7'N, 75°35.6'W.

Net tender *Mulberry* (YN-22) rescues all 46 survivors from U.S. freighter *Afoundria*, sunk by German submarine *U-108* on 5 May.

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Halsey* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-333*, northeast of Jupiter Inlet, Florida, 27°14'N, 80°03'W, and abandoned by all hands (32 men). The ship explodes and breaks in two. Submarine chaser *PC-451* proceeds to the survivors' assistance but breaks off her efforts to conduct an unsuccessful pursuit of *U-333*. Local fishing boats ultimately tow *Halsey's* two lifeboats to the Gilbert Bar Lifeboat Station.

Fishing boat *Ocean Star* rescues last survivor of U.S. freighter *Eastern Sword*, torpedoed by German submarine *U-162* on 4 May.

Steamship *San Blas* rescues 23 survivors of U.S. tanker *Norlindo*, sunk by German submarine *U-507* on 4 May.

Yacht *Coral* (PY-15) shells and scuttles fire-gutted U.S. tanker *Joseph M. Cudahy*, attacked by German submarine *U-507* on 5 May, as a menace to navigation.

Gulf of Mexico

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Alcoa Puritan* is shelled by German submarine *U-507* at 28°40'N, 88°22'W, and abandoned by all hands (47-man crew and 7 passengers). After the U-boat delivers the coup de grace to *Alcoa Puritan* with a torpedo, the submarine comes to within 100 yards of the survivors. "Sorry we can't help you," an officer shouts through a megaphone, "hope you get ashore." Coast Guard cutter *Boutwell* (WPC-130) rescues *Alcoa Puritan's* survivors later the same day.

Caribbean

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Green Island* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-125*, while en route from New Orleans, Louisiana, to Aruba, N.W.I., 18°25'N, 81°30'W, and abandoned by her 22-man crew. Although her men reboard her later in the day, *Green Island* is beyond salvage and sinks (see 7 May).

- **May 7, Thu.**

Pacific

Battle of the Coral Sea resumes as Rear Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher's Allied force turns north to engage Japanese Carrier Strike Force (Vice Admiral Takagi Takeo).

Support Group (Rear Admiral John G. Crace, RN) detached to intercept Port Moresby Invasion Force (Rear Admiral Abe Koso) is attacked by Japanese land attack planes carrying torpedoes (*4th Kokutai*) or bombs (*Genzan Kokutai*); destroyer *Farragut* (DD-348) is damaged by friendly fire while engaged in repelling air attack. Later, mistaken for Japanese Port Moresby Invasion Force, Crace's ships are bombed by USAAF B-26s that straddle Australian heavy

cruiser HMAS *Australia* (flagship) and near-miss heavy cruiser *Chicago* (CA-29) and destroyer *Perkins* (DD-377).

SBDs and TBDs (VB 2, VB 5, VS 2, VS 5, VT 2, VT 5) from *Yorktown* (CV-5) and *Lexington* (CV-2) attack Japanese Close Support Force (Rear Admiral Goto Aritomo) and sink small carrier *Shoho* in Coral Sea, off Misima Island, 10°29'S, 152°55'E. During the action off Misima, Lieutenant John J. Powers (VB 5) and Lieutenant (j.g.) William E. Hall, USNR (VS 2) exhibit skill and determination in pressing home their attacks (see 8 May). That night, Lieutenant Powers (VB 5's gunnery officer) lectures his squadron on point of aim and diving technique. He advocates a low-level release point to ensure accuracy, a philosophy he had demonstrated in the attack on *Shoho* (see 8 May).

Mistaken at the outset for a carrier and a cruiser, oiler *Neosho* (AO-23) and destroyer *Sims* (DD-409) are attacked by Japanese planes, although the enemy recognizes the mistake in time to avoid expending torpedoes; *Neosho* is damaged by bombs and crashing dive bomber, 15°35'S, 155°36'E, and *Sims* is sunk, 15°10'S, 158°05'E. On board the damaged oiler, Chief Watertender Oscar V. Peterson, although badly wounded, risks his life by closing bulkhead stop valves, receiving severe burns that result in his death. For his extraordinary heroism and distinguished gallantry at the cost of his life, Peterson is awarded the Medal of Honor, posthumously.

Japanese attempt to find U.S. force in waning daylight runs afoul of bad weather.

Japanese occupy Hollandia, New Guinea.

Indian Ocean

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I-30* reconnoiters Aden.

Atlantic

Coast Guard cutter *Calypso* (WPC-104) rescues one boatload of survivors from sunken U.S. freighter *Pipestone County*, sunk by German submarine *U-576* on 21 April (see 8 May).

Caribbean

British merchantman *Fort Qu'Appelle* rescues all 22 survivors of U.S. freighter *Green Island*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-125* the previous day.

- **May 8, Fri.**

Pacific

Battle of the Coral Sea concludes as carrier *Lexington* (CV-2) SBD (VS 2) sights Japanese Carrier Strike Force (Vice Admiral Takagi Takeo) formed around carriers *Shokaku* and *Zuikaku*. As VB 5 pilots leave the ready room on board *Yorktown* (CV-5), Lieutenant John J. Powers exhorts his shipmates to "Remember the folks back home are counting on us. I am going to get a hit if I have to lay it [his bomb] on their flight deck." SBDs from *Lexington* and *Yorktown* (CV-5) damage *Shokaku* and force her retirement; Lieutenant Powers scores a direct hit on *Shokaku*, pressing home his attack to a perilously low altitude of 200 feet; he is last seen attempting, unsuccessfully, to recover from his dive. For his heroism on this day (as well as on the previous day and on 4 May), Powers is awarded the Medal of Honor, posthumously.

Zuikaku's air group suffers heavy losses. Damage to *Shokaku*, as well as to *Zuikaku's* air group, prevents the use of those two carriers for several months, thus making them unavailable for immediate operations.

At the same time, Japanese carrier bombers and attack planes attack TF 17. The comparatively few fighters on hand compels the continuation of the use of SBDs as anti-torpedo plane patrol. Lieutenant William E. Hall, USNR (VS 2), whose performance of duty the previous day had elicited favorable notice, distinguishes himself in attacking the Japanese planes pressing home their assault on carrier *Lexington*. Although Hall is badly wounded, he brings his damaged SBD back to his ship having participated in the destruction of at least three carrier attack planes, bravery and skill rewarded with the Medal of Honor. Japanese planes, however, manage to get through and damage carriers *Lexington* (bombs and torpedoes) and *Yorktown* (bombs) (14°35'S, 155°15'E). On board *Yorktown*, Lieutenant Milton E. Ricketts, in charge of an engineering repair party, is mortally wounded when a bomb passes through and explodes just beneath his compartment, killing, stunning or wounding all of his men. Ricketts, despite his wounds, opens the valve on a nearby fire plug, partially leads out the hose, and directs water into the burning compartment before he drops dead. For his extraordinary heroism, he is awarded the Medal of Honor (posthumously). *Lexington* is further damaged when gasoline vapors are ignited, triggering massive explosions that lead to her abandonment. She is then scuttled by destroyer *Phelps* (DD-360), 15°12'S, 155°27'E.

The Battle of the Coral Sea is the first engagement in modern naval history in which opposing warships do not exchange a shot; all damage is inflicted by carrier aircraft. In halting the Japanese push southward and blunting the seaborne thrust toward Port Moresby, Coral Sea is a strategic U.S. victory.

Light cruiser *Nashville* (CL-43) is damaged when she runs aground at Midway Island; she must return to Pearl Harbor for repairs. Her raiding cruise to Kamchatka is postponed.

Submarine *Grenadier* (SS-210) attacks Japanese convoy about 120 miles southwest of Kyushu and torpedoes and sinks army transport *Taiyo Maru*, 30°40'N, 127°54'E; *Grenadier* survives persistent attacks by enemy antisubmarine forces the following day. *Taiyo Maru* carries to their deaths many technical experts bound for the East Indies to work on resuming oil production.

Submarine *Porpoise* (SS-172) is damaged by depth charges off Ceram, Moluccas, 03°50'N, 129°57'E, but remains on patrol.

Submarine *Skipjack* (SS-184) attacks Japanese convoy about 125 miles east of Cam Ranh Bay, French Indochina, and torpedoes and sinks army cargo ship *Bujun Maru*, 12°18'N, 111°13'E.

Gulf of Aden

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I-30* reconnoiters Djibouti.

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Ohioan* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-564* four and a half miles off the coast of Florida, 26°31'N, 79°58'W, and sinks so quickly

that no lifeboats can be launched. Coast Guard craft rescue the 22 survivors from the 37-man crew.

U.S. freighter *Greylock* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-588* off Halifax, Nova Scotia, 44°14'N, 63°33'W; there are, however, no casualties among the 41-man merchant crew or the 11-man Armed Guard and the ship reaches Halifax unaided.

Fishing boats *Irene* and *May* rescue last boatload of survivors from U.S. freighter *Pipestone County*, sunk by German submarine *U-576* on 21 April. All hands (36-man merchant complement and 9-man Armed Guard) have come through the ordeal unhurt.

- **May 9, Sat.**

Mediterranean

Operation BOWERY: in the second attempt to bolster fighter strength on besieged Malta, carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) launches 47 RAF Spitfires; British carrier HMS *Eagle* accompanies *Wasp* and launches 17 additional Spitfires. The success of the American carrier's second ferry mission prompts Prime Minister Churchill to observe: "Who said a *Wasp* couldn't sting twice?" Unlike the first ferry operation, the Spitfires are speedily serviced and readied for action, and take a heavy toll of Axis bombers on this day and the next. "Daylight raiding," Malta's war diary notes laconically, "was brought to an abrupt end."

Atlantic

Coast Guard cutter *Icarus* (WPC-110) sinks German submarine *U-352* off Cape Lookout, North Carolina, 34°12'N, 76°35'W.

- **May 10, Sun.**

Atlantic

Carrier *Ranger* (CV-4) in TF 36 launches 68 USAAF P-40 fighters off Accra, Gold Coast of Africa. She had transported them from Naval Air Station Quonset Point, Rhode Island.

Gulf of Mexico

U.S. motor tanker *Aurora* is torpedoed and shelled by German submarine *U-506* approximately 40 miles off Southwest Pass, Louisiana, 28°35'N, 90°00'W, and abandoned. Coastal yacht *Onyx* (PYc-5) and district patrol craft *YP-157* rescue the 38 merchant seamen (one of whom dies later of wounds) and the 12-man Armed Guard. Coast Guard tug *Tuckahoe* (WYT-89) arrives on the scene to tow the damaged ship, and upon her arrival provides a fire and rescue party with hoses and extinguishers. *Onyx* and *YP-157* convoy *Tuckahoe* and *Aurora* toward Southwest Pass (see 11 May).

Pacific

Submarine *Silversides* (SS-236) engages Japanese guardboat *No.5 Ebisu Maru* in a surface gunnery action 540 miles north of Marcus Island, 33°14'N, 150°58'E, and sets her afire. As *Silversides* closes in to finish off her quarry, however, machine gun fire from *No.5 Ebisu Maru* (which reaches port in a heavily damaged condition) kills one submariner.

Survivors (39-man crew and six of the 11-man Armed Guard) of U.S. freighter *John Adams*, torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine *I-21* on 5 May, are

rescued. One boat with survivors is recovered at sea; two boats reach Nouméa, New Caledonia.

- **May 11, Mon.**

Pacific

In the wake of the Battle of the Coral Sea, oiler *Neosho* (AO-23), damaged and adrift since 7 May and deemed beyond salvage, is scuttled by torpedoes and gunfire of destroyer *Henley* (DD-391), which rescues survivors from *Neosho* and *Sims* (DD-409). Among those men is the injured Chief Watertender Oscar V. Peterson, who dies of his wounds.

Submarine *S-42* (SS-153) torpedoes Japanese minelayer *Okinoshima* west of Buka Island, Solomons, 05°06'S, 153°48'E (see 12 May).

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Oridono Maru* is sunk by Japanese mine near Surabaya, Java, 07°00'S, 112°40'E.

Gulf of Mexico

U.S. motor tanker *Aurora*, torpedoed and shelled by German submarine *U-506* the previous day, is brought to Southwest Pass, Louisiana, under tow of Coast Guard tug *Tuckahoe* (WYT-89). Civilian tug *Robert W. Wilmot* aids *Tuckahoe* but *Aurora* drifts onto a shoal at the entrance of the Pass. Subsequently, however, *Aurora* is salvaged and returns to service as *Jamestown*.

- **May 12, Tue.**

Pacific

Submarine *S-44* (SS-155) torpedoes and sinks Japanese repair ship *Shoei Maru* 15 miles southwest of Cape St. George, 05°06'S, 152°30'E, and survives counterattacks by her victim's escort. *Shoei Maru* had been en route to try and salvage the damaged minelayer *Okinoshima*. Attempt to save *Okinoshima* (damaged the previous day by submarine *S-42*), by transport *Kinryu Maru* and destroyer *Mochizuki*, fails, and the doomed minelayer sinks.

Gulf of Mexico

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Virginia* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-507* as the former lies-to approximately one and a half miles off Southwest Pass, Louisiana, 28°53'N, 89°29'W, awaiting the arrival of a pilot. The explosion of the second and third torpedoes ignites the tanker's cargo (150,000 barrels of gasoline), and the rapid spread of the fire prevents the crew from launching boats or rafts. Of *Virginia's* 41-man crew, 27 perish in the inferno. Motor torpedo boat *PT-157* rescues the 14 survivors.

Atlantic

U.S. tanker *Esso Houston* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-162* approximately 150 miles east of Barbados, 12°12'N, 57°24'W, and abandoned. After the U-boat has administered the coup de grace to the tanker, she surfaces nearby and her commanding officer offers assistance, helpfully informing the ship's master that one of the lifeboats is sinking. Survivors (38-man civilian complement and 4-man Armed Guard) congregate in two lifeboats (see 14 and 17 May).

- **May 13, Wed.**

General

Bureau of Navigation is renamed Bureau of Naval Personnel.

Pacific

Submarine *Drum* (SS-228) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Shonan Maru* northeast of Mikimoto, Honshu, 34°00'N, 139°00'E.

RAAF Hudsons bomb Japanese shipping off Ambon, N.E.I., sinking auxiliary *Taifoku Maru* and damaging gunboat *Taiko Maru*.

Japanese merchant cargo vessel *Nagasaki Maru* is sunk by Japanese mine off Nagasaki, Japan.

Atlantic

French agree to immobilize aircraft carrier *Béarn*, light cruiser *Emile Bertin*, and training cruiser *Jeanne D'Arc* at Martinique, French West Indies.

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Norlantic* is shelled by German submarine *U-69* while en route to Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela, from Pensacola, Florida, 12°13'N, 66°30'W; *U-69* continues to shell the freighter as the latter's crew abandon ship. *U-69* then torpedoes *Norlantic* and sinks her. Six of the freighter's 29-man crew perish in the attack (two below in the engine room and four trying to launch boats under fire); one sailor will die of wounds (see 16 and 24 May, and 19 June)

Gulf of Mexico

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Gulfprince* is attacked by German submarine *U-506* approximately six miles south of the Ship Shoals (Louisiana) Sea Bouy, 28°32'N, 91°00'W, but *Gulfprince* is skillfully handled and evades the first two torpedoes. The second pair only strike a glancing blow and *Gulfprince* escapes to reach New Orleans without further incident. Later, *U-506* torpedoes and sinks unarmed tanker *Gulfpenn* at 28°29'N, 89°12'W; 12 men die in the initial explosion or perish with the ship. Of the 26 survivors, one dies of his injuries. Coast Guard plane directs Honduran freighter *Telde* toward the position of the survivors, and the merchantman rescues them. Still later, *U-506* torpedoes U.S. freighter *David McKelvy* approximately 35 miles south of the mouth of the Mississippi, 28°30'N, 89°55'W; explosion ignites the ship's cargo of 81,000 barrels of crude oil and forces the crew to abandon ship. *U-506* retires without expending further torpedoes, apparently thinking the freighter doomed. Coast Guard cutter *Boutwell* (WPC-130) rescues survivors (see 14 and 29 May).

- **May 14, Thu.**

Atlantic

German submarine *U-213* mines the waters off St. John's, Newfoundland.

Norwegian freighter *Havprins* rescues 18 survivors of U.S. tanker *Esso Houston*, sunk by German submarine *U-162* on 12 May; *Havprins* will transfer these men to Latvian freighter *Everagra* for transportation to St. Thomas, Virgin Islands (see 17 May).

Gulf of Mexico

Norwegian merchantman *Norsol* rescues two survivors from U.S. freighter *David McKelvy*, sunk the day before by German submarine *U-506*.

- **May 15, Fri.**

Pacific

Submarine *Tuna* (SS-203) sinks Japanese transport *Toyoharu Maru* 65 miles off Sohuksando, Korea, 33°34'N, 125°09'E.

Arctic

German planes bomb Allied shipping at Murmansk; U.S. freighter *Yaka* suffers a direct hit that causes extensive damage but no casualties to the 38-man merchant crew or the 11-man Armed Guard. The ship is beached to prevent loss.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Nicarao* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-751* north of San Salvador, Bahamas, 25°20'N, 74°19'W; eight of the 35-man merchant crew perish as they abandon ship. The four-man Armed Guard survives intact (see 16 May).

- **May 16, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) torpedoes Japanese fleet tanker *Goyo Maru* west of Royalist Bank, Truk, 07°00'N, 152°00'E. *Tautog's* first "fish" circles, forcing her to go deep at once.

Atlantic

Last three survivors from unarmed U.S. tanker *T.C. McCobb*, sunk by Italian submarine *Pietro Calvi* on 31 March, land at Surinam. Two of the three men, however, later die of exposure.

Destroyer *Tarbell* (DD-142) rescues 23 survivors from U.S. freighter *Lammont Du Pont*, sunk by German submarine *U-125* on 23 April. There had been originally 31 men on the raft spotted by the destroyer, but eight had perished between 23 April and 16 May.

U.S. tanker *Esso Augusta* rescues the 27 merchant seaman and four Armed Guard sailors who have survived the loss of freighter *Nicarao*, sunk by German submarine *U-751* the previous day.

Gulf of Mexico

U.S. tanker *Sun*, en route to Beaumont, Texas, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-506* at 28°41'N, 90°19'W, but escapes the U-boat to reach New Orleans, Louisiana, under her own power without further incident. *Sun* suffers no casualties among the 37-man merchant crew and 5-man Armed Guard. Later the same day, *U-506* torpedoes and shells U.S. tanker *William C. McTarnahan* approximately 35 miles east of Ship Shoal Light, Louisiana, 28°52'N, 90°20'W, but retires without finishing off her quarry; 18 of the 38-man merchant crew perish in the attack. The 20 merchant seamen and all seven Armed Guard sailors survive to be rescued by shrimp boats *Defender*, *Pioneer* and *Viscari* (as well as a fourth unnamed craft). Coast Guard tug *Tuckahoe* (WYT-89), assisted by civilian tug *Baranca* tows the damaged tanker to Southwest Pass; she will subsequently return to service. Still later, *U-506* torpedoes and sinks U.S. tanker *Gulfoil* approximately 75 miles southwest of the mouth of the Mississippi, 28°08'N, 89°46'W; the tanker sinks so rapidly that the crew have no time to launch boats. Of the 36-man merchant complement and 4-man Armed Guard, only 19 merchant seamen survive to reach two life rafts that float free when the ship sinks (see 18 May).

Caribbean

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Ruth Lykes* is attacked by German submarine *U-103* at 16°37'N, 82°27'W; after the U-boat scores a hit with a dud torpedo she surfaces to shell her quarry, killing five sailors. *U-103* rescues one sailor and transfers

him into a lifeboat; after which action Kapitanleutnant Werner Winter, the submarine's commanding officer, apologizes: "You can thank Mr. Roosevelt for this. I am sorry." The U-boat also gives the Americans bandages and cigarettes before departing (see 17 May).

Dutch schooners *India* and *Mississippi* sight lifeboats of U.S. freighter *Norlantic*, sunk by German submarine *U-69* on 13 May. The latter tows the boats into Bonaire the following day (see 24 May).

- **May 17, Sun.**

Pacific

Submarine *Grampus* (SS-207) is damaged by gunfire of Japanese patrol craft off Truk, 08°02'N, 151°03'E.

Submarine *Silversides* (SS-236) damages Japanese transport *Tottori Maru* and merchant cargo ship *Thames Maru* off Shionomisaki, southern Honshu, 33°28'N, 135°33'E.

Submarine *Skipjack* (SS-184) sinks Japanese army transport *Taizan Maru* near the mouth of the Gulf of Siam, 06°22'N, 108°36'E.

Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) torpedoes and sinks Japanese submarine *I-28* north of Rabaul, 06°30'N, 152°00'E.

Submarine *Triton* (SS-201) torpedoes and sinks Japanese submarine *I-64* southeast of Kyushu, Japan, 29°25'N, 134°06'E.

Atlantic

Destroyer *Hambleton* (DD-455) is damaged in collision with destroyer *Ellyson* (DD-454) while in TF 36, en route to the United States from the Gold Coast of Africa.

U.S. freighter *Challenger*, en route to Trinidad for voyage repairs, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-155* at 12°11'N, 61°18'W; five merchant seamen, two Armed Guard sailors, and one passenger perish. Yacht *Turquoise* (PY-19) rescues the 36 merchant seamen, nine Armed Guard sailors, and 11 passengers who survive the loss of the ship, and transports them to Trinidad.

Unarmed U.S. fishing trawler *Foam* is shelled by German submarine *U-432* approximately 85 miles south of Halifax, Nova Scotia, 43°20'N, 63°08'W; and abandoned by her 21-man crew (one of whom dies of wounds) (see 18 and 19 May).

Twenty three survivors of U.S. tanker *Esso Houston*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-162* on 12 May 1942 reach St. Vincent, British Windward Islands. One Armed Guard sailor perishes of wounds suffered in the attack five days previous; he is the only casualty.

Caribbean

Norwegian motor vessel *Somerville* rescues 27 survivors (one of whom dies of his wounds after being picked up) from U.S. freighter *Ruth Lykes*, sunk by German submarine *U-103* the previous day, and transports them to Key West, Florida.

- **May 18, Mon.**

General

Office of Naval Inspector General (Rear Admiral Charles P. Snyder) is established.

Arctic

U.S. freighter *Deer Lodge*, anchored in Kola Inlet, is bombed by German planes, and damaged by near-misses. There are no casualties among the 34-man merchant complement or among the 11-man Armed Guard sailors, and the ship is moved to another anchorage.

Atlantic

Brazilian steamship *Commandante Lyra* is torpedoed by Italian submarine *Barbarigo* at 02°59'S, 34°10'W; light cruisers *Milwaukee* (CL-5) and *Cincinnati* (CL-4) rescue survivors. Small seaplane tender *Thrush* (AVP-3) tows the damaged ship to Fortaleza, Brazil, while PBYs (VP 83) provide cover.

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Quaker City* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-156* approximately 300 miles east of Barbados, 15°47'N, 53°12'W; ten men perish (one man will subsequently die of wounds). The 30 survivors take to four lifeboats. *U-156* surfaces and questions the survivors as to the name of the ship and her cargo and destination; the Germans then provide the Americans with directions to Barbados (see 22, 24 and 26 May).

British steamship *Hororata* rescues raft with the last survivor from U.S. freighter *Alcoa Guide*, sunk by German submarine *U-123* on 16 April. A total of six have perished from *Alcoa Guide's* 34-man complement.

Rescue craft (not specified) recovers last survivor from torpedoed U.S. freighter *Steel Maker*, sunk by German submarine *U-136* on 19 April. This man, the radio operator, had pooled the supplies from several rafts in his vicinity after the ship sank and "lived comfortably" until rescued.

Lifeboat with 17 survivors of unarmed U.S. fishing trawler *Foam*, attacked by German submarine *U-432* the previous day, reaches Sambro Light Ship, whence they are transported to Halifax by a Canadian patrol craft (see 19 May).

Caribbean

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Mercury Sun* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-125* at 20°02'N, 84°25'W, and abandoned; six merchant seamen perish in the attack (see 19 May).

Unarmed U.S. freighter *William J. Salman* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-125* at 20°08'N, 83°47'W, as the American ship proceeds to Antigua, B.W.I.; six men perish (see 19 May).

Gulf of Mexico

U.S. tanker *Benjamin Brewster* rescues 19 survivors from U.S. tanker *Gulfoil*, sunk by *U-506* on 16 May, and transports them to Galveston, Texas.

- **May 19, Tue.**

Pacific

Light cruiser *Nashville* (CL-43) sails independently from Midway, bound for the western Aleutians.

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I-21* reconnoiters Suva Bay, Fiji.

Indian Ocean

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I-30* reconnoiters Zanzibar and Dar-es-Salaam.

Atlantic

Armed Guard officer on board U.S. freighter *Ironclad*, at Hvalfjordur, Iceland, reports disturbance among the crew, occasioned by some of the merchant seamen breaking into a quantity of liquor consigned to Admiral William H. Standley, USN (Ret.), U.S. Ambassador to the USSR. Battleship *Washington* (BB-56) provides a guard of marines from her detachment to bring the rowdies under control. Consequently, *Ironclad* is withdrawn from the list of ships to comprise convoy PQ 16 so that the incident can be investigated.

Last three survivors of unarmed U.S. fishing trawler *Foam*, attacked by German submarine *U-432* on 17 May, are rescued by Canadian corvette HMCS *Halifax*.

U.S. steamship *Howard* rescues the 29 survivors of U.S. tanker *Mercury Sun*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-125* the previous day; she transfers one to a Coast Guard boat at the Tampa Sea Buoy for medical attention and transports the rest to Mobile, Alabama.

Gulf of Mexico

U.S. freighter *Heredia* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-506* two miles south of the Ship Shoal Buoy, Louisiana, 27°32'N, 91°00'W; the rapidity with which the ship sinks gives the crew no time to launch boats. Of the 62 men on board (48-man merchant crew, six-man Armed Guard and eight passengers), 36 (30 crewmen, five Armed Guard sailors and one passenger) perish. Shrimp boats *Papa Joe*, *Conquest*, *J. Edwin Treacle*, and *Shellwater* rescue 23 survivors; a seaplane rescues three.

U.S. freighter *Ogontz* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-103* at 23°30'N, 86°37'W; 17 merchant seamen and two Armed Guard sailors perish in the attack, the majority of the casualties caused when a mast falls across a lifeboat when the ship is being abandoned. *U-103* questions two survivors on board before returning them to their shipmates. The Germans provide medical assistance and cigarettes before leaving (see 20 May).

Caribbean

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Isabela* is torpedoed, shelled and sunk by German submarine *U-751* 35 miles south of Navassa Island light, 17°50'N, 75°00'W; three crewmen perish. Survivors subsequently reach Cape Briton, Haiti, in two lifeboats.

Latvian freighter *Kegums* rescues the 22 survivors of U.S. freighter *William J. Salman*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-125* the previous day. She transports them to Key West, Florida.

- **May 20, Wed.**

Pacific

Air Force, South Pacific Area (Rear Admiral John S. McCain) is established.

Atlantic

District patrol craft *YP-387* is sunk in collision off the coast of Delaware, 39°00'N, 75°00'W.

Gulf of Mexico

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Halo* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-506* approximately 50 miles from Southwest Pass, 28°42'N, 90°08'W; 23 survivors from a merchant complement of 42 men initially survive the loss of the ship (see 25 and 27 May).

U.S. freighter *George Calvert* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-752* near the Yucatan Channel, 22°55'N, 84°26'W; three Armed Guard sailors perish in the attack. Fifty-one merchant seamen and seven surviving Armed Guard sailors abandon ship in three boats, in which they reach the coast of Cuba, going ashore the following day.

U.S. tanker *Esso Dover* rescues 20 merchant sailors and two Armed Guard sailors, survivors of freighter *Ogontz*, sunk by German submarine *U-103* the previous day.

Caribbean

U.S. freighter *Clare* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-103* approximately 40 miles off the south coast of Cuba, 21°35'N, 84°43'W; the 33-man merchant complement and 7-man Armed Guard (all hands) survive, abandoning ship in one boat and three rafts. Later the same day, *U-103* torpedoed and sinks U.S. freighter *Elizabeth* at 21°36'N, 84°48'W; six of the 35 merchant seamen perish, the remainder, along with the 7-man Armed Guard, reach the coast of Cuba the following day.

- **May 21, Thu.**

Pacific

North Pacific Force (Rear Admiral Robert A. Theobald) is established for operations in Alaskan sector.

Destroyer *Helm* (DD-388) rescues four survivors from *Neosho* (AO-23) that had abandoned ship when the oiler was damaged on 7 May.

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Plow City*, en route from Trinidad to New York, mistakes lifeboat from British motorship *Peisander* (sunk by German submarine *U-653* on 17 May) and flees, her smoke attracting the attention of *U-588*, which torpedoed and sinks *Plow City* at 39°08'N, 69°57'W. One crewman dies in the attack. *U-588* briefly interrogates one crewman on board the submarine before returning him to his shipmates with rum and cigarettes; U-boat sailors also help the Americans right a capsized lifeboat (see 26 May).

- **May 22, Fri.**

General

Mexico declares war on Germany, Italy, and Japan.

Caribbean

Unarmed U.S. tanker *William Boyce Thompson*, en route to Curacao, N.W.I., is torpedoed by German submarine *U-558* at 16°26'N, 76°55'W; there are no casualties among the 37 merchant seamen and two Navy signalmen, and the ship reaches port under her own power.

Atlantic

Destroyer *Blakely* (DD-150), at 15°01'N, 57°38'W, rescues seven survivors from

U.S. freighter *Quaker City*, sunk by German submarine *U-156* on 18 May (see 24 and 26 May).

Admiral William D. Leahy, USN (Retired), boards Swedish passenger liner *Drottningholm* at Lisbon, Portugal, for passage home to the United States. He will arrive in New York on 1 June.

Pacific

Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) damages Japanese transport *Sanko Maru* southwest of Truk, 07°00'N, 151°00'E.

Submarine *Silversides* (SS-236) damages Japanese transport *Asahisan Maru* at the mouth of Kii Suido, between Ichiyozaki and Shionomizaki, Honshu, 33°30'N, 135°27'E. Counterattack by Japanese aircraft (*Maizuru Kokutai*) is unsuccessful.

- **May 23, Sat.**

Pacific

District patrol craft *YP-277* is destroyed by fire after striking U.S. mine at French Frigate Shoals, T.H.

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I-29* reconnoiters Sydney, Australia.

Caribbean

U.S. tanker *Samuel Q. Brown* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-103* south of the Yucatan Channel, 20°15'N, 84°38'W; two merchant seamen die at the outset. After the U-boat surfaces and the Germans ask the identity of the ship and her cargo, the survivors (37 merchant seamen and the 16-man Armed Guard) gather in two lifeboats. Later that day, a Navy plane from the Panama Canal Zone rescues five wounded men (see 24 May and 25 May).

- **May 24, Sun.**

Pacific

Submarine *Pompano* (SS-181) sinks Japanese merchant fishing boat *Kotoku Maru*, 25°16'N, 122°41'E.

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I-21* reconnoiters Auckland, New Zealand.

Caribbean

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Beatrice* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-558* at 17°23'N, 76°58'W, but the torpedo fails to explode. *U-558* then surfaces to shell the ship, which is abandoned under fire with the loss of one man. A PBV arrives on the scene and drives off the submarine. Of the 30 survivors, 21 men in a lifeboat reach Pigeon Island, Jamaica; British patrol craft *Hauken* rescues the remaining nine sailors. *Beatrice* sinks the next morning.

Steamship *Marpesia* rescues two survivors on a raft from U.S. freighter *Norlantic*, sunk by German submarine *U-69* on 13 May.

Destroyer *Goff* (DD-247) rescues 48 survivors of U.S. tanker *Samuel Q. Brown*, torpedoed by German submarine *U-103* the previous day (see 25 May).

Atlantic

Fifteen survivors from U.S. freighter *Quaker City*, sunk by German submarine *U-156* on 18 May reach safety at Barbados (see 26 May).

- **May 25, Mon.**

Pacific

Light cruiser *St. Louis* (CL-49) arrives at Midway and disembarks Companies "C" and "D," 2d Marine Raider Battalion, and 37-millimeter gun battery of the 3d Defense Battalion.

Submarine *Drum* (SS-228) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kitakata Maru* east of Nojimizaki, Honshu, Japan, 34°00'N, 139°00'E.

Submarine *Permit* (SS-178) damages Japanese transport *Senko Maru*, 00°20'N, 118°20'N.

Submarine *Pompano* (SS-181) sinks Japanese merchant tanker *Tokyo Maru* about 70 miles west of Naha, Okinawa, 27°03'N, 127°03'E.

Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) sinks Japanese transport *Shoka Maru* about 385 miles southwest of Ulithi, Carolines, 04°07'N, 143°32'N.

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I-9* reconnoiters Kiska and Amchitka, Aleutians.

Atlantic

Destroyer *Blakely* (DD-150) is torpedoed by German submarine *U-156* off Martinique, French West Indies.

German planes attack convoy PQ 16 as it proceeds toward Murmansk, USSR, from Reykjavik, Iceland; U.S. freighter *Carlton* is damaged by near-misses. She leaves the convoy under tow of British trawler *HMS Northern Spray*. There are no casualties among *Carlton's* 35-man merchant crew or 11-man Armed Guard (see 26 May 1942)

Gulf of Mexico

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Alcoa Carrier* is torpedoed and shelled by German submarine *U-103* at 18°45'N, 79°50'W, and abandoned. *U-103* surfaces and her commanding officer asks the Americans for the name and speed of their ship, and if all of her men have been accounted for, before he provides them with cigarettes. *Alcoa Carrier* sinks early the following morning, after which time the U-boat departs (see 30 May).

Mexican freighter *Oaxaca* rescues three survivors from U.S. tanker *Halo*, sunk by German submarine *U-506* on 20 May; two of the men recovered, however, will die of their wounds (see 27 May).

Caribbean

Destroyer *Goff* (DD-247) scuttles the hulk of U.S. tanker *Samuel Q. Brown*, torpedoed by German submarine *U-103* on 24 May.

- **May 26, Tue.**

General

Anglo-American air conference opens in London to discuss allocation of aircraft; U.S. Navy representative is Rear Admiral John H. Towers, Chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics.

Pacific

Aircraft ferry *Kitty Hawk* (AKV-1) arrives at Midway with reinforcements for MAG 22, as well as the 3-inch antiaircraft group (3d Defense Battalion) and a light tank platoon earmarked for a mobile reserve.

Submarine *Salmon* (SS-182) sinks Japanese repair ship *Asahi* about 180 miles south-southeast of Cam Ranh Bay, French Indochina, 10°00'N, 110°00'E.

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I-9* reconnoiters Kiska.

Atlantic

Eight survivors from U.S. freighter *Quaker City*, sunk by German submarine *U-156* on 18 May reach safety on Dominica.

Coastal yacht *Sapphire* (PYc-2) rescues the 30 survivors of U.S. freighter *Plow City*, sunk by German submarine *U-588* on 21 May.

German planes attack Reykjavik, Iceland-bound U.S. freighter *Carlton* (detached from convoy PQ 16 for repairs), under tow of British trawler HMS *Northern Spray*, but cause no additional damage. As in the previous day's attack, there are no casualties.

Arctic

U.S. freighter *Syros*, in convoy PQ 16, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-703* approximately 200 miles southwest of Bear Island, 72°35'N, 05°30'E. Of the 39 souls on board (37 merchant seamen and two Navy signalmen), 27 civilians and one signalman survive, rescued by British minesweeper HMS *Hazard*.

Gulf of Mexico

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Carrabelle* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-106* at 26°18'N, 89°21'E. Reportedly, the submarine's commanding officer, Kapitänleutnant Herman Rasch, asks survivors if all men are clear of the ship. When told no, he laughs and orders a second torpedo launched that strikes the ship directly beneath a lifeboat as it is being lowered, killing 22 of the 24 men in it. U.S. freighter *Thompson Lykes* rescues the 18 survivors. Later the same day, *U-106* shells U.S. freighter *Atenas* at 25°50'N, 89°05'E, but accurate Armed Guard gunfire drives off the U-boat before she can cause much damage. There are no casualties on board *Atenas* among the 54-man crew, eight-man Armed Guard and ten passengers.

• **May 27, Wed.**

Pacific

Japanese forces begin heading for Midway. Chief among them is First Mobile Force, Carrier Strike Force (Vice Admiral Nagumo Chuichi), which departs home waters on this date.

Japanese submarine *I-19* prepares to launch her small reconnaissance seaplane off the northern side of Bogoslof Island, Aleutians, but sights what she identifies as a U.S. destroyer and submerges hurriedly, irreparably damaging the aircraft.

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I-25* reconnoiters Kodiak, Alaska.

Marines and Seabees occupy Wallis Island, South Pacific Ocean.

Atlantic

Destroyer tender *Prairie* (AD-15) and gunboat *Spry* (PG-64) are damaged by fire, Argentinia, Newfoundland.

Arctic

German planes attack convoy PQ 16. U.S. freighter *Alamar* is bombed and sunk approximately 100 miles southeast of Bear Island. British corvette HMS *Starwort*, tug HMS *St. Elstan* and submarine HMS *Trident* rescue all hands (36 merchant seamen and nine Armed Guard sailors); *Trident* torpedoes and scuttles the irreparably damaged freighter as a hazard to navigation. U.S. freighter *Mormacsul* is sunk by a direct hit and three near-misses; three of the ship's crew perish in the attack. The survivors (36 merchant seamen and the 9-man Armed Guard) abandon ship and are rescued by HMS *Starwort* and a British tug. U.S. freighter *Alcoa Banner* is damaged by near-misses 200 miles southwest of Bear Island; there are no casualties to the 44-man merchant complement or the two Armed Guard sailors. U.S. freighter *City of Joliet* is damaged by near-misses; her pumps fight a losing battle against intruding water but there are no casualties among the 37 merchant seamen or the 11-man Armed Guard (see 28 May 1942).

Gulf of Mexico

British tanker *Orina* rescues two survivors from U.S. tanker *Halo*, sunk by German submarine *U-506* on 20 May 1942.

Caribbean

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Alcoa Pilgrim*, en route to Mobile, Alabama, from Trinidad, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-502* at 16°28'N, 67°37'W. The rapidity with which the ship sinks prevents the crew from launching boats, and 31 men of the 40-man complement are lost with the ship (see 2 June).

• **May 28, Thu.**

Pacific

Japanese First Fleet, Main Body (Admiral Yamamoto Isoroku in battleship *Yamato*) allocated to the Midway operation sorties from home waters. The Second Fleet, Escort Force (Rear Admiral Tanaka Raizo), whose composition includes 15 transports, sails from Saipan; Second Fleet, Occupation Support force (Rear Admiral Kurita Takeo) sorties from Guam.

U.S. troops (500 men drawn from the garrison at Efate) arrive at Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides.

TF 16 (Rear Admiral Raymond A. Spruance), formed around carriers *Enterprise* (CV-6) and *Hornet* (CV-8), departs Pearl Harbor to take up position northeast of Midway.

Submarine *Salmon* (SS-182) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Ganges Maru* in the South China Sea about 250 miles south-southeast of Cam Ranh Bay, French Indochina, 09°00'N, 111°00'E.

Submarine *Seal* (SS-183) damages Japanese army cargo ship *Tatsufuku Maru* at western entrance to Balabac Strait, 07°27'N, 116°17'E.

North Russia

In the aftermath of German air attacks on convoy PQ 16, U.S. freighter *City of Joliet*, damaged by near-misses the previous day, is abandoned in Barents Sea,

73°41'N, 21°58'E. All hands (including the 11-man Armed Guard detachment) reach safety on board British tug HMS *St. Elstan* and Free French corvette *Roselys*.

Caribbean

U.S. tanker *New Jersey* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-103* about 90 miles southwest of Grand Cayman Island, 18°32'N, 82°28'W. There are no casualties among the 36 merchant seamen and five Armed Guard sailors, and all hands abandon ship in two lifeboats (see 29 May and 1 June).

- **May 29, Fri.**

Pacific

Seaplane tender (destroyer) *Thornton* (AVD-11) arrives at French Frigate Shoals, T.H., to relieve light minelayer *Preble* (DM-20) on patrol station there. Japanese submarine *I-123* arrives the same day to find the Americans already there.

Seaplane tender (destroyer) *Ballard* (AVD-10) arrives at Midway along with the eleven motor torpedo boats from Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron One (Lieutenant Clinton McKellar Jr.); the latter are assigned to local defense forces of Midway (Captain Cyril T. Simard).

PBYs (VP 71) and RAAF Catalinas bomb Japanese base at Tulagi, Solomons.

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I-21* reconnoiters Sydney, Australia (see 31 May).

Submarine *Swordfish* (SS-193) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Tatsufuku Maru* at the southwestern entrance to Balabac Strait, 07°33'N, 116°18'E.

Caribbean

Destroyer *Tattnall* (DD-125) rescues 26 survivors (including three Armed Guard sailors) of U.S. tanker *New Jersey*, sunk on 28 May 1942 by German submarine *U-103* (see 1 June 1942).

- **May 30, Sat.**

Pacific

TF 17 (Rear Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher), formed around carrier *Yorktown* (CV-5), departs Pearl Harbor to join TF 16 northeast of Midway.

Submarine *Pompano* (SS-181) sinks Japanese army transport *Atsuta Maru* in East China Sea east of Okinawa, 26°07'N, 129°06'E, and survives counterattack by her victim's escort.

Indian Ocean

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I-10* reconnoiters Diego Suarez.

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Alcoa Shipper*, en route to New York from Trinidad, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-404* at 37°49'N, 65°15'W; three men die in the initial explosion. The rapidity with which the ship sinks prevents the crew from launching boats, and four men are lost with the ship. *U-404* provides the 25 survivors with rum, cigarettes and (for one ill-clad sailor) a pair of dungarees (see 1 June).

Gulf of Mexico

Thirty-five survivors of U.S. freighter *Alcoa Carrier*, sunk by German submarine *U-103* on 25 May, are rescued by Cuban gunboat and Navy patrol plane.

- **May 31, Sun.**

Pacific

Japanese midget submarines from submarines *I-22*, *I-24*, and *I-27* penetrate the defenses of Sydney, Australia. Their torpedoes near-miss U.S. heavy cruiser *Chicago* (CA-29) but sink RAN accommodation ship *Kuttabul* and damage Dutch submarine *K IX* beyond economical repair. Three Japanese midget submarines are lost in the attack.

Submarine *Pollack* (SS-180) sinks Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *No.5 Shunsei Maru* off Murotosan, 31°38'N, 133°45'E.

Indian Ocean

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I-10* reconnoiters Diego Suarez.

Caribbean

Submarine *Grunion* (SS-216) rescues survivors of U.S. Army-chartered freighter *Jack*, sunk by German submarine *U-155* about 100 miles southwest of Port Salut, Haiti, 17°36'N, 74°42'W. Three of the 9-man Armed Guard are lost.

June

- **June 1, Mon.**

Indian Ocean

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I-10* reconnoiters Diego Suarez.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *West Notus* is shelled by German submarine *U-404* off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, 34°10'N, 68°20'W; four of the 35-man merchant complement are killed in the attack. The 36 survivors (31 merchant seamen and the five-man Armed Guard) are divided among two lifeboats (see 2, 3, and 4 June).

U.S. freighter *Illinois* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-172* at 24°00'N, 60°00'W; only six of the 38-man crew survives the loss of the ship (see 7 June).

Norwegian merchantman *Margrethe Bakke* rescues the 25 survivors from U.S. freighter *Alcoa Shipper*, sunk by German submarine *U-404* on 30 May.

Gulf of Mexico

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Hampton Roads* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-106* in the Yucatan Channel at 23°00'N, 85°42'W; five men perish. The 23 survivors are rescued by freighter *Alcoa Pathfinder*.

Caribbean

U.S. freighter *Knoxville City* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-158* south of the Yucatan Channel at 21°15'N, 83°50'W; two men perish. The survivors (35 merchant seamen, 14-man Armed Guard and four passengers) abandon ship into two lifeboats (see 3 June).

Destroyer *Biddle* (DD-151) rescues 15 survivors (including two Armed Guard sailors) of U.S. tanker *New Jersey*, sunk on 28 May by German submarine *U-103*.

- **June 2, Tue.**

Pacific

TF 17 (Rear Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher) and TF 16 (Rear Admiral Raymond A. Spruance) rendezvous about 350 miles northeast of Midway; Rear Admiral Fletcher is officer in tactical command of a force that consists of three carriers, seven heavy cruisers, one light cruiser, 16 destroyers, and two oilers. After fueling, the task force will detach the oilers and prepare for battle. As part of the pre-battle disposition, 25 fleet submarines (Rear Admiral Robert H. English) are deployed around Midway.

Indian Ocean

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kofuku Maru* is sunk by mine off Rangoon, Burma.

Atlantic

German submarine *U-404* sinks U.S. freighter *West Notus* (which she had shelled the day before) with explosive charge off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina (see 3 and 4 June).

U.S. freighter *Domino* is machine-gunned by unidentified submarine off Nuevitas, Cuba; the ship suffers no casualties.

Unarmed U.S. freighter *City of Alma* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-159* about 400 miles northeast of San Juan, Puerto Rico, 23°00'N, 62°30'W; district patrol craft *YP-67* rescues the 10 survivors from the 36-man merchant complement.

Caribbean

U.S. merchantman *Thomas Nelson* rescues nine survivors from U.S. freighter *Alcoa Pilgrim*, sunk by German submarine *U-502* on 27 May.

- **June 3, Wed.**

Pacific

In the preliminaries for the Battle of Midway, Midway-based aircraft locate and attack Japanese transports in the Second Fleet Escort Force about 600 miles west of Midway Island. USAAF B-17s inflict no damage. Four PBYS set out to attack the approaching Occupation Force. Japanese forces bearing down on Midway are under the personal direction of Admiral Yamamoto Isoroku, Commander in Chief Combined Fleet, who wears his flag in battleship *Yamato*.

As part of the overall Midway plan, Japanese Second Strike Force (Rear Admiral Kakuta Kikuji) bombs Dutch Harbor, Alaska; planes from carriers *Ryujo* and *Junyo* carry out the attack. In an event whose importance only becomes clear later, one Mitsubishi A6M2 Type 0 carrier fighter from *Ryujo's* air group, most likely damaged by anti-aircraft fire over Dutch Harbor, makes an emergency landing on Akutan Island. The pilot, however, is fooled by the flat surface upon which he is landing; it turns out to be a bog and the Zero flips over, killing the pilot (see 10 July).

Coastal minesweeper *Bunting* (AMc-7) is sunk in collision with submarine chaser *PC-569*, San Francisco Bay, California.

Atlantic

U.S. tanker *M.F. Elliott* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-502* off the Florida Keys, 11°58'N, 63°33'W; 13 of the 38-man civilian complement perish. Navy PBY keeps in contact with the survivors (25 merchant seamen and the 7-man Armed Guard) into the following day (see 4 June). *U-502* takes two survivors on board for interrogation before a Navy patrol plane compels the submarine to submerge in a hurry with the Americans still on board. The Germans release the U.S. sailors soon thereafter, providing them with a life raft and provisions (see 8 June).

Unarmed U.S. fishing boats *Ben* and *Josephine* and *Aeolus*, en route from Gloucester, Massachusetts to Sea Island, Nova Scotia, are abandoned and shelled and sunk by German submarine *U-432* at 43°07'N, 66°51'W (see 5 June).

Greek steamship *Constantinos H* rescues 18 survivors from U.S. freighter *West Notus*, attacked by German submarine *U-404* on 1 June 1942 (see 4 June).

Caribbean

Survivors of U.S. freighter *Knoxville City*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-158* on 1 June, reach La Calina, Cuba, aided by Cuban gunboat *Donativo*.

Arctic

U.S. freighter *Steel Worker* is mined at Kola Inlet, Murmansk; there are no casualties among the 36 merchant seamen or two Navy signalmen.

- **June 4, Thu.**

Pacific

Battle of Midway opens as PBYs attack Occupation Force northwest of Midway; one PBY (VP 24) torpedoes fleet tanker *Akebono Maru*.

Carrier bombers and attack planes, supported by fighters, from Japanese carriers *Akagi*, *Kaga*, *Soryu*, and *Hiryu* bomb Midway Island installations. Although defending USMC F2As and F4Fs (VMF 221) suffer disastrous losses, damage to facilities on Midway is comparatively slight. Motor torpedo boat *PT-25* is damaged by strafing, Midway lagoon.

Japanese carrier fighters and antiaircraft fire annihilates the USMC SBDs and SB2Us (VMSB 241), Navy TBFs (VT 8 detachment), and USAAF torpedo-carrying B-26s sent out to attack the Japanese carriers. USAAF B-17s likewise bomb the Japanese carrier force without success.

TBDs (VT 8, VT 6, VT 3) from American carrier striking force (Rear Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher, officer in tactical command) from *Hornet* (CV-8), *Enterprise* (CV-6), and *Yorktown* (CV-5) attack the enemy carriers. Although mauled by the defending combat air patrol (only VT 3 has fighter cover) and antiaircraft fire, they draw off the former and leave the skies open for SBDs from *Enterprise* and *Yorktown*. SBDs from *Enterprise* (VB 6, VS 6) bomb and sink carrier *Kaga* (30°20'N, 179°17'W) and bomb *Akagi* (Vice Admiral Nagumo's flagship); SBDs from *Yorktown* (VB 3) bomb and sink carrier *Soryu* (30°38'N, 179°13'W). Submarine *Nautilus* (SS-168) torpedoes carrier *Kaga* but her "fish" do not explode. The one carrier that escapes destruction that morning, *Hiryu*, launches dive bombers that bomb and temporarily disable *Yorktown*, forcing Rear Admiral Fletcher to transfer his flag to heavy cruiser *Astoria* (CA-

34) and turn over tactical command to Rear Admiral Raymond A. Spruance. Before SBDs from *Enterprise* (VS 6, joined by VB 3 which is unable to operate from the immobilized *Yorktown*) can inflict mortal damage upon *Hiryu*, though, the Japanese carrier launches torpedo planes that stop *Yorktown* a second time and force her abandonment. Ultimately, destruction of his carrier force compels Admiral Yamamoto to abandon Midway invasion plans, and the Japanese Fleet retires westward. Japanese destroyers rescue U.S. naval aviators: *Arashi* picks up a TBD pilot (VT 3); *Makigumo* picks up an SBD crew (VS 6). After interrogation, all three Americans are subsequently murdered. One TBD pilot (VT 8), however, escapes detection and recovery by the enemy. He is rescued subsequently by a PBY.

British submarine HMS *Trusty* sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Toyohashi Maru* in Strait of Malacca, 07°14'N, 98°06'E.

Atlantic

Swiss steamship *Saentis* rescues 18 survivors from U.S. freighter *West Notus*, attacked by German submarine *U-404* on 1 June.

Destroyer *Tarbell* (DD-142) rescues 30 survivors of U.S. tanker *M.F. Elliott*, sunk by German submarine *U-502* on 3 June (see 8 June).

Caribbean

U.S. freighter *Velma Lykes* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-158* south of the Yucatan Channel, 21°21'N, 86°36'W; the rapidity with which the ship sinks prevents lifeboats from being launched. Of the ship's 28-man merchant complement, 15 perish; the four-man Armed Guard survives intact (see 6 and 10 June).

- **June 5, Fri.**

Europe

U.S. declares war on Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania.

Pacific

Battle of Midway continues as TF 16 (Rear Admiral Raymond A. Spruance) pursues Japanese fleet, now without its central core of carriers, westward, while efforts proceed to try and salvage the crippled carrier *Yorktown* (CV-5). Motor torpedo boats from Midway fail to locate "burning Japanese carrier" located by Midway-based planes.

Japanese carrier *Akagi*, damaged on 4 June, is scuttled by destroyers *Nowaki*, *Arashi*, and *Hagikaze*, 30°30'N, 179°08'W; carrier *Hiryu*, likewise damaged on 4 June, is scuttled by destroyers *Kazegumo* and *Yugumo*, 31°38'N, 178°51'W. Heavy cruisers *Mogami* and *Mikuma* are damaged in collision while turning to avoid shadowing submarine *Tambor* (SS-198), while retiring from Midway (see 6 June).

Planes from Japanese carriers *Ryujo* and *Junyo* reprise their attack on installations at Dutch Harbor, Alaska.

Japanese Attu Occupation Force (Rear Admiral Omori Sentaro) occupies Attu, Aleutians, without opposition.

Caribbean

U.S. tanker *L.J. Drake* is sunk with all hands (35 merchant seamen and a six-

man Armed Guard) by German submarine *U-68* at 17°30'N, 68°20'W, one day's steaming from Aruba, N.W.I.

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Delfina* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-172* at 22°22'N, 67°08'W; four crewmen perish. Submarine chaser *PC-67* rescues 12 survivors from two rafts; the remainder (15 men in a lifeboat) reach the port of Montecristi, Dominican Republic.

Eight survivors from U.S. fishing boat *Ben* and *Josephine* and six from *Aeolus*, their craft sunk by German submarine *U-432* on 3 June, reach Mt. Desert Coast Guard Light Station.

Europe

Operation HARPOON, the resupply of Malta, commences as convoy WS 19Z (Force X) sails from the Clyde; two of the five freighters, U.S. motorship *Chant* and *Dutch Tanimbar*, have Navy Armed Guard crews on board (see 12 June).

- **June 6, Sat.**

Pacific

Battle of Midway concludes as planes from carriers *Enterprise* (CV-6) and *Hornet* (CV-8) attack retiring Japanese force. SBDs bomb and sink heavy cruiser *Mikuma* (30°00'N, 173°00'E); near-misses damage destroyers *Asashio* and *Arashio*. At Admiral Spruance's expressed orders (because of the destruction of three torpedo squadrons on 4 June), TBDs (VT 6) that accompany the strike do not attack because of the anti-aircraft fire from the Japanese ships. After recovering planes, TF 16 changes course to eastward to refuel and breaks contact with the enemy.

Meanwhile, Japanese submarine *I-168* interrupts salvage operations on *Yorktown* (CV-5), which is under tow of the tug (ex-minesweeper) *Vireo* (AT-144) and screened by destroyers, torpedoing *Yorktown* and torpedoing and sinking destroyer *Hammann* (DD-412) while she lies alongside the carrier (30°36'N, 176°34'W). Screening destroyers depth-charge *I-168*, but the Japanese boat, although damaged, escapes destruction.

The Battle of Midway, one of the most decisive battles in naval history, marks the turning point of the Pacific War. In the wake of the battle, efforts to locate downed aviators persist over the ensuing days.

U.S. freighter *George Cylmer*, disabled by a broken main shaft and drifting, is torpedoed by German motor torpedo boat *Esan*, launched from auxiliary cruiser *Michel* (Schiffe 28) at 14°28'S, 18°37'W; one crewman perishes below. *George Cylmer* is abandoned (see 7 and 8 June).

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *Melvin H. Baker* is torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I-10* approximately 45 miles off the coast of Mozambique, 21°44'S, 36°38'W; all hands abandon ship. British steamship *Twickenham* rescues the 48 men: 34 merchant seamen, 6-man Armed Guard, and the eight passengers (six of whom had been survivors of U.S. freighter *Bienville*, sunk on 6 April).

Atlantic

Panamanian tanker *Stanvac Calcutta* battles German auxiliary cruiser *Stier* (Schiffe 23) about 500 miles off the coast of Brazil. Two of the nine-man Armed

Guard are wounded by shrapnel during the action; *Stier* rescues the survivors, ultimately transferring 26 merchant seamen and 9 Armed Guard sailors to Japanese custody. One man is sent to prison camp in Germany.

Caribbean

British motor vessel *Ardenvoir* rescues 17 survivors (13 merchant seamen and four Armed Guard sailors) from U.S. freighter *Velma Lykes*, sunk by German submarine *U-158* on 4 June (see 10 June).

- **June 7, Sun.**

General

Command of naval forces is reallocated: Atlantic and Pacific Fleets, Sea Frontiers, and Special Task Forces are placed directly under Commander in Chief U.S. Fleet and Chief of Naval Operations; Naval Local Defense Forces, Naval Transportation Service, Special Duty Ships, and Naval District Craft are made responsible to Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

Pacific

Submarine tender *Fulton* (AS-11), sent out from Pearl Harbor for the purpose, takes on board 2,015 *Yorktown* (CV-5) survivors at sea; light minelayer *Breese* (DM-18) embarks 84; destroyer *Allen* (DD-66) 94.

Carrier *Yorktown* (CV-5) sinks as the result of heavy damage incurred on 4 and 6 June, 30°36'N, 176°34'W.

Submarine *Grouper* (SS-214) is bombed (but not damaged) by USAAF B-17s.

Japanese Kiska Occupation Force (Captain Ono Takeji) occupies Kiska, Aleutians, without opposition.

U.S. freighter *Coast Trader* is torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine *I-26* about 35 miles southwest of Cape Flattery, Washington, 48°19'N, 125°40'W. Coast Guard plane (V-206) guides Canadian corvette HMCS *Edmundston* to the scene; *Edmundston* and fishing boat *Virginia I* rescue survivors, who include the 37-man crew and 19-man Armed Guard. One crewman dies of exposure before the survivors can be picked up.

Damaged U.S. freighter *George Cylmer*, torpedoed the day before, is reboarded by her crew (see 8 June).

Atlantic

Small seaplane tender *Gannet* (AVP-8) is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-652* off Bermuda, 35°50'N, 65°38'W.

U.S. tanker *Esso Montpelier* rescues the six survivors from freighter *Illinois*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-172* on 1 June.

Caribbean

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Edith* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-159*, 14°33'N, 74°35'W. Two crewmen perish in the attack, the remainder (29 men) gather on board one lifeboat and two rafts. *U-159* conducts a brief interrogation of the survivors, provide them with directions to the nearest land, and gather floating supplies before departing. Within a week's time, *Edith's* survivors reach Black River, Jamaica.

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Suwied* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-107* southeast of the Yucatan Channel, 20°00'N, 84°48'W; 26 of the 32-man crew, and the ship's one passenger, survive the sinking (see 8 June).

- **June 8, Mon.**

Pacific

Tug *Vireo* (AT-144) is damaged by grounding, Midway.

British armed merchant cruiser HMS *Alcantara* embarks survivors from damaged U.S. freighter *George Cylmer*; attempts to scuttle the freighter prove futile and *Alcantara* must leave on 12 June with the American ship still stubbornly afloat.

Atlantic

Brazilian tanker *Santa Maria* rescues the two sailors from U.S. tanker *M.F. Elliott* that had been held briefly as prisoners of war when their ship had been sunk by German submarine *U-502* on 3 June.

Caribbean

U.S. tanker *Franklin K. Lane*, en route to Aruba, N.W.I., in convoy TA 5, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-502* approximately 35 miles northeast of Cape Blanco, 11°22'N, 69°38'W. Four crewmen perish in the attack; 31 merchant seamen and the six-man Armed Guard survive to be rescued by British destroyer HMS *Churchill* [ex-U.S. destroyer *Herndon* (DD-198)] (see 9 June).

Coast Guard cutter *Nemesis* (WPC-111) rescues the 27 survivors of U.S. freighter *Suwied*, sunk by German submarine *U-107* on 7 June.

- **June 9, Tue.**

Pacific

Submarine *Trout* (SS-202) picks up two survivors from sunken Japanese heavy cruiser *Mikuma*.

Naval Operating Base, Kodiak, Alaska, is established.

Lieutenant Commander Lyndon B. Johnson, USNR, in the South Pacific theater on a congressional inspection tour, accompanies USAAF bombing mission, scheduled to attack Japanese installations at Lae, New Guinea. Johnson is to go along as a passenger in a B-26 (19th Squadron, 22d Bomb Group). Engine trouble, however, compels the pilot of Johnson's Marauder ("Heckling Hare") to abort the mission; the plane never sees combat. Inexplicably, however, Johnson receives Silver Star for "gallantry." He goes on to become the 36th President of the United States.

Caribbean

U.S. freighter *Merrimack* is sunk by German submarine *U-107* about 60 miles north of Cozumel Island, off the Honduran coast, 19°47'N, 85°55'W. Of the 51 men on board at the time of the attack (9 of whom comprise the Armed Guard), only 10 (including one Navy man) survive (see 15 June).

British destroyer HMS *Churchill* scuttles damaged U.S. tanker *Franklin K. Lane*, torpedoed by German submarine *U-502* the previous day, as a menace to navigation.

- **June 10, Wed.**

Pacific

Carrier *Saratoga* (CV-3) in TF 11 (Rear Admiral Aubrey W. Fitch) makes rendezvous with TF 16 and transfers planes to bring carriers *Enterprise* (CV-6) and *Hornet* (CV-8) up to strength.

Atlantic

U.S. tanker *Hagan*, en route to Havana, Cuba, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-157* at 22°00'N, 77°30'W. Six of the 35-man merchant complement perish in the attack, but all nine Armed Guard sailors survive. The survivors reach the Cuban coast by lifeboat the following day.

Caribbean

Unarmed U.S. freighter *American*, en route to New Orleans, Louisiana, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-157* at 17°58'N, 84°28'W. Three of the 41-man crew perish in the initial explosion. Steamship *Kent* rescues the 38 survivors, one of whom dies of his wounds, and transports them to Cristobal, C.Z.

British motor vessel *Ardenvour* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-68*; among the souls on board are the 13 merchant seamen and four Armed Guard sailors who have already survived the loss of their ship, U.S. freighter *Velma Lykes* on 4 June. They survive the loss of a second ship less than a week after the first.

- **June 11, Thu.**

Atlantic

German submarine *U-87* mines the waters off Boston; *U-373* the waters off Delaware Bay (see 24 June).

Unarmed U.S. tanker *F.W. Abrams*, en route to New York from Aruba, blunders into minefield off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, and fouls two mines, at 34°55'N, 75°50'W. Her 36-man crew abandons ship and reaches shore near Morehead City, North Carolina. Salvage tug *Relief* attempts salvage (see 15 June).

- **June 12, Fri.**

Pacific

USAAF B-17s and B-24s raid Kiska, damaging Japanese destroyer *Hibiki*.

Submarine *Plunger* (SS-179) is damaged when emergency identification flare explodes as she makes signal to friendly aircraft; she suffers no serious injuries and remains on patrol.

Submarine *Swordfish* (SS-193) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Burma Maru* northwest of Pulo Wai, in the Gulf of Siam, 10°08'N, 102°34'E.

Atlantic

German submarine *U-701* mines the waters off Cape Henry, Virginia.

Gulf of Mexico

U.S. tanker *Cities Service Toledo*, bound for Portland, Maine, with a cargo of 84,000 barrels of crude oil, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-158*, 20 miles east of Trinity Shoals Gas Buoy, 29°02'N, 91°59'W, and explodes; 11 of the 36-man merchant complement perishes in the inferno, as do four of the nine-man Armed Guard. Norwegian tanker *Belinda*, U.S. tanker *Gulf King*, and steamship

San Antonio rescue the 30 survivors from among the merchant seamen and bluejackets.

Caribbean

U.S. steamship *Sixaola* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-159* off the coast of Panama, 09°54'N, 81°25'W. Of the 87-man crew, 29 perish in the attack. The 58 surviving crewmen, together with the 6-man Armed Guard and the 108 passengers, take to five boats and six rafts. U.S. steamship *Carolinian* rescues 32 survivors and transfers them to motor torpedo boat tender *Niagara* (PG-52); *Niagara* herself rescues 75 more. Army tug *Shasta* picks up 23 (see 16 June).

Gunboat *Erie* (PG-50), at 10°12'N, 80°14'30"W, rescues master and 45 other survivors of British steamship *Fort Good Hope*, which had been sunk by German submarine *U-159* at 10°19'N, 80°16'W. After salvaging the lifeboats, *Erie* joins with a patrol plane in prosecuting a submarine contact, ultimately dropping six charges with no result. Later, *Erie* transfers *Fort Good Hope's* survivors and their boats to submarine chaser *PC-209*.

Mediterranean

Operation HARPOON: convoy WS 19Z (Force X) transits the Straits of Gibraltar. The ships are soon detected by German reconnaissance aircraft. Escort (Acting Captain Cecil C. Hardy, RN) for the five freighters (two of the five, U.S. motorship *Chant* and *Dutch Tanimbar* have Navy Armed Guard crews on board) and one tanker is provided by anti-aircraft cruiser HMS *Cairo* (flag), nine destroyers (eight British and one Polish), four minesweepers and six motor gunboats; a covering force (Force W), formed around British battleship HMS *Malaya*, aircraft carriers HMS *Argus* and HMS *Eagle*, light cruisers HMS *Kenya* (flagship for Vice Admiral Alban T.B. Curteis, RN), HMS *Charbydis* and HMS *Liverpool*, and eight British destroyers. A second convoy MW 11 (Operation VIGOROUS) sets out from Alexandria and Port Said, Egypt, and Haifa (see 13 June).

- **June 13, Sat.**

Arctic

U.S. freighter *Yaka* is damaged by near-misses when German aircraft bomb Allied shipping at Murmansk, USSR. There are no casualties among the 38 merchant seamen or 11-man Armed Guard.

Mediterranean

Operation HARPOON: convoy WS 19Z (Force X) stands toward Malta, detected by Axis reconnaissance aircraft. Italian torpedo bombers flying from Sardinia fail to make contact, however, and Italian fleet units that sortie from Cagliari put into Palermo, Sicily, when their presence is reported by British submarines (see 14 June).

Atlantic

German submarine *U-584* puts four agents ashore at Amagansett, Long Island, New York. Coast Guard beach patrolman, however, detects the landing and FBI men capture the agents.

Coast Guard cutter *Thetis* (WPC-115) sinks German submarine *U-157* north of Cuba, 24°13'N, 82°03'W.

Caribbean

U.S. freighter *Solon Thurman* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-159* off the Panama Canal Zone, 10°45'N, 80°24'W. The 44 merchant seamen and 9 Armed Guards all abandon ship; *U-159's* officers query the survivors and offer them aid before departing (see 14 June).

- **June 14, Sun.**

Pacific

First echelon of 1st Marine Division (Major General Alexander A. Vandegrift) arrives at Wellington, New Zealand.

Japanese cargo ship *Taizan Maru* is stranded and sinks off southwest coast of Korea, 35°00'N, 125°00'E.

Caribbean

U.S. bulk carrier *Lebore* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-172* about 200 miles north of Cristobal, Canal Zone, 12°53'N, 80°40'W (see 15-16 June).

U.S. freighter *Scottsburg* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-161* at 11°51'N, 62°56'W; five men are killed in the attack (see 15-16 June).

Colombian schooners *Envoy* and *Zamora* rescue the 53 survivors from U.S. freighter *Solon Thurman*, sunk by German submarine *U-159* on 13 June. One crewman, however, drowns when he falls overboard from schooner *Envoy*.

Mediterranean

Operation HARPOON continues as Force X is attacked by Italian planes; Dutch motor vessel *Tanimbar* is torpedoed by an SM 79 and sunk, but not before the Armed Guard gunners display "great courage and skill" and splash one of the attackers; British light cruiser HMS *Liverpool* is also torpedoed by another SM 79, and is towed to Gibraltar (see 15 June).

- **June 15, Mon.**

Pacific

Submarine *Seawolf* (SS-197) sinks Japanese gunboat *Nampo Maru* off Corregidor, 14°00'N, 120°00'E.

Mediterranean

Operation HARPOON: convoy WS 19Z (Force X) is attacked by Italian light cruisers *Eugenio di Savoia* and *Raimondo Montecuccoli* and five destroyers. In this surface action, British destroyer HMS *Bedouin* is sunk and HMS *Partridge* damaged, but the screen for WS 19Z proves impenetrable and the Italians retire. At the same time, however, German JU 87s dive-bomb the convoy, damaging tanker *Kentucky* (she is later scuttled). U.S. freighter *Chant* suffers two direct hits, catches fire, and is abandoned, 36°25'N, 11°40'E; Ensign Regis J. Schaefer, USNR, Armed Guard officer, remains on board to supervise the abandonment of the ship, and is among the last men over the side. British minesweeper HMS *Rye* rescues *Chant's* survivors: 49 of the 52-man merchant complement, 10 of 11 Armed Guards, and 25 British Navy and Army sailors and soldiers embarked to man the anti-aircraft battery. In related operations this day, a mixed formation of seven USAAF B-24s (Halverson Detachment) and 2 RAF Liberators, together with RAF Beauforts, attack Italian fleet; one USAAF B-24 scores a hit on Italian battleship *Littorio* (see 16 June).

Atlantic

Destroyer *Borie* (DD-215) rescues nine survivors (including the sole Armed Guard sailor to emerge from the ordeal) from U.S. freighter *Merrimack* at 20°48'N, 85°30'W, that had been sunk on 9 June by *U-107*. Earlier that same day, merchant ship *Argentina* had rescued the only other man to survive *Merrimack's* loss.

Salvage tug *Relief* finds tanker *F.W. Abrams*, mined off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, on 11 June, beyond salvage. The wreck is scuttled with demolition charges.

Caribbean

U.S. freighter *Tillie Lykes* is torpedoed (most likely) by German submarine *U-502* approximately 150 miles east-southeast of Punta Herrero, Mexico, 19°00'N, 85°00'W; there are no survivors from the 29-man merchant crew and four-man Armed Guard.

Gunboat *Erie* (PG-50), off St. Andrews Island, rescues master and 22 survivors of U.S. bulk carrier *Lebore*, which had been sunk by German submarine *U-172* the day before. *Erie* embarks the merchant sailors at 12°39'N, 81°20'W, and then sinks their lifeboat with gunfire as a menace to navigation.

U.S. freighter *Kahuku* rescues 46 survivors (35 merchant seamen and the 11-man Armed Guard) from freighter *Scottsburg*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-161* the day before, and 17 from Panamanian steamer *Cold Harbor*, torpedoed and sunk by *U-502* the day before. Later that same day, however, *Kahuku* is torpedoed by *U-126* at 11°54'N, 63°07'W (see 16 June).

U.S. freighter *West Hardaway* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-502* northwest of Trinidad, 11°50'N, 62°15'W, and is abandoned by all hands without loss (see 17 June).

U.S. tanker *Robert C. Tuttle*, in convoy KN 109, strikes mine laid by German submarine *U-701* off Virginia Beach, Virginia, 36°51'20"N, 75°51'15"W; one merchant seaman is blown overboard and lost. Survivors (40-man merchant complement, a 6-man Armed Guard and a Navy signalman) take to lifeboats which are taken in tow by submarine chaser *PC-474*. U.S. tanker *Esso Augusta*, also in convoy KN 109, strikes mine laid by German submarine *U-701*, a half mile south of the Chesapeake Bay entrance lighted whistle buoy, 36°52'N, 75°51'30"W; she suffers no casualties among the 44-man merchant complement or the 13-man Armed Guard. *Esso Augusta* ultimately returns to service.

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Arkansan* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-126* west of Grenada, 12°07'N, 62°51'W; four of the ship's 40-man complement are lost (see 16 June).

U.S. tanker *Cherokee*, in convoy XB 25, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-87* approximately 50 miles east of Boston, Massachusetts, 42°11'N, 69°25'W; 65 of the 103-man crew, as well as one of the 11-man Armed Guard and 20 of 46 passengers perish in the attack. Freighter *Norlago* rescues 44 survivors; Coast Guard cutter *Escanaba* (WPG-77) 39 more.

- **June 16, Tue.**

Caribbean

Submarine chaser *PC-460* rescues 42 survivors from U.S. steamship *Sixaola*,

torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-159* off the coast of Panama on 12 June.

Gunboat *Erie* (PG-50) and destroyer *Tattnall* (DD-125), south of St. Andrews Island, rescue survivors of U.S. bulk carrier *Lebore*, which had been sunk by German submarine *U-172* on 14 June. Among those rescued are the 8 Armed Guard sailors from *Lebore*, and the 49 survivors of the Dutch steamship *Crijnsen*, which *Lebore* had rescued on 11 June when *U-504* had sunk the Netherlands-flag ship at 18°14'N, 85°11'W.

Provision storeship *Pastores* (AF-16) rescues 36 survivors of U.S. freighter *Arkansan*, sunk by German submarine *U-126* the day before.

U.S. freighter *Kahuku*, torpedoed by *U-126*, sinks; six of her 36-man crew as well as three of her 10-man Armed Guard perish in the attack. Lost as well are nine passengers: six of the 46 survivors from U.S. freighter *Scottsburg*, sunk by *U-161* on 15 June and three of the 17 survivors of Panamanian-flag steamer *Cold Harbor*, sunk by *U-502* the same day. Coastal yacht *Opal* (PYc-8) and district patrol vessel *YP-63* rescue the 91 survivors from the three ships.

Mediterranean

Operation HARPOON: of the six ships in convoy WS 12Z, only two reach Malta; two escorting destroyers are lost, while a light cruiser, three destroyers and a minesweeper suffer varying degrees of damage.

- **June 17, Wed.**

Atlantic

German submarine *U-202* puts four agents ashore on Ponte Vedra Beach, south of Jacksonville, Florida; fishermen discover the landing. Subsequently, Federal Bureau of Investigation agents capture the Germans.

U.S. freighter *Columbian* is attacked by what she believes is a German submarine at 07°18'N, 41°03'W; although the ship is damaged by shell fragments and machine gun fire, Armed Guard gunfire drives off her attacker without further incident. *Columbian* suffers no casualties among her 42-man merchant complement or 17-man Armed Guard.

U.S. freighter *Millinocket* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-129* off the north coast of Cuba, 23°12'N, 79°58'W; nine of 29 merchant seamen perish, as do 2 of the 6-man Armed Guard. *U-129's* captain briefly questions the survivors and then provides the Americans with a first aid kit for the wounded (see 18 June).

U.S. collier *Santore*, in convoy KS 511, strikes mine laid by German submarine *U-701* off Virginia Beach, Virginia, 36°52'N, 75°51'W; three merchant seaman are lost. Survivors (34 merchant sailors and the 9-man Armed Guard) are rescued by the Coast Guard.

Caribbean

Survivors (37 merchant seamen and 13 Armed Guard sailors) from U.S. freighter *West Hardaway*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-502* on 15 June, reach Margarita Island, Venezuela.

- **June 18, Thu.**

Pacific

USAAF B-17s, B-24s, and an LB-30 (11th Air Force) bomb Japanese shipping in Kiska harbor, sinking fleet tanker *Nissan Maru*, 51°58'N, 177°40'E.

Japanese cargo ship *Tairyu Maru* is stranded and wrecked off Gyoji Island, Korea, 34°33'N, 125°53'E.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Seattle Spirit* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-124* at 50°23'N, 42°25'W; four merchant seamen perish in the attack. Survivors (33 merchant sailors, the 11-man Armed Guard and seven passengers) are rescued by steamship *Perth* and Canadian corvette HMCS *Agassiz*. *Agassiz* scuttles the irreparably damaged merchantman with gunfire.

Cuban boats rescue survivors of U.S. freighter *Millinocket*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-129* the previous day.

Naval Air Facility, La Fe, Cuba, is established.

- **June 19, Fri.**

Pacific

Vice Admiral Robert L. Ghormley assumes command of South Pacific Area and South Pacific Force with headquarters at Auckland, New Zealand.

Submarine *S-27* (SS-132) runs aground off St. Makarius Point, Amchitka, Aleutians; all hands reach safety ashore. Crew, provisions, clothing, guns, medical supplies are ferried ashore by rubber boat (see 20 June).

Japanese water carrier *Wayo Maru* is damaged by aircraft (nationality unspecified), Rabaul.

Seaplane tender (destroyer) *Ballard* (AVD-10), directed to the scene by a PBY (VP 11), rescues 35 survivors (one of whom dies shortly after rescue) from Japanese carrier *Hiryu* that had been scuttled by destroyers *Kazegumo* and *Yugumo* on 5 June. They had been members of the engineering department, left below for dead in the abandonment of the ship.

Atlantic

District patrol craft *YP-389* is sunk by German submarine *U-701* five to six miles northeast of Buoy No.4, Cape Hatteras mine area, North Carolina.

Caribbean

U.S. schooner *Cheerio* is shelled by German submarine *U-161* approximately eight miles southeast of Mona Island, Puerto Rico, 18°02'N, 67°40'W; patrol plane interrupts *U-161's* attack but not in time to prevent the U-boat from inflicting irreparable damage. All hands (nine men) survive the attack; Coast Guard cutter *CG-459* rescues them with the help of a second patrol plane that arrives on the scene.

Tug *Crusader Kingston* rescues the last three survivors from a raft from U.S. freighter *Norlantic*, sunk by German submarine *U-69* on 13 May.

- **June 20, Sat.**

Pacific

Japanese submarine *I-26* shells Estevan Point, Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

Submarine *S-27* (SS-132) crew reach deserted village at Constantine Harbor and inhabit it until rescue comes (see 23 June).

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *West Ira* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-128* about 120 miles southeast of Barbados, 12°04'N, 57°35'W; one man of *West Ira's* merchant complement of 48 is killed, there are no casualties among the 10-man Armed Guard. Survivors are for the most part rescued between three and five days later; the last survivor comes ashore on 1 July at Barbados.

- **June 21, Sun.**

Pacific

PBY (VP 24) recovers two-man crew from *Enterprise* (CV-6) TBD (VT 6) 360 miles north of Midway. Their plane had to land in the water on 4 June; these are the last survivors of the Battle of Midway to be recovered.

Submarine *S-44* (SS-155) sinks Japanese gunboat *Keijo Maru* 12 miles west of Gavutu, Solomons, 09°00'S, 160°00'E.

Japanese submarine *I-25* shells Fort Stevens, Oregon.

North Russia

U.S. freighter *Alcoa Cadet* is mined in Kola Inlet, Murmansk, USSR, and breaks in two. Ships in the vicinity rescue the survivors (33 merchant seamen and 10 passengers).

- **June 22, Mon.**

Caribbean

Unarmed U.S. tanker *E.J. Sadler* is shelled by German submarine *U-159* about 175 miles south of the Windward Passage, 15°36'N, 67°52'W, and abandoned. After the 36 survivors take to their lifeboats, a boarding party from *U-159* sinks the tanker with demolition charges (see 23 June).

Gulf of Mexico

Unarmed U.S. tanker *Rawleigh Warner* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-67* approximately 40 miles south of South Pass, Louisiana, 28°53'N, 89°15'W; ignition of the ship's cargo of 38,909 barrels of gasoline incinerates the ship and her crew. There are no survivors from the 33 merchant seamen who comprise her complement.

- **June 23, Tue.**

Pacific

PBY on routine search spots submarine *S-27* (SS-132) crew at Constantine Harbor; 15 men are transported out (see 24 June).

Caribbean

Destroyer *Biddle* (DD-151), directed to the scene by PBYs, rescues the 36 survivors of U.S. tanker *E.J. Sadler*, sunk the day before by German submarine *U-159*.

- **June 24, Wed.**

Pacific

Three PBYs bring out remainder of submarine *S-27* (SS-132)'s crew from Constantine Harbor.

Atlantic

Unarmed tug *John R. Williams*, bound for Cape May, New Jersey, is sunk by mine laid by German submarine *U-373* on 11 June. Only four men from the 18-man crew survive the sinking at 38°45'N, 74°55'W; they are rescued by district patrol vessel *YP-334* and taken to Lewes, Delaware.

U.S. freighter *Manuela* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-404* at 34°30'N, 75°40'W and abandoned. Three of the 36-man merchant complement perish in the attack. The survivors, 33 merchant seamen and the 6-man Armed Guard, are rescued by British armed trawler *HMS Norwich City* and Coast Guard cutter *CG-483*. *Manuela* sinks the following day while being towed to Morehead City, North Carolina.

- **June 25, Thu.**

General

President Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Churchill conclude conference in Washington; decision is reached for combined U.S.-British research and development of the atomic bomb.

Pacific

Carrier *Saratoga* (CV-3) ferries 25 USAAF P-40s (73d Fighter Squadron) to Midway to provide fighter defense for the atoll, after the heavy losses suffered by VMF 221 during the Battle of Midway on 4 June. *Saratoga* also brings in 18 SBDs to bring VMSB 241 (also badly battered at Midway) up to strength.

Submarine *Nautilus* (SS-168) torpedoes and sinks Japanese destroyer *Yamakaze* southeast of Yokosuka, Japan, 34°34'N, 140°26'E.

Submarine *Grouper* (SS-214) damages Japanese oiler *No.3 Tonan Maru*, 28°46'N, 136°36'E.

PBYs (VP 71) bomb Japanese base at Tulagi; Rear Admiral John S. McCain (Commander, Aircraft, South Pacific Force) is present in one of the flying boats to observe operations.

Europe

U.S. Army establishes European Theater of Operations under Major General Dwight D. Eisenhower.

- **June 26, Fri.**

Atlantic

Naval Auxiliary Air Station (Lighter-than-Air), San Julian, Cuba, is established.

Germany announces unrestricted submarine warfare off U.S. Atlantic Coast.

- **June 27, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine *Nautilus* (SS-168) torpedoes and sinks Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *Musashi Maru* east of Nojimizaki, Japan, 34°38'N, 140°08'E.

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Polybius* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-128* at 11°00'N, 57°30'W; ten crewmen perish. *U-128's* officers briefly question the survivors before the submarine departs. The 34 survivors are rescued over the next three days: by Dutch steamship *Dracos* on 28 June; an unidentified Allied ship on the 29th, and British steamship *Clarona* on the 30th.

U.S. freighter *Potlatch* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-153* at 19°20'N, 53°18'W; six crewmen perish. Of the 39-man crew, 33 survive, as do the 16 Armed Guard sailors. *U-153* briefly questions the survivors and provides them with cigarettes before departing (see 29 July).

- **June 28, Sun.**

Pacific

Submarine *Nautilus* (SS-168) is damaged by depth charges off central Honshu, 34°34'N, 140°13'E.

Submarine *Stingray* (SS-186), attacking Japanese convoy, torpedoes and sinks gunboat *Saikyo Maru* about 190 miles north of Yap, Carolines, 12°41'N, 136°22'E; cargo ship *Meiten Maru* fires at *Stingray's* periscope without effect.

PBYs (VP 14) bomb Japanese base at Tulagi.

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Raphael Semmes* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-332* at 29°30'N, 64°30'W; 18 men from the 35-man crew, and one of the two passengers, perish. *U-332* remains in the vicinity of the sinking, providing medical assistance and supplies to the survivors before departing (see 16 July).

U.S. freighter *Sam Houston* is torpedoed and shelled and sunk by German submarine *U-203* at 19°21'N, 62°22'W; three crewmen perish. *U-203* briefly embarks the freighter's master for questioning but returns him to a lifeboat before departing (see 30 June).

U.S. tanker *William Rockefeller* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-701* approximately 16 miles northeast of Diamond Shoals, North Carolina, 35°07'N, 75°07'W; escorting Coast Guard cutter *CG-470* (which attacks the U-boat without success) rescues all hands: 44 merchant seamen and the six-man Armed Guard.

U.S. freighter *Sea Thrush*, en route to Cape Town, South Africa, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-505* at 22°40'N, 61°26'W. All hands survive the loss of the ship: 42-man crew, 11-man Armed Guard and 14 passengers (see 30 June).

U.S. freighter *Ruth* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-153* about 100 miles north of Cape Maysi, Cuba, 21°44'N, 74°05'W. *U-153* rescues one survivor and places him on a raft with three of his shipmates; they are the only survivors from a crew of 34 men. There are no survivors from the four-man Armed Guard unit (see 4 July).

- **June 29, Mon.**

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Thomas McKean*, en route to Cape Town, South Africa, is torpedoed, shelled and sunk by German submarine *U-505* at 22°00'N, 60°00'W. Three Armed Guard sailors are killed in the attack. *U-505* provides medical attention to the wounded in the lifeboats before departing (see 4, 12 and 14 July).

- **June 30, Tue.** Naval vessels on hand (all types of ships and craft)--5,612. Personnel: Navy--640,570; Marine Corps--143,528; Coast Guard--58,998. Total personnel--843,096.

Pacific

XPBS-1 transporting Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet, and his staff to San Francisco crashes upon landing off Alameda, California. Nimitz suffers scratches and abrasions in the mishap but remains topside on the wreckage to direct rescue operations, refusing to leave that post until the wrecked flying boat has been searched for survivors.

Coastal minesweeper *Hornbill* (AMc-13) is sunk in collision with U.S. lumber schooner *Esther Johnson* in San Francisco Bay, California.

District patrol craft *YP-270* sinks after running aground at Boca Santo Domingo, while en route from San Diego, California, to the Panama Canal Zone, 25°30'N, 112°06'W.

District patrol craft *YP-128* sinks after running aground in heavy weather three miles northeast of Monterey, California.

Submarine *Plunger* (SS-179) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.5 Unkai Maru* off the China coast near approaches to Shanghai, 30°04'N, 122°54'E.

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *Express*, en route from Bombay, India, to Cape Town, South Africa, is torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine *I-10* at 23°30'S, 37°30'E; one lifeboat is swamped when the ship is abandoned, and two Armed Guard sailors and 11 merchant seamen are lost (see 6 July).

Atlantic

PBM (VP 74) sinks German submarine *U-158* in western Atlantic, 32°50'N, 67°28'W.

U.S. steamship *City of Birmingham*, en route to Bermuda, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-202* about 250 miles east of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, 35°04'N, 61°01'W; six of the 113-man crew and two of 263 passengers are lost in the sinking. Escorting high speed minesweeper *Stansbury* (DMS-8), after depth-charging *U-202*, rescues 107 merchant seamen (one of whom dies of his injuries), 261 passengers and the 5-man Armed Guard.

Coastal minesweeper *Courier* (AMc-72) rescues 30 merchant seamen (four wounded men have perished in the lifeboats) and the nine-man Armed Guard from U.S. freighter *Sam Houston*, sunk by German submarine *U-203* on 28 June. One crewman dies of wounds subsequently. *Courier* transports the survivors to St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

Gunboat *Surprise* (PG-63) rescues survivors from U.S. freighter *Sea Thrush*, sunk by German submarine *U-505* on 28 June. A second group of survivors reaches St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, on 3 July.

July

- **July 1, Wed.**

Pacific

Submarine *Sturgeon* (SS-187) sinks Japanese transport *Montevideo Maru* about 65 miles west of Cape Bojeador, Luzon, 18°37'N, 119°29'E. Unbeknownst to the submariners, *Montevideo Maru* is transporting 1,050 Allied POWs to Hainan Island.

Atlantic

Convoy PQ 17 sails from Seidisfjord, Iceland, bound for North Russia. Among the ships in the close covering force that had departed Reykjavik, Iceland, the previous day are U.S. heavy cruisers *Wichita* (CA-45) and *Tuscaloosa* (CA-37) and destroyers *Wainwright* (DD-419) and *Rowan* (DD-405).

U.S. freighter *Warrior* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-126* just north of Trinidad, 10°54'N, 61°01'W; three of the 42-man crew and four of the 14-man Armed Guard are lost. Survivors are rescued and transported to Trinidad.

Gulf of Mexico

U.S. freighter *Edward Luckenbach* blunders into U.S. minefield five miles off Smith Shoal, Florida, light, and strikes two mines, 24°56'N, 81°53'W; one of the 42-man merchant complement perishes in the incident. The ship sinks with the superstructure above water. The 41 merchant seamen and the 12-man Armed Guard reboard the ship the next day, when they are transported to Key West by patrol craft.

- **July 2, Thu.**

Pacific

Submarine *Plunger* (SS-179), attacking Japanese convoy off the mouth of the Yangtze, sinks army cargo ship *No.3 Unyo Maru*, 30°44'N, 123°09'E.

Japanese guardboats *No.1 Kaiyo Maru* and *No.2 Kaiyo Maru* are wrecked (cause unknown) off Guadalcanal.

- **July 3, Fri.**

Pacific

USAAF B-24s bomb and damage Japanese seaplane carriers *Kamikawa Maru* and *Kimikawa Maru*, and transport *Fujisan Maru* off Agattu Island.

British submarine HMS *Truant* sinks Japanese army cargo ship *No.1 Tamon Maru* in Strait of Malacca, 3°14'N, 99°48'E.

Atlantic

U.S. tanker *Gulfbelle* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-126* about 21 miles north of Tobago, 11°43'N, 60°35'W; and is abandoned. Two crewmen perish on board in the explosion. The U-boat surfaces after torpedoing her quarry, but after the Armed Guard (all eight men of which have remained on board) lobs one shell over *U-126*, the enemy boat submerges and departs. British destroyer HMS *Warwick* subsequently tows the damaged *Gulfbelle* to Trinidad.

U.S. freighter *Alexander Macomb*, in convoy BA 2, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-215* at 41°40'N, 66°52'W; four of the ship's 41-man crew and six of the 25-man Armed Guard are killed in the attack. British trawler HMS *Le Tiger* rescues 31 survivors; Canadian corvette HMCS *Regina 25*.

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Norlandia*, steaming from San Juan, Puerto Rico, to Nuevitas, Cuba, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-575* at 19°33'N, 68°39'W; nine crewmen lose their lives. *U-575's* commanding officer, Kapitänleutnant Gunther Heydemann, apparently genuinely solicitous of the needs of those whose ship he has just torpedoed, gives them a bottle of brandy before the boat departs (see 4 and 5 July).

- **July 4, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine *Triton* (SS-201) torpedoes Japanese destroyer *Nenohi* off Cape Sabak, off southeast tip of Agattu, Aleutians, 52°15'N, 173°51'E.

Arctic

North Russia-bound convoy PQ 17 is ordered to scatter as fears of German surface ship sortie from Norwegian waters prompts the detachment of major escort vessels to deal with the threat that does not materialize. German torpedo-carrying HE 111s attack PQ 17, 200 miles northeast of Bear Island: U.S. freighter *William Hooper* is torpedoed (75°57'N, 27°14'E) and abandoned; three crewmen lose their lives. The survivors (36 merchant seamen and the 15-man Armed Guard) are picked up by British rescue ships *Rathlin* and *Zamalek*. Attempted scuttling by British escort vessel fails; German submarine *U-334* torpedoes and sinks *William Hooper* later the same day. As the convoy disperses, freighter *Christopher Newport* is torpedoed by HE 115 (75°49'N, 22°15'E); three crewmen are killed. *Christopher Newport* is abandoned, with the 36 merchant seamen and 11-man Armed Guard picked up by rescue ship *Zamalek*. British escort vessel's attempt to scuttle the damaged freighter fails (see 5 July). Freighter *Washington* is damaged by near-misses, but there are no casualties among her crew or Armed Guard.

Atlantic

Destroyer *Corry* (DD-463) rescues four survivors of U.S. freighter *Ruth*, sunk by German submarine *U-153* on 28 June.

Twenty-nine survivors from U.S. freighter *Thomas McKean*, sunk by German submarine *U-505* on 29 June, reach St. Thomas, Virgin Islands (see 12 and 14 July).

Fourteen survivors from U.S. freighter *Norlandia*, sunk by German submarine *U-575* the previous day, reaches Samana, Dominican Republic (see 5 July).

Europe

First USAAF raid on Western Europe: USAAF aircrew flying American-built Bostons participate in low-level RAF raid on German airfields in the Netherlands.

- **July 5, Sun.**

Pacific

Submarine *Growler* (SS-215) sinks Japanese destroyer *Arare* and damages destroyers *Kasumi* and *Shiranui* off Kiska, Aleutians, 52°00'N, 177°40'E. *Growler* is damaged by depth charges.

Submarine *Sturgeon* (SS-187) damages Japanese oiler *San Pedro Maru* south of Palauig, Luzon, 16°07'N, 119°13'E.

Atlantic

Seven survivors from U.S. freighter *Norlandia*, sunk by German submarine *U-575* on 3 July, reaches Samana, Dominican Republic.

Arctic

German air and submarine attacks on the dispersed Archangel, USSR-bound convoy PQ 17 continue: submarine *U-457* torpedoes and sinks abandoned U.S. freighter *Christopher Newport*, torpedoed by German plane the previous day. *U-*

88 torpedoes and sinks U.S. freighter *Carlton*, 72°50'N, 24°35'E, killing two crewmen (see 9, 13 and 24 July). Freighter *Peter Kerr*, steaming in company with steamship *Earlston Smiles*, suffers three direct bomb hits, 74°30'N, 35°00'E; the burning ship is abandoned by all hands (35 merchant seamen and the 11-man Armed Guard) (see 12 July). Freighter *Daniel Morgan*, steaming in company with four other ships for mutual protection that proves largely illusory, is bombed, and is damaged by 30 near-misses; although emerging battered from the bombing, she does not escape *U-88*, which torpedoes and sinks her, 75°08'N, 44°10'E. *Daniel Morgan's* survivors (37 of 39 merchant seamen, one of whom dies later of his injuries, and the 15-man Armed Guard) are rescued later by Russian tanker *Donbass* and ultimately reach Archangel in that ship. Nearby freighter *Fairfield City* is also bombed, 74°40'N, 39°45'E; eight men die when one bomber scores a direct hit on the merchantman's bridge. Irreparably damaged, *Fairfield City* is abandoned by the 28 merchant seamen and the 6-man Armed Guard (see 9 and 12 July). Freighter *Washington*, steaming in company with Dutch *Paulus Potter* and British *Bolton Castle*, is attacked by JU-88s 175 miles east-northeast of Bear Island, 76°25'N, 33°41'E; after attacking the other two vessels, the Germans direct their efforts at *Washington*, and near-misses cause further damage to hull plates weakened the day before. The 36-man crew and 9-man Armed Guard abandon ship in lifeboats, and decide to take their chances in the boats instead of being taken on board freighter *Olopana*, which arrives in response to *Washington's* call for help (see 7 July). Freighter *Honomu*, steaming alone, is torpedoed and sunk by *U-456*, 75°05'N, 38°00'E; the latter takes the ship's master prisoner and provides rations for the survivors (34 crewmen, four British armed guard sailors and two Navy signalmen) before departing (see 18 and 22 July). Freighter *Pan Craft*, steaming alone, is bombed by German planes, 76°50'N, 38°00'E, and is abandoned; one crewman dies during the abandonment, a second dies of wounds later. British corvette HMS *Lotus* rescues the 34 merchant seamen and the 11-man Armed Guard, but fails in her attempt to scuttle the merchantman, which ultimately explodes and sinks between 9 and 36 hours after she is abandoned (see 22 September).

Convoy QP 13, groping its way through poor visibility conditions, blunders into a British minefield in Denmark Strait. U.S. freighter *Richard Henry Lee* is damaged but suffers no casualties among her 34-man crew and 9-man Armed Guard. Freighter *Massmar* fouls two mines and sinks; 17 of the ship's 36-man crew, and 5 of her 9-man Armed Guard, perish, as do 26 (22 merchant seamen and four Armed Guard sailors) of the 45 passengers she is carrying--survivors of the freighter *Alamar* (sunk in convoy PQ 16). Free French corvette *Roselys* rescues survivors. Freighter *Hybert* fouls a mine and is abandoned; as all hands (39-man crew, 11-man Armed Guard, and 26 passengers from the sunken *Syros*) abandon ship, the merchantman drifts into a second mine. British armed trawler HMS *Lady Madeleine* and *Roselys* rescue the survivors. Freighter *John Randolph* fouls two mines and breaks in two; 5 of the 38-man crew perish in the incident, but none of the 12 passengers or the 12-man Armed Guard are lost. Other ships in QP 13 rescue the survivors. The ship's bow section is recovered and salvaged, the stern section sinks. Freighter *Heffron* fouls two mines and is abandoned; one crewman dies in the abandonment. *Roselys* rescues the 36 crewmen, two Navy signalmen and 23 passengers. *Heffron* sinks very early the next morning.

- **July 6, Mon.**

Arctic

Ordeal of dispersed USSR-bound convoy PQ 17 to German submarines and planes continues: U.S. freighter *John Witherspoon*, having emerged unscathed from the German aerial attacks the previous several days, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-255* approximately 20 miles off Novaya Zemlya, 72°05'N, 48°30'E, and abandoned with the loss of one merchant seaman. Survivors (38 merchant seamen and 11 Armed Guard sailors) gather in three lifeboats and a raft; *U-255* surfaces and conducts a brief interrogation of some of the survivors before clearing the area (see 8 and 9 July 1942). Freighter *Pan Atlantic*, hastily painted white to camouflage her against the ice floes through which she is fleeing to Archangel, is bombed and sunk with the loss of 18 (of 37) merchant seamen and 7 (of 11) Armed Guard sailors. German submarines *U-88* and *U-703* salvage provisions from the freighter's flotsam; one of the enemy submarines conducts brief interrogation of survivors before departing. British corvette *HMS Lotus* rescues *Pan Atlantic's* surviving merchant and naval complement and transports them to Archangel (see 22 September).

- **July 7, Tue.**

Pacific

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Haruna Maru* founders and sinks near Omaesaki, Japan.

Atlantic

Naval Air Facility, Reykjavik, Iceland, is established.

USAAF A-29 sinks German submarine *U-701* off North Carolina coast, 34°50'N, 74°55'W--the first submarine "kill" by a USAAF plane in World War II.

Gulf of Mexico

U.S. tanker *Paul H. Harwood* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-67* off Southwest Pass, Louisiana, 29°26'N, 88°38'W; there are no casualties among the 40-man crew or 16-man Armed Guard, and the ship puts into Burrwood, Louisiana, under her own power. She returns to service in September.

Arctic

Ordeal of dispersed USSR-bound convoy PQ 17 to German submarines and planes continues: U.S. freighter *Olopana* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-255* about 10 miles west of Novaya Zemlya, 72°10'N, 51°00'E, and abandoned; five merchant seamen and two Armed Guard sailors perish in the attack. *U-255* then surfaces and shells the ship, after which time the Germans conduct a brief interrogation of some of the survivors before clearing the area (see 9 July). U.S. freighter *Alcoa Ranger* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-255* at 71°38'N, 49°35'E, and abandoned by the 34-man crew and the 6-man Armed Guard. *U-255* surfaces and conducts a brief interrogation of some of the survivors, as she had done in the case of *John Witherspoon* and *Olopana* earlier, before the U-boat shells and sinks the ship. Two of three lifeboats from *Alcoa Ranger* reach Novaya Zemlya later that day (see 14 July).

- **July 8, Wed.**

Pacific

Submarine *S-37* (SS-142) torpedoes and sinks Japanese transport *Tenzan Maru*

about 30 miles west of Rabaul, 04°00'S, 151°50'E. Escorting submarine chaser *Ch 30* depth-charges *S-37* without success.

Arctic

Ordeal of dispersed USSR-bound convoy PQ 17 to German submarines and planes continues: 19 survivors (16 merchant seamen and three Armed Guard sailors) of U.S. freighter *John Witherspoon* (sunk by German submarine *U-255* on 6 July) are rescued by Panamanian freighter *El Capitan*. German bombers, however, attack the latter and sink her. British armed trawler HMS *Lord Austin* rescues the 19 *John Witherspoon* men and takes them to Archangel (see 9 July).

Atlantic

U.S. tanker *J.A. Moffett, Jr.* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-571* three miles south by west of Tennessee Reef, Florida Straits, 24°47'N, 80°42'W; and is run aground on Tennessee Reef to prevent the ship's loss. The ship's master is the only fatality; the survivors (36 merchant seamen and the 6-man Armed Guard) are rescued by Coast Guard auxiliary craft *Mary Jane* and *Southbound* and cutter *Nike* (WPC-112) rescue the survivors. Later salvaged, *J.A. Moffett, Jr.* is written off as a total loss.

- **July 9, Thu.**

Pacific

Submarine *Sailfish* (SS-192) damages Japanese army cargo ship *Aobasan Maru*, 11°31'N, 109°21'E.

Submarine *Thresher* (SS-200) sinks Japanese torpedo recovery vessel *Shinsho Maru* at entrance to Kwajalein Atoll, Marshalls, 08°43'N, 167°33'E. *Thresher* is damaged by bombs and depth charges and is briefly hooked by a grapnel trailed by the searching Japanese, but remains on patrol.

Gulf of Mexico

U.S. tanker *Benjamin Brewster* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-67* approximately 60 miles west of Southwest Pass, Louisiana, 29°05'N, 90°05'W, and a good portion of the ship's cargo of 70,578 barrels of aviation gasoline and lubricating oil catches fire. In the resulting conflagration, 25 crewman die. Survivors (10 merchant seamen and the five-man Armed Guard) are rescued the following morning by fishing boat, whence they are transferred to the Coast Guard.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Santa Rita* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-172* approximately 700 miles northeast of Puerto Rico, 26°11'N, 55°40'W, and abandoned; three men are killed in the torpedoing, a fourth drowns during the abandonment. *U-172* then shells the ship, makes the master a POW, and sends a boarding party to scour her victim for provisions before shelling and sinking her. Destroyers *Livermore* (DD-429) and *Mayo* (DD-422) and a crash boat rescue the 48 merchant seamen, two passengers and the 9-man Armed Guard who survive the loss of the vessel.

North Russia

Ordeal of dispersed USSR-bound convoy PQ 17 to German submarines and planes continues: U.S. freighter *Hoosier* is straddled by bombs and damaged irreparably, 69°45'N, 39°35'E. The 42-man crew and 11-man Armed Guard abandons ship, rescued by British corvette HMS *Poppy*; Free French-manned

British corvette HMS *La Malouine* takes the crippled merchantman under tow, but discontinues the operation and recovers her salvage party put on board the freighter earlier when the escort vessel sights German submarine *U-255* trailing at a distance of four miles. *La Malouine's* attempt to scuttle the freighter fails. *U-376* later finishes off *Hoosier* with a torpedo and the latter sinks early the following morning. This same day, survivors from U.S. freighters *Fairfield City*, (sunk on 5 July) and *Olopana* (sunk on 7 July) reach Novaya Zemlya (see 12 July). Corvette HMS *La Malouine* rescues 22 merchant seamen and 8 Armed Guards, survivors from U.S. freighter *John Witherspoon* (sunk by German submarine *U-255* on 6 July).

- **July 10, Fri.**

Pacific

PBYs (VP 14) attempt to bomb Japanese base at Tulagi-Gavutu area but bad weather prompts cancellation of the mission.

PBY (VP 41), returning from a routine patrol, sights Mitsubishi A6M2 type 0 ["Zero"] carrier fighter upside-down in a bog on Akutan Island, Aleutians, where it has been since its forced landing on 3 June 1942 (see 12 July).

- **July 12, Sun.**

Pacific

Submarine *Seadragon* (SS-194) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Nichizan Maru* off Cam Ranh Bay, French Indochina, 13°47'N, 109°33'E.

Salvage party from VP 41, transported to Akutan Island in district patrol vessel *YP-151*, begin salvage of ZERO fighter discovered on 10 July. Their initial efforts reveal more work will be required (see 15 July).

Atlantic

Twelve survivors from U.S. freighter *Thomas McKean*, sunk by German submarine *U-505* on 29 June 1942, reach Antigua (see 14 July).

U.S. freighter *Andrew Jackson* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-84* approximately 20 miles off Cardenas, Cuba, 23°32'N, 81°02'W. Three of the 38-man crew perish; there are no casualties among the 11-man Armed Guard (see 13 July).

Caribbean

U.S. freighter *Tachira*, en route to New Orleans, Louisiana, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-129* at 18°15'N, 81°54'W. Four of the 32-man crew perish, as does one of the six-man Armed Guard; *U-129* briefly interrogates survivors and then provides medical assistance and directs them toward the nearest land (see 16 July).

Arctic

Survivors from U.S. freighter *Peter Kerr* (sunk on 5 July) are rescued by Russian motor torpedo boat and taken to Murmansk. Russian whaler rescues survivors of U.S. freighter *Washington* (also sunk on 5 July). Toward the end of their journey in lifeboats, *Washington's* survivors (one of whom dies of exposure on 28 July at Archangel) had subsisted on rations scrounged from U.S. freighter *Winston-Salem* that had been beached by her crew and abandoned on the shores of Novaya Zemlya. British armed trawler HMS *Ayrshire* rescues survivors from

U.S. freighter *Fairfield City*, (dispersed from convoy PQ 17 and sunk on 5 July) from Novaya Zemlya.

- **July 13, Mon.**

Pacific

Submarine *S-16* (SS-121) is accidentally damaged by USAAF plane off coast of Panama.

Submarine *Seadragon* (SS-194) sinks Japanese auxiliary vessel *Shinyo Maru* 10 miles northeast of Cape Varella, French Indochina, 13°05'N, 109°29'E.

PBYs (VP 71) attempt daylight bombing of Japanese base at Tulagi-Gavutu, but bad weather forces a second straight cancellation of the mission.

Japanese transport *No.3 Mikage Maru* is sunk in collision three miles south of Tsuru Jima, Japan, 33°00'N, 133°00'E.

Japanese Combined Fleet is reorganized in the wake of the disastrous defeat suffered at Midway.

Atlantic

Naval Air Facility, Grand Cayman, British West Indies, is established.

German submarine *U-153*, damaged by submarine chaser *PC-458* and USAAF plane off coast of Panama, is sunk by destroyer *Lansdowne* (DD-486), 09°56'N, 81°29'W.

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Oneida*, straggling from convoy NG 359, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-166* approximately two miles north of Cape Maysi, Cuba, at 20°17'N, 74°06'W. Six crewmen perish; the 23 survivors reach the Cuban coast in two life rafts.

Survivors from U.S. freighter *Andrew Jackson*, sunk by German submarine *U-84* the day before, reach Vavendero, Cuba, by life boat.

Gulf of Mexico

U.S. tanker *R. W. Gallagher* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-67* approximately 80 miles from Southwest Pass, Louisiana, 28°32'N, 90°59'W, and abandoned. Eight of the ship's 40-man merchant complement die in the attack, as do two of the 12-man Armed Guard. Coast Guard cutter *Boutwell* (WPC-130) rescues survivors; two men later die of their injuries.

North Russia

Survivors of U.S. freighter *Carlton* (sunk by *U-88* on 5 July) receive rations dropped by a British plane (see 14 and 24 July).

- **July 14, Tue.**

Atlantic

Last 13 survivors (a 14th man had perished in the interval between the loss of the ship and the survivors' making landfall) from U.S. freighter *Thomas McKean*, sunk by German submarine *U-505* on 29 June, reach the Dominican Republic.

North Russia

German submarine *U-376* comes upon survivors of U.S. freighter *Carlton* (sunk by *U-88* on 5 July). While the German offer of medical help is turned down, the U-boat sailors give the Americans rations, blankets and cigarettes (see 24 July).

One boat full of survivors of U.S. freighter *Alcoa Ranger*, sunk by German submarine *U-255* on 7 July, reaches Cape Kanin, USSR. Russian patrol craft subsequently take all of the survivors to Archangel.

Pacific

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Arcata*, steaming from Bethel, Alaska, to Seattle, Washington, is shelled and sunk by Japanese submarine *I-7* at 53°35'N, 157°40'W. Seven of the 29-man crew perish; three Navy and one civilian passenger survive the attack. *I-7* machineguns the life rafts; one sailor suffers mortal wounds. Destroyer *Kane* (DD-235) rescues 11 of *Arcata's* survivors; fishing boat *Yukon* picks up 14.

- **July 15, Wed.**

United States

Naval Air Transport Service Squadron (VR 3) is established at Kansas City, Kansas, for operations in the U.S.

Pacific

Submarine Base, Midway Island, is established.

Submarine *Grunion* (SS-216) sinks Japanese submarine chasers *Ch 25* and *Ch 27* west of Sredni Point, Kiska, Aleutians, 52°02'N, 177°42'E.

Salvage party, transported to Akutan Island in district patrol vessel *YP-72*, continues salvage of ZERO fighter discovered on 10 July.

Atlantic

German submarine *U-576* attacks convoy KS 520, torpedoing U.S. bulk carrier *Chilore* about 20 miles east of Okracoke Inlet, North Carolina, 34°45'N, 75°29'W, as well as Panamanian freighter *J.A. Mowinkel* and Nicaraguan merchantman *Bluefield*. *Chilore* later blunders into a U.S. minefield, fouling two mines and receiving further damage. Two of her 42-man crew are lost when a lifeboat capsizes; there are no casualties among the 9-man Armed Guard. *U-576's* time to savor her triple triumph, however, is short, for an OS2U (VS 9) and U.S. merchant vessel *Unicoi* combine to sink that U-boat off the North Carolina coast, 34°51'N, 75°22'W. *Chilore* later capsizes and sinks at the mouth of Chesapeake Bay.

Gulf of Mexico

U.S. tanker *Pennsylvania Sun* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-571* about 125 miles west of Key West, Florida, 24°05'N, 83°42'W; the crew (42 merchant seamen and the 17-man Armed Guard) abandon the burning ship. Destroyer *Dahlgren* (DD-187) rescues the survivors and transports them to Key West (see 16 July).

- **July 16, Thu.**

Pacific

Submarine *Seadragon* (SS-194), attacking Japanese convoy off coast of French Indochina, sinks merchant cargo ship *Hakodate Maru* north of Cape Varella, 12°55'N, 109°29'E.

Atlantic

Advanced Group, Amphibious Force, Atlantic Fleet (Rear Admiral Andrew C. Bennett) is established to conduct amphibious training in Great Britain.

Unarmed U.S. fishing boat *Gertrude* is sunk (demolition charge or gunfire) by German submarine *U-166* approximately 30 miles northeast of Havana, Cuba, 23°32'N, 82°00'E (see 19 July).

U.S. freighter *William F. Humphrey* battles German auxiliary cruiser *Michel* (Schiffe 28) in the South Atlantic about 800 miles west of the mouth of the Congo River, 05°37'S, 00°56'E, but is sunk by gunfire and torpedoes (the latter fired by motor torpedo boat *Elsan* (LS 4) after a gallant fight. Of the seven-man Armed Guard, two sailors are killed while a third is wounded; *Michel* recovers 26 merchant seamen and 3 Armed Guard sailors, but the rest of the survivors manage to avoid capture (see 22 July).

U.S. steamship *Fairport*, in Persian Gulf-bound convoy AS 4, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-161* at 27°12'N, 64°30'W; destroyer *Kearny* (DD-432) rescues all hands: 43-man crew, 16-man Armed Guard, and 66 passengers.

Survivors (17 crewmen and one passenger) from unarmed U.S. freighter *Raphael Semmes*, sunk by German submarine *U-332* on 28 June, are rescued by U.S. freighter *Explorer*.

Gulf of Mexico

U.S. tanker *Pennsylvania Sun's* master and three of his officers and a salvage party from reboard their ship (torpedoed the previous day by *U-571*) and, aided by salvage vessel *Willett* (ARS-12) quell the remaining fires and save the ship, which is towed to port. Repaired, she subsequently returns to service.

Caribbean

Survivors of U.S. freighter *Tachira*, sunk by German submarine *U-129* on 12 July, reach Punta Herrera, Mexico.

- **July 18, Sat.**

Pacific

Amphibious Force, South Pacific Area (Rear Admiral Richmond K. Turner) is established.

North Russia

British minesweeper and escort vessel rescue 22 survivors from U.S. freighter *Honomu*, sunk on 5 July (see 22 July).

- **July 19, Sun.**

Atlantic

Carrier *Ranger* (CV-4) in TF 22 ferries 72 USAAF P-40s (earmarked for ultimate delivery to Burma) to Accra off the Gold Coast of Africa.

With the successful operation of convoys off the East Coast of the United States, Admiral Doenitz orders the last U-boats deployed there (*U-89*, *U-132*, *U-402*, *U-458*, and *U-754*) reassigned to other hunting grounds.

Unarmed U.S. tug *Keshena* is sunk by mine east of Okracoke Island, North Carolina, 35°00'N, 75°45'E, while engaged in salvage work on torpedoed and mined Panamanian-flag tanker *J.A. Mowinkel*. Two men perish in the explosion, but the surviving crew (14 men and 1 woman) is rescued by a launch and taken to the Coast Guard station at Okracoke.

- **July 20, Mon.**

General

Admiral William D. Leahy reports to President Roosevelt as Chief of Staff to the Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy.

Pacific

Naval Operating Base and Naval Air Facility, Dutch Harbor, Alaska, are established.

Atlantic

German submarine *U-66* mines the waters off Castries, St. Lucia.

- **July 21, Tue.**

Pacific

Japanese forces occupy Buna, New Guinea, having been frustrated in their attempt to capture Port Moresby by sea (first at Lae-Salamaua and then at the Battle of the Coral Sea) in the first step of an overland campaign to take the same objective.

U.S. freighter *Coast Farmer* is sunk by Japanese submarine *I-11* in the South Pacific at 35°23'S, 151°00'E. RAAF crash boat rescues the 40 survivors (who include the 7-man Armed Guard).

Gulf of Mexico

U.S. freighter *William Cullen Bryant*, in convoy TAW 4J, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-84* in the Straits of Florida, 24°08'N, 82°23'W; all hands (40-man crew, 12-man Armed Guard, and 2 USN signalmen) abandon ship but later reboard the freighter; salvage vessel *Willett* (ARS-12) and civilian tug *Moran* tow *William Cullen Bryant* to Key West, Florida. She subsequently returns to service.

- **July 22, Wed.**

Pacific

USAAF planes (B-17s, B-25s and B-26s are utilized in the attacks) attack Japanese shipping off Buna, New Guinea, damaging destroyer *Uzuki* and sinking army cargo ship *Ayatosan Maru*, 08°50'S, 148°50'E.

U.S. freighter *William Dawes* is torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I-24* off the coast of Australia at 36°47'S, 150°16'E; four of the 15-man Armed Guard, and one (of five) Army passengers are killed in the attack, but there are no casualties among the 40 merchant seamen who make up the ship's complement. Survivors row toward the coast, where fishing boats tow them the remainder of the way. The burning *William Dawes* sinks the next day.

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Honolulan* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-582* off the west coast of Africa at 08°41'N, 22°12'W. *U-582* provides the Americans with cigarettes and question them briefly before departing. There are no casualties among the 39-man crew and one stowaway (see 28 July).

Norwegian freighter *Triton* rescues survivors from U.S. freighter *William F. Humphrey*, sunk by German auxiliary cruiser *Michel* (Schiffe 28) in the South Atlantic on 16 July.

Arctic

German submarine rescues last survivors from lifeboat from U.S. freighter

Honomu, sunk on 5 July 1942. Nine of the 19 men in the lifeboat have perished of exposure during their ordeal.

- **July 23, Thu.**

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Onondaga*, bound for Havana, Cuba, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-129* five miles north of Cayo Guillermo, 22°40'N, 78°40'W. Nineteen of the 33-man crew die in the attack, as does the sole passenger, the former master of U.S. freighter *Thomas McKean* (sunk by German submarine *U-505* on 29 June). Cuban fishing boat *Laventina* rescues the 14 survivors.

- **July 24, Fri.**

Pacific

Submarine *Narwhal* (SS-167) sinks Japanese guardboat *No.83 Shinsei Maru*, Utasutsu Bay, Hokkaido, 44°53'N, 147°09'E, and merchant cargo ships *Nissho Maru* off Etorofu, 45°09'N, 147°31'E, and *Kofuji Maru* off Oito, 45°14'N, 147°31'E.

Arctic

Survivors of U.S. freighter *Carlton* (sunk by *U-88* on 5 July) reach North Cape, Norway, where they become POWs. During the ordeal in the lifeboat, one man dies shortly before they make landfall.

- **July 26, Sun.**

Pacific

Destroyer *Worden* (DD-352) and oiler *Platte* (AO-24) rescue survivors of Dutch motorship *Tjinegara*, which had been sunk by Japanese submarine *I-169* about 75 miles southeast of Nouméa, New Caledonia, 23°10'S, 165°00'E, on 25 July.

- **July 27, Mon.**

General

Army-Navy Petroleum Board is established.

Pacific

TF 8 approaches Kiska to bombard Japanese positions but limited surface visibility results in the operation being postponed. During the retirement, however, high speed minesweeper *Lamberton* (DMS-2) accidentally rams high speed minesweeper *Chandler* (DMS-9). While investigating that collision, destroyer *Monaghan* (DD-354) and high speed minesweeper *Lamberton* (DMS-12) collide; both of those ships suffer damage as well.

Light cruiser *Boise* (CL-47) departs Pearl Harbor to proceed, via Midway, toward the Japanese home islands to emit enough radio traffic to create the impression of an approaching American task force, as well as to locate and destroy small patrol vessels operating off Honshu.

USAAF B-26s damage Japanese transport *Kotoku Maru* off Buna, New Guinea (see 8 August).

Submarine *Spearfish* (SS-190) damages Japanese submarine depot ship *Rio de Janeiro Maru* 95 miles east of Cam Ranh Bay, French Indochina, 11°28'N, 110°52'E.

Dutch submarine *O-23* damages Japanese coaster *No.2 Shofuku Maru* south of Penang, Malaya, 05°07'N, 98°50'E.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Stella Lykes* is torpedoed and shelled by German submarine *U-582* off the west coast of Africa at 06°46'N, 24°55'W, and abandoned with no casualties. *U-582* takes two POWs, provides the Americans with cigarettes and medical supplies, and then scuttles her quarry with demolition charges before departing (see 6 August).

Gulf of Mexico

German submarine *U-166* completes mining the waters off the Mississippi River Passes.

- **July 28, Tue.**

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. fishing trawler *Ebb* is shelled and sunk by German submarine *U-754* 45 miles east of Cape Sable, Nova Scotia, 43°18'N, 63°50'W; five of the 17-man crew are killed, seven are wounded. British destroyer HMS *Witherington* rescues the 12 survivors.

British merchantman *Winchester Castle* rescues the 40 survivors of U.S. freighter *Honolulan*, sunk by German submarine *U-582* on 22 July.

Arctic

U.S. freighter *Winston Salem*, the last straggler from convoy PQ 17, arrives at the port of Molotovsk. PQ 17 has lost 24 ships in the course of its ordeal.

- **July 29, Wed.**

Pacific

PBYs (VP 23) bomb Japanese bases in Tulagi-Gavutu area.

Survivors (47 in number, two merchant seamen having died during the 32-day ordeal in the 25-foot lifeboat) from U.S. freighter *Potlatch*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-153* on 27 June, reach Great Inagua Island, Bahamas group; their search for water will take them thence to Little Inagua, and thence to Aklins Island. Ultimately picked up by steamship *Vergermere*, they reach Nassau on 1 August.

- **July 30, Thu.** Women's Naval Reserve (WAVES) (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) is established (see 2 August).

Pacific

Submarine *Grenadier* (SS-210) torpedoes Japanese tanker *San Clemente Maru* off Truk, 07°02'N, 151°15'E.

Gulf of Mexico

German submarine *U-166* attacks convoy TAW 7 about 25 miles southeast of the mouth of the Mississippi River, and sinks U.S. passenger ship *Robert E. Lee*, 28°40'N, 88°30'W. Submarine chasers *PC-566* and *SC-519*, and civilian tug *Underwriter* rescue survivors; none of the six-man Armed Guard are lost (see 1 August).

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Cranford* is sunk by German submarine *U-155* about 250 miles east-southeast of Barbados, 12°17'N, 55°11'W. *U-155* treats two injured

American sailors and then provides the survivors with navigational information, matches, a line, and water. Running short of provisions, *U-155* can spare none. *Cranford's* surviving complement (including 6 of 8 Armed Guard sailors) are eventually picked up later the same day by Spanish tanker *Castillo Alemenara*.

- **July 31, Fri.**

Pacific

Submarine *Grunion* (SS-216) torpedoes Japanese transport *Kashima Maru* off Kiska, Aleutians, but is sunk by gunfire from her quarry, 10 miles north of Segula Island.

PBYs attempt to bomb Japanese bases in Tulagi-Gavutu area is aborted because of bad weather.

Atlantic

German submarine *U-751* lays mines off Charleston, South Carolina.

August

- **August 1, Sat.**

Pacific

Vice Admiral Robert L. Ghormley, Commander South Pacific Force, establishes his headquarters afloat on board auxiliary *Argonne* (AG-31) at Nouméa, New Caledonia.

Submarine *Narwhal* (SS-167), attacking Japanese shipping south of Shiraya Zaki, off northeast tip of Honshu, sinks merchant cargo ship *Meiwa Maru*, 41°12'N, 141°36'E, and oiler *Koan Maru*, 41°03'N, 141°28'E.

Pacific

Naval Base, Galapagos Islands; Naval Station, Taboga Island, Canal Zone; Naval Auxiliary Air Facility and Motor Torpedo Boat Base, Salinas, Ecuador, are established.

Gulf of Mexico

Coast Guard J4F bombs and sinks German submarine *U-166*, 28°31'N, 90°45'W.

- **August 2, Sun.** Lieutenant Commander Mildred H. McAfee, who received the first WAVES commission, becomes the first WAVES commandant.

Pacific

Dutch submarine *O 23* sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Zenyo Maru* off Penang, Malaya, 05°36'N, 99°53'E.

- **August 3, Mon.**

Pacific

Light minelayers *Gamble* (DM-15), *Breese* (DM-18) and *Tracy* (DM-19) lay minefield off western entrance of Second Channel, Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides.

Submarine *Gudgeon* (SS-211) sinks Japanese transport *Naniwa Maru*, 07°37'N, 150°11'E.

- **August 4, Tue.**

Pacific

Destroyer *Tucker* (DD-374), uninformed of its presence, is sunk in U.S.

minefield laid the previous day by *Gamble* (DM-15), *Breese* (DM-18), and *Tracy* (DM-19), in Second Channel, Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides. Chartered transport *President Coolidge* is also lost as the result of striking a mine in the same field.

Submarine *Narwhal* (SS-167) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Fukuyama Maru*, 40°26'N, 141°50'E.

- **August 5, Wed.**

Pacific

Light cruiser *Boise* (CL-47), in the course of her deception mission, launches two SOCs to search the area. Despite repeated efforts to do so, however, the planes do not find the ship upon their return. Radio silence is broken, thus compromising the operation, and the ship returns to Pearl Harbor, but the Japanese believe that a major U.S. task force is close to the homeland.

Submarine *Greenling* (SS-213), attacking Japanese shipping about 150 miles north-northwest of Truk, sinks transport *Brazil Maru*, 09°50'N, 150°38'E, and merchant passenger-cargo ship *Palau Maru*, 09°04'N, 150°54'E.

- **August 6, Thu.**

Pacific

Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) sinks Japanese army transport *Ohio Maru* in South China Sea about 250 miles east-northeast of Cam Ranh Bay, French Indochina, 13°51'N, 113°15'E.

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. schooner *Wawaloam*, en route to St. John's, Newfoundland, is sunk by shellfire of German submarine *U-86* at 39°18'N, 55°44'W, but suffers no casualties to the six-man crew and the sole passenger (see 12 August).

- **August 7, Fri.**

Pacific

Operation WATCHTOWER: 1st Marine Division (Major General Alexander A. Vandegrift, USMC) lands on **Florida, Tulagi, Gavutu, Tanambogo, and Guadalcanal**, in the first American land offensive of the war. Amphibious Force, South Pacific (Rear Admiral Richmond K. Turner) lands the leathernecks under cover of naval surface and air forces (Vice Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher). Landings are supported by carrier and shore-based aircraft (Rear Admiral Leigh Noyes and Rear Admiral John S. McCain). Overall commander is Vice Admiral Robert L. Ghormley, Commander South Pacific Force; officer in tactical command is Vice Admiral Fletcher. During Japanese air attacks on the transport force and its escorts off Guadalcanal, destroyer *Mugford* (DD-389) is damaged by carrier [dive] bomber (*2nd Kokutai*), 09°00'S, 160°00'E. Following shore bombardment operations in Tulagi Bay, light cruiser *San Juan* (CL-54) is damaged by explosion in one of her forward 5-inch gun mounts.

TG 8.6 (Rear Admiral William W. Smith) bombards Kiska, Aleutians.

Submarine *Tambor* (SS-198) sinks Japanese auxiliary netlayer *Shofuku Maru* off Wotje, Marshalls, 09°25'N, 170°11'E.

- **August 8, Sat.**

Pacific

Marines wrest control of Tulagi, Gavutu, and Tanambogo, Solomons, from tenacious Japanese resistance. Unfinished airstrip on Guadalcanal is captured and named "Henderson Field" in honor of the late Major Lofton R. Henderson, USMC, who was killed while leading VMSB 241 in the gallant but unsuccessful attack on Japanese carrier *Hiryu* at Midway on 4 June 1942. Coastwatchers report incoming raid. During fierce Japanese aerial assault by land attack planes (*4th* and *Misawa Kokutais*) on invasion shipping: destroyer *Jarvis* (DD-393) and transport *George F. Elliott* (AP-13), 09°10'S, 160°10'E are torpedoed. The latter, also crashed by a Japanese plane, is later scuttled by destroyer *Hull* (DD-350). Another crashing bomber damages transport *Barnett* (AP-11), 09°13'S, 160°01'E.

Submarine *Narwhal* (SS-167) sinks Japanese crab boat *Bifuku Maru* southeast of Shiriya Zaki, at northeast tip of Honshu. 41°14'N, 141°32'E.

Submarine *S-38* (SS-143), despite presence of escorting minesweeper *W.21*, sinks Japanese transport *Meiyo Maru* at southern entrance of St. George Channel, between New Britain and New Ireland, 04°52'S, 152°42'E.

Submarine *Silversides* (SS-236), attacking Japanese convoy emerging from Kobe harbor, torpedoes and sinks merchant cargo ship *Nikkei Maru* in Kii Suido, near Ichiya Zaki, 33°33'N, 135°23'E.

Destroyers *Mustin* (DD-413) and *Morris* (DD-417) are damaged in collision during night maneuvers in Hawaiian Operating Area.

Atlantic

German submarine *U-98* mines waters off Jacksonville, Florida.

U.S. freighter *Kaimoku*, en route to Liverpool in convoy SC 94, is torpedoed and sunk by shellfire of German submarine *U-379* at 56°32'N, 32°15'W. Two of the 36-man crew die in the attack, as do two of the 14-man Armed Guard. Canadian corvette HMCS *Battleford* rescues survivors.

- **August 9, Sun.**

Pacific

Battle of Savo Island: Japanese force of seven cruisers and one destroyer (Vice Admiral Mikawa Gunichi) approaches west of Savo Island, Solomons, undetected. The defeat is one of the worst ever inflicted on the U.S. Navy. Allied ships depart Guadalcanal area. Japanese vessels temporarily control waters around Guadalcanal. Heavy cruiser *Astoria* (CA-34) is sunk by gunfire of Japanese heavy cruisers *Chokai*, *Aoba*, *Kinugasa*, and *Kako*. *Quincy* (CA-39) is sunk by gunfire of heavy cruisers *Aoba*, *Kako*, and *Furutaka* and light cruiser *Tenryu* and is torpedoed by light cruiser *Yubari*. *Vincennes* (CA-44) is sunk by gunfire and torpedo from heavy cruiser *Chokai*, and gunfire from *Kako*, *Aoba*, and *Kinugasa*, and light cruiser *Yubari*. The fourth Allied ship lost off Savo is Australian heavy cruiser HMAS *Canberra* which, badly damaged by Japanese gunfire, is scuttled by destroyer *Selfridge* (DD-357).

U.S. ships damaged are heavy cruiser *Chicago* (CA-29) by *Kako*; destroyer *Ralph Talbot* (DD-390) by *Furutaka*, *Yubari*, and *Tenryu*; and destroyer *Patterson* (DD-392) by *Yubari* and *Tenryu*. U.S. gunfire damages *Chokai* (from *Quincy* and *Astoria*); *Kinugasa* (by *Vincennes*); *Aoba* (by *Quincy*) and *Tenryu* (by *Chicago* and *Patterson*).

Destroyer *Jarvis* (DD-393), damaged the previous day, is mistaken as a "Achilles-class cruiser" and attacked by Japanese land attack planes (*Misawa Kokutai*) and torpedoed 200 nautical miles southeast of Tulagi, 09°42'S, 158°59'E. *Jarvis* puts up a stout fight, splashing two of the attacking planes; a third ditches due to battle damage. There are, however, no survivors from the destroyer, which is lost with all hands.

Atlantic

German submarine *U-98* completes laying mines off mouth of St. Johns River, east of Jacksonville, Florida.

- **August 10, Mon.**

Pacific

Submarine *S-44* (SS-155) sinks Japanese heavy cruiser *Kako* near Kavieng, 02°15'S, 152°15'E, as *Kako* retires from the Battle of Savo Island.

Mediterranean

Operation PEDESTAL: British convoy, WS 21S, formed around 13 transports and cargo ships (which include U.S. freighters *Almeria Lykes* and *Santa Elisa*) and one tanker transits Straits of Gibraltar, bound for Malta. Royal Navy cover and escort forces include a total of two battleships, four aircraft carriers, seven light cruisers and 25 destroyers (see 11-13 August).

- **August 11, Tue.**

Mediterranean

Operation PEDESTAL: large British convoy (which includes in its composition U.S. freighters *Almeria Lykes* and *Santa Elisa*), bound for Malta, its presence determined by Axis aerial reconnaissance, comes under attack from Luftwaffe JU 88s and HE 111s (see 12-13 August).

- **August 12, Wed.**

Atlantic

Light cruiser *Cleveland* (CL-55), on her shakedown cruise in Chesapeake Bay, tests the newly developed proximity fuzed antiaircraft projectiles for the first time under simulated combat conditions; she destroys all three target drones with four proximity bursts.

Seven survivors of U.S. schooner *Wawaloam*, sunk by German submarine *U-86* on 6 August, are rescued by steamship *Irish Rose*, which transfers them subsequently to British corvette HMS *Campanula*.

Mediterranean

Operation PEDESTAL: attacks by German and Italian aircraft continue on large British convoy (which includes within its composition U.S. freighters *Almeria Lykes* and *Santa Elisa*), bound for Malta (see 13 August).

Pacific

Submarine *Pickrel* (SS-177) is damaged by depth charges off the Marianas, 16°19'S, 145°23'E, but remains on patrol.

USAAF B-17s damage Japanese oiler *Matsumoto Maru*.

- **August 13, Thu.**

Gulf of Mexico

U.S. tanker *R.M. Parker, Jr.*, en route to Port Arthur, Texas, is torpedoed,

shelled, and sunk by German submarine *U-171* at 28°37'N, 90°48'W. There are no casualties, and Coast Guard auxiliary cutter *Pioneer* rescues all 37 merchant seamen and the seven-man Armed Guard.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Cripple Creek* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-171* at 04°55'N, 18°30'W; one crewman is killed. The survivors take to three lifeboats (see 16 August).

U.S. freighter *Delmundo*, in convoy TAW 12, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-600* in the Windward passage, 19°55'N, 73°49'W; five of the 41-man crew perish, as do three of the eight passengers. The survivors, including the 9-man Armed Guard, are rescued by British destroyer HMS *Churchill* [ex-U.S. destroyer *Herndon* (DD-198)].

Mediterranean

Operation PEDESTAL: German and Italian motor torpedo boats attack Malta-bound convoy before dawn; German S 30 and S 36, and Italian MAS 554 and MAS 557 torpedo and sink British merchantman *Wairangi* and damage *Rochester Castle* (which will eventually reach Malta although she is damaged further by Luftwaffe JU 87s and JU 88s). U.S. freighter *Almeria Lykes* is torpedoed and is abandoned, 36°40'N, 11°35'E. The ship remains afloat, but is sunk by scuttling charge after daybreak. British destroyer HMS *Somali* rescues all hands: 51 merchant seamen, 15-man Armed Guard, and 39 passengers. Freighter *Santa Elisa* is torpedoed in the same attack, approximately 20 miles southeast of Cape Bon, 36°48'N, 11°23'E, and is abandoned when her cargo of aviation gasoline catches fire. Four of the 33 embarked army passengers are killed, but the 56-man merchant complement and the 11-man Armed Guard suffer no fatalities. British destroyer HMS *Penn* rescues the survivors and transports them to Malta; three Armed Guard sailors will be hospitalized there for burns suffered in the attack that leads to the ship's abandonment. *Santa Elisa* is finished off by bombs later that day. Three surviving British transports and the one tanker will reach Malta later this day; a fourth transport will reach the island on 14 August.

- **August 14, Fri.**

Pacific

Submarine *S-39* (SS-144) is damaged when she strikes submerged reef off Rossel Island, Louisiade Archipelago.

Submarine *Seawolf* (SS-197) sinks Japanese merchant passenger-cargo ship *Hachigen Maru* (ex-British *Wenchow*) in Sibitu Passage, 05°07'N, 119°37'E.

Europe

Lieutenant General Dwight D. Eisenhower, USA, Commanding General, European Theater of Operations, is appointed Commander in Chief of Allied Expeditionary Forces; Admiral Sir Andrew B. Cunningham, RN, is appointed Allied Naval Commander.

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. freighter *California* is torpedoed, shelled and sunk by Italian submarine *Reginaldo Giuliani* at 09°24'N, 33°02'W; all hands (38 men) abandon the sinking ship under fire (see 4,5 and 14 September).

- **August 15, Sat.**

Pacific

Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island, Washington, is established.

Marine Aircraft Wings, Pacific (Major General Ross E. Rowell, USMC) is established at San Diego, California.

Caribbean

Patrol Wing 11 (Commander Stanley J. Michael) is established at San Juan, Puerto Rico, for operations in Caribbean Sea Frontier.

Naval Auxiliary Air Facility, Jamaica, British West Indies, is established.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Balladier*, in convoy SC 95, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-705* (one of 13 boats deployed to intercept Allied transatlantic convoys) approximately 550 miles southeast of Iceland at 55°00'N, 25°00'W; eleven of the 34-man crew and two of the 11-man Armed Guard die in the attack. Merchantman *Norluna* rescues survivors.

- **August 16, Sun.**

Pacific

Submarine *S-39* (SS-144), irreparably damaged by striking reef off Rossel Island, on 14 August, is abandoned.

Airship *L 8* (ZP-32) is damaged upon return from patrol off California coast, landing at Dale City, California. The airship, however is unmanned; the fate of its two-man crew remains a mystery.

Atlantic

Surviving 38 merchant seamen and the 13-man Armed Guard of U.S. freighter *Cripple Creek*, sunk by German submarine *U-171* on 13 August, are rescued by British armed trawler HMS *St. Wistan* and transported to Sierra Leone.

- **August 17, Mon.**

Pacific

Companies "A" and "B," 2d Marine Raider Battalion (Lieutenant Colonel Evans F. Carlson, USMC), transported in submarines *Nautilus* (SS-168) and *Argonaut* (SS-166), raid Makin Island in the Gilberts; *Nautilus's* gunfire supports marines ashore. The relative ease with which the assault is carried out, however, inspires the Japanese to bolster defenses in the region.

Submarine *Gudgeon* (SS-211) damages Japanese oilers *Shinkoku Maru* and *Nichiei Maru* northwest of Truk, 07°43'N, 151°13'W.

Atlantic

U.S. tanker *Louisiana* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-108* approximately 200 miles from Paramaribo, Dutch Guiana, 07°24'N, 52°33'W; although *U-108* sees three men escape from the burning ship, they are never found. There are no survivors from the 41 merchant sailors and the 8-man Armed Guard.

18, Tue.

Pacific

Japanese destroyers *Kagero*, *Hakigaze*, *Maikaze*, *Urakaze*, *Isokaze* and

Hamikaze begin landing 916 troops of the Imperial Army's *Ichiki Detachment* on Guadalcanal.

Caribbean

Convoy TAW 13, steaming south of Cuba, comes under attack from German submarine *U-553*, which torpedoes and sinks Swedish merchantman *Blankaholm* and British freighter *Empire Bede*; *U-553* also torpedoes and sinks U.S. freighter *John Hancock* at 19°27'N, 76°48'W. All 38 merchant sailors and the 11-man Armed Guard survive the loss of the ship; the men are rescued by British corvette *HMS Pimpernel*.

Convoy TAW (S), 15 ships escorted by gunboat *Courage* (PG-70), British corvette *HMS Clarkia*, two Coast Guard cutters and four submarine chasers, is attacked by German submarine *U-162*, which torpedoes unarmed U.S. freighter *West Celina* off Grenada, 11°45'N, 62°30'W (see 19 August).

- **August 19, Wed.**

Pacific

USAAF B-17s, flying from Espiritu Santo, bomb Japanese destroyers *Kagero*, *Hagikaze* and *Maikaze* off Guadalcanal, damaging *Hagikaze* off Tulagi.

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I-29* reconnoiters the Seychelles.

Caribbean

German submarine *U-162* continues stalking convoy TAW (S) attacked the previous day, and again torpedoes unarmed U.S. freighter *West Celina*, which is abandoned by the 39-man crew and the convoy commodore's staff of four men; the convoy commodore, however, is lost (see 21 and 22 August). German submarine *U-564* attacks the convoy as well, torpedoing and sinking two British ships: tanker *British Consul* and freighter *Empire Cloud*. Escorting ships will, however, frustrate further attacks by the U-boats.

- **August 20, Thu.**

Pacific

First USMC planes arrive at Henderson Field: aircraft escort vessel *Long Island* (AVG-1) ferries 19 F4Fs (VMF 223) and 12 SBDs (VMSB 232) to Guadalcanal. Although Japanese flying boat from the Shortlands sights *Long Island*, screened by light cruiser *Helena* (CL-50) and destroyers *Aylwin* (DD-355) and *Dale* (DD-353), the U.S. ships prove to be out of range of enemy land-based air and retire from the area without incident.

Small seaplane tender *Mackinac* (AVP-13) is damaged when mistakenly bombed by SBDs (VS 71) from carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) off Ndeni Island.

Atlantic

PBY-5A (VP 73) sinks German submarine *U-464*, North Atlantic Area, 61°25'N, 14°40'W.

- **August 21, Fri.**

Pacific

Submarine *Cuttlefish* (SS-171) damages Japanese ammunition ship *Nichiro Maru*, 31°00'N, 130°00'E.

Submarine *Tambor* (SS-198) sinks Japanese collier *No.6 Shinsei Maru* off Ponape Island, 06°45'N, 158°10'E.

Motor vessel *Lakatoi*, commissioned at Nouméa, New Caledonia, on 15 August and manned by a crew made up of survivors of the sunken transport *George F. Elliott* (AP-13) sinks in storm at 18°55'S, 167°40'E.

Caribbean

One group of 19 survivors from U.S. freighter *West Celina*, torpedoed by German submarine *U-162* on 18 and 19 August, reaches Manzanillo Bay, Venezuela (see 22 August).

- **August 22, Sat.**

General

Brazil declares war on Germany and Italy.

Pacific

First USAAF planes (five P-400s from the 67th Fighter Squadron) arrive at Henderson Field, Guadalcanal.

Destroyer *Blue* (DD-387) is torpedoed by Japanese destroyer *Kawakaze* off Guadalcanal (see 23 August).

Submarine *Haddock* (SS-231) torpedoes and sinks Japanese transport *Tatsuho Maru* off China coast, near Foochow, 26°07'N, 121°29'E.

Atlantic

Destroyer *Ingraham* (DD-444) is sunk in collision with oiler *Chemung* (AO-30) off Nova Scotia, 42°34'N, 60°05'W; *Chemung* is damaged; destroyer *Buck* (DD-420) is damaged in collision with British transport *Awatea*, 42°34'N, 60°05'W.

Caribbean

USAAF plane (45th Bombardment Squadron) sinks German submarine *U-654* north of Panama, 12°00'N, 79°56'W.

Second group of 23 survivors from U.S. freighter *West Celina*, torpedoed by German submarine *U-162* on 18 and 19 August, reaches Manzanillo Bay, Venezuela.

- **August 23, Sun.**

Atlantic

Heavy cruiser *Tuscaloosa* (CA-37), escorted by destroyers *Rodman* (DD-456) and *Emmons* (DD-457) and British destroyer HMS *Onslaught*, arrives at Murmansk, Russia, and disembarks men and unloads equipment from two RAF Bomber Command squadrons that have been transferred to North Russia. The ships depart the following day to return to the British fleet base at Scapa Flow, Orkneys.

Pacific

Japanese light cruiser *Yubari*, accompanied by four destroyers and supporting ships, shells Nauru Island, Gilberts, in preparation for landings there.

Destroyer *Blue* (DD-387), damaged on 22 August, is scuttled by her crew, 09°17'S, 160°02'E.

Submarine *Skipjack* damages Japanese oiler *Hayatomo* southwest of Ambon, N.E.I., 03°52'N, 127°54'E.

PBY (VP 23) attacks (in daylight!) Japanese heavy cruiser *Furutaka*, Solomons.

- **August 24, Mon.**

Pacific

Battle of the Eastern Solomons occurs as TF 61 (Vice Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher), supported by USMC and USAAF planes from Henderson Field, turns back major Japanese attempt to recapture Guadalcanal and Tulagi. Carrier *Enterprise* (CV-6) is damaged by dive bomber (08°38'S, 163°30'E) and destroyer *Grayson* (DD-435) is damaged by strafing and near-miss, but SBDs and TBFs (VB 3, VS 3, VT 8) from *Saratoga* (CV-3) sink carrier *Ryujo* (06°10'S, 160°50'E) and damage seaplane carrier *Chitose*. SBD (VMSB 232) damages light cruiser *Jintsu* north of Malaita Island, Solomons.

Submarine *Saury* (SS-189) torpedoes Japanese army transport *Otowan Maru* west of Luzon, 14°15'N, 120°19'E.

Submarine *Guardfish* (SS-217) torpedoes and sinks Japanese merchant passenger-cargo ship *Seikai Maru* off entrance to Sendai harbor, on northeast coast of Honshu, 38°12'N, 141°30'E.

Japanese transport *Cuba Maru*, stranded south of Sakhalin Island, Kurils, sinks, 48°00'N, 142°30'E.

- **August 25, Tue.**

Pacific

USAAF B-17s sink Japanese destroyer *Mutsuki* off Santa Isabel, Solomons, as she stands by the sinking transport *Kinryu Maru*, damaged by planes from *Enterprise* (CV-6) north of Guadalcanal, 07°47'N, 160°13'E. USMC SBDs (VMSB 232) from Henderson Field damage light cruiser *Jintsu* and destroyer *Uzuki* off Guadalcanal.

Submarine *Growler* (SS-215) sinks Japanese gunboat *Sen-Yo Maru* 20 miles south of Takao, Formosa, 22°33'N, 120°10'E, and survives several ensuing depth-chargings.

Submarine *Seawolf* (SS-197) sinks Japanese cargo ship *Showa Maru* off northeast coast of Borneo, 03°55'N, 118°59'E.

Japanese occupy Nauru, Gilberts, and Goodenough Island, off southeast coast of New Guinea.

- **August 26, Wed.**

Pacific

Japanese land at Milne Bay, New Guinea; USAAF B-17s, B-25s, B-26s, P-40s, along with RAAF Hudsons, attack beaches and transports while Australian troops attack the invaders.

SBDs (VS 71) from carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) damage Japanese submarine *I-17*, Solomons area, 09°25'S, 162°47'E.

Japanese occupy Ocean Island.

Submarine *Haddock* (SS-231) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Teishun Maru* off China coast, about 100 miles north-northwest of Keelung, Formosa, 26°27'N, 121°23'E.

Seaplane tender (destroyer) *Williamson* (AVD-2) is damaged by explosion of bombs jarred loose from PBV being towed by the ship.

- **August 27, Thu.**

Atlantic

German submarine *U-165* attacks convoy SG 6 off Belle Isle Strait, torpedoing oiler *Laramie* (AO-16) at 51°44'N, 55°40'W; four sailors are killed. *U-165* also torpedoes U.S. freighter *Arlyn* at 51°53'N, 55°48'W; 12 of the 34-man crew die (see 28 August).

German submarine *U-517* attacks convoy SG 6F off Belle Isle Strait, torpedoing Army transport *Chatham* at 51°N, 55°49'W; seven of the 106-man crew perish, as do seven of the 428 passengers. There are no casualties among the 28-man Armed Guard. The majority of the men who survive the sinking pull to shore in a dozen life boats; the remainder, who embark in nine rafts, are rescued by destroyer *Bernadou* (DD-153), Coast Guard cutter *Mojave* (WPG-47), and Canadian corvette HMCS *Trail*.

Caribbean

German submarine *U-511* attacks convoy TAW 15 (see 28 August 1942).

- **August 28, Fri.**

Pacific

USMC and Navy SBDs (VMSB 232, VS 5) bomb and sink Japanese destroyer *Asagiri* off Santa Isabel, Solomons, and damage destroyers *Shirakumo*, *Yugiri*, and *Amagiri*, preventing reinforcements (elements of the *Kawaguchi Detachment*) from landing on Guadalcanal.

Light minelayer *Gamble* (DM-15) sinks Japanese submarine *I-123* near Guadalcanal, 09°21'S, 160°43'E.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Topa Topa*, bound for the Gold Coast, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-66* at 10°16'N, 51°30'W; 18 of the 42-man crew perish, as do seven of the 15-man Armed Guard. All three passengers survive. British merchantman *Clan MacInnes* rescues the 35 survivors and transports them to Trinidad.

Freighter *Harjurand* rescues some of the survivors from U.S. freighter *Arlyn*, torpedoed by *U-165* the day before; the rest row to shore. A total of 22 merchant sailors, the 14-man Armed Guard, and the sole passenger survive *Arlyn's* loss. *U-517* finishes off the abandoned *Arlyn* with a torpedo at 51°53'N, 55°48'W.

Caribbean

PBV (VP 92) and Canadian corvette HMCS *Oakville* sink German submarine *U-94* at 17°54'N, 74°36'W. Destroyer *Lea* (DD-118) and *Oakville* pick up survivors.

U.S. tanker *Esso Aruba*, in convoy TAW 15, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-511* approximately 120 miles south-southeast of Guantanamo Bay, 17°54'N, 74°47'W; *U-511* also torpedoes British tanker *San Fabian* and Dutch tanker

Rotterdam, both of which sink. *Esso Aruba*, however, suffers no casualties (convoy commodore and his five-man staff, 41-man merchant complement and 13-man Armed Guard), remains in convoy and reaches her destination the same day without further incident.

- **August 29, Sat.**

Pacific

Transport *William Ward Burrows* (AP-6) is damaged when she runs aground on Sylvia Reef off Tulagi, Solomons, 09°07'S, 160°10'E.

Australian destroyer HMAS *Arunta* sinks Japanese submarine *RO-33* ten miles southeast of Port Moresby, New Guinea, 09°36'S, 147°06'E.

- **August 30, Sun.**

Pacific

TG 8.8 lands Army occupation forces on Adak, Aleutians, to begin construction of an air and naval base.

High speed transport *Colhoun* (APD-2) is bombed and sunk by Japanese planes off Kukum Point, Guadalcanal, 09°24'S, 160°01'E.

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I-19* reconnoiters Santa Cruz Island, Solomons.

Atlantic

U.S. tanker *Jack Carnes*, bound for Aruba, is shelled by German submarine *U-705*. After Armed Guard gunfire compels the Germans to submerge, *U-705* torpedoes the tanker, 42°00'N, 28°05'E; 24 merchant seamen and four Armed Guard sailors man one lifeboat, while 18 merchant sailors (including the ship's master) and 10 Armed Guard sailors take to the other (see 31 August and 5 September 1942).

U.S. freighter *Star of Oregon*, bound for Trinidad, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-162*, and abandoned; one workaway sailor is killed in the attack. *U-162* then shells and sinks the freighter, 11°48'N, 59°45'E, before questioning the crew and then leaving the area. The entire 38-man crew and 14-man Armed Guard sailors survive the loss of the ship; a U.S. patrol craft rescues them.

U.S. freighter *West Lashaway* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-66* approximately 375 miles east of Trinidad, 10°30'N, 55°10'E; the rapidity with which the ship sinks prevents boats from being launched. Some 42 of the 56 souls on board (including a woman missionary and four children among the passengers) manage to reach four rafts (see 2, 13, 18 and 24 September 1942).

- **August 31, Mon.**

Pacific

Eight Japanese destroyers put ashore 1,000 troops of the *Kawaguchi Detachment* on Guadalcanal.

Carrier *Saratoga* (CV-3) is torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I-26*, 260 miles southeast of Guadalcanal, 10°34'S, 164°18'E.

Destroyer *Reid* (DD-369) and PBYs (VP 42, VP 43) sink Japanese submarine *RO-61* off Atka, Aleutians, 52°36'N, 173°57'W.

Submarine *Growler* (SS-215) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Eifuku Maru* in Formosa Strait, 25°43'N, 122°38'E.

Atlantic

Storm separates the two lifeboats with survivors from U.S. tanker *Jack Carnes*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-705* at 42°00'N, 28°05'E (see 5 September 1942).

September

- **September 1, Tue.** Japanese Prime Minister Tojo Hideki also becomes Foreign Minister as Togo Shigenori resigns.

Pacific

Air Force, Pacific Fleet (Vice Admiral Aubrey W. Fitch) is established.

Sixth Naval Construction Battalion (Seabees), the first to serve in a combat area, arrives at Guadalcanal.

USAAF B-17s bomb and damage Japanese flying boat support ship *Akitsushima* and destroyer *Akikaze* off Buka Island, Solomons.

Atlantic

PBY (VP 73) bombs and sinks German submarine *U-756*, 57°30'N, 29°00'W.

- **September 2, Wed.**

Pacific

Transport *William Ward Burrows* (AP-6) is damaged by grounding on Southern Cross Reef, off Tulagi, Solomons.

Submarine *Flying Fish* (SS-229) is damaged by depth charges off Truk, 07°46'N, 151°57'E, and ends her patrol.

Submarine *Guardfish* (SS-217) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Teikyu Maru* (ex-Danish *Gustav Diederickson*) 13 miles southeast of Chikyu Mizaki, Hokkaido, Japan, 42°08'N, 141°15'E.

Atlantic

Storm separates the four rafts upon which survivors of U.S. freighter *West Lashaway* (sunk by German submarine *U-66* on 30 August 1942) have gathered (see 13, 18 and 24 September 1942).

- **September 3, Thu.**

Atlantic

Transport *Wakefield* (AP-21) is extensively damaged by fire while en route from River Clyde to New York in convoy TA 18. Light cruiser *Brooklyn* (CL-40), destroyers *Mayo* (DD-422), *Madison* (DD-425), *Niblack* (DD-424) and *Charles F. Hughes* (DD-428) provide assistance; all hands (1500 men) are saved. *Niblack* stands by with a salvage party. *Wakefield* will not return to service until February 1944.

Pacific

Japanese minelayer *Tsugaru* is damaged by aircraft, Solomons area.

Submarine *Seal* (SS-183) damages Japanese merchant passenger-cargo ship *Kanju Maru* southeast of Cape Padaran, French Indochina, 11°00'N, 109°00'E.

- **September 4, Fri.**

Pacific

Submarine *Growler* (SS-215) sinks Japanese ammunition ship *Kashino* in Formosa Straits, about 50 miles northeast of Keelung, Formosa, 25°43'N, 122°38'E.

Submarine *Guardfish* (SS-217), operating off northeast coast of Honshu, sinks merchant cargo ships *Kaimei Maru* and *Chita Maru* at 40°14'N, 141°51'E, and passenger cargo ship *Tenyu Maru* at 40°12'N, 141°49'E, off Kuji Bay, Iwate Prefecture, Japan.

Submarine *Pompano* (SS-181) sinks guardboat *No.27 Nanshin Maru* northeast of Honshu, Japan, 35°22'N, 151°40'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Suki Maru* is sunk by mine in Bangka Strait, N.E.I.

Atlantic

Unidentified German U-boat comes across one boat containing 19 survivors of U.S. freighter *California*, sunk by Italian submarine *Reginaldo Giuliani* on 13 August 1942 and provides rations and navigational assistance before departing (see 5 and 14 September 1942).

- **September 5, Sat.**

Pacific

Japanese troops are withdrawn from their tenuous beachhead at Milne Bay.

High speed transports *Gregory* (APD-3) and *Little* (APD-4) are sunk by Japanese destroyers *Yudachi*, *Murakumo*, and *Hatsuyuki* off Lunga Point, Guadalcanal, 09°20'S, 160°01'E.

Submarine *Seal* (SS-183) sinks Japanese merchant passenger-cargo ship *Kanju Maru* southeast of Cam Ranh Bay, French Indochina, 11°00'N, 109°32'E.

Atlantic

British steamship *City of Capetown* rescues 19 survivors of U.S. freighter *California*, sunk by Italian submarine *Reginaldo Giuliani* on 13 August 1942 (see 14 September 1942).

One lifeboat with 28 survivors of U.S. tanker *Jack Carnes*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-705* on 30 August 1942, reaches Terceira, Azores. The other 28 survivors (18 merchant seamen and 10 Armed Guard sailors) are never recovered.

- **September 6, Sun.**

Pacific

District patrol craft *YP-74* is sunk by collision with merchant vessel *Derblay* off the Aleutian Islands, 54°23'N, 164°10'W.

Battleship *South Dakota* (BB-57) is damaged when she fouls a coral reef in Lahai Passage, Tonga Islands.

Japanese submarine *I-11* is damaged by gunfire, location unspecified.

- **September 7, Mon.** U.S. and Cuba conclude agreement for naval and military cooperation.

Pacific

Submarine *Growler* (SS-215) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Taika Maru* 20 miles northwest of Keelung, Formosa, 25°31'N, 121°38'E.

- **September 9, Wed.**

Pacific

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I-25* drops incendiary bombs on forest near Mount Emily, ten miles northeast of Brookings, Oregon, in an attempt to ignite forest fires. It is the first time a Japanese aircraft has bombed the continental United States during World War II. The bombing is reported by a forest ranger (see 29 September 1942).

Japanese submarine *I-30* reaches Penang, Malaya, having *successfully run the Allied blockade of Lorient, France (see 13 October 1942).

District patrol craft *YP-346* is sunk by Japanese light cruiser *Sendai* and three destroyers off Guadalcanal.

Atlantic

Coast Guard weather ship *Muskeget* (WAG-48) is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-755* between Norfolk, Virginia, and Iceland.

- **September 10, Thu.**

Atlantic

German submarine *U-69* lays mines at mouth of Chesapeake Bay.

U.S. freighter *American Leader* is shelled, torpedoed, and sunk by German auxiliary cruiser *Michel* (Schiffe 28) in the South Atlantic approximately 800 miles west of the mouth of the Cape of Good Hope, 34°26'S, 02°00'E. *Michel* recovers the survivors, 39 of 49 merchant seamen and eight of nine Armed Guard sailors, and ultimately transports them to Singapore where they are turned over to the Japanese. Of that group, 14 will perish as POWs.

- **September 11, Fri.**

Pacific

Submarine *Saury* (SS-189) sinks Japanese aircraft transport *Kanto Maru* approximately 30 miles off the west coast of the Celebes, in central Makassar Strait, 03°15'S, 118°27'E.

On board submarine *Seadragon* (SS-194), en route to her war patrol station in the South China Sea, Pharmacist's Mate First Class Wheeler B. Lipes performs successful appendectomy on Seaman First Class Darrell D. Rector, USNR. Captain James Fife, Commander, Submarine Squadron 2, later writes that he "hoped that his [Lipes's] success will not encourage others to take unnecessary risks..." in such cases in the future (see 14-15 December and 22 December 1942).

USAAF B-17s and RAAF Hudsons sink Japanese destroyer *Yayoi* about 15 miles east of Normanby Island, D'Entrecasteaux Islands.

- **September 12, Sat.**

Atlantic

Brazil places its naval forces under U.S. Navy operational control.

U.S. tanker *Patrick J. Hurley*, en route to Belfast, Ireland, is shelled by German submarine *U-512* at 22°59'N, 46°15'E, and abandoned after Armed Guard

gunfire proves unavailing in the tanker's defense (see 19 September and 2 October 1942).

Laconia Incident: German submarine *U-156* torpedoes and sinks British transport *Laconia*, which has 1,800 Italian POWs on board, northeast of Ascension Island, 05°05'S, 11°38'W; the U-boat immediately commences rescue operations and dispatches plain-language request for help. In addition, diplomatic channels are utilized to seek aid from Vichy French naval units in West African waters (see 16-18 September 1942).

- **September 13, Sun.**

North Russia

German aerial and submarine attacks begin against convoy PQ 18, bound for Archangel, USSR, approximately 100 miles southwest of Spitsbergen. U.S. freighter *Oliver Ellsworth* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-589* at 75°52'N, 07°55'E, and abandoned; one Armed Guard sailor is killed in the attack.

Survivors (42 merchant seamen and 27 Armed Guard crewmen) are rescued by merchantman *Copeland* and British armed trawler HMS *St. Kenan*; the latter scuttles the crippled *Oliver Ellsworth* with gunfire. Later that day, German planes attack, torpedoing freighter *John Penn* at 75°52'N, 07°55'E; three of the 40-man merchant crew are killed. British destroyer HMS *Eskimo* and minesweeper HMS *Harrier* rescue the survivors, who include the 25-man Armed Guard; *John Penn* is scuttled by escort vessels. Shortly thereafter, freighter *Oregonian* is also torpedoed at 76°00'N, 09°30'E; escort vessels rescue 21 of the 40-man crew, in addition to 8 of the 14-man Armed Guard.

Atlantic

Plane drops rations to one raft containing 19 survivors from U.S. freighter *West Lashaway* (sunk by German submarine *U-66* on 30 August 1942) (see 18 and 24 September 1942).

- **September 14, Mon.**

Pacific

USAAF B-17s damage Japanese heavy cruiser *Myoko* as she is en route from Truk, Carolines, to carry out support operations off Guadalcanal,

USAAF planes (13 B-24s and 1 B-17 take part in the raid) sink Japanese ammunition ship *Nojima Maru* off Kiska, Aleutians; USAAF P-39s damage submarines *RO 63* and *RO 64* also in the area.

North Russia

German torpedo planes continue attacks upon Archangel-bound convoy PQ 18, sinking U.S. freighter *Mary Luckenbach* about 600 miles west of North Cape, Norway, 76°00'N, 16°00'E; she is lost with all hands (41 merchant seamen and a 24-man Armed Guard). The violent explosion of *Mary Luckenbach's* ammunition cargo rains debris on nearby freighter *Nathanael Greene*, 76°00'N, 16°00'E, injuring 11 men (five of whom are transferred to British destroyer HMS *Onslaught* for medical attention), but the merchantman makes port under her own power. Concussion from the explosion also disables U.S. freighter *Wacosta*, which is later torpedoed and sunk about 400 miles northeast of Jan Mayen Island, 76°05'N, 10°00'E; she suffers no casualties. British light cruiser HMS *Scylla* and minesweeper HMS *Harrier* rescue all hands: 38 merchant sailors and the 11-man Armed Guard survive *Wacosta's* loss.

Atlantic

Norwegian steamship *Talisman* rescues 18 survivors (one of the original 19 has succumbed to exposure during the 32-day ordeal) of U.S. freighter *California*, sunk by Italian submarine *Reginaldo Giuliani* on 13 August 1942.

- **September 15, Tue.**

Pacific

TF 18 (Rear Admiral Leigh Noyes), covering reinforcement convoy from Espiritu Santo to Guadalcanal, is attacked by Japanese submarine *I-19*, which torpedoes carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) at 12°25'S, 164°08'E. Irreparably damaged, consumed by gasoline fires, *Wasp* is scuttled by destroyer *Lansdowne* (DD-486). *I-19*, in the same spread of torpedoes, also damages battleship *North Carolina* (BB-55) and destroyer *O'Brien* (DD-415) (see 19 October 1942).

Japanese battleships bombard Guadalcanal.

Japanese destroyer *Fumizuki* is damaged by grounding in Formosa Strait.

Atlantic

Light cruiser *Philadelphia* (CL-42) and transport *Edward Rutledge* (AP-52) are damaged in collision in Hampton Roads.

- **September 16, Wed.**

Pacific

Japanese overland assault on Port Moresby, New Guinea, "grinds to a halt" at Ioribaiwa.

Japanese forces evacuate Attu, Aleutians.

Atlantic

TF 23 (Vice Admiral Jonas H. Ingram) is designated South Atlantic Force, Atlantic Fleet.

Patrol Wing 12 (Captain William G. Tomlinson) is established at Key West, Florida, for operations in Gulf Sea Frontier.

U.S. freighter *Commercial Trader* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-558* east of Trinidad, 10°30'N, 60°16'W; seven of the 29-man crew perish in the attack, as do three of the 9-man Armed Guard. The survivors, in one lifeboat, reach Tobago later the same day.

Laconia Incident: USAAF B-24 from Ascension Island bombs German submarine *U-156* (see 12 September 1942), which, along with *U-506* and *U-507* and Italian submarine *Capellini*, is engaged in rescuing survivors of the torpedoed British transport *Laconia* (see 17 September 1942).

- **September 17, Thu.**

Atlantic

Laconia Incident: In the wake of the attack by USAAF B-24 upon German submarines *U-156*, *U-506* and *U-507* and Italian submarine *Capellini*, engaged in rescuing survivors of the torpedoed British transport *Laconia*, Admiral Karl Doenitz issues orders forbidding U-boats from rescuing survivors of sunken ships (the "Laconia Order"). Vichy French light cruiser *Gloire*, sloop *Dumont D'Urville* and minesweeper *Annamite* rescue 1,041 people from lifeboats and the German submarines that have picked them up, too.

U.S. freighter *Mae* is torpedoed, shelled and sunk by German submarine *U-515* approximately 41 miles north of Georgetown, British Guiana, 08°03'N, 58°13'W; one crewman is killed. Norwegian merchantman *Sorwangen* rescues the 31 surviving merchant crewmen and the nine-man Armed Guard, and transfers them to Canadian merchantman *Gypsum King*, which takes them to Georgetown.

- **September 18, Fri.**

Pacific

7th Marine Regiment reinforces marines on Guadalcanal.

Atlantic

German submarine *U-455* lays mines off Charleston, South Carolina.

British destroyer HMS *Vimy* is detached from convoy to investigate raft containing survivors from U.S. freighter *West Lashaway* (sunk by German submarine *U-66* on 30 August 1942). *Vimy*, believing the hoisted sail to be part of the disguise of a U-boat, opens fire on the raft. Her gunnery, however, is fortunately bad, and the survivors (who hurriedly strike the sail) are rescued. This group includes among them the woman missionary and four children (see 24 September 1942).

Laconia Incident: Vichy French sloop *Dumont D'Urville* takes on board 42 survivors from sunken British transport *Laconia* that had been rescued by Italian submarine *Capellini*.

North Russia

German torpedo planes continue attacks upon Archangel-bound convoy PQ 18, sinking U.S. freighter *Kentucky* approximately 35 miles west of Cape Kanin, USSR; all hands survive the loss of the ship. Two British minesweepers rescue the 38-man merchant complement and the 16-man Armed Guard.

- **September 19, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine *Amberjack* (SS-219) sinks Japanese transport *Shirogane Maru* at northern entrance of Bougainville Strait, 06°33'S, 156°05'E.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Wichita* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-516* about 300 miles northeast of Barbados, 15°00'N, 54°00'W. There are no survivors from either the 40-man merchant complement or 10-man Armed Guard unit.

Swedish steamship *Etna* rescues 22 survivors from lifeboat from U.S. tanker *Patrick J. Hurley*, sunk by German submarine *U-512* on 12 September 1942 (see 2 October 1942).

- **September 20, Sun.**

Pacific

Naval Operating Base, Auckland, New Zealand, is established.

North Russia

U.S. freighter *Silver Sword*, in convoy QP 14, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-225* at 75°41'N, 03°12'E; rescue ships *Rathlin* and *Zamalek* pick up all hands: 32 merchant seamen (one of whom dies later of his injuries), the 11-man Armed Guard, and 18 passengers (crewmen from freighters *Peter Kerr* and *Honomu*, sunk on 5 July 1942 in the ill-fated PQ 17 convoy).

- **September 21, Mon.**

Pacific

Submarine *Grouper* (SS-214) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Tone Maru* in China Sea, east of Shanghai, 31°18'N, 123°27'E.

Submarine *Trout* (SS-202) sinks Japanese auxiliary netlayer *Koei Maru* south of Truk, 06°54'N, 151°51'E.

- **September 22, Tue.**

Pacific

Submarine *Amberjack* (SS-219), en route to patrol the waters off Kieta, Bougainville, is damaged when she runs aground on an uncharted coral head off Oema Island, 06°31'31"S, 155°59'E. She remains on patrol.

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *Paul Luckenbach* is torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine *I-29* approximately 800 miles from the coast of India, 10°03'N, 63°42'E; although the four lifeboats containing the entire 44-man complement and 17-man Armed Guard become separated during the 16-to-21 day voyages, all hands reach safety.

Atlantic

U.S. tanker *Esso Williamsburg* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-211* approximately 500 miles south of Cape Farewell, Greenland, 53°12'N, 41°00'W; there are no survivors from the 42-man crew and 18-man Armed Guard.

North Russia

U.S. freighter *Bellingham*, in convoy QP 14, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-435* approximately 45 miles west of Jan Mayen Island, 71°23'N, 11°03'E; escort vessels rescue the ship's complement: 39 merchant seamen, the 10-man Armed Guard, and 26 passengers (survivors from freighters *Pan Kraft* and *Pan Atlantic*, sunk on 5 and 6 July 1942, respectively, in the ill-fated PQ 17 convoy).

- **September 23, Wed.**

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Antinous* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-515* off Georgetown, British Guiana, 08°58'N, 59°33'W; Armed Guard gunfire forces *U-515* to submerge. All hands abandon *Antinous*; a volunteer crew returns to the ship to try and get her underway (see 24 September 1942).

U.S. freighter *Penmar*, straggling from convoy *SC-100* and steering toward Cape Farewell, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-432* at 58°12'N, 34°35'W. One man dies as the ship is being abandoned, but 38 merchant sailors and the 22-man Armed Guard are rescued by Coast Guard cutter *Bibb* (WPG-31) and transported to Iceland.

- **September 24, Thu.**

Pacific

Japanese land on Maiana, Gilberts.

SBDs (VMSB 231, VS 3) from Henderson Field, Guadalcanal, damage Japanese destroyer *Umikaze* while the ship engages in resupply operations.

USAAF B-17 damages Japanese seaplane carrier *Sanuki Maru* off Shortlands Island, Solomons.

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *Losmar* is sunk by Japanese submarine *I-165* about 250 miles west of Cape Comorin, India, 07°40'N, 74°15'E; of the ship's 9-man Armed Guard detachment, 3 are lost when she sinks. British ship *Louise Moller* will rescue 14 survivors on 5 October; seven survivors will reach the west coast of Ceylon by boat on 17 October 1942.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *John Winthrop*, straggling from convoy ON 131, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-619* at 56°00'N, 31°00'W. There are no survivors from the 39-man merchant complement or the 13-man Armed Guard.

U.S. freighter *West Chetac* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-175* north of British Guiana, 08°06'N, 58°12'W; only 17 of the 39-man crew and two of the 11-man Armed Guard reach the rafts that float free of the ship as she sinks in heavy seas. *U-175* conducts a brief interrogation of the survivors before departing (see 2 or 3 October 1942).

U.S. freighter *Antinous*, torpedoed the previous day, is reboarded by the rest of the crew and is taken in tow by British rescue tug *HMS Zwarte Zee*. Soon thereafter, however, *Antinous* is torpedoed by *U-512*. Again, *Antinous* is abandoned, and all hands are picked up by *Zwarte Zee* and *HMS Busy*. The freighter sinks later that day.

West Indian fishing boat rescues last two survivors (one of whom subsequently dies of exposure) of U.S. freighter *West Lashaway* (sunk by German submarine *U-66* on 30 August 1942). All told, only 12 of the 38-man merchant complement, one of the 9-man Armed Guard, and five of nine passengers survive *West Lashaway's* loss.

- **September 25, Fri.**

Pacific

Submarine *Sargo* (SS-188) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Teibo Maru* (ex-Danish *Nordbo*) off coast of French Indochina, 180 miles east of Saigon, 10°31'N, 109°31'E.

Japanese land on Beru, Gilberts.

USAAF B-17s damage Japanese light cruiser *Yura* off Shortland Island, Solomons.

Japanese submarine *I-5* is damaged by gunfire off Guadalcanal.

USAAF P-39 fighters damage Japanese submarine *RO 67* off Kiska, Aleutians.

- **September 26, Sat.**

Pacific

Japanese submarine *I-33* accidentally sinks while undergoing voyage repairs at Truk, Carolines.

Japanese weather observation ship *No.6 Kyoei Maru* is damaged by aircraft (nationality unspecified) off Woodlark Island.

- **September 27, Sun.**

Pacific

1st Battalion, 7th Marines (Lieutenant Colonel Lewis B. Puller) withdraws from Matanikau River, Guadalcanal, area in landing craft; extraction of marines is covered by gunfire from destroyer *Monssen* (DD-436) and SBD (VMSB). All available Higgins boats (24 in number) are sent to extract the marines, under Signalman 1st Class Douglas A. Munro, USCG. Munro, with a volunteer crew, interposes his boat so as to draw fire away from the five boats that are embarking marines. Munro is killed, two of his three-man crew are wounded (one mortally). He succeeds in his object, but at the cost of his own life. For his heroism, Munro is awarded the Medal of Honor, posthumously.

Japanese land on Kuria, Gilberts.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Stephen Hopkins* engages German auxiliary cruiser *Stier* (Schiffe 23) and supply ship *Tannenfels* in a surface gunnery action in the central South Atlantic on the shipping lane between Capetown, South Africa, and Paramaribo, Dutch Guiana. *Stier* sinks *Stephen Hopkins* but the German raider sinks after having received heavy damage inflicted by the freighter's Armed Guard (Ensign Kenneth Willett, USNR) and civilian volunteer (Cadet Midshipman Edwin J. O'Hara) gunners, 28°08'S, 20°01'W. *Tannenfels* rescues *Stier's* survivors (see 27 October 1942). Ensign Willett will receive a posthumous Navy Cross.

- **September 28, Mon.**

Pacific

Submarine *Nautilus* (SS-168) torpedoes and sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.6 Tamon Maru* east of Japan, 40°35'N, 141°50'N.

Submarine *Sculpin* (SS-191) torpedoes Japanese seaplane carrier *Nisshin* east of Kokoda Island; the submarine is damaged by depth charges off New Britain, 03°47'S, 151°36'E but continues her patrol.

Submarine *Trout* (SS-202) torpedoes Japanese escort carrier *Taiyo* east of Truk, 06°59'N, 151°45'E.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Alcoa Mariner* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-175* approximately 20 miles off the mouth of the Orinoco River, 08°57'N, 60°08'W; all hands survive the loss of the ship. Canadian motorship *Turret Cape* rescues 41 merchant seamen and the 13-man Armed Guard.

- **September 29, Tue.**

Pacific

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I-25* drops incendiary bombs on a forest in southern coastal Oregon--the second and last time a Japanese aircraft will bomb the continental United States during World War II in an attempt to ignite forest fires.

Cargo ship *Alhena* (AK-26) is damaged by Japanese submarine *I-4*, 20 miles south of San Cristobal Island, Solomons, 10°47'S, 161°16'E.

Atlantic

Open lighters *YC-898* and *YC-899* sink off Key West, Florida, while in tow en route from New Orleans to Key West.

- **September 30, Wed.**

Pacific

Heavy cruiser *San Francisco* (CA-38) and light minelayer *Breese* (DM-18) are damaged in collision, New Hebrides area, 15°39'S, 167°39'E.

October

- **October 1, Thu.**

Pacific

Submarine *Grouper* (SS-214) torpedoes and sinks Japanese army transport *Lisbon Maru* 20 miles north of Chushan Island, 29°57'N, 122°56'N.

Submarine *Kingfish* (SS-234) torpedoes and sinks merchant cargo ship *Yomei Maru* off Ichiezaki, Japan, 33°31'N, 135°26'E.

Submarine *Nautilus* (SS-168) sinks merchant cargo ship *Tosei Maru* east of Shiriyazaki, Japan, 41°20'N, 141°35'E.

Submarine *Sturgeon* (SS-187) damages Japanese aircraft transport *Katsuragi Maru* off Cape St. George, New Ireland, 05°51'S, 153°18'E.

Atlantic

Advanced Group, Amphibious Forces, Atlantic Fleet becomes Amphibious Forces, Europe under the Commander U.S. Naval Forces Europe (Admiral Harold R. Stark).

Destroyer *Roe* (DD-418), 20 miles off the coast of Trinidad, rescues the 19 men (17 merchant seamen and 2 Armed Guard sailors) from U.S. freighter *West Chetac*, sunk by German submarine *U-175* on 24 September 1942, and transports them to Port-of-Spain.

- **October 2, Fri.**

Pacific

5th Defense Battalion, USMC, occupies Funafuti, Ellice Islands.

Transport *St. Mihiel* (AP-32) is damaged when she strikes uncharted underwater object off Turn Island, Alaska.

USAAF B-17s bomb Rabaul harbor, damaging Japanese light cruiser *Tenryu*.

Atlantic

USAAF B-18 (99th Bombardment Squadron) sinks German submarine *U-512* off French Guiana, 06°50'N, 52°25'W.

U.S. freighter *Alcoa Transport* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-201* about 100 miles southeast of Trinidad, 09°03'N, 60°10'W. Submarine chaser *PC-490* rescues the surviving 31 merchant seamen (three crewmen are killed; a fourth dies of wounds later) and five-man Armed Guard sailors.

British steamship *Loch Dee* rescues 23 survivors from lifeboat from U.S. tanker *Patrick J. Hurley*, sunk by German submarine *U-512* on 12 September 1942. All told, 31 of 44 merchant seamen and 14 of 18 Armed Guard sailors survive the loss of Patrick J. Hurley.

- **October 3, Sat.**

Pacific

SBDs (VS 71, VMSB 141, VMSB 231, VS 3) and TBFs (VT 8) from Henderson

Field attack Japanese supply convoy en route to Guadalcanal, damaging seaplane carrier *Nisshin*.

Submarine *Greenling* (SS-213) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kinkai Maru*, 38°46'N, 142°02'E.

Submarine *Trout* (SS-202) is damaged by Japanese aerial bomb off Truk, forcing the submarine to end her patrol.

- **October 4, Sun.**

Pacific

Destroyers *Drayton* (DD-366) and *Flusser* (DD-368) are damaged in collision during exercises in Hawaiian Operating Area.

Submarine *Greenling* (SS-213) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Setsuyo Maru* off Sanriku, 39°48'N, 142°08'E.

U.S. tanker *Camden* is torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I-25* off the coast of Oregon, 43°42'N, 124°52'W, and is abandoned. One crewman drowns as the men leave the ship. Swedish motorship *Kookaburra* rescues the 38 merchant seamen and the 9 Armed Guard sailors (see 5 October 1942).

Caribbean

U.S. freighter *Caribstar* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-175* off the mouth of the Orinoco River, 08°30'N, 59°37'W. The 29-man merchant crew suffers 4 dead and 13 wounded (two of whom later die of their wounds); there are no casualties among the 6-man Armed Guard. Submarine chaser *PC-469* rescues survivors.

Atlantic

U.S. tanker *Robert H. Colley*, in convoy HX 209, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-254* at 59°06'N, 28°18'W, and breaks in two, with the forward part sinking first. Twenty of the 44-man merchant complement perish, as do eight of the 17 Armed Guard sailors (see 5 October 1942).

- **October 5, Mon.**

Pacific

Planes from carrier *Hornet* (CV-8) (Rear Admiral George D. Murray) bomb Buin-Tonolei area and Faisi, Bougainville, Solomons.

SBDs (VS 3, VS 71, VMSB 141) from Henderson Field attack Japanese convoy, damaging destroyers *Minegumo* and *Murasame* 150 miles from Guadalcanal.

PBY (COMAIRSOPAC) sinks Japanese submarine *I-22* near Indispensable Strait, Solomons.

Submarine *Trigger* (SS-237) damages Japanese transport *Shinkoku Maru*, 31°40'N, 142°06'E. where°

U.S. tanker *Camden*, torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I-25* the previous day and abandoned, is taken in tow by tug *Kenai* see 10 October 1942).

Atlantic

PBY (VP 73) sinks German submarine *U-582* at 58°52'N, 21°42'W. where°

German submarine *U-175* torpedoes, shells, and sinks U.S. freighter *William A. McKenney* about 50 miles east of Corocoro Island, Venezuela, 08°35'N,

59°20'W; one man is killed. Destroyer *Blakely* (DD-150) rescues the survivors (30 merchant seamen and the 4-man Armed Guard).

British corvette HMS *Borage* rescues the 24 merchant seamen and nine Armed Guard sailors from the after section of U.S. tanker *Robert H. Colley* (the ship had been torpedoed by German submarine *U-254* the previous day). *Borage* scuttles the stern section of the ship with gunfire and depth charges.

- **October 6, Tue.**

Pacific

U.S. tanker *Larry Doheny* is torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I-25* off the coast of Oregon, 42°20'N, 125°02'W, and abandoned. Two of the ship's 34-man merchant complement die in the attack, as do four of the 8-man Armed Guard. Small seaplane tender *Coos Bay* (AVP-25) rescues the survivors. *Larry Doheny* sinks the next morning.

- **October 7, Wed.**

Pacific

Submarine *Amberjack* (SS-219) sinks Japanese supply ship *Senkei Maru*, southern Carolines, 01°55'N, 153°01'E.

Submarine *Sculpin* (SS-191) sinks Japanese army transport *Naminoue Maru* off Rabaul, 03°14'S, 150°01'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Midori Maru* founders and sinks above Woosung, China.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Chickasaw City* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-172* approximately 85 miles south-southwest of Cape Town, South Africa, 34°00'S, 17°16'E; 5 of the 37-man crew, 1 of the 11-man Armed Guard and the sole passenger perish in the attack (see 8 October and 2 November 1942).

U.S. freighter *John Carter Rose* is attacked by German submarine *U-201*; one dud torpedo fails to damage the merchantman and Armed Guard gunfire drives off the ship's assailant (see 8 October 1942).

- **October 8, Thu.**

Pacific

Japanese guardboat *Toyohama Maru* is wrecked (cause unspecified), Wotje Atoll.

Submarine *Drum* (SS-228) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Hague Maru*, 34°06'N, 136°22'E.

Indian Ocean

U.S. tanker *Swiftsure* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-68* approximately 25 miles southeast of the Cape of Good Hope, 34°40'S, 18°25'E, and after firefighting efforts prove futile, is abandoned. There are no casualties among the 31-man crew, and all hands are rescued by a British minesweeper that comes out from Cape Town, South Africa (see 2 November 1942).

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *John Carter Rose* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-202* at 10°27'N, 45°37'W; fires triggered by the explosions make abandoning ship difficult. Five the 45-man crew perish, as do 3 of the 20-man Armed Guard. *U-*

201 returns, but a second dud torpedo fails to damage the merchantman. The U-boat then shells *John Carter Rose*, after which time the Germans provide the survivors with cigarettes, medical supplies and food (see 13 October 1942).

British corvette HMS *Rockrose* picks up 42 survivors (32 merchant seamen and 10 Armed Guard sailors) of U.S. freighter *Chickasaw City*, sunk the previous day by German submarine *U-172* (see 2 November 1942).

- **October 9, Fri.**

Pacific

U.S. troop convoy, consisting of transports *McCawley* (AP-10) and *Zeilin* (AP-9) and eight high speed transports (Rear Admiral Richmond K. Turner) sails from Nouméa, New Caledonia, for Guadalcanal with the U.S. Army 164th Infantry Regiment embarked.

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I-7* reconnoiters Espiritu Santo.

Submarine *Drum* (SS-228) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Yawatasan Maru*, 33°27'N, 136°01'E.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Coloradan* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-159* approximately 214 miles southwest of Cape Town, South Africa, 35°47'S, 14°34'E; six crewmen are killed in the attack. Survivors (who include 33 merchant seamen and the 15-man Armed Guard) divide themselves between two lifeboats; the men in lifeboat no.1 are questioned by the Germans and are given a course to Cape Town (see 11 and 19 October and 2 November 1942).

- **October 9, Sun.**

Pacific

Japanese oiler *Shiretoko* is damaged, cause and location unspecified.

Japanese army cargo ship *Shinju Maru* is damaged, cause unspecified, northeast of Kasa Island.

Atlantic

German submarine *U-505* is damaged by aircraft off Trinidad, B.W.I.

U.S. freighter *Examelia* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-68* 20 miles south of the Cape of Good Hope, 34°52'S, 18°30'E; U-boat officers question the survivors before the enemy submersible leaves the area. U.S. freighter *John Lykes* subsequently rescues the survivors (30 of 38 merchant sailors and 10 of the 13-man Armed Guard) (see 2 November 1942).

- **October 10, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine *Amberjack* (SS-219) damages Japanese transport *Tenryu Maru* and auxiliary *Tonan Maru* off Kavieng, 02°36'S, 150°48'E.

Submarine *Seadragon* (SS-194) sinks Japanese transport *Shigure Maru* off Samarinda, Borneo, 01°01'S, 117°22'E.

Submarine *Wahoo* (SS-238) sinks Japanese collier *Kamoi Maru* off Bougainville, Solomons.

Japanese submarine chaser *Ch 14* is damaged by planes (USAAF B-24s and B-17s, accompanied by P-38s, bomb shipping in Trout Lagoon and off South Head) off Kiska, Aleutians.

U.S. tanker *Camden*, torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I-25* on 4 October 1942, catches fire and sinks off the mouth of the Columbia River, 46°46'38"N, 124°31'15"W.

- **October 11, Sun.**

Pacific

Japanese transport force (Rear Admiral Joshima Koji), formed around seaplane carriers *Chitose* and *Nisshin* and six destroyers, reaches Tassafaronga, Guadalcanal, to disembark elements of the Japanese Army's 2d Infantry Division. Three heavy cruisers and two destroyers (Rear Admiral Goto Aritomo, his flag in heavy cruiser *Aoba*) are to provide cover by shelling Henderson Field. **Battle of Cape Esperance** commences shortly before midnight, however, as naval surface force TG 64.2 (Rear Admiral Norman Scott) bars Goto's way. Heavy cruiser *Salt Lake City* (CA-25) and light cruiser *Boise* (CL-47) are damaged, but combine to cripple Japanese heavy cruiser *Furutaka*; destroyers *Duncan* (DD-485) and *Farenholt* (DD-491) are also damaged by Japanese gunfire, the latter possibly by friendly fire from either *Boise* or *Helena* (CL-50). American cruiser and destroyer gunfire sinks Japanese destroyer *Fubuki* (09°06'S, 159°38'E) and damages heavy cruiser *Aoba* (Rear Admiral Goto is killed on board his flagship) and destroyer *Hatsuyuki*.

Japanese submarine *I-25*, homeward bound from her deployment off the U.S. West Coast, torpedoes and sinks Russian submarine *L 16* (bound from Dutch Harbor, Alaska, to San Francisco, California), 46°41'N, 138°56'E.

Submarine *Searaven* (SS-196) torpedoes German blockade runner *Regensburg* in Sunda Strait, N.E.I.

British destroyer HMS *Active* rescues 23 survivors from No.2 lifeboat from U.S. freighter *Coloradan*, which had been torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-159* on 9 October 1942 (see 19 October 1942).

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Steel Scientist*, en route to Paramaribo, British Guiana, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-514*, 05°48'N, 51°39'W; one crewman is killed in the attack. Survivors (who include 37 merchant seamen and the 9-man Armed Guard) take to a gig and three lifeboats (see 19 and 20 October 1942).

- **October 12, Mon.**

Pacific

Battle of Cape Esperance continues as TG 64.2 engages Japanese cruiser and destroyer force. As the result of damage received in the battle, Japanese heavy cruiser *Furutaka* sinks, 09°02'S, 159°34'E; destroyers *Murakumo* and *Shirayuki* rescue survivors of Rear Admiral Goto's ships sunk in the engagement with TG 64.2.

Despite efforts of a salvage party from destroyer *McCalla* (DD-488), destroyer *Duncan* (DD-485) sinks as a result of damage received off Cape Esperance.

McCalla also conducts unsuccessful attempt to sink Japanese submarine *I-2* off Guadalcanal.

Destroyers *Gwin* (DD-433), *Nicholas* (DD-450), and *Sterett* (DD-407) shell Japanese artillery positions on Guadalcanal.

SBD (VS 71) sinks Japanese destroyer *Natsugumo* off Savo Island; destroyer *Murakumo*, after being damaged by TBF (VT 8), Navy and Marine SBDs (VS 3, VS 71, VMSB 141) and Marine F4Fs (VMF 121, VMF 212, and VMF 224) off New Georgia, Solomons, is scuttled by destroyer *Shirayuki*.

Submarine *Nautilus* (SS-168) is damaged by depth charges off northern Honshu, 41°05'N, 141°58'E, but remains on patrol.

Motor torpedo boats *PT-38*, *PT-46*, *PT-48* and *PT-60* arrive at Tulagi, having been towed from Espiritu Santo to a point 300 miles south of that place by high speed minesweepers *Southard* (DMS-10) and *Hovey* (DMS-11).

Transport *Mount Vernon* (AP-22) is stranded by storm, Sydney, Australia, harbor, but is not damaged in the accidental grounding.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Pan Gulf*, in convoy TAG 18S, blunders into U.S. minefield at 10°01'N, 61°50'16"W; she returns to Trinidad under her own power. There are no casualties among the 38-man merchant complement and 21-man Armed Guard.

- **October 13, Tue.**

Pacific

1st Marine Division is reinforced by 164th Infantry Regiment of Americal Division, the first major U.S. Army unit to reach Guadalcanal.

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I-7* reconnoiters Espiritu Santo.

Japanese submarine *I-30* is sunk by mine, three miles east of Singapore (see 9 September 1942).

North Russia

German torpedo bombers attacking convoy PQ.18

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Susana*, in convoy SC 104 and bound for Cardiff, Wales, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-221*, 53°41'N, 41°23'W; 27 of the 42-man crew perish with the ship, as do 10 of the 16-man Armed Guard. British rescue ship *Gothland* rescues the six Armed Guard survivors and the 15 merchant seamen who survive *Susana's* loss.

U.S. freighter *West Humhaw* rescues 18 survivors of freighter *John Carter Rose*, sunk by *U-201* and *U-202* on 8 October 1942. Argentinean tanker *Santa Cruz* picks up the remainder of those who survive the merchantman's loss.

- **October 14, Wed.**

Pacific

Motor torpedo boats *PT-60*, *PT-38*, *PT-46*, and *PT-48* (Lieutenant Commander Alan R. Montgomery) engage Japanese surface force (Rear Admiral Kurita

Takeo) comprising battleships *Haruna* and *Kongo*, light cruiser *Isuzu*, and seven destroyers bombarding Henderson Field, Guadalcanal. Destroyer *Naganami* turns back the motor torpedo boats; Japanese bombardment destroys 48 of 90 planes at the field, putting the facility temporarily out of action. *PT-60* is damaged by grounding on coral reef off Guadalcanal.

SBDs (Guadalcanal-based VS 3) attack six-ship Japanese convoy escorted by eight destroyers heading southward toward Guadalcanal between Santa Isabel and Florida Islands, 08°50'S, 160°00'E, but inflict no damage.

Japanese submarine *I-7* shells Espiritu Santo.

Submarine *Finback* (SS-230), attacking Japanese convoy, sinks army transport *Teison Maru* about 20 miles off Tansui harbor, on northwest tip of Formosa, 25°20'N, 121°25'E.

Submarine *Greenling* (SS-213) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Takusei Maru* six miles off Todo Zaki, off northeast coast of Honshu, 39°33'N, 142°15'E.

Submarine *Grampus* (SS-207) lands Australian coastwatchers on coast of Vella Lavella (see 19 October 1942).

Submarine *Sculpin* (SS-191) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Sumiyoshi Maru* 75 miles southwest of Kavieng, New Ireland, 03°51'S, 151°21'E.

Submarine *Skipjack* (SS-184) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Shunko Maru* about 450 miles west-southwest of Truk, 05°35'N, 144°25'E.

- **October 15, Thu.**

- Pacific

- Submarine Base, Fremantle-Perth, Australia, is established.

- Patrol Wing 14 (Captain William M. McDade) is established at San Diego, California, for operations in Western Sea Frontier.

- Heavy cruiser *Portland* (CA-33) bombards Japanese shipping and installations at Tarawa, Gilberts.

- Japanese heavy cruisers *Chokai* and *Kinugasa* (Vice Admiral Mikawa Gunichi) bombard Henderson Field, covering the movement of six destroyers and eleven transports to Tassafaronga, Guadalcanal. Planes from Henderson Field, including USMC and Navy SBDs (VMSB 141, VB 6, other unidentified units), USAAF B-17s and P-39/P-400s, Navy F4Fs (VF 5), and USMC PBV (personal "flag" plane of Commanding General 1st Marine Aircraft Wing), conduct a succession of attacks upon Japanese supply convoy off Tassafaronga undamaged by VS 3's strike the previous day. USAAF B-17s damage transport *Azumasen Maru* which, along with merchant cargo ship *Kyushu Maru*, is run aground, where uncontrollable fires destroy both ships. Air attacks also sink *Sasago Maru* and damage destroyer *Samidare*.

- Off San Cristobal, Solomons, destroyer *Meredith* (DD-434) takes on board the crew of tug *Vireo* (AT-144) at approach of planes from Japanese carriers *Shokaku* and *Zuikaku*. Before *Meredith* can scuttle the tug with a torpedo to prevent her from falling into enemy hands, however, the destroyer is overwhelmed and sunk in the ensuing air attack, by bombs and aerial torpedoes; *Vireo* and her tow (a gasoline barge), though, having been abandoned, drift off,

untouched by the enemy. Some *Meredith* survivors reach safety on board the tug (see 21 September 1942).

Submarine *Skipjack* (SS-184) engages Japanese auxiliary *Kifuku Maru* at 04°36'N, 146°59'E. *Skipjack's* torpedoes miss; *Kifuku Maru* returns fire with her guns and escapes into a rain squall.

- **October 16, Fri.**

Pacific

Japanese surface force (Rear Admiral Omori Sentaro), with heavy cruisers *Maya* and *Myoko*, and Rear Admiral Tanaka Raizo, with light cruiser *Isuzu* and seven destroyers shells Henderson Field.

TF 17, formed around carrier *Hornet* (CV-8) (Rear Admiral George D. Murray), strikes Japanese troops on Guadalcanal, and seaplane base at Rekata Bay, Santa Isabel, Solomons.

Seaplane tender (destroyer) *McFarland* (AVD-14) is damaged by Japanese dive bombers, Lunga Roads, Guadalcanal, 09°24'S, 160°02'E.

After attacks by PBYS fail, USAAF B-26s (11th Air Force) sink Japanese destroyer *Oboro* about 20 miles northeast of Sirius Point, Kiska, 52°17'N, 178°08'E, and damage destroyer *Hatsuharu*.

Submarine *Thresher* (SS-200) mines the approaches to Bangkok, Thailand, in the first U.S. Navy submarine mine plant of World War II.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Winona*, in convoy bound for Rio de Janeiro, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-160* at 11°00'N, 61°10'W; and veers out of line, grazing the stern of steamship *Austvangen*. One merchant seaman and two Armed Guard sailors suffer injuries in the attack, but there are no fatalities among the 42-man crew or 15-man Armed Guard (see 17 October 1942).

- **October 17, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine *Trigger* (SS-237) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Holland Maru* close inshore near the mouth of Bungo Suido, off Kyushu, 32°21'N, 132°04'E.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Angelina*, straggling from New York-bound convoy ON 137, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-618* at 49°39'N, 30°20'W (see 18 October 1942).

U.S. freighter *Winona*, torpedoed the day before by German submarine *U-160*, arrives at Port of Spain, Trinidad, under her own power.

- **October 18, Sun.**

Pacific

Vice Admiral William F. Halsey Jr. relieves Vice Admiral Robert L. Ghormley as Commander South Pacific Area and South Pacific Force, on board auxiliary *Argonne* (AG-31) at Nouméa, New Caledonia.

Submarine *Grampus* (SS-207) torpedoes Japanese light cruiser *Yura*, 07°47'S, 157°19'E, but her "fish" fails to explode.

Submarine *Greenling* (SS-213) sinks Japanese transport *Hakonesan Maru* close inshore off northeast coast of Honshu, 38°46'N, 142°03'E.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Angelina*, straggling from New York-bound convoy ON 137, is again torpedoed by German submarine *U-618* at 49°39'N, 30°20'W, and abandoned; an "exceptionally heavy sea" claims 33 crewmen and 13 Armed Guards; British rescue ship *Bury* rescues six men (one of whom dies later) from a raft and three from a lifeboat. Only four merchant seamen and four Armed Guards thus survive the ship's loss.

U.S. freighter *Steel Navigator*, also straggling from convoy ON 137, takes on 40° list as her sand ballast shifts; Armed Guard volunteers shovel ballast for 30 hours without relief (reducing the list to 12°) until financial bonus offered by ship's master induces reluctant merchant sailors to lend a hand in the arduous work (see 19 October 1942).

- **October 19, Mon.**

Pacific

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I-19* reconnoiters Nouméa, New Caledonia.

Destroyer *O'Brien* (DD-415), damaged by submarine torpedo on 15 September 1942, breaks in two and sinks en route to United States for repairs, 53 miles north-northwest of Tutuila, Samoa, 13°30'S, 171°18'E.

Submarine *Amberjack* (SS-219) arrives at Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides, assigned temporarily to Commander, Aircraft, South Pacific, for duty. Over the next three days, two of the submarine's fuel tanks will be cleaned and converted to carry aviation gasoline. She will also take on board 100-pound bombs and embark USAAF enlisted ground crew for transportation to Guadalcanal.

SBDs (VS 71, VMSB 141, VB 6) from Henderson Field attack three Japanese destroyers north of Guadalcanal, damaging *Uranami*.

Submarine *Grampus* (SS-207) lands Australian coastwatchers on Choiseul Island, Solomons.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Steel Navigator*, straggling from convoy ON 137, is attacked by German submarine *U-610*; *Steel Navigator* briefly drives off the shadower with 5-inch gunfire, but the U-boat returns and torpedoes and sinks the freighter at 49°20'N, 32°00'W. Hastily launched motor boat swamps in heavy seas; no.3 lifeboat swamps as the ship plunges and spills its 35 occupants into the sea. *U-610* surfaces and approaches the survivors' boats and rafts; when questions shouted by the submarine's commander fail to get answers, the enemy threatens to cut a raft in two. After answers are given in the brief interrogation, the Germans refuse to provide a course to the nearest land and depart. Subsequently, survivors right no.3 boat and redistribute themselves; the boats becomes separated (see 27 October 1942).

Fishing boat (nationality not determined) tows no.1 lifeboat, with 25 men on board, from U.S. freighter *Coloradan*, which had been torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-159* on 9 October 1942, into Thorne Bay, South Africa; the Americans reach Cape Town the next day (see 2 November 1942).

Atlantic

Master and radio operator in gig from U.S. freighter *Steel Scientist*, sunk by German submarine *U-514* on 11 October 1942, reach Tarlogie, British Guiana (see 20 October 1942).

- **October 20, Tue.**

Pacific

Heavy cruiser *Chester* (CA-27) is torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I-176*, 120 miles southeast of San Cristobal, Solomons, 13°31'S, 163°17'E.

Submarine *Drum* (SS-228), attacking Japanese convoy off southern Honshu, sinks merchant cargo ship *Ryunan Maru*, 34°09'N, 136°46'E.

Submarine *Finback* (SS-230), attacking Japanese convoy off west coast of Formosa, damages army passenger-cargo ship *Africa Maru* and cargo ship *Yamafuji Maru*, 24°26'N, 120°25'E. Both sink the next morning.

Submarine *Gar* (SS-206) mines the approaches to Bangkok, Thailand.

Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) sinks merchant trawler *Nanshin Maru*, 06°59'N, 119°20'E.

Atlantic

Remainder of crew (35 merchant seamen and nine Armed Guard sailors) from U.S. freighter *Steel Scientist*, sunk by German submarine *U-514* on 11 October 1942, reach Paramaribo, British Guiana, in three lifeboats.

- **October 21, Wed.**

Pacific

Destroyer *Grayson* (DD-435) is damaged in collision with fleet tug *Vireo* (AT-144) during efforts to salvage the latter, Solomons area, 12°08'S, 161°04'E.

Salvage party from *Grayson* ultimately brings the tug (abandoned on 15 September 1942) and its tow safely into Espiritu Santo after a 400 mile voyage.

Japanese carrier *Hiyo* is damaged by engine room fire after departing Truk; she thus cannot participate in the Battle of Santa Cruz (see 26 October 1942).

Submarine *Guardfish* (SS-217) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Nichiho Maru* about 120 miles north-northeast of Formosa, 27°03'N, 122°42'E.

Submarine *Gudgeon* (SS-212), attacking Japanese convoy in the Bismarck Sea, sinks transport *Choko Maru* about 110 miles west-northwest of Rabaul, 03°30'S, 150°30'E.

Mediterranean

In advance of the North African landings, Major General Mark W. Clark, USA; Brigadier General Lyman M. Lemnitzer, USA; two additional Army officers; and Navy Captain Jerauld Wright are landed at Cherchel, French North Africa, from British submarine HMS *Seraph* to meet with a French military delegation to ascertain French attitudes toward impending Allied operations. Among issues discussed is the French request for an American submarine to evacuate General Giraud from occupied France. Since none is available for that mission, a British submarine under temporary U.S. command will be substituted (see 5 November 1942).

- **October 22, Thu.**

Pacific

Naval Air Facility, Otter Point, Alaska, is established.

Destroyers *Mahan* (DD-364) and *Lamson* (DD-367), detached from TF 16 to "shoot up the Japanese picket boat line" west of the Gilberts, sink gunboat *Hakkaisan Maru* southwest of Tamana, 03°30'S, 175°15'E.

- **October 23, Fri.**

Pacific

Submarine *Kingfish* (SS-234) sinks Japanese gunboat *Seikyo Maru* at entrance to Kii Suido, Honshu, 33°20'N, 135°27'E.

USAAF B-17s damage Japanese submarine chasers *Ch 31* and *Ch 32* at Rabaul.

Japanese submarine *I-7* shells Espiritu Santo.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Reuben Tipton*, bound for Trinidad, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-129*; three merchant seamen are killed in the attack (see 25 and 26 October 1942).

- **October 24, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine *Nautilus* (SS-168) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kenun Maru* about 20 miles east of Shiriya Zaki, off northern tip of Honshu, 41°24'N, 141°50'E.

Submarine *Trigger* (SS-237) damages Japanese oiler *Nissho Maru* in Bungo Channel, 32°06'N, 132°34'E.

- **October 25, Sun.**

Pacific

Submarine *Whale* (SS-239) lays mines off Honshu, Japan, at entrance to Inland Sea.

Second division of Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron Three, consisting of motor torpedo boats *PT-37*, *PT-39*, *PT-45*, and *PT-61*, arrives at Tulagi.

Off Guadalcanal, tug *Seminole* (AT-65) and district patrol craft *YP-284* are sunk by gunfire of Japanese destroyers *Akatsuki*, *Ikazuchi*, and *Shiratsuyu*; submarine *Amberjack* (SS-219), which has arrived that morning to deliver her cargo and passengers at Tulagi, is unable to attain a firing position to help *Seminole* and *YP-284*. Later, high speed minesweeper *Zane* (DMS-14) is damaged by the same trio of enemy warships in Sealark Channel. Japanese destroyers, however, do not emerge from the day's action unscathed. Off Lunga Point, Marine shore batteries (and VMF 121 F4Fs) damage *Akatsuki*, while USMC F4Fs (VMF 121) damage *Ikazuchi*; USAAF P-39s damage *Samidare* and *Akizuki*. *Amberjack* later disembarks USAAF enlisted men (67th Fighter Squadron and 347th Fighter Group), 200 100-pound bombs and 9,000 gallons of aviation gasoline at Tulagi. Released from duty under ComAirSoPac, *Amberjack* sets course for Brisbane.

USAAF B-17s sink Japanese auxiliary minelayer *Kotobuki Maru* at Rabaul.

Japanese light cruiser *Yura*, damaged by SBD (VS 71) and USAAF B-17 or P-39 off Santa Isabel, Solomons, is scuttled by destroyers *Harusame* and *Yudachi*, 08°40'S, 160°00'E.

Dutch submarine *O 23* damages Japanese army cargo ship *Shinyu Maru* off Penang, Malaya, 05°28'N, 99°56'E.

Atlantic

Master and one merchant seaman from U.S. freighter *Reuben Tipton*, sunk by German submarine *U-129* on 23 October 1942, are recovered by PBM and transported to Trinidad (see 26 October 1942).

Caribbean

U.S. freighter *Daniel Boone* strikes mine while off coast of Panama; there are no casualties to the 42-man crew and 11-man Armed Guard, and the ship reaches port under her own power.

- **October 26, Mon.**

Pacific

Battle of Santa Cruz Islands occurs as TF 16 (Rear Admiral Thomas C. Kinkaid) and TF 17 (Rear Admiral George D. Murray) engage a numerically superior Japanese force (Vice Admiral Nagumo Chuichi). Although the Japanese achieve a tactical victory, the failure of their simultaneous land offensive on Guadalcanal means that they cannot exploit it to its fullest. The dwindling number of Japanese carrier planes cannot eliminate Henderson Field, while fuel shortages compel the Combined Fleet to retire on Truk. Americans control the skies above the sea routes to Guadalcanal.

The victory, however, does not come cheaply in this, the fourth major carrier battle of 1942, for *Enterprise* (CV-6) is damaged by planes from carriers *Junyo* and *Shokaku*; *Hornet* (CV-8) is damaged by planes from *Junyo*, *Shokaku*, and *Zuikaku*; battleship *South Dakota* (BB-57) and light cruiser *San Juan* (CL-54) are damaged by planes from *Junyo*; destroyer *Smith* (DD-378) is damaged by a crashing carrier attack plane; during the operation of fighting *Hornet's* fires and taking off her survivors, destroyer *Hughes* (DD-410) is damaged in collision with the doomed carrier (as well as by friendly fire earlier in the action). The attempt to scuttle the irreparably damaged *Hornet*, by gunfire and torpedoes from destroyers *Mustin* (DD-413) and *Anderson* (DD-411) fails; destroyer *Porter* (DD-356) is accidentally torpedoed by battle-damaged and ditched TBF (VT 10), and, deemed beyond salvage, is scuttled by destroyer *Shaw* (DD-373).

SBDs (VS 10) from *Enterprise* damage carrier *Zuiho*; SBDs (VB 8, VS 8) from *Hornet* damage carrier *Shokaku* and destroyer *Terutsuki*; TBFs (VT 6) from *Hornet* damage heavy cruiser *Chikuma*.

Battle of Henderson Field ends as marines repulse Japanese land and air attacks.

U.S. liner *President Coolidge*, chartered for use as a troop transport, blunders into U.S. minefield off Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides; the ship is beached to facilitate salvage, but slips into deep water and sinks. Four of the 5,050 Army troops are lost in the accident, as is one of the 290-man merchant complement. There are no casualties among the 51-man Armed Guard.

Submarine *S-31* (SS-136) sinks Japanese transport *Keizan Maru* off Paramushiro, 50°10'N, 155°36'E.

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *Anne Hutchinson* is torpedoed and shelled by German submarine *U-504* some 90 miles off East London, South Africa, 33°12'S, 29°03'E; three crewmen are killed in the attack. The rest of the ship's complement (37 merchant sailors and the 17-man Armed Guard) take to two lifeboats (see 27, 28, and 31 October 1942).

Atlantic

British motor torpedo boat rescues 39 merchant seaman and the 10-man Armed Guard from U.S. freighter *Reuben Tipton*, sunk by German submarine *U-129* on 23 October 1942, and are transported to Barbados.

- **October 27, Tue.**

Pacific

Abandoned carrier *Hornet* (CV-8), damaged by bombs and torpedoes and attempted scuttling the previous day, is sunk by Japanese destroyers *Akigumo* and *Makigumo*, 08°38'S, 166°43'E.

Battleship *South Dakota* (BB-57) and destroyer *Mahan* (DD-364) are damaged in collision while retiring from the Battle of Santa Cruz.

PBY (VP 91) bombs and damages Japanese destroyer *Terutsuki*.

Atlantic

German submarines attack convoy HX 212 as it heads toward the British Isles: U.S. tanker *Gurney E. Newlin*, is torpedoed by *U-436*; three crewmen are killed. The rest of the 37-man crew, and the 19-man Armed Guard, abandon ship into three boats and two rafts. Canadian corvette HMCS *Alberni* rescues six merchant seamen and six Armed Guard sailors; Canadian tanker *Bic Island* picks up 31 merchant seamen and 13 Armed Guard sailors (see 28-29 October 1942).

U.S. freighter *Stephen Hopkins's* survivors reach Itabopoano, Brazil; 32 of 40 merchant sailors, as well as 9 of the 15-man Armed Guard, have perished either in battle or from exposure during the month-long ordeal in the lifeboat.

Survivors (ten merchant seamen and six Armed Guard sailors) from U.S. freighter *Steel Navigator*, sunk by German submarine *U-610* on 19 October 1942, are rescued by British destroyer HMS *Decoy*. The other lifeboat containing the other 17 survivors is never found.

Indian Ocean

Ten survivors from U.S. freighter *Anne Hutchinson*, torpedoed and shelled by German submarine *U-504* on 26 October 1942, are rescued by U.S. freighter *Steel Mariner* (see 28 and 31 October 1942).

- **October 28, Wed.**

Indian Ocean

Thirty-seven survivors from U.S. freighter *Anne Hutchinson*, torpedoed and shelled by German submarine *U-504* on 26 October 1942, are rescued by civilian fishing trawler and taken to Port Alfred, South Africa. Aircraft sight the drifting freighter, now broken into two pieces, at 34°13'S, 26°55'E (see 31 October 1942).

Atlantic

German submarines continue to stalk British Isles-bound convoy HX 212: U.S. tanker *Gurney E. Newlin*, abandoned after being torpedoed the previous day by German submarine *U-436*, is given the coup de grace by *U-606* and sinks (see 29 October 1942).

- **October 29, Thu.**

Pacific Theater

Submarine *Grenadier* (SS-210) lays mines in Tonkin Gulf off Haiphong, French Indochina.

PBY (VP 11) sinks Japanese submarine *I-172* west of San Cristobal Island, Solomons, 13°01'S, 162°45'E.

Atlantic

German submarine attacks on British Isles-bound convoy HX 212 continue: U.S. tanker *Pan New York* is torpedoed by *U-624* about 550 miles west of Northern Ireland, 54°58'N, 23°56'W and her cargo of aviation gasoline catches fire, virtually incinerating the ship. Of the 56 souls on board (39 merchant seamen and a 17-man Armed Guard), only 14 (13 crewmen and one Armed Guard sailor) are rescued by Canadian corvettes: HMCS *Rosthern* picks up 13 (one of whom dies after being rescued); HMCS *Summerside* two. Escort vessels shell and depth charge the doomed ship. *U-224* torpedoes Canadian tanker *Bic Island* as it straggles from the convoy at 55°05'N, 23°27'E, and sinks her with all hands (including the 44 men rescued from U.S. tanker *Gurney E. Newlin* on 27 October 1942).

U.S. freighter *West Kebar* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-129* 14°57'N, 53°37'E, while en route from Freetown, Sierra Leone, to St. Thomas, Virgin Islands; three merchant seamen are killed. The survivors take to two lifeboats and one raft (see 8, 10 and 18 November 1942).

- **October 30, Fri.**

Pacific

TG 64.2 (Rear Admiral Norman Scott), comprising light cruiser *Atlanta* (CL-51) and four destroyers, bombards Japanese positions at Point Cruz, Guadalcanal.

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I-9* reconnoiters Nouméa, New Caledonia.

Japanese land second invasion force at Attu, Aleutians.

- **October 31, Sat.**

Pacific

While en route to from French Frigate Shoals to Midway, district patrol craft *YP-345* is lost without trace to unknown causes, about 80 miles northeast of Laysan Island.

Submarine *Grayback* (SS-208) damages Japanese army cargo ship *Noto Maru* off Rabaul, 04°37'S, 152°30'E.

Indian Ocean

South African naval forces board the forward portion of U.S. freighter *Anne Hutchinson*, torpedoed and shelled by German submarine *U-504* on 26 October

1942; British tug HMS *David Haigh* tows the bow portion (the after part has sunk in the meantime) to Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

November

- **November 1, Sun.** Patrol Wings are redesignated Fleet Air Wings.

Pacific

District patrol craft *YP-205* is lost after grounding off Saba Island, 18°30'N, 65°00'W.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Biwa Maru* is lost to unknown cause, 13°30'N, 109°21'E.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *George Thatcher*, bound for French Equatorial Africa, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-126*, 01°45'S, 07°30'E, and abandoned; five crewmen and five Armed Guard sailors, as well as eight soldier passengers, perish in the attack. Free French corvettes rescue the survivors (34 merchant seamen, 10 Armed Guard sailors and four Army passengers) and transport them to their original destination, Port Noire (see 3 November 1942).

- **November 2, Mon.**

Pacific

Fleet Air Wing 6 (Captain Douglass P. Johnson) is established at Seattle, Washington, for multi-engine aircraft training.

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I-reconnoiters* Efate Island, New Hebrides.

Destroyer *Conyngham* (DD-371) and transport *Fuller* (AP-14) are damaged in collision in Sealark Channel, Guadalcanal.

Submarine *Seawolf* (SS-197) sinks Japanese water tender *Gifu Maru* west-southwest of Cape San Augustin, Mindoro, P.I., 06°14'N, 126°07'E.

Submarine *Tambor* (SS-198) lays mines in Hainan Strait, Tonkin Gulf.

Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) sows mines south of Cape Padaran, French Indochina.

USAAF B-17s sink Japanese army cargo ship *Yasukawa Maru* off Buna, New Guinea, 07°16'S, 156°00'E.

Atlantic

Dutch motorship *Zaandam* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-174* at 01°25'N, 36°22'W. Lost with the ship are men who have survived the loss of U.S. freighters: 18 (12 merchant seamen and 6 Armed Guard sailors) from *Chickasaw City* (sunk 7 October 1942), 15 sailors from *Swiftsure* (8 October 1942), 6 men from *Coloradan* and 15 from *Examelia* (9 October 1942) (see 24 January 1943).

- **November 3, Tue.**

Pacific

Submarine *Haddock* (SS-231) sinks merchant cargo ship *Tekkai Maru* in the East China Sea between Shanghai and Korea, 32°02'N, 126°13'E.

Submarine *Seawolf* (SS-197) sinks Japanese transport *Sagami Maru* off Davao, P.I., 07°02'N, 125°33'E.

Submarine *Tambor* (SS-198) sinks merchant cargo ship *Chikugo Maru* in Tonkin Gulf, northwest of Hainan Island, 21°18'N, 108°39'E.

Atlantic

U.S. tanker *Hahira*, in convoy SC 107, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-521* approximately 400 miles south of Cape Farewell, 54°15'N, 41°57'E; two crewmen and one Armed Guard sailor are killed in the attack. British rescue ship *Southport* rescues the 36 surviving crewmen and 17 Armed Guard sailors.

U.S. freighter *East Indian* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-181* 300 miles southwest of the Cape of Good Hope; 17 of the 47-man crewmen and 6 of the 12 passengers perish (see 16 November 1942).

U.S. freighter *George Thatcher*, torpedoed by German submarine *U-126* on 1 November 1942 and abandoned, eventually sinks.

- **November 4, Wed.**

Pacific

TG 65.4 cruisers and destroyers bombard Japanese positions near Koli Point, Guadalcanal.

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I-31* reconnoiters Suva, Fiji Islands; small reconnaissance seaplane from *I-9* reconnoiters Nouméa, New Caledonia.

Japanese submarine *RO-65* is sunk when she accidentally dives into a reef while seeking to avoid attack, Kiska harbor, 51°58'N, 177°33'E.

Mediterranean

Submarines *Shad* (SS-235), *Gunnel* (SS-253), *Herring* (SS-233), *Barb* (SS-220), and *Blackfish* (SS-221) are deployed to reconnoiter French North African waters off Rabat, Fedala, Casablanca, Safi, and Dakar, in advance of Operation TORCH.

Arctic Convoys

U.S. freighter *John H. B. Latrobe*, proceeding independently from Reykjavik, Iceland, to Archangel, USSR, is attacked by HE 115s at 74°37'N, 02°00'E. Withering Armed Guard gunfire disrupts the attack by the enemy floatplanes and none of the seven torpedoes launched strike home; strafing, however, slightly damages the merchantman, and 3 of the 25-man Armed Guard are wounded. *John H.B. Latrobe* returns to Reykjavik for repairs.

U.S. freighter *William Clark*, proceeding independently from Hvalfjordur, Iceland, to Murmansk, USSR, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-354* at 71°05'N, 13°20'W. Survivors abandon ship into three lifeboats (see 7 November 1942).

- **November 5, Thu.**

Mediterranean

British submarine HMS *Seraph*, under the temporary command of U.S. Navy Captain Jerauld Wright, embarks General Giraud and a party of French officers

in the Gulf of Lyons. The general will transfer to a Catalina on the 7th for further transportation to Gibraltar.

Atlantic

PBY (VP 84) sinks German submarine *U-408* off Iceland, 67°40'N, 18°32'W.

U.S. tanker *Meton*, enroute to Cienfuegos, Cuba, in convoy TAG 18, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-129* at 12°25'N, 69°20'W; one merchant seaman dies in the attack. Dutch motor torpedo boat *MTB 23* rescues the survivors (37 merchant seamen and the 12-man Armed Guard).

- **November 6, Fri.**

Pacific

Submarine *Grayling* (SS-209) is damaged by Japanese aerial bombs off Truk, 06°44'N, 151°25'E.

Submarine *Haddock* (SS-231) damages Japanese army cargo ship *France Maru*, 33°46'N, 127°28'E.

- **November 7, Sat.**

Pacific

SBDs (VMSB 132), TBFs (VT 8), Marine F4Fs, and USAAF P-39s from Henderson Field, Guadalcanal, attack Japanese convoy, damaging destroyers *Naganami* and *Takanami*.

Off Guadalcanal, miscellaneous auxiliary *Majaba* (AG-43) is torpedoed by Japanese midget submarine *Ha.11* (launched from submarine *I-20*) off Lunga Point. Destroyers *Lansdowne* (DD-486) and *Lardner* (DD-487) depth charge *I-20*, but the submarine escapes destruction. *Ha.11*, her mission completed, is scuttled.

Mediterranean

Transport *Thomas Stone* (AP-59) is torpedoed by German submarine *U-205*, western Mediterranean, 37°32'N, 00°01'E.

Italian submarine *Antonio Sciesa* is sunk by USAAF aircraft off coast of Libya, 32°05'N, 23°59'E.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *La Salle* is torpedoed and sunk with all hands (including 13 Armed Guard) by German submarine *U-159* about 350 miles southeast of the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa, 40°00'S, 21°30'E. When the merchantman, which is carrying ammunition, explodes, the cataclysmic blast rains debris on her assailant's decks nearby, wounding three German submariners.

U.S. freighter *West Humhaw*, en route from Freetown, Sierra Leone, to Takoradi, Gold Coast, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-161* at 04°21'N, 02°42'W. There are no casualties among the 39-man merchant crew, the 16-man Armed Guard, and the five passengers. British *ML 281* rescues all hands and transports them to Takoradi.

U.S. freighter *Nathaniel Hawthorne*, enroute to New York in convoy TAG 19, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-508* at 11°34'N, 63°26'W; the merchantman sinks with a rapidity that does not allow lifeboats to be launched. For his bravery as he directs his men to safety, Lieutenant Kenneth Muir, the

Armed Guard commander, is awarded the Navy Cross (posthumously) (see 9 November).

British trawlers rescue two boatloads of survivors from U.S. freighter *William Clark*, sunk by German submarine *U-354* on 4 November; HMS *St. Elstan* rescues 26; HMS *Cape Palliser* 15. The third boat, with 23 men, is never seen again; 18 of 41 merchant seamen are lost, as are 13 of the 30-man Armed Guard.

- **November 8, Sun.**

Pacific

Motor torpedo boats *PT-61*, *PT-39*, and *PT-37* engage two Japanese destroyers south of Savo Island, Guadalcanal; *PT-61* and *PT-39* and *Mochizuki* are damaged in the encounter.

Submarine *Seawolf* sinks Japanese gunboat *Keiko Maru* off Cape San Augustin, Mindanao, P.I., 06°22'N, 126°03'E.

U.S. freighter *Edgar Allen Poe* is torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I-21* in a spirited fight 56 miles southeast of Amadee Light, Nouméa, New Caledonia, 22°14'S, 166°30'E, during which two crewmen are killed. A part of the crew (including the 14-man Armed Guard) remains on board while New Zealand minesweeper HMNZS *Matai* and corvette HMNZS *Kiwi* tow the vessel to Nouméa, where she will be declared a total loss (see 9 November 1942).

Atlantic/Mediterranean

French North Africa is invaded in **Operation TORCH**. Allied Expeditionary Force under the supreme command of Lieutenant General Dwight D. Eisenhower, USA, lands at Casablanca, Oran, and Algiers. Allied Naval Force (Admiral Sir Andrew B. Cunningham, RN) is composed of three principal parts: Western Naval Task Force (Rear Admiral H. Kent Hewitt) lands troops (Major General George S. Patton, USA) near Casablanca; Center Naval Task Force (Commodore Thomas H. Troubridge, RN) lands troops (Major General Lloyd R. Fredendall, USA) at Oran; and Eastern Naval Task Force (Rear Admiral Sir Harold M. Burrough, RN) put troops (Major General Charles W. Ryder, USA) ashore at Algiers.

U.S. naval vessels and carrier aircraft engage French naval forces at Casablanca, Morocco. On the morning of 8 November, French force (Rear Admiral Gervais de Lafonde in destroyer leader *Milan*) makes a valiant attempt to disrupt the landings off Casablanca, but is overwhelmed by gunfire from covering American ships.

U.S. ships damaged at Casablanca are battleship *Massachusetts* (BB-59), heavy cruiser *Wichita* (CA-45), light cruiser *Brooklyn* (CL-40), destroyers *Ludlow* (DD-438) and *Murphy* (DD-603), and high speed minesweeper *Palmer* (DMS-5) by French shore batteries off North Africa; high speed minesweeper *Stansbury* (DMS-8) by mine; and transport *Leedstown* (AP-73) by German aerial torpedo.

French ships sunk at Casablanca are merchant passenger liner *Savoie Marseille* and cargo ship *Ile de Edienruder* by *Massachusetts*; destroyer *Fougeux* by *Massachusetts* and heavy cruiser *Tuscaloosa* (CA-37); destroyer *Boulonnais* by light cruiser *Brooklyn* (CL-40) at 33°40'N, 07°34'W; destroyers *Brestois* and *Frondeur* by U.S. ships; submarines *Oréade*, *Amphitrite*, and *Psyché* by U.S. Navy carrier-based planes; submarine *Sidi-Ferruch* by planes (VGS-27) from aircraft escort vessel *Suwannee* (AVG-27); and merchant passenger liner

Porthos, tanker *Ouessant*, and cargo ship *Lipari*. French ships damaged are battleship *Jean Bart* by battleship *Massachusetts*; submarine *Le Tonnant* by U.S. Navy ships; submarine *Meduse* by aircraft (VGS 29) from aircraft escort vessel *Santee* (ACV-29); and light cruiser *Primague*, destroyer leader *Milan*, and destroyers *Albatros* and *Alcyon* by naval aircraft.

French sloops *Grandiere*, *Commandant Delage*, and *Gracieuse* sortie on the afternoon of 8 November and pick up survivors from the French warships sunk in battle that morning. The latter two sloops will repeat the operation on 10 November.

French submarine *Amazone* makes unsuccessful attack upon light cruiser *Brooklyn* (CL-40).

Submarine *Herring* (SS-233) damages French cargo ship *Ville du Havre* off French Morocco, 33°34'N, 07°52'W.

German planes bomb Allied shipping off Algiers. U.S. freighter *Exceller* is damaged by near-misses; there are no casualties to the 32 merchant seamen and the 19-man Armed Guard.

Atlantic

British patrol boat rescues 34 survivors of U.S. freighter *West Kebar*, sunk on 29 October by German submarine *U-129*, and transports them to Barbados, British West Indies (see 10 and 18 November).

- **November 9, Mon.**

Mediterranean

Transport *Leedstown* (AP-73), bombed and torpedoed by German planes, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-173* near Algiers.

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *Marcus Whitman*, proceeding independently to Dutch Guiana from Cape Town, South Africa, is torpedoed by Italian submarine *Leonardo da Vinci* at 05°45'S, 32°40'W, and abandoned without loss. *Leonardo da Vinci* then finishes off the merchantman with gunfire (see 11 November).

Atlantic

Destroyer *Biddle* (DD-151) rescues survivors (3 of 10 Armed Guard sailors, 10 of the 40-man merchant crew and 1 of the 2 passengers) from U.S. freighter *Nathanael Hawthorne*, sunk by German submarine *U-508* on 7 November.

Pacific

Destroyer *Russell* (DD-414) rescues that portion of the crew of U.S. freighter *Edgar Allen Poe* who abandoned ship after she was torpedoed by *I-21* the night before.

- **November 10, Tue.**

Pacific

Light cruiser *Raleigh* (CL-9), patrolling along the 175th meridian, encounters no Japanese patrol activity estimated to be in those waters west of the Ellice Islands.

High speed minesweeper *Southard* (DMS-10) sinks Japanese submarine *I-15* five miles off Hada Bay, the northwest point of San Cristobal Island, Solomons, 10°13'S, 161°09'E.

Japanese army cargo ship *Chiyo Maru* is sunk, agent unspecified, off Akyab, Burma.

Atlantic

Off French North Africa, aircraft escort vessel *Chenango* (ACV-28) ferries USAAF P-40s into Port Lyautey; French submarine *Le Tonnant* unsuccessfully attacks carrier *Ranger* (CV-4); submarines *Meduse* and *Antiope* conduct similarly fruitless attacks against battleship *Massachusetts* (BB-59) and heavy cruiser *Tuscaloosa* (CA-37).

German submarine *U-608* lays mines off New York City, east of Ambrose Light.

Minelayer *Salem* (CM-11) is damaged when she is accidentally rammed by British landing craft HMS *LCI(L) 166*, South Brooklyn, New York.

Survivors (8) of U.S. freighter *West Kebar*, sunk on 29 October by German submarine *U-129*, reach Guadalupe.

Caribbean

Naval Station, Puerto Castillo, Honduras, is established.

Mediterranean

Oran, Algeria, surrenders to U.S. forces.

- **November 11, Wed.**

Pacific

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I-7* reconnoiters Vanikoro, Solomons; small reconnaissance seaplane from *I-21* reconnoiters Nouméa, New Caledonia; and small reconnaissance seaplane from *I-9* reconnoiters Espiritu Santo.

Transport *Zeilin* (AP-9) is damaged by dive bombers off Lunga Point, Guadalcanal, 09°24'S, 160°02'E.

Submarine *Haddock* (SS-231) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Venice Maru* in center of Yellow Sea, between China and Korea, 35°36'N, 123°44'E.

Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) is damaged by depth charges in Makassar Strait, 01°22'N, 119°31'E, and is forced to terminate her patrol.

Japanese armed merchant cruiser *Hokoku Maru* is sunk by Indian Navy minesweeper RINS *Bengal* and Dutch merchant tanker *Ondina* south-southwest of Cocos Islands, 20°00'S, 93°00'E.

Japanese transport *Kobe Maru* is sunk in collision with army cargo ship *Tenzan Maru* 87 miles off the Yangtze River estuary; *Tenzan Maru* then founders and sinks, too.

Atlantic

Casablanca surrenders to U.S. forces. Allied-French armistice is signed.

Mechanized artillery transport *Lakehurst* (APM-9) is damaged when accidentally rammed by cargo ship *Titania* (AK-55) in Safi harbor, French Morocco.

German submarine *U-173* torpedoes and sinks transport *Joseph Hewes* (AP-50) and torpedoes destroyer *Hambleton* (DD-455) and oiler *Winooski* (AO-38) off Fedala Roads, North Africa.

Mediterranean

German troops occupy France, south to the Mediterranean Sea.

Italian troops land on Corsica and move into France.

Naval Operating Base, Oran, is established.

Indian Ocean

First survivors from U.S. freighter *Marcus Whitman*, sunk by Italian submarine *Leonardo da Vinci* on 9 November, reach coast of Natal, South Africa, in the merchantman's motor lifeboat; the remainder will arrive within the next few hours. All hands (41-man merchant complement and the 11-man Armed Guard) reach safety.

- **November 12, Thu.**

Pacific

Naval Battle of Guadalcanal opens: TF 67 (Rear Admiral Richmond K. Turner) unloading troops in Lunga Roads, Guadalcanal, under the protection of air and surface forces, is attacked by Japanese land attack planes. Heavy cruiser *San Francisco* (CA-38) is damaged when hit by a crashing bomber; destroyer *Buchanan* (DD-484) is hit by friendly fire.

Submarine *Grenadier* (SS-210) damages Japanese army cargo vessel *Hokkai Maru* off the south coast of French Indochina, 11°18'N, 109°02'E.

Japanese oiler *Naruto* is damaged by aircraft (nationality unspecified) off Shortland Island.

Mediterranean

Naval Operating Base, Casablanca, Morocco, is established.

Transports *Tasker H. Bliss* (AP-42), *Hugh L. Scott* (AP-43), and *Edward Rutledge* (AP-52) are torpedoes and sunk by German submarine *U-130* off French Morocco.

Caribbean

Gunboat *Erie* (PG-50) is torpedoes by German submarine *U-163*, Caribbean Sea, 12°03'N, 68°58'W, and is beached northwest of Willemstad, Curacao, N.W.I., to prevent sinking (see 28 November and 5 December).

Submarine chaser *SC-330* accidentally collides with, and sinks, merchant vessel *Rogist* seven miles southeast of Cape Charles, Virginia, Lighthouse.

- **November 13, Fri.**

Pacific

Naval Battle of Guadalcanal continues: TG 67.4, comprising two heavy cruisers, three light cruisers, and eight destroyers (Rear Admiral Daniel J. Callaghan) encounters Japanese Bombardment Force (Rear Admiral Abe Hiroaki) that includes two battleships, steaming to bombard Henderson Field, Guadalcanal, shortly after midnight on 12 November; a savage nocturnal naval action ensues. Abe's force inflicts heavy damage on TG 67.4 before it retires northward; Rear Admirals Callaghan and Norman Scott are killed on board their respective

flagships, heavy cruiser *San Francisco* (CA-38) and *Atlanta* (CL-51). Both Callaghan and Scott are awarded Medals of Honor (posthumously). On board *San Francisco*, Lieutenant Commanders Herbert E. Schonland and Bruce McCandless prove instrumental in saving their ship, and Boatswain's Mate First Class Reinhardt J. Keppler performs a succession of heroic acts in fighting fires and removing wounded during the thick of the battle. Those three men (Keppler posthumously) also earn the nation's highest award for bravery. TF 16 (Rear Admiral Thomas C. Kinkaid), formed around carrier *Enterprise* (CV-6), the last operational fleet carrier in the Pacific, nears the battle area and launches air search and attacks against the enemy.

Light cruiser *Atlanta* (CL-51), irreparably damaged by Japanese naval gunfire and torpedo as well as by friendly fire from heavy cruiser *San Francisco*, is scuttled by demolition charges three miles off Lunga Point; light cruiser *Juneau* (CL-52), damaged by gunfire, is torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine *I-26*, 10°34'S, 161°44'E, as *Juneau* retires toward Espiritu Santo. Loss of life is heavy. Also sunk are destroyers *Cushing* (DD-376) and *Monssen* (DD-435) to gunfire, *Laffey* (DD-459) to gunfire and torpedo, and *Barton* (DD-599) to two torpedoes. Heavy cruiser *Portland* (CA-33) suffers torpedo damage; *San Francisco*, light cruiser *Helena* (CL-50), and destroyer *Aaron Ward* (DD-483) are damaged by gunfire; friendly fire damages destroyer *O'Bannon* (DD-450).

The Japanese, however, do not emerge from the brutal nocturnal slugfest unscathed: battleship *Hiei*, damaged by gunfire from heavy cruisers *Portland* and *San Francisco* and destroyers *Cushing*, *Laffey*, and *O'Bannon*, is sunk by TBFs (VT 8) from carrier *Enterprise* and USMC SBDs (VMSB 142) and TBFs (VMSB 131) from Henderson Field. Destroyer *Akatsuki* is sunk by *San Francisco* and *Atlanta* gunfire near Savo Island, 09°17'S, 159°56'E. Destroyer *Yudachi*, damaged by gunfire, is sunk by *Portland* southeast of Savo Island, 09°14'S, 159°52'E. Japanese destroyers *Murasame*, *Ikazuchi*, and *Amatsukaze* are damaged by gunfire; destroyer *Yukikaze* is damaged by aircraft, off Guadalcanal. Destroyer *Michisio* is also damaged by aircraft off Shortland Island, Solomons.

On the night of 13 November, heavy cruisers *Suzuya* and *Maya* approach Guadalcanal to shell Henderson Field, intending to render it inoperable the following morning.

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. schooner *Star of Scotland* is shelled and sunk by German submarine *U-159* while en route from Cape Town, South Africa, to Paranagua, Brazil, 26°30'S, 00°20'W; one sailor (of the 17-man crew) drowns when the ship is abandoned (see 1 December).

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *Excello*, proceeding independently from Port Said, Egypt, to Cape Town, South Africa, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-181* at 32°23'S, 30°07'E; one Armed Guard sailor and one merchant seaman perish in the attack (see 14, 15, and 20 November).

- **November 14, Sat.**

Pacific

Naval Battle of Guadalcanal continues as bombardment of Henderson Field by

heavy cruisers *Suzuya* and *Maya* fails to achieve the desired effect, prompting the postponement of the landing of troops from the 11 transports poised to proceed down the "Slot" toward Guadalcanal.

Japanese heavy cruisers *Chokai* and *Kinugasa*, light cruiser *Isuzu* and two destroyers (Vice Admiral Mikawa Gunichi) and heavy cruisers *Maya* and *Suzuya*, light cruiser *Tenryu* and four destroyers (Rear Admiral Nishimura Shoji), come under attack by planes from carrier *Enterprise* (CV-6) and from Henderson Field: *Kinugasa* is sunk by USMC SBDs (VMSB 132), 15 nautical miles northwest of Rendova Island, 08°45'S, 157°00'E. *Maya* (crashed by a crippled VB 10 SBD) and *Isuzu* are damaged south of New Georgia Island; *Chokai*, *Tenryu*, and destroyer *Ayanami* are also damaged.

That afternoon, USMC and Navy land-based SBDs and TBFs bomb Japanese convoy off Guadalcanal, sinking transports/cargo ships *Arizona Maru* and *Canberra Maru* and merchant transport/cargo ships *Brisbane Maru* (VS 10, VMSB 141); *Kumagawa Maru* (VMSB 130), *Nagara Maru* (VT 10), *Nako Maru*; and *Shinano Maru* (CVG 41). Cargo ship *Sado Maru* is damaged.

Beginning shortly before midnight, TF 64 (Rear Admiral Willis A. Lee Jr.), comprising battleships *Washington* (BB-56) and *South Dakota* (BB-57) and four destroyers, engages a Japanese naval force comprising a battleship, a light cruiser, and six destroyers (Vice Admiral Kondo Nobutake) in the Battle of Guadalcanal. Japanese gunfire sinks destroyers *Preston* (DD-379) (by light cruiser *Nagara*) and *Walke* (DD-416) (see 15 November).

Indian Ocean

First boatload of survivors from U.S. freighter *Excello*, sunk by German submarine *U-181* the previous day, make landfall at Port St. John, South Africa.

• **November 15, Sun.**

Pacific

Naval Battle of Guadalcanal ends as TF 64 repulses Vice Admiral Kondo's force. Battleship *South Dakota* (BB-57) is damaged by gunfire of Japanese battleship *Kirishima* and heavy cruisers *Atago* and *Takao*; destroyer *Benham* (DD-397), damaged by torpedo, is scuttled by destroyer *Gwin* (DD-433) in Savo Sound, Solomons; *Gwin* is damaged by gunfire. Gunfire from Admiral Lee's flagship, battleship *Washington* (BB-56), sinks *Kirishima* and destroyer *Ayanami* southeast of Savo Island, 09°10'S, 159°52'E.

Navy SBDs (VS 10) and TBFs (VT 10), USMC SBDs (VMSB 132), Marine and Army coast artillery, and gunfire from destroyer *Meade* (DD-602) sink four Japanese merchant transport/cargo ships off the northern coast of Guadalcanal: *Kinugasa Maru*, *Hirokawa Maru*, *Yamazuki Maru*, and *Yamura Maru*. *Meade* also rescues survivors from sunken destroyers *Walke* (DD-416) and *Preston* (DD-379) (see 14 November).

Although the United States suffers the greater loss in warships in the savagely fought series of engagements on 12-15 November, the Japanese withdraw and never again send large naval forces into the waters around Guadalcanal; the ultimate outcome of the struggle for that island is decided.

USAAF B-17s bomb Japanese shipping at Rabaul, sinking supply ship *No.3 Unkai Maru*, 04°12'S, 152°00'E, and damaging transport *Azuma Maru*.

Mediterranean

Off North Africa, cargo ship *Electra* (AK-21) is torpedoed by German submarine *U-173*, 33°45'N, 07°52'W; cargo ship *Almaack* (AK-27) is torpedoed by *U-155*, 36°19'N, 07°52'W.

Atlantic

French submarine *Le Tonnant*, having been damaged by U.S. warships off Casablanca, French Morocco, is scuttled off Cadiz, Spain,

Caribbean

Unarmed U.S. schooner *Lucy Evelyn* is shelled by what she believes to be an enemy submarine at approximately 12°00'N, 75°00'W; apparently undamaged, she reaches Baranquilla, Colombia, soon thereafter, having suffered no casualties among the seven-man crew.

- **November 16, Mon.**

Pacific

U.S. Army 32nd Division and Australian 7th Division land south of Buna, New Guinea.

Submarine *Haddock* (SS-231) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Nichinan Maru*, 31°52'N, 126°14'E.

Submarine *Seal* (SS-183) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Boston Maru* off Palau, 06°18'N, 135°20'E. Just 12 seconds after firing her torpedoes at the cargo ship, *Seal* is rammed by another enemy vessel; the damage leads to the termination of her patrol.

Japanese destroyer *Harukaze* is damaged by mine off Surabaya, Java.

Mediterranean

Destroyers *Woolsey* (DD-437), *Swanson* (DD-443), and *Quick* (DD-490) sink German submarine *U-173* off Casablanca, French Morocco.

German submarine *U-218* is damaged by depth charges off North Africa.

Atlantic

British steamship *Durando* rescues the 18 survivors (13 of the 47-man crew, 4 of the 15-man Armed Guard and 2 of the 12 passengers) (one of whom dies later of his injuries) from U.S. freighter *East Indian*, sunk on 3 November 1942 by *U-181*. The remainder of those who survived the loss of the ship 13 days before (18 crewmen, 11 Armed Guards and 3 passengers) and managed to reach four rafts, are never found.

- **November 17, Tue.**

Pacific

Submarine *Searaven* (SS-196) sinks Japanese transport *Nissei Maru* in Flying Fish Cove, off Christmas Island, 10°24'S, 105°41'E.

Submarine *Salmon* (SS-182), attacking Japanese convoy off west coast of Luzon, sinks repair ship *Oregon Maru* about 65 miles northwest of Manila, 14°16'N, 119°44'E.

Atlantic

Naval Air Station, De Land, Florida, is established.

German submarine *U-566* is damaged by depth charges in Central Atlantic.

- **November 18, Wed.**

Pacific

USAAF B-17s damage Japanese destroyers *Umikaze* and *Kawakaze* off Buna, New Guinea.

British submarine HMS *Trusty* sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Columbia Maru* off Penang, Malaya.

USAAF B-17s (5th Air Force) sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *Havana Maru* off Kahili airfield, Bougainville.

Mediterranean

German submarine *U-613* is damaged by aircraft; *U-91* is damaged by depth charges off North Africa.

Atlantic

German submarines attack west-bound convoy ONS 144. U.S. freighter *Parismina* is torpedoed and sunk by *U-624* at 54°07'N, 38°26'W; of the 75 souls on board, 20 are lost with the ship: 15 crewmen, two Armed Guard sailors and three passengers. British rescue ship *Perth* and Dutch-manned corvette *Rose* rescue the 55 survivors between them. U.S. freighter *Yaka* also falls victim to *U-624*, at 54°25'N, 38°52'W, and is abandoned; all hands (41 merchant seamen and a 11-man Armed Guard) are rescued by Canadian corvette HMCS *Vervain*. German submarine *U-522* torpedoes and finishes off *Yaka*.

U.S. tanker *Brilliant*, in convoy SC 109, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-43* at 50°45'N, 45°53'E; an intense fire breaks out. Although ship's master and six merchant seamen and two Armed Guard sailors take to a lifeboat, apparently intending to remain nearby but the boat swamps, drowning two men; British corvette HMS *Bury* rescues the remainder of that boat's occupants and retains them on board for medical treatment. The ship's junior third officer, J. Cameron, meanwhile, takes command; the crew puts out the fire. Lieutenant John R. Borum, USNR, the Armed Guard officer, instills confidence by the casual attitude he assumes when things are the worst (see 19 November).

Spanish tanker *Campares* rescues nine survivors (including six Armed Guard sailors) from U.S. freighter *West Kebar*, sunk by German submarine *U-129* on 29 October.

- **November 19, Thu.**

Caribbean

District patrol craft *YP-26* is destroyed by explosion of undetermined origin while on marine railway, Cristobal, C.Z.

Atlantic

Damaged U.S. tanker *Brilliant* proceeds back toward Newfoundland, obtaining her true position from passing warships (see 21 November).

- **November 20, Fri.**

Pacific

Japanese submarine *I-175* is damaged when she runs aground at Truk, Carolines.

Caribbean

District patrol craft *YP-405* burns and sinks off Smith Shoal light.

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *Pierce Butler* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-177* off the coast of South Africa at 29°40'S, 36°35'E. All hands (41-man merchant complement and 21-man Armed Guard) abandon ship in four lifeboats (see 21 November).

British hospital ship *Atlantis* rescues the last 13 survivors from U.S. freighter *Excello*, sunk by German submarine *U-181* on 13 November.

Atlantic

Damaged U.S. tanker *Brilliant* encounters auxiliary schooner *Isabel H.*, whose master pilots the ship to Musgrave harbor, Newfoundland, where she anchors to await an escort to St. John's (see 21 November).

- **November 21, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine *Stingray* (SS-186) torpedoes Japanese seaplane carrier *San'yo Maru* off Shortland Island, 06°32'S, 156°05'E.

Indian Ocean

Survivors from U.S. freighter *Pierce Butler*, sunk by German submarine *U-177* off the coast of South Africa the previous day, are rescued by British destroyer HMS *Forward* and transported to Durban, South Africa.

U.S. freighter *Alcoa Pathfinder* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-181* approximately six miles off the coast of Portuguese East Africa, 26°41'S, 33°08'E; five merchant seamen are lost. Survivors row ashore (see 22 November).

Atlantic

Destroyer *Somers* (DD-381) intercepts German blockade runner *Anneliese Essberger* in the South Atlantic. The German ship is scuttled by her crew.

Damaged U.S. tanker *Brilliant* sails from Musgrave harbor for St. John's (see 22 November).

- **November 22, Sun.**

Pacific

USAAF planes (14th Air Force) on shipping strike sink Vichy French ship *Khai Dinh* east of Haiphong harbor, French Indochina, 20°58'N, 106°40'E.

Atlantic

Damaged U.S. tanker *Brilliant* arrives at St. John's, Newfoundland, completing a 300-mile voyage under the command of the ship's junior third officer (see 18 December).

Indian Ocean

Survivors from U.S. freighter *Alcoa Pathfinder*, sunk the previous day by German submarine *U-181*, row ashore, reaching land about 12 miles north of Oro Point, whence they walk to lighthouse and to airfield. Entire 15-man Armed Guard unit survives, as do 55 of the 61-man crew and the solitary passenger.

- **November 23, Mon.**

Atlantic

Aircraft escort vessels *Sangamon* (ACV-26) and *Chenango* (ACV-28) are damaged by heavy seas, North Atlantic.

U.S. tanker *Caddo*, en route from Baytown, Texas, to Iceland, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-518* at 42°25'N, 48°27'E, and abandoned, with the 58 men on board (42-man merchant complement and 17-man Armed Guard) taking to three lifeboats. *U-518* briefly interrogates survivors, taking ship's master and another officer as prisoners, and departs after the German offer of cigarettes is refused (see 7 and 8 December).

- **November 24, Tue.**

Pacific

Japanese forces land at Munda Point, New Georgia, Solomons.

Submarine *Snapper* (SS-185) is damaged by aerial bombs and depth charges off northern Solomons, 07°58'S, 156°12'E, but remains on patrol.

USAAF B-17s and B-25s and RAAF Beaufighters sink Japanese destroyer *Hayashio* in Huon Gulf between Lae and Finschafen, New Guinea, 07°00'S, 147°30'E, and damage torpedo boats *Otori* and *Hiyodori* east of Lae.

USAAF B-17s also damage Japanese seaplane carrier *Sanuki Maru* in Shortland Harbor, Solomons.

Mediterranean

Transport *Thomas Stone* (AP-59) is damaged by horizontal bomber off North Africa, 36°48'N, 03°10'E.

- **November 25, Wed.**

Pacific

USAAF B-25s and P-40s damage Japanese merchant cargo ship *Ryokusei Maru* at Canton, China.

Japanese submarine *I-17* lands 11 tons of supplies at Kamimbo Bay, Guadalcanal. Submarine missions to supply the beleaguered Japanese garrison on Guadalcanal will continue through the end of November.

Mediterranean

Transport *Thomas Stone* (AP-59), damaged by grounding, North African area, is left beached and abandoned, 36°49'N, 03°07'E.

- **November 26, Thu.**

Pacific

USAAF B-26s damage Japanese merchant cargo ship *Cheribon Maru* off Attu, Aleutians.

- **November 27, Fri.**

Pacific

USAAF B-26s sink Japanese army cargo ship *Kachosan Maru* off Attu.

Mediterranean

French Fleet at Toulon is scuttled to prevent it from falling into German hands. French naval vessels immobilized in this manner include 3 battleships, 4 heavy cruisers, 3 light cruisers, an aircraft depot ship, 30 destroyers, 3 torpedo boats, 16 submarines and 11 gunboats and auxiliaries.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Jeremiah Wadsworth* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-178* approximately 270 miles south of Cape Agulhas, South Africa, 39°25'S,

22°23'E; there are no casualties among the 43-man merchant crew and the 14-man Armed Guard (see 5 and 6 December).

- **November 28, Sat.**

United States

"Cocoanut Grove" nightclub in Boston, Massachusetts, catches fire; Ensigns George W. Carlson and Mac A. Cason, SC-V(P), USNR, driving through the city at that hour, respond immediately when they see flames issuing from the burning building. Exhibiting courage, leadership and resourcefulness, these two Supply Corps officers, who organize rescue parties from enlisted men they see in the gathering crowd, are later deemed "the cause of saving more lives than any other single agency." Despite rescuers' efforts, however, 492 people perish in the tragedy.

Pacific

Cargo ship *Alchiba* (AK-23) is damaged by Japanese midget submarine *Ha.10* (from submarine *I-16*) 3,000 yards northeast of Lunga Point, Guadalcanal (see 7 December).

USAAF B-17s attack Japanese convoy en route from Munda, New Georgia, to Guadalcanal, and damage cargo vessel *Chihaya Maru*.

Caribbean

Gunboat *Erie* (PG-50), torpedoed by German submarine *U-163* on 12 November, is moved into the inner harbor at Willemstad, Curacao, N.W.I., to prevent her from sinking and to facilitate salvage (see 12 November and 5 December).

Atlantic

Aircraft escort vessel *Chenango* (ACV-28) is damaged by heavy seas, North Atlantic.

U.S. freighter *Alaskan* is torpedoed, shelled and sunk by German submarine *U-172* about 400 miles north of St. Paul's Rocks, 03°58'N, 26°19'W; six merchant seamen and one Armed Guard sailor are killed in the attack (see 13 and 15 December 1942, and 5 January 1943).

- **November 29, Sun.**

Pacific

USAAF B-17s damage Japanese destroyers *Shiratsuyu* and *Makigumo* in Vitiaz Strait off New Britain.

Aircraft from Henderson Field sink Japanese cargo ships *Azusa Maru* and *Kiku Maru*, Wickham Anchorage, New Georgia.

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *Sawokla* is sunk by torpedo and gunfire of German auxiliary cruiser *Michel* (Schiffe 28) at approximately 28°00'S, 54°00'E, about 400 miles southeast of Madagascar, while en route from Colombo, Ceylon, to Cape Town, South Africa; 16 of the 41-man crew are killed in the attack, as are four of the 13 Armed Guard sailors. *Michel* rescues 25 crewmen, five Armed Guard sailors and the five passengers (see 30 November).

- **November 30, Mon.**

Pacific

Battle of Tassafaronga: TF 67, comprising four heavy cruisers, one light

cruiser, and six destroyers (Rear Admiral Carlton H. Wright) surprises Japanese destroyers (Captain Sato Torajiro) off Tassafaronga Point, Guadalcanal. The enemy presses on to jettison supply containers to sustain Japanese troops on Guadalcanal, while torpedoes launched from destroyers *Kagero*, *Makinami*, *Kuroshio*, *Oyashio*, *Kawakaze* and *Naganami* wreak havoc on Wright's ships, damaging heavy cruisers *Pensacola* (CA-24), *Northampton* (CA-26), *New Orleans* (CA-32), and *Minneapolis* (CA-36). Japanese destroyer *Takanami* is damaged by cruiser and destroyer gunfire off Tassafaronga (see 1 December).

USAAF B-24s (India Air Task Force) bomb Japanese torpedo boat *Kari* off Port Blair, Andaman Island, in a strike that inaugurates attacks on the sea approaches to Burma.

German auxiliary cruiser *Thor* (Schiffe 10) is sunk by explosion of supply ship *Uckermark*, moored alongside, Yokohama, Japan. The blast also sinks German prize ship *Leuthen* and Japanese harbor craft in the vicinity.

Indian Ocean

German auxiliary cruiser *Michel* (Schiffe 28) rescues four additional Armed Guard sailors who have survived the sinking of U.S. freighter *Sawokla* the previous day (see 18 February 1943).

December

- **December 1, Tue.**

Pacific

As a result of damage received in the Battle of Tassafaronga, heavy cruiser *Northampton* (CA-26) sinks at 09°12'S, 159°50'E; Japanese destroyer *Takanami* goes down about 10 miles south-southwest of Savo Island, 09°18'S, 159°56'E.

Submarine *Peto* (SS-265) sinks Japanese transport *Konei Maru* north of the Bismarck Archipelago. [*sic*: should be 1943 --- *Peto* did not begin her 1st war patrol until 2 April 43.]

Japanese destroyer *Isonami* is damaged by planes (USAAF B-25s, B-26s, A-20s, and P-400s are all involved in raids on Buna) off Buna, New Guinea.

Atlantic

Fleet Air Wing 15 (Captain George A. Seitz) is established at Norfolk, Virginia, for service at Port Lyautey, French Morocco.

Survivors (16) from unarmed U.S. schooner *Star of Scotland*, shelled and sunk by German submarine *U-159* on 13 November, reach Angola after an open-boat voyage of 1,040 miles.

- **December 2, Wed.**

Atlantic

Naval Operating Base and Naval Air Facility, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, are established.

U.S. steamship *Coamo* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-604* off Bermuda; some survivors from the 186 men on board manage to escape on rafts (see 3 December).

- **December 3, Thu.**

Pacific

SBDs and TBFs from Henderson Field, Guadalcanal, attack a Japanese Reinforcement Unit, ten ships strong, en route to Guadalcanal and damage destroyer *Makinami*. The Japanese throw some 1,500 supply canisters overboard for their troops on Guadalcanal, but only 310 reach the intended recipients.

Atlantic

Gale sweeps area in which U.S. steamship *Coamo* has been torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-604* off Bermuda; the survivors who managed to reach safety on rafts most likely perish on this and/or subsequent days. No survivors from the 133-man crew, the 37 Armed Guard sailors or the 16 Army passengers are ever found.

- **December 4, Fri.**

Mediterranean

USAAF B-24s (9th Air Force) conduct first American bombing raid on Italy, targeting the port of Naples. Light cruiser *Muzio Attendolo* is sunk; light cruisers *Raimondo Montecucoli* and *Eugenio di Savoia* and four destroyers are damaged.

- **December 5, Sat.**

Pacific

Tug *Grebe* (AT-134) sinks after running aground south of Fiji, 19°49'S, 178°13'W.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Mansei Maru* founders and sinks in storm in Formosa Strait, 23°30'N, 119°34'E.

VCS Detachment RINGBOLT is established at Tanambogo, B.S.I., composed of planes (SOCs) from heavy cruisers *Pensacola* (CA-24), *Northampton* (CA-26), *New Orleans* (CA-32), *Minneapolis* (CA-36), and light cruiser *Honolulu* (CL-48). Operations of the new unit commence immediately, taking precedence over setting up camp. Two SOC's patrol this night with PT boats. Lack of equipment and communication difficulties handicap operations that are carried out on moonless nights in rain squalls. Only facilities provided being a flashlight on the beach to guide returning plane through reef passage after landing.

Caribbean

Gunboat *Erie* (PG-50), damaged on 12 November and moved to facilitate salvage on 28 November, capsizes at her moorings at Willemstad, Curacao, N.W.I. (see 12 and 28 November).

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *John Lykes* rescues 19 survivors from freighter *Jeremiah Wadsworth*, sunk by German submarine *U-178* on 27 November; an unidentified Allied ship rescues 20 more of *Jeremiah Wadsworth's* men the same day.

- **December 6, Sun.**

Atlantic

British armed merchant cruiser HMS *Alcantara* rescues 18 survivors from freighter *Jeremiah Wadsworth*, sunk by German submarine *U-178* on 27 November.

- **December 7, Mon.**

Pacific

USMC SBDs (VMSB 132) from Henderson Field attack Japanese Reinforcement Unit (Captain Sato Torajiro), 12 ships strong, carrying

reinforcements and supplies to Guadalcanal, damaging destroyers *Nowaki* and *Arashi*.

Cargo ship *Alchiba* (AK-23) is damaged by Japanese midget submarine *Ha.38* (from submarine *I-24*) off Lunga Point, Guadalcanal (see 28 November).

Submarine *Kingfish* (SS-234) sinks Japanese transport *No.3 Hino Maru* west of the Bonins, 23°59'N, 138°43'E.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *James McKay*, attempting to join convoy HX 217 in heavy seas east of Newfoundland, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-600* at 57°50'N, 23°10'W; although *U-600* notes two boats clearing the ship's side containing survivors, none of the 48-man merchant complement or the 14-man Armed Guard are ever found.

Lifeboat from U.S. tanker *Caddo* capsizes twice; seven of the 13 occupants drown. Of the 17 men who originally occupied the boat, four have already perished at sea (see 8 December).

- **December 8, Tue.**

Pacific

Motor torpedo boats *PT-36*, *PT-37*, *PT-40*, *PT-43*, *PT-44*, *PT-48*, *PT-59*, and *PT-109* turn back eight Japanese destroyers (Captain Sato Torajiro) attempting to reinforce Guadalcanal.

Submarine *Gar* (SS-206) sinks Japanese cargo ship *Heinan Maru*, 00°52'N, 118°54'E.

USAAF B-17s and B-24s damage Japanese destroyers *Asashio* and *Isonami* off Buna, New Guinea.

Atlantic

Spanish motorship *Motomar* rescues the only six survivors (three merchant seamen and three Armed Guard sailors) from U.S. tanker *Caddo*, sunk on 23 November by German submarine *U-518*, at 38°10'N, 35°24'W. Neither of the other two lifeboats from *Caddo* are ever seen again, together with their occupants.

- **December 9, Wed.**

Pacific

Major General Alexander A. Vandegrift, USMC, is relieved by Major General Alexander M. Patch, USA, as commander of Marine and Army troops, Guadalcanal.

Aircraft from Henderson Field, Guadalcanal, begin what become daily attacks on Japanese installations at Munda, New Georgia.

Motor torpedo boat *PT-59* sinks Japanese submarine *I-3*, engaged in a resupply mission to Guadalcanal, three miles northeast of Kamimbo Bay, 09°12'S, 159°42'E.

- **December 10, Thu.**

Pacific

Submarine *Halibut* (SS-232) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kosei Maru* and damages Japanese transport *Uyo Maru*, off Hachinohe, 40°40'N, 141°58'E.

Submarine *Stingray* (SS-186) is damaged by bombs off northern Solomons, 07°58'S, 156°12'E.

Submarine *Wahoo* (SS-238) sinks Japanese collier *Kamoi Maru* off Buin, Bougainville, 04°06'S, 154°58'E.

USAAF B-17s damage Japanese oilers *Fujisan Maru* and *Toa Maru* off Buin, Bougainville.

Atlantic

PBY (VP 84) sinks German submarine *U-611*, North Atlantic, 58°09'N, 22°44'W.

- **December 11, Fri.**

Pacific

SBDs and USAAF P-39/P-40s from Henderson Field attack 11 Japanese destroyers (Rear Admiral Tanaka Raizo) on a resupply mission to Guadalcanal, north of New Georgia, without success.

Submarine *Seadragon* (SS-194) damages cargo ship *Johore Maru* off Cape St. George, 04°55'S, 152°44'E.

- **December 12, Sat.**

Pacific

Five motor torpedo boats attack 11 Japanese destroyers (Rear Admiral Tanaka Raizo) off Cape Esperance, Guadalcanal. Motor torpedo boats *PT-37* and *PT-40* sink *Terutsuki*, but *Kawakaze* and *Suzukaze* sink *PT-44* off Savo Island, 09°10'S, 159°45'E.

Submarine *Drum* (SS-228) damages Japanese aircraft carrier *Ryuho* off Hachijo Jima, 32°04'N, 142°30'E.

Submarine *Halibut* (SS-232) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Gyokusan Maru* off northeast coast of Honshu, 40°37'N, 142°40'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.2 Unyo Maru* is lost to unknown cause, place unspecified.

- **December 13, Sun.**

Atlantic

Spanish tanker *Cilurum* rescues eleven crewmen and three Armed Guard sailors from U.S. freighter *Alaskan*, sunk by German submarine *U-172* on 28 November, and transports them to Las Palmas, Canary Islands (see 15 December 1942 and 5 January 1943).

- **December 14, Mon.**

Pacific

Fleet Air Command, Nouméa, New Caledonia (Rear Admiral Marc A. Mitscher) is established.

Submarine *Sunfish* (SS-281) lays mines in entrance to Iseno Umi Bay, Japan. She continues these mining operations in those waters on 15, 16, and 17 December 1942.

On board submarine *Grayback* (SS-208), on war patrol in the Bismarck Archipelago, appendectomy commences (2300) by Pharmacist's Mate First

Class Harry B. Roby, USNR, on Torpedoman First Class W.R. Jones (see 15 December).

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Alcoa Rambler* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-174* while en route from Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, to Santos, Brazil, 03°51'S, 33°08'W; one merchant seaman drowns when the ship is abandoned (see 17 December 1942).

- **December 15, Tue.**

Atlantic

Coast Guard cutter *Ingham* (WPG-35) sinks German submarine *U-626*, North Atlantic, 56°46'N, 27°12'W.

Twelve Armed Guard sailors (one of whom dies later of his wounds) and 17 merchant seamen from U.S. freighter *Alaskan*, sunk by German submarine *U-172* on 28 November 1942, reach Salinas, Brazil, by lifeboat (see 5 January 1943).

Pacific

Appendectomy is completed (0200) on board submarine *Grayback* (SS-208), by Pharmacist's Mate First Class Harry B. Roby, USNR, on Torpedoman First Class W.R. Jones. This is the second of three such procedures that will be performed on board U.S. submarines during the war.

- **December 16, Wed.**

Atlantic

Submarine *Halibut* (SS-232) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Shingo Maru* off Shiraya Zaki, Honshu, 41°18'N, 141°32'E; in the confusion that attends *Halibut's* attack upon *Shingo Maru*, cargo ship *Genzan Maru* is run aground, stranded, and abandoned, 41°10'N, 141°32'E.

- **December 17, Thu.**

Pacific

Submarine *Drum* (SS-228) mines the Bungo Strait, Japanese home islands.

Submarine *Grouper* (SS-214) sinks Japanese army passenger-cargo ship *Bandoeng Maru* about 15 miles northwest of Cape Henpan, Buka Island, Solomons, 04°54'S, 154°17'E. Escorting submarine chaser *Ch 29* carries out unsuccessful counterattack.

Atlantic

Coast Guard cutter *Natsek* (WPG-170) sinks after foundering in Belle Isle Strait off Newfoundland.

Twenty-five survivors from U.S. freighter *Alcoa Ranger*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-174* on 14 December 1942, reach Natal, Brazil, by lifeboat.

- **December 18, Fri.**

Pacific

Submarine *Albacore* (SS-218) torpedoes and sinks Japanese light cruiser *Tenryu* just off Madang harbor, eastern New Guinea, 05°12'S, 145°56'E, and torpedoes armed merchant cruiser *Gokoku Maru*, 05°10'S, 145°57'E. *Albacore* survives counterattacks by escorting destroyer (*Sukukaze* or *Isonami*).

Submarine *Sunfish* (SS-281) damages Japanese transport *Kyowa Maru* 34°10'N, 136°52'E.

Atlantic

U.S. tanker *Brilliant*, torpedoed and damaged on 18 November 1942 by *U-43*, sets out from St. John's, Newfoundland, but is forced by heavy seas to return the next day (see 20 January 1943).

- **December 19, Sat.**

Pacific

Japanese destroyer *Mochizuki* is damaged by aircraft, location unspecified (USAAF B-17s and B-24s attack warships in Astrolabe Bay and off the coast of the Huon Peninsula that day).

- **December 20, Sun.**

Pacific

Submarine *Amberjack* (SS-219) is damaged by depth charges off northern Solomons, 07°10'S, 155°21'E, but remains on patrol.

Submarine *Seadragon* (SS-194) sinks Japanese submarine *I-4* between New Britain and New Ireland, 05°02'S, 152°33'E, while *I-4* is engaged in a resupply mission to Guadalcanal.

Submarine *Trigger* (SS-237) lays mines off Inubo Zaki, Honshu; one immediately sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Mutsuki Maru* south of Daiozaki, Japan, 35°45'N, 140°55'E, as the enemy freighter happens by in the midst of the submarine's minelaying operation.

Light minelayer *Gamble* (DM-15) lays mines to reinforce minefield laid at Espiritu Santo on 3 August 1942.

Gunboat *Tulsa* (PG-22) is damaged when she runs aground in Milne Bay, New Guinea, 10°15'S, 149°27'E.

- **December 21, Mon.**

Pacific

Submarine *S-35* (SS-140) is damaged by electrical fire while on patrol off Amchitka, Aleutians.

Japanese army cargo ship *Hakuyo Maru* is sunk by aircraft (nationality unspecified) near Rabaul.

- **December 22, Tue.**

Pacific

Submarine *Greenling* (SS-213), attacking Japanese convoy, sinks *Patrol Boat No.35* about 70 miles north-northeast of Kieta, Bougainville, 05°05'S, 156°04'E.

Submarine *S-35* (SS-140) is again plagued by electrical fires; on this day and the one previous, however, other than cases of smoke inhalation, exposure, and exhaustion, the boat suffers no casualties.

On board submarine *Silversides* (SS-236), submerged in the shipping channel off Rabaul, New Britain, Pharmacist's Mate First Class Thomas A. Moore performs successful appendectomy on Fireman Second Class George M. Platter. This is the third of three such procedures that will be performed on board U.S. submarines during the war.

Submarine *Trigger* (SS-237) damages Japanese merchant cargo ship *Yoshu Maru* south of the entrance to Tokyo Bay, 34°52'N, 139°49'E. *Trigger* clears the area without seeing her quarry sink.

USAAF B-24 sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Takasaka Maru* off Gasmata, New Britain.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kaiyo Maru* is lost, cause unknown, Inland Sea, Japan.

- **December 24, Thu.**

Pacific

Henderson Field, Guadalcanal-based SBDs, P-40s, and F4Fs attack 13 Japanese troop-laden barges bound for Munda, New Georgia, sinking nine of the enemy craft.

Japanese netlayer *Koa Maru* is sunk by aircraft (possibly a USAAF B-24 heavy bomber), Marcus Bay, New Britain.

Submarine *Silversides* (SS-236) is bombed and damaged by Japanese aircraft off Rabaul, but continues on her patrol.

Submarine *Triton* (SS-201) sinks Japanese water tanker *No.1 Amakusa Maru* south of Wake Island, 19°16'N, 166°36'E.

USAAF B-17s sink Japanese transport *No.2 Tama Maru* at Gasmata, New Britain, 06°18'S, 150°16'E.

Atlantic

Transports *Florence Nightingale* (AP-70) and *Thurston* (AP-77) are damaged in collision off North Africa, 34°41'N, 07°25'W.

- **December 25, Fri.**

Pacific

Submarine *Seadragon* (SS-194) damages Japanese transport *Nankai Maru* off Cape St. George, New Britain, 05°05'S, 152°28'E; escorting destroyer *Uzuki*, after depth-charging *Seadragon* (and claiming destruction of her quarry) is then damaged in collision with the damaged *Nankai Maru*. Despite enemy optimism, *Seadragon* emerges unscathed from her adventure.

Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) sinks Japanese army cargoship *No.2 Banshu Maru* about 15 miles north of Dili, Timor, 08°40'S, 124°30'E.

Submarine *Thresher* (SS-200) sinks Japanese army transport *No.1 Tokiwa Maru*, 06°38'S, 112°44'E.

USAAF B-17s damage Japanese transport *Kagu Maru* and merchant cargo ship *Kozan Maru* at Rabaul.

Atlantic

Philippine motorship *Dona Aurora* is torpedoed and sunk by Italian submarine *Enrico Tazzoli* about 200 miles off the coast of Brazil, 02°02'S, 35°17'W; *Enrico Tazzoli* takes two passengers and one Armed Guard sailor prisoner and leaves the rest afloat in a boat and three rafts (see 27 December 1942, 3 January 1943 and [...] 1943).

- **December 26, Sat.**

Pacific

Henderson Field, Guadalcanal-based SBDs, F4Fs, and P-38s attack Japanese transports at Wickham Anchorage, New Georgia, sinking merchant cargo ships *Takashima Maru* and *Iwami Maru*.

USAAF B-24 bombs Japanese shipping in St. George Channel, Solomons, damaging destroyer *Ariake* as she escorts damaged transport *Nankai Maru* and destroyer *Uzuki* (see 25 December).

USAAF B-17s damage Japanese destroyer *Tachikaze*, Rabaul.

Mine laid by submarine *Trigger* (SS-237) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Teifuku Maru* four miles northeast of Inubosaki, Japan, 35°45'N, 140°55'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Izumi Maru* is sunk by aircraft (possibly USAAF heavy bomber) South Seas area.

Atlantic

Submarine *Barb* (SS-220) mistakenly torpedoes neutral Spanish tanker *Campomanes* off Cape Finisterre.

- **December 27, Sun.**

Pacific

USAAF B-17s sink Japanese merchant cargo ships *Italy Maru* and *Tsurugisan Maru* off Rabaul, 04°21'S, 142°17'E.

Atlantic

British freighter *Testbank* rescues 50 survivors from Philippine motorship *Dona Aurora*, torpedoed and sunk by Italian submarine *Enrico Tazzoli* on 25 December 1942 (see 3 January 1943).

- **December 28, Mon.**

Pacific

Submarine *Kingfish* (SS-234) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Choyo Maru* off northwest coast of Formosa, 24°46'N, 120°40'E.

Submarine *Triton* (SS-201) sinks Japanese merchant passenger/cargo ship *Omi Maru*, 06°24'N, 160°18'E.

Japanese army cargo ship *No.8 Tokiwa Maru* is sunk by mine, 06°50'S, 112°47'E.

Japanese minelayer *Nichiyu Maru* is damaged, cause unknown, off Kiska, Aleutians.

- **December 29, Tue.**

Pacific

High speed minesweeper *Wasmuth* (DMS-15) is sunk by explosion of two of her own depth charges during a gale, 35 miles off Scotch Cape, the southwest point of Unimak Island, Aleutians.

Mine laid by submarine *Tambor* (SS-198) on 2 November 1942, sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Fukken Maru* off northwest coast of Hainan Island, 20°04'N, 109°18'E.

- **December 30, Wed.**

Pacific

Submarine *Greenling* (SS-213) attacks Japanese convoy about 180 miles northeast of Manus, Admiralties, sinking army cargo ship *Hiteru Maru* and damaging cargo ship *Ryufuku Maru*, 00°41'N, 148°52'E.

Submarine *Searaven* (SS-196) lands agents on south coast of Ceram Island, N.E.I.

Submarine *Thresher* (SS-200) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Hachian Maru* (ex-British *Kinshan*) about 120 miles west of Mata Siri Island, off southeast tip of Borneo, 04°45'N, 113°54'E.

Japanese coastal minesweeper *M 2* is sunk by mine, Surabaya Harbor.

USAAF B-17s (5th Air Force) bomb Japanese shipping in Simpson Harbor, Rabaul, sinking merchant cargo ship *Tomiura Maru*, 04°14'S, 152°11'E.

- **December 31, Thu.** Japanese Imperial headquarters in Tokyo decides to begin the evacuation of Guadalcanal.

Pacific

USAAF B-24s damage Japanese merchant cargo ship *Urajio Maru* off Kiska.

Chapter V: 1943

January

- **1 January, Fri.**

Pacific

Rescuer (ARS-18) sinks after running aground off Scotch Cape, Aleutians.

Submarine *Nautilus* (SS-168) evacuates 29 civilians from Teop Island, Solomons.

Submarine *Porpoise* (SS-172), in attack on Japanese convoy, sinks merchant cargo ship *Renzan Maru* off northeastern coast of Honshu, 39°11'N, 142°02'E.

Submarine *Trigger* (SS-237) damages Japanese transport *Shozan Maru* 35°55'N, 140°55'E.

Japanese army cargo ship *Osaka Maru* is damaged by mine, 16 miles off Ambon, N.E.I.

Mediterranean

German submarine *U-73* torpedoes and sinks U.S. freighter *Arthur Middletonoff* Oran, Algeria, 35 45'N, 00 45'W; of the 81 souls on board (11 of whom are from the crew of tank landing craft *LCT-21*, which is also lost) 3 sailors of the 27-man Armed Guard detachment are the only survivors.

- **2 January, Sat.**

Pacific

SBDs and F4Fs and USAAF B-17s, B-26s, and P-38s bomb ten Japanese supply-carrying destroyers (Rear Admiral Koyonagi Tomiji) west of Rendova, Solomons; SBDs damage destroyer *Sukukaze*. Eleven motor torpedo boats attack the force off Cape Esperance without success.

U.S. Army I Corps (Lieutenant General Robert Eichelberger) captures Buna, New Guinea, significantly reducing the threat to Port Moresby.

Submarine *Argonaut* (SS-166) sinks Japanese guardboat *Ebon Maru*, Bismarck Sea, 04°30'S, 151°30'E.

Submarine *Spearfish* (SS-190) damages Japanese army cargo ship *Akagisan Maru* off New Ireland, Bismarck Archipelago, 03°30'S, 151°30'E.

- **3 January, Sun.**

Pacific

SOCs (VCS Detachment RINGBOLT) bomb footbridge and probable Japanese bivouac near Kukumbona, Guadalcanal.

- **4 January, Mon.**

Atlantic

Submarine *Shad* (SS-235) sinks German minesweeper *M 4242* (ex-French trawler *Odet II*) in Bay of Biscay, 43°55'N, 002°42'W.

- **5 January, Tue.**

Pacific

TG 67.2 (Rear Admiral Walden L. Ainsworth) bombards airfield and

installations at Munda, New Georgia, Solomons. After the rest of TF 67 joins TG 67.2, Japanese planes attack the force, near-missing light cruiser *Honolulu* (CL 48) and damaging New Zealand light cruiser HMNZS *Achilles*, 18 miles south of Cape Hunter, Guadalcanal. In the action, light cruiser *Helena* (CL 50) becomes the first U.S. Navy ship to use Mk. 32 proximity-fuzed projectiles in combat, downing a Japanese Aichi Type 99 carrier bomber (VAL) with her second salvo.

USAAF B-17s and B-24s bomb Japanese shipping at Rabaul, New Guinea.

Atlantic

Last nine survivors (including the Armed Guard unit commander) of U.S. freighter *Alaskan*, sunk by German submarine *U-172* on 28 November 1942, utilizing a bailed-out lifeboat, reach Cayenne, French Guiana.

- **6 January, Wed.**

Pacific

Motor torpedo boats *PT-22* and *PT-24* are damaged in collision during storm, Dora Harbor, Unimak Island, Aleutians.

PBY sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Montreal Maru* near Kiska, Aleutians, 53°28'N, 177°52'E.

USAAF B-24s sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kotohira Maru* off Holtz Bay, Attu, 53°00'N, 173°10'E.

USAAF B-17s and B-24s bomb Japanese shipping at Rabaul, New Britain, sinking army cargo vessel *Keifuku Maru* and damaging destroyer *Tachikaze* and cargo vessel *Kagu Maru*.

USAAF aircraft damage Japanese torpedo boat *Tomozuru* off Kai Island, Banda Sea.

Atlantic

PBY-5A (VP 83) sinks German submarine *U-164* off Brazil, 01°58'S, 39°23'W.

District patrol craft *YP-492* is sunk in collision with *YP-6713* off eastern Florida.

- **7 January, Thu.**

Pacific

USAAF B-17s, B-24s, B-25s and B-26s, supported by P-38s and P-40s, and RAAF or RNZAF Hudsons and RAF Catalinas, set upon Japanese convoy bound for Lae, New Guinea. During these attacks, army cargo ship *Nichiryu Maru* is sunk off Lae, 06°30'S, 149°00'E, and army cargo ship *Myoko Maru* is forced aground south of Arawe, 06°49'S, 147°04'E (see 8 January).

Mediterranean

German planes attack convoy KMS 7 off Bougie, Algeria, bombing U.S. freighter *William Wirt*; there are no casualties among the ship's complement (including the 21-man Armed Guard).

- **8 January, Fri.**

Pacific

USAAF B-17s, B-24s, B-25s and A-20s, supported by P-38s, attack Japanese convoy unloading off Lae, New Guinea. Army cargo ship *Myoko Maru*, forced

aground south of Arawe, 06°49'S, 147°04'E, the previous day, is destroyed by bombs.

Atlantic

Shortly before midnight, submarine *U-124* attacks 12-ship Rio de Janeiro, Brazil-bound convoy TB 1, torpedoing U.S. tanker *Broad Arrow* at 07°21'N, 55°43'W, and freighter *Birmingham City* at 07°12'N, 55°37'W. On board the former, the initial explosion kills seven of the eight-man Armed Guard, and her complement abandons the blazing ship (which is illuminating the entire convoy) without orders. *Birmingham City* sinks in three minutes (see 9 January).

- **9 January, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine *Gar* (SS-206) damages Japanese oiler *Notoro* in Makassar Strait, N.E.I., 01°46'N, 119°01'E.

Submarine *Nautilus* (SS-168) sinks Japanese transport *Yoshinogawa Maru* just east of Kieta, Bougainville, 06°13'S, 156°00'E; even though she is damaged early in the engagement, *Yoshinogawa Maru* depth-charges *Nautilus*, but the latter escapes unharmed.

Submarine *Searaven* (SS-196) damages Japanese army cargo ship *Yubae Maru*, 07°38'N, 134°12'E.

Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) damages Japanese light cruiser *Natori* southeast of Ambon, 04°07'S, 128°32'E.

Atlantic

German submarine *U-384* attacks Belfast, Ireland-bound U.S. freighter *Louise Lykes* in the North Atlantic at 58°55'N, 23°40'W; although the U-boat will ultimately destroy the merchantman, Armed Guard gunfire nearly turns the tables on the enemy. Sadly, none of *Louise Lykes's* people (including the 24-man Armed Guard) survive.

German submarine *U-124* continues assault on convoy TB 1, begun shortly before midnight the day before, about 100 miles northeast of Paramaribo, Dutch Guiana. *U-124* torpedoes freighters *Collingsworth* and *Minotaur* at 07°12'N, 55°37'W; each ship sinks four minutes after being struck. Tanker *Broad Arrow* sinks as the result of damage received in *U-124's* initial attack. Submarine chaser *PC-577* rescues survivors from all four ships sunk by the U-boat. Of the Armed Guards on the four merchantmen, only one sailor of the eight-man guard on board *Broad Arrow* survives; five of the 18-man Armed Guard perish in the abandonment of *Birmingham City*; *Collingsworth's* detachment loses four of 24 men; *Minotaur's* 15-man Armed Guard, however, survives intact.

- **10 January, Sun.**

Pacific

Transport submarine *Argonaut* (APS-1) is sunk by Japanese aircraft (582d *Kokutai*, 21st Air Flotilla) and destroyers *Isokaze* and *Maikaze*, as *Argonaut* attacks convoy southeast of New Britain, 05°40'S, 152°02'E.

Destroyer *Shaw* (DD-373) is damaged by grounding, Bulari Passage, New Caledonia.

Motor torpedo boats *PT-27* and *PT-28* are damaged by storm, Dora Harbor, Unimak Island, Aleutians.

Submarine *Trigger* (SS-237) sinks Japanese destroyer *Okikaze* off Yokosuka, 35°02'N, 140°12'E.

RAAF Hudsons and Catalinas damage Japanese army cargo ship *Brazil Maru* off Lae. Navy planes attack the same convoy later but do not achieve any damage.

Mediterranean

U.S. freighter *Norwalk* is sunk in collision with Norwegian freighter *Nidareid* north of Cuba, 28°18'N, 80°00'W. While one of the 30-man merchant crew perishes in the accident, none of the 14-man Armed Guard are hurt.

Norwegian freighter *Dalvanger* rescues 21 men from U.S. freighter *Collingsworth*, torpedoed and sunk by *U-124* the previous day while in convoy TB 1.

- **11 January, Mon.**

Pacific

Nine motor torpedo boats operating from Tulagi, directed to the scene by a PBY, attack Japanese Reinforcement Unit (Captain Koyanagi Tomiji), eight destroyers strong, off Cape Esperance, Guadalcanal; destroyer *Hatsukaze* is damaged. Motor torpedo boat *PT-112* is sunk and *PT-43* damaged by Japanese destroyer gunfire (09°15'S, 159°42'E).

Submarine *Trout* (SS-202) damages Japanese oiler *Kyokuko Maru* off Miri, 04°24'N, 113°51'E.

- **12 January, Tue.**

Pacific

TF 8 (Rear Admiral Thomas C. Kinkaid) covers unopposed landing of Army troops (Brigadier General Lloyd E. Jones) to occupy Amchitka, Aleutians. Destroyer *Worden* (DD-352) is lost when she sinks after running aground south of Kirilof Point, at entrance to Constantine Harbor.

Motor torpedo boat *PT-28* is damaged by grounding during storm, Dora Harbor, Unimak Island, Aleutians.

Submarine *Guardfish* (SS-217) sinks *Patrol Boat No.1* about 10 miles southwest of the Tingwon Islands, located just southwest of the northern tip of New Hanover, Bismarck Archipelago, 02°51'S, 149°43'E.

New Zealand corvette scuttles hulk of motor torpedo boat *PT-43* off Guadalcanal.

District patrol vessel *YP-183* sinks after running aground off west coast of Hawaii, T.H.

- **13 January, Wed.**

Pacific

Transport *Arthur Middleton* (AP 55) is damaged when she runs aground at western end of Constantine Harbor, Amchitka, Aleutians.

Submarine *Triton* (SS-201) damages Japanese oiler *Maru* north of the St. Matthias Island group, 00°26'S, 148°40'E.

Submarine *Whale* (SS-239) sinks Japanese collier *Iwashiro Maru* about 40 miles north of Kwajalein, 09°54'N, 167°07'E.

Atlantic

PBY-5As (VP 83) sink German submarine *U-507* off Brazil, 01°38'S, 39°52'W.

- **14 January, Thu.**

General

Casablanca (SYMBOL) Conference begins. President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill, and their staffs meet to plan future operations against the Axis powers.

Pacific

Submarine *Gudgeon* (SS-211) lands men and equipment near Catmon Point, Negros, P.I.

Submarine *Nautilus* (SS-168) hits Japanese *Toa Maru* with dud torpedo off Bougainville, 05°13'S, 155°09'E.

Submarine *Pike* (SS-173) is damaged by bombs and depth charges off Ichie Saki, southern Honshu; she is forced to terminate her patrol.

Submarine *Searaven* (SS-196) attacks Japanese convoy northwest of the Palaus, sinking the sole escort, auxiliary submarine chaser *No.1 Ganjitsu Maru*, and army cargo ship *Shiraha Maru*, 09°12'N, 130°38'E.

Motor torpedo boat *PT-28*, previously damaged, is abandoned, Dora Harbor, Unimak Island, Aleutians.

Japanese naval auxiliary *Shoan Maru* is damaged by aircraft off Saipan.

SOCs (VCS Detachment RINGBOLT) locate and illuminate Japanese destroyers for PT-boats; the planes also bomb and strafe the enemy ships.

- **15 January, Fri.**

Pacific

SBDs from Henderson Field, Guadalcanal, and USAAF B-17s, escorted by F4Fs and USAAF P-39s, attack nine Japanese destroyers northeast of New Georgia, Solomons, and damage four: *Arashi*, *Tanikaze*, *Urakaze*, and *Hamakaze*.

Japanese attempt to reinforce their troops in the Solomons begins as first group of ships--Section A-- three transports accompanied by destroyer *Shigure*, departs Truk for Bougainville. The soldiers are being transferred from China (see 17, 19, and 20 January).

USAAF B-24s bomb Japanese convoy, sinking army cargo ship *Nichimei Maru* and damaging army cargo ship *Moji Maru*, about 200 miles south-southwest of Rangoon, Burma, 13°30'N, 97°30'E. Unknown to the aviators, *Nichimei Maru* is transporting Allied POWs, 500 of whom are lost.

- **16 January, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine *Greenling* (SS-213) sinks Japanese transport *Kimposan Maru* west of Kavieng, 02°47'S, 149°10'E; after forcing *Greenling* deep, submarine chaser *Ch 17* rescues *Kimposan Maru's* survivors.

Submarine *Growler* (SS-215) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking army passenger-cargo ship *Chifuku Maru* 11 miles north of Waton Island, 04°00'S, 151°55'E, and survives escorts' counterattacks.

- **17 January, Sun.**

Pacific

Naval Base and Naval Air Station, Brisbane, Australia, are established. The Brisbane base will eventually become the largest Navy facility in Australia. It will not be disestablished until 14 January 1946.

Section B of Japanese Solomons reinforcement convoy sails from Truk, bound for the Shortlands.

Submarine *Finback* (SS-230) damages Japanese merchant cargo ship *Yachiyo Maru* off Tanega Shima, 30°33'N, 132°25'E.

Submarine *Searaven* (SS-196) torpedoes Japanese ship *Gokoku Maru* just off Palau, but the "fish" that hits proves a dud, 07°52'N, 134°02'E.

Submarine *Whale* (SS-239) damages Japanese troopship *Heiyo Maru* northeast of Truk, 10°13'N, 151°25'E.

SOC (VCS Detachment RINGBOLT) on night patrol locates Japanese submarine by lightning flash and attacks her, but the bomb fails to detonate.

- **18 January, Mon.**

Pacific

Submarine *Greenling* (SS-213) damages Japanese ammunition ship/survey vessel *Soya* in Queen Carola Channel, 02°04'S, 150°37'E.

Submarine *Silversidess* (SS-236) sinks Japanese fleet tanker *Genyo Maru* about 90 miles southwest of Truk, 06°19'N, 150°15'E, but is damaged by depth charges from escorting warship and is forced to terminate her patrol.

USAAF B-24 sinks Japanese transport *Senzan Maru* off Kavieng, 03°29'S, 149°02'E; submarine chaser *Ch 16* rescues survivors.

USAAF B-17s and P-39s sink Japanese cargo vessel *Yamafuku Maru* off Shortland Island.

Japanese collier *Tokachi Maru* is sunk by Japanese mine west of Surubaya, Java, N.E.I., 06°50'S, 112°12'E.

U.S. tanker *Mobilube* is torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I-21* off coast of New South Wales, Australia, 33°57'S, 157°20'E; Australian minesweeper HMAS *Kapunda* provides assistance as the tanker remains afloat. Other than three men killed in the initial explosion, no other members of the ship's complement (that includes an 11-man Armed Guard) perish. *Mobilube* is towed to Sydney by salvage tug *St. Aristell*, but is eventually declared a total loss.

- **19 January, Tue.**

Pacific

Japanese land at Wewak, New Guinea.

Submarine *Swordfish* (SS-193) encounters Section A of the Japanese Solomons reinforcement convoy, and sinks army cargo ship *Myoho Maru*, 05°38'S,

156°20'E. Section C of the reinforcement convoy, meanwhile, departs Truk (see 20 January).

Submarine *Greenling* (SS-213) damages Japanese army cargo ship *Shinai Maru* north of Rabaul, 01°35'S, 150°57'E.

Submarine *Haddock* (SS-231) attacks Japanese convoy off south coast of Honshu, damaging transport *Shunko Maru*, 34°13'N, 136°59'E.

Submarine *Nautilus* (SS-168) damages Japanese destroyer *Akizuki* 270 miles west of Tulagi, 05°55'S, 156°20'E.

Submarine *Spearfish* (SS-190) en route to Pearl Harbor after completing her patrol, is damaged by aerial bombs off the Gilberts, 04°44'N, 175°28'E.

Atlantic

Carrier *Ranger* (CV-4) launches USAAF P-40s off Accra, Gold Coast, for further transfer to the North African theater.

- **20 January, Wed.**

Pacific

Submarine *Silversidess* (SS-236) encounters Section C of Japanese Solomons reinforcement convoy, and sinks army transport *Meiu Maru* and irreparably damages army transport *Surabaya Maru*, 286 miles from Truk, 03°52'N, 153°26'E. Submarine chaser *Ch 11* and gunboat *No.2 Choan Maru* rescue survivors; destroyer *Asagumo* arrives from Truk and scuttles *Surabaya Maru*.

First destroyer escort type ship, *Brennan* (DE-13), is commissioned at Mare Island, California, Navy Yard.

Mediterranean

German planes attack United Kingdom-bound convoy MKS 6 off coast of Algeria; U.S. freighter *Walt Whitman* is torpedoed at 36°55'N, 03°07'E. Four sailors of the 17-man Armed Guard are blown overboard by the explosion but are recovered by an escort vessel within a quarter-hour. There are no casualties and the ship ultimately reaches Algiers under her own power.

Atlantic

U.S. tanker *Brilliant* departs St. John's, Newfoundland, under tow, bound for Halifax, Nova Scotia, but breaks up in storm (see 24 January).

- **21 January, Thu.**

Pacific

Rear Admiral Robert H. English, Commander Submarines, Pacific Fleet, is killed in the accidental crash of the Pan American Airways Martin 130 Philippine Clipper in California.

Submarine *Gato* (SS-212) encounters Section B of Japanese Solomons reinforcement convoy and damages army transport *Kenkon Maru* just east of Kieta, Bougainville, 06°12'S, 155°51'E; escorts scuttle the ship to hasten her sinking.

Submarine *Pollack* (SS-180) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Asama Maru* off Kushiro, Japan, 42°41'N, 145°37'E.

USAAF B-24 damages Japanese light cruiser *Natori* off Ambon.

Atlantic

Naval Base and Naval Auxiliary Air Facility, Corinto, Nicaragua, are established.

- **22 January, Fri.**

Pacific

Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Yashima Maru* (ex-Dutch passenger-cargo ship *Mijer*), five miles east of Salier Strait, off southern tip of Celebes, N.E.I., 05°40'S, 120°30'E.

USAAF B-17s (5th Air Force) sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *Tetsuzan Maru* in Rabaul harbor; 30 landing craft on board are lost, 04°15'S, 152°10'E.

U.S. freighter *Peter H. Burnett* is torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I-21* about 500 miles east of Newcastle, Australia, 32°54'S, 159°32'E, and abandoned; other than one sailor of the 26-man Armed Guard who dies of injuries received in the explosion, there are no casualties. When *I-21* withdraws, the freighter is reboarded (see 24 January).

- **23 January, Sat.**

General

Casablanca (SYMBOL) Conference ends. Major accomplishments of the talks include the American decision to invade Sicily, and to delay a cross-channel invasion of the European continent until 1944. With German U-boats taking an increasing toll of Allied shipping in the Battle of the Atlantic, U.S. and Britain agree to accord priority to building antisubmarine weapons. President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill declare that the Allies will pursue a policy of "Unconditional Surrender" of the Axis.

District patrol craft *YP-577* is destroyed by explosion of undetermined origin, Great Lakes, Illinois.

Pacific

Submarine *Guardfish* (SS-217) sinks Japanese destroyer *Hakaze* south of Steffen Strait, between New Ireland and New Hanover, 02°47'S, 156°38'E.

Japanese submarine *I-8* bombards Canton Island.

Japanese planes bomb U.S. shipping in Milne Bay, New Guinea; fragments from near-misses damage freighter *Stephen Johnson Field*. One Armed Guard sailor and one merchant crewman are injured; there are no other casualties among the 23-man Armed Guard and 43 merchant seamen.

Atlantic

German submarine *U-175* torpedoes and sinks U.S. freighter *Benjamin Smith* off Cape Palmas, Liberia, 04°05'N, 07°50'W. The 23-man Armed Guard detachment (as well as the 43-man merchant complement) survives intact; all hands reach Sassandra, French Ivory Coast, the next day.

- **24 January, Sun.**

Pacific

Bombardment group of destroyers (Rear Admiral Walden L. Ainsworth) bombards Japanese fuel and munitions dumps in the Stanmore area, Kolombangara, Solomons. Later that same day, TBFs, SBDs and F4Fs from

carrier *Saratoga* (CV-3) air group (Rear Admiral DeWitt C. Ramsey) bomb the same objectives.

Submarine *Wahoo* (SS-238) damages Japanese destroyer *Harusame* eleven miles west of Wewak, New Guinea, 03°23'S, 143°34'E.

High speed minesweeper *Zane* (DMS-14) recovers one boatload of crewmen from torpedoed freighter *Peter H. Burnett* and then proceeds to aid the stricken merchantman. *Zane* then tows the freighter to Sydney, Australia, for repairs.

Japanese light cruiser *Nagara* is damaged by marine casualty off Anatahan Island.

Atlantic

Submarine chaser *PC-576* rescues one Armed Guard sailor (Seaman First Class Basil D. Izzi, USNR) and two Dutch seamen from Dutch motorship *Zaandam* at 08°39'N, 58°46'W. *Zaandam* had been sunk by German submarine *U-174* on 2 November 1942. The three survivors have spent 83 days on the small raft, subsisting on raw fish, fowl, and rainwater.

Survivors of U.S. tanker *Brilliant*, which had broken in two on 20 January, are rescued by Canadian minesweeper from the after portion of the ship. Of the 54 men on board, 31 merchant seamen are saved; 13 of the Armed Guard survive.

- **25 January, Mon.**

Atlantic

Submarine *Shad* (SS-235) torpedoes German blockade runner (ore transport) *Nordfels* in Bay of Biscay, 43°28'N, 02°59'W.

German submarine *U-575* torpedoes and sinks U.S. freighter *City of Flint*, straggling from Casablanca-bound convoy UGS 4, about 300 miles south of the Azores, 34°47'N, 31°40'W; 4 of 24 Armed Guard sailors are lost (see 28 January).

- **26 January, Tue.**

Pacific

Submarine *Flying Fish* (SS-229) damages Japanese transport *Tokai Maru* at Port Apra, Guam, 13°27'N, 144°37'E.

Submarine *Grayling* (SS-209) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Ushio Maru* in Verde Island Passage, north of Mindoro, P.I., 13°26'N, 121°16'E.

Submarine *Gudgeon* (SS-211) is damaged by depth charges in the Banda Sea, 03°59'S, 127°54'E, but remains on patrol.

Submarine *Wahoo* (SS-238) attacks Japanese convoy about 270 miles north of Dutch New Guinea and torpedoes and sinks army cargo ships *Buyo Maru* and *No.2 Fukuei Maru*, 02°00'N, 139°14'E. After dispatching the freighters, which are serving as transports, *Wahoo* (Lieutenant Commander Dudley W. Morton) surfaces to recharge her batteries and mans her guns. Firing her 4-inch gun at the largest of the craft draws Japanese return fire from automatic weapons. As Morton later writes, "We then opened fire with everything we had." Subsequently, *Wahoo* pursues and torpedoes armed merchant cruiser *Ukishima Maru*, 02°37'N, 139°42'E, and army cargo ship *Pacific Maru*, 02°30'N, 139°44'E (see 27 January).

- **27 January, Wed.**

Pacific

Submarine *Whale* (SS-239) damages Japanese transport *Shoan Maru* in the central Pacific, 14°24'N, 153°30'E; towed to Saipan and grounded to facilitate salvage, *Shoan Maru* performs no more active service.

Japanese ship *No.2 Choko Maru* rescues about 1,000 survivors of army cargo ship *Buyo Maru*, sunk the previous day by submarine *Wahoo* (SS-238).

Japanese destroyer *Karukaya* is damaged off Takao, Formosa, by marine casualty.

Submarine *I-27* is damaged by marine casualty off Penang, Malaya.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Cape Decision*, steaming independently from Charleston, South Carolina to Freetown, Sierra Leone, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-105* at 23°00'N, 46°40'W; all 45 merchant sailors, 26-man Armed Guard, and six passengers, survive the sinking (see 5 and 10 February).

U.S. freighter *Charles C. Pinckney*, a straggler from convoy UGS 4, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-514* about 200 miles southwest of the Azores, 36°37'N, 30°55'W. When *U-514* surfaces nearby, Armed Guard gunners hold fire until well within range, at which point they open up and score hits on their assailant, driving her off for the time being (see 28 January).

- **28 January, Thu.**

Mediterranean

German submarines continue operations against stragglers from convoy UGS 4. *U-514* resumes attack on freighter *Charles C. Pinckney*. The freighter is abandoned for a second time, after which time *U-514's* officers question the survivors. The U-boat then sinks *Charles C. Pinckney* with gunfire; a storm separates the four boatloads of survivors (see 8 February). *U-442* torpedoed and sinks freighter *Julia Ward Howe* about 175 miles south of the Azores, 35°29'N, 29°10'W, 1 of the 29-man Armed Guard is lost with the ship (see 29 January).

Portuguese destroyer *Lima* rescues 48 survivors from sunken U.S. freighter *City of Flint*. (see 12 March)

- **29 January, Fri.**

Pacific

Battle of Rennell Island begins as Japanese land attack planes (*701st* and *705th Kokutai*) attack TF 18 (Rear Admiral Robert C. Giffen), cruisers and destroyers covering the movement of transport force (TG 62.8) toward Guadalcanal.

Japanese *701st Kokutai* land attack planes damage heavy cruiser *Chicago* (CA 29); in the retirement from the area, heavy cruiser *Louisville* (CA 28), in a masterful piece of seamanship, takes her damaged sistership in tow in complete darkness.

New Zealand corvettes HMNZS *Kiwi* and HMNZS *Moa* sink Japanese submarine *I 1* off Kamimbo Bay, Guadalcanal, 09°13'S, 159°40'E.

Submarine *Gato* (SS-212) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Nichiun Maru* off southeast tip of Bougainville, Solomons, 06°22'S, 156°04'E, despite proximity of escorting submarine chaser *Ch 22*.

Atlantic

Portuguese destroyer Lima recovers survivors from U.S. freighter *Julia Ward Howe*, sunk by German submarine *U-442* about 350 miles southwest of the Azores.

- **30 January, Sat.**

Pacific

Battle of Rennell Island ends as F4Fs (VF 10) engage Japanese land attack planes (*751st Kokutai*) attacking the retiring TF 18. Japanese land attack planes torpedo and sink crippled heavy cruiser *Chicago* (CA 29), now under tow of tug *Navajo* (AT-64), and torpedo destroyer *LaVallette* (DD-448). Consequently, *Chicago* sinks 30 miles east of Rennell Island, 11°26'S, 160°56'E.

Japanese submarine *I-10* torpedoes and sinks U.S. freighter *Samuel Gompers* 115 miles from Amadee Lighthouse, New Caledonia, 24°28'S, 166°20'E; one of the 17-man Armed Guard dies, and three of the 43-man merchant complement perish in the sinking. French fishermen and U.S. Army crash boat P 111 rescue the survivors.

Naval Station, Akutan Harbor, Fox Island, Alaska, is established.

Floating dry dock *YFD-220* founders and sinks in heavy weather off California coast.

Atlantic

Grossadmiral Karl Doenitz succeeds Grossadmiral Erich Raeder as Commander in Chief of the German Navy.

- **31 January, Sun.**

Pacific

USMC SBDs (VMSB 233), TBFs, F4Fs and USAAF P-39s, flying from Guadalcanal sink Japanese transport *Toa Maru* between Vella Lavella and Kolombangara, 07°50'S, 156°50'E. Torpedo boat *Hiyodori* and minelayer *Kamime*, damaged in the air attacks, rescue survivors and transport them to Kolombangara.

February

- **1 February, Mon.**

Pacific

High speed transport *Stringham* (APD-6) and five tank landing craft (LCT) land Army 2d Battalion, 132d Infantry, at Verahue, Guadalcanal, covered by four destroyers. After unloading, three LCTs, escorted by destroyers *Nicholas* (DD-449) and *DeHaven* (DD-469), come under attack from Japanese planes about three miles south of Savo Island. *DeHaven* is sunk by three bombs, 09°09'S, 159°52'E, while *Nicholas* is damaged by near-misses. Tank landing craft *LCT-63* and *LCT-181*, aided by SOCs (VCS Detachment RINGBOLT), rescue 146 *DeHaven* sailors, including 38 wounded.

To deny the Japanese "Tokyo Express" access to the channel between Savo Island and Cape Esperance, light minelayers *Tracy* (DM-19), *Montgomery* (DM-17) and *Preble* (DM-20) sow 255 mines in those waters. The three ships clear the mining area as Japanese men-of-war are only 12,000 yards away and closing (see 2 February).

Two waves of aircraft from Henderson Field (TBFs, SBDs, F4Fs, and USAAF P-38s, P-39s, and P-40s) attack Japanese destroyer force (Rear Admiral Hashimoto Shintaro), en route to evacuate Japanese troops from Guadalcanal (Operation KE), damaging *Makinami* (Hashimoto's flagship). U.S. motor torpedo boats later attack the Japanese force, but in that action *PT-111* and *PT-37* are sunk by gunfire from destroyer *Kawakaze*; a Japanese floatplane sinks *PT-123*. Hashimoto's force extracts 4,935 soldiers.

Submarine *Tarpon* (SS-175) sinks Japanese merchant passenger-cargo ship *Fushimi Maru* about 20 miles south of Omai Zaki, 34°08'N, 138°11'E.

Japanese torpedo boat *Kari* is damaged by aircraft, Rangoon, Burma.

- **2 February, Tue.**

Pacific

Japanese destroyer *Makigumo* is damaged by mine laid by light minelayers *Tracy* (DM-19), *Montgomery* (DM-17) and *Preble* (DM-20) off Cape Esperance the previous night; she is scuttled by destroyer *Yugumo*, 09°10'S, 159°45'E. Admiral William F. Halsey Jr., Commander South Pacific Force, lauds the success of the mining mission as resulting from "bold execution of a sound plan," while Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet, calls it a "splendidly conducted operation... carried out by old ships, inadequate in speed and gun power..."

USAAF B-17s and P-39s sink Japanese cargo vessel *Keiyo Maru* off the Shortlands.

USAAF B-24s (5th Air Force) sink Japanese cargo vessel *Kenkoku Maru* while en route from Kokope to New Guinea, between Lolobau Island and New Britain, 04°58'S, 151°12'E.

Atlantic

German submarine *U-456* attacks convoy HX 224 in the North Atlantic and torpedoes U.S. freighter *Jeremiah Van Rensselaer* at 54°50'N, 28°55'W; 10 of the 28-man Armed Guard are lost; the ship is scuttled by escorts later the same day.

- **3 February, Wed.**

Mediterranean

Command designated U.S. Naval Forces Northwest African Waters is established with headquarters at Algiers.

Caribbean Open lighters *YC-886* and *YC-887* founder and sink in heavy weather, Guantanamo, Cuba.

Pacific

Submarine *Tunny* (SS-282) damages Japanese army transport *No.1 Shinto Maru* in the South China Sea, 22°03'N, 114°23'E.

Atlantic

German submarine *U-223* attacks Greenland-bound supply convoy SG 19 which is escorted by Coast Guard cutters *Tampa* (WPG-48), *Escanaba* (WPG-77), and *Comanche* (WPG-76), and sinks War Department-chartered transport *Dorchester* about 150 miles west of Cape Farewell, Greenland, 59°22'N, 48°42'W, and damages Norwegian freighter *Biscaya*. Casualties on board

Dorchester are heavy, 675 men (including 15 of 24 Armed Guard sailors) being lost. Four Army chaplains, representing four different faiths, bravely give up their lifebelts to soldiers who have none; all four perish with the ship.

German submarine *U-255* attacks convoy RA 52 600 miles northeast of Iceland, torpedoing U.S. freighter *Greylock*, 70°50'N, 00°48'W; there are no casualties, British escort trawler HMS *Lady Madeleine* rescues all hands.

- **4 February, Thu.**

Pacific

SBDs, TBFs, F4Fs, and USAAF P-40s from Henderson Field attack Japanese destroyer force (Rear Admiral Hashimoto Shintaro) en route to evacuate Japanese troops from Guadalcanal, damaging *Shirayuki* (Hashimoto's flagship), *Maikaze*, *Kuroshio*, and *Kawakaze*. Hashimoto's force, however, extracts 3,921 soldiers. SOC (VCS Detachment RINGBOLT) sights, tracks, and illuminates the Japanese ships.

Submarine *Tunny* (SS-282) damages Japanese transport *Tatsuwa Maru* in the South China Sea, 21°30'N, 113°42'E.

Atlantic

German submarines attack convoy SC 118; Coast Guard cutter *Bibb* (WPG-31) pinpoints location of *U-187*, which is sunk by British destroyers HMS *Vimy* and HMS *Beverly*, 50°12'N, 36°34'W. *Bibb* later participates in driving off the four U-boats that try to close the convoy during the night.

- **5 February, Fri.**

Pacific

USAAF aircraft sink Japanese cargo vessels *Shunko Maru* off Finschafen and *Hoshikawa Maru* off Talasea.

Atlantic

Battle to protect convoy SC 118 continues; destroyers *Babbitt* (DD-128) and *Schenck* (DD-159), and Coast Guard cutter *Ingham* (WPG-35) arrive to reinforce the harried escorts. German submarine *U-413* sinks U.S. freighter *West Portal*, a straggler from SC 118, in the North Atlantic, 52°00'N, 33°00'W. There are no survivors (12 Armed Guard sailors lost among them).

Forty survivors in boat from U.S. freighter *Cape Decision*, sunk by *U-105* on 27 January, reach safety at Barbados (see 10 February).

- **6 February, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine *Flying Fish* (SS-229) damages transport *Nagizan Maru* off Tinian, Marianas.

USAAF planes sink Japanese cargo ship *Gisho Maru*, 04°30'S, 151°30'E.

Atlantic

Efforts to protect SC 118 continue; *Babbitt* (DD-128) helps prevent attacks by three U-boats attempting to close the convoy.

Mediterranean

North African Theater of Operations (Lieutenant General Dwight D. Eisenhower) is established.

- **7 February, Sun.**

Pacific

SBDs, TBFs, F4Fs, and P-40s from Henderson Field attack Japanese destroyer force (Rear Admiral Hashimoto Shintaro), 18 ships strong, on the final mission to evacuate Japanese troops from Guadalcanal, damaging *Isokaze* and near-missing *Urakaze*.

Submarine *Growler* (SS-215) is damaged by accidental ramming of Japanese storeship *Hayasaki* and gunfire from the same vessel, 70 miles northwest of Rabaul, 03°34'S, 151°09'E. During this action, *Growler's* commanding officer, Commander Howard W. Gilmore, is mortally wounded. Rather than further hazard his ship, he orders *Growler* taken down. For his gallantry, Gilmore is awarded the Medal of Honor, posthumously. *Hayasaki* is damaged in the encounter; *Growler* is forced to terminate her patrol.

Submarine *Swordfish* (SS-193) is damaged when mistakenly attacked by USAAF B-17, 150 miles north of New Ireland, 00°12'N, 152°00'E, and terminates her patrol as a result.

Submarine *Trout* (SS-202) damages Japanese tanker *Nisshin Maru* off Miri, 04°31'N, 114°52'E.

Atlantic

During continued fight to defend SC 118, Coast Guard cutter *Bibb* (WPG-31) drives off *U-402*, only to battle that submarine and *U-456* later the same day. *U-402*, however, torpedoes and sinks U.S. tanker *Robert E. Hopkins* about 650 miles west of Northern Ireland, 55°14'N, 26°22'W. Only 1 of the 19-man Armed Guard detachment is lost; survivors are rescued by British corvette HMS *Mignonette*. *U-402* also torpedoes and sinks U.S. passenger ship *Henry R. Mallory* at 55°30'N, 29°33'W; 49 of the 77-man merchant crew perish, as do 15 of the 34-man Armed Guard and 208 of 283 embarked passengers, primarily to exposure. Coast Guard cutters *Bibb* and *Ingham* (WPG-35) rescue 227 men, five of whom die of their injuries.

German submarine *U-160* torpedoes and U.S. freighter *Roger B. Taney*, en route to Bahia, Brazil, 22°00'S, 07°00'W. Three crewmen perish in the explosion of the initial torpedo, but the rest of the 47-man merchant complement and the sole passenger survive, in addition to the 17-man Armed Guard (see 28 February and 20 March).

- **8 February, Mon.**

Pacific

Operation KE: Japanese destroyer force (Rear Admiral Hashimoto Shintaro) completes the evacuation of 1,796 troops from Guadalcanal.

Submarine *Tunny* (SS-282) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kusuyama Maru* off southwest coast of Formosa about 55 miles west of Takao, 22°40'N, 119°12'E.

Japanese cargo ship *Shotoku Maru* is sunk by storm near Hinomizaki, Honshu, 35°26'N, 132°38'E.

Atlantic

During continued efforts by German submarines against SC 118, *U-608* unsuccessfully attacks destroyer *Schenck* (DD-159).

Swiss freighter *Caritasi* rescues 14 survivors of U.S. freighter *Charles C. Pinckney*, sunk on 28 January 1943 by *U-514*; eight of the 27-man Armed Guard survive their ordeal, as do six merchant sailors.

- **9 February, Tue.**

Pacific

Organized Japanese resistance on Guadalcanal ends, thus concluding the bitter 6-month struggle to capture Guadalcanal and other islands in the southern Solomons. The campaign proves extremely costly in men, ships, and materiel for both sides.

Submarine *Tarpon* (SS-175) sinks Japanese transport *Tatsuta Maru* 42 miles east of Mikura Jima, 33°45'N, 140°25'E.

Japanese submarine *I-21* sights U.S. freighter *Starr King* one day out of Sydney, Australia, and begins pursuit of the freighter (see 10 and 11 February).

Atlantic

Destroyer *Boyle* (DD-600) rescues 54 survivors of U.S. freighter *Pan Royal*, which sinks at 36°40'N, 67°20'W, after being accidentally rammed by motor vessel *Evita* and freighter *George Davis*, while proceeding in convoy UGS 5. Eight merchant sailors are lost in the mishap; there are no casualties to the 26-man Armed Guard.

- **10 February, Wed.**

Pacific

Submarine *Pickrel* (SS-177) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Amari Maru* off Sanriku, 40°10'N, 142°04'E.

Japanese submarine *I-21* continues pursuit of U.S. freighter *Starr King* and torpedoes her, 34°15'S, 154°20'E; there are no casualties among the merchant crew or Armed Guard. Australian destroyer HMAS *Warramunga* rescues survivors but has to abandon attempt to tow the crippled freighter when a line fouls her port screw. *Starr King*, however, sinks that night.

Atlantic

USAAF B-24s (2d Antisubmarine Squadron) sink German submarine *U-519* northwest of Spain, 47°05'N, 18°34'W.

Thirty-seven survivors in boat from U.S. freighter *Cape Decision*, sunk by *U-105* on 27 January, reach St. Barthelemy, French West Indies.

- **11 February, Thu.**

Pacific

Destroyer *Fletcher* (DD-445) and SON (VCS 9) from light cruiser *Helena* (CL 50) sink Japanese submarine *I-18* in Coral Sea, 14°15'S, 161°53'E.

Submarine *Grayling* (SS-209) damages Japanese army cargo ship *Hoeizan Maru* off Corregidor, 14°16'N, 120°28'E.

- **12 February, Fri.**

Pacific

Submarine *Grampus* (SS-207) sails from Brisbane, Australia, for her sixth war patrol. U.S. forces never hear from her again.

Oiler *Salamonie* (AO 26) is damaged in collision with merchant vessel *Uruguay*, 36°54'N, 49°29'W.

- **14 February, Sun.**

Pacific

Submarine *Amberjack* (SS-219) is probably sunk by Japanese naval aircraft (*958th Kokutai*), torpedo boat *Hiyodori* and submarine chaser *Ch 18* off Cape St. George, New Britain, 05°05'S, 152°37'E.

Submarine *Runner* (SS-476) unsuccessfully attacks Japanese cargo vessel *Tokyo Maru* north of Biak, New Guinea, 07°31'N, 134°21'E.

Submarine *Thresher* (SS-200) damages Japanese submarine *I-62* off the Lesser Sundas, 06°05'S, 105°47'E.

Submarine *Trout* (SS-202) sinks Japanese gunboat *Hiroshima Maru* at south entrance to Makassar Strait, 04°11'S, 117°45'E. Return fire from the enemy warship in the last phases of the action fought on the surface wounds seven sailors.

PB4Ys (VB 101) strafe and damage ammunition ship *Hitachi Maru* off Buin, Bougainville, 06°48'S, 155°50'E; USAAF B-17s bomb shipping at Buin as well, completing the destruction of *Hitachi Maru*.

- **15 February, Mon.**

Pacific

Joint air command designated Aircraft, Solomons (Rear Admiral Charles P. Mason) is established with headquarters at Guadalcanal.

Submarine *Gato* (SS-212) sinks Japanese stores ship *Suruga Maru* in Bougainville Strait, 06°27'S, 156°02'E.

Submarine *Pickrel* (SS-177) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking cargo vessel *Tateyama Maru* off the east coast of Honshu, 39°18'S, 142°08'E.

USAAF aircraft sink Japanese cargo ship *Kokoku Maru* in the Bismarck Sea, 05°32'S, 150°09'E.

Atlantic

U.S. tanker *Atlantic Sun*, straggling from convoy ON 165, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-607*, 150 miles off Cape Race, 51°00'N, 41°00'W; other than one deckhand rescued by *U-607*, all hands (45 merchant sailors, a 19-man Armed Guard and one passenger) perish with the ship.

- **16 February, Tue.**

Pacific

Submarine *Flying Fish* (SS-229) sinks Japanese stores ship *Hyuga Maru* 24 miles off Pagan, Marianas, 18°30'N, 145°57'E.

Submarine *Triton* (SS-201) departs Brisbane for her sixth war patrol. She will never be seen again (see 6 March).

Atlantic

Fleet Air Wing 16 (Captain Rossmore D. Lyon) is established at Norfolk, Virginia.

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *Deer Lodge* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-607* about 60 miles east of Port Elizabeth, South Africa, and abandoned (see 17 and 20 February).

- **17 February, Wed.**

Pacific

Submarine *Sawfish* (SS-276) accidentally sinks Soviet cargo ship *Ilmen* off east coast of Kyushu, 30°56'N, 135°30'E.

Atlantic/Mediterranean

Moroccan Sea Frontier (Rear Admiral John L. Hall) is established.

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *Deer Lodge*, torpedoed by German submarine *U-607* about 60 miles east of Port Elizabeth, South Africa, the previous day, sinks at 33°46'S, 26°57'E. Two merchant seamen are lost with the ship, but the survivors (37 civilians and an 18-man Armed Guard) are rescued by South African minesweeper *Africana* (13 men) and British trawler *Havorn* (32 men) (see 20 February).

- **18 February, Thu.**

Pacific

TG 8.6 (Rear Admiral Charles H. McMorris), consisting of light cruiser *Richmond* (CL 9), heavy cruiser *Indianapolis* (CA 35), and four destroyers, bombards Japanese installations at Holtz Bay and Chichagof Harbor, Attu, Aleutians.

Heavy cruiser HMAS *Australia* and three U.S. destroyers of TF 44.3 operate south of Australia to cover passage of five-ship convoy transporting the 30,000 troops of the 9th Australian Division to Sydney.

Submarine *Grampus* (SS-207) damages Japanese transport *Keiyo Maru*, 05°04'S, 152°18'E.

German auxiliary cruiser *Michel* (Schiffe 28) arrives at Singapore; the next day she turns over to the Japanese the merchant and Armed Guard sailors she had captured when she sank U.S. freighter *Sawokla* on 29 November 1942.

- **19 February, Fri.**

Pacific

Heavy cruiser *Indianapolis* (CA 35) and destroyers *Coghlan* (DD-606) and *Gillespie* (DD-609) (TU 8.6.2), intercept Japanese army cargo ship *Aragane Maru* bound for the Aleutians and engage her northwest of Attu, Aleutians.

Submarine *Gato* (SS-212) torpedoes Japanese ammunition ship *Hibari Maru* off eastern Bougainville, 06°27'S, 156°05'E. *Hibari Maru* is beached off Buin (see 28 February).

Submarine *Grampus* (SS-207) torpedoes Japanese transport/aircraft ferry *Keiyo Maru*, 04°55'S, 152°26'E.

Submarine *Runner* (SS-275) is damaged by aerial bomb off the Palaus, 07°35'N, 134°25'E, and is forced to terminate her patrol.

USAAF B-17s bomb Japanese shipping off Buin, Bougainville, damaging transport *Tokai Maru*, 06°45'S, 155°50'E.

Atlantic

Submarine *Blackfish* (SS-221) torpedoes and sinks German patrol craft *VP 408* (ex-trawler *Haltenbank*), 43°30'N, 002°54'W, but is damaged by depth charges from what she reports as two converted trawlers, and is forced to terminate her patrol.

• **20 February, Sat.**

Pacific

Motor minesweeper *YMS-founders* and sinks, Coos Bay, Oregon.

Submarine *Albacore* (SS-218) torpedoes and sinks Japanese destroyer *Oshio* about 140 miles north-northwest of Manus, Admiralty Islands, 00°50'S, 146°06'E. *Albacore* escapes damage in the resultant depth-charging by an accompanying enemy warship.

Submarine *Halibut* (SS-232) torpedoes and sinks Japanese transport *Shinkoku Maru* about 450 miles north of Ponape, Carolines, 15°09'N, 159°30'E.

Japanese auxiliary patrol vessel *Yoshida Maru* is damaged by mine (probably laid by submarine *Sunfish* (SS-281) between 14-17 December 1942), 34°28'N, 137°20'E.

Japanese army cargo ship *Aragane Maru* sinks as the result of damage inflicted by gunfire from heavy cruiser *Indianapolis* (CA 35) and destroyers *Coghlan* (DD-606) and *Gillespie* (DD-609) off Attu, 53°05'N, 171°22'E.

Atlantic

German submarines sight New York-bound convoy ON 166, which is escorted by Coast Guard cutters *Spencer* (WPG-36) and *Campbell* (WPG-32), one British and four Canadian corvettes. During the night of 20-21 February, Coast Guard cutter *Spencer* (WPG-36) depth charges *U-604*.

USAAF B-24 locates German prize tanker *Hohenfriedberg* 500 nautical miles southwest of Cape Finisterre; consequently, British heavy cruiser HMS *Sussex* intercepts and sinks the Axis vessel.

Indian Ocean

Hospital ship *Atlantis* rescues the last 10 survivors of U.S. freighter *Deer Lodge*, torpedoed by German submarine *U-607* about 60 miles east of Port Elizabeth, South Africa on 16 February.

• **21 February, Sun.**

Pacific

Marines (3d Marine Raider Battalion and 10th Defense Battalion detachment) and Army troops (elements of the 43rd Division) occupy Russell Islands in Operation CLEANSULATE, the inaugural movement through the central Solomons. Supported by TU 62.7.2 (Captain Ingolf N. Kiland), the landings are made with no opposition. Four light cruisers and four destroyers of TF 68 (Rear Admiral Aaron S. Merrill) and Henderson Field, Guadalcanal-based *Saratoga* (CV-3) Air Group provide cover.

Submarine *Sawfish* (SS-276) damages Japanese oiler *Ose* off Oagari Jima, 29°29'N, 132°48'E.

Submarine *Thresher* (SS-200) attacks Japanese convoy northeast of Soembawa Island, N.E.I., damaging army cargo ship *Kuwayama Maru*, 07°53'N, 119°13'E (see 22 February).

Dutch submarine *O 24* sinks Japanese merchant motor vessel *Bandai Maru* off Salang Island, 07°50'N, 098°09'E.

Atlantic

Battle to protect ON 166 from German submarines begins as *U-332* and *U-603* torpedo and sink Norwegian motor tanker *Stigstad*; *U-92* torpedoes British steamer *Empire Trader* (she will be scuttled by Canadian corvette HMCS *Dauphin*). Coast Guard cutter *Campbell* (WPG-32), British corvette HMS *Dianthus* and Canadian corvette *Dauphin*, aided by flying boats, temporarily drive off *U-332*, *U-454*, and *U-753* threatening the merchantmen. Coast Guard cutter *Spencer* (WPG-36) sinks German submarine *U-225* at 51°25'N, 27°28'W.

U.S. freighter *Rosario*, steaming in convoy ON 167, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-664* at 50°13'N, 24°48'W. Fourteen of the 17-man Armed Guard, and 14 of 44 merchant crewmen are picked up by British rescue ship *Rathlin*; the rest perish with the ship.

British merchantman *Penrith Castle* rescues 15 merchant seamen and 13 Armed Guard sailors, survivors of freighter *Roger B. Taney*, that had been sunk by *U-225* on 7 February (see 20 March).

- **22 February, Mon.**

Atlantic

Battleship *Iowa* (BB 61) is commissioned at New York, New York, the first of the four-ship *Iowa* class that will be the last American battleships built.

Battle to protect convoy ON 166 in the North Atlantic continues. British rescue ship *Stockport* rescues *Empire Trader's* survivors; German submarine *U-92* torpedoes Norwegian motor tanker *Nielson Alonso* (which is again torpedoed by *U-92* and then by *U-753*, but is eventually scuttled by Polish destroyer *Burza*); *U-606* torpedoes a trio of merchantmen: U.S. freighters *Chattanooga City* at 46°54'N, 34°30'W, and *Expositor* at 46°52'N, 34°26'W, as well as British steamer *Empire Redshank*. *Chattanooga City* sinks. Canadian corvette HMCS *Trillium* rescues all hands (including the 21-man Armed Guard) from *Chattanooga City* as well as 34 of 41 merchant sailors (two of whom die of their wounds) and the entire 21-man Armed Guard from *Expositor*. *Trillium* scuttles *Empire Redshank*. *U-606's* opportunity to savor her triple play is short-lived, for Canadian corvette HMCS *Chilliwack* and Polish destroyer *Burza* depth charge *U-606* and drive her to the surface, where Coast Guard cutter *Campbell* (WPG-32) rams and sinks her at 47°44'N, 33°43'W. *Campbell*, damaged in the encounter, is taken in tow by *Burza*.

German submarines locate Curacao, N.W.I.-bound convoy UC 1; four U.S. destroyers comprise part of the escort force (see 23 February).

Pacific

District patrol craft *YP-72* sinks after grounding off Spruce Cape entrance to Kodiak, Alaska.

Japanese army cargo ship *Kuwayama Maru* sinks off Soembawa Island as the result of damage inflicted by submarine *Thresher* (SS-200) the previous day, 07°53'N, 119°13'E.

- **23 February, Tue.**

Atlantic

Battle to protect convoy ON 166 continues as German submarines continue the onslaught. After Canadian corvette HMCS *Trillium's* attempt to scuttle U.S. freighter *Expositor* (torpedoed the previous day by *U-606*) with depth charges fails; it falls to German submarine *U-303* to administer the coup de grace to the hardy American merchantman. *U-186* then torpedoes and sinks U.S. freighter *Hastings* at 46°30'N, 36°23'W as well as British motor tanker *Eulima*; from *Hastings*, nine merchant sailors (of the 41-man civilian complement) perish, but all 20 Armed Guards and the ship's sole passenger survive, rescued by Canadian corvette HMCS *Chilliwack*. *U-707* torpedoes and sinks straggling U.S. freighter *Jonathan Sturges* at 46°15'N, 38°11'W; no. 1 lifeboat (with 19 survivors on board) from *Jonathan Sturges* encounters one from torpedoed Dutch motorship *Madoera* (three men on board) and transfers eight men to the Dutch lifeboat to equalize the number of survivors in each craft; *Jonathan Sturges's* no. 3 lifeboat (nine men) locates one merchant sailor in the no. 2 boat and four Armed Guards from the ship; that second group of survivors is then divided between boats no. 2 and no. 3 to distribute them evenly (see 12 March and 6 April).

German submarines attack Curacao, N.W.I.-bound convoy UC 1, which is shepherded by four U.S. destroyers, two British frigates and three corvettes. Despite the proximity of the Anglo-American escort force, *U-382* torpedoes Dutch motor tanker *Murena*; *U-202* torpedoes British tankers *Empire Norseman* and *British Fortitude*, and U.S. tanker *Esso Baton Rouge*, the last-named ship at 31°15'N, 27°22'W. British sloop HMS *Totland* rescues *Esso Baton Rouge's* survivors, who include 24 of the 25-man Armed Guard and 41 of the 43-man merchant complement.

District patrol craft *YP-336* sinks after running aground, Delaware River.

- **24 February, Wed.**

Pacific

Naval Air Facility, Amchitka, Alaska, is established.

Mediterranean

U.S. freighter *Nathanael Greene*, en route to join Algiers-bound convoy MKS 8, is first torpedoed by German submarine *U-565* about 40 miles northeast of Oran, 35°56'N, 00°05'N, and then is hit with an aerial torpedo during an air attack, forcing her abandonment. British minesweeper HMS *Brixham* takes on board 26 survivors directly from the sinking ship, and plucks others from the water. *Brixham* tows the ship out of further danger, transferring the tow to rescue tug *Restive*, which beaches *Nathanael Greene* off Oran, where salvage vessel *Redwing* (ARS-4) saves 400 of the 1,300 tons of cargo. *Nathanael Greene* will be written off, however, as a total loss. Of her complement, four merchant sailors die in the initial explosion but the Armed Guard (16 men) survives intact.

Atlantic

Carrier *Ranger* (CV-4) launches USAAF P-40s off Accra, Gold Coast, for

further transfer to the North African theater in her second such ferry mission of 1943.

PBM-3 (VP 74) sights Italian submarine *Barbarigo* attacking Spanish merchantman *Monte Igueldo*, 04°46'S, 31°55'N, and attacks the enemy submersible, which comes to the surface and fights it out with the flying boat. Neither side, however, inflicts damage on the other.

Defense of convoy ON 166 continues; German submarine *U-604* is damaged by depth charges from Coast Guard cutter *Spencer* (WPG-36) or corvettes HMCS *Chilliwack*, HMCS *Rosthern* or HMCS *Trillium*. *U-621* conducts unsuccessful attack on *Spencer*.

- **25 February, Thu.**

Atlantic

Battle to protect convoy ON 166 comes to a close; *U-92* and *U-600* conduct unsuccessful attacks on Coast Guard cutter *Spencer* (WPG-36); *U-628* torpedoes and sinks British steamer *Manchester Merchant* at 45°10'N, 43°23'W, bringing to a close enemy operations against ON 166, for the enemy loses contact with the convoy this evening.

- **26 February, Fri.**

Pacific

Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *Kyo Maru* No. 3 is mined and sunk off Rangoon, Burma, 15°36'N, 96°15'E.

- **27 February, Sat.**

Pacific

USN SBDs and F4Us, escorted by USAAF P-38s and P-40s, attack Japanese convoy off northeast coast of Vella Lavella, damaging transport *Kirikawa Maru* despite efforts of escorting minesweeper *W.22* and submarine chaser *Ch 26*, one of which scuttles the burning ship.

Submarine *Grampus* (SS-207) possibly damages Japanese minesweeper *W 22* off Kolombangara, Solomons.

Submarine *Plunger* (SS-179) torpedoes Japanese oiler *Iro* 130 miles west of Jaluit, 06°09'N, 167°18'E; *Katori Maru* tows the crippled ship to Kwajalein for repairs.

USAAF B-24s (10th Air Force) sink Japanese cargo vessel *Asakasan Maru* 95 miles southeast of Rangoon, Burma, 15°53'N, 97°40'E.

- **28 February, Sun.**

Pacific

TBF (VGS 11) bombs Japanese shipping at Buin, and completes destruction of previously damaged ammunition ship *Hibari Maru*.

Japanese cargo ship *Kashii Maru* is sunk in collision with *Kasagisan Maru* off Shimoda, Honshu, 34°39'N, 138°58'E.

Mediterranean

U.S. freighter *Daniel Carroll*, in convoy TE 16, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-371* off the coast of Algeria, 37°05'N, 04°02'30"E, but is towed by a British tug to Algiers, arriving there the following day; she suffers no

casualties to either her merchant crew or her 27-man Armed Guard or 30 passengers.

March

- **1 March, Mon.**

Pacific

Japanese submarine *I-10* torpedoes U.S. tanker *Gulfwave* at 22°30'S, 174°45'E; *Gulfwave* reaches Suva, Fiji, under her own power and suffers no casualties to either her merchant crew or the Armed Guard.

Naval Auxiliary Air Facility, Annette Island, Alaska, is established.

Atlantic

Atlantic Convoy Conference meets in Washington, D.C.

U.S. freighter *Wade Hampton*, straggling from convoy HX 227, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-405* at 59°55'N, 35°55'E; British corvette HMS *Vervain* rescues 41 merchant seamen and 26 Armed Guard sailors (see 3 March 1943). Lost with *Wade Hampton* are Soviet motor torpedo boats *RPT 1* (ex-*PT-85*) and *RPT 3* (ex-*PT-87*), lend-lease craft being carried as deck cargo.

U.S. freighter *Fitz John Porter*, in Bahia, Brazil-to-Trinidad convoy BT 6, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-518*, 12°25'S, 36°55'E, and abandoned. While there are no casualties among the merchant sailors, one Armed Guard seaman is blown overboard and lost. Brazilian minelayer *Carioca* rescues the survivors, and *Fitz John Porter* sinks the following evening.

- **2 March, Tue.**

Pacific

Battle of the Bismarck Sea opens this morning as USAAF and RAAF planes bomb eight Japanese transports and cargo vessels (with troops of the Japanese 51st Division embarked) in a convoy (Captain Matsumoto Kametaro) escorted by eight destroyers (Rear Admiral Kimura Masatomi, his flag in *Shirayuki*) in Bismarck Sea en route to Lae, New Guinea. Army cargo ship *Kyokusai Maru* is sunk by USAAF B-17s; destroyers *Yukikaze* and *Asagumo* rescue the survivors, steam ahead to Lae to disembark them, and then rejoin the convoy.

Submarine *Permit* (SS-178) damages Japanese army cargo ship *Tsurushima Maru* off northeast coast of Honshu, 39°00'N, 141°54'E.

Submarine *Thresher* (SS-200) sinks Japanese fleet tanker *Toen Maru* in southern Makassar Strait, 03°29'S, 117°17'E.

Atlantic

German submarine *U-759's* attack on U.S. freighter *Meriwether Lewis*, straggling from convoy HX 227, fails, but *U-634*, summoned to the scene by *U-759*, torpedoes the U.S. merchantman at 62°10'N, 28°25'W. After *Meriwether Lewis* breaks in two, *U-634* sinks the after part of the ship with gunfire. Despite a two-day search by Coast Guard cutter *Ingham* (WPG-35), however, no trace of the freighter's crew (44 merchant sailors and a 25-man Armed Guard) is ever found.

Submarine chaser *SC-1024* is sunk in collision off North Carolina.

- **3 March, Wed.**

Pacific

Battle of the Bismarck Sea continues as Allied aircraft renew the offensive with relentless low-level bombing and strafing runs against the luckless enemy convoy. Rear Admiral Kimura is wounded on board his flagship, destroyer *Shirayuki*. Destroyer *Asashio* is sunk by USAAF B-25s, 45 miles southeast of Finschafen, New Guinea, 07°15'S, 148°15'E; destroyers *Arashio*, *Tokitsukaze*, and *Shirayuki* are sunk by other aircraft (*Arashio* by USAAF B-17s), 55 miles southeast of Finschafen, 07°15'S, 148°30'E; supply ship *Noshima*, damaged by U.S. aircraft and collision with destroyer *Arashio*, sinks 50 miles southeast of Finschafen, 07°15'S, 148°30'E. Japanese army cargo ship *Oigawa Maru*, damaged by Allied aircraft, is sunk by motor torpedo boats *PT-143* and *PT-150*, 06°58'S, 148°16'E; army cargo vessels *Aiyo Maru*, *Shinai Maru*, *Taimei Maru*, and *Kembu Maru* and transport *Teiyo Maru* are sunk by U.S. and Allied aircraft, east of New Guinea, 06°56'S, 148°08'E.

Japanese guardboat *Choei Maru* is sunk by U.S. aircraft, off Vella Lavella, Solomons.

Submarine *Halibut* (SS-232) torpedoes Japanese naval auxiliary *Nichiyu Maru* about 170 miles south of Guam, 10°25'N, 145°25'E. *Nichiyu Maru* reaches Apra harbor under tow, but deemed beyond salvage by 17 June, never resumes active service (see 12 and 25 June 1944).

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *Harvey W. Scott*, bound for Iran in convoy DN 21, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-160* off the coast of South Africa, 31°54'S, 30°37'E; first boatload of survivors (there are no casualties among the 42 merchant sailors or the 19-man Armed Guard) reaches shore (see 4 March).

Atlantic

British destroyer HMS *Beverly* rescues last survivor of freighter *Wade Hampton*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-405* on 28 February.

U.S. freighter *Staghound*, proceeding independently from New York to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, is torpedoed and sunk by Italian submarine *Barbarigo* in the South Atlantic off the coast of Brazil, 16°44'S, 36°33'E (see 4 March).

- **4 March, Thu.**

Pacific

Battle of the Bismarck Sea continues with further Allied attacks on the harried Japanese convoy en route to Lae.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Hokuto Maru* is sunk by mine south of Muroran, 39°30'N, 142°08'E.

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *Harvey W. Scott*, torpedoed by German submarine *U-160* off the coast of South Africa, the previous day, sinks; a second boatload of survivors reaches shore safely (see 6 March).

Atlantic

Survivors from U.S. freighter *Staghound*, torpedoed and sunk by Italian submarine *Barbarigo* in the South Atlantic off the coast of Brazil the day before,

are rescued by Argentine steamship *Rio Colorado*. There are no casualties among the 59-man merchant complement or the 25-man Armed Guard.

- **5 March, Fri.**

Pacific

Battle of Bismarck Sea concludes, although attacks on survivors found on rafts and in landing barges ("grim and bloody work for which the crews had little stomach") continue over the ensuing days by Allied aircraft and U.S. motor torpedo boats. Failure of that operation, Japanese navy officials admit later, proves "the impossibility of surface transport in the Lae area." Of the sixteen ships which sail for Lae, all eight transports are sunk, as are four of the escorting destroyers. Motor torpedo boats *PT-143* and *PT-150*, patrolling 25 miles northeast of Cape Ward Hunt, New Guinea, in the wake of the battle, encounter a Japanese submarine rescuing survivors of the engagement and force her to submerge.

Submarine *Tambor* (SS-198) lands men, ammunition, and currency at Pagadian Bay, Mindanao, P.I.

Atlantic

Escort carrier *Bogue* (CVE-9) begins escort of convoy duty in North Atlantic. This is first time a ship of her type is assigned antisubmarine operations as primary duty; she will operate in support of convoy HX 228 until 14 March.

German submarine *U-255* attacks Loch Ewe, Scotland-bound convoy RA 53, torpedoing U.S. freighter *Executive* and freighter *Richard Bland* at 72°45'N, 11°40'E; the former is abandoned without orders, with the survivors (one Armed Guard sailor and four merchant seamen are lost with the ship) being rescued by British trawlers HMS *St. Elstan* and HMS *Northern Pride*. *Executive* is scuttled. *Richard Bland* although damaged by a dud torpedo that nevertheless passes clean through the ship, remains with the convoy; she has suffered no casualties (see 10 March).

- **6 March, Sat.**

Pacific

TF 68, comprising three cruisers and seven destroyers (Rear Admiral Aaron S. Merrill), bombards Vila and Munda, Solomons and sinks Japanese destroyers *Minegumo* and *Murasame* in Kula Gulf, 08°05'S, 157°15'E.

Submarine *Sawfish* (SS-176) damages Japanese army cargo ship *Clyde Maru* southeast of Toizaki, 31°04'N, 131°48'E.

Submarine *Triton* (SS-201) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Kiriha Maru* about 145 miles northwest of the Admiralties, 00°37'N, 145°30'E. *Triton*, which reports her success on 11 March, is never heard from again.

Indian Ocean

Last boatload of survivors from U.S. freighter *Harvey W. Scott*, torpedoed by German submarine *U-160* off the coast of South Africa on 3 March, reaches shore safely.

Atlantic

German submarines locate convoy SC 121; escort group (Commander Paul R. Heineman) consists of Coast Guard cutter *Spencer* (WPG-36), destroyer *Greer*

(DD-145), two Canadian corvettes, a British corvette and a rescue ship. Operations against this convoy will continue until 11 March.

- **7 March, Sun.**

Pacific

Submarine *Permit* (SS-178) damages Japanese merchant fishing vessel *Shoshin Maru* off northeast coast of Honshu, 41°55'N, 143°50'E.

Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) lays mines off southeast coast of Borneo.

- **8 March, Mon.**

Pacific

Submarine *Permit* (SS-178), attacking Japanese convoy off northern tip of Honshu, sinks merchant cargo ship *Hisashima Maru*, 41°16'N, 142°27'E.

Atlantic

PBY-5 (VP 53) sinks German submarine *U-156*, West Indies area, 12°18'N, 54°39'W.

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *James B. Stephens*, independently bound for Durban, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-160* off the coast of South Africa, 28°53'S, 33°18'E; one Armed Guard sailor drowns in the abandonment after the ship breaks in two. The forward half ultimately sinks while under tow toward Durban; the after half is scuttled with gunfire (see 11 and 14 March).

- **9 March, Tue.**

Pacific

Naval aircraft bomb Japanese installations at Munda, Solomons. Bombing of this area becomes a regular occurrence.

Submarine *S-32* (SS-137) is damaged by Japanese depth charges off Holtz Bay, Attu Island, Aleutians.

Atlantic

Battle to protect convoy SC 121 continues (see 6 March 1943) as Coast Guard cutters *Bibb* (WPG-31) and *Ingham* (WPG-35) and destroyer *Babbitt* (DD-128) reinforce the escorts. *Babbitt* proves her worth this day as she helps keep U-boats down. Despite the efforts of the escorts, however, German submarine *U-409* torpedoes U.S. freighter *Malantic* at 59°30'N, 24°00'W, which is abandoned in a gale; 19 merchant seamen, five Armed Guard sailors and the ship's sole passenger perish in the attempt to reach British rescue vessel *Melrose Abbey*. *Malantic* will sink the next day.

German submarine *U-510* carries out series of attacks on ships of convoy BT 6, which is escorted by destroyer *Borie* (DD-215), gunboats *Courage* (PG-70) and *Tenacity* (PG-71) and two submarine chasers, off Cayenne, French Guayana. *U-510* torpedoes U.S. freighters *George G. Meade*, *Mark Hanna*, *James Smith*, *Thomas Ruffin* and *James K. Polk* at 07°11'N, 52°30'W. *George G. Meade* suffers no casualties to either her merchant crew or the Armed Guard, and returns to service; *Mark Hanna* is abandoned by most of the crew, submarine chaser *PC-592* rescuing the men while a portion of the complement remains on board to prepare the ship to be towed; after repairs, she returns to active service. *James Smith* suffers the loss of six merchant sailors and five Armed Guard seamen in the initial explosion, and is partially abandoned, with submarine

chaser *PC-592* rescuing a portion of the crew. The ship, however, will be towed to Trinidad by British tug *Zwarte Zee* and will eventually re-enter active service. *Thomas Ruffin* is partially abandoned, with *Courage* and *PC-592* rescuing crewmen (four of the ship's merchant complement and two of the 15-man Armed Guard are killed); the ship will eventually be written off as a total loss. *James K. Polk* (one Armed Guard sailor is killed when the ship is torpedoed--the only casualty) is partially abandoned, with *PC-592* serving as the rescuing agent; the master and a volunteer crew rig tarpaulins and with those makeshift sails proceed some 360 miles. Eventually towed to Trinidad and thence to Mobile, Alabama, *James K. Polk* will be written off as a total loss.

U.S. freighter *Puerto Rican*, straggling from convoy RA 53, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-586* at 66°44'N, 10°41'W; of the 40-man merchant complement and 25-man Armed Guard, only one man of the former will survive the abandonment in the below-freezing environment in which the sinking takes place (see 12 March).

10 March, Wed.

Pacific

Acting on intelligence that 18 Japanese in a lifeboat (survivors from Battle of the Bismarck Sea) had drifted ashore on Kiriwina in the Trobriand Islands, motor torpedo boat *PT-114* captures the enemy soldiers and takes them to Milne Bay the following day.

USAAF B-24 (5th Air Force) damages Japanese fleet tanker *Kaijo Maru* south of Buton Passage, Celebes, 04°45'S, 123°10'E; *Kaijo Maru* is run aground on Landaila Reef, where she is abandoned (see 17 March and 23 September).

Atlantic

Light cruiser *Savannah* (CL-42) and destroyer *Eberle* (DD-430) intercept German blockade runner *Karin* (ex-Dutch *Kota Nopan*) in the South Atlantic 400 miles west northwest of Ascension Island, 07°00'S, 21°00'W. Boarding party from *Eberle*, while attempting to retrieve intelligence documents, suffers seven killed and two wounded when scuttling charges explode on board *Karin*. *Savannah* takes on board the German survivors as POWs.

German submarine *U-185* attacks convoy KG 123, torpedoing U.S. tanker *Virginia Sinclair* at 20°11'N, 74°04'W, and freighter *James Sprunt* at 19°49'N, 74°38'W. Submarine chaser *SC-742* rescues all but seven of *Virginia Sinclair's* complement, but *James Sprunt*, laden with general cargo and explosives, disintegrates, killing all hands (44 merchant sailors and the 25-man Armed Guard) and showering nearby ships with debris.

German submarines attack convoy HX 228; *U-221* torpedoes U.S. freighter *Andrea F. Luckenbach* at 51°04'N, 29°40'W. Explosion of the after magazine blows off the stern and kills 10 of the 28-man Armed Guard outright. British oiler *Appleleaf* rescues 17 Armed Guard sailors and 46 of the 55-man merchant complement. *U-444* torpedoes freighter *William C. Gorgas* at 51°35'N, 28°30'W; British destroyer HMS *Harvester* rescues the 27-man Armed Guard and 33 of the 43-man merchant complement, but is herself later torpedoed and sunk by *U-432*. Ultimately, only four Armed Guard sailors and eight merchant seamen from *William C. Gorgas* survive *Harvester's* sinking, rescued by Free French-

manned British corvette HMS *Aconit*. U-757 administers the coup de grace to *William C. Gorgas*.

German submarine U-255 torpedoes U.S. freighter *Richard Bland*, straggling from convoy RA 53, at 66°48'N, 14°15'W; the ship breaks in two. During the abandonment in rough seas, 17 of the 26-man Armed Guard and 19 of 42-man merchant complement perish. Survivors are rescued (27 by British destroyer HMS *Impulsive*); the forward portion of the ship is eventually towed to Iceland and salvaged.

Open lighter YC-1278 is destroyed off Atlantic Coast.

Indian Ocean

German submarine U-182 torpedoes U.S. freighter *Richard D. Spaight* in the Mozambique Channel, 28°00'S, 37°00'E; after the freighter is abandoned, the U-boat completes the work of destruction with gunfire, then questions and aids the crew before clearing the area. Two boats of survivors (42 of 43 merchant sailors and the entire 24-man Armed Guard survive) reach Richards Bay, South Africa (within three days), Cape St. Lucia, and Cuanalobi Beach (five days later).

British light cruiser HMS *Nigeria* rescues 30 survivors of U.S. freighter *James B. Stephens*, torpedoed by German submarine U-160 off the coast of South Africa on 8 March 1943; British trawler HMS *Norwich City* rescues 19 (see 14 March).

- **12 March, Fri.**

Pacific

Submarine *Plunger* (SS-179) sinks Japanese water carrier *Taihosan Maru* off Ponape, Carolines, 07°15'N, 159°10'E.

Atlantic

German submarines begin gathering to attack convoy UGS 6, which is being shepherded by seven U.S. destroyers (Captain Charles Wellborn, Jr.). *Champlin* (DD-601) sinks U-130 (which had first sighted UGS 6), 37°10'N, 40°21'W.

HMS *Quadrant* rescues ten survivors from sunken U.S. freighter *City of Flint* after 46 days on a lifeboat. Survivors include 3 Naval Armed Guards (see 25 January and 28 January).

Destroyer *Belknap* (DD-251) rescues seven Armed Guard sailors, survivors from freighter *Jonathan Sturges*, along with three Dutch seamen from torpedoed motorship *Madoera*, both merchantmen the victims of U-707 on 23 February 1943 (see 6 April).

Sole survivor of U.S. freighter *Puerto Rican*, torpedoed and sunk on 9 March by German submarine U-586 as the former straggled from convoy RA 53, is rescued by British trawler HMS *St. Elstan*.

- **13 March, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine *Grayback* (SS-208) damages Japanese transport *Noshiro Maru* 100 miles northwest of Bismarck Archipelago, 00°10'S, 151°06'E.

Submarine *Sunfish* (SS-281) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kosei Maru* near Tokara Jima, Ryukyus, 29°04'N, 129°17'E.

Dutch submarine *O 21* sinks Japanese cargo ship *Kasuga Maru* off Port Blair, Andaman Islands, 11°40'N, 92°50'E.

USAAF B-17s bomb Japanese convoy off Wewak, sinking cargo vessel *Momoyama Maru*; submarine *Greenling* (SS-213) witnesses attacks.

Atlantic

German submarine *U-68* attacks Aruba-bound convoy GAT 49, and torpedoes U.S. tanker *Cities Service Missouri*, at 14°10'N, 74°40'W. Destroyer *Biddle* (DD-151) rescues survivors, who include the 11-man Armed Guard.

Mediterranean

German submarine *U-172* torpedoes U.S. freighter *Keystone*, straggling from convoy UGS 6, at 38°10'N, 37°58'W. The initial explosion kills one Armed Guard sailor and a merchant seaman; these are the only casualties suffered by the ship, which is abandoned. Portuguese steamship *Sines* rescues the survivors.

- **14 March, Sun.**

Atlantic

Fleet Operational Training Command, Atlantic Fleet (Rear Admiral Donald B. Beary) is established.

Indian Ocean

Off Durban, South Africa, SAAF crash boat rescues 13 survivors of U.S. freighter *James B. Stephens*, torpedoed by German submarine *U-160* on 8 March.

- **15 March, Mon.**

General

ComInCh establishes numbered fleet system; fleets in the Pacific to have odd numbers and those in the Atlantic even.

Pacific

Submarine *Trigger* (SS-237) attacks Japanese convoy about 150 miles northwest of the Admiralties, damaging transport *Florida Maru*, 00°00'N, 145°00'E, and sinking army cargo ship *Momoha Maru*, 00°02'S, 145°05'E.

Naval Auxiliary Air Facility, French Frigate Shoals, T.H., is established.

- **16 March, Tue.**

Pacific

Four U.S. destroyers (Commander Francis X. McInerney) shell Japanese positions at Vila.

Submarine *Flying Fish* (SS-229) sinks Japanese victualling stores ship *Hyuga Maru* west of the Marianas.

Submarine *S-32* (SS-137) damages Japanese submarine *RO 103* off Silipuka Island, 52°54'N, 173°13'E.

Mediterranean

Vice Admiral H. Kent Hewitt becomes Commander Naval Forces Northwest African Waters.

Atlantic

SBDs (VC 29) from aircraft escort vessel *Santee* (AVG-29) attack German submarine, 07°15'S, 29°15'W.

German submarine *U-172*, stalking convoy UGS 6, torpedoes U.S. freighter *Benjamin Harrison* at 39°09'N, 24°15'W. Precipitately abandoned, the ship is scuttled by gunfire of destroyer *Rowan* (DD-405), which rescues three survivors. Freighter *Alan A. Dale* rescues the remainder.

German submarines attack convoy HX 229 as it proceeds toward the British Isles; *U-758* torpedoes U.S. freighter *James Oglethorpe* at 50°00'N, 36°00'W; 13 merchant seamen, 15 Armed Guard sailors and two passengers are rescued by British corvette HMS *Pennywort*. *U-435* torpedoes freighter *William Eustis* at 49°57'N, 37°06'W; British destroyer HMS *Volunteer* rescues the entire crew (which includes a 30-man Armed Guard). Both "Liberties" remain afloat (see 17 March).

- **17 March, Wed.**

Pacific

Motor torpedo boats *PT-67* and *PT-119* are destroyed by fire off eastern New Guinea, 09°02'S, 149°20'E.

Submarine *Kingfish* (SS-234) damages Japanese transport *Tenryugawa Maru* in Formosa Strait, 24°32'N, 120°15'E.

Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) inflicts further damage to Japanese fleet tanker *Kaijo Maru*, driven aground and abandoned on 10 March (see 23 September).

Atlantic

Destroyer *Upshur* (DD-144), from convoy ON 170, having joined the escort force for convoy SC 122 the previous day, helps turn away U-boats attempting to stalk the merchantmen.

German submarine *U-167* attacks convoy UGS 6 and damages U.S. freighter *Molly Pitcher* about 500 miles west of Lisbon, Portugal, 38°21'N, 19°54'W; destroyer *Champlin* (DD-601) which, along with destroyer *Rowan* (DD-405) and merchantman *William Johnson* rescues survivors, attempts, unsuccessfully, to scuttle the crippled freighter with a torpedo. *U-521* finishes off *Molly Pitcher* later the same day. Two of the 24-man Armed Guard and two merchant seamen perish in the sinking.

German U-boat operations against convoy HX 229 continue: *U-91* administers the coup de grace to U.S. freighters *James Oglethorpe*, torpedoed by *U-758* the previous day, and the abandoned *William Eustis*, torpedoed the day before by *U-435*. Lost with the former are the 31 men who had remained on board. *U-91* also torpedoes and sinks U.S. freighter *Harry Luckenbach* at 50°38'N, 34°46'W; British corvette HMS *Pennywort* is the only escort vessel that sights *Harry Luckenbach's* survivors but, already crammed with 108 men retrieved from other sunken ships from HX 229, is unable to recover them. *Harry Luckenbach* is thus lost with all hands (54 merchant sailors and a 26-man Armed Guard). *U-600* torpedoes and sinks freighter *Irene Du Pont* at 50°36'N, 34°30'W with the loss of 6 of the 26-man Armed Guard, 1 of 9 Navy passengers and six of the 49-man merchant complement; Dutch merchantman *Tekoa* rescues 55 survivors, Canadian destroyer HMCS *Mansfield* 16 (one of whom dies of wounds). British corvette HMS *Anemone* fails to scuttle *Irene Du Pont* with gunfire and a depth charge; it thus falls to *U-91* to finish off the battered "Liberty."

- **18 March, Thu.**

Atlantic

As German operations against Allied convoys continue, destroyer *Babbitt* (DD-128) reinforces the escort for HX 229 and Coast Guard cutter *Ingham* (WPG-35) SC 122. *U-221* attacks HX 229 and torpedoes U.S. freighter *Walter Q. Gresham* at 53°39'N, 27°53'W; British corvettes HMS *Pennywort* and HMS *Anemone* rescue 42 survivors (23 merchant seamen and five of the 26-man Armed Guard perish with the ship).

- **19 March, Fri.**

Pacific

Submarine *Kingfish* (SS-234) sinks Japanese army hospital ship *Takachiko Maru* in Formosa Strait, 26°00'N, 122°18'E.

Submarine *Sawfish* (SS-276) damages Japanese guardboat *Shinsei Maru*, southeast of Japan, 32°54'N, 152°11'E.

Submarine *Wahoo* (SS-238), operating in the Yellow Sea, sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Zogen Maru* just east of Dairen, Kwantung Peninsula, Manchukuo, 38°29'N, 122°19'E, and damages merchant cargo ship *Kowa Maru*, 38°27'N, 122°18'E.

USAAF A-20s damage Japanese submarine *I-176* as she is unloading at Lae, New Guinea. *I-176*, however, is able to continue her voyage to Rabaul.

Atlantic

German U-boat onslaught against Atlantic convoys continues: U.S. freighter *Mathew Luckenbach* departs convoy HX 229, believing her chances greater of completing the voyage independently than in company with other ships, but runs afoul of *U-527* in the vicinity of SC 122. *U-527* torpedoes *Mathew Luckenbach* at 54°20'N, 25°07'W; Coast Guard cutter *Ingham* (WPG-35) rescues the freighter's entire complement (42 merchant sailors and a 26-man Armed Guard). Subsequently, *U-523* administers the coup de grace to *Mathew Luckenbach*. With the loss of *Mathew Luckenbach* and Greek freighter *Carras* (a straggler from SC 122) to *U-533* on this date, German U-boats will break off operations against SC 122 and HX 229 and conclude what is regarded as the largest convoy battle of the war. Despite the valiant efforts of the escorts, the merchantmen suffer heavy losses.

Mediterranean

Axis planes bomb shipping in Oran harbor; U.S. freighter *Examiner* is damaged by near-misses that kill one Armed Guard sailor and wound six (an additional Armed Guard sailor is killed on shore during the raid). Merchant casualties amount to three crewmen wounded on board ship and one killed while ashore.

- **20 March, Sat.**

Atlantic

Brazilian merchantman *Baje* rescues 27 survivors of freighter *Roger B. Taney*, that had been sunk by *U-225* on 7 February.

District patrol craft *YP-438* sinks after running aground on submerged breakwater at entrance to Port Everglades, Florida.

Pacific

Submarine *Sawfish* (SS-276) sinks Japanese guardboat *Shinsei Maru* in the northern Pacific, 32°55'N, 152°11'E.

Submarine *Scamp* (SS-277) damages Japanese merchant cargo ship *Seinan Maru* off Tomari, 41°06'N, 141°26'E.

Submarine *Trigger* (SS-237) damages Japanese gunboat *Choan Maru* off the Admiralties, 03°44'N, 144°12'E, with a dud torpedo.

- **21 March, Sun.**

Atlantic

Submarine *Herring* (SS-233) sinks German submarine *U-163*, Bay of Biscay, 44°13'N, 08°23'W.

Pacific

Submarine *Finback* (SS-230) damages Japanese transport (ex-aircraft tender) *Sanuki Maru* south of the Carolines, 07°40'N, 139°48'E.

Submarine *Scamp* (SS-277) damages Japanese transport *Manju Maru* off east coast of Honshu, 41°45'N, 142°14'E.

Submarine *Wahoo* (SS-238), operating in the Yellow Sea off Korea, sinks Japanese merchant cargo ships *Hozan Maru*, 38°11'N, 124°33'E and *Nittsu Maru*, 38°05'N, 124°33'E.

- **22 March, Mon.**

Pacific

Submarine *Gudgeon* (SS-211) attacks Japanese convoy 30 miles north of Surabaya, Java, sinking army cargo ship *Meigen Maru*, 06°31'S, 112°47'E, and survives the resultant depth-charging by escort vessels.

Submarine *Tambor* (SS-198) damages Japanese transport *Bugen Maru* in the Sulu Sea, off Negros, P.I., 08°58'N, 123°08'E.

Atlantic

USAAF aircraft (1st Antisubmarine Squadron) sink German submarine *U-524* north of Canary Islands, 30°15'N, 18°13'W.

USAAF heavy bombers raid Wilhelmshaven U-boat pens, sinking German tanker *Eurosee*.

- **23 March, Tue.**

Pacific

Open lighter *YC-869* sinks after grounding off Imperial Beach, California.

Submarine *Kingfish* (SS-234) is damaged by depth charges off Formosa, 26°20'N, 121°55'E, and is forced to terminate her patrol.

Submarine *Whale* (SS-239) sinks Japanese transport *Ken'yo Maru* about 130 miles northwest of Saipan, 17°20'N, 145°00'E; one of *Whale's* torpedoes circles back toward her, forcing the boat to "go deep" but then heads back and hits the target.

Atlantic/Mediterranean

Naval Station and Naval Air Facility are established at Arzeu, Algeria;

Advanced Amphibious Training Bases are established at Port Lyautey, Morocco, and at Nemours, Tenes, Beni Saf, and Mostaganem in Algeria.

- **24 March, Fri.**

Pacific

Operating in the Yellow Sea near Port Arthur, submarine *Wahoo* (SS-238) sinks Japanese merchant passenger-cargo ship *Teisho Maru* at 39°01'N, 122°25'E, cargo ship *Takaosan Maru* at 38°13'N, 123°24'E and cargo ship *Satsuki Maru*, 38°10'N, 123°26'E.

- **26 March, Fri.**

Pacific

Battle of the Komandorski Islands: TG 16.6 (Rear Admiral Charles H. McMorris), comprising one heavy cruiser, one light cruiser, and four destroyers, outfights and repulses a Japanese force of two heavy cruisers, two light cruisers, and four destroyers (Rear Admiral Hosogaya Boso) escorting two transports with reinforcements for Kiska, Aleutians. In this daylight surface action, heavy cruiser *Salt Lake City* (CA-25) is damaged by gunfire from heavy cruisers *Maya* and *Nachi* and light cruiser *Abukuma*, 52°47'N, 172°45'E, but damages *Nachi* in return; destroyers *Bailey* (DD-492) and *Coghlan* (DD-606) are also damaged by gunfire, 53°20'N, 168°36'E.

PBYs and USAAF B-24s bomb Nauru Island, South Pacific.

Atlantic

Naval Operating Facility, Belem, Brazil, is established.

Escort carrier *Bogue* (CVE-9) operates in support of convoy SC 123; her aircraft keep *U-443* and *U-415* down and prevent their attacking the convoy.

- **27 March, Sat.**

Pacific

PBYs damage *Asaka Maru*, position unspecified.

Atlantic

Naval Air Facility, Natal, Brazil, and Naval Operating Facilities at Victoria, Florianopolis, Fortaleza, Maceio, Recife, Rio Grande do Sul, Santos, and Sao Luiz, Brazil, are established.

Coast Guard cutter *CG-85006* (ex-motor boat *Catamount*) is sunk by explosion off Long Island, New York.

- **28 March, Sun.**

Pacific

Submarine *Tunny* (SS-282) damages Japanese troopship *Suwa Maru* off Wake Island, 19°13'N, 166°34'E; to prevent her from sinking, *Suwa Maru* is run aground off Wake's southern shore (near the wrecks of two patrol boats beached there on 23 December 1941) (see 5 April and 27 July).

Japanese cargo ship *Funakawa Maru* is stranded off Shiraya Zaki and sinks, 41°22'N, 141°22'E.

- **29 March, Mon.**

Pacific

Submarine *Gato* (SS-212) evacuates certain military and civilian people (including 9 women, 3 nuns, and 27 children) from Teop Island, Solomons.

Submarine *Gudgeon* (SS-211) sinks Japanese fleet tanker *Toho Maru* in Makassar Strait, 00°00'N, 118°18'E, and damages tanker *Kyoei Maru*, 00°54'N, 119°01'E.

Submarine *Wahoo* (SS-238) sinks Japanese auxiliary cable ship *Yamabato Maru* south of Kyushu, 30°26'N, 129°41'E.

Atlantic

German submarine *U-160* torpedoes U.S. freighter *William Pierce Frye*, straggling from convoy HX 230, at 56°57'N, 26°15'W. Heavy seas have previously damaged most of her lifeboats, and the only serviceable one is swamped; life rafts and floats drift away from the ship. One tank landing craft (LCT) being carried as deck cargo breaks free as the ship sinks, but only seven men reach it (see 3 April).

- **30 March, Tue.**

Pacific

Submarine *Tuna* (SS-203) attacks Japanese convoy north of Manus, Admiralty Islands, sinks army cargo ship *Kurohime Maru*, 00°22'S, 147°46'E, and survives the resultant depth-charging by escort vessels.

- **31 March, Wed.**

Pacific

Japanese cargo ship *Nanshin Maru* is sunk in collision with *Ona Maru* west of Oshima, off Hakata, Honshu, 34°13'N, 133°06'E.

April

- **1 April, Thu.**

Pacific

Submarine *Gato* (SS-212) is damaged by depth charges off New Ireland, 03°08'S, 153°00'E, and is forced to terminate her patrol.

USAAF B-17s bomb Japanese convoy off Kavieng, sinking merchant cargo ship *Kokoko Maru*.

Atlantic

Naval Operating Facility, Grondal, Greenland, is established.

Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, Maryland, is established.

District patrol craft *YP-235* is sunk by explosion of undetermined origin, Gulf of Mexico.

Submarine *Shad* (SS-235) torpedoes Italian blockade runner *Pietro Orseolo*, 44°37'N, 02°18'W, shortly after the Italian ship had reached the Bay of Biscay and her escort of four German destroyers.

- **2 April, Fri.**

Pacific

Submarine *Tunny* (SS-282) sinks Japanese transport *Toyo Maru* west of Truk, 07°23'N, 149°13'E.

- **3 April, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine *Haddock* (SS-231) sinks Japanese fleet tanker *Arima Maru* north of Palau, 10°26'N, 135°00'E.

Submarine *Pickrel* (SS-177) sinks Japanese submarine chaser *Ch 13* southeast of Shiriyasaki, Japan, 40°03'N, 141°58'E, but is afterwards sunk by minelayer *Shirakami* and auxiliary subchaser *Bunzan Maru* off northern Honshu.

USAAF B-17s (5th Air Force) sink Japanese transport *Florida Maru* in Kavieng harbor, 02°35'S, 150°49'E. B-17s and B-24s damage heavy cruiser *Aoba* and destroyer *Fumizuki* off Kavieng.

Japanese destroyer *Kazagumo* is damaged by mine, Kahili Bay, Bougainville.

Atlantic

German submarine *U-155* torpedoes and sinks U.S. tanker *Gulfstate* off Key West, Florida, 24°22'N, 80°27'W. USCG plane rescues three survivors, district patrol craft *YP-351* 15; 34 merchant seamen and 9 Armed Guard sailors perish with the ship.

British destroyer HMS *Shikari* rescues seven survivors (five merchant seamen and two Armed Guard sailors) from U.S. freighter *William Pierce Frye*, sunk by German submarine *U-160* on 29 March. Thirty-five merchant seamen have perished, as have 22 of the 24-man Armed Guard.

- **4 April, Sun.**

Pacific

Submarine *Haddock* (SS-231), damaged by depth charges off Palau, 09°31'N, 133°39'E, is forced to terminate her patrol.

Submarine *Porpoise* (SS-172) sinks Japanese whaling ship *Koa Maru* near Eniwetok atoll, 13°10'N, 162°05'E.

- **5 April, Mon.**

Pacific

Destroyer *O'Bannon* (DD-450) sinks Japanese submarine *RO 34* near Russell Island, Solomons, 08°15'S, 158°58'E.

Submarine *Finback* (SS-230) inflicts further damage upon Japanese troopship *Suwa Maru* (previously damaged by *Tunny* (SS-282) on 28 March and beached) off Wake Island, 19°20'N, 166°35'E (see 27 July).

Atlantic

German submarine *U-563* torpedoes U.S. tanker *Sunoil*, a straggler from convoy HX 231, at 58°16'N, 38°00'W. Armed Guard gunfire forces the attacker to submerge, but *U-563* torpedoes and finishes off the ship later the same day. British destroyer HMS *Vidette*, sent from HX 231 in response to the tanker's distress call, never locates any survivors; *Sunoil* is lost with all hands (43 merchant seamen and a 26-man Armed Guard).

- **6 April, Tue.**

Mediterranean

USAAF B-17s bomb Axis convoy off Bizerte, Tunisia, sinking German freighter *San Diego* and damaging Italian transport *Rovereto*; the latter is beached to prevent her sinking.

Atlantic

German submarine *U-336* picks up six survivors (four merchant seamen and two Armed Guard sailors) from U.S. freighter *Jonathan Sturges*, torpedoed and sunk by *U-707* on 23 February 1943. These men (who will ultimately be interned at a POW camp near Bremen, Germany) will be the last of *Jonathan Sturges's* survivors to be rescued.

Gulf of Mexico

German submarine *U-185* attacks Mobile, Alabama-bound convoy GTMO 83, torpedoing and sinking U.S. freighter *John Sevier* at 20°35'N, 74°00'W. Destroyer *Bennett* (DD-473) rescues all hands (39 merchant seamen, 17-man Armed Guard, and one passenger)

- **7 April, Wed.**

Pacific

Operation I: last Japanese air offensive in the Solomons. Carrier bombers (VAL) strike U.S. and Allied shipping near Tulagi, Solomons, damaging destroyer *Aaron Ward* (DD-483) and sinking New Zealand corvette HMNZS *Moa* and damaging oilers *Kanawha* (AO-1) and *Tappahannock* (AO-43) and tank landing ship *LST-449* (the latter two ships by near-misses). Submarine rescue vessel *Ortolan* (ASR-5) and tug (ex-minesweeper) *Vireo* (AT-144) attempt to beach *Aaron Ward*, but the destroyer sinks as the result of bomb damage at 09°10'S, 160°12'E. Destroyer *Farenholt* (DD-491) is near-missed by at least three bombs. Tug (ex-minesweeper) *Rail* (AT-139) is damaged by friendly fire as motor torpedo boat tender *Niagara* (AGP-1), moored alongside, fires through the former's rigging. *Rail* fire party boards abandoned *Kanawha* and attempts, assisted by minesweeper *Conflict* (AM-85), to put out the raging fires until told to withdraw. Later, *Rail*, tug *Menominee* (AT-73) and net tender *Butternut* (YN-9), tow *Kanawha* into Tulagi harbor, where the damaged oiler is beached. *Rail* suffers further damage alongside *Kanawha* (see 8 April 1943). Elsewhere off Tulagi, destroyer *Sterett* (DD-407) is damaged by friendly fire from adjacent ships (six men are wounded), while attack cargo ship *Libra* (AKA-12), off Lunga Point, is near-missed. *Adhara* (AK-71), loading cargo off the Tenaru River, is damaged by near-misses and suffers one dead and eight wounded. Of the freighters, two bombs land near *William Williams*, *Louis Joliet* is strafed, and *Dona Nati* is shaken by two near-misses; none of those three ships suffer casualties.

Submarine *Grayling* (SS-209) unsuccessfully attacks Japanese cargo ship *Lima Maru* off Mindoro, 13°20'N, 121°33'E.

Submarine *Trout* (SS-202) lays mines near Sarawak, Borneo.

Submarine *Tunny* (SS-282), despite presence of escort vessel, torpedoes Japanese victualling stores ship *Kosei Maru* about 250 miles northwest of Truk, 08°50'N, 147°06'E. Attempt to tow the damaged vessel fails, and *Kosei Maru* sinks en route to Truk.

Submarine *Pickrel* (SS-177) sinks Japanese cargo ship *Fukuei Maru* near Shiriya Zaki, Honshu, 41°00'N, 142°00'E.

- **8 April, Thu.**

Pacific

Oiler *Kanawha* (AO-1), damaged by Japanese dive bombers the day before, and beached off Tulagi by tugs *Rail* (AT-139) and *Menominee* (AT-73), sinks.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Toyo Maru* is sunk by aircraft, Rabaul, 05°04'N, 139°43'E.

- **9 April, Fri.**

General

Rank of Commodore, U.S. Navy, is reestablished.

Pacific

Submarine *Drum* (SS-228) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking army cargo ship *Oyama Maru* about 180 miles north-northwest of Kavieng, New Ireland, 00°32'N, 150°05'E.

Submarine *Grayling* (SS-209) in attack on Japanese convoy off Mindoro, sinks army cargo ship *Shanghai Maru* about ten miles east of Dumali Point, 13°11'N, 121°45'E.

Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) attacks Japanese convoy in Buton Passage, off southeastern Celebes, sinking army cargo ship *Penang Maru*, 05°31'S, 123°06'E. *Tautog* then sinks destroyer *Isonami* as the enemy warship attempts to rescue *Penang Maru's* survivors 05°26'S, 123°04'E.

- **10 April, Sat.**

Mediterranean

USAAF B-17s sink Italian heavy cruiser *Trieste* and motor torpedo boats *MAS 501* and *MAS 503* and damage heavy cruiser *Gorizia*, La Maddalena, Sardinia. *Gorizia* will subsequently be towed to La Spezia for repairs.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Edward B. Dudley*, straggling from United Kingdom-bound convoy HX 232, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-615* in the North Atlantic, 53°00'N, 38°00'W, but the torpedo that hits the freighter is a dud. *U-615* stalks her quarry (see 11 April).

- **11 April, Sun.**

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Edward B. Dudley* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-615* in the North Atlantic, 53°00'N, 39°00'W. Debris from the explosion that follows the coup de grace damages *U-615's* conning tower. Those survivors of the 42 merchant sailors and the 25-man Armed Guard who manage to lower boats are never recovered.

U.S. freighter *James W. Denver*, straggling from convoy UGS 7, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-195* in the North Atlantic, 28°46'N, 25°40'W. All hands (42 merchant seamen, one passenger and 25 Armed Guards) survive the loss of the ship and set sail for the coast of Africa (see 18 and 24 April, and 4, 6 and 16 May).

U.S. freighter *Matt W. Ransom*, steaming in Casablanca-bound convoy UGS 6A, is mined at 33°59'N, 07°51'W. All hands (42 merchant seamen, 2 passengers and 28 Armed Guards) abandon ship, rescued by submarine chasers *PC-471* and *PC-481*; the master and six men, however, return to the damaged ship and take her to Gibraltar under her own power.

- **12 April, Mon.**

Pacific

Submarine *Flying Fish* (SS-229) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.12 Sapporo Maru* at eastern entrance to Tsugaru Strait, just off Shiriyazaki, northern Honshu, 41°23'N, 141°30'E.

USAAF B-17s and B-24s (5th Air Force) bomb Japanese shipping in Hansa Bay, sinking army cargo ship *Sydney Maru*, 03°18'S, 143°38'E.

- **14 April, Wed.**

Pacific

Submarine *Pike* (SS-173) damages Japanese army cargo ship *Madras Maru* north of the Admiralties, 01°25'N, 148°22'E.

USAAF B-17s (5th Air Force) bomb Japanese shipping in Hansa Bay, sinking army cargo ship *India Maru*, 03°18'S, 143°38'E.

- **15 April, Thu.**

Pacific

Submarine *Seawolf* (SS-197) sinks Japanese transport *Kaihei Maru* about 275 miles south-southwest of Marcus Island, 21°15'N, 152°00'E.

Atlantic

District patrol craft *YP-453* sinks after grounding on Bahamas Bank.

PBY (VP 83) sinks Italian submarine *Archimede* off coast of Brazil, 03°23'S, 30°28'W.

German submarine *U-262* makes contact with convoy HX 233, whose escort (Commander Paul R. Heineman) includes Coast Guard cutters *Spencer* (WPG-36) and *Duane* (WPG-33), a Canadian destroyer, two Canadian and three British corvettes. Escorts will drive off *U-262* the next day.

- **16 April, Fri.**

Pacific

USAAF B-17s bomb Japanese shipping at Wewak, damaging destroyer *Tachikaze*.

- **17 April, Sat.**

Pacific

Japanese transport *Shinnan Maru* is sunk by mine (laid by USN TBFs on 30 March), near Buin, Bougainville, 06°50'N, 155°45'E.

Japanese ex-whale factory ship *Nissho Maru* is sunk by unknown agent about 160 miles east of Formosa, 23°36'N, 124°18'E.

Submarine *Flying Fish* (SS-229) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Amaho Maru* off Yerimozaki, Hokkaido, 42°04'N, 143°22'E.

Atlantic

While escorting convoy HX 233, Coast Guard cutter *Spencer* (WPG-36) attacks German submarine *U-175*, which had located the convoy on the night of 16-17 April after *U-262* had been driven off, and sinks her at 48°50'N, 21°20'W.

- **18 April, Sun.**

Pacific

Admiral Yamamoto Isoroku, Commander in Chief Japanese Combined Fleet, is killed when the land attack plane (BETTY) in which he is travelling is shot down by USAAF P-38s off Bougainville. Interception of Yamamoto, brought about through signals intelligence, eliminates one of the Imperial Japanese Navy's more charismatic leaders.

Submarine *Drum* (SS-228) sinks Japanese ammunition ship *Nisshun Maru* about 200 miles north-northwest of Mussau Island, Bismarck Archipelago, 01°55'N, 148°24'E. Submarine chaser *Ch.18* rescues survivors, who include a number of Army prostitutes among them.

Atlantic

Spanish merchantman *Cabo Huertas* rescues 11 survivors from U.S. freighter *James W. Denver*, sunk by German submarine *U-195* in the North Atlantic on 11 April (see 24 April, and 4, 6 and 16 May).

Open lighter *YC-891* founders while in tow of harbor tug *Mauvila* (YT-328) off Key West, Florida.

Arctic

German planes bomb Allied shipping at Murmansk, USSR, damaging U.S. freighter *Thomas Hartley*.

- **19 April, Mon.**

Pacific

Submarine *Scorpion* (SS-278) mines waters off Kashima Nada, Japan.

Submarine *Seawolf* (SS-197) sinks Japanese depot ship *No.5 Banshu Maru*, 26°15'N, 139°35'E.

Navy planes bomb Japanese shipping off Buin, Bougainville, damaging cargo vessel *Shirogare Maru*.

- **20 April, Tue.**

Pacific

Submarine *Runner* (SS-476) mines waters near Hong Kong.

Submarine *Scorpion* (SS-278) sinks Japanese gunboat *No.1 Meiji Maru* off east central coast of Honshu, 37°10'N, 141°25'E.

USAAF aircraft sink Japanese cargo ship *Kosei Maru* north of Wewak, 03°30'S, 143°30'E.

USAAF planes sink Japanese ship *Nojima Maru* north of Kiska.

Japanese transport/cargo ship *Sumerusan Maru* is sunk by accidental explosion, Surabaya, Java, 03°30'S, 143°30'E.

Mediterranean

U.S. freighter *Michigan*, steaming in convoy UGS 7, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-565* off the coast of North Africa, 36°01'N, 01°25'W. All hands (37 merchant seamen, 23 Armed Guards and the one passenger) survive; some remain in the boats to help rescue survivors (Senegalese soldiers) from French steamship *Sidi-Bel-Abbes*, also torpedoed and sunk by *U-565*, thus preventing the toll in human life from the loss of that Allied vessel from being much larger. *Michigan's* survivors are rescued by British escort trawlers HMS

Stella Carina and HMS *Foxtrot*, and transferred thus to sloop HMS *Felixstowe*, in which they are transported to Oran.

- **21 April, Wed.**

Pacific

Submarine *Grenadier* (SS-210) is damaged by Japanese plane (*936th Kokutai*) near Straits of Malacca (see 22 April).

Submarine *Stingray* (SS-186) mines waters off Wenchow, China.

Admiral Koga Mineichi is appointed Commander in Chief Japanese Combined Fleet.

Atlantic

Destroyer *Swanson* (DD-443) drives German submarine *U-129* away from NG convoy in the Greater Antilles.

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *John Drayton* is torpedoed by Italian submarine *Leonardo da Vinci* off the coast of South Africa, 34°00'S, 34°40'E, and abandoned. *Leonardo da Vinci* then surfaces, finishes off the freighter with gunfire, and temporarily detains a member of the crew on board for questioning before returning him to his shipmates (see 23 and 27 April and 21 May).

- **22 April, Thu.**

Pacific

Submarine *Grenadier* (SS-210) is scuttled off Penang, Malaya, 06°30'N, 97°40'E, after having been damaged by Japanese plane (*936th Kokutai*) the previous day.

Submarine *Stingray* (SS-186) mines waters off Wenchow, China.

Dutch submarine *O 21*, despite presence of escort vessel, sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Yamazato Maru* in Malacca Straits, 03°28'N, 99°47'E.

Japanese aircraft bomb airfield at Funafuti, Ellice Islands.

Atlantic

PBYs (VP 84), flying from bases in Iceland and Greenland, drive off German U-boats threatening convoy HX 234.

- **23 April, Fri.**

Pacific

Submarine *Pike* (SS-173) is damaged by depth charges off central Carolines, 04°20'N, 152°02'E, and is forced to terminate her patrol.

Submarine *Seawolf* (SS-197) sinks Japanese *Patrol Boat No.39* off east central coast of Formosa, 23°45'N, 122°45'E, while the enemy warship is screening the towing of the wrecked *Nisshin Maru*.

District patrol craft *YP-422* founders after grounding on Tumbo Reef, three miles southeast of entrance to North Bulari Passage, New Caledonia.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Robert Gray*, straggling from convoy HX 234, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-306* in the North Atlantic at 57°30'N, 43°00'W, with all hands (39-man merchant complement and a 19-man Armed Guard).

U.S. freighter *Santa Catalina*, bound for Basra, Iraq, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-129* at 30°59'N, 70°57'W, and abandoned (see 24 April).

Indian Ocean

Swedish merchant ship *Oscar Gorthon* rescues 11 survivors from U.S. freighter *John Drayton*, sunk by Italian submarine *Leonardo da Vinci* in the Indian Ocean on 21 April 1943 (see 27 April and 21 May).

- **24 April, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine *Flying Fish* (SS-229) sinks Japanese merchant passenger-cargo ship *Kasuga Maru* in Tsugaru Strait, 41°44'N, 141°21'E.

Submarine *Runner* (SS-476) damages Japanese army hospital ship *Buenos Aires Maru* south of Hong Kong, 21°41'N, 116°24'E.

Atlantic

British freighter *Campana* rescues 15 survivors from U.S. freighter *James W. Denver*, sunk by German submarine *U-195* in the North Atlantic on 11 April (see 4, 6 and 16 May).

Swedish motor vessel *Venezia* rescues all hands (57 merchant seamen, 28-man Armed Guard and 10 passengers) from U.S. freighter *Santa Catalina*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-129* the previous day.

- **25 April, Sun.**

Atlantic

District patrol craft *YP-481* founders after running aground off Charleston, South Carolina.

Mediterranean

U.S. freighter *Samuel Parker* is damaged by fire on board gasoline lighter moored alongside, Tripoli harbor. There are no casualties to the merchant crew, Armed Guard, or Egyptian stevedores working cargo.

- **26 April, Mon.**

Pacific

TG 16.6, three light cruisers and six destroyers (Rear Admiral Charles H. McMorris), bombards Japanese installations at Attu, Aleutians.

Atlantic

District patrol craft *YP-47* is sunk in collision with motor minesweeper *YMS-110* in Ambrose Channel, off Staten Island, New York.

Mediterranean

Naval Station, Mers el Kebir, Morocco, is established.

- **27 April, Tue.**

Pacific

Submarine *Scorpion* (SS-278) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking merchant cargo ship *Yuzan Maru* off east coast of Honshu, 38°08'N, 143°03'E.

U.S. freighter *Lydia M. Child* is torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine *I-178* about 100 miles east of Sydney, Australia, 33°08'S, 153°24'E; Australian minesweepers HMAS *Warrambool* and HMAS *Deloraine* rescue the entire crew (including the 21-man Armed Guard).

Atlantic

PV-1 (VB 125) providing coverage for convoy SC 128 off Halifax sinks German submarine *U-174*, North Atlantic, 43°35'N, 56°18'W.

Indian Ocean

British destroyer HMS *Relentless* rescues 14 survivors from U.S. freighter *John Drayton*, sunk by Italian submarine *Leonardo da Vinci* in the Indian Ocean on 21 April (see 21 May).

- **28 April, Wed.**

Pacific

Submarine *Gudgeon* (SS-212) sinks Japanese transport/hospital ship *Kamakura Maru* 30 miles southwest of Naso Point, Panay, P.I., 10°18'N, 121°44'E.

Atlantic

Escort group formed around escort carrier *Bogue* (CVE-9) and four destroyers drives off five German submarines against convoy HX 235. Another group of U-boats threatens convoy ONS 5, which is protected by British escort vessels and PBYS (VP 84) (see 29 April).

- **29 April, Thu.**

Pacific

Submarine *Gato* (SS-212) lands coast watchers at Teop Island, Solomons Islands, and evacuates missionaries.

Atlantic

German submarine *U-404* attacks carrier, misidentified as *Ranger* (CV-4), in screen of convoy ONS 4. Although *U-404's* Korvettenkapitan Otto von Bulow claims to have heard four detonations, leading the German Navy to credit him with *Ranger's* destruction, *U-404's* intended victim, however, is British escort carrier HMS *Biter*, which emerges unscathed from the encounter. The "sunken" *Ranger* will prove, much to the Germans' distress, a very potent adversary (see 5 October).

PBY (VP 84) damages German submarine *U-528* as it threatens convoy ONS 5.

U.S. freighter *McKeesport*, in convoy ONS 5, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-258* at 60°52'N, 34°20'W, and abandoned. British trawler HMS *Northern Gem* rescues all hands: 43 merchant seamen (one of whom dies subsequently) and the 25-man Armed Guard. British frigate HMS *Tay* scuttles *McKeesport* with gunfire.

- **30 April, Fri.**

Pacific

Submarine *Gudgeon* (SS-212) lands men and equipment on Panay, P.I.

Submarine *Scorpion* (SS-278) sinks Japanese guardboat *No.5 Ebisu Maru* east of Japan, 37°24'N, 154°40'E.

Submarine *Snook* (SS-279) lays mines off Saddle Island, China.

U.S. freighter *Phoebe A. Hearst* is torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine *I-19* about 240 miles southeast of Suva, Fiji Islands, 19°48'S, 176°44'E (see 1, 5 and 14 May).

Atlantic

Atlantic Fleet turns over responsibility for convoys between Halifax and United Kingdom to British and Canadian naval forces.

May

- **1 May, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine *Pogy* (SS-266), in attack on Japanese convoy, sinks gunboat *Keishin Maru* off Iwaki, Japan, 37°04'N, 141°06'E.

PBY rescues eight survivors from U.S. freighter *Phoebe A. Hearst*, torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine *I-19* about 240 miles southeast of Suva the day before (see 5 and 14 May).

- **2 May, Sun.**

Pacific

Submarine *Gar* (SS-206) sinks Japanese guardboat *No.12 Jimbo Maru* in Makassar Strait, 00°41'S, 117°50'E.

Submarine *Stingray* (SS-186) attacks Japanese convoy off Wenchow, China, sinking army transport *Tamon Maru* about 12 miles off Nanki Shan, 27°18'N, 121°38'E.

U.S. freighter *William Williams* is torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I-19* near Suva, Fiji Islands, 20°09'S, 178°04'W. There are no casualties among the 40-man merchant crew and the 15-man Armed Guard; the latter remains on board with a fire-fighting crew to battle the blaze in two compartments (see 4 and 7 May).

Atlantic

U.S. tanker *Livingston Rowe*, loaded with aviation gasoline, catches fire at Recife, Brazil, near warehouses containing ammunition and dynamite; prompt firefighting efforts by crews of U.S. and British naval vessels in the harbor, from U.S. Navy and U.S. Army shore establishments, and from Brazilian army, naval, and civilian organizations prevent a major catastrophe.

Coast Guard cutter *CG-58012* is destroyed by explosion off Manomet Point, Massachusetts.

- **3 May, Mon.**

Pacific

Oiler *Neches* (AO-47) is damaged when she accidentally runs aground at entrance to Cold Bay, Aleutians.

Atlantic

Tank landing craft *LCT-23* is destroyed by explosion of undetermined origin off Algiers, Morocco.

- **4 May, Tue.**

Pacific

Submarine *Gudgeon* (SS-212) sinks Japanese merchant trawler *Naku Maru* west of Panay, P.I., 10°11'N, 121°43'E.

Submarine *Seal* (SS-183) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking fleet tanker *San Clemente Maru* about 50 miles southeast of Palau, 06°30'N, 130°30'E.

Net tender *Catalpa* (YN-5) begins towing damaged U.S. freighter *William Williams*, torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I-19* near Suva on 2 May (see 7 May).

Atlantic

German submarine attacks on ships of convoy ONS 5 continue: U.S. freighter *West Maximus* is torpedoed and sunk by *U-264* at 55°00'N, 43°00'W; during the abandonment, one sailor of the 21-man Armed Guard drowns, while five of the 39-man merchant complement are lost with the ship. British trawler HMS *Northern Spray* rescues the survivors (who also include two Army passengers).

Portuguese fishing trawler *Albufeira* rescues 11 survivors from U.S. freighter *James W. Denver*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-195* in the North Atlantic on 11 April (see 16 May).

- **5 May, Wed.**

Pacific

Submarine *Permit* (SS-178) damages Japanese transport *Tokai Maru*, Apra Harbor, Guam, 13°27'N, 144°35'E.

Submarine *Sawfish* (SS-276), despite proximity of escort vessel, sinks Japanese gunboat *Hakkai Maru* off Ise-Wan, Honshu, Japan, 34°11'N, 137°41'E.

Submarine *Snook* (SS-279) attacks Japanese merchant shipping in the Yellow Sea, sinking cargo ships *Kinko Maru*, 38°39'N, 122°35'E, and *Taifuku Maru*, 38°38'N, 122°39'E.

Twenty-three survivors from U.S. freighter *Phoebe A. Hearst*, torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine *I-19* about 240 miles southeast of Suva on 30 April, reach Tofua Island; motor minesweeper *YMS-89* picks them up and transfers them to Tongatabu (see 14 May).

Atlantic

German submarine attacks upon ships of convoy ONS 5 continue: U.S. freighter *West Madaket* is torpedoed by *U-707* at 54°47'N, 44°12'W, and abandoned. British frigate HMS *Pink* rescues the 39-man merchant complement and the 22-man Armed Guard and then scuttles the crippled vessel with depth charges.

- **6 May, Thu.**

Pacific

Submarine *Gar* (SS-206) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kotoku Maru*, Tarakan, Borneo, harbor, 03°14'N, 117°58'E.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Samuel Jordan Kirkwood*, bound for Bahia, Brazil, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-195* in the South Atlantic at 15°00'S, 07°00'W, and abandoned (see 7 May 1943).

Fourteen survivors from U.S. freighter *James W. Denver*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-195* in the North Atlantic on 11 April 1943, reach Port Etienne (see 16 May 1943).

Covered lighter *YF-575* founders after grounding off Atlantic City, New Jersey.

- **7 May, Fri.**

Pacific

TG 36.5, composed of light minelayers *Gamble* (DM-15), *Preble* (DM-20), and *Breese* (DM-18), covered by destroyer *Radford* (DD-446), lays minefield across Blackett Strait, western approaches to Kula Gulf, Solomons. Four Japanese destroyers encounter the field later that night (see 8 May 1943).

Submarine *Snook* (SS-279) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ships *Tosei Maru* and *No. 3 Shinsei Maru* in the Yellow Sea, 36°05'N, 123°21'E.

Submarine *Wahoo* (SS-238) sinks Japanese merchant passenger/cargo ship *No.5 Tamon Maru* off Benten Zaki, Honshu, 40°05'N, 141°53'E.

Net tender *Catalpa* (YN-5), escorted by minesweeper *Dash* (AM-88), brings damaged U.S. freighter *William Williams*, torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I-19* on 2 May 1943, into Suva, Fiji Islands.

Vichy French steamship *Gouverneur General Pasquir* is sunk by mine off coast of French Indochina, 20°14'N, 107°00'E.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Samuel Jordan Kirkwood*, torpedoed by German submarine *U-195* in the South Atlantic the previous day, sinks (see 16 May 1943).

- **8 May, Sat.**

Pacific

Japanese destroyer *Kuroshio* is sunk by mine laid the day before, Blackett Strait, Solomons; destroyer *Oyashio*, damaged by mine off Rendova, is sunk by Navy aircraft; destroyer *Kagero*, damaged by mine off Rendova is sunk by USMC aircraft; destroyer *Michisio* is damaged by aircraft, Blackett Strait.

Submarine *Plunger* (SS-179) sights Japanese Saipan-bound convoy about 60 miles northwest of Truk (see 9-11 May 1943).

USAAF B-25s (5th Air Force) sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *Tomioka Maru* and army cargo ship *Sumida Maru*, Madang harbor, New Guinea, 05°12'S, 145°50'E.

Mediterranean

U.S. freighter *Pat Harrison* is mined in Gibraltar Bay; she is later written off as a total loss. One merchant seaman dies in the incident, but there are no casualties among the 26-man Armed Guard or the two Army security officers.

Allied forces occupy Sfax, Tunisia, capturing Italian water tanker *Pro Patria*.

- **9 May, Sun.**

Pacific

Submarine *Gar* (SS-206) sinks Japanese gunboat *Aso Maru* southeast of Cagayan Island, 09°09'N, 122°50'E.

Submarine *Pogy* (SS-266) damages Japanese transport *Uyo Maru* off Iwaki, Japan, 37°05'N, 141°06'E.

Submarine *Wahoo* (SS-238) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ships *Takao Maru* and *Jimmu Maru* off Kone Zaki, northeastern Honshu, 38°57'N, 141°49'E.

Atlantic

Light cruiser *Marblehead* (CL-12), on patrol in the South Atlantic, rescues the crew of a crashed USAAF B-26, 06°42'S, 21°35'W.

Mediterranean

Organized German and Italian resistance in North Africa ceases. Although resistance on land has ended, opposition from air attacks continues. Axis planes bomb Allied shipping in harbor at Bone, Algeria. A fragment from a near-miss ignites a portion of the cargo (7,000 tons of drummed gasoline) on board U.S. freighter *Daniel Huger*; although the efforts to fight the blaze (initially conducted by two Merchant Marine cadet-midshipmen and a volunteer) are ultimately successful (aided by efforts of a well-equipped British firefighting party), one merchant sailor and one of the 27-man Armed Guard perish in the attack.

- **10 May, Mon.**

Pacific

Destroyer *MacDonough* (DD-351) and light minelayer *Sicard* (DM-21) are damaged in collision about 100 miles north-northwest of Holtz Bay, Attu Island, Aleutians, 54°34'N, 173°58'E.

Submarine *Plunger* (SS-179) attacks Japanese convoy tracked since the day before, sinking merchant passenger/cargo ship *Tatsutake Maru* and damaging transport *Kinai Maru* about 200 miles east of Saipan, 14°29'N, 149°00'E; the latter is abandoned. Torpedo boat *Hiyodori* is damaged in collision with *Tatsutake Maru* and *Kinai Maru*, probably during the rescue of survivors.

- **11 May, Tue.**

Pacific

Army troops (Seventh Division) land on Attu Island, Aleutians in Operation LANDCRAB; TF 16 (Rear Admiral Thomas C. Kinkaid) and TF 51 (Rear Admiral Francis W. Rockwell) cover the landing. Submarine *Nautilus* (SS-168) and *Narwhal* (SS-167) land scouts on Attu Island.

Submarine *Grayback* (SS-208) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking collier *Yodogawa Maru* about 125 miles northwest of Kavieng, 00°47'S, 149°02'E.

Submarine *Plunger* (SS-179) finishes off abandoned Japanese transport *Kinai Maru*, damaged the day before east of Saipan, 14°29'N, 149°00'E.

- **12 May, Wed.**

Pacific

Battleship *Pennsylvania* (BB 38) neutralizes Japanese positions on the west arm of Holtz Bay, Attu Island, while battleship *Nevada* (BB 36) renders Japanese positions at head of Massacre Bay, Attu, ineffective. Japanese submarine *I-31* attacks *Pennsylvania* nine miles northeast of Holtz Bay but the torpedoes miss their mark; *I-35* likewise conducts an unsuccessful attack against light cruiser *Santa Fe* (CL-60). Destroyer *Edwards* (DD-619), assisted by destroyer *Farragut* (DD-348), subsequently sinks *I-31* about five miles northeast of Chichagof Harbor, Attu, 53°00'N, 173°21'E.

Submarine *Gudgeon* (SS-212), despite her quarry's being skillfully camouflaged and moored close inshore, sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Sumatra Maru* off Bulusan, Luzon, 12°43'N, 124°08'E.

Submarine *Steelhead* (SS-280) lays mines off Erimo Zaki, Japan.

Mediterranean

Advanced Amphibious Training Base, Bizerte, Tunisia, is established.

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *Cape Neddick*, bound for Suez, via Durban, South Africa, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-195* in the South Atlantic at 23°21'S, 01°22'W; she eventually reaches Walvis Bay, South Africa, under her own power. There are no casualties among the 51-man merchant complement or the 25-man Armed Guard.

- **13 May, Thu.**

Pacific

TF 18 (Rear Admiral Walden L. Ainsworth) bombards Munda and Vila airfields, Solomons, while minelayers (TG 36.5) sow mines across northwestern approaches to Kula Gulf. Light cruiser *Nashville* (CL-43) is damaged by turret explosion, Solomons, 08°28'S, 158°49'E, and destroyers *Chevalier* (DD-805) and *Nicholas* (DD-449) are damaged by gun mount explosions, 08°30'S, 158°01'E.

Battleship *Idaho* (BB 42) and destroyer *Phelps* (DD-360) silence enemy batteries on Attu, permitting U.S. Army artillery units to move up at Holtz Bay.

Atlantic

German submarine *U-176* attacks convoy DM 69 in the Greater Antilles, sinking U.S. tanker *Nickeliner* and Cuban-registry tanker *Mambi*, 21°25'N, 76°40'W, and eludes destroyer escort *Brennan* (DE-13), eight submarine chasers, and a blimp. There are no casualties on board *Nickeliner* (23 merchant sailors, seven Armed Guards and one passenger), whose survivors are rescued by a Cuban submarine chaser.

Mediterranean

USAAF aircraft sink Italian submarine *Mocenigo* at Cagliari, Sardinia.

Enemy resistance in North Africa ends with surrender of German and Italian forces in Tunisia.

- **14 May, Fri.**

Pacific

Motor torpedo boats *PT-150* and *PT-152* sink Japanese submarine *RO 102* in Vitiaz Strait, New Guinea, 06°55'S, 147°34'E.

USMC TBFs (VMSB 143) damage Japanese army cargo ship *Houn Maru* and force her aground off Tonolei, Bougainville, 06°48'N, 155°49'E, a total loss.

Minesweeper *Dash* (AM-88) rescues 25 survivors from U.S. freighter *Phoebe A. Hearst*, torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine *I-19* about 240 miles southeast of Suva on 30 April 1943. With this recovery, all hands from the lost freighter (including the 16-man Armed Guard) are accounted for.

Atlantic

PBY (VP 84) sinks German submarine *U-657* threatening convoy ONS 7, North Atlantic area, 60°10'N, 31°52'W.

European

USAAF B-17s and B-24s bomb harbor installations at Kiel, Germany, sinking submarine *U-235*, *U-236*, and *U-237*.

- **15 May, Sat.** TRIDENT Conference begins, with President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill, and the Combined Chiefs of Staff meeting in Washington, D.C.

Pacific

Naval Advanced Base and Naval Air Facility, Russell Islands, Solomons, are established.

Naval Air Station, Adak, Aleutians, is established.

Submarine *Gar* (SS-206) attacks Japanese convoy screened by escort vessel *Matsuwa*, at eastern entrance of Verde Island passage, and sinks Japanese army cargo ships *Meikai Maru* and *Indus Maru* between Dumali Point, Mindoro, and Marinduque Island, P.I., 13°07'N, 121°49'E.

USAAF B-24s, flying from Midway, bomb Wake Island.

Atlantic

OS2U/OS2N (VS 62) and Cuban *Submarine Chaser 13* sink German submarine *U-176* off Cuba, 23°21'N, 80°18'W.

- **16 May, Sun.**

Atlantic

Destroyer *MacKenzie* (DD-614) sinks German submarine *U-182* west of Madeira Islands, 33°55'N, 20°35'W.

Spanish sailing ship *Juan* rescues 18 survivors from U.S. freighter *James W. Denver*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-195* in the North Atlantic on 11 April 1943; two of the ship's 42-man merchant complement perish of exposure.

USAAF crash boat spots boatloads of survivors (41-man merchant complement, 25-man Armed Guard and four passengers) of U.S. freighter *Samuel Jordan Kirkwood* (which had sunk on 16 May 1943 as the result of damage inflicted by German submarine *U-195* the previous day) and tows them to Ascension Island.

Pacific

Submarine *Grayback* (SS-208) damages Japanese destroyer *Yugure* northwest of Kavieng, 01°00'S, 148°44'W.

U.S. freighter *William K. Vanderbilt* is torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I-19* southwest of Suva, Fiji Islands, 18°41'S, 175°07'E, and abandoned by the 41-man merchant complement. The 16-man Armed Guard remains on board to the last, but abandons after a second torpedo splits the ship in twain. *I-19* then fires upon one lifeboat and two rafts, and questions the ship's master before departing; throughout the ordeal only the ship's chief engineer is killed (see 17 May 1943).

- **17 May, Mon.**

Pacific

Submarine *Grayback* (SS-208) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking army cargo ship *England Maru* about 60 miles northwest of Mussau Island, 01°00'S, 148°40'E.

Minesweeper *Dash* (AM-88) rescues 56 survivors from U.S. freighter *William K. Vanderbilt*, torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine *I-19* the previous day southwest of Suva.

Japanese cargo ship *Woosung Maru* strikes reef and sinks off Chiba Prefecture, southern Honshu, 35°00'N, 140°00'E.

Atlantic

PBM (VP 74) damages German submarine *U-128* in South Atlantic, at 11°02'S, 35°35'W; destroyers *Moffett* (DD-362) and *Jouett* (DD-396) then sink *U-128* at 11°08'S, 35°38'W.

- **18 May, Tue.**

Pacific

Submarine *Pollack* (SS-180) sinks Japanese gunboat *Terushima Maru* southwest of Maleolap Atoll, Marshalls, 08°00'N, 171°00'E.

U.S. tanker *H.M. Storey* is torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I-25* while en route from Nouméa, New Caledonia, to San Pedro, California, 17°30'S, 173°02'E, and abandoned by the 48-man civilian complement (two merchant seamen are lost when the ship is hit), 2 passengers and 15-man Armed Guard. *I-25* then hastens the sinking by shelling the burning ship. Destroyer *Fletcher* (DD-445) subsequently rescues *H.M. Storey's* survivors and takes them to Vila, Efate.

- **19 May, Wed.**

Pacific

Submarine *Gar* (SS-206) sinks Japanese guardboat *Asuka Maru* in Makassar Strait, 01°02'N, 119°08'E.

Mediterranean

Axis planes bomb Allied shipping in Oran harbor, Algeria, damaging U.S. freighters *Samuel Griffin* and *Luther Martin*; the former suffers 15 men injured among her complement of 44 merchant seamen and 26 Armed Guards; the latter suffers no injuries. Both ships are repaired and returned to service.

- **20 May, Thu.** Tenth Fleet with headquarters in Washington, D.C., is established under Commander in Chief U.S. Fleet (Admiral Ernest J. King) to control U.S. antisubmarine operations in the Atlantic.

Pacific

Submarine *Pollack* (SS-180) sinks Japanese armed merchant cruiser *Bangkok Maru* southeast of Jaluit, Marshalls, 06°47'N, 169°42'E. *Pollack* is damaged by depth charges during counterattacks by what she describes as a "Chidori-class torpedo boat," but remains on patrol.

- **21 May, Fri.**

Atlantic

TBFs (VC 9) from escort carrier *Bogue* (CVE-9) damage German submarine *U-231*; destroyer *Osmond Ingram* (DD-255) and Canadian destroyer HMCS *St. Laurent* drive off U-boats menacing ON 184.

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Nields* (DD-616) sinks Italian submarine *Gorgo* as she attacks a U.S. convoy off Algeria, 36°01'N, 00°34'W.

Indian Ocean

Last eight survivors from U.S. freighter *John Drayton*, sunk by Italian submarine *Leonardo da Vinci* in the Indian Ocean on 21 April 1943, are rescued. Originally, 24 men had been in the boat found this date, only the eight remain. A total of 21 merchant seamen and six Armed Guard sailors perish in the loss of *John Drayton*.

- **22 May, Sat.**

Pacific

Japanese aircraft attack gunboat *Charleston* (PG-51) and destroyer *Phelps* (DD-360) off Attu Island, Aleutians; both ships emerge unscathed and splash one attacker.

Atlantic

As the battle to protect ON 184 in the North Atlantic area continues, TBFs (VC 9) from escort carrier *Bogue* (CVE-9) sink German submarine *U-569*, 50°40'N, 35°21'W, and damage *U-305*.

Mediterranean

Advanced Amphibious Training Base, Tunis, Tunisia, is established.

- **23 May, Sun.**

Pacific

Motor torpedo boat tender *Niagara* (AGP-1), damaged by horizontal bomber while en route from Tulagi to New Guinea, is scuttled by motor torpedo boat *PT-147*, 11°00'S, 163°00'E.

Motor torpedo boats *PT-165* and *PT-173* are lost on board U.S. tanker *Stanvac Manila* when Japanese submarine *I-17* torpedoes the tanker (which is transporting the boats) 100 miles south of Nouméa, New Caledonia, 23°45'S, 166°30'E.

Atlantic

British *Swordfish* from escort carrier HMS *Archer* sink German submarine *U-752* in the North Atlantic with rocket projectiles; she is the first U-boat sunk by those weapons during World War II.

- **25 May, Tue.** TRIDENT Conference ends. President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill reaffirm earlier decisions to accord first priority to defeating Germany, agree to step up the strategic bombing of Germany and occupied Europe, and to plan the invasion of France to take place on 1 May 1944.

Atlantic

PBY (VP 84) sinks German submarine *U-467*, 62°25'N, 14°52'W.

Mediterranean

USAAF aircraft bomb harbor installations at Messina, sinking Italian torpedo boat *Grosso*.

- **26 May, Wed.**

Pacific

Japanese begin evacuation of troops from Kiska to Paramushiro via submarines. Between 26 May and 21 June 1943, 13 boats will be involved in the operation that will eventually extricate 820 men. Three boats will be sunk (see 10, 13, and 22 June 1943) and three (*I-2*, *I-155*, and *I-157*) damaged.

Gunboat *Charleston* (PG-51) bombards Japanese positions in the Chichagof area, Attu Island, Aleutians, starting numerous fires.

Submarine *Pogy* (SS-266), in attack on Japanese convoy, sinks merchant cargo ship *Tainan Maru* off Shioyazaki, Honshu, 37°03'N, 141°09'E.

Submarine *Saury* (SS-189) attacks Japanese convoy south of Kyushu, sinking transport *Kagi Maru* some 10 miles north of Amami Oshima Nansei Shoto, 28°49'N, 129°40'E.

Submarine *Trout* (SS-202) lands men, currency, and equipment on Basilan Island, P.I.

Submarine *Whale* (SS-239) sinks Japanese gunboat *Shoei Maru* (transporting men of the Guam Base Detachment) about 17 miles north-northwest of Rota Island, Marianas, 14°17'N, 144°54'E.

Japanese merchant tanker *Palembang Maru* is damaged by mine (possibly laid by *Trout* (SS-202) on 7 April 1943) 02°00'N, 109°15'E.

- **27 May, Thu.**

Pacific

Submarine *Finback* (SS-230) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Kochi Maru* about 75 miles northwest of Palau, 08°23'N, 134°06'E.

Submarine *Runner* (SS-476) departs Midway for her third war patrol. She is never heard from again.

Atlantic

Naval Station, Coco Solo, Canal Zone, is established.

German submarine *U-154* attacks Brazil-to-Trinidad convoy BT 14 at 03°56'S, 36°43'W, torpedoing three U.S. merchantmen: motor tanker *Florida*, freighter *Cardinal Gibbons*, and freighter *John Worthington*. Submarine chaser *PC-592* rescues *Florida's* crew (there are no casualties among the 52-man merchant complement or the 27-man Armed Guard); gunboat *Saucy* (PG-65) takes the seriously damaged tanker in tow and takes her to Fortaleza, Brazil. Salvage vessel *Crusader* (ARS-2) subsequently tows *Florida* to Puerto Rico for repairs.

- **28 May, Fri.**

Pacific

Submarine *S-41* (SS-146) sinks Japanese merchant barkentine/cargo ship *Asuka Maru* off Paramushiro, Kuriles, 50°38'N, 155°15'E.

Submarine *Saury* (SS-189) torpedoes and sinks Japanese fleet tanker *Akatsuki Maru* about 90 miles northwest of Okinawa, 27°32'N, 126°08'E. Although early in the battle *Akatsuki Maru* responds to the submarine's attack with depth charges and gunfire, and later claims to have sunk her assailant, her efforts at self-defense prove unavailing and *Saury* emerges the victor in the encounter.

Submarine *Trigger* (SS-237) damages Japanese merchant tanker *Koshin Maru* off Irosaki, Japan, 34°33'N, 138°50'E.

Atlantic

German submarine *U-177* attacks convoy CD 20 and torpedoes and sinks U.S. freighter *Agwimonte*, 34°57'S, 19°33'E; there are no casualties among the 46-

man merchant complement or 23-man Armed Guard, and South African Navy whaler *Vereeniging* rescues most of *Agwimonte's* crew. An army crash boat rescues the remainder of the men the next day.

- **29 May, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine chaser *SC-669* sinks Japanese submarine *I-178* 30 miles west of Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides, 15°35'S, 166°17'E.

Submarine *Gar* (SS-206) sinks Japanese gunboat *Aso Maru* southeast of Cayagan, Sulu Sea, 09°09'N, 121°50'E.

Submarine *Scamp* (SS-277) sinks Japanese seaplane carrier *Kamikawa Maru* north of Kavieng, New Ireland, 01°36'S, 150°24'E, and survives attacks by one of the submarine chasers escorting her, *Ch 12* or *Ch 37*.

Submarine *Tambor* (SS-198) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Eisho Maru* (ex-Panamanian *Folozu*) in South China Sea about 60 miles southeast of Hainan Island, 17°30'N, 110°55'E.

Submarine *Tinosa* (SS-283) unsuccessfully attacks Japanese cargo vessel *Shinto Maru*, 32°00'N, 131°51'E.

- **30 May, Sun.**

Pacific

Organized Japanese resistance ends on Attu, Aleutians.

Submarine *Saury* (SS-189) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking merchant cargo ship *Hakozaki Maru* and army cargo ship *Takamisan Maru* about 150 miles east-southeast of Shanghai, China, 30°07'N, 124°32'E.

Submarine *Steelhead* (SS-280) lays mines off Erimo Zaki, Japan.

Atlantic

German submarine *U-126* torpedoes U.S. freighter *Flora McDonald* off the west coast of Africa, 07°20'N, 13°15'W; escorting trawler *HMS Fandango* rescues *Flora McDonald's* survivors and proceeds to Freetown, Sierra Leone. British tug *HMS Zwarte Zee*, escorted by British sloop *HMS Milford* and corvettes *HMS Woodruff* and *HMS Tamarisk*, proceed to the blazing freighter's assistance.

Mediterranean

Tank landing craft *LCT-28* is sunk by mine, Mediterranean Sea.

- **31 May, Mon.**

Atlantic

Light cruisers *Milwaukee* (CL-5) and *Omaha* (CL-4) are damaged in collision off the coast of Brazil.

June

- **1 June, Tue.**

Pacific

Submarine *Trigger* (SS-237) sinks Japanese merchant collier *Noborikawa Maru* off Kominato, southern Honshu, 35°02'N, 140°14'E.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Flora McDonald*, torpedoed by German submarine *U-126* off the

west coast of Africa on 309 May 1943, is beached at Freetown, Sierra Leone, to facilitate salvage. She burns for 16 days, however (part of her cargo includes rubber) and she is subsequently written off as a total loss.

- **2 June, Wed.**

Pacific

Submarine *Tambor* (SS-198) sinks Japanese transport/cargo ship *Eika Maru* (ex-Portuguese *Wing Wah*) in South China Sea, 20°29'N, 107°57'E.

Atlantic

Submarine chaser *PC-565* sinks German submarine *U-521* off Virginia, 37°43'N, 73°16'W.

- **3 June, Thu.**

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *Montanan* is torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine *I-27* off the Arabian coast, 17°58'N, 58°09'E. Six of the 42-man merchant complement and two of the 23-man Armed Guard are lost. Dhow *Naranpasha* comes across one boatload of survivors and transfers them to Indian Navy trawler RINS *Baroda*, which eventually transports them to Port Okah, India; the remaining three boatloads of survivors reach shore on Masirah Island, off Oman.

- **4 June, Fri.**

Pacific

Submarine *Silversides* (SS-236) lays mines in Steffan Strait between New Hanover and New Ireland.

Submarine chaser *PC-496* is sunk by mine, 37°23'N, 09°52'W.

Atlantic

Aircraft (VC 9) from escort carrier *Bogue* (CVE-9) damage German submarines *U-228*, *U-603*, and *U-641*, mid-Atlantic.

- **5 June, Sat.**

Pacific

USN carrier planes sink Japanese army cargo ship *Shintoku Maru* southwest of Buin, 07°00'S, 155°33'E.

Atlantic

Aircraft (VC 9) from escort carrier *Bogue* (CVE-9) sink German submarine *U-217*, mid-Atlantic, 30°18'N, 42°50'W.

- **6 June, Sun.**

Pacific

Submarine *S-30* (SS-135) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *No. 3 Nagashige Maru* south of Kamchatka, 50°45'N, 156°56'E.

Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Shinei Maru*, 07°00'N, 123°37'E.

Japanese river gunboat *Seta* is damaged by Chinese planes, Yangtze River.

Indian Ocean

U.S. tanker *William King* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-198* off the South African coast, 30°34'S, 33°56'E; while six of the 42-man merchant complement perish in the sinking, there are no casualties among the 23-man

Armed Guard. *U-198* surfaces and brings the lifeboats alongside, however, and takes ship's master Owen H. Reed prisoner before departing (see 8 and 12 June 1943).

- **7 June, Mon.**

Pacific

Submarine chaser *PC-496* is sunk by mine, 37°23'N, 09°52'E.

- **8 June, Tue.**

Pacific

Naval Air Facility, Attu, Aleutians, is established.

Submarine *Finback* (SS-230) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking auxiliary minelayer *Kahoku Maru* about 100 miles north of Palau, 08°14'N, 134°18'E.

Japanese battleship *Mutsu* is sunk by accidental explosion, Hiroshima Bay, Japan, 34°05'N, 132°20'E.

Indian Ocean

British trawler HMS *Northern Chief* rescues survivors from U.S. tanker *William King*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-198* off the South African coast on 6 June 1943 (see 12 June 1943).

Atlantic

Aircraft (VC 9) from escort carrier *Bogue* (CVE-9) damage German submarine *U-758*, mid-Atlantic area.

- **9 June, Wed.**

Submarine *Greenling* (SS-213) damages Japanese oiler *Akebono Maru* en route to Truk, 02°17'N, 145°38'E.

- **10 June, Thu.**

Pacific

Submarine chaser *PC-487* is damaged when she intentionally rams and sinks Japanese submarine *I-24* 40 miles north-northeast of Shemya Island, Aleutians, 53°16'N, 174°24'E.

Submarine *Flying Fish* (SS-229) unsuccessfully attacks Japanese cargo vessel *Fujikawa Maru*, 24°55'N, 145°36'E.

Submarine *S-30* (SS-135) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Jimbu Maru*, 50°23'N, 155°36'E.

Submarine *Tinosa* (SS-283) damages Japanese oiler *Iro* 30 miles off Fuka Island, Kyushu, 31°14'N, 132°44'E. Although damaged in return by depth charges during enemy counterattacks, the submarine remains on patrol.

Submarine *Trigger* (SS-237) damages Japanese carrier *Hiyo* 18 miles off Irozaki, 34°13'N, 139°50'E.

Japanese river gunboat *Atami* is damaged by Chinese aircraft near Tung Ting Lake, China.

Atlantic

U.S. tanker *Esso Gettysburg*, en route from Port Arthur, Texas, to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-66* at 31°02'N, 79°15'E; intense fires, fed by the ship's cargo of crude oil, prevent boats from

being launched; only seven of the 27-man Armed Guard and eight of the 45-man merchant complement survive the inferno that consumes the ship. For his heroism in ordering the forward gun manned and opening fire on the attacking U-boat, Ensign John S. Arnold, II, USNR, commanding the Armed Guard, will receive the Navy Cross. Steamship *George Washington* rescues the few survivors.

- **11 June, Fri.**

Pacific

Submarine *Finback* (SS-230) attacks Palau-bound convoy just west of Babelthuap, sinking Japanese army cargo ship *Genoa Maru*, 07°36'N, 134°17'E. *Patrol Boat No.46's* counterattack fails to inflict damage, and *Finback* escapes undamaged.

Submarine *Runner* (SS-275) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Seinan Maru* off Monomi Zaki, off northwest coast of Honshu, 41°00'N, 141°30'E.

Submarine *S-30* (SS-135) sinks Japanese merchant cargo vessel *Jimbu Maru*, anchored in Kakumabetsu Wan, Paramushiro, Kuriles, 50°23'N, 155°36'E.

Submarine *Silversides* (SS-236) attacks Japanese convoy about 270 miles south of Truk, sinking transport *Hinode Maru* north of New Ireland, 02°43'N, 152°00'E.

- **12 June, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine *Trout* (SS-202) lands men and supplies on Mindanao.

Atlantic

Aircraft (VC 9) from escort carrier *Bogue* (CVE-9) sink German submarine *U-118*, mid-Atlantic area, 30°49'N, 33°49'W.

Submarine *R-12* (SS-89) sinks, cause unknown, off Key West, Florida, 24°24.30'N, 81°38.30'W.

Indian Ocean

British destroyer HMS *Relentless* rescues last survivors from U.S. tanker *William King*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-198* off the South African coast on 6 June 1943.

- **13 June, Sun.**

Pacific

Destroyer *Frazier* (DD-607) sinks Japanese submarine *I-9* one and a half miles east of Sirius Point, Kiska, Aleutians, 52°08'N, 177°38'E.

Submarine *Guardfish* (SS-217) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Suzuya Maru* off the southwest coast of New Ireland, 03°08'S, 151°24'E.

Submarine *Sargo* (SS-188) attacks Japanese convoy 250 miles south of Yap, Carolines, and sinks army transport *Konan Maru*, 06°08'N, 138°28'E. The submarine is damaged by depth charges, 06°40'N, 136°59'E, but remains on patrol.

- Atlantic
Coast Guard Cutter *Escanaba* (WPG-77) is sunk by explosion off Ivigtut, Greenland, 60°50'N, 52°00'W.
- **14 June, Mon.**
Pacific
Submarine *Sargo* (SS-188) is damaged by depth charges off Palau Islands, 06°40'N, 136°59'E, but remains on patrol.

Atlantic
U.S. freighter *William H. Webb* is mined while en route from Baltimore, Maryland, to Casablanca, French Morocco, and returns whence she had come for repairs. There are no casualties among the 42-man merchant complement, the sole passenger, and the 30-man Armed Guard.

 - **15 June, Tue.**
Pacific
Submarine *Gunnel* (SS-253) sinks Japanese merchant passenger-cargo ship *Koyo Maru* in Tsushima Straits, 33°55'N, 127°38'E.

Submarine *Sailfish* (SS-192) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Shinju Maru* south of Todozaki, Honshu, 39°00'N, 142°00'E.

Submarine *Trout* (SS-202) damages Japanese oiler *Sanraku Maru* in the Celebes Sea, off Sibitu, 05°09'N, 119°38'E; *Sanraku Maru* is eventually scuttled, 04°45'N, 119°48'E.
 - **16 June, Wed.**
Pacific
In the largest raid since 7 April 1943, Japanese aircraft attack ships off Guadalcanal; while a large number of enemy planes are shot down, tank landing ships *LST-340*, damaged by dive bombers, is beached off Lunga Point, 09°26'S, 160°05'E; cargo ship *Celena* (AK-76) is also damaged, 09°24'S, 160°02'E.
 - **17 June, Thu.**
Pacific
Submarine chaser *SC-740* sinks after running aground, 15°32'S, 147°06'E.

Submarine *Drum* (SS-228) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking transport *Myoko Maru* about 175 miles east-northeast of Kavieng, New Ireland, 02°03'S, 153°44'E.

Mediterranean
Tank landing ships *LST-6* and *LST-326* are damaged in collision, North African area, 37°18'N, 09°51'E.
 - **18 June, Fri.** Submarine *S-33* (SS-138) damages two Japanese fishing craft off Paramushiro, Kuriles, 50°25'N, 155°02'E.
 - **19 June, Sat.**
Pacific
Submarine *Guardfish* (SS-217) is damaged by depth charges north of Bismarck Archipelago, 02°00'N, 148°14'E, but remains on patrol.

Submarine *Growler* (SS-215), in attack on Japanese convoy on the Palau-to-Rabaul route, sinks army cargo ship *Miyadono Maru* about 200 miles north-northwest of Mussau Island, 01°38'N, 148°14'E.

Submarine *Gunnel* (SS-253) damages Japanese gunboat *Hong Kong Maru* (ex-Philippine *Argus*) and sinks merchant cargo ship *Tokiwa Maru*, off Shirase, Japan, 32°40'N, 126°37'E, and sinks coastal minesweeper *Tsubame* 32°31'N, 126°17'E.

Submarine *Sculpin* (SS-191) sinks Japanese guardboat *No.1 Miyasho Maru* and army cargo ship *Sagami Maru* off Inubozaki, Japan, 37°11'N, 142°30'E.

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *Henry Knox*, en route from Fremantle, Australia, to Bandar Shahpur, Iran, is torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine *I-37* at 00°05'S, 69°50'E. Although *I-37* surfaces and conducts an extensive questioning of the survivors in one boat, the Japanese take no action against the men, who begin sailing toward the Maldiv Islands, 200 miles distant, upon the enemy's departure (see 27, 28 and 30 June 1943).

- **20 June, Sun.**

Pacific

Submarine *Seawolf* (SS-197) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Shojin Maru*, 24°39'N, 118°58'E.

Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) sinks Japanese transport *Meiten Maru* west of the Marianas, 15°57'N, 140°55'E.

Atlantic

PBYs (VP 84) sink German submarine *U-388*, North Atlantic area, 57°36'N, 31°20'W, and damage *U-420*.

U.S. freighter *Santa Maria* is damaged by mine laid by German submarine *U-214* five miles off Dakar, French West Africa, 14°34'18"N, 17°28'23"W, and is towed back to Dakar by French tugs. While there are no casualties among the merchant complement, one sailor of the 30-man Armed Guard is blown overboard and lost.

Covered lighter *YF-401* founders in heavy weather, 35°7'N, 69°W.

Mediterranean

Tank landing craft *LCT-208* founders after grounding off coast of Algeria.

- **21 June, Mon.**

Pacific

Fourth Marine Raider Battalion lands at Segi Point, New Georgia, Solomons.

Submarine *Harder* (SS-257) damages Japanese oiler *No. 3 Kyoei Maru* east of Daiozaki, Japan, 34°30'N, 137°32'E.

Submarine *Hoe* (SS-258) attacks Japanese vessel *Koyo Maru*, 08°58'N, 131°13'E; although *Hoe* claims a sinking, *Koyo Maru* survives the encounter with no damage.

Japanese gunboat *Hong Kong Maru* sinks as the result of damage inflicted by submarine *Gunnel* (SS-253) off Shirase, Japan, lighthouse on 19 June 1943.

Atlantic

German auxiliary cruiser *Michel* sights U.S. convoy escorted by submarine chasers *SC-1042* and *SC-1045* but does not attack.

- **22 June, Tue.**

Pacific

Japanese submarine *I-7*, damaged by destroyer *Monaghan* (DD-354) 10 miles south of Cape Hita, runs aground, irreparably damaged, 12 miles south-southwest of Kiska, Aleutians, 51°49'N, 177°20'E.

Submarine *Grayling* (SS-209) damages Japanese merchant oiler *Eiyo Maru*, 04°03'N, 103°57'E.

Atlantic

Planes from escort carrier *Santee* (CVE-29) attack German submarine *U-572*, limiting the damage the latter can inflict on convoy UGS 10.

Submarine chaser *SC-751* sinks after grounding, 21°56'S, 113°53'E.

Mediterranean

Tank landing ships *LST-333* and *LST-387* (both carrying landing pontoons) are torpedoed by German submarine *U-593* about five miles east of Dellys, Algeria, 36°59'N, 04°02'E. *LST-333* is beached; *LST-387* is towed to Dellys by tank landing craft *LCT-294* and *LCT-431*. Damaging of these two ships hampers training for the forthcoming invasion of Sicily (Operation HUSKY).

- **23 June, Wed.**

Pacific

Japanese submarine *RO 103* torpedoes and sinks cargo ship *Aludra* (AK-72) and torpedoes cargo ship *Deimos* (AK-78) while both are in convoy en route to Guadalcanal, 11°26'S, 162°01'E. *Deimos*, irreparably damaged, is scuttled by destroyer *O'Bannon* (DD-450), 11°26'S, 162°01'E.

Submarine *Harder* (SS-257) damages Japanese seaplane carrier *Sagara Maru* off southern Honshu, 33°45'N, 138°10'E (see 4 July 1943).

U.S. aircraft sink Japanese guardboat *Nikka Maru* north of Bougainville, 05°34'N, 155°07'E.

- **24 June, Thu.**

Pacific

Submarine *Snook* (SS-279) damages Japanese oiler *Ose* west of Amami Oshima, 28°50'N, 126°56'E.

Mediterranean

Harbor tug *YT-211* is damaged by storm, North African area, 33°38'N, 07°32'W.

Mediterranean

PBY (VP 84) sinks German submarine *U-200*, North Atlantic area, 59°00'N, 26°18'W.

- **25 June, Fri.**

Pacific

Submarine *Sailfish* (SS-192) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking army collier *Iburi Maru* off northeast coast of Honshu, 39°00'N, 142°00'E.

Mediterranean

U.S. tanker *Eagle*, en route to Bahia, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-513* about eight miles southeast of Cape Frio, Brazil, at 31°02'N, 79°15'E; Armed Guard gunfire keeps the U-boat submerged while the ship returns to Rio de Janeiro for repairs. There are no casualties among the 41 merchant sailors or the 12-man Armed Guard.

- **26 June, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine *Jack* (SS-259) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking transports *Shozan Maru* and *Toyo Maru* off Hachijo Jima, southern Honshu, Japan, 33°22'N, 138°56'E. Although damaged by a Japanese aerial bomb during enemy countermeasures, *Jack* continues on patrol.

Submarine *Runner* (SS-476) perhaps sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Shinryu Maru* off Matsuwa Island, Kuriles, 48°06'N, 153°15'E (see 28 May 1943).

- **27 June, Sun.**

Mediterranean

Salvage vessel *Redwing* (ARS-4) is sunk by underwater explosion (possibly an enemy mine) off coast of North Africa, 37°19'N, 09°56'E.

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *Sebastian Cermeno*, en route from Mombasa, Kenya, to Bahia, Brazil, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-511* at 29°00'S, 50°10'E; after *U-511* surfaces to question the survivors, the enemy submarine submerges and retires from the area (see 8, 13, 14, 23 and 27 July 1943).

First group of survivors of U.S. freighter *Henry Knox*, torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine *I-37* on 19 June 1943, reaches the Maldives (see 28 and 30 June 1943).

- **28 June, Mon.**

Pacific

Submarine *Peto* (SS-265) sinks Japanese hydrographic-meteorological research ship *Tenkai*, 01°47'N, 151°46'E.

Submarine *Tunny* (SS-282) sinks Japanese gunboat *Shotoku Maru* off west coast of Rota, Marianas, 14°10'N, 145°03'E.

Indian Ocean

Second group of survivors of U.S. freighter *Henry Knox*, torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine *I-37* on 19 June 1943, reaches the Maldives (see 30 June 1943).

- **29 June, Tue.**

Pacific

Naval Auxiliary Air Facility, Shemya, Alaska, is established.

Submarine *Gurnard* (SS-254) unsuccessfully attacks Japanese convoy, 07°34'N, 134°26'E.

Japanese cargo vessel *No.8 Mikage Maru* is sunk in collision with *Nikko Maru* 30 miles west of Iwanni, northern coast of Hokkaido, 45°04'N, 142°03'E.

- **30 June, Wed.** Naval vessels and craft on hand (all types)-18,493. Personnel: Navy--1,741,750; Marine Corps--310,994; Coast Guard--154,976. Total Personnel--2,207,720.

Pacific

Beginning shortly before midnight on 29 June, four cruisers and four destroyers of TU 36.2.1 (Rear Admiral Aaron S. Merrill) bombard Vila-Stanmore on Kolombangara and Buin-Shortland, Bougainville, Solomons; TU 36.2.2--light minelayers *Preble* (DM-20), *Gamble* (DM-15), and *Breeze* (DM-18)--sow mines off Shortland Harbor, Bougainville, between Alu and Munda Islands. *Gamble* lays mines off New Georgia.

In Operation TOENAILS, Third Fleet Amphibious Force (Rear Admiral Richmond K. Turner) supported by land-based aircraft (Vice Admiral Aubrey W. Fitch) lands Marines and Army troops on Rendova and other islands in the New Georgia area, Solomons. Destroyer *Gwin* (DD-433) is damaged off Munda, New Georgia, by Japanese shore battery.

Attack transport *McCawley* (APA-4), damaged by Japanese aerial torpedoes is torpedoed by what is most likely U.S. motor torpedo boat off New Georgia, Solomons, 08°25'S, 157°28'W.

High speed minesweeper *Zane* (DMS-14) is damaged by grounding, Solomons, 08°30'S, 157°25'E.

Seaplane tender (destroyer) *Hulbert* (AVD-6) is damaged by grounding off Alexai Point, Massacre Bay, Aleutians.

Indian Ocean

Last survivors of U.S. freighter *Henry Knox*, torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine *I-37* on 19 June 1943, reaches the Maldives. From *Henry Knox's* complement, 13 of 42-man merchant sailors perish, as do 13 of the 25-man Armed Guard.

Atlantic

Coast Guard Cutter *No. 83421* is sunk in collision with submarine chaser *SC-1330*, en route to Miami, Florida. Submarine chaser *SC-1330* is damaged.

July

- **1 July, Thu.**

Pacific

Naval Operating Base, Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides, is established.

Motor torpedo boat *PT-162*, operating out of Rendova, is damaged by Japanese plane, south of Mbalumbala Island.

Submarine *Gar* (SS-206) lands commandoes on south coast of Timor, N.E.I.

Submarine *Gurnard* (SS-254) unsuccessfully attacks Japanese landing craft transport/aircraft transport *Akitsu Maru*, 07°39'N, 134°20'E.

Submarine *Thresher* (SS-200) attacks Japanese convoy off the northwest coast of Celebes, in the Straits of Makassar, damaging destroyer *Hokaze*, 00°43'N, 119°34'E, and sinking army cargo ship *Yoneyama Maru*, 00°20'N, 119°32'E, 38

miles from Balikpapan. *Hokaze* is grounded in Sibaya harbor, Celebes, to prevent sinking and to permit salvage.

- **2 July, Fri.**

Pacific

Japanese naval and army aircraft bomb Rendova, Solomons; Japanese light cruiser *Yubari* and nine destroyers bombard the beachhead. Motor torpedo boats *PT-156*, *PT-157*, and *PT-161* engage the enemy, but inflict no damage.

Motor torpedo boats *PT-153* and *PT-158*, damaged by grounding, Solomons, 08°20'S, 157°15'E, are beached and abandoned.

Submarine *Flying Fish* (SS-229) sinks Japanese merchant troopship *Canton Maru* off China coast, about 80 miles northeast of Amoy, 25°07'N, 119°18'E.

Submarine *S-35* (SS-140) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship (crab-catcher) *No.7 Banshu Maru* off the west coast of the Kamchatka peninsula, Aleutians, 52°30'N, 156°12'E.

Submarine *Trout* (SS-202) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Isuzu Maru* off north coast of Marinduque Island, P.I., 13°36'N, 121°49'E.

USAAF B-25 and USN F4Us sink Japanese auxiliary minelayer *Kashi Maru* off New Georgia.

Atlantic

U.S. tanker *Bloody Marsh*, en route from Houston, Texas, to New York City, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-66* at 32°45'N, 78°45'W; three merchant sailors are lost in the initial explosion (see 3 July 1943).

- **3 July, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine *Scorpion* (SS-278) attacks Japanese convoy in the Yellow Sea and sinks merchant cargo ships *Anzan Maru* and *Kokuryu Maru*, 38°20'N, 124°25'E.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Elihu B. Washburne* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-513* off the coast of Brazil at 24°05'S, 45°25'W; all hands survive the attack (see 4 July 1943).

Submarine chaser *SC-1048* rescues survivors (previously sighted by Navy blimp) from tanker *Bloody Marsh*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-66* the previous day.

- **4 July, Sun.**

Pacific

Submarine *Jack* (SS-259) attacks Japanese convoy off southeast coast of Honshu, sinking army cargo ship *Nikkyu Maru*, 34°33'N, 138°37'E.

Submarine *Pompano* (SS-181) sinks Japanese seaplane carrier *Sagara Maru*, previously damaged by *Harder* (SS-257), 34°38'N, 137°53'E.

Submarine *Snook* (SS-279) attacks Takao, Formosa-bound Japanese convoy in the East China Sea, damaging transport *Atlantic Maru* and sinking army cargo ships *Liverpool Maru* and *Koki Maru* about 250 miles north-northeast of Keelung, 28°40'N, 124°10'E.

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Wilkes* (DD-441) is damaged by grounding, North African area, 37°18'N, 09°51'E.

Atlantic

Survivors (42 merchant sailors, three passengers, and the 25-man Armed Guard) of U.S. freighter *Elihu B. Washburne*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-513* the previous day, reach safety on the island of Sao Sabastiao.

- **5 July, Mon.**

Pacific

TG 36.1 (Rear Admiral Walden L. Ainsworth) bombard Vila, Kolombangara, and Bairoko Harbor, New Georgia, Solomons. That night, shortly before midnight, Rear Admiral Ainsworth's ships engage a force of Japanese destroyers (Rear Admiral Akiyama Teruo) in the Battle of Kula Gulf. Destroyer *Strong* (DD-467) is sunk by Japanese destroyer torpedo (fired by either *Niizuki*, *Yunagi* or *Nagatsuki*) 08°05'S, 157°15'E.

Marines (1st Marine Raider Battalion) and Army troops land at Rice Anchorage, New Georgia, Solomons.

RAAF Beaufighters sink Japanese auxiliary sailing vessel *No.12 Koyo Maru*, chartered to carry fuel, 35 miles west of Dobo, en route to Ambon.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Maltran*, in convoy GTMO 134 and en route from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to Ponce, Puerto Rico, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-759* at 18°11'N, 74°57'W; submarine chaser *SC-1279* rescues all hands (35 merchant sailors and the 12-man Armed Guard).

Motor torpedo boat *PT-250* is damaged when accidentally grounded off Looe Key, Florida, 24°33'N, 81°25'E.

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *Alcoa Prospector*, in convoy PA 44 and en route from Abadan, Iran, to Montevideo, Uruguay, is torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I-27* at 24°26'N, 58°20'E; Royal Indian Navy minesweeper RINS *Bengal* takes on board the survivors (see 6 July 1943).

- **6 July, Tue.**

Pacific

Battle of Kula Gulf occurs in the pre-dawn darkness as three light cruisers and four destroyers of TG 36.1 (Rear Admiral Walden L. Ainsworth) engage a Japanese reinforcement force of seven destroyers (Rear Admiral Akiyama Teruo), four of which (*Amagiri*, *Hatsuyuki*, *Nagatsuki* and *Satsuki*) are carrying troops and supplies to Kolombangara, Solomons. Light cruiser *Helena* (CL-50) is sunk by Japanese destroyers *Suzukaze* and *Tanikaze*, 07°46'S, 157°11'E, but Japanese destroyer *Niizuki* is sunk by gunfire of a "Brooklyn-class light cruiser" (what is most likely light cruiser *Honolulu* (CL-48)), 07°50'S, 157°15'E, and *Nagatsuki*, damaged by gunfire, is grounded and abandoned on the southeastern coast of Kolombangara; what is gunfire from most likely *St. Louis* (CL-49) and *Honolulu* damages destroyer *Sukukaze*; gunfire damages *Amagiri*; gunfire from *Honolulu* and what is likely destroyers *Nicholas* (DD-449) and *O'Bannon* (DD-450) damage *Hatsuyuki*; *Tanikaze* is hit by a dud shell.

In the wake of the battle, while engaged in rescuing some of *Helena's* survivors, *Nicholas* and *Radford* (DD-446) engage *Amagiri* and *Hatsuyuki*, damaging both. Still later, SBDs, TBFs, and F4Fs bomb the beached *Nagatsuki* (see 10 July 1943).

Three heavy cruisers, one light cruiser, and four destroyers of TG 16.7 (Rear Admiral Robert C. Giffen) bombards Kiska, Aleutians. American ships draw no return fire.

Submarine *Gurnard* (SS-254) is damaged by aerial bombs and depth charges off Palau, 07°33'N, 134°26'E, but remains on patrol.

Submarine *Permit* (SS-178) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.33 Banshu Maru*, 43°35'N, 140°21'E.

PB4Y-1 (VB 102) attacks Japanese installations at Greenwich Island, but during the daring, low-level operation the plane is shot down by defending PETEs (902nd Kokutai). Nevertheless, for his "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity" displayed in this attack, the PB4Y's commander, Lieutenant Commander Bruce A. Van Voorhis, is awarded a Medal of Honor, posthumously.

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *Alcoa Prospector*, torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I-27* the day before, is reboarded by the crew as Royal Indian Navy RINS *Bengal* stands by (see 9-10 July).

• **7 July, Wed.**

Pacific

Motor torpedo boat *PT-161*, operating out of Rendova, is damaged by Japanese plane off Banieta Point.

Destroyer *Waller* (DD-466) fires upon and depth-charges unidentified Japanese submarine, 08°00'S, 158°05'E.

Submarine *Permit* (SS-178) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Showa Maru* off Otaru, Hokkaido, Japan, 43°14'N, 139°53'E.

Submarine *Peto* (SS-265) damages Japanese oiler *Shinkoku Maru*, 00°35'N, 148°00'E.

Submarine *Plunger* (SS-179) damages Japanese merchant cargo ship *Anzan Maru*, 37°14'N, 132°57'E.

Atlantic

German submarine *U-185* carries out two attacks on convoy BT 18 off the coast of Brazil, torpedoing U.S. freighter *James Robertson* and tanker *William Boyce Thompson* at 04°00'S, 36°00'W, in the first assault. *James Robertson* careens through the columns of the convoy, colliding in succession with U.S. freighter *Alcoa Banner* and *Brazilian Cotazaloide* before she is abandoned. Submarine chaser *PC-575* rescues 21 men. *William Boyce Thompson*, which loses three men in the initial explosion (a fourth dies subsequently of his injuries), is abandoned, with the survivors being picked up by gunboat *Surprise* (PG-63) and a boat from the torpedoed *James Robertson*; a Brazilian ship subsequently rescues the latter as well as the remainder of that ship's survivors (but not before one Armed Guard sailor from *James Robertson* drowns) (see 9 July 1943). *William Boyce Thompson* is later scuttled with gunfire and depth charges by

escorts. In the second attack on BT 18, *U-185* torpedoes U.S. tanker *S.B. Hunt* and freighter *Thomas Sinnickson* at 03°51'S, 36°22'W. The former suffers no casualties to either the 37-man merchant complement or the 11-man Armed Guard, and ultimately makes port at Trinidad for temporary repairs; the latter loses one of the 27-man Armed Guard in the initial explosion but no casualties from its 43-man merchant complement, and remains afloat into the night while gunboat *Surprise* stands by and takes off 18 men (see 8 July 1943).

USAAF B-24 sinks German submarine *U-951* in eastern Atlantic, 37°40'N, 15°30'W.

- **8 July, Thu.**

Pacific

Naval aircraft bomb Vila, Kolombangara, Solomons.

Submarine *Seal* (SS-183) is damaged by bombs and depth charges off northern Honshu, 39°53'N, 142°10'E, and is forced to terminate her patrol.

Atlantic

USAAF aircraft sink German submarine *U-232* off Portugal, 40°37'N, 13°41'W.

U.S. freighter *Thomas Sinnickson*, torpedoed the previous day during German submarine *U-185's* attack on convoy BT 18, defies the valiant efforts of her crew and continues to sink. Gunboat *Surprise* (PG-63), which has remained close at hand during the attempted salvage, takes off the remainder of the crew and Armed Guard and scuttles the irreparably damaged freighter.

German submarine *U-510* attacks convoy TJ 1 about 150 miles northeast of Cayenne, French Guiana, 05°50'N, 50°20'W and sinks U.S. freighter *Eldena*. Submarine chaser *PC-495* rescues all hands (including the 26-man Armed Guard).

Indian Ocean

One group of survivors of freighter *Sebastian Cermeno*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-511* on 27 June 1943, reaches safety at Madagascar (see 13, 14, 23 and 27 July 1943).

- **9 July, Fri.**

Pacific

Destroyer *Aylwin* (DD-355), on Kiska blockade patrol, bombards Japanese positions in the Gertrude Cove area, drawing light and inaccurate return fire.

Four U.S. destroyers bombard Lambert Plantation near Munda, New Georgia, Solomons.

Submarine *Permit* (SS-178), believing her quarry to be a Japanese trawler, shells Soviet oceanographic vessel *Seiner No.20* 27 miles off Kaiba To. Once the mistake is realized, *Permit* comes alongside the blazing vessel and rescues the survivors before the Russian craft sinks. The Soviet sailors are taken to Akutan, Alaska.

Submarine *Thresher* (SS-200) lands men, stores, and ammunition on west coast of Negros.

Atlantic

PBY (VP 94) sinks German submarine *U-590* at mouth of Amazon River, Brazil, 03°22'N, 48°18'W.

Two boats of survivors from freighter *James Robertson*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-185* on 7 July 1943, reach the Brazilian coast, one at Fortaleza and the other at Cascavel.

Mediterranean

Ensign John J. Parle, USNR, officer-in-charge of small boats from tank landing ships *LST-375* off the island of Sicily, as preparations for Operation HUSKY proceed, becomes aware of the accidental ignition of a smoke pot in one of *LST-375's* landing craft. Although fully aware of the hazards, Parle enters the boat, extinguishes a burning fuze and when unable to put out the burning smoke pot, seizes it and throws it over the side, thus saving the ship from serious damage and preventing the premature disclosure of the impending landings. For his bravery, Ensign Parle, who succumbs to his injuries on 17 July 1943, is awarded the Medal of Honor, posthumously.

Indian Ocean

Royal Indian Navy RINS *Bengal* fails in attempt to tow damaged freighter *Alcoa Prospector*, torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I-27* on 5 July 1943 (see 10 July 1943).

U.S. freighter *Samuel Heintzelman*, en route from Fremantle, Australia, to Colombo, Ceylon, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-511* at 09°00'S, 81°00'E. There are no survivors from the 42-man merchant complement, the 27-man Armed Guard and six passengers.

• **10 July, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine *Halibut* (SS-232) damages Japanese transport (ex-armed merchant cruiser) *Aikoku Maru*, 10°27'N, 150°50'E.

Submarine *Pompano* (SS-181) damages Japanese oiler *Kyokuyo Maru*, 33°34'N, 136°07'N.

Submarine *Steelhead* (SS-280) damages Japanese escort carrier *Un'yo*, 10°00'N, 150°48'E.

USAAF B-25s bomb wreck of beached Japanese destroyer *Nagatsuki* (see 6 July 1943).

Mediterranean

Allies invade Sicily in Operation HUSKY. Troops land under cover of naval gunfire and aircraft. The overall commander is General Dwight D. Eisenhower, USA; naval commander is Admiral of the Fleet Sir Andrew B. Cunningham, RN. Western Naval Task Force (Vice Admiral H. Kent Hewitt) lands the U.S. Seventh Army (Lieutenant General George S. Patton, USA), and Eastern Naval Task Force (Vice Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay, RN) lands British Eighth Army (British General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery). Naval gunfire will support the forces ashore throughout the Sicilian campaign. Off Sicily, Axis planes bomb invasion shipping and screening ships, sinking destroyer *Maddox* (DD-622), 36°52'N, 13°56'E; tank landing ships *LST-313*, 37°01'N, 14°15'E; and minesweeper *Sentinel* (AM-113), 37°06'N, 13°55'E. Collisions in the crowded

waters off the beaches account for damage to destroyers *Roe* (DD-418) and *Swanson* (DD-443) at 37°03'N, 13°36'E, and *LST-345* and submarine chaser *PC-621* at 37°02'N, 14°15'E.

German submarine *U-371* attacks convoy off the Algerian coast, torpedoing U.S. freighter *Matthew Maury* at 37°00'N, 05°00'E, and tanker *Gulfprince* at 37°13'N, 05°12'E. There are no casualties on board the former (including the 28-man Armed Guard), which is towed to the Algerian port of Bougie and subsequently returns to service. The latter is abandoned by the 36-man merchant complement and 28-man Armed Guard, the survivors being rescued by British trawler *HMS Sir Gareth* and freighter *Empire Commerce*; one Armed Guard sailor dies of his wounds on board the latter. A salvage crew later boards *Gulfprince* and the ship is towed to Algiers by British salvage tugs *HMS Weazel* and *HMS Hudson*; she subsequently is chartered by the Navy for use as a mobile storage facility in North African waters.

Indian Ocean

Anglo-Iranian oil company tugs tow damaged freighter *Alcoa Prospector*, torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I-27* on 5 July 1943, into Bandar Abbas, Iran. Although there are no casualties inflicted by *I-27's* attack, one merchant seaman dies of pneumonia.

U.S. freighter *Alice F. Palmer*, bound for Durban, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-177* at 26°30'S, 44°10'E, and abandoned by the 43 merchant seamen and the 25-man Armed Guard. After the Germans question the survivors, *U-177* hastens the freighter's sinking by shelling her before she clears the area (see 13, 25, 26 and 30 July 1943).

- **11 July, Sun.**

Pacific

Destroyer *Monaghan* (DD-354) bombards Japanese positions at Gertrude Cove, Kiska Island, Aleutians.

Submarine *Flying Fish* (SS-229) sinks Japanese guardboat *No. 8 Takatori Maru* between Okino Daito Jima and Kazan Retto, 24°00'N, 135°25'E.

Submarine *Gurnard* (SS-254) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking army cargo ship *Taiko Maru* about 375 miles northeast of Palau, 13°08'N, 132°00'E.

PBYs attack Japanese guardboats off Kamchatka, sinking *Seiun Maru* and damaging *Koshin Maru*.

USAAF B-24s damage Vichy French customs vessel *Albert Sarraut* and Japanese cargo vessel *No. 3 Kiri Maru* 45 miles east of Haiphong, French Indochina.

Mediterranean

U.S. cruiser and destroyer gunfire stops German tank attack on landing beaches near Gela, Sicily; Army observers report 13 of the 50 tanks that make the attack are destroyed. Off the invasion beaches at Sicily, enemy air attacks account for damage to tank landing ships *LST-158* off Licata (she is then beached and abandoned), 37°05'N, 13°55'E (*LST 318*, beached adjacent to her burning sistership, retracts immediately to avoid damage from exploding ammunition and gasoline); attack transport *Barnett* (APA-5) and transport *Orizaba* (AP 24); near-misses damage transport *Monrovia* (AP-64), 37°02'N, 14°15'E, and attack

transport *Joseph T. Dickman* (APA-13); attack transport *William P. Biddle* (APA-8) and *LST-382* are damaged in collision, 36°41'N, 14°23'E. Off Gela, Sicily, U.S. freighter *Robert Rowan* is set afire by bomb during German air attack, and is abandoned. Once the blaze reaches her ammunition cargo, the freighter then explodes. Destroyer *McLanahan* (DD-615) attempts to sink *Robert Rowan* with gunfire to extinguish the flames from the burning vessel that are illuminating all ships within miles, but the attempt is frustrated because the water is too shallow and the abandoned merchantman will not sink. Navy landing craft and transport *Orizaba*, however, rescue all hands: 41-man merchant complement, 32-man Armed Guard and 348 troops.

- **12 July, Mon.**

Pacific

Four light cruisers and two destroyers of TG 36.9 (Rear Admiral Aaron S. Merrill) bombard Munda, New Georgia, Solomons.

Coast Guard cutter *Taney* (WPG-37), reconnoitering Baker Island, is bombed, but not damaged, by Japanese flying boat.

Destroyer *Taylor* (DD-468) sinks Japanese submarine RO 107 east of Kolombangara, Solomons, 08°00'S, 157°19'E.

Submarine *Mingo* (SS-261) stalks Japanese convoy but her attack, principally directed against cargo vessel *Ryoyo Maru*, is not successful, 00°54'N, 143°01'E. Counterattacks by two of the ships of Submarine Chaser Division 23 (*Ch 22*, *Ch 23*, and *Ch 24*), which are escorting *Ryoyo Maru* and two other merchantmen, likewise do not succeed in their object.

Submarine *Plunger* (SS-179) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Niitaka Maru* in the Sea of Japan, west of Hokkaido, 43°02'N, 140°00'E.

Submarine *Spearfish* (SS-190) damages Japanese destroyer *Kawakaze* 11°12'N, 161°50'E.

USAAF B-24s (14th Air Force) bomb Japanese shipping in Dulong Bay, 18 miles east of Haiphong, French Indochina, and sink cargo ships *Chikuzan Maru* (ex-*Ariadne Moller*) and *Tairyu Maru*, 20°52'N, 106°41'E.

Atlantic

USAAF B-24s sink German submarine *U-506* off coast of Portugal, 42°30'N, 16°30'W.

U.S. freighter *African Star* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-172* off the coast of Brazil at 25°46'S, 40°35'W. One of the 31-man Armed Guard is lost in the initial explosion, but the 56-man merchant complement survives intact. *U-172* surfaces after sinking the ship, questions a few of the survivors and then provides them with directions to the nearest land before she retires (see 13 July 1943).

Mediterranean

German air attacks against invasion shipping off Sicily continue. U.S. freighter *Joseph G. Cannon* is struck by a bomb and sinks in shallow water; she suffers no casualties to the 40-man merchant complement or the 25-man Armed Guard, although a number of British soldiers on board perish when the bomb hits the ship.

- **13 July, Tue.**

Pacific

Battle of Kolombangara is fought in the darkness off Kolombangara, Solomons, as three light cruisers and ten destroyers of TG 36.1 (Rear Admiral Walden L. Ainsworth) engage Japanese light cruiser and five destroyers (Rear Admiral Izaki Shunji) escorting troop-carrying destroyers. Japanese torpedoes damage U.S. light cruisers *Honolulu* (CL-48), 07°31'S, 157°19'E, and *St. Louis* (CL-49), 07°37'S, 157°16'E; and New Zealand light cruiser HMNZS *Leander* (which has replaced the lost *Helena* (CL-50)). Destroyer *Gwin* (DD-433), damaged by torpedo, is scuttled by *Ralph Talbot* (DD-390), 07°41'S, 157°27'E. Destroyers *Woodworth* (DD-460) and *Buchanan* (DD-484) are damaged by collision, 07°40'S, 157°14'E. Japanese light cruiser *Jintsu* is sunk by cruiser gunfire and destroyer torpedo, 07°38'S, 157°06'E; and destroyer *Yukikaze* is damaged.

Indian Ocean

Second group of survivors of freighter *Sebastian Cermeno*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-511* on 27 June 1943, reaches Durban, South Africa (see 14, 23 and 27 July 1943).

RAF Catalina rescues one group of survivors from U.S. freighter *Alice F. Palmer*, torpedoed, shelled and sunk by German submarine *U-177* on 10 July 1943, 60 miles southeast of Madagascar (see 25, 26 and 30 July 1943).

Atlantic

Aircraft (VC 13) from escort carrier *Core* (CVE-13) sink German submarine *U-487*, 720 miles south-southwest of Fayal, Azores, 27°15'N, 34°18'W.

Brazilian destroyer *Maranhao* rescues survivors of U.S. freighter *African Star*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-172* off the coast of Brazil the previous day.

Mediterranean

German air attacks continue on invasion shipping off the beaches at Sicily; off Avola, freighter *Timothy Pickering*, hit by a bomb, catches fire. The blaze spreads with a rapidity that denies escape to those on board: 127 of 128 embarked British troops perish, as do 22 of the 43-man crew and 16 of the 23-man Armed Guard. *Timothy Pickering* is scuttled by a torpedo from a British destroyer.

Naval Advanced Base, Gela, Sicily, is established.

- **14 July, Wed.**

Pacific

Naval Operating Base, Adak, Aleutians, is established.

Destroyer *Monaghan* (DD-354) bombards Japanese positions at Gertrude Cove, Kiska Island, Aleutians. She repeats the bombardment on 15 July. On neither occasion do enemy guns reply.

Japanese reconnaissance planes sight small seaplane tender *Chincoteague* (AVP-24) as she tends patrol planes at Saboe Bay, Vanikoro (see 16 and 17 July 1943).

Japanese submarine *I-179* sinks, accidentally, off Akizaki, Japan, 33°40'N, 132°40'N.

Indian Ocean

Third group of survivors of freighter *Sebastian Cermeno*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-511* on 27 June 1943, is located by U.S. freighter *Theodore Parker* and taken to Durban, South Africa (see 23 and 27 July 1943).

U.S. freighter *Robert Bacon* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-178*, 35 miles off Mozambique Light, 15°25'S, 41°13'E. *U-178* surfaces after sinking the ship, questions the survivors, provides them with directions to the nearest land and then retires. Two of the 44-man merchant complement perish in the attack, but the 27-man Armed Guard survives intact (see 16, 27 and 28 July, 3 and 27 August 1943).

Atlantic

TBF and F4F (VC 29) from escort carrier *Santee* (CVE-29) sink German submarine *U-160* south of Azores, 34°02'N, 26°02'W.

Mediterranean

Tank landing craft *LCT-19* is sunk by aircraft off Salerno, Italy.

Light cruiser *Brooklyn* (CL-40) is damaged by mine off Licata, Sicily, 36°57'N, 14°06'E.

- **15 July, Thu.**

Pacific

Submarine *Narwhal* (SS-167) shells airfield on Matsuwa Island, Kuriles.

Submarine *Tinosa* (SS-283) sinks Japanese armed merchant cruiser *Aikoku Maru*, 10°16'N, 151°27'E.

USAAF B-25s and fighters bomb Japanese small cargo vessels west of Canongga Island, 08°03'S, 156°35'E, damaging *Wada Maru*.

Japanese light cruiser *Nagara* is damaged by mine laid by submarine *Silversidess* (SS-236) on 4 June 1943 off Kavieng, 02°36'S, 150°34'E.

Atlantic

PBY (VP 92) and British destroyer HMS *Rochester* and frigates HMS *Mignonette* and HMS *Balsam* sink German submarine *U-135*, 28°20'N, 13°17'W.

Caribbean

PBM (VP 32) damage sinks German submarine *U-159* in Caribbean area, 15°58'N, 73°44'W.

Aircraft (VC 29) from escort carrier *Santee* (CVE-29) sink German submarine *U-509* south of Azores, 34°02'N, 26°02'W.

Mediterranean

Minesweeper *Staff* (AM-114) is damaged by mine off Port Empedocle, Sicily, 37°17'N, 13°30'E; sistership *Skill* (AM-115) enters the minefield and tows *Staff* to safety.

- **16 July, Fri.**

Pacific

Small seaplane tender *Chincoteague* (AVP-24) is attacked by Japanese bombers off Vanikoro, but suffers no damage (see 14 and 17 July 1943).

High speed transports *Waters* (APD-8) and *Dent* (APD-9) rescue last two groups of survivors from light cruiser *Helena* (CL-50) (see 6 July 1943) from Japanese-held Vella Lavella.

Atlantic

TBFs (VC 13) from escort carrier *Core* (CVE-13) sink German submarine *U-67* in mid-Atlantic, 30°05'N, 44°17'W.

U.S. freighter *Richard Caswell* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-513*, about 200 miles off the coast of Brazil, 28°10'S, 46°30'E. *U-513* surfaces, questions the survivors, provides them with cigarettes and then retires. Nine of the 42-man merchant complement perish in the attack; there are no casualties among either the 24-man Armed Guard or the two passengers (see 19 and 22 July 1943).

Mediterranean

German planes bomb Allied shipping in Algiers harbor. U.S. freighters *John H. Eaton* and *Stephen C. Foster* are damaged by falling debris and concussion when nearby Allied merchantmen are destroyed by bombs. There are no casualties to either the merchant complements or Armed Guards on board either U.S. vessel.

German planes bomb Allied shipping off Sicily; U.S. freighter *William T. Coleman* is damaged by near-miss of bomb.

Indian Ocean

First group of survivors from U.S. freighter *Robert Bacon*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-178* on 14 July 1943 off Mozambique Light, arrives at Mozambique harbor (see 27 and 28 July, 3 and 27 August 1943).

- **17 July, Sat.**

Pacific

Navy and USMC SBDs (VB 11 and VMSB 132), Navy TBFs (VT 11 and VT 21), escorted by USMC F4Us (VMF 122, VMF 211 and VMF 221) (other F4U-equipped units also participate), and USAAF B-24s, escorted by USAAF P-39s and P-40s and RNZAF P-40s, attack Japanese shipping at Buin, Bougainville, Solomons. The pilots press home their strikes in the face of heavy fighter opposition and sink destroyer *Hatsuyuki* and damage destroyers *Hatsukaze* and *Yunagi* and auxiliary minesweeper *W.15*, 06°50'S, 155°46'E.

Small seaplane tender *Chincoteague* (AVP-24) is damaged by Japanese bombers off Vanikoro; seaplane tender (destroyer) *Thornton* (AVD-11), high speed minesweeper *Trever* (DMS-18), and destroyer *Jenkins* (DD-447) render timely assistance in the battle to save the crippled ship.

- **18 July, Sun.**

Pacific

SBDs and TBFs, and USAAF B-24s, attack Japanese shipping in the Buin-Kahili area, Bougainville, Solomons, and damage destroyer *Mochizuki*.

Tank landing ships *LST-342* is sunk by Japanese submarine *RO 106*, Solomons, 09°03'S, 158°11'E.

Atlantic

Airship K 74 is shot down by German submarine *U-134* in the Florida Straits

(only naval airship lost to enemy action during World War II), but *U-134* is also damaged in the encounter.

Covered lighter *YF-487* is lost in Caribbean Sea.

Mediterranean

Submarine chaser *PC-562* is damaged by mine off Port Empedocle, Sicily, 37°10'N, 12°35'E.

- **19 July, Mon.**

Pacific

Japanese planes bomb airfield at Funafuti.

Submarine *Porpoise* (SS-172) sinks Japanese transport *No.20 Mikage Maru* 50 miles south of Wake Island, 18°45'N, 166°04'E; vessels of Submarine Chaser Division 32 (*Ch 28*, *Ch 29*, and *Ch 30* comprise the division) carry out unsuccessful counterattacks.

Atlantic

PBM (VP 74) sinks German submarine *U-513* off Santos, Brazil, 27°17'S, 47°32'W; small seaplane tender *Barnegat* (AVP-10) rescues survivors. Ironically, this same day two boatloads of survivors from U.S. freighter *Richard Caswell*, torpedoed and sunk by *U-513* on 17 July 1943, are rescued by Argentine steamship *Mexico* (see 22 July 1943).

German submarine *U-134* is damaged by aircraft, DM 2925.

Mediterranean

During German air attack upon shipping off Avola, Sicily, U.S. freighter *Samuel Parker* is straddled and damaged by near-misses of bombs, but suffers no casualties to either the merchant complement or the Armed Guard.

- **20 July, Tue.**

Pacific

Searching PBY detects movement of Japanese surface force (Rear Admiral Nishimura Shoji) through the "slot" between Vella Lavella and Choiseul. TBFs from Henderson Field attack Nishimura's ships, sinking destroyer *Yugure* and damaging heavy cruiser *Kumano* and destroyer *Minazuki*. After a second wave of American planes (TBFs and USAAF B-25s) attack the enemy ships without success, a third wave (B-25s) sinks destroyer *Kiyonami*.

USAAF B-25s, unaware of friendly naval vessels in their patrol area, mistakenly sink motor torpedo boat *PT-166* (08°15'S, 156°53'E) and damage *PT-164* and *PT-168* in Ferguson Passage, Solomons.

Submarine *Pompano* (SS-181) damages Japanese transport *Uyo Maru*, east of Miki Zaki, 33°55'N, 136°26'E.

Atlantic

USAAF aircraft sink German submarine *U-588* in Bay of Biscay, 45°10'N, 09°42'W.

Mediterranean

German planes bomb Allied shipping off Augusta, Sicily; U.S. freighter *William T. Coleman* is damaged when British tanker *Fort Pelly*, moored to same buoy, is set afire by direct hits. Getting underway, *William T. Coleman* runs aground, and

while thus immobile, is menaced by burning oil from *Fort Pelly*, which then explodes, further damaging the freighter by flying debris.

- **21 July, Wed.**

Pacific

Destroyers *Monaghan* (DD-354) and *Aylwin* (DD-355) carry out an unopposed bombardment of Japanese positions in the Gertrude Cove area, Kiska Island.

Tank landing ships *LST-343* is damaged by Japanese bomb off Rendova; among the casualties is Captain Elphege M. Gendreau, Pacific Fleet Medical Officer.

Japanese planes bomb airfield at Funafuti.

Submarine *Haddock* (SS-231) sinks Japanese army transport *Saipan Maru* (whose passenger list includes 180 geishas) and endures counterattacks by [IJN] *Hato*, 16°18'N, 134°04'E.

Atlantic

PBY (VP 94) sinks German submarine *U-662* off mouth of Amazon River, Brazil, 03°36'N, 48°46'W.

- **22 July, Thu.**

Pacific

TG 16.21 (Rear Admiral Robert C. Giffen) and TG 16.22 (Rear Admiral Robert M. Griffin), consisting of two battleships, three heavy cruisers, one light cruiser, and nine destroyers, bombard Kiska, Aleutians. Enemy return fire proves ineffective. USAAF B-25s, P-38s and P-40s and F5As (P-38s modified for photo reconnaissance) also bomb the Japanese positions.

Three waves of Navy and USAAF planes, including B-17s and B-24s, attack Japanese resupply convoy off Cape Friendship; SBDs and TBFs sink seaplane carrier *Nisshin*.

USAAF B-24s raid Surabaya, Java, targeting refineries, dock areas, and railroad yards; auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 111* is damaged in the attack on harbor facilities.

Submarine *Sawfish* (SS-276) damages Japanese ammunition ship *Seia Maru*, 30°54'N, 125°15'E.

Atlantic

U.S. tanker *Cherry Valley*, proceeding independently from New York to Aruba, N.W.I., is torpedoed by German submarine *U-66* at 25°10'N, 68°35'W. *U-66's* second torpedo attack fails, and as she surfaces to shell her quarry and finish her off in that fashion she finds herself hotly engaged by Armed Guard gunfire. The 28-man Armed Guard serves its weapons efficiently; *Cherry Valley* escapes her assailant and reaches San Juan, Puerto Rico, under her own power and with no casualties.

Third boatload of survivors from U.S. freighter *Richard Caswell*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-513* off the coast of Brazil on 17 July 1943, reaches safety at Florianapolis. Small seaplane tender *Barnegat* (AVP-10), which had ironically rescued survivors from *U-513* (which had sunk *Richard Caswell*) when the enemy submarine had been sunk on 19 July 1943, rescues the last of *Richard Caswell's* survivors from a raft.

Mediterranean

During German air attack upon shipping off Avola, Sicily, U.S. freighter *Samuel Parker* is straddled and damaged by near-misses of bombs, as well as strafed. The latter attacks result in the death of two Armed Guard sailors.

- **23 July, Fri.**

Atlantic

VP 63, equipped with PB4Ys, the first U.S. naval aircraft squadron to operate from the United Kingdom, arrives in South Wales for antisubmarine patrol duty over the Bay of Biscay.

Destroyer *George E. Badger* (DD-196) sinks German submarine *U-613* (en route to mine the waters off Jacksonville, Florida) south of Azores, 35°32'N, 28°36'W.

Planes (VC 9) from escort carrier *Bogue* (CVE-9) break up a rendezvous between German submarines *U-527* and *U-648* south of the Azores. *U-527* is sunk at 35°25'N, 27°56'W, but *U-648* escapes.

PB4Ys (VB 107) sink German submarine *U-598* off Brazil, 04°05'S, 33°23'W.

Indian Ocean

Fourth group of survivors of freighter *Sebastian Cermeno*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-511* on 27 June 1943, reaches Durban, South Africa, on board a British corvette (see 27 July 1943).

- **24 July, Sat.**

Pacific

Destroyers bombard Bairoko Harbor, New Georgia, Solomons.

Submarine *Tinosa* (SS-283) torpedoes Japanese oiler *No. 3 Tonan Maru*, 06°56'N, 147°52'E; towed to Truk, the oiler is utilized as a floating oil tank. *Tinosa*, however, fires 15 torpedoes; 13 hit but only two explode! The incident highlights torpedo exploder problems that have plagued the submarine force since the beginning of the war.

Japanese army cargo ship *Mie Maru* is sunk by mine, Babo harbor, 02°31'S, 133°26'E.

Atlantic

USAAF aircraft sink German submarine *U-622* off Norway, 63°27'N, 10°23'E.

Planes (VC 29) from escort carrier *Santee* (CVE-29) damage German submarine *U-373* about 130 miles west of Madeira Islands.

USAAF B-24s damage German submarine *U-466* off Cayenne, French Guiana, 07°30'N, 50°15'W.

- **25 July, Sun.**

Pacific

Destroyers and aircraft strike enemy position at Munda, Solomons.

Submarine *Pompon* (SS-267) damages Japanese transport *Kinsen Maru* and sinks army cargo ship *Thames Maru*, 02°46'N, 148°35'E.

Indian Ocean

Second group of survivors from U.S. freighter *Alice F. Palmer*, torpedoed,

shelled and sunk by German submarine *U-177* on 10 July 1943, reaches safety at Mozambique (see 26 and 30 July 1943).

- **26 July, Mon.**

Pacific

TG 16.7 (Rear Admiral Robert C. Giffen) and TG 16.17 (Rear Admiral Robert M. Griffin) engage radar targets 90 miles southwest of Kiska. The contacts, however, prove to be phantom echoes on the U.S. radar screens, and the engagement becomes known as the "Battle of the Pips."

Indian Ocean

Third group of survivors from U.S. freighter *Alice F. Palmer*, torpedoed, shelled and sunk by German submarine *U-177* on 10 July 1943, reaches safety at Mozambique (see 30 July 1943).

Caribbean

PBM (VP 32) sinks German submarine *U-759*, 18°06'N, 75°00'W.

Mediterranean

Off Palermo, Sicily, destroyer *Mayrant* (DD-402) is bombed and damaged by German horizontal bomber, 38°16'N, 13°20'E; minesweeper *Skill* (AM-115) helps tow the damaged destroyer into port where she can be repaired. Motor torpedo boat *PT-202* is damaged by gunfire from German F-lighter.

- **27 July, Tue.**

Pacific

Submarine *Sawfish* (SS-276) damages Japanese minelayer *Hirashima* off Kyushu, Japan, 32°32'N, 127°41'E.

Submarine *Scamp* (SS-277) sinks Japanese submarine *I-168*, 02°50'S, 149°01'E, and damages oiler *Kazahaya*, 02°38'S, 149°20'E.

Submarine *Seadragon* (SS-194) inflicts further damage on the previously damaged Japanese transport *Suwa Maru* off Wake Island, 19°15'N, 166°30'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Teikin Maru* is sunk by mine (laid by submarine *Tambor* (SS-198) on 2 November 1942) off Hainan Island, 19°57'N, 109°05'E.

Indian Ocean

Last group of survivors of freighter *Sebastian Cermeno*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-511* on 27 June 1943, reaches Durban, South Africa, on board a British destroyer. From the 42-man merchant complement, five passengers and 27-man Armed Guard, five of the crew perish in either the initial attack, die of their wounds or from exposure in the lifeboats.

Second and third groups of survivors from U.S. freighter *Robert Bacon*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-178* on 14 July 1943 off Mozambique Light, are rescued from their boats, one by British steamship *English Prince* the other by British tanker *Steaua Romana*. Three rafts with survivors are still at sea (see 28 July, 3 and 27 August 1943).

- **28 July, Wed.**

Pacific

Japanese complete evacuation of Kiska Island, Aleutians (Vice Admiral Kawase Shiro), undetected by U.S. forces; among the materiel wrecked by the evacuating enemy are three midget submarines.

Destroyer *Farragut* (DD-348) on Kiska blockade patrol sinks an empty Japanese landing craft (perhaps cast adrift by the evacuating enemy garrison) four miles east of Sobaka Rock, off the south coast of Kiska.

Japanese submarine *RO 103* is last reported on this date; subsequent attempts to contact her are unsuccessful and she never returns to her base at Rabaul. Her fate is uncertain; she may have been mined.

USAAF B-25s sink Japanese destroyers *Ariake* and *Mikazuki* off Cape Gloucester, New Britain.

USAAF B-24s sink Japanese army cargo vessel *Tamishima Maru* off Tavoy Island, 13°53'N, 097°40'E.

Indian Ocean

Fourth group of survivors from U.S. freighter *Robert Bacon*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-178* on 14 July 1943 off Mozambique Light, reaches safety after two weeks at sea (see 3 and 27 August 1943).

Atlantic

PBY (VP 32) sinks German submarine *U-359*, West Indies area, 15°57'N, 68°30'W.

USAAF and British aircraft sink German submarine *U-404*, Bay of Biscay, 45°53'N, 09°23'W.

U.S. freighter *John A. Poor*, straggling from convoy BX 65 in a heavy fog, fouls mine laid by German submarine *U-119* at 42°51'N, 64°55'W, but reaches port under tow; there are no casualties among the 42-man merchant complement or the 28-man Armed Guard.

Mediterranean

U.S. Naval Operating Base, Palermo, Sicily, is established.

- **29 July, Thu.**

Pacific

Submarine *Tuna* (SS-203) is mistakenly damaged by RAAF Catalina off Woodlark Island, 08°02'S, 152°07'E, and is forced to terminate her patrol.

USAAF B-25s and P-38s bomb the already damaged Japanese destroyer *Mikazuki* (see 28 July 1943) aground off Cape Gloucester.

USAAF B-24s damage Japanese guardboat *No. 1 Kyo Maru* off Ross Island, Andamans.

Atlantic

U.S. Advanced Amphibious Training Base, Appledore, England, is established.

Mediterranean

Motor torpedo boat *PT-218* is damaged by Italian MAS boat.

- **30 July, Fri.**

Pacific

Destroyers *Farragut* (DD-348) and *Hull* (DD-350), unaware that the Japanese garrison has been evacuated, bombard the Gertrude Cove and main camp areas on Kiska Island.

Atlantic

German submarine *U-230* lays mines off entrance to Chesapeake Bay.

PV-1 (VB 127) providing coverage for convoy TJ-2 sinks German submarine *U-591* off Pernambuco, Brazil, 08°36'S, 34°34'W.

PV-1 (VB 129) attacks German submarine *U-604*, South Atlantic (see 3 and 11 August 1943).

Aircraft (VC 29) from escort carrier *Santee* (CVE-29) sink German submarine *U-43* in mid-Atlantic, 34°57'N, 35°11'W, breaking up a rendezvous between *U-43* and *U-403* and preventing *U-43* from sowing mines in waters off Lagos, Nigeria, West Africa.

Submarine chaser *PC-624* sinks German submarine *U-375* off Tunisia, 36°40'N, 12°28'E.

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *William Ellery*, en route from Basra, Iraq, to Durban, South Africa, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-197* some 300 miles from her destination, 32°00'S, 36°00'E, but reaches it under her own power; there are no casualties among the 39-man merchant complement and the 27-man Armed Guard.

Fourth and last group of survivors from U.S. freighter *Alice F. Palmer*, torpedoed, shelled and sunk by German submarine *U-177* on 10 July 1943, reaches safety at Mozambique. All hands survive the ordeal of the loss of the ship and the ensuing open boat voyages.

- **31 July, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine *Finback* (SS-230) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Ryuzan Maru*, 06°30'S, 111°30'E.

Submarine *Grayling* (SS-209) lands supplies and equipment at Pucio Point, Panay.

Submarine *Guardfish* (SS-217) lands survey party on west coast of Bougainville, Solomons.

Submarine *Pogy* (SS-266) sinks Japanese aircraft transport *Mogamigawa Maru* northwest of Truk, 11°08'N, 153°18'E.

Submarine *Saury* (SS-189), at periscope depth, is rammed by Japanese destroyer and damaged, Philippine Sea, 27°03'N, 135°27'E; consequently, *Saury* terminates her patrol.

Atlantic

PBM (VP 74) and Brazilian A-28 and Catalina sink German submarine *U-199* off Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 23°45'S, 42°57'W. Small seaplane tender *Barnegat* (AVP-10) rescues German survivors.

August

- **1 August, Sun.**

Pacific

Rendova-based motor torpedo boats patrolling off Vanga Vanga and Gatere,

Solomons, encounter Japanese destroyers in Blackett Strait off Kolombangara (see 2 August 1943).

Motor torpedo boat *PT-117*, damaged by dive bomber, Rendova Harbor, Lumbari Island, Solomons, 08°24'S, 157°19'E, is beached and abandoned; *PT-164* is sunk by horizontal bomber, Rendova Harbor, 08°25'S, 157°20'E.

Submarine *Finback* (SS-230) damages Japanese transport *Atlas Maru*, 04°10'S, 112°10'E.

Submarine *Mingo* (SS-261) bombards Sorol Island, Carolines. USAAF planes initiate daily bombings of Kiska, Aleutians.

Submarine *Steelhead* (SS-280) attacks same Japanese convoy harassed by *Pogy* (SS-266) the previous day and damages auxiliary vessel *Seiko Maru* as she tries to reach Truk, 11°20'N, 153°30'E.

Atlantic

Naval Station, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, is established.

Gunboat *Brisk* (PG-89) attacks German submarine *U-732*, driving her away from Guantanamo-bound convoy NG 376.

Mediterranean

Minesweeper *Skill* (AM-115) is damaged by horizontal bomber off Sicily.

- **2 August, Mon.**

Pacific

TG 16.6 (Rear Admiral Wilder D. Baker) and TG 16.17 (Rear Admiral Howard F. Kingman), consisting of two battleships, two heavy cruisers, three light cruisers and nine destroyers, bombard Kiska, Aleutians. Kiska is bombarded ten times between 2 and 15 August 1943.

Motor torpedo boats continue to engage Japanese destroyers off Kolombangara (see 1 August 1943); motor torpedo boat *PT-109* is rammed and sunk by Japanese destroyer *Amagiri*, Blackett Strait, Solomons, 08°03'S, 156°58'E. *Amagiri* is damaged in the collision.

USAAF B-25s and P-38s sink Japanese motor torpedo boats *Gyoraitei No.112* and *Gyoraitei No.113* at Lae, New Guinea, 07°00'N, 147°00'E.

RAAF Catalinas damage Japanese destroyer *Akikaze* south of Rabaul, 06°50'N, 151°10'E.

Atlantic

USAAF aircraft sink German submarine *U-706*, eastern Atlantic, 46°15'N, 10°25'W.

- **3 August, Tue.**

Mediterranean

PBM (VP 205) sinks German submarine *U-572*, north of Dutch Guiana, 11°33'N, 54°05'W.

Aircraft (VC 1) from escort carrier *Card* (CVE-11) damage German submarine *U-66* about 457 miles west-southwest of Flores Island, Azores.

PB4Ys (VB 107) damage German submarine *U-604*, south Atlantic.

Destroyer *Moffett* (DD-362) is accidentally damaged by PB4Y (VB 107), approximately 09°40'S, 30°07'W.

Pacific Theater

German auxiliary cruiser *Michel* (Schiffe 28) sights transport *Hermitage* (AP-54) off Pitcairn Island, but does not attack (see 7 August 1943).

Indian Ocean

Fifth group of survivors from U.S. freighter *Robert Bacon*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-178* on 14 July 1943 off Mozambique Light, reaches safety after 20 days at sea (see 27 August 1943).

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Buck* (DD-420) sinks Italian submarine *Argento* off Tunisia, 36°52'N, 12°08'E.

U.S. tanker *Yankee Arrow*, in convoy KMS 20, is mined as she nears the Bizerte, Tunisia, harbor channel, 37°10'N, 11°06'E; two of the 25-man Armed Guard perish, as do five merchant sailors. The ship reaches port under her own power, but is adjudged unfit for further sea service.

- **4 August, Wed.**

Pacific

Radar-equipped PB4Y carries out pre-dawn bombing of submarine base and main Japanese camp area on Kiska. The Catalina also drops 92 empty beer bottles (for the disconcerting whistling effect they produce) on those targets.

U.S. motor torpedo boats engage Japanese guardboats off Vanga Vanga, Kolombangara, sinking *No. 3 Matsue Maru* and driving *Banyo Maru* ashore, damaged.

Submarine *Finback* (SS-230) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Kaisho Maru*, 05°18'S, 111°50'E.

Submarine *Seadragon* (SS-194) damages Japanese transport *Kembu Maru*, 07°33'N, 161°12'E.

Atlantic

Aircraft damage German submarine *U-604*, [...]

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Shubrick* (DD-639) is damaged by dive bomber off Palermo, Sicily, 38°06'N, 13°20'E.

U.S. freighter *Harrison Grey Otis*, anchored in Gibraltar harbor, is irreparably damaged by Italian limpet mine. Of the ship's 45-man merchant complement, one man dies and eight are injured; there are no casualties among the 23-man Armed Guard.

- **5 August, Thu.**

Pacific

Munda, New Georgia, Solomons, falls to U.S. Army forces.

Submarine *Pike* (SS-173) sinks Japanese transport *Shoju Maru* west of Marcus Island, 24°30'N, 158°50'E.

Submarine *Silversides* (SS-236) damages Japanese minelayer *Tsugaru* north-northeast of Rabaul, 01°53'N, 153°52'E.

USAAF B-24 and USN/USMC F4Us sink Japanese fishing boat *No.9 Kaiyo Maru* off Kolombangara.

Atlantic

Destroyer *Black* (DD-666) is damaged when accidentally rammed by ferryboat *Staten* (YFB-36) at New York Navy Yard.

Gunboat *Plymouth* (PG-57) is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-566*, 120 miles southeast of Cape Henry, Virginia, 36°17'N, 74°29'W.

- **6 August, Fri.**

Pacific

Battle of Vella Gulf is joined shortly before midnight, as six destroyers of TG 36.2 (Commander Frederick Moosbrugger) attack four Japanese destroyers attempting to bring troops and supplies to Kolombangara, Solomons, in Vella Gulf; destroyers *Dunlap* (DD-384), *Craven* (DD-382), and *Mauray* (DD-401) sink Japanese destroyers *Kawakaze*, *Hagikaze*, and *Arashi*, 07°50'S, 156°47'E. U.S. force suffers no damage.

Submarine *Pike* (SS-173) unsuccessfully attacks Japanese aircraft carrier *Taiyo*, 21°03'N, 153°31'E.

Atlantic

PV-1 (VB 130), PBMs (VP 204, VP 205), and USAAF B-18 sink German submarine *U-615*, Caribbean, 12°53'N, 64°54'W.

Mediterranean

Tank landing ships *LST-3* is damaged by horizontal bomber off Sicily, 38°01'N, 14°20'E.

- **7 August, Sat.**

Atlantic

Destroyer *Moffett* (DD-362) is again accidentally damaged by a PB4Y (VB 107) while both are hunting for a German submarine, approximately 09°00' S, 26°00'W.

Aircraft (VC 1) from escort carrier *Card* (CVE-11) sink German submarine *U-117*, North Atlantic, 39°32'N, 38°21'W.

Pacific

German auxiliary cruiser *Michel* (Schiffe 28) again sights transport *Hermitage* (AP-54) off Pitcairn Island, but, again, does not attack.

- **8 August, Sun.**

Pacific

Motor torpedo boat *PT-113*, damaged by grounding, eastern New Guinea, 09°12'S, 146°29'E, is beached and abandoned.

Submarine *Salmon* (SS-182) unsuccessfully attacks Japanese vessel *Shinko Maru*, 46°50'N, 144°40'E.

Submarine *Whale* (SS-239) sinks Japanese ammunition ship *Naruto Maru* northwest of the Marianas, 24°12'N, 142°52'E, and survives counterattack by destroyer *Asanagi*.

Japanese gunboat *Tozan Maru* is wrecked in storm on the south coast of Hokkaido, 42°25'N, 143°20'E.

Atlantic

Aircraft (VC 1) from escort carrier *Card* (CVE-11) damage German submarine *U-262*, North Atlantic. *U-262* unsuccessfully attacks destroyer *Borie* (DD-215); *U-664* conducts unsuccessful attack on *Card*. VC 1 fliers find *U-664* on the surface but did not damage the U-boat.

- **9 August, Mon.**

Pacific

Submarine *Sculpin* (SS-191) sinks Japanese merchant passenger/cargo ship *Sekko Maru*, 24°55'N, 122°00'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Esutoru Maru* is damaged by mine laid by submarine *Scorpion* (SS-278) on 19 April 1943, 36°05'N, 140°45'E.

Atlantic

Aircraft (VC 1) from escort carrier *Card* (CVE-11) sink German submarine *U-664*, 570 miles west of Fayal, Azores, 40°12'N, 37°29'W.

Tank landing ships *LST-318* is damaged by dive bomber off Sicily, 38°04'N, 14°30'E.

LCT-311 founders in heavy weather off Bizerte, Tunisia.

- **10 August, Tue.**

Pacific

Motor torpedo boat *PT-161*, operating from Rendova, is damaged by Japanese floatplane off Gatere. Other motor torpedo boats engage Japanese craft (fishing boats) in Blakett Strait, sinking *Suiko Maru*.

Submarine *Salmon* (SS-182) sinks Japanese merchant fishing boat *Wakanoura Maru*, 46°55'N, 143°30'E.

Submarine *Tullibee* (SS-284) is damaged when rammed by Japanese cargo ship during the submarine's attack on a three-ship convoy on the Saipan-Truk route.

USAAF B-24 damages (with a near-miss) Japanese auxiliary sailing vessel *No.5 Shinsei Maru* west of Cape St. George, 04°50'S, 152°55'E.

Mediterranean

Off Sicily, tank landing ships *LST-318*, damaged by dive bomber on 9 August 1943 off Sicily, 38°04'N, 14°30'E, is beached and abandoned; salvage vessel *Brant* (ARS-32) is damaged by friendly fire from destroyer *Benson* (DD-421), 36°49'N, 13°27'E.

- **11 August, Wed.**

Pacific

Submarine *Finback* (SS-230) damages Japanese auxiliary vessel *Tatsumiya Maru*, bound for Singapore, at 05°30'S, 120°48'E, and endures counterattack by escorting auxiliary submarine chaser *Toseki Maru*.

U.S. freighter *Matthew Lyon* is torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I-11* as the ship proceeds toward Espiritu Santo, 13°42'S, 165°59'E, but reaches her destination under her own power. Of the 59 men on board, 41 merchant sailors and an 18-man Armed Guard, only one is injured in the attack.

USAAF B-24 attacks Japanese convoy, bombing minesweeper *W.22*, 01°20'S, 148°55'E.

Atlantic

Aircraft (VC 1) from escort carrier *Card* (CVE-11) sink German submarine *U-525* about 376 miles west-southwest of Corvo Island, Azores, 41°29'N, 38°55'W.

German submarine *U-604*, previously damaged by PV-1s (VB 129) and PB4Ys (VP 107), and destroyer *Moffett* (DD-362) in South Atlantic, 05°00'S, 20°00'W, is scuttled. Her crew, embarked in *U-185*, will be further divided between *U-185* and *U-172* for the voyage home.

- **12 August, Thu.**

Pacific

TU 16.6.1 (Rear Admiral Wilder D. Baker), consisting of two heavy cruisers, two light cruisers, and five destroyers, bombards Kiska.

Motor torpedo boat *PT-168*, operating from Rendova, is damaged by Japanese aircraft off Sandfly Harbor and Ferguson Passage.

Submarine chaser *SC-526* is damaged by grounding off Sicily, 38°01'N, 13°27'E.

- **13 August, Fri.**

Pacific

Japanese bomber and torpedo planes raid shipping at Guadalcanal, sinking attack transport *John Penn* (APA-23), 09°23'S, 160°30'E.

Motor torpedo boat *PT-181*, operating out of Rendova, is damaged by near-miss of Japanese bomb off Hunda Cove.

Submarine *Paddle* (SS-263) damages Japanese transport *Hidaka Maru*, 34°42'N, 136°13'E.

Submarine *Sunfish* (SS-281) sinks Japanese gunboat *Edo Maru* 180 miles from Chichi Jima, 24°04'N, 142°21'E.

U.S. freighter *M.H. De Young* is torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I-19* as the ship proceeds toward Espiritu Santo, 21°50'S, 175°10'E, but though damaged remains afloat due to barge pontoons stowed in each hold. The 25-man Armed Guard remains on board along with the master and two merchant marine officers while the crew and passengers remain nearby (see 14 August 1943).

U.S. aircraft sink Japanese guardboat *No.15 Dai Nippon Maru* in Bismarck Archipelago.

Mediterranean

German planes attack convoy MKS 21 off the coast of Algeria, strafing and holing U.S. freighters *Jonathan Elmer*, 36°07'N, 03°07'E, and *Anne Bradstreet*, 36°19'N, 02°18'E; one man is wounded on board the latter. Freighter *Francis W. Pettygrove* is torpedoed at 36°08'N, 02°14'E; partially abandoned, the survivors that clear the ship are taken on board British minesweeper *HMS Hythe*. The rest

of the crew and Armed Guard remain on board to prepare the ship for tow (see 14 August 1943).

- **14 August, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine chaser *SC-67* makes rendezvous with damaged U.S. freighter *M.H. De Young*, torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I-19* the previous day, and takes off wounded men to transport to Tongatabu. *M.H. De Young* is subsequently towed to that port by Canadian steamship *Quebec* two days later.

Open lighter *YC-970* sinks in Puget Sound, Washington.

Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 109* is damaged by aircraft off Balikpapan, Borneo.

USAAF B-25 aircraft sink three Japanese fishing craft, *Iboki*, 05°33'S, 149°08'E.

Mediterranean

U.S. freighter *Francis W. Pettygrove*, torpedoed while in convoy KMS 21 the day before by German plane, is taken in tow by British minesweeper HMS *Hythe*.

- **15 August, Sun.**

Pacific

Third Amphibious Force (Rear Admiral Theodore S. Wilkinson) lands Navy, Marine, and Army personnel at Vella Lavella, Solomons, thus by-passing enemy positions on Kolombangara, Solomons.

Naval task force under Commander North Pacific Force (Vice Admiral Thomas C. Kinkaid) lands U.S. Army and Canadian troops at Kiska, Aleutians. They find Kiska had been evacuated by the Japanese on 28 July 1943. Only casualties in the operation occur because of accidents or friendly fire incidents.

Submarine *Wahoo* (SS-238) damages Japanese fleet tanker *Terukawa Maru*, 43°15'N, 140°03'E, and merchant fishery mother ship *Ryokai Maru*, 43°12'N, 140°00'E.

- **16 August, Mon.**

Mediterranean

U.S. freighter *Benjamin Contee* is hit by aerial torpedo 16 miles north of Bone, Algeria; while the explosion kills 264 and injures 142 of the 1,800 Italian POWs on board there are no casualties to the 43-man merchant complement, 27-man Armed Guard, 26 British guards and 7 Army security people. Italian-speaking crewmen reassure the anxious prisoners that the ship is in no danger of sinking; *Benjamin Contee* ultimately returns to service.

- **17 August, Tue.** QUADRANT Conference at Quebec, Canada, begins with President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and the Combined Chiefs of Staff to discuss worldwide strategy, with the principal concern to eliminate Italy from the war.

Pacific

Destroyers *Waller* (DD-466) and *Philip* (DD-498) are damaged by collision off Barakoma, Solomons, 08°11'S, 156°43'E, while defending convoy against Japanese air attack.

USAAF B-24s damage Japanese cargo vessel *Amagisan Maru* off Balikpapan.

Atlantic

Portugal agrees to grant bases in the Azores to Great Britain.

Mediterranean

Army troops enter Messina terminating the campaign in Sicily. Commander Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron 15 (Lieutenant E.A. Dubose, USNR), after unopposed landings from motor torpedo boats *PT-215*, *PT-216* and *PT-217* on islands of Lipari and Stromboli, accepts the unconditional surrender of the Lipari Islands (Alicudi, Filicudi, Vulcano, Stromboli, Salina and Lipari). Destroyer *Trippe* (DD-403) covers the operation.

Infantry landing craft *LCI-1* is sunk by aircraft off Bizerte, Tunisia.

- **18 August, Wed.**

Pacific

Task group composed of four destroyers (Captain Thomas J. Ryan) attacks Japanese convoy north of Vella Lavella, Solomons; destroyers *Nicholas* (DD-449), *Chevalier* (DD-451), *O'Bannon* (DD-450), and *Taylor* (DD-468) sink auxiliary submarine chasers *Cha 5* and *Cha 12*.

In the first step toward acquiring airfields in the Ellice Islands to support projected operations in the Marshalls and Gilberts, an advanced survey party moves onto Nanomea atoll.

Tank landing ships *LST-396* is sunk by explosion (believed to have been caused accidentally by own ship's force), en route to Barakoma, Solomons, 08°18'S, 156°55'E.

Destroyer *Abner Read* (DD-526) is damaged by mine off Conquer Point, Kiska Island, Aleutians, 52°01'N, 177°26'E.

Submarine *Plunger* (SS-179) damages Japanese merchant cargo ship *Okuni Maru*, 43°30'N, 140°30'E.

Atlantic

Advanced Amphibious Training Base, St. Mawes, Cornwall, England, is established.

Mediterranean

Light cruisers *Philadelphia* (CL-41) and *Boise* (CL-47) and four destroyers shell Gioia Taura and Palmi on Italian mainland.

- **19 August, Thu.**

Pacific

Destroyer *Warrington* (DD-383) is damaged when she strikes a shoal at 09°21'S, 160°21'E .

OS2N (VS 57) sinks Japanese submarine *I-17* off eastern Australia, 23°26'S, 166°50'E.

Submarine *Finback* (SS-230) sinks Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 109* (ex-Dutch patrol vessel *Kawi*) off east coast of Celebes, 03°01'S, 125°50'E.

Atlantic

Aircraft (VC 25) from escort carrier *Croatan* (CVE-25) attack German submarine *U-134*, northwest of the Azores, but the latter escapes.

- **20 August, Fri.**

Pacific

Destroyer *Pringle* (DD-477) is damaged by Japanese strafing and near-miss of bombs while transiting Gizo Strait, Solomons; tank landing ships *LST-354* is damaged by near-misses of bombs, off Barakoma.

Submarine *Gar* (SS-206) sinks Japanese transport *Seizan Maru*, 01°00'N, 119°00'E.

Submarine *Pompano* (SS-181) departs Midway on her seventh war patrol. She is never heard from again.

Submarine *Plunger* (SS-179) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Seitai Maru* off the southwest coast of Hokkaido, 42°15'N, 139°58'E.

Submarine *Wahoo* (SS-238) sinks Japanese merchant sampan *No.1 Inari Maru*, 45°50'N, 146°22'E.

Dutch submarine *O 24* sinks Japanese gunboat *Chosa Maru* south of Penang, Malaya, 05°09'N, 100°10'E.

Atlantic

Naval Base, Rosneath, Scotland, is reestablished.

German submarine *U-670* is accidentally rammed and sunk during night training exercises in Baltic Sea.

- **21 August, Sat.**

Pacific

Motor torpedo boats *PT-181* and *PT-183*, operating from Rendova, are damaged by strafing of Japanese floatplane, northwest of Turovilu Island.

Mediterranean

U.S. freighter *Cape Mohican* is damaged (most likely by drifting mine) while in convoy MKF 22, off coast of North Africa, 33°42'N, 16°43'E, but reaches Malta under tow. There are no fatalities among the complement of 41 merchant sailors and a 24-man Armed Guard.

- **22 August, Sun.**

Pacific

Marines (2d Airdrome Battalion) begin occupation of Nukufetau Atoll, Ellice Islands, as efforts proceed to acquire airfields to support the projected operations in the Marshalls and Gilberts (see 27 and 28 August 1943).

Submarine *Pike* (SS-173) damages Japanese army cargo ship *Toun Maru*, 21°22'N, 137°50'E.

Submarine *Plunger* (SS-179) sinks Japanese merchant fishery mother ship *Ryokai Maru*, 42°40'N, 139°48'E.

Submarine *Swordfish* (SS-193) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Nishiyama Maru* off Palau, 02°53'N, 136°21'E .

Submarine *Tullibee* (SS-284) sinks Japanese transport *Kaisho Maru*, 10°09'N, 147°25'E, and survives depth-charge attack by *Ikazuchi*.

- **23 August, Mon.**

Pacific

Coastal minesweeper *Crow* (AMc-20) is sunk by erratic running friendly aircraft torpedo, Puget Sound, Washington.

Submarine *Grayling* (SS-209) delivers supplies to Filipino guerrilla forces on Panay.

Submarine *Paddle* (SS-263) sinks Italian merchant passenger/cargo ship *Ada* off Hamamatsu, Japan, 34°37'N, 137°53'E.

Japanese transport *Heito Maru* is sunk by Allied aircraft east of Car Nicobar.

Mediterranean

Tug *Narragansett* (AT-88) is damaged, and submarine chasers *SC-694* and *SC-696* are sunk, by German JU-88s off Palermo, Sicily, 38°08'N, 13°22'E.

U.S. freighter *Pierre Soule*, en route from Sicily to Bizerte, Tunisia, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-380*, 38°21'N, 12°50'E. Tug *Nauset* (AT-89) tows the damaged freighter to Bizerte, arriving the following morning. There are no casualties.

- **24 August, Tue.** QUADRANT Conference ends. President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill agree to intensify the war against Japan without relaxing the effort against Germany in Europe, and to intensify the war against Italy. Additionally, steps will be taken to include the Russians to a greater degree in the western Allies and to recognize General Charles DeGaulle's French Committee of National Liberation as representative of the Free French.

Pacific

New Georgia, Solomons, campaign ends as U.S. Army troops occupy Bairoko Harbor.

Motor torpedo boats *PT-175*, *PT-176*, and *PT-164*, operating from Rendova, are damaged by Japanese floatplanes, Gizo Strait.

Submarine *Whale* (SS-239) damages Japanese fleet tanker *San Diego Maru*, 31°30'N, 128°35'E.

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I-25* reconnoiters Espiritu Santo.

Atlantic

Aircraft (VC 13) from escort carrier *Core* (CVE-13) sink German submarines *U-84* at 27°09'N, 37°03'W, and *U-185* at 27°00'N, 37°06'W, southwest of the Azores.

Mediterranean

German planes bomb U.S. tanker *Esso Providence* off Port Augusta, Sicily; there are no fatalities among the ship's merchant and Armed Guard complement.

- **25 August, Wed.**

Pacific

Rear Admiral Marc A. Mitscher is relieved as Commander Aircraft, Solomons, by Major General Nathan F. Twining, USA.

TG 34.4, covered by four destroyers, sows mines off Wilson Cove, western Kolombangara; light minelayers *Montgomery* (DM-17) and *Preble* (DM-20) are damaged in collision as they retire from the area, 09°01'S, 159°50'E.

Destroyer *Patterson* (DD-392) sinks Japanese submarine *RO 35*, 170 miles southeast of San Cristobal Island, Solomons, 12°57'S, 164°23'E.

USAAF B-24 damages Japanese vessel *Mito Maru* 60 miles west-northwest of Mussau Island.

- **26 August, Thu.**

Pacific

Submarine *Tunny* (SS-282) attacks Japanese convoy consisting of transport *Amagisan Maru* and oiler (ex-seaplane carrier) *Tsurumi*, escorted by submarine chaser *Ch 4*, off Palaus, 07°30'N, 134°20'E; *Tunny's* attack is unsuccessful but *Ch 4* damages the submarine and forces her to terminate her patrol.

USAAF B-24s bomb Japanese destroyers attempting to reach Buin, 45 miles from Buka, damaging *Hamakaze* and forcing her to put into Rabaul for repairs.

Mediterranean

German submarine *U-410* attacks convoy UGS 14 off the coast of Algeria, torpedoing U.S. freighters *John Bell*, 37°11'30"N, 08°21'E, and *Richard Henderson*, 37°12'N, 08°21'E; one of the 43-man merchant complement perishes on board the former while there are no casualties on board the latter. Both ships, irreparably damaged, sink the next morning. British motor minesweeper HMS *BYMS 23* and South African armed whaler *Southern Maid* rescue *John Bell's* survivors; *Southern Maid* also participates in rescuing *Richard Henderson's* survivors as well.

- **27 August, Fri.**

Pacific

Marines (2d Airdrome Battalion) and Seabees (16th Construction Battalion) complete occupation of Nukufetau, Ellice Islands. Army troops (RCT 172 of 43d Infantry Division) are landed on Arundel Island, Solomons.

Tank landing craft *LCT-319* sinks after running aground, Kiska, Aleutians.

Submarine *Drum* (SS-228) damages Japanese transport *Yamagiri Maru*, 01°31'S, 148°41'E.

Submarine *Grayling* (SS-209) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Meizan Maru*, 13°35'N, 120°45'E.

Submarine *Pollock* (SS-180) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Taifuku Maru*, 32°28'N, 132°23'E, although minesweeper *W.17* arrives on the scene in time to open fire on *Pollock*, the submarine escapes.

Submarine *Snapper* (SS-185) inflicts further damage on the previously damaged Japanese transport *Tokai Maru* (see 26 January and 5 May 1943), Apra Harbor, Guam, 13°31'N, 144°37'E.

USAAF B-17s and B-24s, escorted by P-38s, bomb Japanese installations in the Hansa Bay area, damaging small cargo vessel *No.8 Manryu Maru*.

USAAF B-24s bomb Japanese shipping off western tip of New Hanover, damaging army cargo ship *No.18 Shinsei Maru*.

USAAF B-25s bomb Japanese shipping and installations at Choiseul, damaging fishing vessel *Kokusei Maru*.

Indian Ocean

Last group of survivors from U.S. freighter *Robert Bacon*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-178* on 14 July 1943 off Mozambique Light, reaches safety after 44 days at sea. Only one survivor perishes from exposure.

Atlantic

Aircraft (VC 1) from escort carrier *Card* (CVE-11) attack German submarines *U-508*, but the enemy escapes; other VC-1 aircraft sink *U-847*, mid-Atlantic area, 28°19'N, 37°58'W.

- **28 August, Sat.**

Pacific

Marines (7th Defense battalion) occupy Nanumea, Ellice Islands.

Submarine *Tarpon* (SS-175) damages Japanese stores ship *Shinsei Maru*, 33°39'N, 138°28'E.

Navy PBY aircraft attacks Japanese minelayer *Hoko* off Buka; although the Catalina crew claims damage, the enemy auxiliary escapes unscathed.

USAAF B-25 and P-38 aircraft bomb Japanese installations in Hansa Bay region, sinking fishing vessels *Owaru Maru* and *Seio Maru*.

- **29 August, Sun.**

Atlantic

German auxiliary cruiser *Michel* (Schiffe 28) eludes light cruiser *Trenton* (CL-11) off the coast of Chile.

During turmoil in Denmark following the Danish government's refusal to yield to German demand for the death penalty for saboteurs, the Danish government resigns and the Danish army is disarmed. The Danish fleet (coast defense ship, nine submarines, a tender, three minesweepers, five patrol boats, five small minesweepers, and four minelayers) is scuttled at Copenhagen; one coast defense ship is scuttled at Isefjord. Germans capture three minesweepers, and two patrol boats, but one patrol boat, three motor minesweepers and nine small auxiliary vessels escape to Sweden.

- **30 August, Mon.**

Pacific

Submarine *Halibut* (SS-232) sinks Japanese cargo ship *Taibun Maru*, 41°50'N, 141°13'E.

- **31 August, Tue.**

Pacific

TBFs, SBDs, and F6Fs from TF 15 (Rear Admiral Charles A. Pownall), consisting of two carriers, one small carrier, one battleship, two light cruisers, and 11 destroyers, supported by an oiler, bomb Marcus Island in the prototype

fast carrier strike. TBFs from small carrier *Independence* (CVL 22) sink three Japanese small craft. Submarine *Snook* (SS-279) operates in support of TF 15.

Tank landing craft *LCT-154* is lost during amphibious operations, 37°8'N, 10°58'E.

Submarine *Seawolf* (SS-197) damages Japanese torpedo boat *Sagi* and sinks army cargo ship *Shoto Maru* and merchant cargo ship *Kokko Maru*, 28°30'N, 123°05'E.

U.S. tanker *W.S. Rheem* is torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I-20* near Espiritu Santo, 15°51'S, 167°02'E, but reaches port under her own power; there are no casualties to either the 49-man merchant complement or the 25-man Armed Guard.

USAAF aircraft sink small Japanese coastal vessel *Shirogane Maru* off coast of south China between Amoy and Hong Kong, 22°13'N, 114°10'E.

September

- **1 September, Wed.**

Pacific

Naval Air Station, Kahului, Maui, T.H., is established.

Army occupation troops (804th Aviation Battalion) land on Baker Island, supported by TF 11 (Rear Admiral Willis A. Lee, Jr.), formed around small carriers *Princeton* (CVL 23) and *Belleau Wood* (CVL 24). *Ashland* (LSD 1) in this operation pioneers the use of the dock landing ship.

Destroyer *Wadsworth* (DD-516) sinks Japanese submarine *I-182* off Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides, 15°38'N, 166°57'E.

Submarine *Pompano* (SS-181) sinks Japanese merchant vessel *Nankai Maru* off Miyako.

Atlantic

Navy assumes full responsibility for airborne antisubmarine operations by U.S. forces in Atlantic.

- **2 September, Thu.**

Pacific

Destroyer *Kendrick* (DD-612) is damaged by aerial torpedo, 36°42'N, 00°47'E.

Submarine *Bowfin* (SS-287) delivers supplies and evacuates certain people from Binuni Point, Mindanao.

Submarine *Seawolf* (SS-197) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Fusei Maru*, 31°28'N, 127°24'E.

Submarine *Snapper* (SS-185) sinks Japanese escort vessel *Mutsure*, 85 miles north-northwest of Truk, Carolines, 08°40'N, 151°31'E.

USAAF B-25s and P-38s pound Japanese convoy off Wewak, sinking army cargo ships *Nagato Maru* and *Hankow Maru*, and damaging *Nagano Maru*.

- **3 September, Fri.** Allies sign armistice with Italy.

Pacific

Destroyer *Ellet* (DD-398) sinks Japanese submarine *I-25*, 150 miles northeast of Espiritu Santo, 13°10'S, 165°27'E.

Submarine *Pollack* (SS-180) sinks Japanese transport *Tagonoura Maru* off Mikura Jima, 33°38'N, 140°07'E.

Submarine *Pompano* (SS-181) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Akama Maru*, 41°00'N, 144°34'E.

Mediterranean

British troops, with naval and air support, land on the Italian mainland.

- **4 September, Sat.**

Pacific

TF 76 (Rear Admiral Daniel E. Barbey) lands Australian 9th Division on Huon Peninsula near Lae, New Guinea, in Operation POSTERN. In Japanese retaliatory air strikes, infantry landing craft *LCI-339* is sunk; destroyer *Conyngham* (DD-371) is damaged by dive bomber, 07°28'S, 147°44'E; and tank landing ships *LST-471* and *LST-473* are damaged by torpedo and dive bombers, 07°45'S, 148°01'E.

Japanese aircraft attack four Rendova-based U.S. motor torpedo boats off Meresu Cove, damaging *PT-124* and *PT-125*.

Submarine *Albacore* (SS-218) sinks Japanese gunboat *Heijo Maru* southwest of Ponape, Carolines, 05°25'N, 156°37'E.

Submarine *Pargo* (SS-264) damages Japanese fleet tanker *Ryuei Maru*, 30°06'N, 128°02'E.

Submarine *Sunfish* (SS-281) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Kozan Maru*, 22°06'N, 119°50'E.

Submarine *Tarpon* (SS-175) sinks Japanese guardboat *Yulin Maru* in northern Pacific, 35°56'N, 157°59'E.

- **5 September, Sun.**

Pacific

District patrol craft *YP-279* founders in heavy weather off Townsville, Australia.

Salvage vessel *Yusho Maru* is sunk by mine in Makassar Strait, 05°00'S, 119°00'E.

Submarine *Albacore* (SS-218) hits Japanese transport *Hokusho Maru* with two dud torpedoes, 03°50'N, 160°20'E (see 11 September 1943).

Submarine *Swordfish* (SS-193) sinks Japanese army transport *Tenkai Maru*, 01°35'N, 141°45'E.

- **6 September, Mon.**

Pacific

Submarine *Halibut* (SS-232) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Shogen Maru*, 42°13'N, 142°00'E, and later hits heavy cruiser *Nachi* with one dud torpedo, 40°07'N, 142°20'E.

Submarine *Seahorse* (SS-304) is damaged by depth charges off the Palau, 07°31'N, 134°21'E, shortly after attacking a convoy, but remains on patrol.

USAAF B-24 damages Japanese hospital ship *America Maru*, 01°37'S, 149°19'E.

RAAF Beauforts sink small Japanese cargo vessel *Seicho Maru* 21 nautical miles east of Garove Island, 04°39'S, 152°59'E.

- **7 September, Tue.**

Pacific

Japanese aircraft bomb Nanumea, Ellice Islands.

Motor torpedo boats *PT-118* and *PT-172*, damaged by grounding, Solomons area, 07°34'S, 165°35'E, are scuttled.

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *Lyman Stewart*, en route to Durban, South Africa, from Colombo, Ceylon, is attacked by Japanese submarine *I-27* at 03°30'N, 75°00'E, and slightly damaged by a dud torpedo. *I-27's* gunfire attack proves equally ineffective, and *Lyman Stewart* proceeds on her way. There are no casualties on board the freighter.

- **8 September, Wed.**

Pacific

Four U.S. destroyers bombard Lae, New Guinea.

Submarine *Drum* (SS-228) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *No. 13 Hakutetsu Maru* off Hollandia, 02°44'S, 141°36'E.

Japanese land attack planes (755th Kokutai) bomb Nanomea, Ellice Islands.

Mediterranean

General Dwight D. Eisenhower announces from Algiers that an armistice has been concluded with the Italian government. German forces in Italy, however, remain in place; among other actions, they occupy harbors along the Tyrrhenian Sea, as well as Sardinia and Corsica (see 9 September).

Operation SPALSTICK: Light cruiser *Boise* (CL-47), withdrawn temporarily from the bombardment force being massed for Operation AVALANCHE, transports British troops from Bizerte and is the only U.S. Navy ship to participate in the British occupation of Taranto, Italy.

Convoy FSS 1, bound for Salerno to participate in Operation AVALANCHE, is attacked by German JU 88s; large infantry landing craft *LCI(L)-87* is damaged by near misses. German planes bomb TG 85.1; tank landing ship is damaged by direct hit and near misses.

Arctic

Operation SIZILIEN: German battleship *Tirpitz*, accompanied by a destroyer flotilla, shells Barentsburg, Spitsberge, Norway; battleship *Scharnhorst* and two destroyer flotillas land troops (349th Grenadier Regiment) that destroy facilities at Grönfjord and Advent Bay before reembarking. The German force returns to its Norwegian bases unhindered.

- **9 September, Thu.**

Pacific

Four high-speed transports bombard Lae, New Guinea.

Submarine *Grayling* (SS-209) is sunk, possibly rammed by Japanese transport *Hokuan Maru* in the South China Sea west of Luzon.

Submarine *Harder* (SS-257) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Koyo Maru*, 35°30'N, 140°40'E.

Submarine *Permit* (SS-178) damages Japanese cargo vessel *Tateyama Maru* 09°00'N, 168°40'E.

Submarine *Pompano* (SS-181) damages Japanese army cargo ship *Nanking Maru*, 40°12'N, 141°55'E.

Caribbean

German submarine *U-214* lays mines off Colon, Canal Zone, off the Atlantic entrance to the Panama Canal.

Mediterranean

Italian mainland is invaded in Operation AVALANCHE. Under protection of the Western Naval Task Force TF 80 (Vice Admiral H. Kent Hewitt, USN), the Allied Fifth Army (Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark, USA) lands on the assault beaches in the Gulf of Salerno. Off the invasion beaches, tug *Nauset* (AT-89) is sunk by dive bomber, 40°38'N, 14°38'E; tank landing ships *LST-336*, *LST-375*, and *LST-385* are damaged by shore batteries, and *LST-386* is mined, 40°40'N, 14°44'E; *LST-389* is damaged by shore batteries, 40°22'N, 14°59'E.

Tank landing craft *LCT-366* founders and sinks in heavy weather, 53°01'N, 152°00'W.

- **11 September, Sat.**

Pacific

Japanese minesweeper *W.16* is sunk by Allied aircraft south of Makassar, Celebes, 06°08'S, 119°20'E.

Submarine *Harder* (SS-257) sinks Japanese transport *Yoko Maru* south of Mikura Island, 33°48'N, 139°37'E.

Submarine *Narwhal* (SS-167) sinks Japanese transport *Hokusho Maru* (hit earlier by dud torpedoes) five miles northwest of Nauru Island, 00°30'S, 166°50'E.

Submarine *Spearfish* (SS-190) damages Japanese army transport *Tsuyama Maru*, 30°56'N, 132°47'E.

Atlantic

German submarine *U-107* lays mines off Charleston, South Carolina.

Mediterranean

Italian Fleet surrenders to the Allies.

Off Salerno, Italy, destroyer *Rowan* (DD-405) is sunk by German motor torpedo boats (3d Motor Torpedo Boat Flotilla), 40°07'N, 14°18'E; light cruisers *Philadelphia* (CL-41) and *Savannah* (CL-42) are damaged by radio-controlled bombs, 40°24'N, 14°51'E, and 40°21'N, 14°55'E, respectively.

Tank landing craft *LCT-71* founders and sinks in heavy weather, 53°38'N, 146°05'W.

- **12 September, Sun.**

Pacific

Tank landing ships *LST-455* is damaged by dive bomber, eastern New Guinea area, 08°59'S, 149°10'E.

Tug *Navajo* (AT-64), towing gasoline barge *YOG-42*, is sunk by Japanese submarine *I-39*, 150 miles east of Espiritu Santo.

Submarine *Permit* (SS-178) damages Japanese aircraft transport *Fujikawa Maru*, 08°23'N, 165°12'E.

Mediterranean

U.S. freighter *William B. Travis* is damaged (most likely by mine) about 25 miles north of Bizerte, Tunisia, 37°17'N, 10°30'E, but reaches port under her own power. While there are no casualties among the 47-man merchant complement or the 27-man Armed Guard, one of the 41 passengers perishes in the explosion.

- **13 September, Mon.**

Pacific

Submarine *Permit* (SS-178) damages Japanese fleet tanker *Shiretoko*, 08°33'N, 164°40'E.

Submarine *Snook* (SS-279) sinks Japanese army transport *Yamato Maru*, 30°08'N, 123°32'E, and although escorting destroyer *Shiokaze* claims her destruction, *Snook* emerges from the encounter to fight again.

Mediterranean

Submarine chaser *SC-666* is damaged by collision off coast of Italy, 40°40'N, 14°44'E.

German planes bomb Allied shipping off Salerno. U.S. freighter *James W. Marshall* is damaged by bomb and resultant fire. There are, however, no casualties among the crew.

- **14 September, Tue.**

Mediterranean

Off Salerno, U.S. freighter *Bushrod Washington* is set afire by a direct bomb hit and is abandoned; tug *Hopi* (AT-71) assists boats with the latter's survivors. One Armed Guard sailor, four merchant seamen and ten stevedores perish in the explosion and fires. Fire-fighting efforts, however, ultimately prove unavailing for *Bushrod Washington* (see 15 September 1943).

- **15 September, Wed.**

Pacific

Fleet Air Wing 17 (Commodore Thomas S. Combs) is established in Brisbane, Australia, for operations in southwestern Pacific area.

Destroyer *Saufley* (DD-465) and PBY (VP 23) sinks Japanese submarine *RO 101* 100 miles east of San Cristobal, Solomons, 10°57'S, 163°56'E.

Submarine *Haddock* (SS-231) sinks Japanese collier *Sansei Maru* north of Truk, 09°32'N, 150°38'E.

Mediterranean

German planes bomb Allied shipping off Salerno. U.S. freighter *James W. Marshall* is damaged by glide bomb; two tank landing craft (LCT) alongside catch fire, and the resultant blaze compels the abandonment of the freighter. Thirteen of the ship's merchant complement perish as do 50 Army stevedores working cargo. Amphibious command ship *Biscayne* (AVP-11) provides aid for many survivors. Liberty ship *William Bradford* is strafed by German planes; there are no casualties among the freighter's merchant or Armed Guard complements. *LCT-241* is sunk by aerial bomb; *LCT-209* is destroyed when freighter *Bushrod Washington* explodes when the uncontrolled fires (started the previous day when the ship suffers a direct bomb hit) reach the 500-pound bombs stowed forward; *LCT-19* is sunk by rocket bomb.

- **16 September, Sat.**

Pacific

Japanese gunboat *Seikai Maru* is sunk by mine (laid by submarine *Silversides* on 4 June) off Kavieng, 02°36'N, 150°34'E.

Submarine *Gudgeon* (SS-212) engages Japanese minelayer *Fumi Maru* in an inconclusive surface gunnery action off Rota Island, Marianas, 13°50'N, 145°02'E (see 28 September 1943).

PBY sinks small Japanese cargo vessel *Taira Maru* en route to Hansa Bay, 04°10'S, 144°55'E.

Mediterranean

German planes bomb Allied shipping off Bizerte, Tunisia; U.S. freighter *Edward P. Costigan* is damaged by near-miss of bomb; there are no casualties to either merchant or Armed Guard complements.

- **17 September, Fri.**

Pacific

Motor torpedo boat *PT-136*, damaged by grounding, eastern New Guinea area, 05°55'S 148°01'E, is scuttled.

- **18 September, Sat.**

Pacific

TF 15 (Rear Admiral Charles A. Pownall) aircraft [attack] Tarawa, Makin, and Abemama, Gilberts, to decrease Japanese pressure on the Ellice Islands and provide operational training. During the attack on Tarawa, TBFs, SBDs, and F6Fs from carrier *Lexington* (CV-16), and small carriers *Princeton* (CVL 23) and *Belleau Wood* (CVL 24) sink Japanese motor torpedo boats *Gyoraitei* and *Gyoraitei No. 3*.

Submarine *S-42* (SS-153) damages Japanese gunboat *Chowa Maru*, 50°22'N, 155°43'E.

Submarine *Scamp* (SS-277) attacks Japanese convoy north of New Guinea, sinking army cargo ship *Kansai Maru*, 00°41'N, 146°28'E, but although damaged by depth charges (perhaps dropped by submarine chasers *Ch 38* and/or *Ch 16*, known to be among the escorts) remains on patrol.

Submarine *Spearfish* (SS-190) damages Japanese torpedo boat *Sagi* (premature explosion of two torpedoes), 29°08'N, 134°29'E.

Submarine *Trigger* (SS-237) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Yowa Maru*, 27°20'N, 126°53'E.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *William Pepperell* is attacked by German submarine *U-260*, 55°02'N, 29°27'E, but the torpedo detonates in the ship's torpedo streamer, causing only minor damage to the freighter herself; there are no casualties to either the 42-man merchant complement or the 26-man Armed Guard (see 20 September 1943).

- **19 September, Sun.**

Pacific

Submarine *Harder* (SS-257) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kachiyama Maru*, 33°25'N, 135°38'E.

Submarine *Scamp* (SS-277) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Kansai Maru*, 00°25'N, 146°21'E.

- **20 September, Mon.**

Pacific

Covered lighter *YF-579* sinks off San Francisco, California.

Submarine *Haddock* (SS-231) damages Japanese fleet tanker *Notoro* east of the Palaus, 07°23'N, 150°11'E; auxiliary submarine chaser *Takunan Maru* conducts fruitless search for *Haddock*.

Submarine *S-28* (SS-133) sinks Japanese gunboat *Katsura Maru* 165 miles southwest of Paramushiro, Kuriles, 49°05'N, 151°45'E.

Repair ship *Hayase* is sunk by Chinese aircraft, Ch'iu-Chiang, Yangtze River, China.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *William Pepperell* is again attacked by German submarine *U-260*, but with the same result as two days before. Again, there are no casualties and the ship ultimately reaches port under her own power.

German submarine *U-238* attacks New York-bound convoy ON 202, torpedoing U.S. freighters *Frederick Douglass*, 57°03'N, 28°08'W, and *Theodore Dwight Weld*, 57°03'N, 28°12'W. British rescue ship *Rathlin* rescues all hands (40-men merchant complement, 29-man Armed Guard, and one female stowaway) from *Frederick Douglass*, which remains afloat until finished off later the same day by *U-645*. *Theodore Dwight Weld* sinks so quickly that 20 of the 42-man merchant complement and 13 of the 28-man Armed Guard perish. *Rathlin* rescues the survivors.

- **21 September, Tue.**

Pacific

Submarine *Haddock* (SS-231) torpedoes Japanese collier *Shinyubari Maru* west-northwest of Truk, 08°53'N, 148°30'E.

Submarine *Trigger* (SS-237) sinks Japanese fleet oilers *Shiriya* and *Shoyo Maru* and merchant cargo ship *Argun Maru*, and damages fleet oiler *No.1 Ozura Maru* north of Keelung, Formosa, 26°27'N, 122°40'E.

Submarine *Wahoo* (SS-238) sinks Japanese merchantfishing vessel *Hokusei Maru*, 45°45'N, 145°46'E.

USAAF B-24 aircraft sink Japanese transport *Takashima Maru* southeast of the Admiralties, 03°45'S, 149°20'E.

Mediterranean

U.S. freighter *William W. Gerhard*, in Salerno-bound convoy, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-238* at 40°07'N, 14°43'E, and abandoned by the 46-man crew, 29 of the 30-man Armed Guard (one man perishes in the initial explosion) and 191 Army troops. After the crew returns to the ship to prepare her for towing, tug *Moreno* (AT-87) takes the torpedoed merchantman in tow and heads for Salerno. Fires break out on board, however, and after unavailing efforts by the crew, aided by tug *Narragansett* (AT-88) and British rescue tug *HMS Weazel*, the crew abandons ship a second time, transferring en masse to *Moreno*. *William W. Gerhard* explodes that night and breaks in two; the bow section sinks immediately (see 22 September 1943).

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *Cornelia P. Spencer* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-188* at 02°08'N, 50°10'E; when the U-boat surfaces to finish off the merchantman, however, the Armed Guard gunfire proves so accurate that the U-boat submerges and torpedoes the ship again (the explosion kills two merchant sailors). *Cornelia P. Spencer* is then abandoned. Torpedoed a third time she sinks soon thereafter. The survivors (39 merchant sailors and the 27-man Armed Guard) are divided amongst four lifeboats (see 22 September and 6 October 1943).

- **22 September, Wed.**

Pacific

TF 76 (Rear Admiral Daniel E. Barbey) puts 20th Australian Brigade ashore at Finschhafen, New Guinea.

Coastal transport *APc-35*, irreparably damaged by grounding en route to Renard Sound, New Georgia, 08°48'S, 157°46'E, is beached and abandoned.

Gunboat *Charleston* (PG-51) is damaged when accidentally rammed by U.S. merchant ship *Sam Jackson*, Kuluk Bay, Adak, Alaska.

Submarine *Harder* (SS-257) sinks Japanese merchant tanker *Daishin Maru* and cargo ship *Kowa Maru*, 34°46'N, 140°55'E.

Submarine *Hoe* (SS-258) attacks Japanese fleet tanker *Gen'yo Maru*, 10°08'N, 147°01'E.

Submarine *Snook* (SS-279) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Katsurahama Maru*, 39°00'N, 124°20'E, and damages merchant cargo ship *Hakutetsu Maru*, 39°15'N, 123°30'E.

Submarine *Trigger* (SS-237) damages Japanese army cargo ship *Gyoku Maru*, 26°27'N, 122°40'E.

Mediterranean

U.S. freighter *Richard Olney*, in convoy KMS 26, is mined off Bizerte, Tunisia, 37°25'N, 09°54'E; two of the 43-man merchant complement perish in the explosion. There are no casualties among the 31-man Armed Guard or among

the 143 troop passengers. Although *Richard Olney* reaches Bizerte under tow of British (ex-Coast Guard) cutter HMS *Landguard*, the freighter will be written off as a total loss.

Ocean going tugs *Moreno* (AT-87) and *Narragansett* (AT-88) and British rescue tug HMS *Weazel* scuttle the stern section of U.S. Liberty ship *William W. Gerhard* with gunfire off Salerno.

Indian Ocean

British destroyer HMS *Relentless* rescues 34 survivors from two boats from U.S. Liberty ship *Cornelia P. Spencer*, torpedoed by German submarine *U-188* the day before. Freighter *Sandown Castle* rescues 16 men from a third boat (see 6 October 1943).

- **23 September, Thu.**

Pacific

Submarine *Trout* (SS-202) sinks Japanese transport *Ryotoku Maru* and merchant cargo ship *Yamashiro Maru* northwest of the Marianas, 20°45'N, 142°10'E, and eludes counterattacks of the escort, auxiliary minesweeper *Keinan Maru*.

Submarine *Tuna* (SS-203) attacks Japanese cargo vessel *Shinwa Maru*, 04°50'N, 105°50'E.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Steel Voyager*, in convoy ONS 202, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-952* at 53°30'N, 40°40'W, and abandoned. Although reboarded when Canadian corvette HMCS *Morden* and Free French corvette *Renoncule* arrive to provide assistance, *Steel Voyager* is abandoned a second time when it becomes obvious that the ship cannot be gotten underway. All hands (39-man merchant complement and 27-man Armed Guard) are taken on board the two corvettes.

- **24 September, Fri.**

Pacific

Submarine *Cabrilla* (SS-288) attacks Japanese carrier *Taiyo*, escort carrier *Chuyo*, and destroyer *Shimakaze* northwest of Chichi Jima, torpedoing *Taiyo* at 28°00'N, 146°10'E. *Chuyo* tows the disabled carrier to Yokosuka. *Taiyo* is saved from worse damage because two of the three torpedo warheads that hit the ship (of the six fired by *Cabrilla*) detach upon impact.

USAAF B-24 sinks small Japanese cargo vessel *Shonan Maru* off Mussau Island, 00°27'S, 147°43'E.

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *Elias Howe* is torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine *I-10* about 75 miles southeast of Aden, 11°40'N, 44°35'E. Subsequently, British seaplanes rescue one boatload of survivors and those on board two rafts; British trawler HMS *Aiglon* rescues the remainder. Two of the 42-man merchant complement are killed in the initial explosion; the 18-man Armed Guard survives intact.

- **25 September, Sat.**

Pacific

Tank landing ships *LST-167* is damaged by dive bomber off Vella Lavella, Solomons, 07°45'S, 156°30'E.

Submarine *Bluefish* (SS-222) damages Japanese merchant cargo ship *Akashi Maru*, 06°23'S, 118°55'E, and escapes counterattack by escorting auxiliary minesweeper *Wa 4* (see 29 September 1943).

Submarines *Bowfin* (SS-287), *Billfish* (SS-286), and *Bonefish* (SS-223) attack Japanese convoy; *Bowfin* sinks tanker *Kirishima Maru* 220 nautical miles north of Nha Trang, French Indochina, 09°50'N, 112°03'E. None of the other attacks prove successful, and the enemy ships continue their passage to Manila.

Mediterranean

Minesweeper *Skill* (AM-115) is sunk by German submarine *U-593* in the Gulf of Salerno, 40°19.5'N, 14°35.5'E. Sistership *Speed* (AM-116) rescues the few survivors, screened by *Seer* (AM-112). *Pilot* (AM-104) conducts a followup search for survivors without success.

- **26 September, Sun.**

Atlantic

Naval Operating Facility, Natal, Brazil, is established.

- **27 September, Mon.**

Pacific

Submarine *Bluefish* (SS-222) sinks Japanese torpedo boat *Kasasagi* 25 miles south of the Flores Sea, N.E.I., 05°45'S, 121°50'E.

Submarine *Bonefish* (SS-223) sinks Japanese army transport *Kashima Maru*, and damages cargo ship *Chihaya Maru*, 10°10'N, 109°40'E

USAAF B-24s and P-38s bomb Japanese shipping at Wewak, sinking merchant transport *Taisei Maru* and cargo vessels *Sakihana Maru*, *Taisho Maru*, *Fuji Maru*, and *Kiri Maru*.

Malayan saboteurs, promised a livelihood after the British reoccupy Malaya, sink Japanese cargo ship *Hakusan Maru* and damage cargo ship *Kizan Maru* at Singapore. Efforts to salvage the latter are eventually abandoned and the ship written off as a total loss.

Atlantic

PBM (VP 74) sink German submarine *U-161* off Brazil, 12°30'S, 35°35'W.

- **28 September, Tue.**

Pacific

Submarine *Cisco* (SS-290) is sunk, probably by Japanese naval aircraft (954th Kokutai) and gunboat *Karatsu* (ex-U.S.-river gunboat *Luzon* (PR-7)) in Sulu Sea, off Panay Island, 09°47'N, 121°44'E.

Submarine *Grouper* (SS-214) lands men and supplies on south coast of New Britain.

Submarine *Gudgeon* (SS-212) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Taian Maru*, 15°22'N, 145°38'E. Minelayer *No.2 Fumi Maru* (which *Gudgeon* had engaged on 16 September 1943), counterattacks, but does not damage the submarine as *Gudgeon* and *No.2 Fumi Maru* encounter each other for the second time.

Japanese minelayer *Hoko* is sunk by aircraft off New Britain.

Mediterranean

Salvage vessel *Brant* (ARS-32) is damaged when she is accidentally rammed by British landing craft HMS *LCF 16* during a gale in the Gulf of Salerno, Italy.

- **29 September, Wed.**

Pacific

During a sweep to destroy Japanese barge traffic north of Kolombangara, destroyers *Patterson* (DD-392) and *McCalla* (DD-488) are damaged in collision, 07°36'S, 157°12'E.

Submarine *Bluefish* (SS-222) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Akashi Maru*, 06°11'S, 126°00'E (see 25 September 1943).

Submarine *Gudgeon* (SS-212) damages Japanese gunboat *Santo Maru* off Saipan, 15°28'N, 145°57'E. Transport *Kenryu Maru* tows the gunboat into Saipan.

Mediterranean

Off Salerno, Italy, tank landing craft *LCT-342* sinks after running aground; *LCT-537*, *LCT-553*, *LCT-556*, *LCT-583*, *LCT-603*, *LCT-605*, *LCT-606*, *LCT-614*, *LCT-616*, *LCT-618*, *LCT-621*, and *LCT-626* are all damaged when gale strands them off Salerno's south beaches.

- **30 September, Thu.**

Pacific

Motor torpedo boat *PT-219* founders and sinks off Attu, Aleutians, sometime during September (exact date unspecified).

In the Solomons area, tank landing ships *LST-334* is damaged by dive bombers, 07°43'S, 156°40'E; motor torpedo boat *PT-126* is damaged, accidentally, by USMC F4Us, 07°50'S, 157°05'E.

Motor torpedo boat *PT-68* is damaged by grounding off Vincke Point, Huon Peninsula, eastern New Guinea, 05°56'S, 147°18'E.

Submarine *Bowfin* (SS-287) delivers supplies and evacuates people from Siquijor Island, P.I., and sinks small Japanese cargo ship *Mitake Maru*, 05°17'N, 121°57'E.

Submarine *Harder* (SS-257) sinks Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *No.3 Shosei Maru*, 34°10'N, 150°45'E.

Submarine *Pogy* (SS-266) sinks Japanese army transport *Maebashi Maru* 300 miles east of Palau, 06°01'N, 139°08'E.

USAAF B-25s and P-40s sink Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *Chikushi Maru* in Kwangchow Bay, China, 21°12'N, 110°24'E; the vessel is later salvaged, however, and resumes active service.

Atlantic

Coast Guard cutter (ex-Menhaden fisherman) *Wilcox* (WYP-333) founders and sinks 94 miles off Nags Head, North Carolina.

October

- **1 October, Fri.**

Pacific

Motor torpedo boat *PT-68*, damaged by grounding off Vincke Point, Huon Peninsula, eastern New Guinea, 05°56'S, 147°18'E, is scuttled by motor torpedo boat *PT-191* to prevent capture.

Destroyer *Saufley* (DD-465) is damaged by near-miss of bombs from Japanese horizontal bomber, Solomons, 07°42'S, 160°14'E.

Tank landing ships *LST-448* is damaged by horizontal bomber, Solomons, 07°45'S, 156°30'E.

Mobile degaussing barge *YDG-4* sinks nine miles southeast of Bulari Passage, after running aground off New Caledonia.

Submarine *Peto* (SS-265) sinks Japanese transport *Tonei Maru* and Japanese army cargo ship *Kinkasan Maru*, Southern Carolines, 04°00'N, 143°50'E.

Submarine *Wahoo* (SS-238) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Masaki Maru* in Sea of Japan.

Atlantic

Naval Air Facility, Recife, Brazil, is established.

Naval forces under Commander Naval Forces Europe (Admiral Harold R. Stark) are designated the Twelfth Fleet.

Escort carrier *Block Island* (CVE-21) and destroyer *Black* (DD-666) are damaged in collision in Elizabeth River channel, Norfolk, Virginia.

PV-1s (VB-128) attack German submarines *U-402* and *U-448* as the latter seek (unsuccessfully) convoy HX 258 in the North Atlantic.

Mediterranean

U.S. freighter *Metapan*, in convoy UGS 15, is mined and sunk at 37°20'N, 10°35'E. Fuel-oil barge *Syncline* (YO-63) rescues the 50-man merchant complement, the 23-man Armed Guard and the one passenger.

- **2 October, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine *Kingfish* (SS-234) lays mines off southern Celebes, N.E.I.

Tank landing ships *LST-203* is damaged by grounding near Nanumea, Ellice Islands.

Japanese minesweeper *W.28* is damaged by mine (laid by submarine *Silversidess* (SS-236) on 4 June 1943) off Kavieng, 02°36'S, 150°34'E.

- **3 October, Sun.**

Pacific

Japanese complete evacuation of Kolombangara, Solomons.

Destroyer *Henley* (DD-391) is sunk by Japanese submarine *RO 108* off eastern New Guinea, 07°40'S, 148°06'E.

Japanese hospital ship *Hikawa Maru* is damaged by mine, Surabaya, Java.

- **4 October, Mon.**

Atlantic

Operation LEADER, the only U.S. Navy carrier operation carried out in

northern European waters during World War II, causes "appreciable losses" to two convoys off the Norwegian coast and to shipping in the harbor of Bodo, Norway. *Ranger* (CV-4)'s TBFs (VT 4), SBDs (VB 4), and F4Fs (VF 4) sink Norwegian steamer *Vagan* and damage Norwegian steamer *Topeka*; sink German steamers *Kaguir*, *LaPlata*, and *Rabat* and transport *Skramstad*; and damage German tanker *Schleswig* and steamers *Kerkplein* and *Ibis*. German steamer *Malaga* is damaged by a dud bomb. Only two German planes approach the task force: both (JU 88 and HE 115) are shot down by combat air patrol F4Fs.

Planes (VC 9) from escort carrier *Card* (CVE-11) attack three German submarines--U 264, *U-422*, and *U-455*--rendezvousing with a milch cow, *U-460*, north of the Azores. *U-460* and *U-422* are sunk, 43°13'N, 28°58'W, and 43°18'N, 28°58'W, respectively. This action in the central Atlantic allows convoy UGS 19 to pass through the vicinity unmolested by the enemy.

PV-1 patrol bombers (VB 128) sink German submarine *U-336*, North Atlantic area, 60°40'N, 26°30'W, during operations to protect convoy ONS 204.

Mediterranean

German bombers attack convoy UGS 18; a near-miss damages U.S. freighter *Hiram S. Maxim* about 12 miles northwest of Cape Tenes, Algeria, 36°42'N, 01°17'E; abandoned by all but a skeleton crew of 7 merchant seamen and 6 Armed Guard sailors, the ship is towed to Algiers for repairs. Freighters *Leslie M. Shaw* and *Harry Lane* rescue the remainder of the crew (33 merchant and 22 Armed Guard). There are no casualties.

- **5 October, Tue.**

Pacific

TF 14 (Rear Admiral Alfred E. Montgomery), including 3 carriers, 3 small carriers, 3 heavy cruisers, 4 light cruisers, 24 destroyers, and 2 oilers, bombs and shells Wake Island; attack is repeated on 6 October. Fearing that the strikes portend a landing and that an escaped POW could communicate the weakness of his garrison, the Japanese island commander (Rear Admiral Sakaibara Shigematsu) orders the execution of the 98 remaining civilians captured on 23 December 1941.

Tank landing ships *LST-448*, damaged on 1 October 1943, sinks while in tow of tug *Bobolink* (AT-131), Solomons, 08°03'S, 156°43'E.

Submarine *Wahoo* (SS-238) sinks Japanese army transport *Konron Maru* in Tsushima Straits, 34°00'N, 129°00'E. Loss of *Konron Maru*, of the Shimonoseki-to-Fusan ferry line, prompts the cancellation of night ferry trips across Tsushima Straits. Only 72 people, of the 616 on board, are rescued because of heavy seas.

Mediterranean

German bombers attack convoy UGS 18; a near-miss damages U.S. freighter *Cotton Mather* about 15 miles north of Cape Tenes, Algeria, 36°00'N, 01°00'E. There are no casualties among the 53-man merchant complement and the 27-man Armed Guard; and the ship reaches Algiers under her own power.

- **6 October, Wed.**

Pacific

Battle of Vella Lavella takes place at night when three destroyers (Captain Frank R. Walker) intercept and attack nine Japanese destroyers (Vice Admiral Ijuin Masuji) evacuating troops from Vella Lavella, in what proves to be the last surface engagement in the central Solomons. Three U.S. destroyers are damaged: *O'Bannon* (DD-450) in collision with destroyer *Chevalier* (DD-451), 07°30'S, 156°15'E; *Selfridge* (DD-357) by torpedo fired from either of Japanese destroyers *Shigure* or *Samidare*, 07°27'S, 156°13'E; and *Chevalier* by torpedo from Japanese destroyer *Yugumo*. *Chevalier* is scuttled by destroyer *LaVallette* (DD-448), 07°30'S, 156°14'E. Torpedoes from *Chevalier* and *Selfridge* sink Japanese destroyer *Yugumo*.

Submarine chaser *PC-478* and tank landing ships *LST-451* are damaged in collision while en route from Adak to Amchitka, Aleutians.

Submarine *Kingfish* (SS-234) lands men and supplies on northeast coast of Borneo.

Submarine *Skate* (SS-305), lifeguarding for the Wake Island strikes (see 5 October 1943), is strafed and damaged by Japanese aircraft off the atoll, but remains on patrol.

Submarine *Steelhead* (SS-280) damages Japanese fast fleet tanker *Kazuhaya*, 10°30'N, 146°37'E; *Tinosa* (SS-283) later finishes off *Kazuhaya* 240 nautical miles northwest of Truk, 10°30'N, 148°20'E.

Submarine *Wahoo* (SS-238) probably sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Kanko Maru*, 37°18'N, 129°33'E.

Atlantic

Submarine *Dorado* (SS-248) departs New London, Connecticut, for the Panama Canal. She is never heard from again.

Indian Ocean

Last boatload (16 men) from U.S. freighter *Cornelia P. Spencer*, torpedoed by German submarine *U-188* on 21 September 1943, reach safety on the coast of Somalia.

• **7 October, Thu.**

Pacific

Japanese complete evacuation of Vella Lavella, Solomons.

Light cruiser *Concord* (CL-10) is damaged by on-board explosion (leaking gasoline tank) off Nukahiva Island, Marquesas.

Submarine *S-44* (SS-155) is sunk by Japanese escort destroyer *Ishigaki* north-northeast of Araitō Island, east of the Kamchatka Peninsula, Kuriles.

Japanese guardboat *No.20 Inari Maru* is destroyed by fire off Wake Island.

Japanese transport *Kikukawa Maru* is destroyed by fire at Truk.

Mediterranean

Tank landing craft *LCT-215* and *LCT-216* sink after breaking in half in heavy seas off coast of North Africa; *LCT-196* breaks in half in heavy seas off coast of North Africa; the after section is scuttled by British surface ship but the forward section is towed to Bizerte, Tunisia.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Yorkmar*, in convoy SC 143, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-645* at 56°48'N, 20°30'W. Of the 39-man merchant complement, 11 drown in the abandonment; 2 of the 28-man Armed Guard perish as well. Canadian corvette HMCS *Kamloops* and British frigate HMS *Duckworth* rescue the survivors.

- **8 October, Fri.**

Pacific

Submarine *Gato* (SS-212) damages Japanese cargo ship *Amagisan Maru* with dud torpedo, 05°34'N, 152°10'E, and survives ensuing hunter-killer operations by escorting torpedo boat *Hiyodori*.

Submarine *Guardfish* (SS-217) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Kashu Maru*, 00°20'S, 146°17'E.

Submarine *Gurnard* (SS-254) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Taian Maru* and transport *Dainichi Maru* off northern tip of Luzon, 18°48'N, 119°21'E.

USAAF B-24 damages Japanese transport *Heian Maru* en route to Truk, 02°37'N, 150°46'E.

Atlantic

Naval Air Facility, Dakar, French West Africa, is established.

- **9 October, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine *Guardfish* (SS-217) unsuccessfully attacks Japanese stores ship *Manko Maru*, en route to Davao, 01°04'N, 146°08'E. Although *Guardfish* claims one hit out of four torpedoes fired, none actually hits *Manko Maru*.

Submarine *Kingfish* (SS-234) torpedoes Japanese oiler *Hayamoto* in Sibitu Channel, 05°09'N, 119°18'E.

Submarine *Puffer* (SS-268) torpedoes Japanese tanker *Kumagawa Maru* in Makassar Strait, 01°08'N, 119°31'E, but is damaged by depth charges (possibly dropped by auxiliary submarine chasers *Cha 37* and *Cha 41*, summoned to the scene as escorts for *Shoyo Maru* which will tow *Kumagawa Maru* to Balikpapan) and is forced to terminate her patrol.

Submarine *Rasher* (SS-269) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Kogane Maru* 28 miles from Ambon, 03°30'S, 127°45'E.

Submarine *Wahoo* (SS-238) sinks Japanese cargo ship *Hankow Maru* off Oga Peninsula, 37°18'N, 129°33'E.

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Buck* (DD-420) is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-616* in Gulf of Salerno, 39°57'N, 13°28'E.

- **10 October, Sun.**

Pacific

Japanese planes attack three Lambu Lambu-based U.S. motor torpedo boats north of Vella Lavella, damaging *PT-168* and *PT-179*.

Submarine *Bonefish* (SS-223) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Isuzugawa Maru* and merchant transport *Teibi Maru* off Cam Ranh Bay, French Indochina, 14°49'N, 110°10'E.

Submarine *Grayback* (SS-208) attacks Japanese troopship *Hakozaki Maru*, 28°41'N, 138°32'E; although the submarine crew believes one of the four torpedoes fired hit the ship, in fact all four miss.

Submarine *Kingfish* (SS-234) lays mines off Cape Pepe, Makassar Strait, Celebes.

USAAF B-24 sinks Japanese army cargo ship *No.5 Hino Maru* 20 miles southwest of Buka passage.

- **11 October, Mon.**

Pacific

Submarine *Skipjack* (SS-184) damages Japanese transport *Matsutani Maru* five miles off Kwajalein, 06°25'N, 171°40'E.

Submarine *Wahoo* (SS-238) is sunk by Japanese naval aircraft, submarine chasers *Ch 15* and *Ch 43*, and minesweeper *W.18*, in La Perouse Strait, 45°13'N, 141°56'E.

Japanese planes attack U.S. shipping off Koli Point, Guadalcanal, torpedoing freighters *George H. Himes* and *John H. Couch*; tug *Menominee* (AT-73) beaches *George H. Himes* (which suffers no casualties among the 41-man merchant complement, 27-man Armed Guard, and 20 CB stevedores) to save the ship's cargo of lumber, shells and bombs. Three men perish on board *John H. Couch* (a merchant seaman, one Armed Guard sailor and a CB stevedore), whose cargo of gasoline and diesel oil catches fire at the initial explosion. Firefighting efforts by two destroyer escorts prove as unsuccessful as the crew's in putting out the blaze and the ship is abandoned by the 42 merchant seamen, 25 Armed Guards, 28 troop passengers and 99 stevedores (see 13 October 1943).

USAAF B-25s attack small Japanese cargo vessels off Bougainville, sinking *Sanwa Maru* and damaging *Muyo Maru* with a near-miss.

Atlantic

Advanced Amphibious Training Base, Falmouth, Cornwall, England, is established.

- **12 October, Tue.**

Pacific

USAAF B-24s, B-25s, and P-38s, and RAAF Beaufighters, raid Rabaul, pounding Japanese shipping, town, harbor, and airfields in the vicinity, sinking transports *Keisho Maru* and *Kosei Maru*, cargo lighters *No.1 Wakamatsu Maru* and *Kurogane Maru*, and guardboat *Mishima Maru*; and damaging destroyers *Mochizuki*, *Minazuki* and *Tachikaze*, submarines *I-177*, *I-180* and *RO 105*, special service ship *Tsukushi*, oiler *Naruto*, and auxiliary sailing vessels *Tenryu Maru* and *Koan Maru*.

Submarine *Cero* (SS-225) torpedoes Japanese stores ship *Mamiya* off Chichi Jima, 28°39'N, 137°28'E; collier *Asakaze Maru* tows the damaged vessel to Saeki, Japan.

Atlantic

Aircraft (VC 9) from escort carrier *Card* (CVE-11) break up another German U-boat refueling rendezvous when they attack *U-488* about 600 miles north of Flores Island, Azores and damage *U-731*.

- **13 October, Wed.** Italy declares war on Germany.

Pacific

Japanese planes attack four Lambu Lambu-based U.S. motor torpedo boats southwest of Choiseul; PT-boaters shoot down attacking Japanese floatplane, an event that proves "the greatest lift" to the sailors who tangle almost nightly (and heretofore largely unsuccessfully) with nocturnal enemy aircraft in that theater.

Submarine *Rasher* (SS-269) attacks Japanese convoy proceeding from Ambon to Kendari, sinking cargo ship *Kenkoku Maru*, 03°47'S, 127°41'E.

Submarine *Seadragon* (SS-194) attacks Kwajalein-bound Japanese ammunition ship *Soya*, escorted by auxiliary submarine chaser *No.6 Shonan Maru*, 08°50'N, 167°50'E; *Seadragon* damages neither enemy ship while *No.6 Shonan Maru's* attacks on the submarine prove equally unsuccessful.

Tug *Pawnee* (AT-74) tows gutted U.S. freighter *John H. Couch*, torpedoed by Japanese planes on 11 October 1943 off Koli Point, Guadalcanal, to a point two miles east of Koli Point, where the merchantman capsizes.

USAAF B-25 aircraft bomb Japanese shipping in Amoy, China, harbor, sinking auxiliary submarine chaser *Kongo Maru*.

Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *Wa 101* is damaged by mine near Madoera Island, N.E.I., 07°11'S, 112°45'E.

Atlantic

TBF (VC 9) from escort carrier *Card* (CVE-11) sinks German submarine *U-402*, North Atlantic, 48°56'N, 29°41'E.

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Bristol* (DD-453) is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-371*, 70 miles west-northwest of Bone, Algeria, 37°25'N, 06°20'E.

- **14 October, Thu.**

Pacific

Japanese planes attack six Lambu Lambu-based U.S. motor torpedo boats off Choiseul Bay, damaging *PT-183*.

Submarine *Grayback* (SS-208) sinks Japanese fleet tanker *Kozui Maru*, 27°35'N, 127°30'E, and eludes hunter-killer operations carried out by aviation supply ship *Takasaki*.

Atlantic

Naval Air Facility, Igarape Assu, Brazil, is established.

Coast Guard Cutter *Dow* (WYP-353) runs aground off Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, and is abandoned.

- **15 October, Fri.**

Pacific

Submarine *Tullibee* (SS-284) attacks 10-ship Japanese convoy, sinking transport *Chicago Maru*, 24°35'N, 120°30'E.

Atlantic

Advanced Amphibious Training Base, Fowey, Cornwall, England, is established.

U.S. freighter *James Russell Lowell*, in convoy GUS 18, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-371* at 37°18'15"N, 07°10'30"E and abandoned. British whaler HMS *Southern Sea* rescues the 41-man merchant complement and the 28-man Armed Guard. With hopes high for saving the ship, the merchant crew reboards the ship and *Southern Sea* takes *James Russell Lowell* in tow. As weather conditions worsen, all but the master and two men abandon ship once more (see 16 October 1943).

- **16 October, Sat.**

Pacific

USAAF B-24 sinks Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 31* off Cape Lambert, New Britain, 04°00'N, 145°45'E.

Submarine *Mingo* (SS-261) attacks Japanese escort carrier *Chuyo* north-northwest of Truk, 11°02'N, 151°21'E. Although *Mingo* claims two damaging hits, the carrier (see 18 October 1943) emerges from the encounter unscathed; destroyer *Hatsukaze* depth charges *Mingo* but does not damage her.

Atlantic

American-built destroyer escorts transferred under Lend-Lease to Great Britain (HMS *Byard*, HMS *Bentinck*, HMS *Berry*, HMS *Drury*, and HMS *Bazely*) enter combat for the first time as escorts for convoy ONS 20. *Byard* will sink *U-841* on 17 October. The British classify the ships as "frigates."

U.S. freighter *James Russell Lowell*, torpedoed by German submarine *U-371* the day before, is beached off Colla, Algeria, by British tug. The ship breaks in twain and sinks two weeks later, a total loss.

- **17 October, Sun.**

Pacific

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine *I-36* reconnoiters Pearl Harbor.

Submarine *Tarpon* (SS-175) sinks German auxiliary cruiser *Michel* (Schiffe No.28) off Chichi Jima, Bonins, 33°42'N, 140°08'E.

USAAF B-24s damage Japanese troopship *Hakusan Maru* 80 miles from Kavieng.

- **18 October, Mon.**

Pacific

Small carrier *Cowpens* (CVL 25) and destroyer *Abbot* (DD-629) are damaged in collision during maneuvers in Hawaiian Operating Area.

Submarine *Flying Fish* (SS-229) attacks Yokosuka-bound Japanese escort carrier *Chuyo*, 19°27'N, 145°20'E. Although *Flying Fish* claims one hit, the enemy flattop bears a charmed life, having survived an attack by *Mingo* (SS-261) on 16 October 1943 as well, and continues on to her destination on schedule.

Submarine *Lapon* (SS-260) torpedoes and sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Taichu Maru*, 33°59'N, 136°24'E, and scores two "dud" hits on auxiliary minesweeper *Keijin Maru*.

Submarine *Silversides* (SS-236) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Tairin Maru*, 22°N, 143°23'E.

- **19 October, Tue.** Moscow Conference, attended by the Secretary of State and British and Soviet foreign ministers, convenes.

Atlantic

Heavy cruiser *Tuscaloosa* (CA-37), accompanied by one U.S. and three British destroyers, transports Norwegian troops and equipment to Spitzbergen to reestablish bases destroyed in the German raid of 8 September 1943. A second allied force, with carrier *Ranger* (CV-4) included, provides cover for the operation.

U.S. freighter *Delisle*, in convoy WB 65, fouls mine laid by German submarine *U-220* as the merchantman lies to, 15 miles out of St. John's, Newfoundland, rescuing survivors of British freighter *Penolver*. *Delisle* suffers no casualties and is abandoned by the 32-man crew and 7-man Armed Guard, and three sailors from *Penolver*. British trawler HMS *Miscou* rescues the survivors.

- **20 October, Wed.**

Pacific

Submarine *Gato* (SS-212) sinks Japanese transport *Tsunushima Maru* between Truk and Kavieng, 01°26'N, 148°36'E.

Submarine *Kingfish* (SS-234) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Sana Maru* off Banbon Bay, French Indochina, 12°36'N, 109°30'E.

Atlantic

Aircraft (VC 13) from escort carrier *Core* (CVE-13), escorting convoy UGS 20, sink German submarine *U-378* north of the Azores, 47°40'N, 28°27'W.

Destroyer *Cowie* (DD-632) is damaged in collision with U.S. steamship *Craigsmere* in New York Harbor.

Mediterranean

USAAF B-25s and RAF Beaufighters attack German convoys north of Crete, sinking transport *Sinfra* which, unbeknownst to the attackers, is transporting POWs.

- **21 October, Thu.**

Pacific

Submarine *Steelhead* (SS-280) damages Japanese aircraft transport *Goshu Maru* southeast of Ulithi, Carolines, 08°16'N, 141°53'E.

RAAF Beaufort damages Japanese light cruiser *Kiso* 53 miles from Cape St. George, 04°23'S, 153°11'E.

Japanese cargo ship *No.11 Chofoku Maru* is sunk by mine while en route from Surabaya to Penang; cargo ship *Rakuto Maru* is damaged by mine off Padamarang Island.

Atlantic

Destroyer *Murphy* (DD-603) is cut in two when she is accidentally rammed by U.S. tanker *Bulkoil* 265 miles east-southeast of Ambrose Lightship, New York. *Murphy's* forward section sinks.

Aircraft (VC 13) from escort carrier *Core* (CVE-13) damage German submarine *U-271*, north of the Azores.

Mediterranean

German planes attack convoy MKS 28, strafing and torpedoing U.S. freighter *Tivives* about 15 miles off Cape Tenes; one of 48 merchant seamen and one of the 25-man Armed Guard perish in the ensuing abandonment as the ship sinks swiftly. Free French-manned corvette HMS *LaMalouine* rescues the survivors, who also include the six-man staff of the convoy commodore and one passenger.

- **22 October, Fri.**

Pacific

Submarine *Grayback* (SS-208) sinks Japanese transport *Awata Maru*, China Sea, 26°40'N, 125°00'E.

Submarine *Shad* (SS-235) attacks Japanese light cruisers *Naka* and *Isuzu*, en route from Shanghai to Rabaul, 28°40'N, 124°10'E. Although *Shad* claims damaging both, neither enemy warship is hit.

- **23 October, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine *Silversides* (SS-236) sinks Japanese fleet tanker *Tennan Maru* and army cargo ships *Johore Maru* and *Kazan Maru*, 02°30'N, 144°45'E (see 24 October 1943).

USAAF B-24 damages Japanese cargo vessel *No.1 Kinpo Maru* off Greenwich Island, 01°01'N, 154°08'E.

U.S. aircraft sink Japanese transport *Kyowa Maru* northwest of Buka Island, Solomons.

Mediterranean

German planes raid shipping off Naples, Italy; U.S. freighter *James Iredell* is hit by three bombs that set alight the ship's gasoline cargo. Although the ship is abandoned and the fire burns for 64 hours until it is ultimately put out, there are no casualties among the 44-man merchant crew, the 28-man Armed Guard or the 28 passengers.

- **24 October, Sun.**

Pacific

Japanese army cargo ship *Kazan Maru* sinks as the result of damage inflicted by *Silversides* (SS-236) the previous day; attempt by Japanese submarine chaser *Ch 24* to scuttle the immobilized *Johore Maru* fails. *Silversides* herself later finishes off *Johore Maru*.

USMC land-based aircraft sink Japanese destroyer *Mochizuki* 90 miles south-southwest of Rabaul, 05°42'S, 151°40'E.

PBYs sink Japanese destroyer *Mochizuki* and damages destroyer *Uzuki* south of Jacquinot Bay, 05°35'N, 151°35'E.

USAAF B-24 sinks Japanese cargo vessel *Nagaragawa Maru* off Manokwari.

Japanese destroyer *Satsuki* is damaged by grounding off Utano Island, 05°31'S, 149°14'E (see 26 and 30 October 1943).

- **25 October, Mon.**

Pacific

Submarine *Tullibee* (SS-284) attacks Japanese transport *Teisho Maru* (ex-German *Havenstein*), escorted by auxiliary minesweeper *No. 11 Misago Maru* 12 miles off Oshima, 26°05'N, 121°03'E. Although *Tullibee* claims damage to the larger vessel, *Teisho Maru* survives unscathed. *No. 11 Misago Maru* carries out counterattacks but with equal lack of success.

Atlantic

Destroyers *Parrott* (DD-218) and *Paul Jones* (DD-230) attack German submarine *U-488*, but the U-boat escapes destruction.

- **26 October, Tue.**

Pacific

PBY damages Japanese destroyer *Satsuki* 15 miles east of Teop harbor, 05°34'S, 155°06'E.

USAAF B-25s sink Japanese transport *Yamatogawa Maru* at Hai'ou, Hainan Island, 20°05'N, 11°25'E.

USAAF P-38s damage auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 20*, transporting troops and cargo, five miles off Buka.

USAAF aircraft bomb Japanese shipping off Kiungshan, 20°05'N, 110°05'E, sinking transport *Yamatogawa Maru*, army cargo vessels *No. 3 Shinwa Maru* and *Hokuzan Maru*, and merchant cargo ship *Hachiman Maru*.

- **27 October, Wed.**

Pacific

U.S. and New Zealand troops land on Mono and Stirling Islands in the Treasury Island Group, Solomons; pre-invasion bombardment and covering for the landings are provided by U.S. naval vessels and aircraft. TG 39.3 (Captain Andrew G. Shepard) (two light cruisers and Destroyer Squadron 23) and aircraft from South Pacific Air Force provide cover for the landings. During Japanese retaliatory air strikes, destroyer *Cony* (DD-508) is damaged by horizontal and dive bombers 15 miles north of Mono, Treasury Islands, 07°23'S, 155°27'E. Tank landing ships *LST-399* and *LST-485* are damaged by mortar fire, 07°25'S, 155°34'E.

Submarine *Flying Fish* (SS-229) sinks Japanese transport *Nanman Maru*, 12°02'N, 134°28'E.

Submarine *Shad* (SS-235) and *Grayback* (SS-208) sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *Fuji Maru*, 28°20'N, 128°05'E, and damage cargo vessel *Kamo Maru*. Transport *Oryoko Maru* is hit by a dud torpedo.

- **28 October, Thu.**

Pacific

District patrol craft *YP-88* sinks after running aground off Cape Amchitka, Aleutians.

Submarine *Flying Fish* (SS-229) sinks Japanese fleet oiler *Koryu Maru*, 12°54'N, 134°06'E.

Atlantic

Aircraft (VC 1) from escort carrier *Block Island* (CVE-21) sink German submarine *U-220* east of Newfoundland, 48°53'N, 33°30'W. *U-256* is attacked at the same time, but escapes unharmed (see 31 October 1943).

- **29 October, Fri.**

Pacific

Submarine *Seawolf* (SS-197) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Wuhu Maru* off Swatow, 22°28'N, 116°10'E.

Navy or USMC F4Us damage small Japanese cargo vessel *No.16 Kiku Maru* near Tonolei, 06°47'S, 155°53'E.

- **30 October, Sat.** Moscow Conference ends. Groundwork is laid for conference of President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Stalin at Teheran, Iran. Other agreements include the decision that China should join the alliance as the fourth major power and that a postwar organization to keep peace should be established. The latter will be the future United Nations.

Pacific

U.S. aircraft sink Japanese transport *Ujigawa Maru* off Rabaul, near Kieta, Bougainville, Solomons, 06°20'S, 155°45'E.

USAAF B-24 attacks Japanese destroyer *Satsuki* 20 miles south of Mussau, 04°40'S, 149°20'E.

- **31 October, Sun.**

Pacific

Submarine *Rasher* (SS-269) sinks Japanese oiler *Koryu Maru*, 00°25'N, 119°45'E.

Atlantic

U.S. airship K 94, en route from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to San Juan, Puerto Rico, catches fire and crashes 35 miles north of Cape Borinquen, Puerto Rico.

Aircraft (VC 9) from escort carrier *Card* (CVE-11) sink German submarine *U-584* about 580 miles north of Flores Island, Azores, 49°14'N, 31°55'W. Other VC 9 aircraft attack *U-91* at the same rendezvous point, but she escapes unharmed.

Destroyer *Borie* (DD-215) damages German submarine *U-256* north of the Azores.

November

- **1 November, Mon.**

Pacific

Third Amphibious Force, TF 31 (Rear Admiral Theodore S. Wilkinson), lands 1st Marine Amphibious Corps (Lieutenant General Alexander A. Vandegrift) at Cape Torokina, Bougainville, Solomons; assault is covered by TBF aircraft and destroyer gunfire. During Japanese retaliatory air strikes, destroyer *Wadsworth* (DD-516) is damaged by near-miss of bomb.

Cruiser and destroyer force TF 39 (Rear Admiral Aaron S. Merrill) and carrier task force TF 38 (Rear Admiral Frederick C. Sherman) shell and bomb Japanese airfields and installations in Buka-Bonis area, Solomons. Rear Admiral Merrill's force later bombards enemy airfields on Shortland Island, Solomons. Japanese return fire damages destroyer *Dyson* (DD-572).

Destroyer *Fullam* (DD-474) is damaged by grounding, Solomons area, 06°25'S, 154°53'E.

Submarine *Haddock* (SS-231) attacks Japanese cable-layer *Tateishi* and trawler *Kitagami Maru* off Rokutei Island, 09°02'N, 150°43'E. Although *Haddock* claims damage to both ships, neither is actually damaged.

U.S. aircraft sink Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 13* west of Shortland Island, Solomons, 07°00'S 155°30'E.

Atlantic

Destroyer *Borie* (DD-215) sinks German submarine *U-405* north of the Azores, 49°00'N, 31°14'W, but is damaged in the battle.

• **2 November, Tue.**

Pacific

Battle of Empress Augusta Bay is fought during darkness as TF 39, comprising four light cruisers and eight destroyers (Rear Admiral Aaron S. Merrill), intercepts and turns back a Japanese force of two heavy and two light cruisers and six destroyers (Rear Admiral Omori Sentaro) steaming to attack transports off Bougainville, Solomons. Light cruiser *Denver* (CL-58) is damaged by 8-inch gunfire; destroyer *Foote* (DD-511) by torpedo; and destroyer *Spence* (DD-512) by gunfire and collision with destroyer *Thatcher* (DD-514). Destroyers *Charles Ausburne* (DD-570), *Spence* (DD-512), *Dyson* (DD-572), *Claxton* (DD-571), and *Stanly* (DD-478) sink Japanese destroyer *Hatsukaze* (already damaged in collision with heavy cruiser *Myoko*); U.S. gunfire sinks light cruiser *Sendai* and damages heavy cruisers *Myoko* and *Haguro*. Destroyers *Shiratsuyu* and *Samidare* are damaged in collision during this night surface action. Japanese planes attack TF 39 during its retirement from the scene of battle, damaging light cruiser *Montpelier* (CL-57).

Carrier task force TF 38 (Rear Admiral Frederick C. Sherman) attacks enemy airfields in Buka area, Solomons.

Submarine *Haddock* (SS-231) engages Japanese submarine chaser *Ch 28*, 09°12'N, 150°13'E, but neither side damages the other.

Submarines *Seahorse* (SS-304), *Halibut* (SS-232), and *Trigger* (SS-237), each operating independently of the other, attack Japanese convoy south of Honshu; *Seahorse* sinks transport *Chihaya Maru*, 29°31'N, 134°50'E, and army cargo ship *Yawata Maru*, 28°30'N, 135°35'E; *Halibut* sinks army cargo ship *Ehime Maru*, 28°40'N, 135°35'E; *Trigger* sinks army transport *Delagoa Maru*, 28°30'N, 135°35'; *Seahorse* or *Trigger* sinks army cargo ship *Ume Maru*, 28°40'N, 135°35'E.

USAAF B-25s, escorted by P-38s, raid airfields and harbor at Rabaul, sinking Japanese stores ship *Manko Maru* and damaging heavy cruisers *Haguro* and *Myoko*, destroyer *Shiratsuyu*, stores ship *Hayasaki*, and minesweeper *W.26*.

Atlantic

Destroyer *Borie* (DD-215), damaged in battle with *U-405* the previous day (during which the destroyer had rammed the enemy submarine), 1,000 miles east of Cape Race, Newfoundland, is scuttled by TBF (VC 9) from escort carrier *Card* (CVE-11), 50°12'N, 30°48'W after attempt to scuttle *Borie* with gunfire, by destroyer *Barry* (DD-248), fails.

- **3 November, Wed.**

Pacific

After months of arduous effort, battleship *Oklahoma* (BB-37), sunk on 7 December 1941 by Japanese aircraft, is refloated at Pearl Harbor.

U.S. Navy PB4Ys sink Japanese stores ship *Minato Maru* 19 miles off Ocean Island, 00°53'S, 169°35'E.

USAAF B-24s bomb Japanese light cruiser *Naka* (near-miss) and transport (ex-armed merchant cruiser) *Kiyozumi Maru* off central New Ireland, 02°00'S, 151°30'E; light cruiser *Isuzu* takes the damaged auxiliary in tow.

USAAF B-24s bomb Japanese ships en route to Rabaul, but score no damage upon their targets, transport (ex-armed merchant cruiser) *Gokoku Maru* and destroyer *Urakaze*.

- **4 November, Thu.**

Pacific

Submarine *Seawolf* (SS-197) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kaifuku Maru* 90 miles south-southwest of Hong Kong, 21°22'N, 113°20'E.

Submarine *Silversides* (SS-236) lays minefield off New Ireland; Japanese surveying ship *Tsukushi* and transport *Ryosan Maru* are sunk; light cruiser *Isuzu* and destroyer *Isokaze*, damaged.

Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) unsuccessfully attacks Japanese convoy, 07°45'N, 134°09'E.

Navy fighter aircraft damage Japanese cargo vessel *Giyu Maru*, Matchin Bay, Bougainville, 05°28'S, 154°45'E.

USAAF B-25s sink Japanese cargo ship *Chinko Maru*, Swatow harbor, China, 23°20'N, 116°50'E; *Chinko Maru* carries down with her 100,000,000 Yuan in Central Reserve Bank notes.

USAAF B-24s damage Japanese cargo vessel *Nissho Maru*, in company with destroyer *Amatsukaze*, 00°20'N, 150°40'E.

Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 30* is sunk by aircraft off Palau Islands, 06°10'S, 155°35'E.

- **5 November, Fri.**

Pacific

TF 38 (Rear Admiral Frederick C. Sherman) aircraft attack Rabaul. Planes from carrier *Saratoga* (CV-3) and small carrier *Princeton* (CVL 23) bomb Japanese warships (Rear Admiral Takagi Takeo) damage heavy cruisers *Atago*, *Takao*, *Maya*, *Chikuma*, and *Mogami*; light cruisers *Noshiro* and *Agano*; and destroyers *Fujinami* and *Amagiri*.

Open cargo lighter *YCK-2* is lost, cause unspecified, 45°47'N, 58°57'W.

Submarine *Halibut* (SS-232) damages Japanese carrier *Junyo*, Bungo Channel, 32°19'N, 132°58'E; heavy cruiser *Tone* tows the damaged ship to Kure.

USAAF B-24s sink Japanese fishing vessel *No.1 Kanto Maru* seven miles north of Kieta, 06°15'S, 155°25'E.

Atlantic

PB4Ys (VB 107) and USAAF B-25s sink German submarine *U-848*, 480 miles southwest of Ascension Island, 10°09'S, 18°00'W.

- **6 November, Sat.**

Pacific

Japanese torpedo planes attack infantry landing craft(gunboat) *LCI(G)-70* and motor torpedo boat *PT-167* as the U.S. ships retire from Cape Torokina to the Treasury Islands. Dud torpedoes damage both *LCI(G)-70* and *PT-167*.

Japanese troops, transported by destroyers, land near Cape Torokina, Bougainville, Solomons.

Submarine *Haddock* (SS-231) attacks Japanese Truk-to-Singapore convoy consisting of fleet tankers *Gen'yo Maru* and *Hoyo Maru* and escorting destroyer *Yakaze*, 08°04'N, 150°04'E. *Haddock* torpedoes *Hoyo Maru* at 08°08'N, 149°45'E, and during evasive maneuvers *Yakaze* is damaged when she accidentally rams *Gen'yo Maru*. Despite the damage, *Yakaze* counterattacks *Haddock*. Submarine *Scorpion* (SS-278) torpedoes fleet tanker *Hoyo Maru*, 07°54'N, 150°06'E.

USAAF B-25s hit Japanese shipping west of Buka, sinking submarine chaser *Ch 11*, auxiliary submarine chaser *No.9 Asahi Maru*, and cargo vessel *Asayama Maru*. Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 30* and small cargo vessel *No. 3 Nissen Maru* are sunk in the same general area.

U.S. aircraft sink submarine chaser *Ch 11* and water tanker *Chozan Maru* west of Buka, Solomons.

Mediterranean

German planes attack Naples-bound convoy KMF 25A; destroyer *Beatty* (DD-640) is sunk by aerial torpedo 32 miles northwest of Phillippeville, Tunisia, 37°10'N, 06°00'E. Troop transport *Santa Elena* is also torpedoed about 27 miles off Phillippeville, 37°13'N, 06°21'E, and abandoned. Transport *Monterey* takes on board the 1,870 Canadian troops (and nurses) traveling in *Santa Elena*; the crew and Armed Guard returns to the ship (see 7 November 1943).

- **7 November, Sun.**

Pacific

USAAF aircraft (14th Air Force) bomb Japanese shipping in Amoy, China, harbor, sinking army cargo ships *No.28 Nagata Maru* and *No.6 Inushima Maru*, and auxiliary sailing vessel *Kanlu*.

Mediterranean

Troop transport *Santa Elena*, struck by aerial torpedo while in convoy KMF 25A the previous afternoon, suffers further damage when accidentally rammed by damaged Dutch transport *Marnix Van St. Aldegonde* (then under tow). The cumulative damage from the torpedo and the collision nullifies the efforts to tow

the crippled *Santa Elena* to port and she sinks that morning. Four of the 133-man merchant crew perish in the abandonment, but the 44-man Armed Guard survives intact.

- **8 November, Mon.**

Pacific

Japanese dive bombers attack U.S. ships off Cape Torokina, Bougainville, damaging light cruiser *Birmingham* (CL-62), 06°00'S, 154°00'E, and attack transports *Fuller* (APA-7) and *President Jackson* (APA-18), 06°15'S, 155°05'E.

Destroyers *Anthony* (DD-515) and *Hudson* (DD-475) accidentally engage motor torpedo boats *PT-163*, *PT-169*, and *PT-170*; fortunately, neither side suffers any damage in the mistaken encounter.

Submarine *Bluefish* (SS-222) sinks Japanese army tanker *Kyokuei Maru*, 17°00'N, 116°19'E. Although *Bluefish* claims to destroy five more ships, none are damaged; escort vessel *Tsushima* counterattacks unsuccessfully.

Submarine *Rasher* (SS-269) sinks Japanese merchant tanker *Tango Maru*, 00°25'N, 119°45'E, and escapes attacks by auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 41*.

Atlantic

Advanced Amphibious Training Base, Plymouth, England, is established. It will be one of the bases used in the buildup for the cross-channel invasions that will begin in June 1944; the command will not be disestablished until 7 December 1945.

- **9 November, Tue.**

Pacific

Submarine *Rasher* (SS-269) unsuccessfully attacks Balikpapan-bound Japanese fleet oiler *Toa Maru*, 00°34'N, 118°59'E.

Submarine *Sargo* (SS-188) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Taga Maru*, 21°40'N, 131°12'E.

Submarine *Seawolf* (SS-197) unsuccessfully attacks Japanese cargo vessel *Hokuriku Maru*, 20°38'N, 118°33'E.

- **10 November, Wed.**

Pacific

Submarine *Albacore* (SS-218) is accidentally damaged by U.S. four-engine bomber off New Ireland, 03°08'S, 150°17'E, but remains on patrol.

Submarine *Barb* (SS-220) engages Japanese Keelung-to-Sasebo convoy, unsuccessfully attacking cargo ships *Yamahagi Maru* and damaging *Nishi Maru*. Escorting auxiliary minesweeper *No.7 Toshi Maru* counterattacks, but does not damage, *Barb*.

Submarine *Scamp* (SS-277) torpedoes Japanese transport *Tokyo Maru*, 03°30'N, 150°10'E; transport *Mitakesan Maru* takes the crippled ship in tow (see 12 November 1943).

British submarine HMS *Tally Ho* sinks Japanese water carrier *Kisogawa Maru*, 06°12'N, 99°25'E.

Japanese cargo vessel *Giyu Maru*, damaged on 4 November 1943, sinks in Matchin Bay, 05°33'S, 154°45'E.

Atlantic

PB4Y-1s (VB 103, VB 105, VB 110), RAF No. 311 (Czechoslovakian) Squadron Liberator, and an RAF Wellington sink German submarine *U-966* in Bay of Biscay off northwest Spain, 44°00'N, 08°30'W; Spanish fishing trawlers rescue the survivors.

- **11 November, Thu.**

Pacific

Aircraft from TF 38 (Rear Admiral Frederick C. Sherman) and TG 50.3 (Rear Admiral Alfred E. Montgomery), which include three carriers and two small carriers, attack Japanese ships at Rabaul, sinking destroyer *Suzunami* and damaging light cruisers *Yubari* and *Agano*, and destroyers *Naganami*, *Urakaze*, and *Wakatsuki*.

Submarine *Capelin* (SS-289) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Kunitama Maru* northwest of Ambon, 03°08'S, 127°30'E.

Submarine *Drum* (SS-228) engages Japanese Truk-to-Rabaul convoy, unsuccessfully attacking submarine depot ship *Hie Maru*, 00°19'N, 149°40'E (see 17 November 1943). Later that day, a USAAF B-24 bombs the same convoy, damaging *Hie Maru*. Despite those attacks, the enemy ships reach Rabaul the following day.

Submarine *Sargo* (SS-188) sinks Japanese transport *Kosei Maru* east of the Nansei Shoto, 27°40'N, 130°24'E.

U.S. freighter *Cape San Juan*, bound for Townsville, Australia, is torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I-21* at 28°08'S, 178°06'W; 16 of the 1,348 embarked troop passengers are killed in the initial explosion and a further 114 drown during the abandonment. Liberty ship *Edwin T. Meredith* begins picking up survivors, joined later by Allied planes, destroyer *McCalla* (DD-488), destroyer escort *Dempsey* (DE-26) and motor minesweeper *YMS-241*. *Edwin T. Meredith* attempts to scuttle *Cape San Juan* with gunfire but the ship will remain afloat for another two days.

- **12 November, Fri.**

Atlantic

President Roosevelt embarks in battleship *Iowa* (BB-61) at the start of his journey that will include his presence at conferences at Teheran and Cairo.

Pacific

Submarine *Harder* (SS-257) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking auxiliary minesweeper *No.11 Misago Maru*, 21°40'N, 144°40'E, and damaging motor sailing vessel *Hei Maru*.

Submarine *Scamp* (SS-277) torpedoes Truk-bound Japanese light cruiser *Agano* (damaged the previous day by TF 38's strike), 01°03'N, 149°15'E.

Submarine *Thresher* (SS-200) torpedoes and sinks Japanese transport *Muko Maru* north of Truk, 09°02'N, 152°46'E, but is damaged by depth charges and terminates her patrol.

Japanese transport *Tokyo Maru*, damaged by *Scamp* (SS-277) on 10 November, sinks at 05°42'N, 151°09'E. Destroyer *Suzutsuki* rescues survivors.

Transport *Tokyo Maru*, damaged by submarine *Scamp* (SS-277), sinks while under tow between Kavieng and Truk, 03°39'N, 150°37'E.

USAAF B-24s bomb Japanese naval base at Surabaya, Java, damaging submarine chasers *Ch 6* and *Ch 10*.

Atlantic

Open lighter *YC-857* sinks after grounding off Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

PB4Y-1 (VB 103) sinks German submarine *U-508* in Bay of Biscay, 46°00'N, 07°30'W.

- **13 November, Sat.**

Pacific

Carrier and land-based aircraft begin daily bombings of Japanese positions in the Gilbert and Marshall Islands.

Japanese aircraft attack TF 39 (Rear Admiral Aaron S. Merrill) off Empress Augusta Bay, Bougainville, Solomons; light cruiser *Denver* (CL-58) is damaged by aerial torpedo, 06°45'S, 154°15'E.

British submarine *HMS Taurus* sinks Japanese submarine *I-34* 30 miles south of Panang, Malaya, 05°17'N, 100°05'E.

Submarine *Narwhal* (SS-167) lands men and supplies at Paluan Bay, Mindoro, P.I.

Submarine *Scorpion* (SS-278) damages Japanese oiler *Shiretoko* northwest of the Marianas, 18°22'N, 142°50'E.

Submarine *Trigger* (SS-237) sinks Japanese transport *Nachizan Maru* in East China Sea, 32°55'N, 124°57'E; although damaged by depth charges, she remains on patrol.

- **14 November, Sun.**

Pacific

Submarine *Apogon* (SS-308) attacks Japanese Truk-bound convoy consisting of transports *Akibasan Maru* and *Okitsu Maru*, escorted by destroyers *Asanagi* and *Inadzuma*, 08°20'N, 154°15'E; although she claims one damaging hit on a transport, she is unsuccessful.

Atlantic

During battle drills destroyer *William D. Porter* (DD-579) inadvertently fires a live torpedo at battleship *Iowa* (BB-61), in which President Roosevelt is traveling. Fortunately, the destroyer signals the battleship in time and a catastrophe is avoided.

- **15 November, Mon.**

Pacific

U.S. Advanced Naval Base and Naval Auxiliary Air Facility, Funafuti, Ellice Islands, are established.

Submarine *Crevalle* (SS-291) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Kyokko Maru* off San Antonio, Zambales province, 14°53'N, 119°56'E.

- Submarine *Narwhal* (SS-167) lands supplies at Nasipit, Mindanao, and evacuates people.
- **16 November, Tue.**
Pacific
 Submarine *Corvina* (SS-216) is sunk by Japanese submarine *I-176*, south of Truk, 05°05'N, 151°10'E.
 PBYs attack Japanese shipping off New Guinea, sinking cargo vessel *Kyoritsu Maru*, 03°51'S, 153°20'E.
 USAAF B-24 aircraft bomb Japanese shipping at Jaluit and Imidj atolls.
 Japanese minelayer *Ukishima* is lost to unknown cause, 11 miles off Hatsushima, Japan, 34°28'N, 137°20'E.
 - **17 November, Wed.**
Pacific
 Destroyers bombard Japanese airfield at Buka, Bougainville, Solomons.
 Japanese planes attack convoy carrying Marine reinforcements to Bougainville, Solomons. High speed transport *McKean* (APD-5) is sunk by aerial torpedo 19 miles southwest of Cape Torokina, 06°31'S, 154°52'E.
 Submarine *Capelin* (SS-289) departs Darwin, Australia for Molucca and Celebes Seas. She is never heard from again (see 23 November 1943).
 Submarine *Drum* (SS-228) sinks Japanese submarine depot ship *Hie Maru* (which had eluded *Drum* on 11 November) north-northwest of New Ireland, 01°45'N, 148°20'E.
 - **18 November, Thu.**
Pacific
 Carrier force TG 50.4 (Rear Admiral Frederick C. Sherman) attacks Nauru in support of the unfolding operations to capture the Gilberts.
 Submarine *Bluefish* (SS-222) sinks Japanese destroyer *Sanae* and damages oiler *Ondo* 90 miles south of Basilan Island, 05°00'N, 122°00'E. In return *Ondo* engages the submarine with gunfire.
 Submarine *Crevalle* (SS-291) attacks Japanese landing ship/aircraft transport *Akitsu Maru*, escorted by torpedo boat *Tomodzuru*, 15°10'N, 119°40'E; although *Crevalle* claims destruction of her quarry, *Akitsu Maru* survives unscathed.
 - **19 November, Fri.**
Pacific
 Submarine chaser *SC-1067* founders and sinks off Attu, Aleutians.
 Motor torpedo boat *PT-147*, damaged by grounding, eastern New Guinea, 05°55'S, 147°20'E, is scuttled by crew.
 Submarine *Harder* (SS-257) attacks Japanese convoy escorted by escort vessel *Fukue* and destroyer *Yuzuki*, sinking transports *Hokko Maru* and *Udo Maru*, 22°28'N, 147°22'E (see 20 November 1943).
 Submarine *Nautilus* (SS-168) is damaged by friendly fire from light cruiser *Santa Fe* (CL-60) and destroyer *Ringgold* (DD-500) off Tarawa, Gilberts,

01°05'N, 173°03'E. *Nautilus* remains on patrol until she accomplishes her mission of supporting the landings.

Submarine *Sculpin* (SS-191), heavily damaged by Japanese destroyer *Yamagumo* about 154 miles north of Truk, Carolines, 00°00'N, 152°50'E, is scuttled. Captain John P. Cromwell, the embarked submarine squadron commander in *Sculpin*, familiar with secret details of upcoming operations, decides to go down with the ship rather than risk capture and inevitable interrogation. For his decision to accept certain death, Cromwell is awarded the Medal of Honor, posthumously.

- **20 November, Sat.**

Pacific Theater

U.S. Naval Base, Cairns, Australia, is established.

Navy, Marine, and Army forces land on Tarawa and Makin, Gilberts, in Operation GALVANIC. The operation is under overall command of Commander Central Pacific Force (Vice Admiral Raymond A. Spruance). Marines (5th Amphibious Corps) landing on Tarawa encounter bitter resistance. During operations supporting GALVANIC, four ships are damaged: battleship *Mississippi* (BB-41) by turret explosion, 03°10'N, 172°58'E; small carrier *Independence* (CVL 22) by aircraft torpedo, 01°30'N, 172°40'E; destroyer *Ringgold* (DD-500) by Tarawa shore battery, 01°24'N, 172°58'E, and destroyer *Dashiell* (DD-659) by grounding, 01°00'N, 173°00'E.

Submarine *Harder* (SS-257) continues stalking convoy attacked the previous day and sinks Japanese transport *Nikko Maru* northeast of the Marianas, 23°20'N, 147°30'E.

PBYs sink Japanese cargo vessel *Naples Maru*, 03°22'S, 151°45'E; submarine chasers *Ch 17* and *Ch 18* rescue survivors.

- **21 November, Sun.**

Pacific

Submarine *Nautilus* (SS-168) lands Marine reconnaissance company on Abemama, Gilberts.

Submarine *Trigger* (SS-237) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Eizan Maru*, Yellow Sea, 36°40'N, 125°31'E.

USAAF B-24s and B-25s strike Japanese shipping and installations in Aroe Islands and off Manokwari, New Guinea, sinking transport *Shinwa Maru* off Manokwari, 02°24'S, 134°36'E.

USAAF B-25s and RAAF Beaufighters sink Japanese fishing vessel *Shinko Maru* off Taberfane, 06°11'S, 134°07'E.

RAAF Bostons sink small Japanese cargo vessel *Suisan Maru* off south coast of New Britain, 06°03'S, 151°14'E.

- **22 November, Mon.** President Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Churchill, and Chinese Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek meet in Cairo, Egypt, for talks (SEXTANT Conference).

Pacific

Destroyer *Frazier* (DD-607) is damaged when she intentionally rams Japanese

submarine *I-35*; the enemy submersible is sunk by *Frazier* and destroyer *Meade* (DD-602) off Tarawa, 01°22'N, 172°47'E.

Submarine *Drum* (SS-228) is damaged by depth charges north of New Guinea, 02°53'N, 141°36'E, and is forced to terminate her patrol.

Submarine *Seahorse* (SS-304) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Taish Maru*, 33°41'N, 128°35'E.

Submarine *Tinosa* (SS-283) sinks Japanese army cargo ships *Kiso Maru* and *Yamato Maru* off Palau, 07°09'N, 134°32'E; although damaged by depth charges, 07°09'N, 134°34'E, she remains on patrol.

USAAF B-24 sinks Japanese cargo ship *Kinyamasan Maru*, 01°00'N, 149°20'E, that had escaped damage the previous day; destroyer *Asanagi* continues on to Truk with survivors of *Nichii Maru* and *Kinyamasan Maru*.

Japanese army repair ship *Kashima Maru* is sunk by mine, laid by USAAF B-24 on 16 November 1943 off Macao.

U.S. tanker *Elizabeth Kellogg*, bound for Puerto Barrios, Guatemala, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-516* at 11°10'N, 80°43'W, and abandoned (see 24 November 1943).

- **23 November, Tue.**

- Pacific

- Betio, Tarawa Atoll, and Makin are declared secured.

- Cruiser and destroyer force (Rear Admiral Aaron S. Merrill) bombards Buka-Bonis area, Bougainville, Solomons.

- Motor torpedo boat *PT-322*, damaged by grounding, eastern New Guinea, 06°09'S, 147°36'E, is scuttled by U.S. forces.

- Submarine *Blackfish* (SS-221) sinks Japanese transport *Yamato Maru* between New Guinea and Palau, 02°28'N, 140°06'E.

- Submarine *Capelin* (SS-289) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Kizan Maru*, 01°50'N, 127°55'E (see 17 November 1943).

- Submarine *Gudgeon* (SS-212) attacks Takao-bound Japanese convoy, sinking Japanese escort vessel *Wakamiya* and army transport *Nekka Maru*, East China Sea, 28°38'N, 122°00'E, and damaging fleet tankers *Ichio Maru* and *Goyo Maru*.

- **24 November, Wed.**

- Pacific

- Escort carrier *Liscome Bay* (CVE-56) is sunk by Japanese submarine *I-175*, Gilberts, 02°34'N, 172°30'E. *I-175* does not escape unscathed, however, for she undergoes six hours of counterattacks by *Liscome Bay's* escorts; of the 34 depth charges counted, six explode close enough to damage *I-175* so that she cannot "go deep."

- In successive separate attacks, USAAF B-24s and Navy PBVs damage Japanese light cruiser *Yubari*, 04°20'S, 150°00'E, and 03°41'S, 150°15'E, respectively, as she attempts to transport soldiers and supplies to Garove. Damage to the ship prompts cancellation of her mission.

USAAF B-25s damage Japanese lighthouse tender *Heicho Maru*, Amoy, China.

Atlantic

Survivors of U.S. tanker *Elizabeth Kellogg*, torpedoed by German submarine *U-516* on 22 November 1943, are rescued by submarine chaser *SC-1017* and Army tanker *Y 10*. Eight of the tanker's 36-man merchant complement and two of the 12-man Armed Guard perish with the ship.

Mediterranean

USAAF aircraft bomb Toulon harbor, sinking light cruiser *Jeanne de Vienne*, destroyer *Aigle* and sloop *SG.21* (ex-second class sloop *Chamois*) (see 15 August 1944).

Caribbean

U.S. freighter *Melville E. Stone* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-516* about 100 miles northwest of Cristobal, Canal Zone, 10°29'N, 80°20'W; 12 of the 42-man merchant complement lose their lives, as do two of the 23-man Armed Guard and one of the 23 embarked passengers. Submarine chasers *SC-662* and *SC-1023* rescue survivors.

• **25 November, Thu.**

Pacific

Battle of Cape St. George is fought during the early hours as the five ships of Destroyer Squadron 23 (Captain Arleigh A. Burke) intercept five Japanese destroyers (Captain Kagawa Kiyoto) off Cape St. George, New Ireland. *Charles Ausburne* (DD-570), *Claxton* (DD-571), and *Dyson* (DD-572) sink *Onami* with torpedoes and *Yugiri* with gunfire; the same three U.S. ships, joined by *Spence* (DD-512) and *Converse* (DD-509), sink *Makinami* with torpedoes and gunfire and damage *Uzuki*. DESRON 23 suffers no damage.

Destroyer *Radford* (DD-446) sinks Japanese submarine *I-19* north of Gilberts, 03°10'N, 171°55'E.

Submarine *Albacore* (SS-218) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Kenzan Maru*, 00°46'N, 144°50'E.

Submarine *Searaven* (SS-196) sinks Japanese fleet tanker *Toa Maru* north of Ponape, 08°22'N, 158°00'W.

USAAF B-24s bomb Japanese installations at Taroa, damaging guardboat *Takeura Maru*.

Japanese submarine *RO 100* is sunk by mine two miles west of Omai Island, outside north channel to Buin.

Atlantic

Advanced Amphibious Base, Salcombe, Devonshire, England, is established.

PB4Y (VB 107) sinks the Indian Ocean-bound German submarine *U-849*, South Atlantic, 06°30'S, 05°40'W.

Destroyer escort *Harveson* (DE-316) is damaged when she is accidentally rammed by Canadian fishing vessel *O.K. Service* off Bermuda, British West Indies.

- **26 November, Fri.** First Cairo (SEXTANT) Conference between President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill, and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek ends.

PV-1 (VP 138) attacks what is most likely Japanese submarine *I-177*, which is engaged in rescuing survivors of the Battle of Cape St. George (see 25 November). *I-177* rescues some 200 Japanese sailors in the aftermath of the battle.

USAAF B-25s sink Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *Genchi Maru* off Canton, China, 21°33'N, 112°00'E.

Submarine *Bowfin* (SS-287) sinks Japanese army tanker *Ogurasan Maru* and merchant cargo ship *Tainan Maru*, 13°00'N, 109°30'E.

Submarine *Raton* (SS-270) damages Japanese ammunition ship *Onoe Maru*, 00°40'N, 148°20'E; submarine chaser *Ch 40* counterattacks but is damaged by the explosion of her own depth charges.

Submarine *Ray* (SS-271) carries out unsuccessful attacks on Japanese cargo vessel *Sumiyoshi Maru*, 02°32'N, 148°56'E, but sinks Japanese transport *Nikkai Maru* southwest of Truk, 04°12'N, 148°20'E.

Submarine *Tinosa* (SS-283) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Shini Maru*, and damages army cargo ship *Taiyu Maru*, 07°08'N, 134°48'E.

Atlantic

Naval Air Facilities are established at Amapa, Aratu, and Belem, Brazil; Naval Air Facilities (Lighter than Air) are established at Fernando Noronha, Fortaleza, and Ipitanga, Brazil.

- **27 November, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine *Bowfin* (SS-287) sinks Vichy French cargo ship *Van Vollenhoven* off coast of French Indochina, 13°13'N, 109°27'E.

Submarine *Seahorse* (SS-304) sinks Japanese fleet tanker *San Ramon Maru* in East China Sea, 33°36'N, 128°57'E.

USAAF B-24s sink Japanese army hospital ship *Buenos Aires Maru* in Steffen Strait, 02°40'S, 149°20'E.

USAAF B-25s attack Japanese convoy, sinking transport *Hakone Maru* and damaging torpedo boat *Tomodzuru*, 25°20'N, 120°00'E.

- **28 November, Sun.** Teheran (EUREKA) Conference begins in Teheran, Iran, between President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill, and Premier Stalin.

Pacific

Submarine *Bowfin* (SS-287) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Sydney Maru* and merchant cargo ship *Tonan Maru* off central Philippines, 12°45'N, 109°41'E, but is damaged by Japanese gunfire and is forced to terminate her patrol.

Submarines *Pargo* (SS-264) and *Snook* (SS-279) attack Japanese transport convoy escorted by destroyer *Oite* and auxiliary submarine chaser *Choan Maru* northwest of the Marianas (see 29 November 1943). *Snook* sinks *Yamafuku Maru*, 18°21'N, 140°08'E.

Submarines *Raton* (SS-270) sinks Japanese army cargo ships *Hokko Maru* and *Yuri Maru*, 01°40'N, 141°25'E.

- **29 November, Mon.**

Pacific

1st Marine Parachute Battalion is landed before dawn about six miles east of Cape Torokina from LCVPs and LCMs, covered by two LCI(G) and a motor torpedo boat; heavy Japanese opposition at daybreak, however, compels evacuation of the leathernecks. Destroyer *Fullam* (DD-474) aided by F4U, silences enemy artillery, mortar and sniper fire, and thus allows the successful extraction of the beleaguered marines.

TG 74.2 (Captain Frank R. Walker), two U.S. destroyers and two Australian (HMAS *Arunta* and HMAS *Warramunga*), shell Japanese positions on Gasmata.

Destroyer *Perkins* (DD-377) is sunk in collision with Australian troop ship *Duntroon* off eastern New Guinea, 09°39'S, 150°04'E.

Submarine *Bonefish* (SS-223) sinks Surabaya-bound Japanese army cargo ship *Suez Maru* off Kangean Island, north of Bali, 06°57'S, 115°42'E. Unbeknown to the submariners, *Suez Maru* has on board 546 British POWs. Minesweeper *W.12* rescues survivors.

Submarine *Paddle* (SS-263) attacks Japanese fleet tanker *Nippon Maru* 19 miles off Brown Island, 11°30'N, 162°15'E.

Submarines *Pargo* (SS-264) and *Snook* (SS-279) continue attacks against Japanese transport convoy northwest of the Marianas; *Pargo* torpedoes and sinks *Manju Maru*, 18°36'N, 140°04'E; *Snook* torpedoes and sinks *Shiganoura Maru*, 18°38'N, 139°35'E. Destroyer *Oite* and auxiliary submarine chaser *Choan Maru* counterattack to no avail.

Submarine *Snapper* (SS-185) sinks Japanese transport *Kenryu Maru* off Hachijo Jima, 33°16'N, 139°35'E.

Atlantic

Aircraft (VC 19) from escort carrier *Bogue* (CVE-9) (from convoy UGS 24 or 27) sink German submarine *U-86* about 385 miles east of Terceira, Azores, 39°33'N, 19°01'W; *U-238* and *U-764* survive the air attacks.

- **30 November, Tue.**

Pacific

U.S. destroyers bombard Japanese positions on Empress Augusta Bay, Bougainville, Solomons.

Submarine *Gato* (SS-212) sinks Japanese army transport *Columbia Maru*, 01°54'N, 143°26'E; and escapes counterattacks by escorting submarine chaser *Ch 24*.

Submarine *Skate* (SS-305) attacks Japanese carrier *Zuiho*, 09°10'N, 151°30'E, which, along with carrier *Un'yo* and escort carrier *Chuyo* and escort vessels is proceeding back to Japan from Truk. Although *Skate* claims one damaging hit, none of her four torpedoes strikes home (see 4 December 1943).

PBY sinks Palau-bound Japanese cargo ship *Himalaya Maru* six nautical miles south of New Hanover.

Atlantic

Aircraft (VC 19) from escort carrier *Bogue* (CVE-9) damage German submarine U-238 east of the Azores, 41°21'N, 18°19'W.

December

- **1 December, Wed.** Naval Air Ferry Command is established.

Pacific

Submarine *Bonefish* (SS-223) sinks Japanese transport *Nichiryo Maru* in Celebes Sea, 01°02'N, 120°52'E.

Submarine *Pargo* (SS-264) sinks Japanese transport *Shoko Maru* north of Ulithi, 14°24'N, 140°40'E.

Submarine *Peto* (SS-265) sinks Truk-bound Japanese transport *Konei Maru*, 01°16'N, 146°45'E, and escapes countermeasures by torpedo boat *Otori*.

USAAF B-25s bomb Taikoo dockyard, Hong Kong, damaging Japanese transport *Teiren Maru* (ex-Vichy French *Gouverneur General A. Varenne*). Subsequently, the ship is written off as a total loss.

USAAF B-24s pound Japanese installations at Wewak; among the heavy damage inflicted, small cargo vessel *No.16 Yoshitomo Maru* is sunk.

- **2 December, Thu.** Teheran (EUREKA) Conference ends.

Pacific

Submarine *Narwhal* (SS-167) lands ammunition and stores, and evacuates certain people from Mindanao.

USAAF B-24 damages Japanese cargo ship *Shinyu Maru* off New Hanover.

RAAF Beaufighters damage Japanese paddle steamer *Assam* in Irrawaddy River (see 3 December 1943).

Japanese cargo vessel *Koki Maru* is sunk by mine, laid by USAAF B-24 on 16 November, off Macao.

Mediterranean

Tank landing craft *LCT-242* is sunk by circling torpedo off Naples, Italy.

Adriatic

German planes bomb Allied shipping at Bari, Italy, sinking and damaging a number of U.S. freighters moored there. *John M. Schofield* and *Grace Abbott* are damaged by flying fragments (the latter also by a dud bomb); the former suffers no casualties among the 44-man merchant complement, 28-man Armed Guard and an indeterminate number of British Army stevedores on board to work cargo while the latter has only one merchant seaman wounded from among her 41-man civilian and 28-man Armed Guard complement. *Samuel J. Tilden* is hit by two bombs and catches fire; 17 of the 209 embarked troops perish as the soldiers abandon ship. The 41-man merchant crew and the 28-man Armed Guard remain at their posts to battle the blaze that eventually burns out of control and forces her crew off the ship. Ten of the ship's civilian complement die in the conflagration (see 3 December 1943). *John L. Motley*, carrying a cargo of ammunition, is hit by at least three bombs; direct hits and near-misses set nearby *John Bascom* afire; four of 44 merchant seamen perish as do 10 of 28 Armed

Guard sailors. The survivors, in addition to one passenger, abandon ship as the flames burn out of control. Her mooring lines burnt through, *John Bascom* drifts near the burning *John L. Motley*, which explodes, killing all on board (42 of the 46-man merchant complement and 22 of the 29-man Armed Guard) (the only survivors are on shore at the time of the attack and thus escape the fate of their shipmates). Debris from *John L. Motley* damages gasoline tanker *Aroostook* (AOG-14), 41°06'N, 16°52'E, and sets fire to *Lyman Abbott*. *John Harvey*, moored originally between *John L. Motley* and *Joseph Wheeler*, is showered by burning debris, and catches fire herself, drifting into the harbor where she explodes, showering debris on the unfortunate *Lyman Abbott*. Tragically, *John Harvey's* cargo includes mustard gas which subsequently kills and injures many of the local inhabitants, in addition to harming many among the 42 merchant seamen and 29 Armed Guards on board *Lyman Abbott*. Consequently, 2 of the ship's civilian crew and one Armed Guard sailor, in addition to the ship's sole passenger, succumb to shrapnel wounds or mustard gas burns. *Joseph Wheeler* is hit by one bomb that touches off her ammunition cargo and the ship disintegrates, killing all on board: 15 of 41 merchant seamen and 13 of the 28-man Armed Guard, in addition to the single passenger, perish in the cataclysmic blast. Fifteen Armed Guard sailors and 26 merchant sailors escape the fate of their shipmates only because they were away from the ship, on shore, when she explodes.

- **3 December, Fri.** Second Cairo Conference begins, attended by President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill, and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek.

Pacific

Submarine *Guardfish* (SS-217) is damaged in collision with unidentified tanker.

Submarine *Tinosa* (SS-283) sinks Palau-bound Japanese fleet tanker *Azuma Maru* northwest of Sonserol, 06°34'N, 131°35'E.

USAAF B-24s bomb Japanese fishing boats off Garove, sinking *No.13 Sansei Maru*.

USAAF B-25s sink Japanese paddle steamer *Assam*, immobilized the day before by RAAF Beaufighters in Irrawaddy River.

Adriatic

Abandoned U.S. freighter *Samuel J. Tilden*, damaged in the German air raid on Bari, Italy, the night before, is scuttled by two torpedoes from British warships.

Atlantic

U.S. tanker *Touchet* is torpedoed twice (the second torpedo is a dud) by German submarine *U-193* at 25°15'N, 86°15'W, and abandoned by most of the 50-man merchant complement and 30-man Armed Guard. The latter's commander and nine men, however, stay with the ship, manning the 5-inch gun aft. *U-193's* third torpedo finishes off the tanker, though, and she sinks, taking nine of the ten Armed Guards who manage to reach a raft (they are swept off as the ship goes under), as well as the detachment commander, down with her (see 5 and 6 December 1943).

Naval Air Facility, Sao Luiz, Brazil is established.

- **4 December, Sat.**

Pacific

TF 50 (Rear Admiral Charles A. Pownall) attacks Japanese installations on Kwajalein and Wotje Atolls, Marshalls. Planes from *Lexington* (CV-16) and small carrier *Independence* (CVL 22) sink collier *Asakaze Maru*, cargo ship *Tateyama Maru*, auxiliary submarine chaser *No.7 Takunan Maru*, and guardboat *No.5 Mikuni Maru* and damage light cruisers *Nagara* and *Isuzu*, stores ship *Kinezaki*, auxiliary vessel *Fujikawa Maru*, and transports *Eiko Maru*, *Kenbu Maru*, and *No.18 Mikage Maru*.

During Japanese retaliatory air strikes, three U.S. ships suffer damage: carrier *Lexington* (CV-16) by aerial torpedo, 13°30'N, 171°25'E; light cruiser *Mobile* (CL-63) when one of her 5-inch mounts accidentally fires into one of her own 40-millimeter mounts, 12°47'N, 170°57'E; and destroyer *Taylor* (DD-468) by friendly fire from light cruiser *Oakland* (CL-95), 10°00'N, 170°00'E.

Submarine *Apogon* (SS-308) sinks Japanese gunboat *Daido Maru* northeast of Ponape, 08°22'N, 159°02'E.

Submarine *Gunnel* (SS-253) sinks Japanese transport *Hiyoshi Maru* northeast of Haha Jima, 29°43'N, 145°54'E, and eludes counterattacks by destroyer *Inazuma*.

Submarine *Sailfish* (SS-192) torpedoes and sinks Yokosuka-bound Japanese escort carrier *Chuyo* southeast of Honshu, 32°27'N, 143°49'E. Unbeknown to *Sailfish*, *Chuyo* is carrying survivors from sistership *Sculpin* (SS-191).

Japanese seaplane carrier *Sanuki Maru* is damaged by mine, Pomelaa, as she sails for Singapore.

- **5 December, Sun.**

Pacific

Destroyers bombard Choiseul Bay area, Choiseul Island, Solomons.

Submarine *Narwhal* (SS-167) sinks Japanese cargo ship *Himeno Maru* (ex-U.S. *Dos Hermanos*) off Camiquin Island, 09°09'N, 124°29'E.

Indian Ocean

Japanese planes bomb Calcutta, India; U.S. freighter *William Whipple* is straddled and holed with fragments. There are no casualties among the 42-man merchant crew, but one man of the 28-man Armed Guard is injured.

Atlantic

Norwegian freighter *Lillemor* rescues 43 survivors from tanker *Touchet*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-193* on 3 December 1943; shortly thereafter, destroyer escort *Falgout* (DE-324) picks up 11 more men from the lost ship (see 6 December 1943).

- **6 December, Mon.**

Europe

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, USA, is named commander of Allied Expeditionary Force for invasion of Europe.

Atlantic

Minesweeper *Raven* (AM-55) rescues 16 survivors from tanker *Touchet*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-193* on 3 December 1943. All told, the entire merchant complement of 50 men survives *Touchet's* loss, but ten of the 30-man Armed Guard are lost with the ship.

- **7 December, Tues.** Second Cairo Conference ends.

Bay of Bengal

Tank landing ships *LST-208* and *LST-209* unload British tanks at Regu Creek, Burma, in Operation RATCHET.

Pacific

Submarine *Pogy* (SS-266) sinks Japanese collier *Soyo Maru* north of Truk, 14°03'N, 152°20'E.

Submarine *Sailfish* (SS-192) is attacked by Japanese plane off Kyushu, Japan, 31°21'N, 134°10'E, but although damaged by aerial bomb, remains on patrol.

- **8 December, Wed.**

Pacific

Task group including carriers, battleships, and destroyers (Rear Admiral Willis A. Lee) bombs and bombards Nauru Island; destroyer *Boyd* (DD-544) is damaged by shore battery fire. OS2Us (VO 6 and VO 9) from battleships strafe and photograph barracks area upon completion of ships' bombardment.

Submarine *Sawfish* (SS-276) sinks Japanese transport *Sansei Maru* southwest of Chichi Jima, 25°19'N, 141°44'E.

TBFs sink Rabaul-bound Japanese fishing boats *No. 3 Yusho Maru*, *No.7 Fukuei Maru*, *Takatori Maru*, and *No.1 Hoko Maru*, 00°20'N, 152°10'E.

- **9 December, Thu.** Following the Teheran and Cairo conferences, President Roosevelt reembarks in battleship *Iowa* (BB-61) at Dakar for the return voyage to the United States.

- **10 December, Fri.**

Pacific

Destroyer *Sigourney* (DD-643) is damaged by grounding, Solomons, 06°21'S, 155°10'E.

- **11 December, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine *Bonefish* (SS-223) damages small Japanese cargo vessel *Toyohime Maru*, 04°03'N, 118°22'E.

Atlantic

German U-boats *U-223*, *U-593* (see 13 December 1943) and *U-73* (see 16 December 1943) attack convoy KMS 34 in the Mediterranean.

- **12 December, Sun.**

Pacific

Submarine *Tuna* (SS-203) sinks Japanese naval transport *Tosei Maru* north of Halmahera, 02°44'N, 126°14'E.

Atlantic

Aircraft (VC 19) from escort carrier *Bogue* (CVE-9) damage German submarine *U-172* south-southwest of the Canary Islands; *U-219* escapes.

- **13 December, Mon.**

Pacific

Submarine *Pogy* (SS-266) damages Japanese army cargo ship *Fukkai Maru* off

Palau Islands, 07°06'N, 134°30'E, but is damaged by depth charges, 07°06'N, 134°31'E, and forced to terminate her patrol.

Submarine *Pompon* (SS-267) lays mines off Poulo Condore, southwest of French Indochina.

Submarine *Puffer* (SS-268) unsuccessfully attacks Japanese transport *Teiko Maru* (ex-Vichy French steamship *D'Artagnan*), 14°29'N, 119°59'E.

Submarine *Sailfish* (SS-192) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Totai Maru*, 30°15'N, 132°30'E.

PBY sinks Japanese cargo vessel *Tokiwa Maru*, 03°30'S, 151°30'E.

Atlantic

Open cargo lighter *YCK-8* sinks (cause unspecified) off Key West, Florida.

Destroyer *Osmond Ingram* (DD-255) is damaged by gunfire of German submarine *U-172*, 660 miles west-southwest of the Canary Islands, 26°19'N, 29°58'W, but takes part in sinking *U-172*, along with aircraft (VC 19) from escort carrier *Bogue* (CVE-9) and destroyers *George E. Badger* (AVD-3), *Dupont* (DD-152), and *Clemson* (DD-186).

USAAF aircraft bomb Kiel, Germany, sinking torpedo boat *T 15* and minesweeper *R 306*, among other shipping.

Mediterranean

German submarine *U-593* is sunk by destroyer *Wainwright* (DD-419) and British frigate *HMS Calpe*, 150 miles northeast of Algiers, 37°38'N, 05°58'E.

- **14 December, Tue.**

Pacific

Faulty fuel pump ignites gasoline dump that in turn explodes ammunition dump; resultant fire destroys motor torpedo boat *PT-239*, Lambu Lambu Cove, Vella Lavella, Solomons, 07°42'S, 156°47'E.

Submarine *Herring* (SS-233) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Hakozaki Maru*, 33°01'N, 124°01'E.

Atlantic

Naval Air Facility, Maceio, Brazil, is established.

- **15 December, Wed.**

Pacific

Naval Operating Base, Treasury Island, Solomons, is established.

TF 76 (Rear Admiral Daniel E. Barbey) lands Army troops (112th U.S. Cavalry Regiment) on Arawe Peninsula, New Britain, in Operation DIRECTOR.

Destroyer escort *Harveson* (DE-316) is damaged in collision with U.S. merchantman *William T. Barry*, 36°47'N, 74°33'W.

USAAF aircraft sink Japanese cargo ship *Senko Maru* in Gulf of Tonkin, 21°05'N, 108°30'E.

RAAF Beaufighters sink Japanese army cargo ship *Wakatsu Maru*; and Dutch B-25s sink cargo ship *Genmei Maru* off Timor.

- **16 December, Thu.**

Pacific

District patrol craft *YP-426* sinks after running aground, 31°59'N, 80°48'W.

Submarine *Flying Fish* (SS-229) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Ginyo Maru* southwest of the Ryukyus, 22°18'N, 119°52'E.

USAAF B-24 sinks small Japanese cargo vessel *No.6 Heiei Maru* 150 miles northeast of Wewak.

Mediterranean

German submarine *U-73* attacks convoy GUS 24 off the Algerian coast, torpedoing U.S. freighter *John S. Copley* at 46°00'N, 22°16'W. Partially abandoned, *John S. Copley* is deemed salvageable, and rescue tug *ATR-47* takes the damaged ship in tow, bringing her into Oran. Submarine chasers *PC-546* and *SC-977* pick up the men who have abandoned ship (only two from among the 44-man merchant complement, 28-man Armed Guard and Army Security officer are injured). Subsequently, destroyers *Trippe* (DD-403), *Woolsey* (DD-437) and *Edison* (DD-439) sink *U-73*, 35 miles north-northwest of Oran, Algeria, 36°07'N, 00°50'W.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Blue Jacket*, mistaken for a German blockade runner while proceeding toward her destination of Cardiff, Wales, is engaged in a running surface gunnery action by three British frigates. Armed Guard gunfire keeps the "friendly" ships at bay, saving the American merchantman. Once the mistake is realized, one of the Allied warships provides medical assistance; of the 56 merchant seamen and 33 Armed Guards, only seven men are injured. There are no fatalities.

U.S. tanker *McDowell*, en route from New York to Aruba, N.W.I., is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-516* at 13°08'N, 70°02'W. Later that day, U.S. tanker *Fairfax* rescues 63 survivors; motor minesweeper *YMS-56* picks up eight. Two of the 45-man merchant complement drown in the abandonment; a third dies subsequently of injuries. There are no casualties to the 28-man Armed Guard.

- **17 December, Fri.**

Pacific

Coastal transport *APc-21* is sunk by dive bomber, 06°15'S, 149°01'E, and motor minesweeper *YMS-50* is damaged by horizontal bomber, 06°12'S, 149°03'E, off New Britain.

- **18 December, Sat.**

Pacific

Submarine *Aspro* (SS-309) attacks Japanese convoy, damaging fleet tankers *Sarawak Maru* and *Tenei Maru* at about 24°10'N, 124°40'E, and escapes counterattacks by destroyer *Shiokaze*.

Submarine *Cabrilla* (SS-288) lays mines off Saracen Bay, Cambodia, French Indochina.

Submarine *Grayback* (SS-208) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Gyokurei Maru* east-northeast of Naha, Okinawa, 26°30'N, 128°19'E, and escapes counterattacks by destroyer *Numakaze*.

- **19 December, Sun.**

Pacific

Submarine *Grayback* (SS-208) sinks Japanese destroyer *Numakaze*, 50 miles east-northeast of Naha, Okinawa, 26°30'N, 128°26'E.

USAAF B-24 and USN PBVs sink Japanese cargo ship *Kaito Maru* southwest of Kavieng, 03°17'S, 151°18'E.

USN PBV damages Japanese merchant cargo vessel *Shoei Maru*, Kwajalein; *Shoei Maru* sinks the next day.

20 December, Mon.

Pacific

Destroyers bombard Japanese positions on northeastern coast of Bougainville, Solomons.

Submarine *Gato* (SS-212) sinks Japanese transport *Tsuneshima Maru*, East China Sea, 01°26'N, 148°36'E, and although damaged by depth charges dropped by escorting torpedo boat *Otori*, remains on patrol.

Submarine *Puffer* (SS-268) sinks Japanese destroyer *Fuyo* 60 miles west of Manila, 14°45'N, 119°54'E, but the submarine's attack on cargo ship *Gozan Maru* is not successful.

PBVs sink Japanese transport *Alaska Maru* 30 miles north of northwestern Gazelle Peninsula, 03°43'S, 151°30'E.

Atlantic

Naval Air Training Command is established at Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida.

Coast Guard cutter *Bodega* (WYP-342) is damaged when she runs aground off Margarita Point, Canal Zone.

Aircraft (VC 19) from escort carrier *Bogue* (CVE-9) sink Indian Ocean-bound German submarine *U-850*, 530 miles southwest of Fayal, Azores, 32°54'N, 37°01'W.

- **21 December, Tue.**

Pacific

PBVs from Attu, Aleutians, bomb Shimushu, Paramushiro Strait, Kuriles.

Coastal transport *APC-2* is damaged by dive bomber off New Britain, 06°12'S, 149°03'E.

Submarine *Grayback* (SS-208) sinks Japanese auxiliary netlayer *Kashiwa Maru* and merchant passenger/cargo ship *Konan Maru* south-southwest of Kagoshima, Japan, 30°26'N, 129°58'E.

Submarine *Sailfish* (SS-192) sinks Japanese transport *Uyo Maru* off Miyazaki, 32°38'N, 132°04'E.

Submarine *Skate* (SS-305) sinks Japanese fleet tanker *Terukawa Maru* northwest of Truk, Carolines, 09°45'N, 151°56'E.

USAAF B-25s sink small Japanese cargo vessel *Matsushima Maru* at Wewak.

Atlantic

Coast Guard cutter *Bodega* (WYP 342), damaged by grounding on 20 December off Margarita Point, is abandoned.

- **22 December, Wed.**

Pacific

Submarine *Gurnard* (SS-254) damages German cargo ship *Havelland* east of Kashinosaki, 33°30'N, 135°57'E; the ship never returns to active service.

Navy F6Fs and SBDs and USAAF P-39s raid Mili Atoll, Marshalls, sinking Japanese transport *Nankai Maru*, 06°05'N, 171°43'E.

USAAF aircraft sink Japanese merchant cargo vessel *Ginrei Maru*, 20°12'N, 113°40'E.

- **23 December, Thu.**

Pacific

USAAF B-25s sink Japanese gunboat *Nan-Yo* 35 miles south of Formosa Straits, 25°30'N, 119°30'E.

Atlantic

Escort carrier *Card* (CVE-11) and destroyer *Decatur* (DD-341) are attacked unsuccessfully by German submarine *U-415* as they steam toward Horta, Azores, from escorting convoy GUS 24. Destroyer *Schenck* (DD-159), in *Card's* screen, attacks and probably damages another enemy boat in the vicinity, *U-645* (see 24 December 1943). FM aircraft from *Card* locates blockade runner *Osorno*, bound for the Gironde Estuary (see 25 December 1943).

German submarine *U-471* unsuccessfully attacks battleship *Arkansas* (BB-33) screening convoy TU 5 in the North Atlantic, 300 miles west of Rockall Bank.

- **24 December, Fri.**

Pacific

Task force of three cruisers and four destroyers (Rear Admiral Aaron S. Merrill) bombards Buka-Bonis area, Solomons.

Allied aircraft sinks Japanese auxiliary minelayer *Koa Maru*, Marcus Bay, New Britain.

Destroyer escort *Griswold* (DE-7) sinks Japanese submarine *I-39* off Koli Point, Guadalcanal, 09°23'S, 160°09'E.

Submarine *Gurnard* (SS-254) sinks Japanese transport *Seizan Maru* 27 nautical miles east of Miki cape, 33°57'N, 136°19'E, and auxiliary minesweeper *Naruo Maru*, 34°17'N, 136°55'E.

Submarine *Raton* (SS-270) torpedoes Japanese transport *Heiwa Maru* in Kaoe Bay, Halmahera, 02°57'N, 127°32'E; *Heiwa Maru* is intentionally run aground in shallow water to prevent her sinking.

USAAF B-24 aircraft damage Japanese cargo ship *Kensho Maru*, Kwajalein.

Atlantic

Advanced Amphibious Base, Dartmouth, England, is established.

Escort carrier *Card* (CVE-11)'s screen continues to battle concentration of U-boats. Destroyer *Schenck* (DD-159) sinks German submarine *U-645*, North

Atlantic, 45°20'N, 21°40'W; but *Leary* (DD-158) is torpedoed and sunk by *U-275* and *U-382*, 585 miles west-northwest of Cape Finisterre, Spain, 45°00'N, 22°00'W,

25 December, Sat.

Pacific

TG 50.2 (Rear Admiral Frederick C. Sherman) attacks Japanese ships at Kavieng. Planes from aircraft carrier *Bunker Hill* (CV-17) and small aircraft carrier *Monterey* (CVL 26) sink transport *Tenryu Maru*, 02°36'S, 150°49'E; and damage minesweepers *W.21* and *W.22* and transport (ex-armed merchant cruiser) *Kiyozumi Maru*.

Submarine *Skate* (SS-305) torpedoes Japanese battleship *Yamato* northeast of Truk, Carolines, 10°05'N, 150°32'E.

USAAF B-25s damage Japanese *Patrol Boat No.14* 50 kilometers east of Hong Kong.

Atlantic

German blockade runner *Osorno* arrives off the Gironde Estuary, met by six destroyers and six torpedo boats. Although *Osorno* has run the gantlet and avoided damage from her foes, she fouls the submerged wreckage of sunken German auxiliary vessel *Sperrbrecher 21*, necessitating the blockade runner's being beached.

• **26 December, Sun.**

Pacific

1st Marine Division (Major General William H. Rupertus, USMC) is landed at Cape Gloucester, New Britain, by Seventh Amphibious Force (Rear Admiral Daniel E. Barbey) after heavy preinvasion bombardment and bombing by ship gunfire and aircraft in Operation BACKHANDLER. During retaliatory Japanese air strikes, destroyer *Brownson* (DD-518) is sunk by dive bomber off Cape Gloucester, New Britain, 05°20'S, 148°25'E; destroyers *Lamson* (DD-367), *Shaw* (DD-373), and *Mugford* (DD-389) are damaged by dive bombers; and tank landing ships *LST-66* is damaged by horizontal bomber.

Caribbean

U.S. tanker *Chapultepec* en route from Aruba, N.W.I., to Cristobal, C.Z., is torpedoed by German submarine *U-530* at 10°33'N, 79°10'W. While there are no fatalities among the 53-man merchant complement or the 28-man Armed Guard, two of that aggregate total are injured. The ship reaches her destination under her own power and discharges her cargo of fuel oil. Subsequently, U.S. tanker *Esso Buffalo*, en route from Aruba, N.W.I., to the Canal Zone (ultimate destination: Melbourne, Australia), most likely accidentally rams *U-530* at 10°25'N, 78°28'W. There are no casualties among the 47-man merchant complement or the 28-man Armed Guard.

• **27 December, Mon.**

Pacific

Two cruisers and four destroyers (Rear Admiral Walden L. Ainsworth) bombard Kieta area, Bougainville, Solomons.

Coastal transport *APC-15* is damaged by dive bomber, New Britain, 06°12'S, 149°03'E.

Submarine *Flying Fish* (SS-229) sinks Japanese fleet tanker *Kyuei Maru*, 21°25'N, 118°05'E.

Submarine *Gurnard* (SS-254) damages Japanese transport (ex-armed merchant cruiser) *Gokoku Maru*, 34°23'N, 138°24'E.

Submarine *Ray* (SS-271) sinks Japanese fleet tanker *Kyoko Maru* (ex-Dutch *Semiramis*) west of the Celebes, 05°00'S, 121°22'E.

Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) damages Japanese seaplane carrier *Kimikawa Maru* off Shionomisaki, 33°25'N, 135°33'E.

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *Jose Navarro*, bound for Calcutta, India, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-178* at 08°20'N, 73°35'E. A volunteer crew returns to the ship after she is abandoned in hopes of saving her but go over the side before *U-178* finishes off the freighter in a second attack. There are no fatalities among the 46-man merchant complement, the 34-man Armed Guard, or the 86 embarked troops (only one man of that aggregate total is injured) (see 28 December 1943).

- **28 December, Tue.**

Pacific

Amphibious Training Base, Kamaole, Maui, T.H., is established.

Submarine *Muskallunge* (SS-262) unsuccessfully attacks Japanese convoy at 08°50'N, 147°20'E.

Navy PV-1 attacks Japanese net tender *Katsura Maru* off Kwajalein.

USAAF B-25s and P-40s sink Japanese merchant cargo vessels *Heizan Maru*, *Unyo Maru* and *Koka Maru* in Yangtze River, 30°40'N, 117°30'E.

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *Robert F. Hoke*, en route from Abadan, Iran, to Mombasa, Kenya, is torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I-26* at 20°05'N, 59°58'E, and abandoned by all but the 27-man Armed Guard, who remain at their guns and fire upon the I-boat's periscope to keep the enemy down. *I-26* abandons any further attacks and retires while *Robert F. Hoke* remains afloat. The crew reboards the ship but is not able to get the ship underway and she is abandoned a second time. An RAF crash boat rescues all hands (41 merchant sailors and the Armed Guard) and the abandoned freighter is later towed to Aden by British rescue tug *HMS Masterful*. *Robert F. Hoke* is later towed to Suez but never returns to active service and is written off as a total loss.

Indian Navy minesweeper RINS *Rajputana* rescues the survivors of U.S. freighter *Jose Navarro*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-178* the day before, and transports them to Cochin.

Atlantic

PB4Y (VB 105) on patrol over Bay of Biscay sights five German destroyers and six torpedo boats returning from attempt to rendezvous with blockade runner *Alsterfurer*, sunk the day before by an RAF No. 311 (Czech) Squadron Liberator. Of 15 PB4Ys dispatched as a strike force, six (five from VB 105 and one from VB 103) contact the enemy force and attack it. Contact reports by Navy planes, meanwhile, draw British light cruisers *HMS Glasgow* and *HMS Enterprise* to the scene, resulting in the sinking of German destroyers *Z 27* and torpedo boats

T 25 and *T 26*, the survivors of which are rescued by the British ships, an Irish steamer, and four Spanish destroyers.

- **29 December, Wed.**

Pacific

Off Palau, submarine *Silversides* (SS-236) sinks Japanese transport *Tenposan Maru*, 08°09'N, 133°51'E; army cargo ship *Shichisei Maru*, 08°00'N, 133°51'E; and merchant cargo ship *Ryuto Maru*, 08°03'N, 134°04'E; and damages army cargo ship *Bichu Maru*.

USAAF B-24 attacks Truk-bound Japanese cargo ship *Katori Maru*, 06°12'N, 167°45'E.

USAAF aircraft sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kakuzan Maru* and transport *Daitei Maru* in the middle Yangtze River.

- **30 December, Thu.**

Pacific

Submarine *Bluefish* (SS-222) sinks Japanese oiler *Ichiyu Maru*, Java Sea, 02°45'S, 109°10'E.

U.S. aircraft sink Japanese guardboat *Ukui Maru* off Rabaul.

- **31 December, Fri.**

Pacific

Four PBV-5As from Attu, Aleutians, bomb Shimushu and Kashiwabara, Kuriles.

Submarine *Greenling* (SS-213) sinks Japanese transport *Shoho Maru* in Eastern Carolines, 05°40'N, 160°20'E, and evades counterattacks by submarine chaser *Ch 30*.

Submarine *Herring* (SS-233) attacks Japanese convoy, 31°46'N, 138°22'E (see 1 January 1944).

Atlantic

Destroyer *Lea* (DD-118) is damaged when she is accidentally rammed by U.S. freighter *Elihu Yale*, 33°29'30"N, 48°12'30"W.

Chapter VI: 1944

January

- **1 January, Sat. --**

Pacific

Naval Air Facility, Honolulu, Oahu, T.H., is established.

TG 37.2 (Rear Admiral Frederick C. Sherman) attacks Japanese convoy off Kavieng, New Ireland. Planes from carrier *Bunker Hill* (CV-17) and small carrier *Monterey* (CVL-26), bomb shipping escorted by cruisers and destroyers, damaging light cruiser *Noshiro*.

Destroyers *Smith* (DD-378) and *Hutchins* (DD-476) are damaged in collision off eastern New Guinea, 05°00'S, 146°00'E.

Tank landing ship *LST-446* is damaged by accidental explosion, Solomon Islands, 06°15'S, 155°02'E.

Submarine *Balao* (SS-285) damages Japanese transport *Kiyosumi Maru* south of Truk, Caroline Islands, 04°32'N, 147°23'E.

Submarine *Herring* (SS-233), pursuing Japanese convoy spotted the previous day, sinks aircraft transport *Nagoya Maru* 220 miles south-southwest of Tokyo Bay, 32°10'N, 138°37'E. Counterattack by escorting destroyer *Ikazuchi* is unsuccessful.

Submarine *Puffer* (SS-268), in attack on Japanese convoy at the western entrance of the Mindanao Sea, sinks army cargo ship *Ryuyo Maru* about 40 miles south of Negros Island, 08°36'N, 122°52'E.

Submarine *Ray* (SS-271) sinks Japanese gunboat *Okuyo Maru* at mouth of Ambon Bay, N.E.I., 03°51'S, 128°04'E.

PBYs sink Japanese cargo ship *Kanaiyama Maru* near Lorengau, Admiralty islands, 02°03'S, 147°27'E.

Aerial minelaying operations in the Marshalls continue: four PB4Y-1s (VB 108), flying from Apamama, mine Enijun Channel, Maleolap; flying from Tarawa, three PV-1s (VB 137) mine the waters off Jaluit; two PBY-5s (VP 72) mine Jabor Anchorage, Jaluit.

- **2 January, Sun. --**

Atlantic

PB4Y (VB 107) sights and tracks German blockade runner *Weserland*, en route from Japan to Germany, 595 miles south-southwest of Ascension Island. Destroyer *Somers* (DD-381) intercepts *Weserland* and opens fire (see 3 January).

Pacific

TF 76 (Rear Admiral Daniel E. Barbey) lands U.S. Sixth Army troops (126th Regimental Combat Team, 32d Division, Reinforced) at Saidor, New Guinea, in **Operation MICHAELMAS**. Insertion of American troops at Saidor leap-frogs the Japanese garrison at Sio, 75 miles to the east. U.S. cruisers and destroyers provide cover.

Submarine *Finback* (SS-230) sinks Japanese merchant tanker *Isshin Maru* in East China Sea about 30 miles northwest of Takara Jima, Nansei Shoto, 29°30'N, 128°50'E.

Aerial minelaying operations in the Marshalls continue: flying from Tarawa, five PV-1s (VB 137) and one PB4Y-5 (VP 72) mine Jabor Anchorage.

Japanese planes bomb advanced base on Apamama Atoll, demolishing one PB4Y; exploding ammunition in the burning aircraft damages two additional PB4Ys.

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *Albert Gallatin* is torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine *I-26* about 60 miles off the Arabian coast, 21°21'N, 59°58'E; there are no casualties among the complement (including the 28-man Armed Guard, who remain at their posts until the ship literally sinks beneath them). Norwegian tanker *Britannia* rescues the survivors.

• **3 January, Mon. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Bluefish* (SS-222) lays mines off eastern Malayan coast.

Submarine *Kingfish* (SS-234) attacks Japanese convoy northwest of Miri, Sarawak, Borneo, and sinks fleet tankers *Bokuei Maru*, 06°58'N, 112°02'E, and *Ryuei Maru*, 08°06'N, 112°30'E.

Submarine *Raton* (SS-270) damages Japanese fleet tanker *Akebono Maru* east of Mindanao, P.I., 08°18'N, 129°59'E.

Submarine *Scorpion* (SS-278) departs Midway for her fourth war patrol. She will rendezvous with *Herring* (SS-233) on 5 January, but will never be seen again.

Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) sinks Japanese transport *Saishu Maru* south of Honshu, 33°44'N, 136°02'E.

Aerial minelaying operations in the Marshalls continue: seven PB4Y-1s (VB 108 and VB 109), flying from Apemama, mine the waters northwest of Enijun Island, off west side of Taroa, and outside lagoon off Kumaru Island, and strafe shipping anchored off Taroa; four PV-1s (VB 137), flying from Tarawa, mine southeast pass, Jaluit.

Japanese planes again bomb advanced base at Apamama, but inflict neither casualties nor serious damage to installations.

Atlantic

Destroyer *Turner* (DD-648) is sunk by internal explosion, three miles north of Ambrose Lightship, New York Harbor. During efforts to help the injured, a Coast Guard helicopter transports needed blood plasma in the Navy's first operational use of the helicopter in treating casualties.

Destroyer *Somers* (DD-381) sinks German blockade runner *Weserland*, 14°55'S, 21°39'W, and recovers 130 survivors.

• **4 January, Tue. --**

Pacific

TG 37.2 (Rear Admiral Frederick C. Sherman) planes bomb Japanese shipping at Kavieng, damaging destroyers Fumizuki and Satsuki in Stephen Strait.

Motor torpedo boat *PT-145*, damaged by grounding off Mindiri, 05°34'S, 146°10'E, is scuttled by motor torpedo boat *PT-370*. The latter suffers damage during the attempt to tow *PT-145* out of the area.

Escort carrier *Tripoli* (CVE-64) is damaged by accidental gasoline fire, Naval Repair Base, San Diego, California.

Submarines *Bluefish* (SS-222) and *Rasher* (SS-269) attack Japanese convoy off coast of French Indochina. *Bluefish* sinks merchant tanker *Hakko Maru*, 07°10'N, 108°28'E; *Rasher* damages tanker *Kiyo Maru* (ex-Norwegian *Vigrid*), 06°44'N, 108°43'E (see 5 January 1945). Third ship in convoy, *Konsan Maru*, escapes unharmed. *Rasher* also carries out mining operation in waters off Cochin China the same day.

Submarine *Cabrilla* (SS-288) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.8 Tamon Maru* off Cape Padaran, French Indochina, 11°05'N, 109°10'E.

Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199), despite presence of two escort vessels, sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Usa Maru* off southern Honshu, 34°09'N, 136°50'E.

Aerial minelaying operations in the Marshalls continue: two PV-1s (VB 137) and one PBV-5 (VP 72), flying from Tarawa, mine southeast pass, Jaluit.

USAAF B-25s (5th Air Force), covered by RAAF Beaufighters, attack Japanese shipping in Tenau harbor, Timor, sinking army cargo ship *Heimei Maru*, 10°10'S, 123°35'E.

Atlantic

Light cruiser *Omaha* (CL 4) and destroyer *Jouett* (DD- 396) intercept German blockade runner *Rio Grande* about 55 miles northeast of the coast of Brazil, 06°41'S, 25°36'W. Gunfire and scuttling charges sink *Rio Grande* (see 8 January).

• **5 January, Wed. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Rasher* (SS-269) sinks Japanese tanker *Kiyo Maru* (ex-Norwegian *Vigrid*), in South China Sea, 05°46'N, 108°36'E.

Aerial minelaying operations in the Marshalls continue: one PBV-5 (VP 72), flying from Tarawa, mines Schischmarov Strait, Wotje.

Japanese guardboat *No.5 Fukuyoshi Maru* is wrecked following attack by USAAF B-24, Wotje Atoll, Marshalls.

Atlantic

PBM-3S (VP 203) sights German blockade runner *Burgenland* and summons light cruiser *Omaha* (CL 4) and destroyer *Jouett* (DD-396). Gunfire and scuttling charges sink *Burgenland*, 07°29'S, 25°37'W.

• **6 January, Thu. --**

Pacific

Aerial minelaying operations in the Marshalls continue: One PBV-5 (VP 72),

flying from Tarawa, mines Schischmarov Strait, Wotje; a second Catalina, vexed by engine trouble, brings its mines back and does not carry out the mission.

Atlantic

Gunboat *St. Augustine* (PG-54) is sunk in collision with U.S. merchant tanker *Camas Meadows*, 73 miles south-southwest of Cape May, New Jersey, 38°01'N, 74°05'W.

Mediterranean

U.S. freighter *William S. Rosecrans* drags anchor during storm south of Naples, Italy, and strikes a mine that starts a fire that dooms the ship. She sinks later that afternoon but there are no casualties to either the merchant complement or the 27-man Armed Guard, who are all rescued by British naval vessels.

- **7 January, Fri. --**

Pacific

Small carrier *Belleau Wood* (CVL-24) and destroyer *Dunlap* (DD-384) are damaged in collision during exercises off Oahu, T.H.

Submarine *Kingfish* (SS-234) attacks Japanese convoy southwest of Palawan, sinking merchant tanker *No.3 Fushimi Maru*, 09°27'N, 117°36'E.

Eight PB4Y-1s (VB 108 and VB 109), flying from Apemama, encounter bad weather that forces cancellation of their minelaying mission to the Marshalls.

USAAF B-25s sink Vichy French merchant ship *Kai Ping*, Ben Thuy, French Indochina.

Japanese cargo vessel *Katsuragisan Maru* is sunk by Japanese mine in northwest channel of Truk harbor, 07°30'N, 151°50'E.

Atlantic

Fleet tug *Carib* (ATF-82) stops and boards Spanish merchant ship *Monte Amiboto* and removes a stowaway, an alleged German internee in Argentina from the armored ship *Admiral Graf Spee*.

Destroyer *Davis* (DD-395) rescues 21 survivors of sunken German blockade runner *Burgenland*, 08°06'S, 26°45'W.

- **8 January, Sat. --**

Pacific

TF 38 (Rear Admiral Walden L. Ainsworth), consisting of two light cruisers and five destroyers, bombards Japanese shore installations on Faisi, Poporang, and Shortland Islands, Solomons.

Aerial minelaying operations in the Marshalls continue: eight PB4Y-1s (VB 108 and VB 109), flying from Apemama, mine the waters off Wotje and then strafe enemy facilities on the island and shipping offshore; seven PBY-5s (VP 72), flying from Tarawa, mine Wotje anchorage and Schischmarov Strait.

Atlantic

Light cruiser *Marblehead* (CL-12) rescues 72 survivors of sunken German blockade runner *Rio Grande*, 07°45'S, 33°00'W. Destroyer *Winslow* (DD-359) rescues 35 survivors of sunken German blockade runner *Burgenland*, 08°14'S, 29°22'W.

- **9 January, Sun. --**

Pacific

District patrol craft *YP-281* founders in heavy weather west of the Society Islands, 16°53'S, 177°18'W, and is scuttled by submarine chaser *PC-1134*.

- **10 January, Mon. --**

Pacific

Motor minesweeper *YMS-127* sinks after running aground, Aleutian Islands.

Submarine *Seawolf* (SS-197) begins series of attacks on Japanese convoy about 70 miles north of Naha, Okinawa, sinking army cargo ship *Asuka Maru*, 27°30'N, 127°45'E, and merchant cargo ship *Getsuyo Maru* at 27°10'N, 127°28'E (see 11 January).

Submarine *Steelhead* (SS-280), in the midst of a "full- fledged typhoon," attacks Japanese convoy south of Honshu, sinking repair ship *Yamabiko Maru*, 31°28'N, 137°44'E.

Aerial minelaying operations in the Marshalls continue: two PBY-5s (VP 72), flying from Tarawa, mine Meichen Channel and Legediak Strait, Wotje.

Japanese planes again bomb advanced base at Apamama, but inflict neither casualties nor serious damage to installations.

Mediterranean

U.S. freighter *Daniel Webster* is damaged by German aerial torpedo during air attack on convoy KMS 37 while en route from Gibraltar to Augusta and Naples, 36°04'N, 00°14'W (see 11 January).

- **11 January, Tue. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Seawolf* (SS-197) concludes operations against Japanese convoy attacked the previous day, sinking army cargo ship *Yahiko Maru* about 50 miles north of Naha, Okinawa, 27°10'N, 127°28'E.

Submarine *Sturgeon* (SS-187) attacks Japanese convoy in approaches to Bungo Suido, sinking army cargo ship *Erie Maru* about 20 miles east of Saeki, Kyushu, 32°56'N, 132°02'E, and survives ensuing depth-charging by escorts.

Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) damages Japanese ammunition ship *Kogyo Maru* off Honshu, 34°10'N, 136°56'E.

British submarine HMS *Tally Ho* sinks Japanese light cruiser *Kuma* (en route to conduct torpedo practice) 10 miles northwest of Penang, Malaya, 06°00'N, 39°00'E.

Aerial minelaying operations in the Marshalls continue: four PBYs (VP 72), flying from Tarawa, mine Meichen Channel and Schischmarov Strait, Wotje; Enibin and Torappu channels, Maleolap.

USAAF B-25Gs strike Japanese shipping and installations at Maleolap and Wotje, damaging destroyer *Ushio*.

Atlantic

Brazilian 10th Military Region forces take custody of 22 survivors of German blockade runner *Rio Grande* who reach Fortaleza, Brazil.

Mediterranean

U.S. freighter *Daniel Webster*, damaged by German aerial torpedo the previous day, reaches Oran under escort of British frigate HMS *Barle*; rescue tug ATR-47 brings *Daniel Webster* into port where she is subsequently written off as a total loss. There are no fatalities among the ship's complement (which includes a 29-man Armed Guard).

- **12 January, Wed. --**

Pacific

PB4Ys (VB 108 and VB 109) bomb Japanese shipping in Kwajalein lagoon, sinking gunboat *Ikuta Maru*, 08°42'N, 167°44'E. Aerial minelaying operations continue in the Marshalls as five PBV-5s, flying from Tarawa, mine Tokowa and Torappu channels and the south entrance to Maleolap; one Catalina goes on to bomb Jabor but is forced down by anti-aircraft fire six miles east of Jaluit (see 14 January).

Submarine *Albacore* (SS-218) sinks Japanese gunboat *No.2 Choko Maru* about 350 miles southwest of Truk, 03°30'N, 147°27'E; she also damages motor gunboat *Hayabusa-Tei No.4*, under tow of *No.12 Choko Maru*, so badly that the smaller craft has to be scuttled, 03°37'N, 147°27'E.

Submarine *Hake* (SS-256) sinks Japanese aircraft transport *Nigitsu Maru* about 300 miles southeast of Okinawa, 23°15'N, 133°49'E.

Japanese army cargo vessel *Kanjo Maru* is sunk by USAAF mine in Takao harbor, Formosa, 22°37'N, 120°15'E.

Mediterranean

Naval Air Station, Port Lyautey, French Morocco, is established.

- **13 January, Thu. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Swordfish* (SS-193) is damaged by depth charges off central Honshu, 33°16'N, 139°30'E, but remains on patrol.

USAAF B-24 (5th Air Force) sinks Japanese transport *Haguro Maru* 35 miles northwest of New Hanover, 02°43'N, 149°25'E.

Thai ship *Valaya* is sunk by mine in Menam River, Thailand.

Atlantic

Brazilian minelayer *Camocim* while escorting convoy JT 19, picks up the last 34 survivors (26 German and 8 Italian) of the three German blockade runners sunk on 3, 4, and 5 January.

- **14 January, Fri. --**

Pacific

Fuel oil barge (self-propelled) *YO-159*, under tow of U.S. tanker *Gulf Star*, is torpedoed by Japanese submarine *RO-42*, 250 miles east of Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides, 15°27'S, 171°28'E (see 15 January).

Submarine *Scamp* (SS-277) attacks Japanese convoy about 400 miles east-southeast of the Palaus, sinking fleet tanker *Nippon Maru* south of Sorol Island, 05°02'N, 140°50'E; *Albacore* (SS-218), nearby, sinks destroyer *Sazanami*, 05°30'N, 141°34'E; *Guardfish* (SS-217) sets upon same convoy attacked earlier

by *Scamp* and sinks fleet tanker *Ken'yo Maru* 520 miles southeast of Palau, 05°23'N, 141°57'E.

Submarine *Seawolf* (SS-197) attacks Japanese convoy approximately 300 miles northeast of Okinawa, sinking fleet tanker *Yamazuru Maru*, 25°00'N, 132°00'E.

Submarine *Swordfish* (SS-193) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking transport *Yamakuni Maru* off Hachijo Jima, south of Honshu, 33°16'N, 139°30'E.

SBDs and TBFs, supported by Allied fighters, bomb Japanese shipping in Simpson Harbor, Rabaul, damaging destroyer *Matsukaze* and fleet tanker *Naruto*.

PBY-5 (VP 72) shot down attacking Jabor on 12 January is located and its crew rescued about 40 miles southwest of Jaluit.

USAAF B-25s strike Japanese shipping and installations at Wotje atoll, Marshalls, sinking guardboat *Tama Maru*.

USAAF B-24s (14th Air Force) sink army cargo ship *Gyoei Maru* in South China Sea, 20°35'N, 113°44'E.

Atlantic

Destroyers *Bulmer* (DD-222) and *Parrott* (DD-218) damage German submarine *U-382*, 560 miles west-northwest of Cape Finisterre, Spain.

• **15 January, Sat. --**

Pacific

Service Squadron 10 (Captain Worrall R. Carter) is activated at Pearl Harbor to provide mobile logistics support for a projected advanced major fleet anchorage in the Central Pacific Area.³

Fuel oil barge (self-propelled) *YO-159*, torpedoed the previous day by Japanese submarine *RO-42*, is scuttled by gunfire of submarine chaser *PC-1138* (see 14 January).

Submarine *Crevalle* (SS-291) lays mines east of Saigon, French Indochina.

Submarine *Thresher* (SS-200), in attack on Japanese convoy, sinks army cargo ship *Toho Maru* and merchant tanker *Tatsuno Maru* about 75 miles north of Luzon, 20°00'N, 120°51'E.

British submarine HMS *Tally Ho* sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Ry_k_Maru* south of Port Blair, Andaman Islands, 10°03'N, 93°05'E.

USAAF B-25 sinks Vichy French coast patrol craft *Ping Sung* off Hongay, French Indochina.

• **16 January, Sun. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Blackfish* (SS-221) attacks Japanese convoy and sinks transport *Kaika Maru* about 275 miles southwest of Truk, 04°03'N, 148°41'E.

Submarine *Flier* (SS-250) runs aground and is damaged as she transits channel at Midway Island; submarine rescue vessel *Macaw* (ASR-17) becomes stranded as she attempts to assist the stranded fleet boat (see 12 February).

Submarine *Redfin* (SS-272) damages Japanese destroyer *Amatsukaze*, 250 miles north of the Spratly Islands, 14°40'N, 113°50'E.

Submarine *Seahorse* (SS-304) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Nikko Maru* southeast of the Marianas, 12°49'N, 150°19'E.

Submarine *Sturgeon* (SS-187) damages Japanese destroyer *Suzutsuki* in Bungo Channel, 32°15'N, 132°29'E but fails to hit the destroyer's charge, cargo vessel *Azaki Maru*. Submarine *Swordfish* (SS-193), despite presence of escort vessel, sinks Japanese gunboat *Delhi Maru* off Honshu, 34°04'N, 139°56'E.4

Submarine *Whale* (SS-239) attacks Japanese convoy and sinks army cargo ship *Denmark Maru* about 400 miles southeast of Okinawa, 23°09'N, 135°14'E; *Seawolf* (SS-197), nearby, damages transport *Tarushima Maru*, 23°00'N, 135°00'E, which *Whale* later finishes off, 22°50'N, 135°40'E.

PBYs attack Rabaul-bound Japanese convoy O-905, sinking army cargo ships *Shunko Maru*, 02°30'S, 149°42'E, and *Hozugawa Maru* and transport *Meisho Maru* about 45 miles northwest of New Hanover, 02°20'S, 149°42'E. *Kosei Maru* (see 17 January) and escorting submarine chasers *Ch 24* and *Ch 29* emerge unscathed.

U.S. forces sink Japanese submarine *I-181* in Gidiagu Strait.

Atlantic

TBF (VC 13) from escort carrier *Guadalcanal* (CVE-60) sinks German submarine *U-544* in mid-Atlantic, 40°30'N, 37°20'W.5

U.S. freighter *Sumner I. Kimball*, straggling from New York-bound convoy ON 219, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-960* in the North Atlantic, 52°35'N, 35°00'W. There are no survivors from either the 40-man merchant complement or the 29-man Armed Guard.

• **17 January, Mon. --**

Pacific

SBDs and TBFs, covered by fighters, bomb Japanese shipping at Rabaul, sinking repair ship *Hakkai Maru*, transport *Kenshin Maru* (ex-British *Celebes*), and army cargo ship *Kosei Maru* (which had escaped damage the previous day), and damaging aircraft transport *Lyon Maru*. *Kosei Maru* sinks with 14 landing barges still on board, 04°13'S, 152°11'E.

Japanese sources indicate guardboat *No.6 Shinko Maru* is sunk, but offers no location other than "South Seas area." The only naval air activity on this day that may have been responsible for the loss of a ship the size of *No.6 Shinko Maru* is a raid by PB4Y aircraft upon Kusaie in the Carolines.

Submarine *Bowfin* (SS-287) attacks Japanese convoy, gunboat *Delhi Maru* off west coast of Palawan, 00°18'N, 118°37'E.

USAAF B-24s (5th Air Force) sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *Chiburi Maru* 80 miles east of Manus, 02°27'S, 148°58'E, and *No.9 Fukei Maru* at 02°00'S, 149°00'E.

Atlantic

Airship K 36 crashes in a fog on the lee side of Ilha de Cabo Frio, Brazil.

• **18 January, Tue. --**

Pacific

Tropical hurricane batters Noumea, New Caledonia, damaging high speed

transport *Noa* (APD-24), district patrol vessel *YP-239*, district auxiliary (miscellaneous) *YAG-25*, and a crane barge.

Submarine *Bowfin* (SS-287) sinks Japanese merchant tanker *Shoyu Maru* off west coast of Palawan, 00°18'N, 118°37'E.6

Submarine *Flasher* (SS-249) sinks Japanese oiler *Yoshida Maru* about 140 miles west-southwest of Marcus Island, 23°50'N, 151°28'E.

PB4Y-1 (VB 108), to simulate minelaying operations, sows unfuzed 100-pound bombs in Mellu, Gegibu and Onemak channels, Kwajalein.

USAAF A-24s and P-40s bomb Japanese installations at Jaluit, sinking merchant tanker *No.1 Nanyu Maru*.

- **19 January, Wed. --**

- Pacific

- Submarine *Haddock* (SS-231) damages Japanese carrier *Unyo* 140 miles east-southeast of Guam, 12°50'N, 146°23'E.

- USAAF B-24 (5th Air Force) sinks Japanese cargo vessel *Kaishu Maru* at Manus, Admiralty Islands.

- **20 January, Thu. --**

- Pacific

- Submarine *Batfish* (SS-310) attacks Japanese convoy off southern Honshu, sinking transport *Hidaka Maru* south of Shiono Misaki, 31°28'N, 134°52'E.

- Submarine *Gar* (SS-206) attacks Japanese convoy on the New Guinea-to-Palau route, sinking army cargo ship *K_y_Maru* about 50 miles south-southwest of Palau, 06°40'N, 134°17'E.

- Submarine *Seadragon* (SS-194) damages Japanese stores ship *Irako* northwest of Truk, 08°04'N, 152°40'E.

- Submarine *Tinosa* (SS-283) lands men and equipment in northeast Borneo.

- USAAF B-24s (14th Air Force) sink Japanese transports *Menado Maru* and *Kuzan Maru* 140 miles southeast of Swatow, China, 22°10'N, 118°15'E.

- USAAF B-25s sink transport *Ogashima Maru* at Namu Atoll, Marshalls, 08°07'N, 168°00'E.

- USAAF planes sink Japanese dredge *Jintsu Maru* at 03°04'S, 142°10'E.

- Atlantic

- Tank landing ship *LST-228* sinks after running aground off the Azores, 38°39'N, 27°12'W.

- **21 January, Fri. --**

- Pacific

- PB5Y-5As, flying from Attu, bomb and photograph Japanese installations in the Kurabu Zaki area, south Paramushiru, and in the Musashi Wan-Otomaye area, south coast of Paramushiru; PV-1s bomb and photograph enemy installations in the north Paramushiru area.

Submarine *Seahorse* (SS-304) attacks Japanese convoy on the Palau-Hollandia track, sinking army transport *Ikoma Maru* and cargo ship *Yasukuni Maru* 280 miles east-southeast of Palau, 03°19'N, 137°02'E.

British submarine HMS *Tally Ho* sinks Japanese cargo ship *No.67 Daigen Maru* at 03°15'N, 100°40'E.

- **22 January, Sat. --**

Pacific

At Midway, efforts to refloat submarine *Flier* (SS-250) succeed, and she is taken in tow by submarine rescue vessel *Florikan* (ASR-9); submarine rescue vessel *Macaw* (ASR-17), however, remains stranded.

Oiler *Cache* (AO-67) is torpedoed by Japanese submarine *RO-37* about 155 miles southeast of San Cristobal, Solomons, 12°08'S, 164°33'E. Destroyer *Buchanan* (DD-484) then sinks *RO 37* about 130 miles east-southeast of San Cristobal, 11°47'S, 164°17'E.

Submarine *Tinosa* (SS-283) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking merchant tankers *Seinan Maru* and *Koshin Maru* about 120 miles north of Labuan, Borneo, 07°22'N, 115°05'E.

USAAF B-25s and P-38s attack Japanese shipping in Lorengau harbor, Manus, Admiralties, sinking auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 40*, 01°50'S, 147°20'E, and damaging cargo vessel *No.3 Kurebame Maru*.

Atlantic

Tank landing craft *LCT-582* sinks after running aground, Azores.

Mediterranean

Elements of the British First Army and U.S. Third Army (Major General Lucian K. Truscott, USA) land on the Italian coast at Anzio, in **Operation SHINGLE**; naval commander is Rear Admiral Frank K. Lowry. Initial landings progress as scheduled with little opposition, and the troops are landed with small loss.

Enemy opposition, however, will mount over the ensuing weeks, and naval gunfire support will prove crucial to troops holding the beachhead. Off Anzio, minesweeper *Portent* (AM-106) is sunk by mine, 41°24'N, 12°44'E; infantry landing craft *LCI-20* is sunk by aircraft.

- **23 January, Sun. --**

Pacific

PBY-5As and PV-1s, flying from Attu, bomb Japanese installations on the west and south coasts of Paramushiro.

Submarine *Gar* (SS-206), in attack on Japanese convoy, sinks transport *Taian Maru* about 75 miles south of Palau, 05°45'N, 134°45'E.

Submarine *Snook* (SS-279) sinks Japanese gunboat *Magane Maru* about 175 miles north-northwest of Chichi Jima, 29°49'N, 140°08'E.

USAAF B-25s (14th Air Force) attack Japanese convoy off Foochow, China, sinking army cargo ship *Panama Maru*, 27°15'N, 120°45'E.

USAAF B-24s (10th Air Force) sink Japanese cargo ship *Seikai Maru* in Mergui harbor, 12°26'N, 98°36'E.

- **24 January, Mon. --**

Pacific

USMC TBFs, supported by large concentration of USN, USMC, USAAF and RNZAF fighters, attack Japanese shipping at Rabaul, sinking water tanker *Koan Maru*, aircraft transport *Lyon Maru* (previously rendered unnavigable on 17 January) and army cargo ships *Taisho Maru* and *Yamayuri Maru*, 04°13'S, 152°11'E.

PB4Ys damage cargo ship *Ogashima Maru* south of Kwajalein, 08°14'N, 168°02'E; deemed beyond salvage, *Ogashima Maru* is scuttled by auxiliary minesweeper *No.5 Tama Maru*. PB4Ys also sink auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 14* 70 miles east-southeast of Eniwetok, 11°10'N, 163°25'E.

USAAF B-25s bomb Japanese shipping and harbor installations at Manus, sinking transport *Heiwa Maru* and auxiliary minelayer *Tatsu Maru*, and damaging auxiliary minelayer *Matsu Maru*.

USAAF B-25s (14th Air Force) sink Japanese ship *Liu Hsing* in Lishen Bay, China, 26°58'N, 120°04'E.

Submarine *Sturgeon* (SS-187) attacks Japanese convoy in eastern approaches to Bungo Suido, sinking army cargo ship *Chosen Maru*, 32°28'N, 132°23'E.

Japanese planes bomb U.S. shipping in Dreger Bay, New Guinea, damaging freighter *John Muir* at 06°32'08"N, 147°53'05"E, with one direct hit and at least four near-misses that injure 2 of 42 merchant sailors, one of the 28-man Armed Guard and 13 of the 40 Construction Battalion stevedores embarked to work cargo.

Mediterranean

Tank landing craft *LCT-185* founders and sinks in heavy weather off Bizerte, Tunisia.

German planes attack invasion shipping off the Anzio beachhead: bombs damage destroyer *Plunkett* (DD-431), 41°15'N, 12°37'E, and minesweeper *Prevail* (AM-107), 41°00'N, 12°00'E; aerial torpedo damages destroyer *Mayo* (DD-422), 41°24'N, 12°43'E;

During German air raid on Allied shipping at Naples, Italy, U.S. freighter *F.A.C. Muhlenberg* is damaged by bomb and by near-miss of bomb; ship's crew and port firefighting crews extinguish the fires thus started. Of the ship's complement, 6 of 46 merchant sailors die; 1 of the 31-man Armed Guard perishes in the blaze.

Arctic

German submarines attack Murmansk-bound convoy JW 56A. U.S. freighter *Penelope Barker* is torpedoed and sunk by *U-278* about 115 miles from North Cape, Norway, 72°23'N, 23°10'E; 10 merchant sailors and 5 Armed Guard men (of the 43-man merchant complement and the 28-man Armed Guard, respectively) perish in the explosions. British destroyer *HMS Savage* rescues the survivors (see 26 January).

- **25 January, Tue. --**

Pacific

Escort carrier *Sangamon* (CVE-26) is damaged by fire following a TBM (VC 37) barrier crash, en route to the Marshalls.

Japanese cargo ship *Nanshin Maru* sinks after running aground on a shoal off Miyagiken peninsula, 35°31'N, 133°09'E.

Mediterranean

Off Anzio, motor minesweeper *YMS-30* is sunk by mine, 41°23'N, 12°45'E; submarine chaser *PC-676* is damaged by near-miss of bomb.

• **26 January, Wed. --**

Pacific

TG 74.2 (Rear Admiral Russell S. Berkey), consisting of two light cruisers and three destroyers, bombards Japanese installations in Madang-Alexisshafen area of New Guinea.

Motor torpedo boat *PT-110* is sunk by depth charge explosion following collision with motor torpedo boat *PT-114*, Ablingi Harbor, New Britain, 06°17'S, 150°09'E; *PT-114* is damaged.

Escort carriers *Suwanee* (CVE-27) and *Sangamon* (CVE-26) are damaged in collision while en route to the Marshalls.

Submarine *Crevalle* (SS-291) sinks Japanese gunboat *Busho Maru* in South China Sea, about 175 miles southeast of Cape St. Jacques, French Indochina, 08°30'N, 109°10'E.

Submarine *Hake* (SS-256) sinks Japanese auxiliary netlayer *Shuko Maru* off Ambon, N.E.I., 05°50'N, 126°00'E.

Submarine *Skipjack* (SS-184) sinks Japanese destroyer *Suzukaze* 140 miles northwest of Ponape, Carolines, 09°00'N, 157°27'E, and transport *Okitsu Maru* 150 miles northwest of Ponape, 09°22'N, 157°26'E.

British submarine HMS *Templar* damages Japanese light cruiser *Kitakami* southwest of Penang, Malaya, 04°54'N, 98°28'E.

Mediterranean

Off Anzio, mines sink Infantry landing craft *LCI-32* and damage tank landing ship *LST-422*. During German air raid on shipping off the invasion beaches, U.S. freighter *John Banyard* is damaged by near-miss of aerial bomb. While there are no casualties to those on board (including the 27-man Armed Guard), the ship will later be written off as a total loss. Off Nettuno, a German fighter plane crashes into freighter *Hilary A. Herbert* shortly before the freighter is further damaged by the near-miss of a bomb. Beached to prevent her loss, *Hilary A. Herbert* is later repaired and returned to service.

Arctic

German submarines continue attacks against Murmansk- bound convoy JW 56A. U.S. freighter *Andrew G. Curtin* is torpedoed and sunk by *U-716*, 73°25'N, 25°16'E; two of the merchant crew and one Armed Guard sailor (of the 43-man merchant complement and the 28-man Armed Guard, respectively) perish. British destroyer HMS *Inconstant* rescues the survivors.

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *Walter Camp* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-532*

at 10°00'N, 71°40'E; all hands (40 merchant crew, 28 Armed Guards and one passenger) survive. British light cruiser HMS *Danae* rescues them four and a half days later.

- **27 January, Thu. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Swordfish* (SS-193), in attack on Japanese convoy about 130 miles south of Tokyo Bay, sinks gunboat *Kasagi Maru*, 33°31'N, 139°36'E.

Submarine *Thresher* (SS-200) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking transport *Kosei Maru* and merchant cargo ship *Kikuzuki Maru* about 70 miles southwest of Formosa, 22°11'N, 119°12'E.

Mediterranean

German air opposition to landings at Anzio begins to increase; submarine chaser *SC-534* is damaged by near-miss of bomb. Adverse weather conditions there cause damage to one large infantry landing craft (LCI[L]) and eleven tank landing craft (LCT).

- **28 January, Fri. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Bowfin* (SS-287) damages Japanese oiler *Kamoi* off Makassar, N.E.I., 03°25'S, 118°15'E.

USAAF B-24 (13th Air Force) and USN PB4Ys sink Japanese transport *Neikai Maru* south of Kavieng, 03°45'S, 150°38'E; midget submarine *Ha.49*, carried on board *Neikai Maru*, is lost as well.

Atlantic

PB4Y-1 (VB 103) sinks German submarine *U-271* off Limerick, Eire, 53°15'N, 15°52'W.

Mediterranean

Off Anzio, motor torpedo boat *PT-201*--that has Lieutenant General Mark Clark, Commanding General of the U.S. Fifth Army, on board--is damaged by friendly fire from minesweeper *Sway* (AM-120); submarine chaser *SC-534* is damaged by near-miss of bomb.

- **29 January, Sat. --**

Pacific

Aircraft from fast carrier force TF 58 (Rear Admiral Marc A. Mitscher) begin series of strikes to destroy Japanese air power and shipping in the Marshalls. Aircraft from TG 58.1 sink Japanese auxiliary netlayer *Uji Maru*. Attacks continue daily until 6 February.

Submarine *Bowfin* (SS-287) lays mines off southeastern coast of Borneo.

Submarine *Tambor* (SS-198) attacks Japanese convoy in the Nansei Shoto, sinking merchant cargo ship *Shuntai Maru* north of Okinawa, 27°51'N, 128°24'E.

During Japanese bombing raid on U.S. shipping off Cape Cretin, New Guinea, freighter *George Sterling* is damaged by near-miss, 06°41'S, 147°52'E. There are no fatalities among complement (including the 26-man Armed Guard).

Mediterranean

German planes bomb U.S. shipping off the invasion beaches at Anzio and

Nettuno; off the former place, rescue tug *ATR-1* is damaged by near-miss of bomb, 41°27'N, 12°40'E. freighter *Alexander Martin* is damaged by strafing but there are no fatalities among the ship's complement (including the 24-man Armed Guard). Off Nettuno, freighter *Samuel Huntington* is sunk by bombs; three merchant sailors die in the explosions, one will die of his wounds later. Her survivors are rescued by tank landing craft *LCT-277*. There are no casualties among the 39-man Armed Guard; the ship will later be written off as a total loss. *LCT-198* rescues survivors from British light AA cruiser HMS *Spartan* [along with HMS *Dido* and HMS *Delhi*, among others.]

- **30 January, Sun. --**

Pacific

PB2Ys (VP 13, VP 102) from Midway Island carry out nocturnal bombing raid on Wake Island to neutralize Japanese airfield installations there that could threaten the imminent Marshalls operations. Motor torpedo boats *Gyoraitei No.5* and *Gyoraitei No.6* are sunk during the raid. The strike marks the first time that Coronados are used as bombers, and strikes are repeated on the nights of 4, 8, and 9 February.

During preinvasion bombardment of Wotje, Marshalls, destroyer *Anderson* (DD-411) is damaged by shore battery, 09°33'N, 170°18'E.

SBDs and F6Fs from TG 52.8, comprising carriers *Enterprise* (CV-6), *Yorktown* (CV-10) and *Bunker Hill* (CV-17) and small carrier *Belleau Wood* (CVL-24) sink Japanese auxiliary submarine chasers *Cha 18* and *Cha 21* at Kwajalein Atoll, Marshalls; auxiliary submarine chasers *Cha 14*, *Cha 19*, and *Cha 28* at Mili; and damage cargo vessel *Katsura Maru* at Eniwetok. Destroyer *Phelps* (DD-360) subsequently finishes off the crippled enemy merchantman.

Battleships *Washington* (BB 55), *Indiana* (BB 58) and *Massachusetts* (BB 59) and destroyers *Ingersoll* (DD-652), *Knapp* (DD-653), *Caperton* (DD-650), and *Cogswell* (DD-651) bombard Japanese installations at Kwajalein. Battleship *North Carolina* (BB 55) sinks transport *Eiko Maru* off west coast of Roi, 09°10'N, 167°20'E (see 14 February).

Destroyer *Burns* (DD-588) sinks Japanese transport *Akibasan Maru* and guardboat *Nichiei Maru* off Ujae Atoll, Marshalls.

Navy SBDs and TBFs, supported by Allied fighters, bomb Japanese shipping at Rabaul, sinking water supply ship *Iwata Maru* and damaging auxiliary vessel *Juzan Maru*, 04°12'S, 152°12'E.

TG 31.8 (four destroyers, three high speed transports, and two motor torpedo boats) lands 30th New Zealand Battalion and U.S. Navy personnel on the Green Islands, north of Bougainville, to locate areas suitable for airstrips and landing beaches. The reconnoitering force is recovered the next day.

Submarine *Seahorse* (SS-304) attacks Japanese convoy on the Palau-Rabaul track, sinking army cargo ship *Toko Maru* southeast of Palau, 06°10'N, 138°14'E.

Submarine *Spearfish* (SS-190) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking transport *Tamashima Maru* about 400 miles north-northeast of Saipan, 21°15'N, 149°18'E.

- **31 January, Mon. --**

Pacific

Marines and Army troops (Major General Holland M. Smith, USMC) land on atolls of Kwajalein and Majuro, in the Marshalls, in **Operation FLINTLOCK**. The operation is under the overall command of Commander Central Pacific force TF 50 (Vice Admiral Raymond A. Spruance) and is composed of Southern Attack force TF 51 (Rear Admiral Richmond K. Turner), Northern Attack Force TF 53 (Rear Admiral Richard L. Conolly), and Reserve Force and Majuro Attack Group TF 51.2 (Rear Admiral Harry W. Hill). Landings are supported by carrier-based aircraft TF 58 (Rear Admiral Marc A. Mitscher) and land-based aircraft TF 57 (Rear Admiral John H. Hoover).

Aircraft from fast carrier group TG 58.3 (Rear Admiral Frederick C. Sherman) bomb aircraft and airfield facilities at Engebi Island, Eniwetok Atoll in the Marshalls. Attacks by this carrier group continue on the first three days of February and afterward by Rear Admiral Samuel P. Ginder's carrier group TG 58.4 through 7 February. TG 58.3 aircraft and destroyer *Harrison* (DD-573) sink Japanese auxiliary netlayer *Katsura Maru* off Eniwetok.

U.S. air strike on Nauru, in support of the Marshalls operations, sinks Japanese auxiliary submarine chasers *Cha 25* and *Cha 33*.

Cargo ship *Enceladus* (AK-80) is damaged by storm, Solomons, 08°09'N, 157°38'E.

Submarine *Trigger* (SS-237) sinks Japanese auxiliary submarine depot ship *Yasukuni Maru* northwest of Truk, 09°21'N, 147°02'E, and damages destroyer *Michisio*, 09°50'N, 147°06'E.

Submarine *Tullibee* (SS-284) sinks Japanese auxiliary netlayer *Hiro Maru* north-northwest of Saipan, 15°23'N, 145°35'E.

USAAF B-24 sinks Japanese guardboat *Seisho Maru* off Celebes.

Japanese plane carries out high-level bombing raid on U.S. shipping in Langemak Bay, New Guinea; freighter *Stephen Crane* is damaged by bomb that glances off her stack and explodes in the water nearby. One Army passenger is killed; 22 men (including one merchant seaman and one of the 29-man Armed Guard) are injured.

February

- **1 February, Tue. --**

Pacific

Command designated Amphibious Forces, Pacific Fleet, with headquarters at Pearl Harbor, is established. Vice Admiral Richmond K. Turner, Commander Fifth Amphibious Force, is ordered to assume this command as additional duty.

Naval Base, Finschhafen, New Guinea, is established.

Invasion of the Marshalls continues as Marines land on Roi and Namur and Army troops land on Kwajalein under cover of heavy naval gunfire from battleships, cruisers and destroyers. During this day, heavy cruiser *Louisville* (CA-28) is damaged by ricocheting 8-inch shell from heavy cruiser *Indianapolis* (CA-35), 09°00'N, 167°00'E; destroyer *Anderson* (DD-411) is

damaged when she runs aground in northern Kwajalein lagoon, 09°10'N, 167°25'E; destroyer *Haggard* (DD-555) is damaged by accidental explosion, off northwestern end of Kwajalein, 09°00'N, 167°00'E; destroyer *Colahan* (DD- 658) is damaged when she runs aground on a coral reef at the north end of Enubuj Island, Kwajalein, 08°52'N, 167°38'E; battleships *Washington* (BB 56) and *Indiana* (BB 58), operating in TG 58.1, are damaged in collision, 07°00'N, 167°00'E; and minesweeper *Chief* (AM-135) is damaged by grounding, Marshalls, 09°00'N, 167°00'E.

Japanese naval vessels destroyed in the preinvasion shelling and bombing at Kwajalein include auxiliary submarine chaser *No.11 Fuji Maru* and guardboats *Kikyo Maru*, *Meiho Maru*, *Palau Maru*, *Takeura Maru*, and *Yamashiro Maru*.

Destroyers *Guest* (DD-472) and *Hudson* (DD-475) sink Japanese submarine *I-171*, 15 miles west of Buka Island, 05°37'S, 154°14'E.

Submarine *Guardfish* (SS-217) attacks Japanese convoy heading for Truk's south pass, just off the reef, and sinks destroyer *Umikaze*, 07°11'N, 151°44'E.

Submarine *Hake* (SS-256) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Nanka Maru* and transport *Tacoma Maru* off northeast coast of Halmahera, 01°32'N, 128°50'E.

Submarine *Seahorse* (SS-304) attacks Japanese convoy on the Palau-Rabaul track, sinking transport *Toei Maru* about 175 miles south of Woleai, 04°24'N, 143°15'E.

USAAF B-24s damage Japanese ship *Hakka Maru*, 02°43'S, 141°28'E, as she is en route from Hollandia to Aitape.

Mediterranean

German planes carry out torpedo attack on convoy UGS 30, freighter *Richmond P. Hobson* is damaged at 36°40'N, 01°10'E. There are no casualties among the crew (including the Armed Guard) and the ship reaches Port Said, Egypt, on 10 February. Freighter *Edward Bates* is torpedoed 65 miles from Oran, 36°34'N, 01°14'E, and is abandoned; one of the 46-man merchant complement is killed, but there are no casualties among the 38-man Armed Guard or the seven passengers.

- **2 February, Wed. --**

Pacific

Roi and Namur Islands in the Marshalls are secured.

Destroyer *Walker* (DD-517) sinks Japanese submarine *RO-39* 10 miles east of Wotje, Marshalls, 09°24'N, 170°32'E.

Submarine *Plunger* (SS-179) attacks Japanese convoy south of Honshu, and sinks merchant cargo ships *No.5 Toyo Maru* and *No.8 Toyo Maru* off Kushimoto, 33°29'N, 135°59'E, and survives resultant depth-charging.

Japanese transport *Katsura Maru* sinks after running aground off Futsing, China, 25°37'N, 119°47'E.

- **3 February, Thu. --**

Pacific

Cruiser and destroyer gunfire supports landing of Army troops on Ebeye, Kwajalein Atoll, Marshalls.

Submarine *Tambor* (SS-198) attacks Japanese convoy in East China Sea, sinking fleet tanker *Goyo Maru* and merchant fleet tanker *Ariake Maru* about 200 miles southeast of Shanghai, 28°53'N, 124°19'E. Although damaged by depth charges from escort vessels, the submarine remains on patrol.

PBYs and USAAF B-25s (5th Air Force) attack Japanese convoy west of New Hanover and sink cargo ship *Nichiai Maru*, 03°27'S, 149°32'E.

Europe

USAAF planes (8th Air Force) bomb German naval base at Wilhelmshaven, sinking accommodation ship *Monte Pasqual* and damaging minesweepers *M 18* and *M 19*.

- **4 February, Fri. --**

Pacific

TG 94.6 cruisers and destroyers (Rear Admiral Wilder D. Baker) bombard Japanese installations at Paramushiro, Kuril Islands, damaging cargo ship *Kokai Maru*.

Destroyers bombard Sarine Plantation, northwest coast of Bougainville, Solomon Islands; destroyer *Claxton* (DD- 571) is damaged by return fire from Japanese shore battery, 05°49'S, 154°39'E.

Destroyer *Charrette* (DD-581) and destroyer escort *Fair* (DE-35) sink Japanese submarine *I-175*, 100 miles north of Jaluit, Marshalls, 06°48'N, 168°08'E.

PV-1s sink Japanese water tanker *Goryu Maru* off Emidj Island, Jaluit, 06°00'N, 169°44'E.

USMC PB4Ys (VMD 154) reconnoiter Truk in the first general reconnaissance of that important Japanese fleet base by U.S. planes.

- **5 February, Sat. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Flasher* (SS-249) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Taishin Maru* about 60 miles west of Mindoro, 13°09'N, 120°24'E.

Submarine *Narwhal* (SS-167) delivers supplies and evacuates certain personnel from near Libertad, Panay, P.I.

British submarine HMS *Stonehenge* sinks Japanese ship *No.2 Koryo Maru* north of Sumatra.

USAAF B-24s and B-25s (14th Air Force) attack convoy in South China Sea, sinking gunboat *Rozan Maru* and merchant cargo ships *Lushan Maru* and *Seikyo Maru* off Swatow, China, 22°00'N, 116°00'E.

USAAF B-25s sink *Fatsumi Maru* off Wewak.

- **6 February, Sun. --**

Pacific

USAAF A-20s and P-40s sink Japanese ships *Kaiyu Maru* and *Takegiku Maru* and damage *Torihime Maru* off Wewak.

Atlantic

PB4Y-1 (VB 107) sinks German submarine *U-177* west of Ascension Island, 10°35'S, 23°12'W.

- **7 February, Mon. --**

Pacific

Kwajalein Atoll is declared secured.

Submarine *Narwhal* (SS-167) delivers supplies and evacuates certain people from near Balatong Point, Negros, P.I.

Escort carrier *White Plains* (CVE-66) and destroyer *Caldwell* (DD-605) are damaged in collision while transferring people at sea, Marshalls area.

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Ludlow* (DD-438) is damaged by dud shell from German shore battery off Anzio, Italy.

- **8 February, Tue. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Snook* (SS-279), in attack on Japanese convoy off the west coast of Kyushu, sinks transport *Lima Maru* about 30 miles southeast of the Goto Archipelago, 31°05'N, 127°37'E, damages army cargo ship *Shiranesan Maru*, and survives depth-charging by one or more of the convoy's escorts that include *Patrol Boat No.38*, auxiliary submarine chaser *No.5 Kyohei Maru* and torpedo boat *Sagi*.

Atlantic

Light cruiser *Marblehead* (CL-12) rescues the survivors of German submarine *U-177*, sunk by PB4Y (VB 107) on 6 February.

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Ludlow* (DD-438) is damaged by shore battery fire off Anzio, 41°28'N, 12°30'E.

- **9 February, Wed. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Bonefish* (SS-223) damages Japanese merchant tanker *No.2 Tonan Maru* off French Indochina, 11°30'N, 109°10'E.

- **10 February, Thu. --**

Pacific

TG 58.4 (Rear Admiral Samuel P. Ginder) planes bomb Japanese installations on Eniwetok Atoll, Marshalls; similar strikes are made on 11 and 12 February.

Tank landing ship *LST-170* is damaged by horizontal bomber, off eastern New Guinea, 08°39'S, 148°27'E.

Submarine *Hake* (SS-256) attacks Japanese mine/netlayer *Wakatake*, escorting a convoy to Manokwari, 01°43'N, 129°30'E, but achieves no damage. *Wakatake's* depth charge counterattack is also unsuccessful.

Submarine *Pogy* (SS-266) sinks Japanese destroyer *Minekaze* and merchant cargo ship *Malta Maru*, 85 miles north-northeast of Formosa, 23°20'N, 121°30'E.

Submarine *Spearfish* (SS-190) damages Japanese transport *Tatsuwa Maru* southwest of Formosa, 21°53'N, 119°13'E.

PBY sinks Japanese fishing boat *Inawa Maru* off Wewak.

Japanese fishing vessel *Kirishima Maru* is damaged by mine off Moulmein.

Japanese cargo ship *Waka Maru* is sunk by "sea trouble" near Bokai Bay, western Korea, 35°40'N, 126°20'E.

- **11 February, Fri. --**

Pacific

Motor torpedo boat *PT-279* is sunk in collision with *PT-282*, Solomons, 05°30'S, 154°15'E.

Submarine *Gudgeon* (SS-211) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Satsuma Maru* (previously damaged by Chinese B-25s off Wenchow, China, at 28°01'N, 121°30'E), 27°38'N, 121°15'E.

U.S. aircraft damage Japanese guardboat *Miyo Maru* off Leyte, P.I.

- **12 February, Sat. --**

Pacific

Marines land on Arno Atoll, beginning a series of "mopping-up" operations in the minor atolls of the Marshalls.

Japanese flying boats bomb and destroy supply concentrations on Roi Island, Marshalls; tank landing craft *LCT-346* and *LCT-347* are damaged.

Submarine rescue vessel *Macaw* (ASR-17), stranded at entrance to Midway Channel since 16 January, slips off the reef and sinks.

Submarine *Tambor* (SS-198) sinks Japanese merchant tanker *Ronsan Maru* in East China Sea about 40 miles southwest of Amami O Shima, 27°45'N, 128°42'E.

British submarine HMS *Stonehenge* sinks Japanese netlayer *Choko Maru* off west coast of Malaya, 05°46'N, 99°52'E.

USAAF B-25 aircraft attack Japanese fishing boats operating in Tonkin Gulf, sinking *No.12 Kainan Maru* and damaging *No.11 Kainan Maru*, 20°44'N, 107°02'E.

- **13 February, Sun. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Permit* (SS-178) is damaged by depth charges off western Carolines, 07°42'N, 148°18'E, but remains on patrol.

Submarine *Robalo* (SS-273) conducts unsuccessful attack on Japanese army cargo ships *Minryu Maru* and *Sekino Maru* (see 14 February).

USAAF A-20s (5th Air Force) sink Japanese army cargo ship *Yoshino Maru* and motor sailboat *Tok_n Maru* (in tow of the cargo ship) off Aitape, 03°20'S, 143°00'E.

USAAF B-25s (14th Air Force) sink Japanese cargo ship *Shoka Maru* and damage *Kokoku Maru* off Hainan Island, 18°35'N, 108°30'E; USAAF and Chinese aircraft sink fishing vessel *Meiji Maru* off the China Coast, 26°40'N, 121°40'E.

Mediterranean

Tank landing craft *LCT-220* founders in heavy weather and sinks off Anzio.

- **14 February, Mon. --**

Pacific

Command designated Central Pacific Forward Area (Rear Admiral John H. Hoover) is established; Rear Admiral Hoover flies his flag in seaplane tender *Curtiss* (AV-4).

Light cruiser *St. Louis* (CL-49), covering the unopposed landing at Pakonian Plantation, west side of Green Island, is damaged by bomb dropped by Japanese dive bomber, 06°15'S, 153°29'E.

Submarine *Flasher* (SS-249) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Minryo Maru* (which had escaped *Robalo's* attack the day before) off Cape Santiago, Luzon, 13°43'N, 120°39'E, and tanker *Hokuan Maru*, 13°44'N, 120°29'E.

Submarine *Snook* (SS-279) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Nittoku Maru* southwest of Tsushima, Japan, 33°48'N, 128°50'E.

British submarine HMS *Tally Ho* sinks Japanese submarine *UIT 23* (ex-Italian *Reginaldo Giuliani*) off Penang, Malaya, 04°25'N, 100°09'E.

PBY damages Japanese cargo ship *Mitsu Maru* and forces her aground east of Sepik, New Guinea. Allied air attacks subsequently destroy *Mitsu Maru*.

USAAF B-25 aircraft sink Japanese ship *Satsuma Maru* off Wenchow, 28°00'N, 121°30'E.

Salvage of *Eiko Maru* (sunk on 30 January) by U.S. Navy divers yields a large number of Japanese charts of the Pacific area and other intelligence material.

- **15 February, Tue. --**

Pacific

TF 31 (Rear Admiral Theodore S. Wilkinson) lands Third New Zealand Division (Major General H. E. Barraclough) on Green Island, east off New Ireland. TF 38 (Rear Admiral Walden C. Ainsworth) (two light cruisers and five destroyers) covers the operation from the south; TF 39 (Rear Admiral Aaron S. Merrill) (two light cruisers and five destroyers) from the north and east; Solomons-based aircraft also operate in support. During Japanese air attack on invasion shipping, tank landing ship *LST-486* is damaged by near-miss of bomb off Green Island.

Naval aircraft from Abemama, Gilbert Islands, bomb Wake Island.

Submarine *Aspro* (SS-309) sinks Japanese submarine *I-43*, transporting sailors from the Sasebo Special Landing Force to Truk, 280 miles east-southeast of Guam, 10°23'N, 150°23'E.

Submarine *Gato* (SS-212) sinks Japanese guardboat *No.3 Taiyo Maru* off Rabaul, New Britain, 04°00'N, 150°10'E.

Submarine *Snook* (SS-283) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.2 Hoshi Maru* off south coast of Korea, 34°23'N, 128°23'E.

Submarine *Steelhead* (SS-280) damages Japanese cargo ship *Enju Maru* 110 miles from Chichi Jima.

Submarine *Tinosa* (SS-283) attacks Japanese convoy east of Mindanao, P.I., sinking army cargo ship *Odatsuki Maru* east of Dinagat Island, 09°30'N, 127°00'E (see 16 February 1944).

British submarine HMS *Tally Ho* sinks German-manned Italian cargo submarine *UIT-23*, 04°53'N, 100°15'E.

USAAF B-25s and A-20s damage auxiliary netlayer *Matsu Maru* at Rabaul.

USAAF B-25s (14th Air Force) sink Vichy French patrol craft *Ping Sang* off Hongay, French Indochina, 21°00'N, 107°22'E.

Mine laid by 14th Air Force B-24s on 10 February sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Ryoka Maru* off entrance to Yangtze River, 31°16'N, 121°46'E; a mine also sinks merchant cargo ship *Hoshi Maru* off south coast of Korea, 34°27'N, 128°45'E;

Mediterranean

Off Anzio, destroyer escort *Herbert C. Jones* (DE-137) is damaged by radio-controlled bomb, 41°27'N, 12°35'E, and large infantry landing craft *LCI(L)-2* is damaged by mine, 41°24'N, 12°43'E. Bomb holes freighter *Elihu Yale*; the explosion start fires that spread to tank landing craft *LCT-35* alongside, destroying that vessel as well. Firefighting efforts by fleet tug *Hopi* (ATF-71) ultimately prove successful but *Elihu Yale* is later written off as a total loss. Two of the 40-man Armed Guard perish in the attack, as do three of the 45-man merchant complement and seven of the 182 stevedores working cargo. Tank landing craft *LCT-152* rescues survivors from *Elihu Yale* and *LCT-35*.

• **16 February, Wed. --**

Pacific

TG 58.4 (Rear Admiral Samuel P. Ginder) planes bomb Eniwetok.

Destroyer *Phelps* (DD-360) and minesweeper *Sage* (AM-111) sink Japanese submarine *RO-40*, 45 miles northwest of Kwajalein, Marshalls, 09°50'N, 166°35'E.

Submarine *Skate* (SS-305) sinks Japanese light cruiser *Agano* 170 miles north of Dublon Island, Truk, 10°10'N, 151°40'E.

Submarine *Tinosa* (SS-283) continues pursuit of convoy engaged the previous day, and sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Chojo Maru* off Sarangani Island, 09°15'N, 127°05'E.

USAAF B-25s (38th and 345th Bomb Groups) carry out succession of attacks on Japanese convoy off New Hanover and Kavieng, sinking submarine chaser *Ch 39*, auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 16*, and transport *Sanko Maru*, 02°24'S, 150°06'E.

Japanese transport *Sanko Maru* is sunk by aircraft off New Hanover Island, 02°24'S, 150°06'E.

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Hilary P. Jones* (DD-427) is damaged by near-miss of bomb off Anzio.

- **17 February, Thu. --**

Pacific

TF 58 (Vice Admiral Raymond A. Spruance), which includes nine carriers and six battleships, strikes Japanese installations and shipping at Truk, in **Operation HAILSTONE** inflicting massive damage; enemy air attacks in response succeed in only damaging carrier *Intrepid* (CV-11) with an aerial torpedo, 07°23'N, 153°32'E.

SB2Cs and TBFs from carrier *Bunker Hill* (CV-17) and TBFs from small carrier *Cowpens* (CVL-25) sink Japanese light cruiser *Naka* 35 miles west of Truk, 07°15'N, 151°15'E, while battleships *New Jersey* (BB-62) and *Iowa* (BB-61), heavy cruisers *Minneapolis* (CA-36) and *New Orleans* (CA-32) and destroyers *Radford* (DD-446) and *Burns* (DD-588) sink training cruiser *Katori* northwest of Truk, 07°45'N, 151°20'E, after she had been damaged by planes from carriers *Yorktown* (CV-10), *Intrepid* (CV-11) and *Bunker Hill* (CV-17) and small carrier *Cowpens*. TG 50.3 gunfire sinks destroyer *Maikaze* 40 miles northwest of Truk, 07°45'N, 151°20'E. Destroyer *Burns* (DD-588), detached from TG 50.9, sinks Japanese submarine chaser *Ch 24* west of Truk, 07°24'N, 150°30'E.

TF 58 planes sink Japanese destroyer *Oite* (carrying survivors of light cruiser *Agano* sunk the day before), 07°40'N, 151°45'E; destroyer *Tachikaze*, 07°40'N, 151°55'E; armed merchant cruiser *Akagi Maru*, 07°54'N, 151°25'E; auxiliary submarine depot ship *Heian Maru*; aircraft transport *Fujikawa Maru*; transports *Rio de Janeiro Maru*, *Kiyozumi Maru*, *Aikoku Maru*, *Gosei Maru*, *Hanakawa Maru*, *Hokuyo Maru*, *Amagisan Maru*, and *Kensho Maru*; *Matsutani Maru*, 07°23'N, 151°05'E; *Momokawa Maru*, 07°20'N, 151°53'E; *Reiyo Maru*, 07°25'N, 151°45'E; *San Francisco Maru*, 07°22'N, 151°54'E; *Seiko Maru*, 07°22'N, 151°45'E; *Taiho Maru*, 07°22'N, 151°34'E; *Zukai Maru*, 07°46'N, 150°27'E; *No.6 Unkai Maru*; *Yamagiri Maru*, 07°23'N, 151°51'E; fleet tankers *Fujisan Maru*, *Hoyo Maru* (damaged on 4 November 1943 by submarine *Scorpion*), *Shinkoku Maru*, and *No.3 Tonan Maru*; water carrier *Nippo Maru*, 07°20'N, 151°40'E; auxiliary vessel *Yamakisan Maru*, 07°25'N, 151°45'E; army cargo ships *Nagano Maru* and *Yubai Maru*; merchant cargo ship *Taikichi Maru*; and motor torpedo boat *Gyoraitei No.10*, 07°31'N, 151°59'E.

TF 58 aircraft damage Japanese destroyers *Shigure* and *Matsukaze*, submarines *I 10* and *RO 37*, target ship *Hakachi*, repair ship *Akashi*, ammunition ship *Soya*, seaplane tender *Akitsushima*, and auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 20*.

Destroyer *Nicholas* (DD-449) sinks Japanese submarine *I-11* northwest of the Marshalls, 10°34'N, 173°31'E.

Submarine *Cero* (SS-225) sinks Japanese transport *Jozan Maru* between Truk and New Ireland, 00°53'N, 146°26'E.

Submarine *Sargo* (SS-188), in attack on Japanese convoy about 150 miles northeast of Palau, sinks ammunition ship *Nichiro Maru* and damages oiler *Sata*, 08°50'N, 135°40'E.

Submarine *Tang* (SS-306) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking army cargo ship *Gyoten Maru* and merchant tanker *Kunie Maru* about 130 miles west-northwest of Truk, 08°00'N, 149°17'E, and survives depth-charging by escorts (escort vessel *Amakusa*, submarine chaser *Ch 31*, auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 24* and auxiliary minesweeper *Hagoromo Maru* are screening the merchantmen).

Navy SBDs and TBFs bomb Japanese shipping in Keravia Bay, near Rabaul, sinking minesweeper *W.26* (which had been damaged previously, 2 November 1943, and had been beached at that time to prevent her loss), guardboat *No.2 Fuku Maru*, and army cargo ship *Iwate Maru*.

USAAF B-25s attack Japanese ships going to the aid of convoy attacked north of New Hanover the day before (see 16 February), damaging *Kashi Maru* and forcing her to be run aground to prevent sinking.

USAAF P-40s attack Japanese shipping at Jaluit atoll, damaging cargo ship *Chosen Maru*.

Japanese merchant tanker *Zuih_Maru* is damaged by mine downstream from Woosung, China.

- **18 February, Fri. --**

- Pacific

- After preliminary landings had been made the previous day, TG 51.11 (Rear Admiral Harry W. Hill) lands Marines and Army troops on Engebi Island, Eniwetok Atoll, in **Operation CATCHPOLE**.

- TF 58 (Vice Admiral Raymond A. Spruance) repeats strike on Japanese installations and vessels at Truk; TF 58 planes sink destroyer *Fumizuki*, 07°24'N, 151°44'E; submarine chaser *Ch 29*, 07°25'N, 151°45'E; and motor torpedo boat *Gyoraitei No.10*, 07°31'N, 151°59'E.

- Destroyer Squadron 23 (TG 39.4) (Captain Arleigh A. Burke) bombards Japanese positions at Kavieng; destroyer Squadron 12 (Captain Rodger W. Simpson) shells Rabaul, Japanese installations on the Crater Peninsula, and bivouac and supply areas at Vunapope and Cape Gazelle.

- British submarine *HMS Trespasser* sinks Japanese gunboat *Eifuku Maru* off Burma, 07°55'N, 93°03'E.

- USAAF B-25s (14th Air Force) sink Japanese transport *Shinsoku Maru* south of Takhow Island, Wenchow, China, 28°23'N, 121°51'E.

- U.S. aircraft sink Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 17* off Kavieng, 02°30'S, 150°30'E.

- Japanese cargo ship *Gokenzan Maru* is stranded and sunk off northwestern Hokkaido, 44°01'N, 141°38'E.

- Mediterranean

- Heavy German air attacks, as well as artillery fire, continue on beachhead at Anzio on an almost daily basis; harbor tug *YT-198* is sunk by mine off Anzio, 41°27'N, 12°38'E. Elsewhere in the Mediterranean theater, tank landing craft *LCT-205* capsizes in Gulf of Tunis, while being towed; tank landing craft *LCT-340* is stranded by heavy weather at Pantelleria, Italy. Heavy weather also damages large infantry landing craft *LCI(L)-211*, resulting in her being towed to Palermo, Italy; and minesweeper *Pilot* (AM-104) is accidentally rammed by U.S. merchant ship *Samuel Ashe* and damaged off Naples, Italy, 40°48.7'N, 14°16.5'E.

- **19 February, Sat. --**

- Pacific

- Marines and Army troops (Brigadier General Thomas E. Watson, USMC)

supported by naval bombardment land on Eniwetok Island. The operation is under the command of Rear Admiral Harry W. Hill.

USAAF, USN and USMC land-based aircraft bomb airfield and other Japanese installations at Rabaul. The area has been repeatedly pounded, and after this date the Japanese abandon air defense of Rabaul.

Submarine *Cero* (SS-225) attacks Japanese cargo ship *No.18 Shinsei Maru* while en route to Palau, 03°34'N, 136°36'E, but does not score any damage on her quarry.

Submarine *Grayback* (SS-208) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Taikei Maru* southwest of Takao, Formosa, 21°48'N, 119°50'E; subsequently, *Grayback* sinks army cargo ship *Toshin Maru*, 21°46'N, 120°06'E, which had arrived on the scene and rescued *Taikei Maru's* survivors.

Submarine *Jack* (SS-259) attacks Japanese convoy of six tankers shepherded by escort vessel *Shimushu* in South China Sea about 300 miles west of Luzon, sinking merchant tankers *Kokuei Maru* and *Nanei Maru*, 14°34'N, 114°11'E; *Nichirin Maru*, 15°40'N, 115°48'E; and *Ichio Maru* 15°46'N, 115°57'E.

USAAF B-25s (5th Air Force) sink auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 34* west of Kavieng, 02°45'S, 150°47'E; B-25s, A-20s, and P-38s (5th Air Force) wipe out Japanese convoy O-902 off Kavieng, sinking submarine chasers *Ch 22* and *Ch 40*, 03°04'S, 150°42'E, and cargo vessels *No.1 Shinto Maru* and *Shinkiku Maru*, 02°46'N, 150°42'E.

USAAF B-24s and B-25s sink Japanese cargo vessel *Ebon Maru* at Kusaie.

USAAF B-24s (14th Air Force) sink Japanese cargo ship *Tairyu Maru* and damage auxiliary submarine chaser *Chikuzen Maru* in Formosa Strait, 25°25'N, 121°30'E.

Japanese cargo ship *Kogen Maru* is sunk in collision in Kii Channel, 35°00'N, 135°00'E.

Mediterranean

Motor torpedo boats engage German convoy southeast of Elba.

Light cruiser *Philadelphia* (CL-41) arrives off Anzio to provide gunfire support; she is thrice under shore battery fire but suffers no damage in the encounters.

Destroyer *Madison* (DD-425) conducts unsuccessful hunt for enemy submarine believed off Anzio.

• **20 February, Sun. --**

Pacific

TG 58.1 (Rear Admiral John W. Reeves Jr.) planes bomb Japanese installations on Jaluit Atoll, Marshalls.

Submarine *Pogy* (SS-266) sinks Japanese cable layer *Nanyo Maru* about 100 miles east of Formosa, 24°12'N, 123°20'E, and merchant cargo ship *Taijin Maru* northeast of Formosa, 24°14'N, 123°17'E.

USAAF B-24 damages Japanese cargo vessel *Tasmania Maru* northwest of Wewak.

Mediterranean

Tank landing ship *LST-348* is sunk by German submarine *U-410*, 40 miles south of Naples, Italy, 40°57'N, 13°14'E.

LCT-340 founders and sinks in heavy weather off coast of Algeria, 36°49'N, 01°55'E.

- **21 February, Mon. --**

Pacific

Navy SBDs and TBFs bomb antiaircraft positions at Lakunai aerodrome and shore installations at Rabaul, sinking guardboat *No.2 Yawata Maru*.

USAAF B-25s (5th Air Force) strike Japanese five-ship convoy (evacuating 751st Air Group maintenance people to Japan, via Palau) off New Hanover, sinking auxiliary submarine chasers *Cha 38* and *Cha 48*, 02°30'S, 149°55'E, transport *Kokai Maru* and gunboat *Kowa Maru*, 02°30'S, 150°15'E, and damaging tug *Nagaura*, which, after effecting repairs, rescues some of the survivors of the two Marus and continues on her voyage north (see 22 February).

Submarine *Cero* (SS-225) damages Japanese army cargo ship *Hasshu Maru* north of New Guinea, 00°10'S, 139°45'E.

British submarine HMS *Tally Ho* sinks Japanese army cargo ship *No.6 Taigen Maru* in Strait of Malacca, 04°00'N, 101°00'E.

- **22 February, Tue. --**

Pacific

TF 58 (Rear Admiral Marc A. Mitscher) planes bomb Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam, in first strike against the Marianas. TF 58 planes sink Japanese transport *Shoan Maru* off Saipan, 15°15'N, 145°42'E; planes from TG 58.2 and TG 58.3 sink transport *Seizan Maru* off Saipan, 15°00'N, 145°30'E.

Marines land on Parry Island, Eniwetok Atoll, under cover of naval bombardment and carrier-aircraft bombing; this operation completes U.S. control of Eniwetok Atoll. Infantry landing craft *LCI-365*, *LCI-440*, and *LCI-442* are damaged by friendly fire.

TG 39.4 (Captain Arleigh A. Burke) bombards Japanese airstrips, pier area, and anchorages at Kavieng; destroyers *Charles Ausburne* (DD-570), *Dyson* (DD-572), and *Stanly* (DD-478) sink Japanese minelayer *Natsushima* off New Ireland, 02°40'S, 149°40'E; the same three destroyers, joined by *Conway* (DD-507) and *Spence* (DD-512), sink tug *Nagaura* about 160 miles northwest of Kavieng, 00°54'S, 148°38'E. Other Japanese ships sunk during this action include auxiliary submarine chaser *No.8 Tama Maru* and small cargo vessels *Choryu Maru* and *No.9 Tokuyama Maru*. Destroyer Division 45 sinks Japanese auxiliary netlayer *Kyosei Maru* in Isabel Channel, New Hanover.

Submarine *Gato* (SS-212) sinks Japanese repair ship *Yamashiro Maru* off Truk, 07°13'N, 151°38'E.

Submarine *Puffer* (SS-268), despite presence of escort vessel, sinks Japanese army transport *Teiko Maru* (ex- French passenger liner *D'Artaignan*) about 120 miles northwest of Kuching, Borneo, 03°10'N, 109°15'E.

Submarine *Ray* (SS-271) lays mines off Saigon, French Indochina.

Submarine *Tang* (SS-306), in attack on Japanese convoy, sinks gunboat *Fukuyama Maru* about 60 miles southwest of Saipan, 15°14'N, 144°55'E.

Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 29* is sunk by mine (possibly laid by submarine *Silversides* (SS-236) on 4 June 1943) near Kavieng.

Navy SBD and TBF aircraft pound Japanese shipping in Keravia Bay, Rabaul, sinking guardboats *No.2 Fuku Maru* and *No.2 Tenjin Maru*, army cargo ship *Taisho Maru*, merchant tanker *Takatori Maru*, and damaging minelayer *Nasami*.

Vichy French river gunboat *Francis Garnier* is sunk by mine sown by USAAF planes (14th Air Force) in South China Sea off Cape St. Jacques, French Indochina, 10°30'N, 108°00'E.

Atlantic

Motor torpedo boat *PT-200* is sunk in collision with unknown object off Long Island, N.Y., 41°23'N, 71°01'W.

Mediterranean

Five German E-boats approach Anzio beachhead during the night, but all are driven off without inflicting any damage. Submarine chaser *PC-621* claims destruction of one E-boat and drives another ashore.

German submarine *U-969* attacks convoy GUS 31 off the coast of Algeria, irreparably damaging U.S. freighters *Peter Skene Ogden* and *George Cleeve*, 37°18'N, 06°59'E; other than one fatality on board the former, there are no casualties to the American ships. Both ships are towed and beached to facilitate salvage: *Peter Skene Ogden* at Herbillon and *George Cleeve* to Bone, Tunisia. Both are later written off as total losses.

• **23 February, Wed. --**

Pacific

During strikes on Japanese shipping in Tanapag harbor, Saipan, F6Fs, TBFs and SBDs from carriers *Essex* (CV-9) and *Yorktown* (CV-10) (in TG 58.2) damage cargo ship *Shoan Maru*, 15°15'N, 145°45'E; planes from carrier *Bunker Hill* (CV-17) (in TG 58.3) sink cargo vessel *Seizan Maru* off Tinian, 15°00'N, 145°30'E.

Submarine *Balao* (SS-285), in attack on Japanese convoy about 35 miles north of Biak, New Guinea, sinks army cargo ship *Nikki Maru*, 00°11'S, 135°00'E.

Submarine *Cod* (SS-224) sinks Japanese fleet tanker *No.3 Ogura Maru* off Halmahera, 04°23'N, 129°05'E.

Submarine *Plunger* (SS-179), in attack on Japanese convoy, sinks transport *Kimishima Maru* about 200 miles northwest of Chichi Jima, 30°11'N, 140°49'E.

Submarine *Pogy* (SS-266) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking merchant cargo ship *Horei Maru*, 26°20'N, 126°11'E, and damaging merchant tanker *Teikon Maru*, 26°22'N, 126°16'E, about 60 miles west of Okinawa.

Submarine *Snook* (SS-279) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking transport *Kayo Maru* about 120 miles north-northwest of Chichi Jima, 28°49'N, 141°13'E.

Submarine *Sunfish* (SS-281) and planes from carrier *Yorktown* (CV-10) sink Japanese collier *Shinyubari Maru* about 40 miles west of Saipan, 15°23'N, 145°03'E.

Submarine *Tang* (SS-306) sinks Japanese repair ship *Yamashimo Maru* west of Saipan, 14°45'N, 144°32'E. The cataclysmic explosion of the enemy auxiliary damages *Tang*, but not badly enough to prevent the boat from remaining on patrol.

Japanese gunboat *Eiko Maru* is sunk by aircraft north of Saipan, 15°12'N, 144°52'E, as she proceeds to the position of the loss of *Fukuyama Maru* that had been sunk by *Tang* (SS-306) on 22 February.

Japanese cargo ship *Gyoko Maru* is destroyed by accidental explosion in Naha harbor, Okinawa, 26°13'N, 127°40'E.

Indian Ocean

U.S. tanker *E.G. Seubert*, in convoy PA 69, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-510* about 200 miles from Aden, 13°45'N, 48°56'E; three of the 27-man Armed Guard (including its commander) perish, as do three of the ship's merchant complement. Australian minesweeper HMAS *Tamworth* and Indian Navy corvette RINS *Orissa* rescue survivors.

• **24 February, Thu. --**

Pacific

Destroyers *Buchanan* (DD-484) and *Farenholt* (DD-491) are damaged by shore battery, north of New Ireland, 02°20'S, 151°02'E.

Submarine *Grayback* (SS-208) sinks Japanese oiler *Nanho Maru* about 20 miles east of Formosa, 24°20'N, 122°25'E, and damages transport *Asama Maru*, 24°15'N, 122°19'E. Escort vessel *Shimushu's* counterattack is ineffective.

Submarine *Pogy* (SS-266) bombards phosphate plant on Rasa Island.

Submarine *Sand Lance* (SS-381) is damaged by ice and heavy seas, Kurils.

Submarine *Tang* (SS-306), in attack on Japanese convoy west of Saipan, sinks merchant cargo ship *Echizen Maru*, 15°45'N, 143°29'E.

USAAF B-25s, P-40s, and P-38s hit targets of opportunity along the Yangtze, damaging Japanese guardboat *Yoko Maru*.

U.S. aircraft sink Japanese transport *No.2 Shunzan Maru* off Kusaie, Carolines, 05°20'N, 162°58'E.

British submarine HMS *Tally Ho* damages Japanese torpedo boat *Kari* in Strait of Malacca.

Atlantic

PBY-5As (VP-63), employing Magnetic Anomaly Detection (MAD) gear, and a PV-1 (VB-127), together with RAF Catalina (No. 202 Squadron) bomb German submarine *U-761* as she attempts to transit the Straits of Gibraltar, 35°55'N, 05°45'W. British destroyers HMS *Anthony* and HMS *Wishart* rescue the 51 survivors who abandon their badly damaged U-boat after scuttling her to avoid capture. *U-761* is the first U-boat destroyed through the employment of MAD equipment.

Open lighter *YC-523* sinks after grounding off Portsmouth, N.H.

- **25 February, Fri. --**

Pacific

Destroyer Division 90 (Commander Edmund B. Taylor) bombards Rabaul.

Destroyer Squadron 12 (Captain Rodger W. Simpson), en route to bombard Kavieng and its airstrips, shipping, and fortifications, encounters Japanese army cargo ship *Tatsugiko Maru*. In the ensuing action, destroyers *Farenholt* (DD-491), *Buchanan* (DD-484), *Lansdowne* (DD-486), *Woodworth* (DD-460), and *Lardner* (DD-487) sink the enemy freighter at 02°46'N, 150°42'E. Japanese shore batteries subsequently give DESRON 12 a warm reception, damaging *Buchanan* and *Farenholt*, 02°20'S, 151°02'E.

Submarine *Hoe* (SS-258) attacks Japanese convoy at the mouth of Davao Gulf, 75 miles south of Davao, P.I., sinking fleet tanker *Nissho Maru*, 05°50'N, 126°00'E and damaging fleet tanker *Kyokuto Maru*, 05°38'N, 126°00'E, south of Davao Gulf.

Submarine *Rasher* (SS-269) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Ryusei Maru*, 07°55'S, 115°15'E and merchant cargo ship *Tango Maru*, 07°41'S, 115°10'E off north coast of Bali.

Submarine *Tang* (SS-306) continues pursuit of Japanese convoy engaged the previous day, and sinks fleet tanker *Choko Maru* west of Saipan, 15°46'N, 144°10'E.

Mediterranean

Tank landing craft *LCT-26* founders and sinks in heavy weather off Anzio, Italy, 41°04'N, 13°30'E.

- **26 February, Sat. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Gato* (SS-212) attacks Japanese convoy Wewak No.20 as it proceeds along the Palau-Hollandia track, and sinks passenger-cargo ship *No.3 Daigen Maru* about 140 miles northwest of Hollandia, 01°51'N, 139°00'E. *Narita Maru* rescues over 700 of the 1,200 troops being transported in *No.3 Daigen Maru*.

Submarine *Grayback* (SS-208) is damaged by land-based Japanese naval aircraft, East China Sea, 25°47'N, 128°45'E.8

Motor torpedo boat *PT-251* runs aground during action with Japanese barges in southern Empress Augusta Bay; and is then sunk by shore battery, Solomons, 06°30'S, 155°10'E.

USAAF B-25s (14th Air Force) attack shipping in port of Tourane, French Indochina, sinking Vichy French surveying vessel *Astrolabe* and dredging ship *Gilmot*, 16°04'N, 108°13'E. Vichy officials consider *Astrolabe* a total loss, given the absolute impossibility of raising her with the means available in French Indochina.

Mediterranean

Tank landing ship *LST-349* sinks after running aground off south coast of Italy, 40°55'N, 12°58'E; *LCT-36* sinks after grounding off Naples.

- **27 February, Sun. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Cod* (SS-224) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Taisoku Maru* west of Halmahera, 02°00'S, 127°40'E.

Submarine *Trout* (SS-202) sinks Japanese cargo ship *Aki Maru* east of Formosa, 22°40'N, 131°50'E. Submarine *Grayback* (SS-208) sinks Japanese cargo ship *Ceylon Maru* in the East China Sea, 31°50'N, 127°45'E.

Covered by large infantry landing craft *LCI(L)-24*, Army units carry out unopposed occupation of the Mague Islands.

Mediterranean

Light cruiser *Philadelphia* (CL-41) carries out seven gunfire support missions off Anzio.

- **28 February, Mon. --**

Pacific

Destroyer *Abner Read* (DD-526) is damaged by grounding off eastern New Guinea, 08°44'S, 148°27'E.

Submarine *Sand Lance* (SS-381) sinks Japanese transport *Kaiko Maru* just east of Musashi Wan, off Paramushiro, Kurils, 50°20'N, 155°26'E, but is later damaged when she runs aground off Paramushiro.

Submarine *Balao* (SS-285), in attack on Japanese convoy, sinks army cargo ship *Akiura Maru* and transport *Sh_h_Maru* about 90 miles northwest of Manokwari, New Guinea, 00°06'N, 132°53'E.

- **29 February, Tue. --**

Pacific

TG 76.1 (Rear Admiral William M. Fechteler), comprising nine destroyers and three high speed transports, lands Army troops (First Cavalry Division) on Los Negros Island, Admiralty Islands, in **Operation BREWER**, continuing the strategic encirclement of Rabaul. The two light cruisers and four destroyers of TF 74 provide cover and bombard Japanese positions on Los Negros and Manus.

Destroyer Division 44 (Commander James R. Pahl) bombards wharf areas and installations at Rabaul.

PB4Y-1s (VB 108, VB 109, VD 3), flying from Apamama and staging through Kwajalein and Roi, carry out low-level bombing raid on Japanese installations on Wake Island.

Submarine *Rock* (SS-274), while making a night surface attack on a convoy of three Japanese freighters, is damaged by surface gunfire off Nansei Shoto Islands, 25°33'N, 130°42'E, and is forced to terminate her patrol.

Submarine *Sargo* (SS-188) attacks Japanese convoy and damages army cargo ship *Uchide Maru* about 120 miles west of Palau, 08°57'N, 132°52'E (see 1 and 2 March 1944).

Submarine *Trout* (SS-202) attacks Guam-bound Japanese convoy about 625 miles east of Formosa. She sinks army transport *Sakito Maru* southeast of Okinawa, 22°40'N, 131°50'E, and damages transport *Aki Maru*, but *Trout* is later sunk, most probably by Japanese destroyer *Asashimo*, 22°40'N, 131°45'E.9

USAAF B-25s sink Japanese merchant tow boat *Choka Maru* on the Yangtze near Chiuhsienchen.

USAAF B-24s damage Japanese cargo ship *Narita Maru* 45 miles east of Hollandia.

Mediterranean

Tank landing ship *LST-197* is damaged by shore battery off Anzio.

March

- **1 March, Wed. --**

Pacific

Naval Base, Milne Bay, New Guinea, and Naval Auxiliary Air Facility, Tanaga, Alaska, are established.

Japanese army cargo ship *Uchide Maru*, damaged by submarine *Sargo* (SS-188) the previous day, is abandoned. Her crew transfers to torpedo boat *Sagi* and *Patrol Boat No.31* (see 2 March).

Atlantic

Destroyer escort *Bronstein* (DE-189) sinks German submarine *U-603* in the North Atlantic, 48°55'N, 26°10'W, and teams with destroyer escorts *Thomas* (DE-102) and *Bostwick* (DE-103) to sink *U-709* at 49°10'N, 26°00'W.

- **2 March, Thu. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Narwhal* (SS-167) delivers ammunition and supplies, and evacuates people from Butuan Bay, Nasipit, Mindanao.

After submarine *Burrfish* (SS-312) attacks Japanese army cargo ship *Shinkyo Maru* without success, submarine *Picuda* (SS-382) sinks *Shinkyo Maru* about 200 miles southwest of Truk, 06°22'N, 148°27'E; escort vessel *Amakusa's* counterattack upon *Picuda* is unsuccessful.

Japanese army cargo ship *Uchide Maru* sinks as the result of damage inflicted by submarine *Sargo* (SS-188) on 29 February.

Navy SBDs and TBFs damage small Japanese cargo vessel *Ransei Maru* south of Keravia, Rabaul.

- **3 March, Fri. --**

President Roosevelt announces that the Italian Fleet will be distributed among the United States, Great Britain, and Soviet Union.

Pacific

TF 94 (Rear Admiral Wilder D. Baker), comprising light cruiser *Richmond* (CL-9) and eight destroyers, begins two-day sweep of the Kurils. Adverse weather, however, not only results in the cancellation of the scheduled bombardments of Japanese positions in the Musashi Wan area but causes damage to the ships. The poor weather plays no favorites: Japanese minelayer *Shirakami* is sunk in collision with army transport *Nichiran Maru* in a gale south of Urup Island, 45°30'N, 150°00'E; Japanese supply ship *No.2 Ten-Yo Maru* is sunk by storm south of Paramushiro, 50°17'N, 155°55'E.

Submarine *Narwhal* (SS-167) damages Japanese river gunboat *Karatsu* (ex-*Luzon* (PR-7)) in Sulu Sea, 08°55'N, 123°20'E; ironically, *Karatsu* had been engaged in hunting down an enemy submarine at the time.

Submarine *Rasher* (SS-269) attacks Japanese convoy in Celebes Sea, sinking army transport *Nittai Maru* about 290 miles northwest of Waisile, Halmahera, 03°18'N, 123°56'E. Ironically, one of the escorts for the convoy is *Patrol Boat No.103* (ex-minesweeper WHICH).

Submarine *Sand Lance* (SS-381) attacks Japanese convoy and sinks transport *Akashisan Maru* west of Uruppu, Japan, 46°00'N, 149°10'E; later that same day, however, the submarine accidentally sinks Soviet cargo ship *Belorussia* at 46°28'N, 149°18'E, mistaking the ship for an earlier victim *Akashisan Maru*.

British submarine HMS *Sea Rover* sinks Japanese army cargo vessel *No.1 Matsu Maru* in Strait of Malacca, 04°56'N, 100°17'E.

- **4 March, Sat. --**

- Pacific

- USAAF and USN land-based planes bomb Japanese installations on Choiseul Island, Solomons.

- TF 74 (Rear Admiral Victor A. C. Crutchley, RN), composed of Australian heavy cruiser HMAS *Shropshire*, U.S. light cruisers *Phoenix* (CL-46) and *Nashville* (CL-43) and four U.S. destroyers, bombards Japanese shore batteries and positions on Hauwei and Norilo Islands in the Admiralty Islands (see 6 and 7 March).

- Light cruiser *Richmond* (CL-9) and destroyers *Luce* (DD- 522), *Kimberly* (DD-521), *Isherwood* (DD-520), *Sproston* (DD-577), *Wickes* (DD-578), *Picking* (DD-685), *William D. Porter* (DD-579), and *Young* (DD-580) are all damaged by heavy weather during sweep of the Kurils (see 3 March).

- Submarine *Bluefish* (SS-222) attacks Japanese convoy in the South China Sea, sinks oiler *Ominesan Maru* about 300 miles west of Miri, Sarawak, 05°29'N, 108°46'E, and survives ensuing depth-charging by escorts.

- Submarine *Peto* (SS-265) attacks Japanese convoy, and sinks army cargo ship *Kay_Maru* 75 miles west-northwest of Hollandia, 01°28'S, 138°40'E. Escorts (one of which is submarine chaser *Ch 34*) depth-charge *Peto* but do not inflict damage.

- Japanese submarine *I-10* is damaged by depth charges (attacker unknown), 06°10'N, 177°50'E.

- Japanese army transport *Ryoyo Maru* is damaged when struck by a huge wave and driven aground off Matsuwa Jima, Kurils, 48°04'N, 153°16'E (see 22 May).

- **5 March, Sun. --**

- Pacific

- Submarine *Narwhal* (SS-167) delivers cargo and evacuates people from Tawi Tawi, P.I.

- Submarine *Rasher* (SS-269), still pursuing same Japanese convoy attacked on 3 March, damages cargo ship *Ryuwa Maru*.

- **6 March, Mon. --**

Pacific

TF 74 (Rear Admiral Victor A. C. Crutchley, RN), repeats shelling of Japanese shore batteries and positions on Hauwei and Norilo Islands. Despite the bombardment, the enemy guns at the mouth of Seeadler Bay damage destroyer *Nicholson* (DD-442), operating in TG 76.1, 02°00'S, 147°00'E (see 7 March).

Submarine *Nautilus* (SS-168), in attack on Japanese convoy about 420 miles north-northwest of Saipan, sinks transport (ex-hospital ship) *America Maru*, 22°19'N, 143°54'E, and survives counterattack by torpedo boat *Otori*.

Mediterranean

Convoy UGS 33, bound from New York to Alexandria, Egypt, strays into Allied minefield off Tunis. U.S. freighter *Daniel Chester French* is sunk by mines at 37°18'N, 10°22'; four Armed Guard sailors (of the 28-man detachment), nine of the merchant crew (of 44 men) and 24 of the 86 Army passengers perish with the ship. British rescue tug *Charon*, steamer *Thelma*, and tug *Rescue* pick up the surviving crew and passengers. Freighter *Virginia Dare* is irreparably damaged at approximately 37°18'N, 10°22'E. There are no casualties (including among the 28-man Armed Guard) (see 8 March).

- **7 March, Tue. --**

Pacific

As the result of the Japanese shore battery damaging destroyer *Nicholson* (DD-442) the day before, TF 74 (Rear Admiral Victor A. C. Crutchley, RN), repeats shelling of Japanese shore batteries and positions on Hauwei and Norilo Islands.

Japanese shore battery sinks motor torpedo boat *PT-337*, Hansa Bay, New Guinea, 04°09'S, 144°50'E; PBV (VP 34) rescues survivors on 11 March.

USAAF B-24s (10th Air Force) mine waters off Koh Chang, Thailand, harbor; mines sink merchant cargo ship *Juy_Maru*, 13°10'N, 100°50'E.

- **8 March, Wed. --**

Pacific

Japanese planes bomb Eniwetok, Engebi Island, destroying ammunition, petroleum products and distillation units but leaving airstrip undamaged.

Submarine *Lapon* (SS-260), in attack on Japanese convoy southeast of Hong Kong, damages merchant cargo ship *Toyokuni Maru* in South China Sea, 19°21'N, 116°09'E; merchant cargo ship *Nicherei Maru* takes the damaged freighter in tow (see 9 March).

British submarine *HMS Sea Rover*, in attack on Japanese convoy, sinks transport *Sh_bu Maru* in Strait of Malacca, 03°38'N, 99°12'E.

PBV sinks Japanese fishing boat *No.5 Ebisu Maru* off Tadjji, 03°10'S, 142°13'E.

USAAF P-38s sink Japanese fishing boat *No.38 Taigyo Maru* off Aitape.

U.S. aircraft sink Japanese guardboat *No.2 Nanshu Maru* off Duke of York Isle, St. George Channel, 04°12'S, 152°30'E.

Mediterranean

U.S. freighter *Virginia Dare*, irreparably damaged by Allied mine on 6 March

off Tunis, breaks up after encountering heavy weather; she is subsequently written off as a total loss.

- **9 March, Thu. --**

Pacific

In the South China Sea, submarine *Lapon* (SS-260), continuing her pursuit of Japanese convoy engaged the previous day, sinks merchant cargo ships *Toyokuni Maru*, 19°21'N, 116°09'E, and *Nicherei Maru* (the ship that was towing her) 19°21'N, 116°09'E (see 8 March). Gunboat *Peking Maru* carries out ineffective counterattack against *Lapon*.

PBYs bomb Japanese shipping off Hollandia, sinking the previously damaged *Hasshu Maru* and small cargo ships *Yashima Maru* and *No.12 Genei Maru*, and damaging *Tenryu Maru*.

USAAF B-25s bomb Japanese installations and dock area, Simpson Harbor, Rabaul, sinking small cargo vessels *Mankei Maru* and *Kinka Maru*.

USAAF B-24 sinks small Japanese cargo vessel *No.1 Kissho Maru* off Greenwich Island.

Atlantic

Naval Air Facility (Lighter than Air), Santa Cruz, Brazil, is established.

Destroyer escort *Leopold* (DE-319) is torpedoed by German submarine *U-255*, 650 miles west of Scotland.

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Edison* (DD-439) sinks German submarine *U-450* off Anzio, 41°11'N, 12°27'E..

U.S. freighter *Clark Mills* is damaged by mine off North African coast, 37°18'N, 10°13'E; beached off Bizerte, the ship is later written off as a total loss. There are no casualties to either the merchant crew, passengers, or the 42-man Armed Guard.

- **10 March, Fri. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Bowfin* (SS-287) in attack on Japanese convoy in Tabalai Strait, damages army cargo ship *Tsukikawa Maru* at 01°28'S, 128°12'E. Escorts carry out ineffective counterattack.

Submarine chaser *SC-700* is destroyed and fuel oil barge *YO-44* is damaged by fire, Vella Lavella, Solomon Islands.

PBY bombs and sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Hasshu Maru* (see 21 February) off Hollandia, New Guinea.

Atlantic

Destroyer escort *Leopold* (DE-319) irreparably damaged by German submarine *U-255*, 650 miles west of Scotland, on 9 March, is scuttled by destroyer escort *Joyce* (DE-317).

Mediterranean

U.S. freighter *William B. Woods* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-952* approximately 47 miles off Palermo, Sicily, 38°43'N, 13°50'E; one of the

28-man Armed Guard and 51 of the 407 Army troops being transported in the ship perish. There are no casualties among the 43-man merchant complement. Escorting Italian destroyer escort *Aretusa* provides no help.

- **11 March, Sat. --**

Pacific

Japanese submarine *RO-110* is sunk by Indian Navy sloop HMIS *Jumna* and Australian minesweepers HMAS *Ipswich* and HMAS *Launceston* 17 miles south of Vizagapatam, 17°25'N, 83°21'E.

Submarine *Bowfin* (SS-287) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Tsukikawa Maru*, west of Halmahera Island, 01°25'S, 128°14'E. Japanese minelayer *Wakatake* and army aircraft carry out ineffective counterattack on *Bowfin*, which attacks, unsuccessfully, *Asaka Maru*, which is rescuing *Tsukikawa Maru's* survivors.

Japanese cargo ship *Daitoku Maru* is sunk in collision with cargo ship *No.6 Daiboshi Maru* in the Sea of Japan, 40°10'N, 137°41'E.

Mediterranean

Commander Cruiser Division 8 breaks flag in French light cruiser *Emile Bertin* and takes operational command of *Emile Bertin*, *Gloire*, *Georges Leygues*, and *Duguay-Trouin* for training purposes (see 24 March 1944).

USAAF aircraft sink German submarines *U-380* and *U-410*, Toulon, France.

- **12 March, Sun. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Flying Fish* (SS-229) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Taijin Maru* about 10 miles northwest of Daito Jima, approximately 175 miles southeast of the Ryukyus, 25°53'N, 131°19'E.

Submarine *Gato* (SS-212) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *No.3 Okinoyama Maru* north of New Guinea, 01°15'S, 133°20'E.

PBYs attack Japanese convoy en route to Hollandia, sinking motor sailboat *Hosho Maru*.

Mediterranean

Submarine chaser *PC-624* is damaged when she runs aground three miles east of Palermo, Sicily.

Light cruisers *Philadelphia* (CL-41) and *Brooklyn* (CL-40) provide gunfire support off Anzio; they repeat the missions on the 13th. On both occasions they encounter shore battery fire without damage.

- **13 March, Mon. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Sand Lance* (SS-381) attacks Japanese convoy off Honshu, sinking light cruiser *Tatsuta* and cargo ship *Kokuyo Maru* 150 miles south-southwest of Yokosuka, 32°48'N, 139°08'E. Following those attacks, Japanese escort vessels drop 105 depth charges and keep *Sand Lance* at deep submergence for 18.5 hours.

Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Ry_a Maru* and transport *Shojin Maru* about 20 miles west of Rashuwa Island, Kurils, 47°38'N, 152°38'E.

PBYs bomb Japanese shipping off Pelillo Island, 02°09'S, 140°19'E, sinking small cargo ship *Hara Maru*.

Indian Ocean

U.S. tanker *H.D. Collier* is torpedoed and shelled by Japanese submarine *I-26* at 21°30'N, 66°11'E, and abandoned; of the 28-man Armed Guard, 12 perish in the action (see 16-17 March).

Atlantic

TBF (VC 95) from escort carrier *Bogue* (CVE-9), along with destroyer *Hobson* (DD-464), destroyer escort *Haverfield* (DE-393), Canadian armed merchant cruiser HMCS *Prince Rupert*, and British Flying Fortress (No.220 Squadron) sink German submarine *U-575*, North Atlantic, 46°18'N, 27°34'W.

• **14 March, Tue. --**

Pacific

USAAF B-24 damages Japanese hospital ship *Tachibana Maru*, en route from Wewak to Palau, 02°14'S, 142°37'E.

Japanese seaplane carrier *Sanuki Maru* is damaged by mine, 10°31'N, 105°04'E.

Japanese cargo ship *Fuki Maru* is sunk, by stranding, off east coast of Honshu, near Fukushima, 37°29'N, 141°35'E.

15 March, Wed. Atlantic Destroyer escort *McAnn* (DE-179), coordinating her operations with USN and USAAF planes, rescues survivors of a crashed B-17 off coast of Brazil, 01°31'N, 32°35'W.

Pacific

USAAF B-25s sink small Japanese cargo vessel *Konpira Maru* off Hollandia.

Mediterranean

U.S. freighter *China Mail* is damaged by bomb fragments during German air raid on Naples, Italy. There are no casualties among the ship's complement, which includes 13 Armed Guard sailors.

• **16 March, Thu. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Flying Fish* (SS-229) attacks Japanese convoy in the Nansei Shoto, sinking merchant cargo ship *Anzan Maru* about 20 miles north of Okinoeradu Jima, 27°38'N, 128°38'E, and unsuccessfully attacks tanker *Teikon Maru* (ex-German *Winnetou*).

Submarine *Lapon* (SS-260) carries out unsuccessful attack on Japanese seaplane tender *Kunikawa Maru*, 18°14'N, 117°44'E.

Submarine *Silversides* (SS-236) attacks Japanese convoy and sinks army cargo ship *K_fuku Maru* about 225 miles southeast of Palau, 05°00'N, 136°46'E.

Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) sinks Japanese destroyer *Shirakumo* and army cargo ship *Nichiren Maru* off east coast of Hokkaido, southeast of Kushiro harbor, 42°18'N, 145°11'E; destroyers *Kamikaze* and *Namikaze* conduct unsuccessful hunt for *Tautog*.

PBYs (and later USAAF B-24s) attack Japanese convoy north of Hollandia, damaging submarine chaser *Ch 35* and cargo ships *Taiei Maru*, *Yakumo Maru*, and *Teshio Maru* (see 19 March).

Indian Ocean

U.S. tanker *H.D. Collier*, torpedoed and shelled by Japanese submarine *I-26* on 13 March, sinks; British ship *Empire Raja* rescues 14 survivors (see 17 March).

Mediterranean

PBY-5As (VP 63) employ MAD gear to detect German submarine *U-392* as the enemy boat attempts to transit the Straits of Gibraltar; the PBYs bomb the U-boat, and British frigate *HMS Affleck* and destroyer *HMS Vanoc* depth charge her. *Affleck* delivers the coup de grace to sink *U-392* at 35°55'N, 05°41'W.

• **17 March, Fri. --**

Pacific

Motor torpedo boat *PT-283* is sunk by friendly fire from destroyer *Guest* (DD-472), Solomons, 06°27'S, 155°08'E.

Mediterranean

Off Anzio, destroyers *Madison* (DD-425) and *Eberle* (DD-430) make sound contact 25 miles southwest of the port; five-hour search yields no result. Tank landing craft *LCT-277* is damaged in air raid.

During German air raid on the port of Naples, Italy, U.S. freighter *James Guthrie* is damaged by bomb; there are no casualties among the ship's company.

German submarine *U-371* attacks Naples-bound convoy SNF 17 about 30 miles north-northeast of Bougie, Algeria, and torpedoes U.S. freighter *Maiden Creek*, 37°08'N, 05°27'E. Initially, the ship is abandoned, but is reboarded and prepared for towing. *U-371* again torpedoes *Maiden Creek*, the resulting explosion killing six merchant seamen and two of the 29-man Armed Guard.

Destroyer *MacKenzie* (DD-614) joins three British escort vessels for submarine hunt off Philippeville, with no results.

Indian Ocean

Last survivors of U.S. tanker *H.D. Collier*, torpedoed and shelled by Japanese submarine *I-26* on 13 March 1944, are rescued by steamship *Karagola*.

Atlantic

Aircraft (VC 6) from escort carrier *Block Island* (CVE-21), along with destroyer *Corry* (DD-463), and destroyer escort *Bronstein* (DE-189) sink German submarine *U-801* west of the Cape Verdes, 16°42'N, 30°26'W.

• **18 March, Sat. --**

Pacific

TG 50.10 (Rear Admiral Willis A. Lee), formed around carrier *Lexington* (CV-16) and battleships *Iowa* (BB-61) and *New Jersey* (BB-62), screened by seven destroyers, pounds Japanese installations on Mille Island in the Marshalls; *Iowa* is damaged by shore battery off Mille.

TG 74.5 (Captain Kenmore M. McManes) commences bombardment of Japanese installations in Wewak area, New Guinea (see 19 March).

Submarine *Lapon* (SS-260) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking transport *Hokoroku Maru* about 250 miles southwest of Hong Kong, 19°24'N, 116°50'E.

Submarine *Rock* (SS-274) is damaged by depth charges off North Borneo, 07°25'N, 115°20'E, but remains on patrol.

Submarine *Picuda* (SS-382) conducts unsuccessful attack against Japanese cargo ship *Kasuga Maru*, 12°33'N, 141°08'E.

Large infantry landing craft *LCI(L)-330* is accidentally rammed by freighter *Richard Moscowski* off Koli Point, Guadalcanal. The latter suffers damage in the encounter.

USAAF B-25s bomb Japanese installations on Ponape, sinking small cargo vessel *No.2 Kasuga Maru*.

Japanese cargo ship *Shinten Maru* is damaged by mine off Kaimana, 03°40'S, 133°47'E.

Japanese motor torpedo boats *Gyoraitei No.402* and *Gyoraitei No.453* are sunk by British aircraft off Boronga, Burma.

Mediterranean

U.S. freighter *Maiden Creek*, torpedoed the previous day by German submarine *U-371* about 30 miles north-northeast of Bougie, Algeria, is towed into Bougie where she is beached to facilitate salvage. Subsequently, however, she is swept off the beach by a storm and breaks up in the heavy weather, a total loss.

Atlantic

U.S. tanker *Seakay*, in Avonmouth, England-bound convoy CU 17, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-311* at 51°10'N, 20°20'W, and abandoned. One Armed Guard sailor perishes in the abandonment; destroyer escort *Reeves* (DE-156) rescues survivors. Escort ships scuttle the irreparably damaged tanker with shells and depth charges.

• **19 March, Sun. --**

Pacific

TG 74.5 concludes its bombardment of Japanese positions in Wewak area. Destroyer *Daly* (DD-519) sinks auxiliarsubmarine chaser *Cha 10* off Mushu, Wewak, 03°33'S, 143°38'E.

USAAF B-24s, B-25s, A-20s, and P-38s (5th Air Force) destroy four-ship Japanese convoy 50 miles northwest of Wewak, sinking cargo ships *Yakumo Maru* and *Taiei Maru* and their escorts, auxiliary submarine chasers *Cha 47* and *Cha 49*, 02°55'S, 143°40'E.

USAAF planes sink Japanese ship *Kaen Maru* off Wuhu, China.

U.S. freighter *Oriental* is damaged by mine east of Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides, 15°31'36"S, 167°17'49"E, but makes port under own power; there are no casualties among the ship's complement, which includes a 28-man Armed Guard.

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *John A. Poor* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-510*

at 13°58'N, 70°30'E; 25 of the 43-man merchant complement perish with the ship, as do 9 of the 30-man Armed Guard (see 20 March).

Atlantic

TBF and FM-2 aircraft (VC 6) from escort carrier *Block Island* sink German submarine *U-1059*, Atlantic area, 13°10'N, 33°44'W.

Mediterranean

Submarine chaser *PC-545*, on patrol west of Anzio, sinks a German E-boat.

- **20 March, Mon. --**

Pacific

TG 31.2 (Commodore Lawrence F. Reifsnider) lands 4th Marine Division (Brigadier General Alfred H. Noble, USMC) on undefended Emirau Island, Bismarck Archipelago, thus completing the strategic encirclement of Rabaul.

TF 37, including four battleships, two escort carriers, and destroyers (Rear Admiral Robert M. Griffin) bombards Kavieng, New Ireland.

Submarine *Angler* (SS-240) evacuates 58 people, including women and children, from the west coast of Panay, P.I.

Submarine *Picuda* (SS-382) sinks Japanese victualling stores ship *H_k_Maru* about 40 miles north of Yap, Carolines, 10°09'N, 138°10'E.

Submarine *Pollack* (SS-180) sinks Japanese auxiliary netlayer *Hakuy_Maru* about 30 miles northeast of Torishima, 30°53'N, 140°42'E. Accompanying submarine chaser *Ch 44* carries out unsuccessful counterattack on *Pollack*.

Japanese submarine chaser *Ch 35*, sent out from Hollandia to rescue survivors of cargo ships *Yakumo Maru* and *Taiei Maru* and auxiliary submarine chasers *Cha 47* and *Cha 49*, sunk by USAAF planes the previous day, finds no trace of the four lost ships.

USAAF planes sink Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 62* 130 nautical miles east of Hollandia, New Guinea, 02°55'S, 143°40'E.

U.S. aircraft sink Japanese guardboats *Kaiun Maru* and *No.2 Taiho Maru* off southern tip of Rabaul.

Indian Ocean

Survivors (who include 21 Armed Guard sailors) of U.S. freighter *John A. Poor* that had been sunk by German submarine *U-510* the previous day, are rescued by British freighter *Fort Worth*.

- **21 March, Tue. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Bashaw* (SS-241) damages Japanese salvage vessel *Urakami Maru* in the Palaus, 06°55'N, 136°29'E.

U.S. aircraft sink Japanese transport *Atsu Maru*, north of New Guinea.

- **22 March, Wed. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Growler* (SS-215) carries out unsuccessful attack on Japanese cargo vessel *Teizui Maru*, 27°55'N, 129°15'E

Submarine *Tunny* (SS-282) damages Japanese tanker *Iro* west of the Palaus, 07°22'N, 132°08'E.

- **23 March, Thu. --**

Pacific

Destroyers *Franks* (DD-554) and *Haggard* (DD-555) bombard Japanese installations on Mussau Islands in the St. Matthias group, Bismarck Archipelago.

Tank landing craft *LCT-315* is sunk by explosion of undetermined origin, Eniwetok Atoll. The blast levels buildings and tents nearby.

Submarine *Tunny* (SS-282) sinks Japanese submarine *I-42* six miles southwest of Angaur, Palaus, 06°40'N, 134°03'E.

Atlantic

Naval Air Facility, Dunkeswell, England, is established.

District patrol craft *YP-331* founders and sinks in heavy weather off Key West, Florida, 24°56'30"N, 81°57'35"W.

- **24 March, Fri. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Bowfin* (SS-287) attacks Japanese convoy about 15 miles off the south coast of Mindanao and approximately 95 miles south of Davao, sinks transport *Shinkyo Maru*, 05°38'N, 125°50'E, and army cargo ship *Bengal Maru*, 05°37'N, 125°58'E. Minesweeper *W.30* carries out ineffective counterattack against *Bowfin*.

USAAF B-24s bomb Wake Island, sinking Japanese motor torpedo boat *Gyoraitei No.4*.

Mediterranean

ComCruDiv 8 reports results of his inspection of French naval vessels: he considers *Emile Bertin*, *Montcalm*, and *Georges Leygues* ready for independent or joint duty; *Duguay-Trouin*, however, an older ship, is deemed as needing repairs. French battleship *Lorraine*, also inspected, is deemed in very good materiel condition; with a brief period of training and target practice, she is deemed ready for combatant service.

- **25 March, Sat. --**

Pacific

Destroyer escort *Manlove* (DE-36) and submarine chaser *PC-1135* sink Japanese submarine *I-32*, 50 miles south of Wotje, 08°30'N, 170°10'E.

Submarine *Pollack* (SS-180) attacks Japanese convoy, and sinks submarine chaser *Ch 54*, about 50 miles north of Muko Jima, Bonins, 28°44'N, 141°45'E.

Atlantic

Oiler *Salamonie* (AO-26) is accidentally rammed by U.S. tug *Joseph O'Brien*, and damaged, off the Naval Supply Depot, Bayonne, *New Jersey*.

- **26 March, Sun. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Tullibee* (SS-284) is sunk by circular run of own torpedo, north of the Palaus, 134°45'E, 09°30'N.

Japanese guardboat *No.3 Tenjin Maru* is sunk by U.S. aircraft off Mapia Island, Dutch New Guinea, 02°00'N, 135°00'E.

Japanese army cargo ship *Shimotsuki Maru* is sunk by mine off Murotozaki.

- **27 March, Mon. --**

Pacific

Destroyer *Hoel* (DD-533) encounters and sinks outrigger canoe bound from Mussau, St. Matthias Group, Bismarck Archipelago, to Tingwon Island, part of the effort to evacuate the Mussau garrison by any means available.

Motor torpedo boats *PT-121* and *PT-353* are mistakenly sunk by friendly bomber, Bismarck Archipelago, 05°17'S, 151°01'E.

Submarine *Hake* (SS-256) sinks Japanese merchant tanker *Yamamizu Maru* about 75 miles south of Borneo, 03°53'S, 109°42'E.

Submarine *Rasher* (SS-269), in attack on Japanese convoy in the Java Sea, sinks army cargo ship *Nichinan Maru* about 50 miles north of Bali, 07°27'S, 115°55'E.

RAAF Catalinas sink Japanese merchant cargo vessel *Shinsei Maru* in Banda Sea north of Dowalger Island, 07°44'S, 130°02'E

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Livermore* (DD-429) provides gunfire support at Anzio.

Motor torpedo boat *PT-207* is damaged by naval gunfire off Anzio-Nettuno, Italy, 41°27'N, 12°40'E.

Allied force of American and British motor torpedo boats and British motor gunboats (Commander Allen, RN) destroys six German ferry barges off Vada Rocks, Corsica. U.S. motor torpedo boats *PT-208*, *PT-214* and *PT-218* participate in the battle.

- **28 March, Tue. --**

Pacific

Destroyers of DESDIV 94 bombard Japanese positions on Kapingamarangi Atoll, north of New Ireland, demolishing a radio and meteorological station.

Submarine *Barb* (SS-220) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Fukusei Maru* off Rasa Island, 24°25'N, 131°11'E.

Submarine *Silversides* (SS-236) sinks Japanese cargo ship *Kairyu Maru* off Manokwari.

British submarine HMS *Truculent*, in attack on Japanese convoy, sinks army cargo ship *Yasushima Maru* in Strait of Malacca, 03°38'N, 100°50'E.

- **29 March, Wed. --**

Pacific

Motor gunboat *PGM-8* is damaged when she runs aground off Kundu Kundu Island.

Submarine *Haddo* (SS-255) damages Japanese army cargo ship *Nichian Maru* in South China Sea, 17°42'N, 109°57'E.

Submarine *Tunny* (SS-282) damages Japanese battleship *Musashi* off Palau, 07°30'N, 134°30'E.

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *Richard Hovey* is torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I-26* at 16°40'N, 64°30'E, and abandoned. *I-26* then surfaces and after shelling the ship and setting her afire (*Richard Hovey* sinks subsequently), fires upon the lifeboats and rafts, killing one Armed Guard sailor. The Japanese submarine then rams and sinks one of the boats before taking four POWs and clearing the area (see 2 and 14 April).

Mediterranean

Destroyer *John D. Ford* (DD-228) is damaged when accidentally rammed by British armed trawler HMS *Kingston Agate* while departing Gibraltar, British Crown Colony.

Destroyers *Ericsson* (DD-440) and *Kearny* (DD-432), along with submarine chasers *PC-626*, *PC-556*, and *PC-558*, and four British destroyers--HMS *Laforey*, HMS *Tumult*, HMS *Hambledon*, and HMS *Blencathra*--begin submarine hunt 30 miles northeast of Palermo, Sicily. Their efforts culminate in the sinking of German submarine *U-223*, 38°48'N, 14°10'E.

• **30 March, Thu. --**

Pacific

TF 58 under Commander Fifth Fleet (Admiral Raymond A. Spruance) begins intensive bombing of Japanese airfields, shipping, fleet servicing facilities, and other installations at Palau, Yap, Ulithi, and Woleai in the Carolines. During these attacks (that continue until 1 April), planes from carriers *Lexington* (CV-16), *Bunker Hill* (CV-19) and *Hornet* (CV-12) sow extensive minefields in and around the channels and approaches to the Palaus in the first tactical use of mines laid by carrier aircraft.

TF 58 planes sink destroyer *Wakatake*; repair ship *Akashi*; fleet tankers *Ose*, *Sata*, *Iro*, *Akebono Maru*, and *Amatsu Maru*; submarine chaser *Ch 6*; auxiliary submarine chasers *Cha 22*, *Cha 26*, *Cha 53*, and *No.5 Showa Maru*; *Patrol Boat No.31*; netlayer *No.5 Nissho Maru*; aircraft transport *Goshu Maru*; transports *Gozan Maru*, *Nagisan Maru*, *Raizan Maru*, *Ryuko Maru*, and *No.18 Shinsei Maru*; tankers *Amatsu Maru* and *Asashio Maru*; guardboats *Ibaraki Maru* and *No.2 Seiei Maru*; salvage vessel *Urakami Maru*; torpedo transport and repair ship *Kamikaze Maru*; army cargo ships *Chuyo Maru*, *Kibi Maru*, and *Shoei Maru*; army tanker *No.2 Unyo Maru*; and army cargo ships *Bichu Maru* (outside Palau harbor) and *Teisho Maru* (in the channel west of Palau), and, at Angaur, small craft *No.3 Akita Maru*, *Chichibu Maru*, *Yae Maru*, *Toku Maru*, *Kiku Maru*, *Hinode Maru*, *Yamato Maru*, *Ume Maru*, and *Akebono Maru*. TF 58 planes damage submarine chaser *Ch 35*, netlayer *Shosei Maru*, tanker *No.2 Hishi Maru*, and army cargo ship *Hokutai Maru* at Palau, 07°30'N, 134°30'E.

Submarine *Tunny* (SS-282), while on lifeguard duty off the Palaus, is attacked accidentally by TBF from carrier *Yorktown* (CV-10) 07°40'N, 134°00'E. Damage suffered in the friendly fire encounter forces *Tunny* to terminate her patrol.

Submarine *Darter* (SS-227), despite presence of one escort vessel, sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Fujikawa Maru* about 175 miles northwest of Manokwari, New Guinea, 01°50'N, 133°00'E.

Submarine *Picuda* (SS-382) attacks Japanese convoy, and sinks transport *Atlantic Maru* about 90 miles south- southwest of Guam, 12°20'N, 145°55'E.

Submarine *Stingray* (SS-186) attacks Japanese convoy and sinks transport *Ikushima Maru* about 350 miles north- northwest of Saipan, 20°43'N, 143°04'E.

Japanese minelayer *Nasami* is damaged by aircraft off Rabaul.

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Eberle* (DD-430) provides gunfire support off Anzio.

- **31 March, Fri. --**

Pacific

Admiral Koga Mineichi, Commander in Chief of the Combined Fleet, en route to Davao, P.I., is killed in a plane crash.

TF 58 aircraft sink Japanese guardboat *Hakko Maru*, Palaus.

April

- **1 April, Sat. --**

Pacific

TU 57.10.9, composed of destroyer escort *Sanders* (DE-40), tank landing ship *LST-127*, and infantry landing craft *LCI-346* and *LCI-449* occupies Ailuk Atoll, Marshalls. The landing is unopposed.

Submarine *Flying Fish* (SS-229) sinks Japanese cargo ship *Minami Maru* at Kaito Daito Jima, 25°57'N, 131°19'E.

Japanese minelayer *Nasami* sinks as the result of damage suffered off Rabaul, New Britain, on 30 March.

Mediterranean

Convoy UGS 36 is attacked by German torpedo bombers off Algiers; tank landing ship *LST-526* is damaged when low- flying enemy plane knocks off radio antenna. U.S. freighter *Jared Ingersoll* is torpedoed; destroyer escort *Mills* (DE-383) and British tug *Mindful* rescue the crew (including the 29-man Armed Guard) from the sinking ship. After one attempt to quell the fires consuming the ship fails, *Mills* places a firefighting party on board which succeeds in its attempt; the destroyer escort then assists in towing *Jared Ingersoll* out of danger. Beached off Algiers, the freighter is subsequently returned to service.

- **2 April, Sun. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Greenling* (SS-213) begins reconnoitering the Marianas, taking photographs, obtaining tidal data, and making soundings. She will be engaged in that work until 29 April 1944. Simultaneously, submarine *Salmon* (SS-182) will reconnoiter the western Carolines, spending about a week at three successive places: Ulithi, Yap, and Woleai.

Submarine *Hake* (SS-256) damages Japanese tanker *Tarakan Maru* in South China Sea, 01°58'N, 106°20'E.

TU 57.10.9, composed of destroyer escort *Sanders* (DE-40), tank landing ship *LST-127* and infantry landing craft *LCI-346* and *LCI-449* occupies Mejit Island,

Marshalls. The small Japanese force that opposes the occupation is wiped out by gunfire support provided by the LCIs.

USAAF B-24s and B-25s bomb Truk, sinking small Japanese vessel *No.3 Akebono Maru*.

Mediterranean

Submarine chaser *PC-621* is damaged by aerial mine, and harbor tug *YT-207* is damaged by near-miss from shore battery off Anzio.

Indian Ocean

British freighter *Samcalia* rescues 25 survivors of U.S. freighter *Richard Hovey* that had been torpedoed, shelled, and sunk by Japanese submarine *I-26* on 29 March (see 14 April).

- **3 April, Mon. --**

Pacific

TU 57.10.9, composed of destroyer escort *Sanders* (DE-40), tank landing ship *LST-127* and infantry landing craft *LCI-346* and *LCI-449* occupies Mejit Island, Marshalls. The occupation is unopposed.

Transport *Kenmore* (AP-162) is damaged by grounding, Nawiliwili, T.H.

Submarine *Pollack* (SS-180), in attack on Japanese convoy, sinks army cargo ship *Tosei Maru* about 325 miles south of Yokohama, Japan, 30°14'N, 139°44'E.

- **4 April, Tue. --**

Pacific

Destroyer *Hall* (DD-583) is damaged by shore battery off Wotje, 09°30'N, 170°00'E.

Japanese submarine *I-169* is sunk by accidental flooding during PB4Y bombing of Truk; efforts to save trapped crewmen (the last of whom live until 7 April) prove unsuccessful.

Other Japanese losses include provision ship *Sapporo Maru* sunk as the result of near-miss of bomb; and army cargo ships *Choun Maru* and *Iwakuni Maru* sunk by USAAF B-24 or B-25 aircraft at Rabaul.

5 April, Wed. --

Pacific

Harbor tug *YT-247* is swamped, founders and sinks while in tow of tug *Sunnadin* (ATO-28) en route from Pearl Harbor to Palmyra, 425 miles south by west of Oahu, 14°14'N, 158°59'W.

PB4Y (VB 109) sinks Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 46* off Moen island, Truk, 07°26'N, 151°52'E.

TBMs and FM-2s (VC 66) damage Japanese submarine *I-45*, 650 miles northeast of Majuro, 14°27'N, 176°37'E.

Japanese army cargo ship *Tenryu Maru* is sunk by aircraft at Rabaul.

- **6 April, Thu. --**

Pacific

Japanese cargo vessel *Arabia Maru* is damaged by mine off Takao.

Japanese transport *Hsing Yun Maru* is sunk by USAAF mine in the Yangtze River near Chinkiang, 32°05'N, 119°56'E.

Mediterranean

Infantry landing craft *LCI-34* is damaged by shore battery off Anzio.

U.S. motor torpedo boats engage German E-boats and a flak ship south of Vada Rocks, sinking one E-boat; flak ship later explodes as the result of gunfire damage. Enemy shore batteries take the motor torpedo boats under fire but inflict no damage.

- **7 April, Fri. --**

Pacific

Destroyer *Saufley* (DD-465) sinks Japanese submarine *I-2*, 50 miles west-northwest of New Hanover, 02°17'S, 149°14'E.

Submarine *Pampanito* (SS-383) is damaged by depth charges off the Marianas, 12°46'N, 143°49'E, but remains on patrol.

Submarine *Scamp* (SS-277) is damaged by bomb from Japanese floatplane off Mindanao, 05°02'N, 126°07'E, and is forced to terminate her patrol.

Atlantic

Destroyer *Champlin* (DD-601) is damaged when she intentionally rams German submarine *U-856*, 380 miles southeast of Cape Sable, 40°18'N, 62°22'W; *Champlin* and destroyer escort *Huse* (DE-145) team to sink *U-856*.

- **8 April, Sat. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Seahorse* (SS-304) attacks Japanese convoy seven miles off Guam, torpedoing ammunition ship *Aratama Maru*; explosion in turn damages destroyer *Asakaze*. *Seahorse* also torpedoes water tanker *Kizugawa Maru*, 13°16'N, 145°11'E. Counterattacks by destroyer *Minazuki* and submarine chaser *Ch 30* prove unsuccessful; *Minazuki* tows *Kizugawa Maru* to port while the crippled *Aratama Maru*, burning, drifts ashore. She explodes and sinks the next day.

Submarine *Trigger* (SS-237) is damaged by depth charges off the Marianas, 19°06'N, 142°36'E, but remains on patrol.

- **9 April, Sun. --**

Pacific

Submarine chaser *SC-984* is damaged by grounding, Cooks Reef, near Mai Island, New Hebrides. She is abandoned the following day, a total loss.

Submarine *Seahorse* (SS-304) attacks Japanese convoy MATSU No.4, and sinks transport *Misaku Maru* about 40 miles west of Saipan, 15°32'N, 145°00'E.

Submarine *Trigger* (SS-237) is again damaged by depth charges off the Marianas, 19°03'N, 142°31'E, but remains on patrol.

Submarine *Whale* (SS-239) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *H_nan Maru* off northwestern coast of Kyushu, 33°45'N, 128°42'E.

USAAF B-25s (14th Air Force) sink Japanese merchant vessel *Hokurei Maru* off southern tip of Hainan Island, 19°00'N, 110°00'E

Japanese hospital ship *Takasago Maru* is damaged by mine off Palau.

Atlantic

TBMs and FM-2s (VC 58) from escort carrier *Guadalcanal* (CVE-60), together with destroyer escorts *Pillsbury* (DE-133), *Pope* (DE-134), *Flaherty* (DE-135), and *Chatelain* (DE-149) sink German submarine *U-515* off Madeira Island, 34°35'N, 19°18'W.

Destroyer *Hilary P. Jones* (DD-427) provides gunfire support off Anzio.

- **10 April, Mon. --**

Pacific

Small seaplane tender *Chincoteague* (AVP-24) is damaged by grounding near entrance to Funafuti channel.

Atlantic

Aircraft (VC 58) from escort carrier *Guadalcanal* (CVE- 60) sink German submarine *U-68* off Madeira Island, 33°25'N, 18°59'W.

Mediterranean

Convoy UGS 37 transits Straits of Gibraltar (60 merchantmen and six tank landing ships), escorted by TF 65 (Commander William R. Headden): four destroyers, eight destroyer escorts and British anti-aircraft cruiser HMS *Delhi* and frigate HMS *Nadder*, in addition to radar jamming ships, destroyer *Lansdale* (DD-462) and British corvette HMS *Jonquil* (see 11 April). Escorts keep German submarines *U-421*, *U-471* and *U-969* at bay.

- **11 April, Tue. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Redfin* (SS-272) sinks Japanese destroyer *Akigumo* in eastern entrance to Basilan Strait, 06°43'N, 122°23'E.

PB4Y sinks Japanese ship *Sh_sei Maru* off Vanimo.

Mediterranean

Convoy GUS 37 is attacked by German bombers and torpedo bombers east of Algiers. Destroyer escort *Holder* (DE-401) is damaged by aerial torpedo 35 miles northeast of Algiers, 37°03'N, 03°58'E, as she lays smoke ahead of the convoy. Freighter *Charles Piez* is damaged by strafing, 37°10'N, 03°45'E; her crew (including a 28- man Armed Guard), however, suffers no casualties. Aerial torpedoes narrowly miss destroyer escorts *Stanton* (DE-247) and *Swasey* (DE-248).

Increased German aerial mining activities are noted off Anzio.

- **12 April, Wed. --**

Pacific

Motor torpedo boat *PT-135*, damaged by grounding one- half mile north of Crater Point, New Britain, 05°21'S, 152°09'E, is scuttled by crew and motor torpedo boat *PT-137*.

Submarine *Halibut* (SS-232), despite presence of at least three escort vessels, sinks Japanese army passenger/cargo ship *Taichu Maru* about 20 miles southwest of the Nansei Shoto, 28°08'N, 128°57'E.

USAAF B-24s, B-25s, B-26s, and P-38s bomb Japanese installations in Hollandia, sinking army cargo ship *Narita Maru* and fishing vessels *Aik_Maru*, *Kompira Maru*, and *Ky_ei Maru*.

USSAAF A-20s (5th Air Force) sink Japanese army cargo ship *Narita Maru* in Humboldt Bay, Hollandia, 02°30'S, 140°52'E.

Atlantic

Rescue tug *ATR-98* is sunk in collision with ocean-going tug *Abnaki* (AT-96) off the Azores, 44°04.8'N, 24°08'W.

Mediterranean

U.S. freighter *Horace H. Lurton*, steaming in convoy west of Algiers, is damaged by shell fired by nearby ship, injuring five men of the 44 merchant sailors and 28-man Armed Guard. Destroyer *Breckinridge* (DD-148) provides medical assistance.

- **13 April, Thu. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Harder* (SS-257) sinks Japanese destroyer *Ikazuchi* 180 miles south-southwest of Guam, 10°13'N, 143°51'E.

- **14 April, Fri. --**

Mediterranean

Three U.S. motor torpedo boats and two British Fairmile "D" patrol craft brave intense German shore battery fire to carry out two torpedo attacks on north-bound German F-lighters off San Vincenzo, Italy. No hits are observed.

Indian Ocean

British freighter *Samuta* rescues 38 survivors of U.S. freighter *Richard Hovey*, sunk by Japanese submarine *I-26* on 29 March.

- **15 April, Sat. --**

Pacific

Alaskan Sea Frontier (Vice Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher) with headquarters at Adak, Aleutian Islands, and Seventeenth Naval District (Rear Admiral Francis E. M. Whiting) with temporary headquarters at Adak and permanent headquarters at Kodiak, Alaska, are established.

Naval Base, Abemama, Gilbert Islands, is established.

Submarine *Redfin* (SS-272), in attack on Japanese convoy southwest of Mindanao, damages army cargo ship *Shinyu Maru*, 06°22'N, 123°42'E (see 16 April).

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Sumida Maru* is sunk, probably by mine laid by submarine *Steelhead* (SS-280), off Honshu, 42°07'N, 143°10'E;

British submarine HMS *Storm* sinks Japanese minesweeper *W.7* in Andaman Islands, 11°56'N, 093°06'E.

- **16 April, Sun. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Paddle* (SS-263) attacks Japanese convoy and sinks Japanese army transport *Mito Maru* and merchant cargo ship *No.1 Hino Maru* in the Ceram Sea, 02°25'S, 127°24'E.

Submarine *Redfin* (SS-272) continues to pursue the convoy attacked the previous day, sinking army cargo ship *Yamagata Maru* in Moro Gulf, southwest of Mindanao, 06°52'N, 123°47'E.

RAAF Catalinas mine the principal entrances to Woleai to prevent the Japanese from using them during the projected Hollandia operations. The evolution is repeated on 18 and 19 April.

Movement of Japanese convoy TAKE No.1, carrying elements of the Imperial Army's 32d and 35th Divisions to reinforce garrisons in the Halmaheras and in northwestern New Guinea, gets underway as four transports, and escorts, depart Pusan, Korea (see 18 April).

Battleship *Colorado* (BB-45) runs aground on Kuia Shoal, off Kahoolawe, T.H., but suffers no serious damage.

Atlantic

Battleship *Wisconsin* (BB-64)--the last battleship in the U.S. Navy--is commissioned at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

U.S. tanker *Pan Pennsylvania*, in United Kingdom-bound convoy CU 1, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-550* 150 miles east of Ambrose Light, 40°05'N, 69°40'W, and abandoned. Ten of the 31-man Armed Guard sailors perish in the action, as do 15 of the 50-man merchant complement; survivors are picked up by destroyer escorts *Joyce* (DE-317) and *Peterson* (DE-152). Later, destroyer escort *Gandy* (DE-764) is damaged when she intentionally rams German submarine *U-550* off Nantucket Shoals, 40°09'N, 69°44'W, and teams with *Peterson* and *Joyce* to sink the U-boat. During the action, shells from the destroyer escorts set afire *Pan Pennsylvania's* abandoned wreck (see 18 April).

Mediterranean

German submarine *U-407* attacks convoy UGS 37 about 17 miles off Derna, Libya, torpedoing U.S. freighters *Meyer London* and *Thomas G. Masaryk*, 32°51'N, 23°00'E; the latter, out of control at one point, nearly rams *Meyer London*. There are no casualties on board either ship (including the 27-man Armed Guard in each freighter). French-manned British corvette HMS *La Malouine* rescues *Meyer London's* crew; another escort vessel rescues the other ship's complement. British rescue tug HMS *Captive* later tows *Thomas G. Masaryk* and beaches her in Maneloa Bay, Libya, where the damaged ship is subsequently written off as a total loss. *Meyer London* sinks.

• **17 April, Mon. --**

Pacific

Submarines *Barb* (SS-220) and *Steelhead* (SS-280) shell phosphate works on Rasa Island.

Submarine *Harder* (SS-257), in attack on Japanese convoy, sinks army cargo ship *Matsue Maru* about 150 miles northwest of Woleai, Carolines, 09°30'N, 142°35'E.

Submarine *Searaven* (SS-196) sinks Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *No.2 Noshiro Maru* 120 miles south of Haha Jima, Bonins, 26°01'N, 142°14'E.

USAAF planes sink Japanese army vessel *No.2 Mikage Maru* off Aitape, New Guinea, 02°41'S, 141°18'E.

Atlantic

Minesweeper *Swift* (AM-122) and submarine chaser *PC-619* sink German submarine *U-986*, North Atlantic, 50°09'N, 12°51'W.

Mediterranean

U.S. freighters *James Guthrie* and *Alexander Graham Bell*, in convoy NV 33, are damaged by Allied mines off Isle of Capri, *James Guthrie* at 40°34'10"N, 14°16'50"E, and *Alexander Graham Bell* at 40°34'150"N, 14°17'20"E. *James Guthrie* is abandoned and taken in tow by salvage vessel *Weight* (ARS-35). Towed to Naples, *James Guthrie* is subsequently written off as a total loss. There are no casualties among either the merchant complement or the 28-man Armed Guard. *Alexander Graham Bell* returns to Naples under her own power and is repaired and returned to service. There are no casualties among the 42-man Armed Guard and only two injured from the merchant crew.

- **18 April, Tues. --**

Pacific

PB4Ys (VD 3) conduct long-range reconnaissance of Saipan, Tinian and Aguijan Islands, Marshalls, obtaining complete photographic coverage. USAAF B-24s provide close air support; battle damage forces one B- 24 to ditch (see 22 April).

Submarine *Gudgeon* (SS-211) is sunk, probably by Japanese naval aircraft (901st Air Group), southwest of Iwo Jima, 22°44'N, 143°25'E.

Submarine *Tambor* (SS-198) sinks Japanese guardboat *No.3 Shink_Maru* 300 miles northwest of Wake Island.

Second element of Japanese TAKE No.1 convoy sails from Shanghai and effects rendezvous with the first group that had departed Pusan, Korea, on 16 April.

U.S. freighter *John Straub* hits a mine off Sanak Island, Aleutians, 54°15'N, 163°30'W and sinks, breaking in two; 14 of the 27-man Armed Guard perish, as do 40 merchant seamen and the ship's solitary passenger. Army coastal freighter *FP 41* rescues the survivors; frigate *Albuquerque* (PF-7) later scuttles the stern half with gunfire.

Atlantic

Abandoned U.S. merchant tanker *Pan Pennsylvania*, torpedoed by German submarine *U-550* on 16 April, is scuttled by aircraft, 40°24'N, 69°37'W.

- **19 April, Wed. --**

Pacific

Allied naval force (Admiral Sir James F. Somerville, RN, Commander in Chief, British Eastern Fleet), including U.S. carrier *Saratoga* (CV-3) and three U.S. destroyers, strikes Japanese positions and shipping at Sabang, N.E.I., in Operation COCKPIT. In this, the first operation in which Pacific Fleet units operate alongside British units in offensive action in the Indian Ocean, carrier aircraft from *Saratoga* and HMS *Illustrious* sink minelayer *Hatsutaka*, transport *Kunitsu Maru* and army transport *Haruno Maru*. Pilot (VF 12) of only plane (from *Saratoga*) shot down by antiaircraft fire is picked up by British submarine HMS *Tactician*, which braves shore battery fire to do so.

Submarine *Finback* (SS-230) sinks Japanese sampan *Ryoho Maru* at 08°22'N, 151°41'E. British submarine HMS *Tantalus* sinks tug *Kampung Besar* (nationality unspecified) in Strait of Malacca.

Atlantic

TBF (VC 13) from escort carrier *Tripoli* (CVE-64), in TG21.4, attacks German submarine *U-543* with rockets and depth bombs in the face of heavy anti-aircraft fire; *U-543* escapes.

- **20 April, Thu. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Seahorse* (SS-304) sinks Japanese submarine *RO-45* off the Marianas, 15°19'N, 145°31'E. *Seahorse's* sinking *RO 45* is a testimony to effective training. During passage to the patrol area with submarine *Harder* (SS-257), the boats had practiced approaches on each other.

USAAF planes sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *Iwakuni Maru*.

Mediterranean

German torpedo planes, on the heels of an unsuccessful attack by submarine *U-969*, attack 87-ship convoy UGS 38 off coast of French Morocco. Destroyer *Lansdale* (DD-462) is sunk by aerial torpedo about 15 miles northeast of Algiers, 37°03'N, 03°51'E; Coast Guard cutter *Taney* (WPG-37), destroyer escort *Lowe* (DE-325) and Dutch anti-aircraft cruiser *Van Heemskerck*, however, escape torpedo attacks. Ammunition-carrying U.S. freighter *Paul Hamilton*, struck by aerial torpedo at 36°55'N, 03°54'E, disintegrates, killing all on board: the 47-man merchant complement, the 29-man Armed Guard, and 504 troops. Illuminated by the explosion, freighter *Stephen F. Austin*, at 37°02'N, 03°38'E, is torpedoed and abandoned. Reboarded, the ship receives assistance from British rescue tug HMS *Hengist* and proceeds to Algiers under her own power. By contrast with the disaster that has befallen her sistership *Paul Hamilton*, there are no casualties on board *Stephen F. Austin*.

- **21 April, Fri. --**

Pacific

TF 58 (Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher), including carriers, battleships, cruisers, and destroyers, bombs and bombards Japanese airfields and defensive positions at Hollandia, Wakde, Sawar, and Sarmi areas of New Guinea; attacks continue the following day in preparation for Operations PERSECUTION and RECKLESS (see 22 April 1944). During these operations, Japanese army cargo ship *Kansei Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Sarmi. Navy aircraft sink small Japanese cargo vessels *No.51 Ume Maru* and *No.2 Hihode Maru*, Mapia Island, New Guinea.

Submarine *Stingray* (SS-186) is sunk when she strikes submerged pinnacle west of the Marianas, 20°30'N, 142°22'E.

Japanese cargo vessel *No.2 Y_ei Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Murilo Island, Carolines.

Mediterranean

U.S. freighter *John Armstrong* is damaged by mine at 41°12'N, 12°32'E, while en route from Anzio to Naples, Italy. One Armed Guard sailor perishes in the incident, but the ship reaches her original destination unaided.

- **22 April, Sat. --**

Pacific

TF 77 (Rear Admiral Daniel E. Barbey) lands two divisions of the I Army Corps (Lieutenant General Robert L. Eichelberger, USA) at Aitape and Tanahmerah Bay in **Operation PERSECUTION**, and Humboldt Bay, Hollandia, New Guinea, in **Operation RECKLESS**, 300 miles inside the outer Japanese defensive perimeter. TG 77.1 (Rear Admiral Barbey) lands the 163rd RCT, 41st Infantry Division (Brigadier General Doe) at Aitape; TG 77.2 (Rear Admiral Fechteler) lands the 24th Infantry Division (Major General Irving) at Tanahmerah Bay; TG 77.3 (Captain Alfred G. Noble) lands the 41st Infantry Division (Major General Irving) at Humboldt Bay. Escort carrier force (TF 78) (Rear Admiral Ralph E. Davison) provides close air support while TF 74 (Rear Admiral Victor A. C. Crutchley, RN) and TF 75 (Rear Admiral Russell S. Berkey) provide gunfire support in landings that proceed against slight resistance. Fast carrier task force TF 58 (Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher) also provides support. Hollandia becomes a major staging area for the next phase of the New Guinea campaign.

PB4Y sights survivors of USAAF B-24 that had been damaged over the Marianas and had ditched on 18 April; PB4Y sent to rescue the aviators, however, suffers damage in landing and is unable to take off (see 23 April).

Army landing force (Company "I", 3rd Battalion, 111th Infantry) occupies Ujelang Atoll, Marshalls; operation to extend U.S. control over the westernmost atoll is supported by small seaplane tender *Onslow* (AVP-48) and motor minesweeper *YMS-91*.

USAAF B-24s (14th Air Force) attack Japanese Singapore- to-Saigon convoy anchored off Cape St. Jacques, French Indochina, sinking transport (ex-gunboat) *Nagata Maru*, 10°19'N, 107°05'E; fleet tanker *K_ry_Maru*; army cargo vessel *London Maru*, and merchant tanker *No.3 Sansui Maru*; and damaging tanker *Nisshin Maru*. Only escort vessel, submarine chaser *Ch 9*, escapes the low-level onslaught unscathed.

U.S. aircraft sink Japanese transport *Suiten Maru* off Murilo Island, Carolines.

British submarine HMS *Taurus* sinks salvage vessel *Hokuan I-Go* off Malaya, 07°10'N, 99°20'E.

Europe

U.S. freighter *George Popham*, in convoy FS 28, is damaged by mine while en route from Methel, Scotland, to London, England, at 51 11'20"N, 01 48'40"E, but reaches her destination under her own power. There are no casualties to the merchant complement or the 29-man Armed Guard.

- **23 April, Sun. --**

Pacific

Destroyer *Gansevoort* (DD-608) rescues USAAF B-24 crew as well as their Navy would-be rescuers (see 18 and 22 April).

Submarine *Seadragon* (SS-194) attacks Japanese convoy and sinks merchant cargo ship *Danju Maru* off Shionomisaki, Honshu, 33°26'N, 135°46'E.

Dutch submarine HNMS K-XV, operating under U.S. control for the Netherlands Intelligence Service, sinks a prau and a coaster off New Guinea.

Japanese destroyer *Amagiri* (transporting air base materiel) is sunk by USAAF mine in Makassar Strait about 50 miles south of Balikpapan, 02°12'S, 116°45'E.

- **24 April, Mon. --**

Pacific

Destroyers *Benham* (DD-796) and *Uhlmann* (DD-687) are damaged in collision during night maneuvers with carriers, south of Oahu.

Submarine *Robalo* (SS-273) is damaged by aerial bomb off French Indochina, 10°29'N, 109°26'E, but remains on patrol.

Navy aircraft sink Japanese fishing vessel *No.5 Shinh_Maru* and *Mizuno Maru* off north coast of Vogelkop.

Japanese army cargo ship *Taka Maru* is sunk by aircraft north of New Guinea, 01°36'S, 138°47'E.

USAAF B-24s damage Japanese fishing vessels *No.5 Takara Maru* and *No.25 Sumiyoshi Maru* off western New Guinea.

- **25 April, Tue. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Crevalle* (SS-291) sinks Japanese army cargoship *Kashiwa Maru* north of Borneo, 07°11'N, 116°46'E.

Submarine *Guavina* (SS-362) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Tetsuyo Maru* northwest of Chichi Jima, 28°55'N, 140°28'E.

Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *No.32 Kafuku Maru* is sunk by mine, location unspiced.

Mediterranean

German mining operations commence off Capreira, Italy; minelayer *TA 23* sinks after striking a mine. *TA 26* and *TA 29* battle U.S. motor torpedo boats *PT-202*, *PT-213*, and *PT-218*.

- **26 April, Wed. --**

Pacific

Destroyer escort *Gilmore* (DE-18) sinks Japanese submarine *I-180*, southwest of Chirikof Island, Aleutians, 55°10'N, 155°40'W.

Submarine *Bonefish* (SS-223) sinks Japanese transport *Tokiwa Maru* at entrance to Davao gulf, 06°13'N, 125°49'E.

Submarine *Guavina* (SS-362) attacks Japanese convoy, and sinks transport *Noshiro Maru I-G_* off Miko Jima, 28°42'N, 141°26'E, and attacks cargo ship *No.2 Asahi Maru* unsuccessfully.

Submarine *Jack* (SS-259) encounters Japanese TAKE No.1 convoy off west coast of Luzon, and sinks army transport *No.1 Yoshida Maru*, 18°06'N, 119°40'E, and damages army cargo ship *Wales Maru*, 18°14'N, 119°53'E.

Submarine *Sargo* (SS-188) attacks Japanese convoy and sinks army cargo ship *Wazan Maru* (ex-British *Vitorlock*) off Ichiye Zaki, Honshu, 33°31'N, 135°24'E.

Atlantic

Destroyer escorts *Frost* (DE-144), *Huse* (DE-145), *Barber* (DE-161), and

Snowden (DE-246) sink German submarine *U-488* in mid-Atlantic, 17°54'N, 38°05'W.

- **27 April, Thu. --**

Pacific

Cargo ship *Etamin* (AK-93) is damaged by aerial torpedo off Aitape, New Guinea, 03°09'S, 142°24'E.

Japanese convoy TAKE No. 1 convoy reaches Manila.

Submarine *Bluegill* (SS-242) sinks Japanese light cruiser *Y_bari* west of the Sonsorol Islands, 05°20'N, 132°16'E.

Submarine *Halibut* (SS-232) attacks Japanese convoy and sinks minelayer *Kamome* west of the Nansei Shoto chain, about 40 miles north of Okinawa, 27°28'N, 128°02'E, and merchant transport *Genbu Maru*, 27°16'N, 128°21'E.

Submarine *Seadragon* (SS-194) damages Japanese merchant cargo ship *Hawaii Maru* off Shikoku, 33°16'N, 135°48'E.

Submarine *Seahorse* (SS-304) attacks Japanese convoy and sinks transport *Akikawa Maru* about 150 miles west of Saipan, 14°46'N, 143°22'E, and evades depth-charging by escorts.

Submarine *Trigger* (SS-237) attacks Japanese convoy about 90 miles north of Palau, and sinks transport *M_ke Maru*, 08°34'N, 134°53'E, and damages escort vessel *Kasado* and army cargo ship *Asosan Maru*, 08°32'N, 134°42'E.

Japanese submarine *I-37* is damaged by mine laid by British submarine HMS *Taurus* on 18 April, south of Penang, Malaya.

USAAF B-24s damage Japanese cargo vessel *Anshu Maru* off Biak.

Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *Hadayoshi Maru* is damaged by mine off Balikpapan.

- **28 April, Fri. --**

Secretary of the Navy Knox dies in Washington, D.C.

Atlantic

German motor torpedo boats *S 100*, *S 130*, *S 136*, *S 138*, *S 140*, *S 142*, *S 143*, *S 145*, and *S 150* (5th and 9th Motor Torpedo Boat flotilla) attacks convoy of eight U.S. tank landing ships entering Lyme Bay, torpedoing and sinking *LST-507* and *LST-531* off Portland Bill, England, 50°28'N, 02°51'W; and damaging *LST-289*.

- **29 April, Sat. --**

Pacific

After completing its support of the Hollandia landings TF 58 (Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher), including five carriers (CV) and seven small carriers (CVL), begins two-day attack on Japanese shipping, oil and ammunition dumps, aircraft facilities, and other installations at Truk. Japanese naval aircraft mount strong counter- attack on the U.S. formations during which destroyer *Tingey* (DD-539), in TG 58.2. is damaged by friendly fire.

TBF from small carrier *Monterey* (CVL-26), with destroyers *MacDonough* (DD-351) and *Stephen Potter* (DD- 538), sink Japanese submarine *I-174* north of Truk, 06°13'N, 151°19'E.

Motor torpedo boats *PT-346* and *PT-347* are accidentally sunk by F4Us (VMF 215) and F6Fs (VF 34), and SBDs and TBFs off Cape Lambert, Bismarck Archipelago, 04°13'S, 151°27'E. PBV (VP 91) rescues survivors from the two PT-boats.

Submarines *Bang* (SS-285), *Parche* (SS-384) and *Tinosa* (SS-283) attack Japanese convoy off northwest coast of Luzon. *Bang* sinks army cargo ship *Takegawa Maru* in South China Sea, 19°20'N, 118°50'E, and damages *Yashima Maru* (see 30 April).

Submarine *Flasher* (SS-249) damages Vichy French cargo ship *Song Giang Go* in South China Sea, five miles off Cape Varella, French Indochina, 13°02'N, 109°28'E (see 30 April).

Submarine *Halibut* (SS-232) bombards Japanese installations on Kure Jima.

Submarine *Pogy* (SS-266) sinks Japanese submarine *I-183*, 30 miles south of Cape Ashizuri, Japan, 32°07'N, 133°03'E.

Japanese transport *Kunikawa Maru* is sunk by mine laid by RAAF Catalinas (mining operations take place on 20, 24, and 27 April) near Balikpapan, Borneo, 01°17'S, 116°49'E.

British submarine HMS *Tantalus* sinks coaster *Pulo Salanama* in Strait of Malacca.

Japanese ship *Hasshu Maru* is sunk by aircraft southeast of Formosa, 20°00'N, 130°50'E.

Mediterranean

USAAF B-17s and B-24s bomb targets in northern Italy and in southern France; during the raid on Toulon, German submarine *U-421* is sunk in harbor.

• **30 April, Sun. --**

Pacific

Task force (Rear Admiral Jesse B. Oldendorf) of nine heavy cruisers and eight destroyers detached from TF 58 bombards Japanese positions on Satawan Island in the Namoi Group, Carolines.

Japanese TAKE No.1 convoy, one group of ships destined for Manokwari, the other for Halmahera, sails from Manila (see 6 May).

Submarine *Bang* (SS-285) continues attack on convoy engaged the previous night, and sinks Japanese merchant tanker *Nittatsu Maru* off northwest coast of Luzon, 19°04'N, 119°14'E.

Submarine *Flasher* (SS-249) sinks French gunboat *Tahure* in South China Sea off Cape Varella, French Indochina, 13°02'N, 109°28'E. Damaged French cargo ship, *Song Giang*, torpedoed the day before by *Flasher*, sinks.

TF 58 air strikes against Japanese installations in the Carolines continue. Reflecting an expected paucity of shipping targets in the area, TF 58 planes operating over the waters off Palau can only sink transport *Nagisan Maru*, 07°30'N, 134°30'E, and merchant vessel *No.2 Tenyu Maru*.

Planes from small carrier *Cabot* (CVL-28) damage gunboat *No.2 Hino Maru* at Truk.

Arctic

U.S. freighter *William S. Thayer*, in convoy RA 59, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-711*, 50 miles south of Bear Island. 73°46'N, 19°10'E, and breaks into thirds; 23 of the 41-man merchant complement perish, as do 7 of the 28-man Armed Guard and 20 of the 165 Soviet Navy passengers. Freighter *Robert Eden* and British destroyer HMS *Whitehall* rescue the survivors, while escorts scuttle the stern section of the ship with gunfire.

May

- **1 May, Mon. --**

Pacific

Supported by carrier planes from TG 58.1, TG 58.7 (Vice Admiral Willis A. Lee), consisting of seven battleships screened by 14 destroyers, bombards wharf areas, seaplane base, and other Japanese installations on Ponape Island, Carolines.

District patrol craft *YP-95* sinks after running aground in Beyer Bay, south shore of Adak, Aleutian Islands, while assisting in a minesweeping mission.

Submarine *Bluegill* (SS-242) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Asosan Maru* [repaired after her encounter with *Trigger* (SS-237) on 19 April] east of Mindanao, 07°05'N, 130°00'E.

PB4Y damages Japanese cargo cessel *Anshu Maru* off Biak.

- **2 May, Tue. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) completes destruction of Japanese army transport *Ryoyo Maru* Matsuwa Jima, Kurils, 48°04'N, 153°16'E.

Atlantic

Destroyer *Parrott* (DD-218) is damaged in collision with U.S. merchantman *John Morton* off Norfolk, Virginia, 36°51'N, 76°18'W.

- **3 May, Wed. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Flasher* (SS-249) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Teisen Maru* in the South China Sea about 300 miles east of Cape Varella, French Indochina, 12°54'N, 114°07'E.

Submarine *Sand Lance* (SS-381) sinks Japanese transport *Kenan Maru* about 15 miles northwest of Saipan, 15°20'N, 145°34'E.

Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Fushimi Maru* off south coast of Uruppu Island, Kurils, 45°28'N, 149°56'E.

Submarine *Tinosa* (SS-283) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Toyohi Maru* west of Bashi Channel between Formosa and Luzon, 20°51'N, 118°02'E.

British submarine HMS *Tantalus* sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Amagi Maru* 40 miles south of Port Blair, 11°00'N, 92°00'E.

USAAF B-24s (14th Air Force) attack Japanese convoy southwest of Takao, Formosa, sinking cargo ship *Shingu Maru*, 22°05'N, 117°50'E

Atlantic

Destroyer escort *Donnell* (DE-56) is damaged by German submarine *U-765*, 450 miles southwest of Cape Clear, Ireland.

Mediterranean

As convoy GUS 38 heads west toward the Straits of Gibraltar, German submarine *U-371* closes in; destroyer escort *Menges* (DE-320) locates the enemy but is torpedoed and damaged by her quarry off Bougie, Algeria. Consequently, destroyer escorts *Pride* (DE-323) and *Joseph E. Campbell* (DE-70) hunt for *U-371*, joined by British destroyer HMS *Blankney*, French destroyer *L'Alycon* and destroyer escort *Senegalais*, and minesweeper *Sustain* (AM-119). *U-371*, however, escapes (see 4 May).

- **4 May, Thu. --**

Pacific

Naval Base and Naval Air Facility, Majuro, are established.

Submarines *Bang* (SS-385), *Parche* (SS-384) and *Tinosa* (SS-283) attack Japanese convoy of merchant cargo ships in Luzon Strait. *Bang* sinks *Kinrei Maru*, 20°58'N, 117°59'E; *Parche* sinks *Shoryu Maru* and *Taiyoku Maru*, 20°48'N, 118°03'E, and *Tinosa* sinks *Taibu Maru* and *Toyohi Maru*, 20°55'N, 118°12'E.

Submarine *Pargo* (SS-264) sinks Japanese auxiliary netlayer *Eiry_ Maru* east of Mindanao, 07°14'N, 129°12'E.

Submarine *Tuna* (SS-203) sinks Japanese guardboat *Tajima Maru* north of Wake Island, 22°06'N, 166°47'E.

At Truk, Japanese guardboat *Sapporo Maru* is sunk by aircraft; gunboat *No.2 Hino Maru* sinks as the result of damage inflicted by TF 58 planes on 30 April.

Japanese merchant vessel *Akira Maru* is sunk by gunfire, 00°53'S, 134°55'E.

Japanese convoy No.3503 (ten Marus and six escort vessels) leaves Tateyama, bound for the Marshalls (see 10-20 May 1944).

Mediterranean

While convoy GUS 38 continues on its way, destroyer escorts *Joseph E. Campbell* (DE-70) and *Pride* (DE-323), French destroyer escort *Senegalais*, and British destroyer HMS *Blankney* continue the hunt for German submarine *U-371* in the western Mediterranean. *Senegalais* attacks the U-boat, 37°49'N, 05°39'E, which is scuttled by her crew and abandoned, but not before *U-371* has torpedoed and damaged *Senegalais*.

- **5 May, Fri. --**

Pacific

Appointment of Admiral Toyoda Soemu as Commander in Chief of the Combined Fleet is announced.

U.S. motor torpedo boats blockading the southeastern coast of Bougainville encounter five or more heavily armed Japanese barges. In the ensuing action, the barges and enemy shore batteries on Rantan and Bougainville catch the three PTs in a cross fire, sinking *PT-247*, 06°38'S, 156°01'E.

Submarine *Pogy* (SS-266) attacks Japanese convoy, sinks transport *Shirane Maru* off Shionomisaki, Honshu, 33°27'N, 135°32'E.

Mediterranean

During convoy GUS 38's continued passage westward, destroyer escort *Laning* (DE-159) locates German submarine *U-967*, but the U-boat torpedoes and sinks destroyer escort *Fechteler* (DE-157) 120 miles northwest of Oran, Algeria, 36°07'N, 02°40'W.

- **6 May, Sat. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Crevalle* (SS-291) attacks Japanese convoy off northern Borneo, sinking fleet tanker *Nisshin Maru* about 40 miles west of Kalutan Island, 07°19'N, 116°52'E.

Submarine *Gurnard* (SS-254) encounters Japanese TAKE No.1 convoy in the Celebes Sea, sinking Manokwari-bound troop-carrying army cargo ships *Aden Maru*, *Amatsuzan Maru* and *Tajima Maru*, 02°42'N, 124°07'E.

Submarine *Spearfish* (SS-190) attacks Japanese shipping in East China Sea west of Kyushu, and sinks merchant cargo ship *Toyoura Maru* and damages supply ship *Mamiya*, 32°16'N, 127°08'E.

Atlantic

Destroyer escort *Buckley* (DE-51) is damaged when she intentionally rams German submarine *U-66*, which has been damaged by aircraft (VC 55) from escort carrier *Block Island* (CVE-21), about 390 miles west of the Cape Verdes. The battle echoes close-quarters fights of the age of sail, as *Buckley's* sailors employ small arms, hand grenades, fists and even coffee mugs. *U-66* sinks as the result of the multi-faceted pounding she has taken in mid-Atlantic, 17°17'N, 32°29'W.

- **7 May, Sun. --**

Pacific

Submarines *Bonefish* (SS-223) and *Flasher* (SS-249) damage Japanese army cargo ship *Aobasan Maru* in Sulu Sea off Zamboanga, 07°07'N, 121°50'E.

Submarine *Burrfish* (SS-312) sinks German oiler *Rossbach*, bound for Balikpapan, south of Murotosaki, Japan, 33°15'N, 134°11'E.

Japanese TAKE No.1 convoy reaches Bangka Island, Celebes, where it will pause before continuing on toward Halmahera, while efforts continue to rescue survivors of the three ships (army cargo ships *Aden Maru*, *Amatsuzan Maru* and *Tajima Maru*) sunk by *Gurnard* (SS-254) the day before.

- **8 May, Mon. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Hoe* (SS-258) damages Japanese escort vessel *Sado* and army tanker *Akane Maru* in South China Sea west of Luzon Strait, 19°22'N, 120°13'E.

Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) attacks Japanese convoy in Tsugaru Strait, sinking army cargo ship *Miyazaki Maru* off Ominato, northern Honshu, 41°52'N, 141°12'E.

- **9 May, Tue. --**

Mediterranean

Submarine chaser *PC-558* is sunk by German submarine *U-230*, 28 miles northeast by north of Palermo, Sicily.

Japanese TAKE No.1 convoy reaches Wasile Bay, Halmahera, having lost four of its original nine Marus during its passage to its destination.

- **10 May, Wed. --**

Pacific

Naval Base, Eniwetok, Marshalls, is established.

Motor torpedo boat *PT-79* is damaged in collision, Cold Bay.

Submarine *Cod* (SS-224) attacks large Japanese convoy off west coast of Luzon, sinking destroyer *Karukaya* and transport *Shohei Maru* about 150 miles northwest of Manila, 15°38'N, 119°32'E.

Submarine *Silversides* (SS-236) attacks Japanese convoy about 120 miles south-southwest of Guam, sinking auxiliary cable ship *Okinawa Maru*, gunboat *No.2 Choan Maru*, and collier *No.18 Mikage Maru*, 11°26'N, 143°46'E, and forces it to return whence it comes. *Silversides* survives depth-charging by one or more of the following ships: escort vessel *Momi*, submarine chaser *Ch 30*, auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 66* and auxiliary minelayer *Wa 5*.

Submarine *Tambor* (SS-198) encounters Japanese convoy 3503 (see 4 May 1944), and torpedoes aircraft transport *Keiyo Maru* about 420 miles northwest of Saipan, 19°26'N, 140°19'E.

Mediterranean

Off Anzio, submarine chaser *PC-556* is damaged by bomb; destroyers *Charles F. Hughes* (DD-428) and *Hilary P. Jones* (DD-427) bombard German supply dumps.

- **11 May, Thu. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Crevalle* (SS-291) evacuates 28 women and children from Negros, P.I.

Submarine *Rasher* (SS-269) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking auxiliary vessel *Choi Maru* in the Molucca Sea northwest of Boeroe Island, 03°30'S, 126°06'E.

Submarine *Sand Lance* (SS-381) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking transport *Mitakesan Maru* off Tinian, 14°57'N, 145°15'E.

Submarine *Sturgeon* (SS-187) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking army cargo ship *Seiryu Maru* about 140 miles north of Chichi Jima, 29°41'N, 141°35'E.

Europe

Naval Advanced Amphibious Base, Southampton, England, is established.

Atlantic

Covered lighter *YF-415* is destroyed by explosion of undetermined origin in North Atlantic off east coast of the United States, 42°24'N, 70°36'W.

- **12 May, Fri. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking merchant collier *No.2 Banei Maru* off northeast Honshu, 40°01'N, 141°58'E.

Japanese transport *Kasumi Maru* is sunk by mine (probably Japanese) in Straits of Malacca, 03°50'N, 99°30'E.

Japanese river gunboat *Saga* is damaged by aircraft, South China Sea.

- **13 May, Sat. --**

Pacific

F4Us, F6Fs, and SBDs, and USAAF B-24s and B-25s bomb Japanese installations at Jaluit; attacks will continue on 14 May.

Submarine *Pogy* (SS-266) sinks Japanese cargo ship *Anb_Maru* off Suruga Bay, Honshu, 34°31'N, 138°33'E.

Japanese landing ships *T.128* and *T.150* are damaged by mines, Palau.

Atlantic

Destroyer escort *Francis M. Robinson* (DE-220) sinks Japanese submarine *RO-501* (ex-German *U-1224*), en route to Japan on her maiden voyage, 400 miles south- southwest of the Azores, 18°08'N, 33°13'W.

- **14 May, Sun. --**

Pacific

Submarines *Aspro* (SS-309) and *Bowfin* (SS-287) attack Japanese convoy, and sink cargo ship *Bisan Maru* about 90 miles northwest of Palau, 08°55'N, 133°42'E.

Submarine *Bonefish* (SS-223) attacks Japanese convoy bound for the Sibitu Passage, sinking destroyer *Inazuma* near Tawi Tawi, east of Borneo, 05°03'N, 119°36'E, and evades counterattacks by what is most likely destroyer *Hibiki*. Ironically, *Bonefish* had aimed her initial torpedo at a tanker (*Nichiei Maru*, *Azusa Maru*, or *Tatekawa Maru*) but ended up hitting *Inazuma* instead.

Submarine *Crevalle* (SS-291), en route to her base, is damaged by depth charges off northern Celebes, 00°57'N, 125°51'E.

Submarine *Sand Lance* (SS-381) encounters that portion of convoy 3503 that had been detached to proceed to Guam, and sinks army cargo ship *K_ho Maru* southwest of Apra harbor, 13°43'N, 144°42'E. *Sand Lance* survives resultant depth-charging from one or more of the escorts: escort vessel *Oki*, torpedo boat *Otori*, and auxiliary submarine chaser *No.8 Shonan Maru*.

Mediterranean

German submarine *U-616* attacks convoy GUS 39 off Cape Tenes, Morocco, prompting a search by Oran-based U.S. destroyers (see 17 May 1944) (Captain Adelbert F. Converse).

- **15 May, Mon. --**

Pacific

Naval Air Bases, Ebeye and Roi-Namur, Kwajalein Atoll, Marshalls, are established.

During amphibious training exercises in the Hawaiian Operating Area, heavy seas break the moorings of three LCTs carried as deck cargo on board three tank landing craft. *LCT-988* sinks, 20°00'N, 157°00'W; *LCT-984* founders and is scuttled by submarine chaser *PC-1079*; *LCT-999* is salvaged.

Submarine *Aspro* (SS-309) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking transport *Jokuja Maru* about 175 miles northwest of Palau, 10°10'N, 131°48'E.

Japanese destroyer *Shiratsuyu* is sunk in collision with *Seiyo Maru* west of Mindanao, 09°09'N, 126°51'E.

Mediterranean

PBY-5s (VP 63) and British escort vessels HMS *Kilmarnock* and HMS *Blackfly* sink German submarine *U-731*, western Mediterranean, 35°54'N, 05°45'W.

- **16 May, Tue. --**

Pacific

During exercises, battleship *Colorado* (BB-45) is damaged when she accidentally runs aground on a pinnacle off Kahoolawe, T.H.

Destroyers *Franks* (DD-554), *Haggard* (DD-555), and *Johnston* (DD-557) sink Japanese submarine *I-176*, 150 miles north of Cape Alexander, Solomons, 04°01'S, 156°29'E. *Haggard* suffers slight damage from exploding depth charges. The sinking of *I-176* prompts the Japanese to shift the position of a cordon of submarines (the NA line) in the New Guinea-Carolines area; much radio traffic accompanies the move (see 19 May 1944).

Japanese minelayer *Aotaka* is damaged by mine, Kaeo Bay.

Atlantic

Non-rigid airship K 5 is destroyed in crash into number one hangar, Lakehurst, New Jersey.

- **17 May, Wed. --**

Pacific

TF 77 (Rear Admiral William M. Fechteler) lands Army 163d Regimental Combat Team (Reinforced) in Wakde-Toem area, New Guinea, preceded by cruiser and destroyer bombardment (Rear Admiral Russell S. Berkey, Captain Albert G. Noble) in **Operation STRAIGHTLINE**.

In an operation timed to coincide with the Wakde landings, planes from an Allied task force (Admiral James F. Somerville, RN) that includes carrier *Saratoga* (CV-3) and British carrier HMS *Illustrious* bomb Japanese shipping and harbor installations at Surabaya, Java, in Operation TRANSOM. British planes sink transport *Shinrei Maru*; *Saratoga's* damage *Patrol Boat No.36*, auxiliary submarine chasers *Cha 107* and *Cha 108*, cargo ships *Ch_ka Maru* and *Tencho Maru*, and tanker *Y_sei Maru*.

Destroyers *Frazier* (DD-607) and *Meade* (DD-602) bombard Japanese defenses on Eniben Island, Maloelap Atoll, Marshalls.

Submarines *Sand Lance* (SS-381) and *Tunny* (SS-282) attack convoy 3503, the four Marus carrying Japanese soldiers earmarked for service at Yap and Palau, and the three escorts. *Sand Lance* torpedoes and sinks transport *Taikoku Maru* about 60 miles west of Saipan, 14°57'N, 144°47'E; *Tunny* torpedoes and sinks army cargo ship *Nichiwa Maru* west of the Marianas, 14°49'N, 142°39'E. *Sand Lance* torpedoes army cargo ship *Fukko Maru*, 14°49'N, 142°23'E when she stops to pick up *Nichiwa Maru's* survivors. Although destroyer *Minazuki* and submarine chasers *Ch 31* and *Ch 32* claim the destruction of *Sand Lance* and *Tunny*, both boats survive enemy depth-chargings.

USAAF P-38s, P-39s and P-40s carry out sweeps for targets in the Bismarck Archipelago; these operations may account for the sinking of Japanese guardboat *Zuiho Maru* off Duke of York Isle, 04°12'S, 152°20'E.

Mediterranean

Destroyers *Gleaves* (DD-423), *Hilary P. Jones* (DD-427), *Ellyson* (DD-454), *Hambleton* (DD-455), *Rodman* (DD-456), *Emmons* (DD-457), *Macomb* (DD-458), *Nields* (DD-616), and RAF Wellington (No. 36 Squadron) sink German submarine *U-616* in western Mediterranean, 37°52'N, 00°11'E. *U-960* attacks *Ellyson* without success (see 19 May 1944).

- **18 May, Thu. --**

Pacific

Naval base and Naval Air Station, Manus Island, Admiralty Islands, are established.

Submarine *Puffer* (SS-268) attacks Japanese convoy in Java Sea, sinking army cargo ship *Shinryu Maru* about 40 miles east-southeast of Surabaya, 07°33'S, 113°16'E.

Japanese merchant tanker *Nichiyoku Maru* is sunk by mine (laid by British submarine HMS *Tally Ho* on 14 May), 03°41'N, 99°04'E.

Japanese army cargo ship *Fukko Maru* sinks as the result of damage inflicted by submarine *Sand Lance* (SS-381) the previous day.

USAAF B-25s damage Japanese cargo ship *No.3 Shinnan Maru*.

- **19 May, Fri. --** James V. Forrestal of New York, Under Secretary of the Navy since 1940, becomes Secretary of the Navy.

Pacific

Aircraft from TG 58.6 (Rear Admiral Alfred E. Montgomery) bomb Marcus Island; attacks continue on 20 May.

Japanese radio traffic intercepted by U.S. Navy intelligence allows deductions to be made as to where the new submarine cordon established to intercept American carriers (see 16 May 1944) will be; consequently, destroyer escort *England* (DE-635) sinks Japanese submarine *I-16*, on a resupply run to Buka, 140 miles northeast of Cape Alexander, Solomon Islands, 05°10'S, 158°10'E. *I-16* is the first of five Japanese submarines that *England* will sink in a week's time as U.S. antisubmarine forces work their way down the NA line (see 22, 23, 24, 26, and 31 May 1944).

Submarine *Skate* (SS-305) sinks Japanese guardboat *Meisho Maru* off Ogasawara-Gunto, 28°56'N, 141°38'E.

USAAF B-24s (14th Air Force) on antishipping sweep of the South China Sea bomb Japanese convoy no.87, but only succeed in inflicting minor damage upon cargo ship *Yamadori Maru* (see 20 May 1944 et.seq.).

Mediterranean

Light cruiser *Brooklyn* (CL-40) shells German supply dumps at Terracina, Sperlonga, and Ganta, Italy.

Motor torpedo boat *PT-204* is mistakenly torpedoed and damaged by *PT-304* off Vada Rocks, Corsica.

Destroyers *Niblack* (DD-424) and *Ludlow* (DD-438) and British aircraft sink German submarine *U-960*, western Mediterranean, 37°20'N, 01°35'E.

- **20 May, Sat. --**

Pacific

TG 53.18 (three light cruisers and eight destroyers) bombards Japanese shore installations on Alu, Poporang, and Morgusia Islands, Shortlands. Enemy return fire damages light cruiser *Montpelier* (CL-57) and straddles light cruiser *Cleveland* (CL-55)

Submarine *Angler* (SS-240) sinks Japanese transport *_tori Maru* (ex-Panamanian *Boyaca*), 05°57'N, 105°12'E, and survives depth-charging by escort ship.

Submarine *Bluegill* (SS-242) despite presence of two escort vessels, sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Miyaura Maru* in the narrow passage between Halmahera and Morotai, 02°14'N, 128°05'E.

Submarine *Picuda* (SS-382) is damaged by depth charges, Luzon Strait, 19°00'N, 120°45'E, but remains on patrol.

Submarine *Silversides* (SS-236) sinks Japanese gunboat *Shosei Maru* off Saipan, 13°32'N, 144°36'E.

Planes from small carrier *San Jacinto* (CVL-30) sink guardboat *Yawata Maru* 150 miles north of Marcus Island, 31°22'N, 154°59'E.

USAAF B-24s (14th Air Force) bomb Takao-bound Japanese convoy no. 88 in South China Sea south of Hong Kong, sinking army cargo ship *Shinju Maru*, 21°20'N, 117°10'E, and damaging *Tsukuba Maru* and *Kori Maru*. Gunboat *Hashidate* takes the crippled *Tsukuba Maru* in tow; *Kori Maru* reaches Takao unaided. Salvage vessel (ex-Chinese) *Sonjo Maru* is dispatched to aid *Hashidate* (see 22 May 1944).

Other USAAF B-24s (14th Air Force) attack Japanese warships sent to aid convoy no. 87, attacked the previous day, damaging auxiliary submarine chaser *Kinsui Maru* in the South China Sea, 22°00'N, 118°25'E,

- **21 May, Sun. --**

Pacific

In a reprise of the type of raid conducted on Jaluit on 13-14 May, Navy F4Us and PV-1s and USAAF B-24s and B-25s bomb Japanese positions on Wotje atoll. Navy PB2Ys had harassed the atoll the previous night.

Accidental explosion occurs in tank landing ship *LST-353* as she is being loaded with mortar ammunition at West Loch, Pearl Harbor. The cataclysmic blasts result in the loss of *LST-39*, *LST-43*, *LST-69*, *LST-179*, *LST-353*, and *LST-480*; tank landing craft *LCT-961*, *LCT-963*, and *LCT-983*; 17 tracked landing vehicles (LVT); and eight 155-millimeter guns. *LST-205* and *LST-225* are damaged. During firefighting efforts, big harbor tugs *Osceola* (YTB-129) and *Hoga* (YTB-146); medium harbor tug *Geronimo* (YTM-119); little harbor tugs *YTL-233*, *YTL-306*, *YTL-307*, *YTL-308*, *YTL-309*, and *YTL-339*; net tender (tug class)

Tamaha (YTM-12); and Navy-chartered tug *Mikioi* suffer varying degrees of damage.

Oiler *Neches* (AO-47) is damaged by mine about 630 miles west of Los Angeles.

Submarine *Billfish* (SS-286) damages Japanese cargo ship *Bokuy_Maru* west-southwest of the Marianas, 13°42'N, 140°41'E; *Coast Defense Vessel No.12* counterattacks unsuccessfully.

Submarine *Cero* (SS-225) attacks, unsuccessfully, Japanese convoy, and survives enemy antisubmarine efforts conducted by *Anshu Maru, No.5 Takunan Maru*, and *No.17 Shonan Maru*, 05°15'N, 128°55'E.

Submarine *Narwhal* (SS-167) attacks, unsuccessfully, 12- ship Japanese convoy en route from Cebu to Wasile, 08°15'N, 127°15'E.

- **22 May, Mon. --**

- Pacific

- Destroyers *Bancroft* (DD-598) and *Edwards* (DD-619) bombard installations at Wotje Atoll, Marshalls.

- Destroyer escort *England* sinks Japanese submarine *RO-106*, 250 miles north of Kavieng, New Ireland, 01°40'N, 150°31'E.

- Submarine *Bluegill* (SS-242) is damaged by aerial bombs off Halmahera, 04°00'N, 128°06'E, but remains on patrol.

- Submarine *Picuda* (SS-382), patrolling the South China Sea, comes across Japanese gunboat *Hashidate* towing crippled merchant passenger/cargo ship *Tsukuba Maru* [the latter had been damaged by USAAF B-24s (14th Air Force) on 20 May 1944], accompanied by salvage vessel *Sonju Maru*. *Picuda* sinks *Hashidate* and *Tsukuba Maru* off Pratas Island, 21°08'N, 117°20'E; *Sonju Maru* flees in haste and reaches Hong Kong without further incident.

- Submarine *Pollack* (SS-180) attacks Japanese convoy, and sinks destroyer *Asanagi*, 180 miles west-northwest of Chichi Jima, Bonins, 28°19'N, 138°54'E.

- Submarine *Ray* (SS-271) attacks same Japanese convoy sought by *Cero* (SS-225) the day before, and sinks army cargo ship *Tempei Maru* off south coast of Mindanao, 05°42'N, 127°37'E.

- British submarine HMS *Sea Rover* sinks Japanese gunboat *Koshu Maru* off southern entrance to Penang harbor, Malaya, in Strait of Malacca, 04°52'N, 100°18'E.

- **23 May, Tue. --**

- Pacific

- TG 58.3 (Rear Admiral Alfred E. Montgomery) planes bomb Japanese installations on Wake Island.

- Destroyer escort *England* sinks Japanese submarine *RO-104*, 250 miles north-northwest of Kavieng, 01°26'N, 149°20'E.

- Submarine *Cero* (SS-225) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Taijun Maru* and teams with *Ray* (SS-271) to torpedo and damage army tanker *Kenwa Maru* off Halmahera Island, 02°42'N, 128°08'E.

Submarine *Raton* (SS-270) sinks Japanese merchant vessel *Koshin Maru* west of Borneo, 00°25'S, 107°34'E.

PB4Y damages Japanese cargo vessel *Hakko Maru* near Helen Reef, 00°25'S, 107°34'E.

Mediterranean

Light cruiser *Brooklyn* (CL-40) and destroyers *Kearny* (DD-432) and *Ericsson* (DD-440) shell enemy positions in vicinity of Ardea, Italy, with good results. The three ships repeat bombardment of troop concentrations and supply dumps on 24 and 26 May with equal success.

Light cruiser *Philadelphia* (CL-41) and destroyer *Laub* (DD-613) are damaged in collision 20 miles southwest of Nettuno, Italy, 41°11'N, 12°30'E.

Submarine chaser *PC-626* captures German speedboat off Anzio and takes crew prisoner.

- **24 May, Wed. --**

Pacific

Operations against the Japanese NA line continue; destroyer escort *England* (DE-635) sinks submarine *RO-116*, 225 miles north-northwest of Kavieng, 00°53'N, 149°14'E.

Submarine *Flying Fish* (SS-229) is damaged by premature explosion of own torpedo, Philippine Sea, 12°54'N, 134°52'E, but remains on patrol.

Submarine *Gurnard* (SS-254), in attack on Japanese convoy in the Celebes Sea, sinks fleet tanker *Tatekawa Maru* just off the coast of Mindanao, 05°45'N, 125°43'E.

Submarine *Lapon* (SS-260), in South China Sea, sinks Japanese cargo ship *Bizen Maru* 07°20'N, 109°20'E and merchant cargo ship *Wales Maru* 07°16'N, 109°04'E.

Submarine *Narwhal* (SS-167) lands men and supplies on Samar, P.I.

Submarine *Perch* (SS-313) attacks Japanese convoy no. 88 in South China Sea, 22°15'N, 118°05'E, but without success. It is the convoy's last adventure with U.S. forces.

Submarine *Raton* (SS-270) attacks Japanese convoy about 220 miles east of Singapore and 150 miles west of Sarawak, sinking escort vessel *Iki* and damaging escort vessel *Matsuwa*, 01°17'N, 107°53'E.

Japanese transport *Taichi Maru* is sunk in collision near Chinhai, China, 30°00'N, 116°48'E.

Mediterranean

U.S. motor torpedo boats *PT-202*, *PT-213* and *PT-218* (Lieutenant Commander Robert A. Allan, RNVR) sink German corvette *UJ.2223* (ex-Italian Navy corvette *Maragone*) and damage corvette *UJ.2222* (ex-Italian Navy corvette *Tuffeto*) off Vada Rocks.

- **25 May, Thu. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Flying Fish* (SS-229) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking guardboat

Dait_Maru and merchant cargo ship *_saka Maru* north of Palau, 11°14'N, 135°12'E.

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Kendrick* (DD-612) shells German positions in the Ardea, Italy, area; enemy shore battery fire improved but inflicts no damage.

- **26 May, Fri. --**

Pacific

Destroyers (TG 57.8) bombard Japanese shore batteries and installations on Mille Atoll, Marshalls.

Operations against NA line continue; destroyer escort *England* sinks Japanese submarine *RO-108* 110 miles northeast of Manus, 00°32'S, 148°35'E.

Submarine *Cabrilla* (SS-288) sinks Japanese transport (ex-seaplane carrier) *Sany_Maru* about 80 miles north of Menado, Celebes, 02°40'N, 124°35'E.

Submarine *Permit* (SS-178) torpedoes and damages Japanese submarine *I-44* west-southwest of Truk, 07°05'N, 152°00'E.

Submarine *Tambor* (SS-198) sinks Japanese stores ship *Chiy_Maru* west of the Marianas, 20°40'N, 141°50'E.

- **27 May, Sat. --**

Pacific

TF 77 (Rear Admiral William M. Fechteler) lands U.S. Army 41st Division (Major General Horace H. Fuller, USA) on Biak in the Schouten Islands off New Guinea, in **Operation HORLICKS**. Heavy and light cruisers and destroyers of TG 77.2 (Rear Admiral Victor A.C. Crutchley, RN) and TG 77.3 (Rear Admiral Russell S. Berkey) provide gunfire support.

Motor torpedo boat *PT-339*, damaged by grounding off Pur Pur, western New Guinea, 04°01'S, 144°41'E, is scuttled by her crew to prevent capture.

Submarine chaser *SC-699* is damaged by crashing Japanese plane off western New Guinea, 01°12'S, 136°13'E.

British submarine HMS *Templar* sinks Japanese cargo ship *Tyokai Maru* in Strait of Malacca.

Mediterranean

U.S. motor torpedo boats attack three German F-lighters in vicinity of Vada Rocks, sinking two and damaging one; PTs also attack an enemy motor vessel.

- **28 May, Sun. --**

Pacific

Destroyer *Stockton* (DD-646) is damaged by shore battery, Biak Island, Schouten Islands, New Guinea, 01°00'S, 136°00'E.

PV-1 (VB 148) accidentally bombs submarine *Permit* (SS-178) off Truk, 06°45'N, 151°52'E, but the damage sustained by *Permit* does not prevent her from continuing her war patrol.

Mediterranean

U.S. motor torpedo boats sink German corvette *UJ.2210* in Ligurian Sea.

- **29 May, Mon. --**

Pacific

Destroyers (Destroyer Squadron 41) bombard Japanese installations on northern coast of New Ireland, shelling the Medina Plantation area.

Submarine *Rasher* (SS-269) attacks Japanese convoy in the eastern Celebes Sea, damaging gunboat *Anshu Maru* about 110 miles north-northwest of Halmahera, 03°32'N, 127°07'E (see 30 May 1944).

Submarine *Silversides* (SS-236), despite the proximity of four escort vessels and aircraft, sinks Japanese transports *H_raisan Maru* and *Sh_ken Maru* about 100 miles north-northwest of Saipan, 16°23'N, 144°59'E.

Japanese convoy no. 3530 sails from Yokohama, bound for Saipan. The seven transports/cargo ships carry men and equipment of the Japanese Army's 118th Infantry (see 4- 7 June 1944).

Atlantic

German submarine *U-549* sinks escort carrier *Block Island* (CVE-21) and damages destroyer escort *Barr* (DE-576) but is sunk by destroyer escorts *Ahrens* (DE-575) and *Eugene E. Elmore* (DE-686) northwest of Canary Islands, 31°13'N, 23°03'W.

- **30 May, Tue. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Guitarro* (SS-363), despite proximity of at least three escort vessels, sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Shisen Maru* 60 miles southeast of Keelung, Formosa, 24°32'N, 123°24'E.

Submarine *Pompon* (SS-267) sinks Japanese merchant passenger/cargo ship *Shiga Maru* off Murotosaki, Japan, 33°15'N, 134°11'E.

Submarine *Rasher* (SS-269) continues attack on Japanese convoy in the eastern Celebes Sea, sinking gunboat *Anshu Maru* about 110 miles north-northwest of Halmahera, 03°40'N, 126°58'E.

USAAF B-25s (11th Air Force) sink Japanese guardboat *Shinyo Maru* northeast of Paramushiro, Kurils, and damage guardboat *No.3 Sh_wa Maru* east of the Kurils.

USAAF B-25s damage Japanese cargo vessel *Nansei Maru* west of Manokwari.

- **31 May, Wed. --**

Pacific

Operations against the Japanese NA line continue: destroyer escort *England* (DE-635), assisted by destroyers *McCord* (DD-534) and *Hazelwood* (DD-531) and destroyer escorts *George* (DE-697), *Raby* (DE-698), and *Spangler* (DE-696), sink submarine *RO-105* 200 miles north-northwest of Kavieng, 00°47'N, 151°30'E.

Submarines *Barb* (SS-220) and *Herring* (SS-233) rendezvous in Sea of Okhotsk about 150 miles west of Matsuwa Island, Kurils, to plan operations against Japanese shipping in the vicinity. Subsequently, *Herring* attacks convoy NE, sinking escort vessel *Ishigaki* and army cargo ship *Hokuyo Maru* west of Matsuwa Island, 48°00'N, 153°00'E' (see 1 June 1944); *Barb* comes across

convoy NE and sinks army cargo ship *Madras Maru*, 48°21'N, 151°20'E, and transport *K_t_Maru* southwest of Paramushiro, 47°55'N, 151°42'E.

Japanese river gunboat *Kotaka* is sunk by Chinese aircraft in the Yangtze River.

June

- **1 June, Thu. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Narwhal* (SS-167) lands men and supplies on southwest coast of Mindanao.

Submarine *Herring* (SS-233) continues attacks against Japanese shipping in the Kurils, sinking transport *Iwaki Maru* [the lone surviving ship of convoy NE attacked the previous day by *Herring* and *Barb* (SS-220)] and merchant cargo ship *Hiburi Maru* off Matsuwa Island, 48°00'N, 153°00'E, but is sunk by shore battery (Guards Division 52, Matsuwa Detachment).

Submarine *Pintado* (SS-387) sinks Japanese transport *T_h_Maru* about 250 miles northwest of Saipan, 18°08'N, 141°14'E, and damages transport *Kinshu Maru* (see 17 June 1944).

Big harbor tug *Shahaka* (YTB-368) sinks after collision with Section "A" of advance base section dock ABSD-2, about midway between the coast of California and the Hawaiian Islands, 27°21'N, 136°29'W.

Mediterranean

Destroyers *Champlin* (DD-601) and *MacKenzie* (DD-614) shell German strongpoints and shore batteries in the vicinity of Anzio; *Champlin* and *Parker* (DD-604) will alternate covering minesweeping operations west of Anzio and will also do so on 2 and 4 June.

- **2 June, Fri. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Guitarro* (SS-363), in attack on two Japanese warships carrying out an antisubmarine sweep east of Formosa, torpedoes escort vessel *Awaji* near Yasho Island, 22°34'N, 121°51'E.

Submarine *Picuda* (SS-382) attacks Japanese Moji-to-Singapore convoy, sinking escort vessel *Awaji*, 22°48'N, 121°24'E. As the convoy takes evasive action, however, cargo vessel *Arimasan Maru* accidentally rams *Shinshu Maru's* stern, setting off depth charges stowed there and damaging *Shinshu Maru*.

Submarine *Shark* (SS-314) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking transport *No.2 Chiyo Maru* about 600 miles northwest of Saipan, 21°00'N, 140°20'E.

Mediterranean

Destroyer *MacKenzie* (DD-614) shells German guns in the Partecica de Mari area, near Anzio.

- **3 June, Sat. --**

Pacific

Destroyer *Reid* (DD-369) is damaged by dive bomber off western New Guinea, 01°13'S, 136°13'E.

In operations against Japanese shipping off New Guinea, a PBY (VPB 52) damages torpedo boat *Kiji* 23 miles northwest of Manokwari, 00°40'S, 134°00'E; USAAF A-20s sink fishing boat *No.96 Banshu Maru* west of Manokwari.

- **4, Sun. --**

Pacific

Japanese horizontal bombers attack Allied cruiser and destroyer forces TF 74 and TF 75 (Rear Admiral Victor A.C. Crutchley, RN) off Biak, New Guinea, damaging light cruisers *Nashville* (CL-43), 01°05'S, 136°05'E, and *Phoenix* (CL-46), 01°00'S, 136°00'E.

Submarine *Flier* (SS-250) sinks Japanese troopship *Hakusan Maru* about 375 miles southwest of Chichi Jima, Bonins, 22°45'N, 136°50'E.

Submarine *Golet* (SS-361) sinks Japanese guardboat *No.10 Shinko Maru* east of Japan, 35°47'N, 154°54'E.

Coordinated submarine attack group, TG 17.12, makes contact with Japanese convoy 3530 (see 29 May). Two of the group's three boats, *Shark* (SS-314) and *Pintado* (SS-387), will obtain favorable attack positions; the third, *Pilotfish* (SS-386), will not. *Shark* sinks army transport *Katsukawa Maru* about 475 miles northwest of Saipan, 19°45'N, 138°15'E (see 5 June).

USAAF B-24s sink Japanese landing ship *T.128*, 110 miles northeast of Morotai, 04°09'N, 129°45'E.

USAAF A-20s bomb Manokwari, New Guinea, and Japanese shipping in Geelvink Bay, sinking auxiliary submarine chaser *No.2 Hakusan Maru* and guardboats *Shimane Maru*, *No.3 Tokyo Maru*, and *Gongen Maru*.

Atlantic

TG 22.3 (Captain Daniel V. Gallery), a hunter-killer group comprising escort carrier *Guadalcanal* (CVE-60) and destroyer escorts *Pillsbury* (DE-133), *Pope* (DE-134), *Flaherty* (DE-135), *Chatelain* (DE-149), and *Jenks* (DE-665), forces German submarine *U-505* to the surface 150 miles off the coast of Rio de Oro, Africa. Lieutenant (j.g.) Albert L. David leads a boarding party from *Pillsbury* (which is damaged in collision with the out-of-control U-boat during salvage operations) that saves the ship despite the dangers posed by scuttling charges. He later assists more well-equipped salvage parties that make the captured U-boat seaworthy for the tow to Trinidad. For his "gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty," David is awarded the Medal of Honor.

- **5 June, Mon. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Nautilus* (SS-168) lands supplies at Tucuran, Mindanao.

Submarine *Puffer* (SS-268) attacks Japanese convoy in the Sulu Sea and sinks underway replenishment vessel *Ashizuri* and oiler *Takasaki* and damages tanker *No.2 Hishi Maru*, northeast of Borneo, 06°44'N, 120°54'E.

TG 17.12's operations against Japanese convoy 3530 continue as submarine *Shark* (SS-314) sinks transport *Tamahime Maru* and army transport *Takaoka Maru* west of the Marianas, 17°37'N, 140°32'E.

Atlantic

Off Normandy, France, mines sink minesweeper *Osprey* (AM-56), 50°12'N, 01°20'W, and damage tank landing ship *LST-981*, 50°45'N, 00°43'E.

- **6 June, Tue. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Harder* (SS-257) attacks Japanese convoy in the Celebes Sea, and sinks destroyer *Minazuki* 120 miles east-northeast of Tarakan, Borneo, 04°05'N, 119°30'E; counterattacks by destroyer *Wakatsuki* prove unsuccessful.

TG 17.12's operations against Japanese convoy 3530 come to a close as submarine *Pintado* (SS-387) sinks cargo ship *Kashimasan Maru* and army transport *Havre Maru* west-northwest of the Marianas, 16°28'N, 142°16'E.

Submarine *Raton* (SS-270) attacks Japanese convoy, and sinks *Coast Defense Vessel No.15* about 160 miles off Cape St. Jacques, French Indochina, 08°57'N, 109°17'E. *Raton* is damaged by depth charges, but remains on patrol.

USAAF A-20s attack Japanese shipping off Manokwari, sinking motor sailships *No.1 Asahi Maru*, *No.1 Kasuga Maru*, and *No.5 Taifuku Maru*.

Japanese minelayer *Yurishima* is damaged by aircraft southeast of Woleai, 07°46'N, 147°30'E.

Atlantic

Allied Expeditionary Force under the supreme command of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, USA, invades Western Europe in **Operation OVERLORD**.

Landings are made on the beaches of Normandy, France, following preinvasion minesweeping and bombardment by Allied warships, and under cover of Allied aircraft and naval gunfire. The invasion fleet of thousands of warships, merchantmen, and landing craft under the command of Admiral Sir Bertram H. Ramsay, RN, is divided into a Western (American) Task Force and an Eastern (British) Task Force. The Western Task Force, commanded by Rear Admiral Alan G. Kirk and composed of two assault forces, "O" under command of Rear Admiral John L. Hall and "U" under command of Rear Admiral Donald P. Moon, lands the First U.S. Army commanded by Lieutenant General Omar N. Bradley, USA, on OMAHA and UTAH beaches, respectively. Naval gunfire support groups commanded by Rear Admiral Carlton F. Bryant prevent the Germans from moving up reinforcements and cover the Allied troops advancing inland. After the beachheads are established, the primary naval responsibility is the landing of men and supplies. The success of the Normandy landings virtually assures victory in the European theater.

Off Normandy, mines sink destroyer *Corry* (DD-463), 49°31'N, 01°11'W; submarine chaser *PC-1261*, 49°30'N, 01°10'W; tank landing craft *LCT-25*, *LCT-197*, *LCT-294*, *LCT-305*, *LCT-332*, *LCT-364*, *LCT-555*, *LCT-593*, *LCT-597*, *LCT-703*, and *LCT-777*; and infantry landing craft *LCI-85*, *LCI-91*, *LCI-92*, *LCI-232*, and *LCI-497*. *LCT-27* and *LCT-30* sink after running aground. *LCT-362* founders and sinks. *LCT-612* and *LCI-93* and *LCI-553* are sunk by shore batteries. Destroyer *Harding* (DD-625) sends armed whaleboat in to shore, landing small arms to help the 2d Ranger Battalion; the destroyermen relieve a number of soldiers as guards for German POWs, permitting the rangers to reinforce their comrades.

- **7 June, Wed. --**

Pacific

Naval Advanced Base, Hollandia, New Guinea, is established.

Submarine *Harder* (SS-257) sinks Japanese destroyer *Hayanami* as the latter patrols south of the Japanese Fleet anchorage at Tawi Tawi, southeast of Sibitu Passage, Borneo, 04°43'N, 120°03'E.

Submarine *Whale* (SS-239) damages Japanese transports *Shinroku Maru* and *Sugiyama Maru* north-northeast of the Bonins, 31°06'N, 142°34'E.

Remnants of Japanese convoy 3530 reach Saipan, but because of the work of *Shark* (SS-314) and *Pintado* (SS-387), the Imperial Army's 118th Regiment arrives at its destination at half-strength, its weapons and equipment at the bottom of the Pacific.

Atlantic

Construction of artificial harbors and sheltered anchorages ("Mulberries") from sunken blockships and concrete caissons begins off Normandy. Off the beachheads minesweeper *Tide* (AM-125) is sunk by a mine. As minesweeper *Pheasant* (AM-61) rescues *Tide's* survivors, she fouls the stricken minelayer and is damaged, 49°37'N, 01°05'W. Mines also sink transport *Susan B. Anthony* (AP-72), 49°33'N, 00°49'W, and tank landing craft *LCT-458* and *LCT-586*; motor torpedo boat *PT-505* is damaged by a mine, 49°30'N, 01°09'W, and destroyer *Harding* (DD-625) is damaged when she runs aground, 49°31'N, 00°50'W. U.S. freighter *Francis Harrington*, in OMAHA Beach-bound convoy EMB 2, is damaged by mine at 50°10'N, 00°40'W, but manages to discharge her cargo and disembark the troops she is bringing to the beachhead, although 6 of the 515 soldiers perish in the mining. There were no other casualties among the men on board, who include a 28-man Armed Guard.

- **8 June, Thu. --**

Pacific

USAAF B-25s (17th Reconnaissance Squadron), escorted by P-38s (475th Fighter Group), attack Japanese Biak-bound reinforcement convoy (seven destroyers, each towing a large landing barge), sinking *Harusame* 30 miles northwest of Manokwari, 00°05'S, 132°45'E, and damaging *Shiratsuyu* and *Shikinami*; three barges are lost. Later that same day, Allied surface forces, TF 74 and TF 75 (Rear Admiral Victor A.C. Crutchley, RN), including two U.S. light cruisers and accompanying destroyers, intercept the remaining six enemy ships and engage them; the battle continues into 9 June. Although *Hamakaze* claims damage to a U.S. cruiser none of the Allied ships are damaged; TF 74/TF 75 gunfire, however, damages *Shigure*, and Crutchley's force turns back the Japanese before they can accomplish their mission.

Submarine *Hake* (SS-256) sinks Japanese destroyer *Kazagumo* at mouth of Davao Gulf, about 20 miles southwest of Cape San Augustin, Mindanao, 06°04'N, 125°56'E.

Submarine *Harder* (SS-257) evacuates coast-watchers from northeast coast of North Borneo.

Submarine *Rasher* (SS-269) attacks Japanese convoy in the Celebes Sea, sinking underway replenishment vessel *Shioya* northwest of Manado, 03°15'N, 124°03'E.

Submarine *Whale* (SS-239) is damaged by depth charges north of the Bonins, 31°00'N, 143°55'E, but remains on patrol.

Japanese army tanker *No.5 Nippo Maru* is sunk by aircraft off northwest coast of New Guinea, 00°33'S, 132°53'E.

Atlantic

Off Normandy, mines continue to take their toll: destroyer escort *Rich* (DE-695), 49°31'N, 01°10'W, and tank landing ship *LST-499*, 49°30'N, 01°10'W, are sunk; destroyers *Glennon* (DD-620), 50°32'N, 01°12'W, and *Meredith* (DD-726), 49°33'N, 01°06'W, are damaged.

- **9 June, Fri. --**

Pacific

Destroyers bombard Japanese repair facilities at Fangelawa Bay, New Ireland.

Submarine *Harder* (SS-257) sinks Japanese destroyer *Tanikaze* in Sibitu Passage, 90 miles southwest of Basilan Island, 04°50'N, 119°40'E.

Submarine *Swordfish* (SS-193) attacks Japanese convoy east of the Bonins, sinking destroyer *Matsukaze* 55 miles east of Chichi Jima, 27°14'N, 142°55'E.

USAAF A-20s bomb Japanese shipping off Manokwari, sinking cargo vessels *No.10 Fuku Maru*, *No.12 Fuku Maru*, *Ebisu Maru*, *Fukuda Maru*, *Atarashi Maru*, and *Shosei Maru*.

Atlantic

Off Normandy, destroyer *Meredith* (DD-726) is sunk by horizontal bomber and as a result of mine damage suffered off the invasion beaches on 8 June, 49°26'N, 01°04'W. German schnellbootes *S 172*, *S 174*, *S 175* and *S 187* attack convoy in English channel, torpedoing and sinking tank landing ship *LST-314*, 49°43'N, 00°52'W, and damaging tank landing ship *LST-376*. The latter is later scuttled by escorts, 49°43'N, 00°53'W. Infantry landing craft *LCI-416* is sunk by mine; motor minesweeper *YMS-305* is damaged by shore battery, 49°31'N, 00°50'W. U.S. freighter *Ezra Weston* is damaged by shore battery fire that kills 5 and wounds 11 of her 600 embarked troops; there are no other casualties among the ship's complement, including the 26-man Armed Guard.

- **10 June, Sat. --**

Pacific

PB4Ys (VB 108, VB 109) sweep ahead of TF 58 (Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher) as it approaches the Marianas, to intercept and destroy any Japanese aircraft in the path of the fast carriers. These sweeps will be repeated on 11 June. During these two days of operations, a Privateer from each squadron will shoot down a Japanese plane at some distance away from the task force. The use of PB4Ys is decided upon because sightings of these long-range planes in that region is a commonplace occurrence and would thus arouse no enemy suspicions that a carrier task force is in the area.

High speed transport *Talbot* (APD-7) is damaged in collision with battleship *Pennsylvania* (BB-38), en route to the Marianas.

Destroyer *Taylor* (DD-468) sinks Japanese submarine *RO-111*, 210 miles north-northwest of Kavieng, New Ireland, 00°26'N, 149°16'E.

Destroyer escort *Bangust* (DE-739) sinks Japanese submarine *RO-42*, 70 miles northeast of Kwajalein, Marshalls, 10°05'N, 168°22'E.

British submarine HMS *Tantalus* sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Hiyoshi Maru* in Strait of Malacca, 03°05'N, 99°56'E.

USAAF B-25s bomb Japanese shipping off Manokwari, sinking auxiliary sailing vessel *Shinei Maru*.

Japanese cargo vessel *Yozan Maru* is damaged by mine off Manila.

Japanese cargo vessel *Kinmon Maru* is sunk by accidental fire, Singapore, 01°17'N, 103°51'E.

Atlantic

Destroyer *Glennon* (DD-620) is sunk off Normandy by German shore battery, 50°32'N, 01°12'W; tank landing craft *LCT-209* sinks after running aground off beachhead. U.S. freighter *Charles Morgan* is damaged by bomb off UTAH Beach that kills 7 of the 64-man Army stevedore unit on board and one merchant crewman; there are no casualties among the 27-man Armed Guard. Fleet tug *Kiowa* (ATF-72) takes on board the survivors. *Charles Morgan*, however, despite strenuous efforts to save her, is ultimately declared a total loss.

Mediterranean

Heaviest German air raid since 3 May occurs off Anzio against U.S. shipping off the beachhead. Minesweeper *Symbol* (AM-123), tank landing ship *LST-211*, infantry landing craft *LCI-41*, and U.S. freighter *Tarleton Brown* are all damaged by near-misses of bombs.

• **11, Sun. --**

Pacific

Naval Base, Biak Island, Schoeten Islands, is established.

F6Fs from TF 58 (Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher), 16 from each carrier and 12 from each small carrier, accompanied by a TBF or SB2C from each task group (the latter to lead the fighters in and out), blankets Japanese airfields in the Marianas. This move, which achieves complete surprise, also assures control of the air over the Marianas. Combat air patrol F6Fs from TF 58 begin to intercept and down Japanese planes in the vicinity of TF 58. F6Fs also damage Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *No. 8 Shonan Maru* and cargo vessel *Keiyo Maru* (see 13 June).¹⁴

Submarine *Barb* (SS-220) sinks Japanese merchant fishing vessels *Chihaya Maru* and *Toten Maru* in Sea of Okhotsk, east of Karafuto, 46°50'N, 144°05'E.

Submarine *Redfin* (SS-272), despite presence of escort vessel, sinks Japanese tanker *Asanagi Maru* west of Jolo, 06°02'N, 120°50'E.

Atlantic

U.S. battleships off Normandy provide gunfire support to U.S. Army forces ten miles inland at Carentan, France.

Off the invasion beaches, German torpedo boats *S 130*, *S 144*, *S 146*, *S 150* and *S 167* launch torpedo attacks on U.S. invasion shipping, sinking tank landing ship *LST-496* and tug *Partridge* (ATO-138), 49°30'N, 00°50'N and damaging tank landing ship *LST-538*, 49°48'N, 00°31'W. German motor torpedo boat *S*

138 torpedoes and damages destroyer *Nelson* (DD-623), 49°31'N, 00°50'W; infantry landing craft *LCI-219* is sunk by aircraft.

Aircraft (VC 95) from escort carrier *Croatan* (CVE-25) teams with destroyer escorts *Frost* (DE-144), *Huse* (DE-145), and *Inch* (DE-146) sink German submarine *U-490* midway between Flores Island and Flemish Cap, 42°47'N, 40°08'W.

- **12 June, Mon. --**

Pacific

Planes from 15 carriers (CV-and CVL) of TF 58 (Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher) work over Japanese air facilities and coast defenses on Saipan, Tinian, Guam, Rota, and Pagan Islands, Marianas. Carrier strikes are repeated on 13 and 14 June in preparation for the landings on Saipan. Aircraft from carrier *Essex* (CV-9) and small carriers *Langley* (CVL-27) and *Cowpens* (CVL- 25) (TG 58.4) smash Japanese convoy (which had sailed from Tanapag harbor for Japan the previous day) northwest of Saipan, sinking torpedo boat *Otori*, 17°32'N, 144°00'E, auxiliary netlayer *Kokku Maru*, 17°32'N, 144°01'E, transports *Batavia Maru*, 17°32'N, 143°17'E, *Hinko Maru*, 17°28'N, 144°19'E, *Kamishima Maru* and *Imizu Maru*, 17°32'N, 144°10'E, *Nitcho Maru*, 17°32'N, 143°10'E, *Reikai Maru*, 17°30'N, 144°00'E, and *Tenryugawa Maru*, 17°32'N, 144°01'E, cargo ship *Bokuyo Maru*, army cargo ships *Fukoku Maru* and *Moji Maru*, and merchant vessel *Tsushima Maru*; and damaging transport *Tatsutakawa Maru* (see 15 June 1944), *Coast Defense Vessel No.4*, 17°20'N, 144°10'E, submarine chaser *Ch 50*, 17°32'N, 144°10', and submarine chasers *Ch 33* and *Ch 51*, auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 20* and auxiliary minesweeper *Wa 6.15* Japanese minelayer *Nichiyu Maru* [torpedoed by submarine *Halibut* (SS-232) on 3 March 1943] is further damaged by carrier planes in Apra Harbor.

Destroyer *Kalk* (DD-611) is damaged by horizontal bomber off western New Guinea, 01°19'S, 136°19'E.

British submarine HMS *Stoic* attacks Japanese convoy, and sinks transport *Kainan Maru* off Phuket, Siam, 07°54'N, 98°27'E.

- **13 June, Tue. --**

Pacific

TF 58 (Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher) strikes against Saipan continue; Navy carrier-based planes sink aircraft transport *Keiyo Maru*, which had been damaged in the 11 June fighter sweep, and destroy convoy of small cargo vessels: *No.11 Shinriki Maru*, *Sekizen Maru*, *Myogawa Maru*, *Shigei Maru* and *Suwa Maru*. F6Fs from TF 58 attack Japanese convoy spotted the previous day and damage fast transport *T.1* southwest of the Marianas, 11°43'N, 140°42'E.

During the strikes, Commander William I. Martin, commanding officer of *Enterprise's* VT-10, is shot down and parachutes into the sea off Red Beach Three, Saipan. Before he is rescued, he observes that the Japanese have marked the length of the reef offshore with red and white pennants, indicating pre-sited artillery ranges--valuable intelligence information quickly disseminated to the approaching amphibious forces.

TG 58.7 (Vice Admiral Willis A. Lee) battleships and destroyers conduct an almost day-long bombardment of Japanese installations on Saipan and Tinian.

TF 94 (Rear Admiral Ernest G. Small) cruisers and destroyers bombard Japanese position on Matsuwa Island in the Kurils.

Submarine *Barb* (SS-220) sinks Japanese army transport *Takashima Maru* in Sea of Okhotsk, 50°53'N, 151°12'E, despite presence of escorting destroyer *Hatsuharu*, which carries out ineffective countermeasures.

Submarine *Flier* (SS-250) damages Japanese merchant tanker *Marifu Maru* in South China Sea west of Luzon, 15°57'N, 119°42'E (see 6 November 1944).

Submarine *Narwhal* (SS-167) shells oil tanks at Bula, Ceram Island, N.E.I.

Destroyer Melvin (DD-680) sinks Japanese submarine *RO-36* between 50 and 75 miles east of Saipan, 15°21'N, 147°00'E.

Atlantic

Unarmed U.S. fishing boat *Lark* is shelled and machine-gunned by German submarine *U-107* 32 miles off Cape Sable Light, 42°54'N, 65°25'W, and abandoned with the exception of the master and the cook. *Lark* remains afloat as the U-boat leaves the scene, whereupon she rescues every man who had abandoned ship at the approach of the enemy submarine.

- **14 June, Wed. --**

Pacific

Bombardment groups, TG 52.17 (Rear Admiral Jesse B. Oldendorf) and TG 52.18 (Rear Admiral Walden L. Ainsworth), shell Japanese installations on Saipan and Tinian. Enemy shore battery fire damages battleship *California* (BB-44) off Saipan, 15°12'N, 145°42'E, and destroyer *Braine* (DD-630) off Tinian, 15°12'N, 145°42'E; near-misses from shells damage battleship *Tennessee* (BB-43), heavy cruiser *Indianapolis* (CA-35), light cruiser *Birmingham* (CL-62), and destroyer *Remey* (DD-688). Destroyer *Wadleigh* (DD-689) covers withdrawal of Underwater Demolition team (UDT) 7 after its beach reconnaissance mission.

Submarine *Golet* (SS-361) is probably sunk by Japanese guard boat *Miya Maru*, auxiliary submarine chaser *Bunzan Maru*, and naval aircraft off northern Honshu, 41°04'N, 141°31'E.16

Submarine *Rasher* (SS-269), in attack on Japanese convoy in the Celebes Sea, sinks army cargo ship *Koan Maru* about 130 miles south of Mindanao, 04°33'N, 122°23'E.

Atlantic

Tank landing ship *LST-280* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-621* off Normandy, 49°55'N, 00°30'W.

- **15 June, Thu. --**

Pacific

TF 52 (Vice Admiral *Richmond K. Turner*) lands Marines (Lieutenant General *Holland M. Smith*, USMC) on Saipan in **Operation FORAGER**, under cover of intensive naval gunfire and carrier-based aircraft. Saipan is the first relatively large and heavily defended land mass in the central Pacific to be assaulted by American amphibious might. Chengtu, China-based USAAF B-29s bomb the Yawata Steel Mills, northern Kyushu, Japan, marking the first time that B-29s are used in distant support of an ongoing amphibious operation.

Battleship *Tennessee* (BB-43) is damaged by shore battery, northeast of Tinian, 15°02'N, 143°50'E; light cruiser *St. Louis* (CL-49) is damaged by materiel casualty (dropped no.3 propeller and part of tail shaft), Saipan channel. Infantry landing craft (gunboat) *LCI(G)-451* and *LCI(G)-726* are damaged by mortar fire off approaches to Saipan landing beaches.

Carrier-based aircraft from TG 58.1 (Rear Admiral Joseph J. Clark) and TG 58.4 (Rear Admiral William K. Harrill) bomb Japanese installations on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, and Chichi Jima and Haha Jima in the Bonins; attack on Iwo Jima is repeated 16 June. Destroyers *Boyd* (DD-544) and *Charrette* (DD-581) sink transport *Tatsutakawa Maru* after she had been damaged by TBFs/TBMs and F6Fs from small carrier *Bataan* (CVL- 29) east of Ogasawara-shoto, 25°02'N, 144°37'E. TF 58 aircraft sink auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 54* off Rota Island, Marianas. Destroyer *Halsey Powell* (DD-686) sinks minelayer *Ma 101* (ex-British netlayer HMS *Barlight*, captured at Hong Kong in December 1941) in Tanapag Harbor, Saipan, 15°15'N, 145°45'E.

Japanese submarine chaser *Ch 7* is sunk by mine south of the Palaus, 04°03'N, 135°08'E.

Submarine *Swordfish* (SS-193) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking army cargo ship *Kanseishi Maru* about 150 miles north-northwest of Chichi Jima, 29°30'N, 144°07'E.

Japanese cargo vessel *Kanzaki Maru* is stranded and sunk off east coast of Korea, 36°01'N, 129°41'E.

Atlantic

TBFs and FM-2s (VC-9) from escort carrier *Solomons* (CVE- 67) sink German submarine *U-860* in South Atlantic, 25°27'S, 05°30'W.

Off Normandy, tank landing ships *LST-2*, *LST-266*, *LST-307*, *LST-331*, and *LST-360* are damaged by shore batteries; *LST-133* by mine.

Mediterranean

Motor torpedo boats *PT-552*, *PT-558*, and *PT-559* sink German torpedo boats *TA 26* (ex-Italian Navy *Intrepido*) and *TA 30* (ex-Italian Navy *Dragone*) off the Italian coast between La Spezia and Genoa, 43°58'N, 09°29'E.

• **16 June, Fri. --**

Pacific

Battleship, cruiser, and destroyer force (Rear Admiral Walden L. Ainsworth) bombards Japanese installations on Guam.

High speed transport *Gilmer* (APD-11), on radar picket duty 25 miles west of Saipan, encounters Japanese convoy of small cargo vessels (whose sailors are apparently unaware of the presence of American ships in the Marianas) bound for Saipan, and sinks four: *No.1 Yusen Maru*, *No.2 Usen Maru*, *Toa Maru*, and *Tatsutaka Maru*. Destroyer *Shaw* (DD-373), ordered to support *Gilmer*, arrives in time to sink a fifth ship, *No.17 Yusen Maru*.

Light cruiser *Vincennes* (CL-91) is damaged by materiel casualty (main Kingsbury thrust bearing, no.3 shaft), at sea with TG 58.4.

Destroyers *Melvin* (DD-680) and *Wadleigh* (DD-689) sink Japanese submarine *RO-114*, 80 miles west of Tinian, 15°02'N, 144°10'E.

Destroyer escort *Burden R. Hastings* (DE-19) sinks Japanese submarine *RO-44*, 110 miles east of Eniwetok, 11°13'N, 164°15'E.

Submarine *Bluefish* (SS-222) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking merchant cargo ship *Nanshin Maru* in the Celebes Sea southwest of Tarakan, Borneo, 02°22'N, 118°24'E.

Submarine *Bream* (SS-243) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Y_ki Maru* and damages army cargo ship *Hinode Maru* off Halmahera Island, 02°23'N, 128°43'E.

- **17 June, Sat. --**

Pacific

Escort carrier *Fanshaw Bay* (CVE-70) is damaged by horizontal bomber off Marianas, 15°00'N, 145°00'E; tank landing ship *LST-84* is damaged by friendly fire, Marianas, 15°10'N, 145°58'E; infantry landing craft (gunboat) *LCI(G)-468*, damaged by Japanese torpedo planes en route to Saipan, is scuttled by destroyer *Stembel* (DD-644), 13°28'N, 148°18'E. TF 58 aircraft sink Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 56* at Rota; and transport *Marudai Maru* off Saipan.

PB4Y-1 (VB 109) from Eniwetok sinks Japanese submarine *RO-117*, 11°05'N, 150°31'E.

Submarine *Hake* (SS-256) attacks Japanese convoy as it proceeds from Palau to Davao, and sinks transport *Kinshu Maru* about 65 miles southeast of Davao, 06°10'N, 126°18'E. Later that same day, submarine *Flounder* (SS-251) attacks the same convoy beset earlier by *Hake* and sinks torpedo recovery ship *Nihonkai Maru* south of Mindanao, 06°36'N, 127°55'E. *Flounder* survives depth-chargings by submarine chasers *Ch 35* and *Ch 64*.

USAAF B-25s (5th Air Force) supported by fighters, work over Japanese shipping in Sorong harbor, sinking army cargo ships *Minyu Maru* and *No.12 Sanko Maru*, and merchant cargo ship *Shofuku Maru*, 00°53'N, 131°15'E.

Japanese tanker *Nichiyoko Maru* is damaged by mine off Belawan, Sumatra, N.E.I., 03°40'N, 99°07'E.

Atlantic

Motor minesweeper *YMS-377* is damaged by mine off Normandy, 49°29'N, 01°08'W.

Aircraft (VC 95) from escort carrier *Croatan* damage German submarine *U-853*.

Mediterranean

Allied task force (Rear Admiral Thomas H. Troubridge, RN), including U.S. naval vessels, lands French troops on island of Elba off Italy. U.S. Navy ships participating in the landings include 6 destroyers, 1 destroyer escort, 5 minesweepers, 15 motor minesweepers, 16 submarine chasers, 10 tank landing ships, 20 tank landing craft, and 19 infantry landing craft; one LCI(L) is damaged by shore battery fire. Four U.S. motor torpedo boats sink four German F- lighters loaded with German troops being evacuated from Elba.

- **18 June, Sun. --**

Pacific

Destroyer *Phelps* (DD-360), along with infantry landing craft (gunboat) [LCI(G)] and amphibian tractors [LVT(A)] oppose between 25 and 30 Japanese landing

barges, southward-bound off Garapan, Saipan, sinking 13 and putting the rest to flight.

Off Saipan, battleship *California* (BB-44) is damaged by friendly fire; destroyer *Phelps* (DD-360), *LCI(G)-371*, and motor minesweeper *YMS-323* are damaged by shore battery off Garapan, 14°58'N, 146°21'E. During Japanese bombing raid, oilers *Neshanic* (AO-71) and *Saranac* (AO-74) are damaged at 14°45'N, 146°10'E; oiler *Saugatuck* (AO-75) is near-missed.

Motor torpedo boats *PT-63* and *PT-107* are destroyed by fire off New Ireland, 01°45'S, 150°01'E.

British submarine HMS *Storm* attacks Japanese convoy off Penang, Malaya, sinking gunboat *Eiko Maru*, 05°59'N, 99°10'E.

- **19 June, Mon. --**

Pacific

Battle of the Philippine Sea opens as the Japanese Fleet (Vice Admiral Ozawa Jisaburo) contests the landings on Saipan. Japanese carrier-based aircraft attack Fifth Fleet (Admiral Raymond A. Spruance) covering Saipan operation. Despite the combat air patrol and heavy anti-aircraft fire, battleship *South Dakota* (BB-57) is damaged by dive bomber, 14°10'N, 143°15'E; battleship *Indiana* (BB-58) is damaged by suicide plane, 14°04'N, 143°23'E; carriers *Bunker Hill* (CV-17) 14°46'N, 143°02'E and *Wasp* (CV-18), 14°19'N, 143°48'E are near-missed by dive bombers; heavy cruiser *Minneapolis* (CA-36) is near-missed by horizontal bomber, 14°11'N, 143°09'E; destroyer *Hudson* (DD-475) is damaged by friendly fire, 14°11'N, 143°09'E.

Commander David McCampbell, Commander Air Group 15, flying from carrier *Essex* (CV-9), distinguishes himself in aerial combat, splashing at least seven Japanese planes in defense of TF 58 (see 24 October).

The Japanese lose at least 300 aircraft in what U.S. Navy pilots call the "Marianas Turkey Shoot." Submarine *Albacore* (SS-244) sinks Japanese carrier *Taiho*, 180 nautical miles north-northwest of Yap, 12°22'N, 137°04'E; submarine *Cavalla* (SS-244) sinks Japanese carrier *Shokaku*, 140 nautical miles north of Yap Island, 11°50'N, 137°57'E. Both boats survive counterattacks by escorts: *Albacore* counts 75 depth charges, *Cavalla* 106.

Motor minesweeper *YMS-323* is damaged by shore battery, as she carries out survey operations off Tanapag Harbor, Saipan, 15°10'N, 145°58'E.

Aircraft (VT 60) from escort carrier *Suwannee* (CVE-27) sink Japanese submarine *I-184*, 20 miles south of Guam, 13°01'N, 149°53'E.

USAAF A-20s raid Manokwari, sinking small Japanese cargo vessels *No.5 Masutoko Maru* and *No.43 Taigyo Maru*.

Atlantic

Artificial harbor off Normandy installed on 7 June is severely damaged by storm. Elsewhere off the invasion beaches, tank landing ship *LST-523* is sunk by mine, 49°30'N, 01°10'W; rescue tug *ATR-15* is damaged by grounding, 49°22'N, 00°26'W.

- **20 June, Tue. --**

Pacific

Battle of the Philippine Sea concludes as planes from TF 58 (Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher), launched late in the afternoon from carriers *Hornet* (CV-12), *Yorktown* (CV-10), *Bunker Hill* (CV-17), and *Lexington* (CV-16), and small carriers *Belleau Wood* (CVL-24), *Monterey* (CVL-26) and *San Jacinto* (CVL-30), strike Japanese fleet in what becomes known as the "Mission Beyond Darkness." TBFs from *Belleau Wood* (VT 24) sink carrier *Hiyo* northwest of Yap Island, 15°30'N, 133°50'E. Fleet tanker *Gen'yo Maru*, damaged by F6Fs, SB2Cs and TBFs from *Wasp*, is scuttled by destroyer *Uzuki*, west of Saipan; likewise, oiler *Seiyo Maru*, damaged by F6Fs, SB2Cs and TBFs from *Wasp*, is scuttled by destroyer *Yukikaze*, 15°35'N, 133°30'E. TF 58 planes also damage carrier *Zuikaku*, small carriers *Chiyoda* and *Ryuho*, battleship *Haruna*, heavy cruiser *Maya*, destroyers *Samidare* and *Shigure*, and fast fleet tanker/seaplane carrier *Hayasui*. Vice Admiral Mitscher orders the ships of TF 58 to show lights in order to guide returning strike groups home.

In the two-day Battle of the Philippine Sea the Japanese Fleet loses 395 (92%) of its carrier planes, and 12 float planes remain operational. Besides the losses afloat, an estimated 50 land-based Japanese aircraft from Guam are destroyed. The U.S. Fleet loss is 130 planes and 76 pilots and crewmen for the two days, predominantly from the "Mission Beyond Darkness" on 20 June 1944 (see 23 June 1944).

Destroyer *Phelps* (DD-360) is damaged by shore battery, Saipan, 15°10'N, 145°58'E.

Submarine *Hake* (SS-256) attacks Japanese convoy off south coast of Mindanao, and sinks army cargo ship *Nichibi Maru* in Saragan Strait, 05°36'N, 125°17'E.

Submarines *Narwhal* (SS-167) and *Nautilus* (SS-168) land supplies and evacuate people from Negros and Panay, P.I.

USAAF A-20s raid New Guinea coastline, sinking Japanese fishing vessels *Shinei Maru* and *No.3 Kompira Maru* at Manokwari and *No.31 Taikoko Maru* at Windessi.

- **21 June, Wed. --**

- Pacific

- Destroyer *Newcomb* (DD-586) and high speed minesweeper *Chandler* (DMS-9) sink Japanese submarine *I-185*, 90 miles east-northeast of Saipan, 15°50'N, 145°08'E; Japanese guardboat *Kompira Maru* is sunk by gunfire off Tinian.

- Submarine *Bluefish* (SS-222), despite presence of escort, sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Kanan Maru* off southern approaches to Makassar Strait, 03°58'S, 116°35'E.

- Submarine *Narwhal* (SS-167) sinks Japanese powered sailboat *No.2 Shinshu Maru* 12 miles southwest of Culasi, 11°22'N, 121°52'E.

- Dutch submarine *K 14* damages Japanese minelayer *Tsugaru* between Sorong, New Guinea, and Kau Roads, Moluccas, 01°10'S, 130°30'E.

- TBF/Ms and F4Fs from escort carrier *White Plains* (CVE-66) sink Japanese cargo ship *Shoun Maru* off Rota, Saipan, 14°10'N, 145°10'E.

Atlantic

Off Normandy, destroyer *Davis* (DD-395) is damaged by mine, 49°23'N, 00°46'W; Coast Guard cutters *83415* and *83471* are sunk by storm.

Mediterranean

German torpedo boat *TA 25* (ex-Italian Navy *Ardito*), damaged by U.S. motor torpedo boats southwest of Viareggio, Italy, 43°49'N, 10°12'E, is scuttled by German torpedo boat *TA 29* (ex-Italian Navy).

- **22 June, Thu. --**

Pacific

Battleship *Maryland* (BB-46) is damaged by aerial torpedo off Garapan, Saipan, 15°13'N, 145°39'E; tank landing ship *LST-119* is damaged by Tinian shore battery, Saipan, 15°10'N, 145°58'E; transport *Prince Georges* (AP-165) is damaged by near-miss of bomb off Saipan.

Submarine *Batfish* (SS-310) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Nagaragawa Maru* off Honshu, 34°36'N, 137°56'E.

Submarine *Flier* (SS-250) torpedoes Japanese army cargo ship *Belgium Maru* west of Mindoro, 13°11'N, 120°27'E.

Submarine *Narwhal* (SS-167) damages Japanese tanker *Itsukushima Maru* in Sulu Sea, 09°00'N, 120°55'E.

USAAF aircraft damage Japanese cargo vessel *Shoyu Maru* off Sorong Island.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Cyrus H.K. Curtis* is damaged by mines off SWORD Beach, Normandy, but discharges her cargo; there are no casualties among the 43-man merchant complement, the 27-man Armed Guard, or the 250 U.S. troops on board.

- **23 June, Fri. --**

Pacific

Aircraft from carrier task group (Rear Admiral Joseph J. Clark) bomb Japanese air facilities and shipping in the Marianas, sinking guardboat *Haruta Maru* off Pagan Island and cargo ship *Shoun Maru* off Rota, 14°10'N, 145°10'E.

SB2C crew (VB 14) is rescued by PBM (VH-1); the two men picked up by the flying boat are the last to be recovered in the wake of the "Mission Beyond Darkness" of 20 June 1944. Ironically, the PBM is off course when it recovers the men.

Japanese planes begin night high-level bombing attack on U.S. amphibious shipping off Saipan.

- **24 June, Sat. --**

Pacific

Japanese planes conclude night high-level bombing attack on U.S. amphibious shipping off Saipan. Battle damage repair ship *Phaon* (ARB-3), submarine chasers *PC(S)-1401* and *PC(S)-1461*, and tank landing craft *LCT-998* are all damaged by near-misses.

Aircraft from carrier task groups (Rear Admiral Joseph J. Clark and Rear Admiral Alfred E. Montgomery) strike Japanese airfields and facilities on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, and Pagan Island, Marianas.

Motor torpedo boat *PT-193*, irreparably damaged by grounding, western New Guinea, 00°55'S, 134°52'E, is burned by her crew.

Submarine *Grouper* (SS-214) attacks Japanese convoy off coast of central Japan, and sinks cargo ship *Kumanoyama Maru* and merchant tanker *No.6 Nanmei Maru* south of Yokosuka, 34°45'N, 139°30'E.

Submarine *Redfin* (SS-272) attacks Japanese convoy off southern coast of Leyte, and sinks army cargo ship *Aso Maru* southwest of Surigao Strait, 09°51'N, 125°06'E.

Submarine *Tang* (SS-306) attacks Japanese convoy leaving Koshiki Straits, and sinks army cargo ships *Tamahoko Maru* and *Kennichi Maru*, and merchant tanker *Nasuzan Maru* and cargo ship *Tainan Maru* outside Nagasaki harbor, Kyushu, 32°24'N, 129°38'E. *Coast Defense Vessel No.1* does not prove fast enough to pursue *Tang* to counterattack.

Atlantic

TBM (VC 69) from escort carrier *Bogue* (CVE-9) sinks Japanese submarine *I-52*, 800 miles southwest of Fayal, Azores, 15°16'N, 39°55'W.

- **25 June, Sun. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Bashaw* (SS-241) attacks Japanese convoy, and sinks army cargo ship *Yamamiya Maru* between Taland Island and Halmahera, 03°28'N, 127°06'E.

Submarine *Jack* (SS-259) attacks Japanese convoy, and sinks merchant tanker *San Pedro Maru* off northwest coast of Luzon, 16°17'N, 119°40'E.

Japanese minelayer *Nichiyu Maru* (see 3 March 1943 and 12 June 1944) is further damaged by naval gunfire in Apra Harbor, Guam.

Europe

Battleship, cruiser, and destroyer force (Rear Admiral Morton L. Deyo) duels with German shore batteries and coastal defenses at Cherbourg, France; battleship *Texas* (BB-35) and destroyers *Barton* (DD-722), *Laffey* (DD-724), and *O'Brien* (DD-725) are all damaged by the enemy gunfire.

- **26 June, Mon. --**

Pacific

Cruiser and destroyers (Rear Admiral Ernest G. Small) bombard Japanese positions at Kurabu Zaki, Paramushiro, Kurils.

Infantry landing craft (gunboat) *LCI(G)-438* and *LCI(G)-456* repel attack by Japanese barges (some of which fire torpedoes) off Tanapag Harbor, Saipan, but both gunboats are damaged in the battle. Elsewhere off Saipan, cargo ship *Mercury* (AK-42) is damaged by low-flying Japanese aircraft that flies into cargo boom, and is hit by dud aerial torpedo, 15°10'N, 145°58'E.

British submarine *HMS Truculent* attacks Japanese convoy, sinking cargo ship *Harugiku Maru* about 60 miles southeast of Medan, Sumatra, 03°15'N, 99°46'E.

USAAF P-38s sink Japanese army cargo ship *Hokushin Maru* east of Halmahera Island, 01°03'N, 131°08'E.

USAAF B-25s sink Japanese fishing boat *No.1 Daisen Maru* off Manokwari.

Europe

German garrison at Cherbourg, France, surrenders.

- **27 June, Tue. --**

Pacific

TF 58 planes complete destruction of Japanese water tanker *Kizugawa Maru*, already damaged irreparably by submarine *Seahorse* (SS-304) on 8 April off Guam.

Submarine *Seahorse* (SS-304) attacks Japanese convoy, and sinks merchant tanker *Medan Maru* south-southwest of Formosa, 21°10'N, 120°31'E.

- **28 June, Wed. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Archerfish* (SS-311) sinks Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.24*, 30 miles southwest of Iwo Jima, 24°25'N, 141°20'E, as the enemy warship covers unloading operations by what are most likely landing ships.

Submarine *Pargo* (SS-264) attacks Japanese convoy in Moro Gulf, army cargo ship *Yamagiku Maru* and damages *Coast Defense Vessel No.10* about 35 miles east of Zamboanga, 06°50'N, 121°30'E.

Submarine *Sealion* (SS-315), despite presence of escorts, sinks Japanese collier *Sansei Maru* in Tsushima Strait, 33°53'N, 129°01'E.

USAAF B-24s (14th Air Force) attack Japanese convoy MATA 23 southwest of the Pescadores, sinking transport *Ussuri Maru* off Formosa, 23°49'N, 119°02'E.

Europe

U.S. freighter *Charles W. Eliot* fouls two mines about four miles off Juno Beach, Normandy, and breaks in two; there are no fatalities among the crew (which includes a 31-man Armed Guard). Survivors are transferred to freighter *George W. Woodward* and later tank landing craft *LCT-527* for transportation to England. *Charles W. Eliot* is subsequently written off as a total loss.

- **29 June, Thu. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Bang* (SS-385) damages Japanese fleet tanker *Miri Maru* (see 15 January 1945), and merchant tanker *Sarawak Maru* west of Luzon, 17°13'N, 118°22'E.

Submarine *Darter* (SS-227) attacks Japanese convoy off northern tip of Halmahera Island, and sinks minelayer *Tsugaru*, 02°10'N, 128°05'E.

Submarine *Flasher* (SS-249) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking merchant cargo ship *Niho Maru* and damaging oiler *Notoro* about 125 miles southeast of Singapore, 00°44'N, 105°45'E.

Submarine *Growler* (SS-215), despite presence of three escort vessels, sinks Japanese transport *Katori Maru* in Luzon Strait, 19°00'N, 121°42'E.

Submarine *Sturgeon* (SS-187) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking army cargo ship *Toyama Maru* in the Nansei Shoto, off Taira Jima, 27°47'N, 129°05'E.

Atlantic

Coastal minesweeper *Valor* (AMc-108) is sunk in collision with destroyer escort *Richard W. Suesens* (DE-342) off Newport, R.I., 41°128'N, 70°57'W.

Europe

German submarine *U-984* attacks Omaha Beach-bound convoy EMC 17 about 30 miles south of the Isle of Wight, torpedoing U.S. freighters *Edward M. House* and *H.G. Blasdel*, *James A. Farrell* at 50°07'N, 00°47'W, and *John A. Treutlen* at 50°11'50'N, 00°45'35'W. *Edward M. House* resumes her voyage and reaches the beachhead to discharge cargo and disembark troops; she suffers only two men injured (one of whom is from the 28-man Armed Guard). *H.G. Blasdel* suffers the loss of 76 of her embarked troops (180 are wounded) of the 436 on board; tank landing ship *LST-326* takes off the surviving troops. The ship is later towed to Southampton where she is written off as a total loss. *James A. Farrell* is abandoned, survivors transferring to tank landing ship *LST-50*; four soldiers are killed and 45 wounded from among the 421 embarked on board. There are no casualties among the 42-man merchant complement or the 31-man Armed Guard, but the ship, towed to Spithead, is written off as a total loss. *John A. Treutlen* is abandoned save for a skeleton crew, the merchant complement and 31-man Armed Guard being picked up by Canadian corvette *HMCS Buctouche* and tank landing ship *LST-336*. *John A. Treutlen* is subsequently written off as a total loss.

Mediterranean

Motor torpedo boats *PT-308* and *PT-309* (Lieutenant John Newell, USNR), patrolling between Cape Falcone on the Italian mainland and the island of Elba, engage two Italian motor torpedo boats, damaging *MAS 562* and forcing its abandonment (see 30 June).

• **30 June, Fri. --**

Naval vessels on hand (all types)--46,032. Personnel: Navy--2,981,365; Marine Corps--472,582; Coast Guard-- 169,258. Total personnel--3,623,205.

Pacific

Submarine *Jack* (SS-259) attacks Japanese convoy about 70 miles west of Manila, and sinks army cargo ships *Tsurushima Maru* and *Matsukawa Maru*, 14°15'N, 119°40'E.

Submarine *Plaice* (SS-390) (despite a debilitating epidemic of intestinal influenza on board) sinks Japanese gunboat *Hyakafuku Maru* northwest of Chichi Jima, 28°20'N, 141°23'E. Auxiliary netlayer *Kogi Maru's* counterattack is unsuccessful.

Submarine *Tang* (SS-306) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Nikkin Maru* in the Yellow Sea off Mokpo, Korea, 35°05'N, 125°00'E.

Japanese guardboat *Aikoku Maru* is sunk by shore battery off Kwajalein Atoll.

Atlantic

Off Normandy during the month of June 1944 (exact dates unknown), tank landing craft *LCT-572*, *LCT-713*, and *LCT-714* are sunk by mines; *LCT-147*

sinks after running aground; *LCT-200*, *LCT-244*, and *LCT-413* are lost to the rigors of amphibious operations.

Mediterranean

Motor torpedo boat *PT-306* captures Italian motor torpedo boat *MAS 562* off Elba and tows it into Bastia, Corsica.

July

- **1 July, Sat. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Batfish* (SS-310) sinks Japanese guardboats *Kamoi Maru* and *No.5 Isuzugawa Maru* northwest of Mariana Islands, 31°26'N, 141°11'E.

Submarine *Tang* (SS-306) sinks Japanese fleet tanker *No.1 Takatori Maru* off Mokpo, Korea, 34°21'N, 123°55'E, and merchant cargo ship *No.2 Taiun Maru*, 34°42'N, 125°25'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Nikko Maru* is sunk by mine, possibly laid by submarine *Kingfish* (SS-234) on 10 October 1943, off Makassar, 05°38'S, 119°28'E.

- **2 July, Sun. --**

Pacific

TF 77 (Rear Admiral William M. Fechteler, USN) lands U.S. Army troops (the reinforced 168th Infantry) on Noemfoor Island off Netherlands New Guinea, in **Operation TABLETENNIS**, in order to secure the island's three airstrips that will support operations in New Guinea. TF 74 (Commodore John A. Collins, RAN) and TF 75 (Rear Admiral Russell S. Berkey), composed of heavy and light cruisers and destroyers, provide gunfire support.

Japanese landing ship *T.150* is damaged by mine off Amoy, China.

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *Jean Nicolet* is torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I-8* at 03°00'S, 74°30'E and abandoned. *I-8* then shells the ship, setting it afire. Survivors (41-man merchant complement, 28-man Armed Guard, and 30 passengers) are then taken on board the submarine, where their captors search them, bind them, and question them. At least one man is shot; some of the POWs are made to run a gauntlet; some are beaten. In the meantime, the Japanese destroy the lifeboats with gunfire. *I-8* retains the master, radio operator, and a civilian passenger, and then submerges, leaving the remainder of the survivors on deck to drown. Some of the survivors, however, return to the burning *Jean Nicolet* (which sinks the following day) to launch rafts (see 4 July).

Atlantic

TBM (VC 58) from escort carrier *Wake Island* (CVE-65) sinks German submarine *U-543* southeast of Azores, 25°34'N, 21°36'W.

Transport *General W.A. Mann* (AP-112), escorted by Brazilian destroyers *Marcilio Dias*, *Mariz e Barros* and *Greenhalgh*, sails from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with the first elements of the Italy-bound Brazilian Expeditionary Force.

Europe

Motor minesweeper *YMS-350* is sunk by mine off Cherbourg, France, 49°38'N, 01°35'W.

- **3 July, Mon. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Albacore* (SS-218) sinks Japanese steamer *Taimei Maru*, en route from Yap to Palau, 08°10'N, 136°18'E.

Submarine *Sturgeon* (SS-187), in attack on Japanese convoy, sinks Japanese army transport *Tairin Maru* north of the Nansei Shoto, 28°58'N, 129°51'E.

Submarine *Tinosa* (SS-283) attacks Japanese convoy in the East China Sea, and sinks merchant passenger/cargo ship *Kamo Maru* and tanker *Konzan Maru* west of Kyushu, 32°25'N, 128°46'E.

Atlantic

Destroyer escorts *Frost* (DE-144) and *Inch* (DE-146) sink German submarine *U-154* off Madeira, 34°00'N, 19°30'W.

- **4 July, Tue. --**

Pacific

Carrier-based aircraft and naval gunfire from two task groups (Rear Admiral Joseph J. Clark and Rear Admiral Ralph E. Davison) hit Japanese installations on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, and Chichi Jima and Haha Jima, Bonins.

Carrier planes sink submarine chaser *Ch 16* at Chichi Jima; coastal minelayer *Sarushima* in the Bonins, 27°10'N, 140°10'E; landing ships *T.103*, 108 miles off Chichi Jima Retto, 27°05'N, 140°09'E; and *T.130* off east coast of Iwo Jima, 24°47'N, 140°20'E; auxiliary netlayer *Taiko Maru* off Onagawa Retto; minesweeper *W.25* [where°]28°35'N, 141°04'E; auxiliary minesweeper *No.5 Toshi Maru* off Haha Jima, 26°20'N, 141°50'E; transports *Shozui Maru*, *Shima Maru*, and *Tatsuei Maru*, 27°07'N, 142°12'E, and *No.8 Un'yo Maru*, 27°05'N, 142°09'E, in Takinoura Bay; planes damage landing ship *T.153* and victualling stores ship *Kaiko Maru* off Ani Jima, and submarine chaser *Ch 18* off Chichi Jima.

Destroyer *David W. Taylor* (DD-551) and destroyer escort *Riddle* (DE-185) sink Japanese submarine *I-10*, attempting an evacuation mission to Saipan, 100 miles east-northeast of her destination, 15°26'N, 147°48'E.

Submarine *Guavina* (SS-362), despite presence of four escort vessels, sinks Japanese transport *Tama Maru* 60 miles northwest of Palau, 07°44'N, 133°17'E.

Submarine *Seahorse* (SS-304) attacks Japanese convoy in South China Sea and sinks army cargo ship *Gy_y_Maru*, cargo ship *No.28 Ky_d_Maru*, and merchant cargo ship *Nitt_Maru* about 140 miles south of Hong Kong, 20°18'N, 115°02'E.

Submarine *Tang* (SS-306), operating in the Yellow Sea off the west coast of Korea, sinks Japanese merchant cargo ships *Asukasan Maru* at 35°22'N, 125°56'E, and *Yamaoka Maru* at 36°05'N, 125°48'E,

RAAF Mitchells damage Japanese cargo vessel *No.1 K_sh_Maru* north of the Kai Islands, 05°05'S, 136°38'E.

Submarine *S-28* (SS-133) is lost to unknown cause during training exercises off Oahu.

Indian Ocean

Indian Navy trawler *Hoxa* rescues survivors (10 of the freighter's merchant complement, ten Armed Guard sailors, and three passengers) of U.S. freighter *Jean Nicolet*, scoured by Japanese submarine *I-8* on 2 July 1944; 18 of *Jean Nicolet's* 28-man Armed Guard perish in the atrocity wrought by the Japanese. Of the three Americans taken prisoner and retained on board *I 8*, only one, the passenger, will survive internment.

Caribbean

U.S. tanker *Kittanning* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-539* while returning to Cristobal, Canal Zone, at 09°50'N, 79°40'W; there are no casualties among the 49- man merchant complement or the 25-man Armed Guard, who are rescued by Coast Guard cutter *Marion* (WPC-145) which, along with cutter *Crawford* (WPC-134), arrive to provide assistance. *Crawford* attempts, unsuccessfully, to tow the crippled ship (see 5 July).

- **5 July, Wed. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Plaice* (SS-390) sinks Japanese auxiliary netlayer *Kogi Maru* off Ototo Jima, 27°43'N, 141°02'E.

Submarine *Sunfish* (SS-281) sinks Japanese merchant passenger/cargo ship *Shinmei Maru* off Paramushiro, Kurils, 51°28'N, 156°28'E.

USAAF B-24 sinks Japanese cargo vessel *No.1 Koshu Maru* off Gorong Island, 04°54'S, 131°28'E. Japanese army cargo ship *No.1 Koshu Maru* is sunk by aircraft in Java Sea south of Celebes Island, 04°00'S, 121°28'E.

Atlantic

Destroyer escorts *Thomas* (DE-102) and *Baker* (DE-190), from TG 22.5, sink German minelayer submarine *U-233* off Halifax, Nova Scotia, 42°16'N, 59°49'W.

Europe

U.S. freighter *Sea Porpoise*, en route from Utah Beach, Normandy, to Southampton, England, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-390* at 49°37'N, 00°51'W. There are no fatalities among the 90-man merchant complement, 45-man Armed Guard and 24 passengers, and the ship is ultimately repaired and returned to service.

Caribbean

U.S. tanker *Kittanning*, torpedoed the previous day by German submarine *U-539*, is taken in tow by tug *Woodcock* (ATO-145) before engine trouble compels the ship to abandon the attempt. Panama Canal tugs *Tavernilla* and *Cardenas*, and, ultimately, Maritime Commission tug *Jupiter Inlet* bring the damaged vessel to Cristobal.

Mediterranean

USAAF B-17s and B-24s bomb Montpellier and Beziers marshalling yards, as well as submarine pens and harbor installations at Toulon; German submarines *U-586* and *U-642* are sunk at the latter port.

- **6 July, Thu. --**

- Pacific

- Carrier-based aircraft commence daily bombings of Japanese coastal and anti-aircraft guns, supply dumps, and airfield installations on Guam and Rota, Marianas.

- Submarine *Cobia* (SS-245) sinks Japanese guardboat *Takamiya Maru I-Go* east of Ogasawara-gunto, 28°54'N, 150°50'E.

- Submarine *Paddle* (SS-263) attacks Japanese convoy northwest of Halmahera, and sinks destroyer *Hokaze* off Sangi Island, 03°30'N, 125°25'E.

- Submarine *Sealion* (SS-315) attacks Japanese convoy in East China Sea and sinks merchant passenger/cargo ship *Setsuzan Maru* off Ningpo, China, 29°55'N, 122°55'E.

- Submarine *Tang* (SS-306) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Dori Maru* in Chosen Bay, 38°50'N, 123°35'E.

- Caribbean

- U.S. tanker *Esso Harrisburg*, en route from Cartagena, Colombia, to New York, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-516* at 13°56'N, 70°59'W; four of the 44-man merchant complement and four of the 28-man Armed Guard perish (see 8 July).

- **7 July, Fri. --**

- Pacific

- Submarine *Bonefish* (SS-223) sinks Japanese guardboat *Ryuei Maru* off Tarakan, Borneo, 02°40'N, 118°22'E.

- Submarine *Flasher* (SS-249), despite presence of escort vessel, sinks Japanese transport *No.2 K_t_Maru* off Cape Varella, French Indochina, 13°08'N, 109°28'E.

- Submarine *Mingo* (SS-261) sinks Japanese destroyer *Tamanami* 150 miles west-southwest of Manila, 14°16'N, 119°50'E.

- Submarine *Skate* (SS-305) attacks Japanese convoy in the southern Sea of Okhotsk, sinking destroyer *Usugumo* and damaging cargo vessel *Kasado Maru* about 160 miles north of Etorofu Jima, 47°43'N, 147°55'E.

- Submarine *Sunfish* (SS-281) attacks Japanese fishing boats en route from Matsuwa to Uruppu, sinking *No.105 Hokuyo Maru*, *No.5 Kannon Maru*, *Ebisu Maru*, and *Kinei Maru*, 47°29'E, 152°29'E.

- **8 July, Sat. --**

- Pacific

- Cruisers and destroyers of TG 53.18 (Rear Admiral C. Turner Joy) begin daily bombardment of Japanese defenses on Guam; battleships join the bombardment group beginning 14 July.

- Submarine *Bonefish* (SS-223) sinks Japanese guardboat *Moji Maru* east of Borneo, 02°25'N, 118°14'E.

- Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Matsu Maru* off Honshu, 41°17'N, 141°30'E.

U.S. aircraft sink Japanese guardboats *No.11 Ebisu Maru*, *No.3 Fukuei Maru*, *No.1 Hosei Maru*, *Kofuku Maru*, *No.1 Kofuku Maru*, *No.3 Kofuku Maru*, and *No.3 Sachitaka Maru* off Saipan.

Japanese auxiliary submarine chasers *No.19 Nitto Maru* and *No.20 Nitto Maru* are sunk by aircraft off Rabaul, New Britain.

Atlantic

Tank landing ships *LST-312* and *LST-384* are damaged by V-1 rocket-bomb while moored at Naval Advance Amphibious Base, Deptford, England.

Caribbean

Submarine chaser *SC-1299* rescues 18 survivors from U.S. tanker *Esso Harrisburg*, sunk by German submarine *U-516* on 6 July. Dutch escort vessel *Queen Wilhelmina* rescues 31 *Esso Harrisburg* survivors that same day. Subsequently, the last group of survivors reaches the Colombian coast.

• **9 July, Sun. --**

Pacific

Organized Japanese resistance ceases on Saipan.

Submarine *Dace* (SS-247) carries out unsuccessful attack on Japanese cargo vessel *Gokoku Maru* 06°22'N, 126°18'E

Submarine *Nautilus* (SS-168) lands men and supplies on Pandan Island off west coast of Mindoro, P.I.

Submarine *Sunfish* (SS-281) attacks Japanese convoy in the Kurils, sinking army cargo ship *Taihei Maru* north of Araitō Island, 51°19'N, 155°43'E.

Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) sinks Japanese fishing boat *Yawata Maru* southwest of Kushiro, 43°06'N, 144°08'E.

USAAF B-25s (5th Air Force) sink Japanese cargo vessel *Oyashima Maru* near Halmahera Island, 00°34'N, 128°30'E.

Aircraft damage auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 9*, Rabaul.

Mediterranean

Minesweeper *Swerve* (AM-121) is sunk by mine about 16 miles southwest of Nettuno, Italy, 41°31'N, 12°285'E.

• **10 July, Mon. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Tinosa* (SS-283) sinks Japanese merchant fishing boat *No.5 Shosei Maru* 30 miles west of Danjo Island, 32°12'N, 127°00'E.

British submarine *HMS Tally Ho* damages Japanese auxiliary sailing vessel *No.3 Choun Maru* off Bernam River, Malaya.

RNZAF Corsairs, in strike on Japanese shipping in Keravia Bay, Rabaul, sink auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 23*, 04°13'S, 152°11'E.

Europe

Command designated U.S. Ports and Bases, France (Rear Admiral John Wilkes) is established with headquarters at Cherbourg.

- **11 July, Tue. --**

Pacific

Submarine attack group TG 17.16 (Captain William V. O'Regan), as it patrols the South China Sea near Formosa, locates the first of five convoys it will engage in the next two weeks; *Thresher* (SS-200) makes the initial contact with a seven-ship Japanese convoy bound from Keelung to the Philippines (see 12 July 1944).

Submarine *Sealion* (SS-315), in the Yellow Sea off the west coast of Korea, near Shosei Jima, sinks Japanese merchant cargo ships *No.2 Taiun Maru* 37°30'N, 124°34'E, and *No.2 Tsukushi Maru*, 37°24'N, 124°31'E.

U.S. motor torpedo boats sink small Japanese cargo vessel *Yawata Maru* off Babo.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Senyo Maru* is sunk by aircraft, Yangtze River, China.

- **12 July, Wed. --**

Pacific

TG 17.16 (Captain William V. O'Regan) engages the enemy off north coast of Luzon; submarine *Apogon* (SS-308) attacks what is most likely army cargo ship *Nichiran Maru* but is damaged when she is rammed by what is probably cargo ship *Mayasan Maru*, 19°51'N, 123°04'E; *Apogon* is forced to terminate her patrol. Submarine *Guardfish* (SS-217) makes no attacks. Later, however, *Piranha* (SS-389) sinks *Nichiran Maru*, 18°50'N, 122°40'E.

Atlantic

Convoy UGS 46 is attacked at dawn by 30 German aircraft off Cape Ivi, but no bombs are dropped and only two torpedoes are sighted; U.S. forces suffer no damage. U.S. freighter *Toltec* is hit by friendly fire; destroyer escort *Leslie L. B. Knox* (DE-580) provides medical assistance for the six Armed Guard sailors wounded by shell fragments.

- **13 July, Thu. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Cobia* (SS-245) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking cargo ship *Taishi Maru* about 190 miles northwest of Chichi Jima, Bonins, 27°25'N, 140°30'E. Among cargo lost on board *Taishi Maru* are 28 tanks (26th Tank Regiment).

USAAF B-25s attack Japanese cargo ships off Halmahera, sinking *T_kai Maru*, 01°25'N, 128°42'E, and damaging *Taimei Maru*, 01°00'N, 128°00'E.

British submarine HMS *Stoic* sinks Japanese fishing boat *No.55 Nanyo Maru* 18 miles from Muka Cape, 05°28'N, 100°11'E.

- **14 July, Fri. --**

Pacific

PB4Ys (VB 109) bomb Iwo Jima in the first strike by land-based planes on that Japanese island base.

Supported by two destroyers and four infantry landing craft (gunboat), Underwater Demolition Team (UDT) 3, in high speed transport *Dickerson* (APD-21), begins reconnoitering prospective landing beaches at Asan, Guam.

Destroyer escort *William C. Miller* (DE-259) sinks Japanese submarine *RO-48*, 75 miles east of Saipan, 15°18'N, 144°26'E, and teams with high speed transport *Gilmer* (APD-11) to sink Japanese submarine *I-6* 70 miles west of Tinian, 15°18'N, 144°26'E.

Submarine *Sand Lance* (SS-381) attacks Japanese convoy in the Banda Sea, sinking gunboat *Taik_Maru* east of Salajar, 05°56'S, 121°34'E.

Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.12* is damaged by aircraft off Bonins.

- **15 July, Sat. --**

- Pacific

- Submarine *Skate* (SS-305) sinks Japanese crabbing ship *Miho Maru* off Cape Shiretoko, northern Karafuto, Kurils, 48°08'N, 148°06'E.

- Motor torpedo boat *PT-133* is sunk by Japanese shore battery off eastern New Guinea, 03°28'S, 143°34'E.

- **16 July, Sun. --**

- Pacific

- Infantry landing craft (gunboat) *LCI(G)-469* is damaged by shore battery off Guam, as she supports ongoing UDT operations.

- Destroyer *Longshaw* (DD-559) is damaged when she runs aground on submerged reef, Eniwetok.

- TG 17.16 (Captain William V. O'Regan) attacks Japanese convoys off northern Luzon; *Piranha* (SS-389) sinks army transport *Seattle Maru*, 19°17'N, 120°15'E, *Guardfish* (SS-217) (flagship for TG 17.16) sinks transport *Mantai Maru* and army cargo ship *Jinzan Maru* off Cape Bojeador, 19°21'N, 119°43'E; *Thresher* (SS-200) sinks army cargo ship *Shozen Maru*, 18°23'N, 119°06'E, and damages merchant cargo ships *Sainei Maru* and *Nissan Maru*, 18°23'N, 119°32'E.

- Submarine *Bonefish* (SS-223) sinks Borneo-bound Japanese cargo vessel *No.3 Tatsu Maru* in Sulu Sea 10 nautical miles south of Palawan, 10°20'N, 119°50'E.

- Submarine *Cabrilla* (SS-288) attacks Japanese convoy off the west coast of Mindanao, but is not successful against transport *Natsukawa Maru*, 08°18'N, 122°49'E; counterattacks by what is most likely submarine chaser *Ch 31* and auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 64* (see 17 July 1944) prove equally unproductive.

- Submarine *Skate* (SS-305) sinks Japanese transport *Nipp_Maru*, east of South Sakhalin, Kurils, 48°29'N, 147°36'E. Survivors are rescued by Russian ship *Dalstroj*.

- RAAF Beaufighters damage Japanese gunboat *Man-Yo Maru*, cargo vessel *Tensho Maru*, and motor sailboat *No.14 Sakura Maru* off Maumere.

- Japanese cargo ship *Hozan Maru* is sunk by explosion in Manila harbor, 14°36'N, 120°57'E.

- **17 July, Mon. --**

- Pacific

- UDTs begin demolishing natural and artificial obstacles on prospective landing beaches on Guam. UDT 4 arrives in high speed transport *Kane* (APD-18); UDT

6 in high speed transport *Clemson* (APD-31). Infantry landing craft (gunboat) *LCI(G)-348*, damaged by grounding and Japanese shore battery fire off Guam, is abandoned (see 18 July 1944).

Ammunition-carrying U.S. freighter *E.A. Bryan* explodes at the Port Chicago, California, ammunition depot; the adjacent freighter *Quinalt Victory* is also destroyed. Armed Guards on board both vessels are wiped out. Among the casualties are 250 African-American sailors. When survivors refuse to return to work in the wake of the blast, they are convicted of mutiny. The explosion destroys the greater part of smoke-making material earmarked for shipment to Pearl Harbor for use in amphibious operations, rendering it impossible to provide that material for Operation STALEMATE before the ships leave for the staging area in the Solomon Islands.

Submarine *Cabrilla* (SS-288) continues attack on Japanese convoy off west coast of Mindanao, sinking army transport *Maya Maru* and damaging transport *Natsukawa Maru*, 07°42'N, 122°05'E.

Submarine *Gabilan* (SS-252) sinks Japanese minesweeper *W.25* northwest of Zenizu, Japan, 33°51'N, 138°35'E.

TG 17.16's attacks on Japanese shipping west of Luzon continue: submarine *Guardfish* (SS-217) sinks merchant cargo ship *Hiyama Maru*, 18°21'N, 119°49'E; *Thresher* (SS-200) sinks cargo ship *Nichizan Maru* near Luzon Strait; *Sainei Maru* and *Nissan Maru*, damaged by *Thresher* the previous night, sink.

British submarine *HMS Telemachus* sinks Japanese submarine *I-66* in Strait of Malacca, 02°47'N, 101°03'E.

- **18 July, Tue. --**

Pacific Premier Tojo and the Japanese cabinet resign; General Koiso forms a new cabinet.

Fleet tug *Apache* (ATF-67) retrieves disabled *LCI(G)-348* from waters off Guam where she had been abandoned the day before. Cruiser gunfire supports the successful extraction.

Motor gunboat *PGM-7* is damaged in collision in Bismarck Sea, 07°15'S, 155°40'E.

Coordinated submarine attack group, TG 17.3 (Captain Warren D. Wilkin), operating near Luzon Strait, attacks Japanese convoy; submarine *Tilefish* (SS-307), trailing *Rock* (SS-274) and *Sawfish* (SS-276), torpedoes *Coast Defense Vessel No.17*, 21°50'N, 119°55'E as the latter hunts for *Rock*, whose attack on enemy ships is not successful. *Sawfish* torpedoes oiler *Harima Maru*, 21°56'N, 119°50'E.

Submarine *Cobia* (SS-245) sinks Japanese gunboat *No.10 Unkai Maru* northwest of Chichi Jima, 29°15'N, 139°10'E, and army cargo ship *Nisshu Maru* west of Chichi Jima, 28°17'N, 139°00'E.

Submarine *Lapon* (SS-260) sinks Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Kurama Maru* off southern end of Palawan, 08°22'N, 116°40'E; and survey ship *No.36 Kyodo Maru* and auxiliary submarine chaser *Kamo Maru* northwest of Labuan, Borneo, 08°22'N, 116°45'E.

Submarine *Plaice* (SS-390) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking submarine chaser *Ch 50*, 200 nautical miles northwest of Chichi Jima, 29°22'N, 139°14'E.

Submarine *Ray* (SS-271) sinks Japanese merchant tanker *Jambi Maru* (ex-Dutch Djambi) in the Java Sea north of Bawean Island, 05°21'S, 112°30'E.

USAAF B-24 sinks Japanese transport *No.3 Kaio Maru* northwest of Morotai, 03°14'N, 127°41'E.

USAAF B-25s sink small Japanese cargo vessel *Yamahama Maru* off Maumere.

- **19 July, Wed. --**

- Pacific

- Destroyer escort *Wyman* (DE-38) sinks Japanese submarine *I-5*, 360 miles east of Guam, 13°01'N, 151°58'E.

- Submarine *Flasher* (SS-249) sinks Japanese light cruiser *Oi* in South China Sea, 280 miles east of Cape Varella, French Indochina, 13°12'N, 114°52'E.

- Submarine *Guardfish* (SS-217) attacks Japanese army cargo ship *Teiryu Maru* in South China Sea, southwest of Formosa, 20°00'N, 118°29'E.

- Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) sinks Japanese guardboat *No.1 Hokuriku Maru* northeast of Tori Jima, 31°30'N, 140°00'E.

- RAAF Mitchells sink Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *Wa.4* off Dili, Timor, 08°38'S, 125°26'E; small cargo vessel *No.53 Ebisu Maru* off southwest coast of Alor Island; and motor sailboat *Bokkai Maru* southwest of Alor, 08°30'S, 124°27'E.

- Aircraft sink Japanese ship *Tenyo Maru* off Saipan

- USAAF B-24s damage *Coast Defense Vessel No.16*, 156 miles southwest of Yap, Carolines.

- **20 July, Thu. --**

- Pacific

- All beach obstacles on Guam have been removed by underwater demolition teams: 640 on Asan beach and over 300 on Agat.

- Submarine *Cobia* (SS-245) engages three-ship Japanese convoy northwest of Chichi Jima, sinking auxiliary submarine chasers *No.3 Yusen Maru* and *No.2 Kaio Maru*, 28°06'N, 141°32'E, and damaging cargo vessel *Shoei Maru*, but not before one of the escorts, however, rams *Cobia*, causing minor damage.

- **21 July, Fri. --**

- Pacific

- TF 53 (Rear Admiral Richard L. Conolly) lands Marines (3d Marine Division and 1st Provisional Marine Brigade) and Army forces (77th Infantry) under Major General Roy S. Geiger, USMC, on Guam, in **Operation STEVEDORE**. Assault, described as having all the characteristics of "a well-rehearsed play" is preceded by intensive naval gunfire and carrier-based aircraft strikes. Simultaneous employment of naval gunfire and aircraft in the same coastal area marks the first time that the two have been used in this fashion in a Pacific amphibious operation. While enemy opposition is small at the outset,

determined resistance develops inland. Submarine chaser *SC-1326* is damaged by mortar fire, Guam, 13°24'N, 144°39'E.

- **22 July, Sat. --**

Pacific

President Roosevelt sails for Hawaii in heavy cruiser *Baltimore* (CA-68) to confer with Admiral Nimitz and General MacArthur and focus attention on the Pacific campaign and encourage American armed forces that the President is devoting his personal attention to that theater of war--at a time when the European war appears to be attracting the most headlines.

- **23 July, Sun. --**

Pacific

Destroyer *Bush* (DD-529) is damaged by premature detonation of 5-inch shell during shore bombardment exercises off Kahoolawe, T.H.

High speed minesweeper *Chandler* (DMS-9) is damaged by fire, Marianas, 15°08'N, 145°28'E.

British submarine HMS *Storm* sinks Japanese cargo ship *Kiso Maru* and fishing vessel *Taih_Maru* near Port Owen, 14°00'N, 96°50'E.

Japanese guardboat *Wakayoshi Maru* is sunk by mine, Hayatomo Seto, Inland Sea.

Japanese cargo vessel *Takazan Maru* is damaged by RAAF mine in Tiore Strait, Celebes, 04°25'S, 122°17'E. Later (indeterminate date) inflicted by what are most likely USAAF planes result in her ultimate sinking by 5 October.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *William Gaston* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-861* while she is en route from Buenos Aires to Baltimore, 26°37'S, 46°13'W; there are no casualties among either the merchant or Armed Guard complements (see 25 July 1944).

- **24 July, Mon. --**

Pacific

TF 52 (Rear Admiral Harry W. Hill) lands 4th Marine Division (Major General Harry Schmidt, USMC) on **Tinian**. Landing, which initially encounters light opposition, is supported by naval gunfire, carrier aircraft, and land-based aircraft from Saipan. Shore batteries on Tinian damage battleship *Colorado* (BB-45) and destroyer *Norman Scott* (DD-690) at 15°02'N, 145°50'E; and tank landing ship *LST-481* at 13°24'N, 144°39'E.

USAAF B-24s (5th Air Force) sink Japanese transport *Asahisan Maru* in Kau Bay, Halmahera, 01°10'N, 127°54'E.

Atlantic

German submarine *U-861* attacks convoy JT 99 and eludes search aircraft from escort carrier *Solomons* (CVE-67).

- **25 July, Tue. --**

Pacific

Aircraft from TF 58 (Vice Adm Marc A. Mitscher) attack Japanese installations and shipping in the western Carolines, at Yap, Ulithi, Fais, Ngulu, Sorol, and Palau; strikes continue until 28 July. F6Fs from small carrier *San Jacinto* (CVL-

30) damage destroyer *Samidare* 30 miles north of Babelthuap, Palau, 08°15'N, 134°37'E (see 18 and 26 August 1944). F6Fs from carrier *Bunker Hill* (CV-17) sink guardboat *Ryojin Maru*, 07°30'N, 134°30'E.

USAAF B-25s sink Japanese salvage vessel *Hoshin Maru* 70 nautical miles east of Hong Kong, 22°00'N, 115°50'E.

Atlantic

Small seaplane tender *Matagorda* (AVP-22) rescues all 67 survivors of U.S. freighter *William Gaston*, sunk on 22 July by German submarine *U-861* approximately 150 miles southeast of Florianapolis, Brazil.

U.S. freighter *Robin Goodfellow* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-862* while en route from Cape Town, South Africa, to New York, at 20°03'S, 14°21'W. All hands (including the 27 Armed Guard sailors and the 41-man merchant complement) perish.

Europe

U.S. freighter *David Starr Jordan* is bombed and strafed while anchored off Utah Beach, Normandy; two of the 500 soldiers embarked on board are killed by bomb fragments, while 13 other men from among the 43-man merchant complement and 26-man Armed Guard are injured.

- **26 July, Wed. --**

Pacific

Heavy cruiser *Baltimore* (CA-68), with President Roosevelt embarked, arrives at Pearl Harbor, T.H.; the President will meet with Admiral Nimitz, Admiral Leahy, and General MacArthur to discuss Pacific strategy.

TF 58 strikes against Japanese installations and shipping in western Carolines continue; planes from carrier *Bunker Hill* (CV-17) damage landing ship *T.150* (see 27 July 1944); planes from *Lexington* (CV-16) damage minelayer *Sokuten*, which is then finished off by planes from *Bunker Hill* at 07°20'N, 134°27'E.

U.S. submarines carry out succession of attacks on Japanese convoy in South China Sea. *Angler* (SS-240) damages transport (ex-seaplane carrier) *Kiyokawa Maru*, 18°15'N, 118°00'E; *Flasher* (SS-249) sinks merchant tanker *Otoriyama Maru*, 17°56'N, 118°07'E, and teams with *Crevalle* (SS-291) to sink army cargo ship *Tosan Maru*, 18°24'N, 118°02'E; *Crevalle* sinks transport *Aki Maru*, 18°26'N, 118°02'E.

Submarine *Robalo* (SS-273) is sunk by mine off western Palawan, Balabac Strait, P.I., 08°25'N, 117°53'E.19

Submarine *Sawfish* (SS-276) sinks Japanese submarine *I-29* in Balintang Channel, Luzon Strait, 20°10'N, 121°55'E.

- **27 July, Thu. --**

Pacific

As TF 58 strikes against Japanese installations and shipping in the western Carolines continue, Navy carrier planes sink fast transport *T.1* off Palau; planes from carrier *Bunker Hill* (CV-17) sink landing ship *T.150*.

Submarine *Dace* (SS-247) attacks Japanese convoy and sinks fleet tanker *No.2 Ky_ei Maru* about 90 miles south of Zamboanga, 05°25'N, 121°42'E.

USAAF B-24s, B-25s and P-38s work over Japanese shipping near Halmahera Island, damaging motor sailboat *Genjo Maru*.

Japanese escort destroyer *Kunashiri* is damaged (cause unspecified) west of Paramushiro, Kurils.

- **28 July, Fri. --**

Pacific

President Roosevelt, Admiral Nimitz, Admiral Leahy and General MacArthur meet in Honolulu to discuss Pacific strategy. Ultimately, General MacArthur prevails upon the President and Admiral Nimitz to accord priority to the liberation of the Philippines.

Destroyer escorts *Wyman* (DE-38) and *Reynolds* (DE-42) sink Japanese submarine *I-55*, 400 miles east of Tinian, 14°26'N, 152°16'E.

Submarine *Aspro* (SS-309) damages previously damaged Japanese gunboat *Peking Maru* aground off Vigan Point, Luzon, 17°33'N, 120°21'E; *Peking Maru* remains aground, a total loss, gutted and abandoned.

Submarine *Crevalle* (SS-291) attacks Japanese convoy off northwestern Luzon, sinking merchant cargo ship *Hakubasan Maru* off Piedra Point, 16°23'N, 119°40'E.

- **29 July, Sat. --**

Pacific

Heavy cruiser *Baltimore* (CA-68), with President Roosevelt embarked, departs Pearl Harbor for Adak, Aleutians.

Tank landing ship *LST-340* is damaged by grounding, Marianas, 15°10'N, 145°58'E.

Submarine *Drum* (SS-228) sinks Japanese sampan *Asahi Maru* 100 miles off Palau, 09°18'N, 133°20'E.

Submarine *Perch* (SS-313) sinks Japanese guardboat *Kannon Maru I-Go* in Philippine Sea, east of Dinagat Island, 10°46'N, 127°13'E.

Europe

USAAF B-17s (Eighth Air Force) bomb oil refinery near Bremen; German submarines *U-878* and *U-2323* are lost this day in bombing raids on that German port city.

- **30 July, Sun. --**

Pacific

TF 77 (Rear Admiral William M. Fechteler) lands Army 6th Infantry Division (Major General Franklin C. Sibert, USA) near Cape Opnari, northwest New Guinea, and on islands of Amsterdam and Middleburg, in the first phase of **Operation GLOBETROTTER**.

Cargo ship *Adhara* (AK-71) and U.S. merchant vessel *Peter White* are damaged when the latter accidentally rams the Navy ship off Lunga Point, Guadalcanal.

Sometime during July 1944, open lighter *YC-961* is lost after grounding off Biorca Island, Alaska.

Submarine *Bonefish* (SS-223) sinks Japanese fleet tanker *Kokuy_Maru* about 75 miles northeast of Borneo, 06°07'N, 120°00'E.

USAAF B-25s attack Japanese installations and shipping at Tobele, Halmahera, sinking small cargo vessel *Mansei Maru*.

Atlantic

Off Normandy, mines sink motor minesweeper *YMS-304* and damage *YMS-378*, 49°33'N, 01°14'W.

- **31 July, Mon. --**

Pacific

TF 77 (Rear Admiral William M. Fechteler) lands Army troops on Cape Sansapor, New Guinea, in second phase of **Operation GLOBETROTTER**, thus concluding the New Guinea campaign.

Coordinated submarine attack group TG 17.15 (Commander Lewis S. Parks) carries out succession of attacks on Japanese convoy near the Bashi Channel. Submarine *Parche* (SS-384) (flagship) sinks transport *Mank_Maru*, 19°08'N, 120°51'E, and merchant tanker *K_ei Maru*, 19°00'N, 122°55'E, and damages merchant cargo ship *No.1 Ogura Maru*, 19°10'N, 120°58'E, and army cargo ship *Fuso Maru*, and teams with *Steelhead* (SS-280) to sink army cargo ship *Yoshino Maru*, 19°05'N, 120°50.5'E. *Steelhead* sinks *Fus_Maru*, 19°00'N, 120°55'E, and damages army cargo ship *Dakar Maru*, 19°08'N, 120°51'E, which is towed to San Fernando and abandoned. For the heroism he displays in pressing home a daring surface attack, *Parche's* captain, Commander Lawson P. Ramage, will be awarded the Medal of Honor.

Submarine *Dace* (SS-247) sinks small Japanese cargo vessel *Shinju Maru* 20 miles west of Palimban Point, 06°15'N, 124°11'E.

Submarine *Lapon* (SS-260) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking merchant tanker *Tenshin Maru* off the southwest tip of Palawan, 08°50'N, 116°00'E, and damages weather ship *Hijun Maru*, 08°51'N, 116°45'E.

Europe

U.S. freighter *Exmouth* is mined and sunk about 60 miles off the Scottish coast while en route from Hull, England, to Loch Ewe, Scotland, 56°33'N, 01°38'W; there are no casualties among the 43 merchant sailors and the 27-man Armed Guard.

August

- **1 August, Tue. --**

Pacific

Seventh Amphibious Force (Rear Admiral Daniel E. Barbey) is formed. Group One is to be commanded by Rear Admiral Arthur D. Struble; Group Two by Rear Admiral Charles P. Cecil. Cecil, however, is killed in crash of Naval Air Transport Service PB2Y, Funafuti.

Organized Japanese resistance ends on Tinian.

Naval Air Base, Tinian, is established.

Destroyer escort *England* (DE-635) is damaged when she runs aground in Seadler Harbor, Manus, Admiralty Islands.

Submarine *Puffer* (SS-268) damages Japanese oiler *Sunosaki* northeast of Borneo, 05°08'N, 119°32.5'E.

Navy PBY attacks Japanese convoy, sinking ammunition ship *Seia Maru* in Taliaboe Bay, Soela Island, N.E.I., 01°46'N, 125°32'E.

U.S. freighter *Extavia* is damaged by explosion while en route from New Georgia to the Treasury Islands, but reaches her destination unaided; there are no casualties among the 73-man merchant complement or 81-man Armed Guard, or the 845 embarked troops.

- **2 August, Wed. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking army cargo ship *Konei Maru* (ex-Italian *Furiere Consolini*) off Miki Saki, Honshu, 33°57'N, 136°20'E.

Atlantic

Destroyer escort *Fiske* (DE-143) is sunk by German submarine *U-804*, 800 miles east of Cape Race, Newfoundland, 47°11'N, 33°29'W.

- **3 August, Thu. --**

Office of the General Counsel Navy Department is established; formerly designated Procurement Legal Division, Navy Department.

Pacific

Heavy cruiser *Baltimore* (CA-68), with President Roosevelt embarked, arrives at Adak, Aleutians.

Submarine *Cod* (SS-224) sinks Japanese auxiliary netlayer *Seiko Maru* off Mangole, Molucca Sea, 01°47'S, 126°15'E.

Japanese minelayer *Hatsutaka* is damaged by mine laid by British submarine HMS *Truculent* on 24 June 1944, Klang Strait, 02°51'N, 101°15'E.

- **4 August, Fri. --**

Pacific

While planes from TG 58.3 (Rear Admiral Alfred E. Montgomery) bomb airfields on Iwo Jima, aircraft from TG 58.1 (Rear Admiral Joseph J. Clark), together with four light cruisers and seven destroyers detached from TG 58.1 and TG 58.3 (organized as TU 58.1.6 under Rear Admiral Laurance T. DuBose) set upon Japanese convoy 4804 about 25 miles northwest of Muko Jima, Bonins. Ship gunfire sinks escort destroyer *Matsu*, 27°40'N, 141°48'E, and collier *Ryuko Maru*, carrier planes sink transports *No.7 Unkai Maru*, *Enju Maru*, *Tonegawa Maru* and *Shogen Maru*, 27°05'N, 142°11'E, and damage *Coast Defense Vessel No.4* and *Coast Defense Vessel No.12*; ship gunfire and carrier planes combine to sink cargo ship *Hokkai Maru*. Planes from small carrier *Cabot* (CVL- 29) damage fast transport *T.4*, 27°07'N, 142°12'E (see 5 August and 1-2 September 1944); planes from carriers *Bunker Hill* (CV-17) and *Lexington* (CV-16) sink landing ship *T.133* off coast of Iwo Jima, 24°47'N, 141°20'E.

Heavy cruiser *Baltimore* (CA-68), with President Roosevelt embarked, departs Adak, Aleutians, bound for Kodiak, Alaska.

Submarine *Raton* (SS-270) attacks Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.1 Ogura Maru* off coast of Luzon, 16°31'N, 119°44'E, forcing her to take refuge at Santa Cruz.

Submarine *Ray* (SS-271) attacks Makassar-bound Japanese convoy in Celebes Sea, sinking army cargo ship *Koshu Maru*, 04°05'S, 117°40'E; auxiliary submarine chaser *Chga 112* conducts fruitless counterattack.

Submarine *Sterlet* (SS-392) sinks Japanese guardboats *Miyagi Maru* and *Zensho Maru* northwest of Chichi Jima, 28°11'N, 141°43'E.

PB4Y attacks Japanese submarine chaser *Ch 12* 150 miles west of Palau, 07°20'N, 131°34'E.

- **5 August, Sat. --**

- Pacific

- Aircraft from TG 58.1 (Rear Admiral Joseph J. Clark) and TG 58.3 (Rear Admiral Alfred E. Montgomery) and cruisers and destroyers (Rear Admiral Laurance T. DuBose) repeat strikes on Japanese installations on Chichi Jima and Haha Jima, Bonins. Planes from carrier *Bunker Hill* (CV-17) inflict further damage upon fast transport *T.4*, 27°07'N, 142°12'E, and damage *T.2* off Chichi Jima, 27°05'N, 142°09'E.

- Fast Carrier Task Force is reorganized into First Fast Carrier Task Force, Pacific Fleet (Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher) and Second Fast Carrier Task Force, Pacific Fleet (Vice Admiral John S. McCain).

- Submarine *Barbel* (SS-316) sinks Japanese merchant passenger/cargo ship *Miyako Maru* off Tokuno Jima, 27°36'N, 128°54'E.

- Submarine *Cero* (SS-225) attacks Japanese convoy off Mindanao and sinks oiler *Tsurumi* in Davao Gulf, 05°53'N, 125°41'E.

- British submarine HMS *Terrapin* bombards Japanese installations at Gunung Sitoli, engaging shore batteries and guardboat *Shime Maru*.

- PBV sinks small Japanese cargo vessel *No.2 Eiko Maru* off Latoelahat, 03°47'S, 128°06'E.

- PVs, attacking Japanese guardboats in the Kurils, damage *Hyuga Maru*, 50°35'N, 159°05'E.

- USAAF B-25s (5th Air Force) sink Japanese army cargo ship *Shirohama Maru* off Boetoeng, Api Island, southern Celebes, 04°40'S, 122°47'E.

- Mediterranean

- Rear Admiral Don P. Moon, who had worked tirelessly to develop plans for the assault upon the strongly defended coast of southern France, commits suicide on board his flagship, attack transport *Bayfield* (APA-33); his death is attributed to combat fatigue. He is replaced as task group commander by Rear Admiral Spencer S. Lewis.

- **6 August, Sun. --**

- Pacific

- Submarine *Pintado* (SS-387) attacks Japanese convoy off southwest coast of

Kyushu, sinking army cargo ship *Sh_nan Maru* 30°53'N, 129°45'E, and damaging escort vessel *Etorofu* east of Kusagaki Jima, 30°51'N, 129°26'E.

Submarine *Rasher* (SS-269) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Shiroganesan Maru* west of Luzon, 14°10'N, 117°12'E.

Dutch Mitchells sink Japanese army cargo ship *No.15 Uwajima Maru* in Banda Sea, 04°31'S, 129°53'E.

Mediterranean

USAAF B-17s and B-24s bomb targets in southeastern France, including submarine pens at Toulon, where they sink German submarines *U-471*, *U-952*, and *U-969*.

Europe

Motor torpedo boats *PT-510*, *PT-512*, and *PT-514* engage E-boats of the German 15th Patrol Boat Flotilla and turn them back to Le Havre. Battle concludes early the next morning.

U.S. freighter *William L. Marcy* is torpedoed (possibly by a schnellboote from the 2d or 6th Flotillas) off Juno Beach, at 49°23'42"N, 00°26'36"W; although the sole passenger is killed, there are no casualties among the 28-man Armed Guard, or among the 47-man merchant complement. The ship is later towed to Falmouth, England (17 August) and Swansea, Wales (21 August) where she is written off as a total loss.

• **7 August, Mon. --**

Pacific

Heavy cruiser *Baltimore* (CA-68), with President Roosevelt embarked, arrives at Kodiak, Alaska, where the Chief Executive transfers to destroyer *Cummings* (DD-376).

Submarine *Barbel* (SS-316) sinks Japanese cargo vessel *No.11 Sakura Maru*, 15 kilometers southwest of Tokuno Jima, 27°36'N, 121°46'E.

Submarine *Bluegill* (SS-242) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking transport *Yamatama Maru* southwest of Mindanao, 06°05'N, 124°23'E.

Submarine *Croaker* (SS-246), despite presence of escort vessel and shore-based air cover, sinks Japanese light cruiser *Nagara* about 35 miles south of Nagasaki, Japan, 32°09'N, 129°54'E.

Submarine *Guitarro* (SS-363) attacks Japanese convoy and sinks escort vessel *Kusagaki* off Capones Island, Luzon, 14°51'N, 119°51'E; *Guitarro* survives depth-charging by other escorts (perhaps destroyer *Asakaze*, escort vessel *Yashiro* and/or *Coast Defense Vessel No.14*).

Submarine *Puffer* (SS-268) sinks Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *No.2 Ky_Maru* off Zamboanga, 07°50'N, 122°07'E.

Submarine *Sailfish* (SS-192) damages Japanese army cargo ship *Kinsh_Maru* in Luzon Strait, 20°09'N, 121°19'E; transport *Shinten Maru* sinks.

Submarine *Sand Lance* (SS-381) is damaged by aerial bombs off northern Celebes, 01°18'N, 121°30'E.

Submarine *Seawolf* (SS-197) lands men and supplies at Tawi Tawi, P.I.

Tank landing craft *LCT-182* founders and sinks in heavy weather, Solomon Islands.

Japanese army cargo ship *Kinshu Maru* is sunk by aircraft, 20°09'N, 121°19'E.

Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 94* is lost to marine casualty in Luzon Strait, 20°00'N, 122°00'E.

USAAF B-24 aircraft damages Italian passenger liner *Conte Verde* (scuttled in September 1943), Shanghai.

Mediterranean

Motor torpedo boats *PT-511*, *PT-520*, and *PT-521* attack German coastal convoy off Cap D'Antifer; in the engagement with the 14th Motor Minesweeping Flotilla that lasts into the next day, *PT-520* and *PT-521* are damaged.

- **8 August, Tue. --**

Pacific

Destroyers *Gansevoort* (DD-608) and *Bancroft* (DD-598) and land-based marine aircraft (MAG 13) from Majuro, Marshalls, bombard and bomb Japanese positions on Taroa, Maloelap Atoll.

Submarine *Sterlet* (SS-392) sinks Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *No.6 Tama Maru* west of Chichi Jima, 28°11'N, 141°06'E.

Europe

U.S. freighter *Ezra Weston*, in convoy EBC 66, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-667* while en route to Falmouth, England, from Avonmouth, at 50°42'N, 05°02'W, and abandoned. British HMS *LCT 24* and French trawler *Jacques Morgand* embark survivors. Canadian corvette HMCS *Regina* stands by the doomed freighter but *U-667* finishes off *Ezra Weston* with another torpedo. There are no casualties among the merchant or Armed Guard complements, nor among the passengers.

- **9 August, Wed. --**

Pacific

President Roosevelt reembarks in heavy cruiser *Baltimore* (CA-68) and then shifts to destroyer *Cummings* (DD-376) to visit the Puget Sound Navy Yard.

PB4Y (VB 116) crashes on takeoff from Stickell Field, Eniwetok, and burns amidst the 340 planes in the carrier aircraft replacement pool area; 106 (F6Fs, FMs, SB2Cs, and TBMs) are destroyed.

Submarine *Barbel* (SS-316) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Yagi Maru* and merchant cargo ship *Boko Maru* (ex- British *Sagres*) north of Okinoshima, 27°56'N, 128°47'E. *Coast Defense Vessel No.1* and minesweeper *W.17* carry out antisubmarine sweep to no avail.

Submarine *Seawolf* (SS-197) lands men and supplies on Palawan.

British submarine HMS *Trenchant* sinks Japanese merchant fishing boat *No.2 Hiyoshi Maru* off coast of Sumatra, 04°29'S, 102°54'E

USAAF B-25s sink Japanese ship *Tokuyu Maru* and damage fishing boat *No.6 Meijin Maru* off Halmahera.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Hokko Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Shanghai, China.

Japanese cargo ship *Koshin Maru* is sunk by fire, 125 miles northeast of Keelung, Formosa.

Atlantic

Motor torpedo boat *PT-509* is sunk by German surface craft off the isle of Jersey, English Channel, 49°11'N, 02°15'W.

In another channel action, three U.S. motor torpedo boats engage German convoy off Cap d'Antifer, France; German gunfire damages *PT-520* and *PT-521*.

- **10 August, Thu. --**

Pacific

Organized Japanese resistance ends on Guam. Patrols soon begin off northeast coast of the island to prevent escape of Japanese forces still present on Guam and to aid marine forces in exterminating or capturing Japanese hidden in caves and brush along the shoreline. Not only do the infantry landing craft employed on this task carry out gunfire support duties but actively pursue measures to induce Japanese to surrender. *LCI(G)-466*, *LCI(G)-469*, *LCI(G)-471*, and *LCI(G)-473* induce 157 Japanese to surrender up to the end of September.

Submarine *Bowfin* (SS-287) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Seiyo Maru* off Minami Daito Shima, 25°50'N, 131°12'E.

Submarine *Cod* (SS-224) sinks Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Toseki Maru* south of the Celebes, 05°15'S, 121°14'E.

Submarine *Guitarro* (SS-363) attacks Japanese convoy off northwest coast of Luzon, sinking merchant tanker *Shinei Maru*, 16°15'N, 119°45'E.

Japanese guardboat *Sakae Maru* is sunk by U.S. aircraft at Rabaul, 04°12'S, 152°15'E.

- **11 August, Fri. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Cod* (SS-224) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.6 Shinsei Maru* south of the Celebes, 05°38'S, 120°37'E.

Submarine *Tang* (SS-306) attacks Japanese convoy off southern Honshu, and sinks merchant cargo ship *Roko Maru*, 33°58'N, 136°18'E.

USAAF B-25s sink Japanese guardboat *Daishin Maru* east of Paramushiro, Kurils, 50°09'N, 157°03'E.

Other Japanese casualties include cargo vessel *No.7 Kyoei Maru* damaged by mine laid by USAAF B-29 (20th Bomber Command) in Musi River, while en route to Palembang; tanker *Ikuta Maru* sunk by mine off coast of Sumatra; guardboats *No.20 Aiko Maru* and *No.32 Ebisu Maru* by U.S. aircraft, Kaoe Bay, Halmahera; and *Shinyu Maru* sunk by aircraft, Halmahera Bay.

- **12 August, Sat. --**

Pacific

President Roosevelt concludes his inspection of naval activities in the Pacific when he departs Puget Sound on this date to return to Washington.

Submarine *Pompon* (SS-267) attacks Japanese convoy in Sea of Okhotsk, damaging merchant cargo ship *Mayachi Maru* east of Sakhalin, 50°35'N, 144°03'E.

Submarine *Puffer* (SS-268) attacks Japanese convoy off Mindoro, sinking merchant tanker *Teikon Maru* off Cape Calavite, 13°26'N, 119°55'E; *Puffer* also damages tanker *Shinpo Maru*, which is beached off Golo Island (see 14 August).

- **13 August, Sun. --**

- Pacific

- Submarine *Barbel* (SS-316) sinks Japanese auxiliary *Koan Maru* off Amami Oshima, 28°31'N, 129°18'E.

- Submarine *Bluegill* (SS-242) attacks Japanese convoy off Cape San Augustin, Mindanao, and sinks submarine chaser *Ch 12*, auxiliary submarine chaser *Misago Maru* and transport *Kojun Maru* near entrance to Davao Gulf, 06°17'N, 126°10'E.

- Submarine *Cod* (SS-224) attacks Japanese landing ship *T.129* in the Banda Sea, 05°28'S, 125°08'E, but is driven off by the enemy amphibious ship's accurate return fire (see 14 August).

- Submarine *Flier* (SS-250) is sunk by mine, south of Palawan, Balabac Strait, North Borneo, 09°00'N, 117°15'E.

- Submarine *Tambor* (SS-198) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Toei Maru* in southern part of Sea of Okhotsk, 48°35'N, 149°02'E.

- Japanese submarine *I-365* is damaged by Fairmile motor gunboats off Biak.

- RAAF Beaufighters sink small Japanese cargo vessel *No.3 Hamayoshi Maru* off Kalig Island, 02°14'S, 130°31'E.

- Japanese army cargo ship *No.2 Asahi Maru* is sunk by aircraft in South China Sea, southeast of Hong Kong, 22°03'N, 114°44'E.

- Japanese tankerm *Butsu Maru* is sunk by accidental fire off Ahan Point, Formosa, 20°16'N, 121°52'E.

- **14 August, Mon. --**

- Pacific

- Submarine *Bluefish* (SS-222) sinks Japanese tanker *Shinpo Maru*, previously damaged by *Puffer* (SS-268) on 12 August, off Golo Island, 13°39'N, 120°22'E.

- Submarine *Cod* (SS-224) sinks Japanese landing ship *T.129* in Banda Sea, about 40 miles south of Boeroe Island and 80 miles southwest of Ambon Bay, 04°17'S, 126°46'E.

- Submarine *Croaker* (SS-246) sinks Japanese gunboat *No.7 Daigen Maru* southwest of Inchon, Korea, 37°25'N, 125°12'E.

- Submarine *Ray* (SS-271) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking merchant cargo ship *Zuisho Maru* off northwest coast of Borneo, 03°51'N, 112°58'E, and damaging cargo vessel *Uga Maru*, 03°51'N, 112°58'E (see 21 August).

- Japanese cargo ship *Miikesan Maru* is sunk by mine laid by USAAF B-24 (14th Air Force) off Takao, Formosa, 22°00'N, 120°00'E.

Atlantic

Tank landing ship *LST-921* is sunk by German submarine *U-667* about 11 miles southwest of Hartland Point, England, 51°05'N, 04°47'W.

- **15 August, Tue. --**

Pacific

USAAF B-24s (5th Air Force) attack Japanese convoy and sink army cargo ship *Tosho Maru* in Banda Sea, southwest of Soena Islands, 04°30'S, 125°26'E; auxiliary submarine chaser *No.18 Nitto Maru* rescues survivors.

RAAF Mitchells sink Japanese cargo vessel *No.14 Sakura Maru* off north coast of central Timor.

Other aircraft sink vessel *Kono Maru* off Halmahera Island.

Mediterranean

Allied troops (Major General Alexander M. Patch, USA) land on coast of Southern France between Toulon and Cannes in **Operation DRAGOON**, preceded by heavy naval gunfire and aircraft attack. The operation is under the command of Vice Admiral H. Kent Hewitt, Naval Commander Western Task Force and Commander Eighth Fleet. After the landings, naval gunfire engages German coast defense batteries and continues to support the troops ashore. Infantry landing craft *LCI-592* is damaged by mortar fire off southern France; *LCI-588* and *LCI-590* are damaged by mines off RED Beach ALPHA; tank landing ship *LST-282*, damaged by glider bomb while approaching GREEN beach, is beached and abandoned, 43°25'N, 06°50'E; submarine chaser *SC-1029* is damaged when landing craft ahead of ship explodes, 43°12'N, 06°41'E. U.S. freighter *Tarleton Brown* is damaged by bomb and near-miss during German air raid on Allied shipping off St. Raphael; there are no fatalities among the merchant crew, the passengers, or the 44-man Armed Guard.

Destroyer *Somers* (DD-381) sinks German ship *Esebart* and damages corvette *Uj.6083* (ex-Italian corvette *Capriolo*). The latter is captured and then scuttled southwest of Isle Port Cros.

- **16 August, Wed. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Croaker* (SS-246) sinks Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *Taito Maru* west of Korea, 36°16'N, 125°49'E.

Atlantic

Tank landing ship *LST-391* is damaged by mine off Cherbourg, 49°38'N, 01°37'W.

Mediterranean

Off southern France, motor torpedo boats *PT-202* and *PT-218* are sunk by mines, Gulf of Frejus, 43°23'N, 06°43'E; motor minesweeper *YMS-24* is sunk by mine, 43°25'N, 06°43'E; submarine chaser *SC-525* is damaged; infantry landing craft *LCI-951* is damaged by mine off YELLOW Beach. USAAF L-4 Piper Cubs, launched from tank landing ships, spot gunfire for light cruiser *Marblehead* (CL-12).

- **17 August, Thu. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Croaker* (SS-246) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Yamatero Maru* off west coast of Korea, 35°33'N, 126°10'E.

RAAF aircraft sink Japanese cargo vessel *No.2 Jun Maru* off south coast of Miscol Island.

Japanese river gunboat *Hira* is damaged by aircraft at Kiukiang, China.

Mediterranean

Diversions assault is carried out with Special Operations Group (TG 80.4) penetrating Baie de Ciotat; destroyer *Endicott* (DD-495) and two motor torpedo boats bombard western half of the beach area; British river gunboats HMS *Aphis* and HMS *Scarab* and the 24th Motor Launch Flotilla bombard eastern half.

Enemy shore battery fire is heavy but falls short. After group withdraws from beach area, German submarine chasers *Uj 6073* and *Uj 6081* engage the small task force. *Endicott*, *Aphis*, and *Scarab* engage them and sink both 13 miles off Cap Croisette light.

Heavy cruiser *Tuscaloosa* (CA-37) is near-missed by shore battery off southern France; beachhead screen (TU 80.6.10) engages four German E-boats off southern France; destroyer *Harding* (DD-625) sinks two, *Carmick* (DD-493) and *Satterlee* (DD-626) one apiece. Destroyer *Frankford* (DD-497), damaged by E-boat, later captures the craft, which sinks subsequently.

• **18 August, Fri. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Hardhead* (SS-365) sinks Japanese light cruiser *Natori* about 200 miles east of Samar, P.I., 12°29'N, 128°49'E; accompanying fast transport *T.3* continues on for Palau. Destroyers *Uranami* and *Kiyoshimo* rescue most of *Natori's* survivors (See 31 August and 12 September 1944).

U.S. submarines *Rasher* (SS-269) and *Redfish* (SS-395) encounter Japanese convoy HI 71 off west coast of Luzon. *Rasher* sinks escort carrier *Taiyo*, transport *Teia Maru*, cargo ship *Eishin Maru* at 18°16'N, 120°21'E, and oiler *Teiyo Maru* southwest of Cape Bojeador, 18°09'N, 120°13'E, and damages transport *Noshiro Maru* southwest of Cape Bojeador, 18°09'N, 119°56'E; *Redfish* damages merchant tanker *Eiyo Maru* west of Luzon Strait, 20°28'N, 121°04'E.

Submarine *Ray* (SS-271) sinks Japanese merchant tanker *Nansei Maru* off southern tip of Palawan, 08°48'N, 117°02'E.

Dutch submarine *Zwaardvisch* sinks Japanese vessel *Kim Hup Soen* in Strait of Malacca, 04°00'N, 99°32'E.

Japanese destroyer *Samidare* is damaged when she runs aground on Velasco Reef, north of Palau, Carolines (see 26 August).

Mediterranean

Off southern France, amphibious force flagship *Catoctin* (AGC-5) is damaged by JU-88, 43°17'N, 06°38'E; the JU-88 had followed closely behind USAAF P-38s and an RAF Beaufighter during an air raid alert. Elsewhere off the beachheads minesweeper *Steady* (AM-118) is damaged when a broken fire main floods jamming equipment compartment, and destroyer *MacKenzie* (DD-614) is damaged by operational casualty (starboard engine) during attack on submarine

contact. U.S. freighter *Albert A. Michelson* is damaged off St. Tropez, by bomb during German air raid; while there are no casualties among the 27-man Armed Guard, 5 of the 43-man merchant complement are wounded badly enough to warrant their being left in a shoreside hospital for treatment.

- **19 August, Sat. --**

Pacific

U.S. submarine attacks on Japanese convoy HI 71, begun the previous day, continue off the west coast of Luzon as *Bluefish* (SS-222) sinks fast fleet tanker/seaplane carrier *Hayasui*, 80 nautical miles northwest of Cape Bolinao, 17°34'N, 119°23'E, and damages hospital ship *Awa Maru*, 17°36'N, 119°38'E.

Submarine *Redfin* (SS-272) lays mines off Sarawak, Borneo.

Submarine *Spadefish* (SS-411) sinks Japanese landing craft depot repair ship *Tamatsu Maru* west of Luzon, 18°48'N, 119°47'E.

Mediterranean

Battleship *Nevada* (BB-36), French battleship *Lorraine*, and heavy cruiser *Augusta* (CA-31) conduct reconnaissance in force off Toulon to support the U.S. Army's Third Division and French troops making a drive on that port. Escorted by four destroyers, *Nevada*, *Lorraine*, and *Augusta* shell the harbor and batteries at St. Mandrier; heavy cruiser *Quincy* (CA-71) provides counter-battery fire on Giens, from position south of Isle Port Cros.²⁰

Europe

German submarines *U-123* and *U-129* are scuttled to avoid capture at Lorient, France.

- **20 August, Sun. --**

Pacific

RAAF aircraft damage small Japanese cargo vessel *Kairyu Maru*, Menado Bay, 00°49'N, 127°38'E.

RAAF Beaufighters sink small Japanese cargo vessel *No.3 Yamada Maru* off north coast of Ceram.

USAAF B-24s (14th Air Force) sink Japanese army tanker *Chuko Maru* near Hong Kong, 22°23'N, 115°34'E.

Atlantic

TBM and FM-2 (VC 42) from escort carrier *Bogue* (CVE-9) sink German submarine *U-1229* in North Atlantic, 42°20'N, 51°39'W.

Mediterranean

German submarines *U-178* and *U-188* and UIT 21 (ex- Italian) are scuttled to avoid capture at Bordeaux, France.

- **21 August, Mon. --**

Pacific

Off Mindoro, submarines *Guitarro* (SS-363), *Haddo* (SS-255), *Harder* (SS-257) and *Ray* (SS-271) carry out series of attacks on Japanese convoy: *Guitarro* sinks merchant cargo ship *Uga Maru*, 13°21'N, 120°18'E; *Haddo* sinks merchant cargo ships *Kinryu Maru* and *Norfolk Maru* and damages merchant tanker *Taiei Maru*, 13°22'N, 120°19'E; and *Ray* sinks Japanese merchant tanker *Taketoyo Maru*, 13°23'N, 120°19'E.

Submarine *Muskallunge* (SS-262) attacks Japanese Manila- to-Singapore convoy, sinking Japanese army transport *Durban Maru* off Cam Ranh Bay, French Indochina, 11°45'N, 109°46'E.

PB4Ys damage Japanese guardboat *No.10 Sumiyoshi Maru* and small cargo vessel *Shinyama Maru* northwest of Marcus Island.

PB4Ys damage Japanese cargo vessel *Tateishi Maru* in Davao harbor.

RAAF Beaufighters and Kittyhawks attack Japanese shipping off Kaimana, 03°40'S, 133°50'E.

Japanese army cargo ship *Tokuhei Maru* is sunk, probably by USAAF aircraft, Tayeh, Yangtze River.

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Eberle* (DD-430) takes 140 Armenian prisoners from Porquerolles, France.

- **22 August, Tue. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Bowfin* (SS-287) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking army cargo ship *Tsushima Maru* in the Nansei Shoto, 29°30'N, 129°30'E.

Submarines *Haddo* (SS-255) and *Harder* (SS-257) encounter three Japanese escort vessels off the mouth of Manila Bay. *Haddo* sinks *Sado* 35 miles west of Manila, 14°15'N, 120°05'E; *Harder* sinks *Matsuwa* and *Hiburi* about 50 miles west-southwest of Manila, 14°15'N, 120°05'E. Loss of the trio of escorts in one day prompts the Chief of Staff, 1st Surface Escort Unit, to lament candidly: "Escort vessels, whose prime duty it is to attack and sink enemy submarines, have themselves been being sunk by enemy subs. This year alone a total of 13 have been sunk and three badly damaged. In addition, the *Kusagaki*, *Matsuwa*, *Sado* and *Hiburi* have been sunk one after the other just recently." The situation mirrors the plight of Japanese antisubmarine operations.

Submarine *Pintado* (SS-387) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking merchant tanker *No.2 Tonan Maru* (see 10 October 1942) 200 nautical miles southeast of Shanghai, 29°52'N, 125°22'E.

Submarine *Spadefish* (SS-411) attacks Japanese convoy, damaging tanker *No.2 Hakko Maru* in Luzon Strait, 18°48'N, 120°46'E; the tanker takes refuge in Passeleng Bay. Subsequent efforts to salvage her prove unavailing as the tanker will break up in heavy swells on 18 September.

Submarine *Tang* (SS-306) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *No.2 Nansatsu Maru* off Mikizaki, 34°01'N, 136°21'E.

British submarine HMS *Statesman* sinks Japanese army cargo ship *No.5 Sugi Maru* (ex-Panamanian *Gran*) off Port Blair, 11°41'N, 92°47'E; escorting torpedo boat *Kari* and submarine chaser *Ch.9* carry out unsuccessful counterattacks.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kanzaki Maru* is sunk by aircraft off east coast of Korea, 36°01'N, 129°41'E.

- **23 August, Wed. --**

Pacific

Destroyer *Cassin* (DD-372), destroyer escort *Cabana* (DE-260), and infantry landing craft (gunboat) *LCI(G)-346* and *LCI(G)-438* bombard Japanese installations and positions on Aguijan Island, Marianas; ships repeat bombardment (*LCI(G)-348* replaces *LCI(G)-438* on 24 and 25 August) daily until 26 August.

Battleships *Tennessee* (BB-43) and *California* (BB-44) en route from Eniwetok to Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides, collide; damage to *California* will prevent her from participating in upcoming Palau operations.

Submarine *Haddo* (SS-255) torpedoes Japanese destroyer *Asakaze* as the enemy warship is escorting tanker *Niyo Maru*, 20 miles southwest of Cape Bolinao, Luzon, P.I., 16°06'N, 119°44'E. *Asakaze* sinks near Dasol Bay after attempts at salvage fail.

Submarine *Tang* (SS-306) attacks Japanese convoy off Honshu, sinking cargo ship *Tsukushi Maru* off Hamamatsu, 34°37'N, 137°52'E.

USAAF B-24s sink Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *No.5 Sh_nan Maru* northwest of Chichi Jima, 27°07'N, 142°06'E.

Mediterranean

German garrison on Isle de Proquerolles, except isolated stragglers, surrenders to Commander TG 86.3 in light cruiser *Omaha* (CL-4); the island will then be occupied by Senegalese troops.

Destroyer escort *Solar* (DE-221) is damaged by collision with underwater object., [WHERE].

High speed transport *Tattnall* (APD-19) is damaged by collision with underwater object off southern France.

Europe

U.S. freighter *Louis Kossuth*, bound for Utah Beach, Normandy, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-989* at 50°16'N, 01°41'30"W. Of the 334 embarked troops, 13 are injured; there are no casualties to either the merchant complement (40 men) or the 28-man Armed Guard, and the ship is towed to Cowes, England, by British tug *Empire Winnie*.

• **24 August, Thu. --**

Pacific

Submarine chaser *SC-1009* is damaged by grounding off Kahului, Maui, T.H.

Submarine *Harder* (SS-257) is sunk by Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No. 22* off west coast of Luzon, 15°50'N, 119°43'E.

Submarine *Ronquil* (SS-396) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking army cargo ship *No.3 Yoshida Maru* off Keelung, Formosa, 25°29'N, 123°15'E, and merchant cargo ship *Fukurei Maru* off Sankaku Island, 25°13'N, 121°49'E.

Submarine *Sailfish* (SS-192) attacks Japanese convoy in Luzon Strait, sinking transport *Toan Maru*, 21°23'N, 121°37'E.

Submarine *Seal* (SS-183) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Tosei Maru* off southeast coast of Hokkaido, 42°30'N, 144°05'E.

British carrier force attacks Padang, Sumatra, sinking Japanese merchant cargo ship *Shiretoko Maru* off the harbor and damaging *Senko Maru* and *Chisho Maru*.

Japanese casualties include minelayer *Itsukushima* is damaged by aircraft off Menado, N.E.I.

Japanese auxiliary vessel *Senko Maru* is damaged by aircraft north of Boetoeng harbor.

Japanese army cargo ship *No.21 Kongo Maru* is sunk by aircraft, Philippine location unspecified.

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Rodman* (DD-456) is incapacitated by inoperative 5-inch director, off southern France.

Motor torpedo boat *PT-555* is damaged by mine at Cap Couronne bouy; a French vessel attempting to rescue crew is mined as well, 43°19'N, 05°30'E.

- **25 August, Fri. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Picuda* (SS-382), in attack on Japanese convoy at the western entrance to the Babuyan Channel, sinks destroyer *Yunagi* 20 miles north-northeast of Cape Bojeador, P.I., 18°45'N, 120°44'E, and merchant tanker *Kotoku Maru*, 18°46'N, 120°46'E; later, submarine *Redfish* (SS-395) comes upon the convoy attacked earlier by *Picuda* and damages army cargo ship *Batopaha Maru* north-northeast of Cape Bojeador, 18°31'N, 120°32'E; *Manshu Maru* tows the crippled *Batopaha Maru* to Bangui Bay where she is beached.

Submarine *Tang* (SS-306) sinks Japanese merchant tanker *No.8 Nanko Maru* off Honshu, 33°55'N, 136°18'E.

General stores issue ship *Talita* (AKS-8) is attacked by accident by U.S. merchant tanker *Amatilla* en route from Eniwetok to Espiritu Santo.

Europe

U.S. and French troops liberate Paris, France.

Motor torpedo boats *PT-513*, *PT-516*, and *PT-519* engage German coastal craft off Le Havre; *PT-513* and *PT-516* are damaged.

- **26 August, Sat. --**

Pacific

Submarine chaser *PC(S)-1404* transports a marine reconnaissance party to Aguijan Island; after recovering the leathernecks, she bombards the island.

Light cruiser *Boise* (CL-47) is damaged when rammed accidentally by harbor tug *Heroine*, Sydney, Australia.

Submarine tender *Pelias* (AS-14) is damaged by grounding in San Francisco Bay.

Submarine *Batfish* (SS-310) causes further damage to grounded destroyer *Samidare* on Velasco Reef, Palau, 08°30'N, 134°37'E (see 18 August).

Submariners observe Japanese blowing up the remainder of the wreckage.

Submarine *S-18* (SS-123) is damaged when accidentally rammed by medium landing craft *LSM-135*, Naval Repair Base, San Diego, California.

Europe

Motor torpedo boats *PT-511*, *PT-514* and *PT-520* take part in night engagement (that lasts into the following day) that turns back the last German attempt to reinforce the besieged garrison at Le Havre; the PTs sink German artillery ferries *AFP 98* and *AFP 108*.

- **27 August, Sun. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Guitarro* (SS-363) attacks Japanese convoy bound for Coron Bay, sinking merchant tanker *No.25 Nanshin Maru*, damaging *No.3 Nanshin Maru*, and forcing tanker *No.25 Nanshin Maru* aground, 12°26'N, 119°55'E.

Submarine *Stingray* (SS-186) lands men and supplies on northwest shore of Luzon.

PVs sink Japanese vessel *Tensho Maru* between Odomari and Onnekotan Island, Kurils.

High speed minesweeper *Boggs* (DMS-3) and submarine chaser *PC-783* are damaged in collision, San Diego, California.

Atlantic

Tank landing ship *LST-327* is damaged by mine, while en route from Cherbourg to Southampton, England.

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Ericsson* (DD-440) captures fishing vessel attempting to escape Toulon, France, and takes 50 German submariners as POWs. Motor torpedo boat *PT-552* sinks four German explosive motorboats at entrance to Toulon, harbor, but control boat escapes.

- **28 August, Mon. --**

Pacific

USAAF B-25s sink auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 77* at south entrance of Paramushiro straits, Kurils, 50°31'N, 150°12.7'E.

Arabian Sea

U.S. freighter *John Barry*, en route from Aden to the Persian Gulf, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-859* at 15°10'N, 55°18'E. Two members of the merchant crew are lost during the abandonment, but 39 of the 41- man merchant complement and the entire 27-man Armed Guard survive (see 29 August).

Mediterranean

German garrisons at Marseilles, including outlying islands and St. Mandrier battery (the sole remaining enemy pocket in Toulon), surrender at 1100.

- **29 August, Tue. --**

Pacific

Destroyer escort *Conklin* (DE-439) accidentally fires upon U.S. freighter *Dominican Victory* because of unfamiliarity with recognition signals north of the Marshalls.

Infantry landing craft *LCI-566* is damaged by grounding, south of Oahu, 20°56'N, 157°00'E.

Submarine *Jack* (SS-259) sinks Japanese minesweeper *W.28* and army cargo ship *Mexico Maru* northwest of Menado, Celebes, 02°15'N, 122°50'.

PBY sinks Japanese auxiliary sailing vessel *Toyokuni Maru* at entrance to Ambon Bay, 03°22'S, 129°39'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Koryu Maru* is sunk by aircraft, Kiukiang, China.

Japanese tanker *Kaiko Maru* is damaged by mine in Strait of Malacca, 03°40'N, 100°06'E.

Arabian Sea

Dutch freighter *Sanetta* and U.S. freighter *Benjamin Bourn* between them rescue the 66 survivors from the U.S. freighter *John Barry*, which had been sunk by German submarine *U-859* the day before.

Mediterranean

Marine detachments from heavy cruiser *Augusta* (CA-31) and light cruiser *Philadelphia* (CL-41) accept the surrender of two German-held islands in Marseilles Harbor and disarm the garrisons.

U.S. motor torpedo boats *PT-302*, *PT-303*, and *PT-304* attack two corvettes and one destroyer off Cap Mele, compelling the enemy ships to reverse course and steam for Genoa, Italy. The PTs will continue their patrol into the next morning but make no further sightings.

- **30 August, Wed. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Narwhal* (SS-167) lands men and supplies on east coast of Luzon.

Pacific

U.S. tanker *Jacksonville*, steaming in convoy CU 36, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-482* while en route to Loch Ewe, Scotland, at 55°30'N, 07°30'W; the gasoline cargo explodes, giving little chance for the 49-man merchant complement or the 29-man Armed Guard to abandon the blazing ship, which breaks in twain at the second massive explosion. Destroyer escort *Poole* (DE-151) rescues a fireman and one Armed Guard gunner, *Jacksonville's* only survivors. Escort vessels use depth charges and gunfire to scuttle the after section of the ship; the forward section sinks on its own accord.

- **31 August, Thu. --**

Pacific

TG 38.4 (Rear Admiral Ralph E. Davison) attacks Iwo Jima and Chichi Jima (strikes will be repeated on 1 and 2 September) to neutralize Japanese installations there and provide a diversion in advance of planned operations in the Palau, Morotai, and Philippine areas. Off Iwo Jima, F6Fs from *Franklin* (CV-13) sink auxiliary minesweeper *No.8 Toshi Maru*, 25°00'N, 141°50'E, and merchant cargo ship *Suruga Maru*, 24°46'N, 141°19'E.

U.S. submarines attack Japanese convoy bound for Manila. In Luzon Strait south of Formosa, *Barb* (SS-220) sinks auxiliary minesweeper *No.20 Hinode Maru*, 21°21'N, 121°11'E; and army cargo ship *_kuni Maru*, 21°14'N, 121°22'E. *Queenfish* (SS-393) sinks army tanker *Chiyoda Maru*, 21°21'N, 121°06'E, and

damages army tanker *Rikke Maru*, 21°30'N, 121°19'E. *Sealion* (SS-315) sinks minelayer *Shirataka*, 21°05'N, 121°26'E.

Submarine *Redfish* (SS-272) lands supplies and evacuates people from Palawan Island.

PBYs sink small Japanese cargo vessels *No.2 Kairyu Maru* and *Kabuchi Maru* off Ceram.

RAAF Mitchells sink small Japanese cargo vessel *No.8 Sanko Maru* off north coast of Alor Island.

Other Japanese casualties include guardboat *No.2 Kyoshin Maru* sunk by U.S. aircraft off Halmahera; merchant cargo ship *Suruga Maru* sunk by aircraft off Iwo Jima, 24°46'N, 141°19'E.; and merchant cargo ship *Hoyo Maru* damaged by aircraft, Tayeh, Yangtze River.

September

- **1 September, Fri. --**

Pacific

Naval Operating Base, Saipan, is established.

Heavy cruiser *New Orleans* (CA-32), light cruiser *Biloxi* (CL-80), and four destroyers drawn from TG 38.4, bombard Japanese installations at Iwo Jima and Chichi Jima (the bombardment will be repeated the following day). The ships draw no return fire and U.S. gunfire damages landing ship *T.105* off the latter place.

Submarine *Narwhal* (SS-167) lands men and supplies on east coast of Luzon.

Submarine *Pilotfish* (SS-386) sinks Japanese auxiliary vessel *Ina Maru* north-northwest of Chichi Jima, 30°32'N, 140°55'E.

Submarine *Tunny* (SS-282) is damaged by aerial bombs, Luzon Strait, 21°50'N, 119°18'E, and is forced to terminate her patrol.

Other Japanese casualties include merchant cargo ship *Sekino Maru* sunk by aircraft in Celebes Sea, 01°06'N, 122°21'E; and merchant cargo ship *Tientsin Maru* sunk by mine off Woosung, China.

Atlantic

Coast guard cutter *Northland* (WPG-49) locates German weather ship *Kehdingen* off Great Koldeyey Island, Greenland, and pursues her through the ice floes. *Kehdingen*, however, is scuttled by her crew to avoid capture. German submarine *U-703's* attack on *Northland* is thwarted by ice.

Mediterranean

Motor minesweeper *YMS-21* is sunk by mine, Toulon, 43°06'N, 05°54'E.

- **2 September, Sat. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Guardfish* (SS-217) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Shirakami Maru* north of Chichi Jima, 29°48'E, 140°20'E.

Submarine *Finback* (SS-230), while lifeguarding for Chichi Jima strike, rescues Lieutenant (jg) George H.W. Bush, A-V(N), USNR, of VT 51; Bush will eventually become the 41st President of the United States.

British submarine HMS *Sirdar* sinks Japanese guardboat *No.5 Kaiyo Maru* off northwestern Sumatra, 03°55'N, 096°20'E; and submarine HMS *Strongbow* sinks Japanese army cargo ship *No.1 Toso Maru* off west coast of Siam, 07°57'N, 98°49'E.

TG 38.4 aircraft damage Japanese landing ship *T.104* damaged by aircraft off Chichi Jima.

Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *No.2 Misago Maru* is sunk by aircraft north of Mindanao.

- **3 September, Sun. --**

Pacific

TG 12.5 (Rear Admiral Allen E. Smith), comprising small carrier *Monterey* (CVL-26), three heavy cruisers, and three destroyers, pound Japanese installations on Wake Island.

Japanese destroyer *Hasu* is damaged by mine off Yangtze estuary, 31°19'N, 121°43'E.

Mediterranean

Submarine chaser *SC-535* is damaged by storm off southern France, 43°17'N, 06°38'E.

Tank landing craft *LCT-151* is sunk by storm, 39°22'N, 08°00'E.

- **4 September, Mon. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Bowfin* (SS-287) sinks Japanese guardboat *No.6 Hinode Maru* east of Nanpo Shoto, 31°54'N, 152°05'E.

Mediterranean

Aviation supply ship *Tackle* (IX-217) is damaged by mine, Port de Buoc, France, while being towed by French tug *Provençal*.

Tank landing ship *LST-659* is damaged when she strikes a submerged wreck off RED beach, southern France.

- **5 September, Tue. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Albacore* (SS-218) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Shingetsu Maru* north of Muroto Saki, 32°24'N, 134°15'E.

British submarine HMS *Tantivy* sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Shiretoko Maru* off Sumatra, 05°44'S, 104°58'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kokka Maru* is sunk by mine, Keelung, Formosa.

Mediterranean

Off southern France invasion beaches, French destroyer *Le Malin* discovers presence of German manned torpedoes and opens fire; destroyer *Ludlow* (DD-438) joins *Le Malin* in dropping depth charges, destroying three torpedoes and capturing the crews who manned them.

- **6 September, Wed. --**

Pacific

TF 58 (Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher) arrives off Palauto begin operations against Japanese airfields and defense installations in the western Carolines; a fighter sweep discloses no aerial opposition and reveals much damage caused by prior strikes. Task groups involved are TGs 38.1, 38.2 and 38.3. TG 38.4 (Rear Admiral Ralph E. Davison), meanwhile, conducts fighter sweep over Yap.

Small carrier *Independence* (CVL-22) begins use of specifically trained air group for night work, marking the first time that a fully equipped night carrier operates with the fast carrier task force.

Destroyers *Ellet* (DD-398) and *Downes* (DD-375) bombard Aguijan Island, Marianas, to destroy gun emplacement located by air reconnaissance.

Submarine *Albacore* (SS-218) sinks Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *No.3 Eguchi Maru* at entrance to Kii Suido, Japan, 33°29'N, 135°32'E.

Submarine *Hake* (SS-256) damages Japanese destroyer *Hibiki* east of the Ryukyus, 16°19'N, 119°44'E.

USAAF P-40s sink Japanese fishing boats *Sakae Maru*, *Tairyu Maru*, *Tatsuei Maru*, and *Takuyo Maru* off Kai Island.

Japanese army cargo ship *Eiji Maru* is sunk by mine, 22°19'N, 120°30'E.

- **7 September, Thu. --**

Pacific

Planes from TGs 38.1, 38.2, and 38.3 conduct full scale air strikes on Japanese installations throughout the principal Palaus; they will repeat the evolutions (albeit with diminishing force in view of the paucity of targets) the next day. CRUDIV 14 (Rear Admiral F.E.M. Whiting) (three light cruisers, screened by four destroyers, drawn from TGs 38.2 and 38.3) bombards Japanese installations on Peleliu, Angaur, and Ngesebus, supplementing the carrier air strikes begun the previous day by TF 58. Heavy cruiser *New Orleans* (CA-32) and light cruiser *Biloxi* (CL-80) and four destroyers (from TG 38.4) bombard Yap; they will repeat the bombardment the following day. Planes from TG 38.4, meanwhile, on this day and the next will carry out operations against Yap and Ulithi.

U.S. Army forces supported by naval vessels land on Soepiori Island in the Schouten Islands of New Guinea.

Destroyer *Flusser* (DD-368) is damaged by shore battery, Wotje Island, Marshalls, while on a routine patrol to the south of the island.

Submarine *Paddle* (SS-263) sinks Japanese transport *Shinyo Maru*, which unbeknown to her attacker carries 750 American prisoners of war on board. Tanker *No.2 Eiyo Maru* is damaged by *Paddle* off the coast of Mindanao, 08°11'N, 122°40'E, and is beached at Sindagon Point, 08°10'N, 122°40'E.

RAAF Beaufighters sink Japanese motor sailboat *Keishin Maru* off southern coast of Ceram.

- **8 September, Fri. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Bashaw* (SS-241) sinks Japanese transport *Yanagigawa Maru* west of Mindanao, 08°10'N, 121°48'E.

Submarine *Seal* (SS-183) damages Japanese destroyer *Namikaze* off Hokkaido, 47°28'N, 148°20'E.

Submarine *Spadefish* (SS-411) sinks Japanese transport *Shokei Maru* and army cargo ship *Shinten Maru* off Sakishima Gunto, 24°39'N, 123°31'E, and merchant cargo ships *Nichiman Maru* and *Nichian Maru*, 24°45'N, 123°26'E.

USAAF B-24s bomb Japanese shipping off Chichi Jima, damaging cargo vessels *Heiwa Maru* and *Toyo Maru*.

Atlantic

First German V-2 rocket bomb lands in England.

Mediterranean

German explosive boats attack destroyer *Hilary P. Jones* (DD-427) off Cap Martin, but inflict no damage; destroyer *Madison* (DD-425) is attacked by German explosive boats but sights them in time to avoid them. U.S. destroyers are attacked by German explosive boats five miles south of Cap Ampeglio; U.S. motor torpedo boats engage an additional four enemy craft.

- **9 September, Sat. --**

Pacific

TF 38 (Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher) begins strikes against Japanese shipping, facilities, and airfields on Mindanao; carrier-based planes sink transport *Kuniyama Maru* in Sulu Sea, 06°30'N, 121°50'E, and transports *Kurenai Maru* and *Mihara Maru*, and cargo ship *Taiyu Maru* in Mindanao Sea, 09°45'N, 125°30'E. Light cruisers *Birmingham* (CL-62) and *Santa Fe* (CL-60) and four destroyers detached from TG 58.3 (Rear Admiral Laurance T. DuBose), covered by planes from small carrier *Langley* (CVL-27) demolish coastal convoy consisting of predominantly small ships and craft proceeding down the west coast of Mindanao.

Submarine *Bang* (SS-385) sinks Japanese transport *Tokiwasan Maru* south of Japan, 28°53'N, 137°42'E, and merchant cargo ship *Sh_ryu Maru*, 28°58'N, 137°45'E.

Submarine *Queenfish* (SS-393) sinks Japanese transport *Toy_ka Maru* and merchant passenger/cargo ship *Manshu Maru* and damages torpedo boat *Manazuru* northwest of Babuyan, Luzon, 19°45'N, 120°56'E.

Submarine *Seal* (SS-183) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Shonan Maru* in Sea of Okhotsk, north of Etorofu, Kurils, 47°57'N, 148°15'E.

Japanese auxiliary submarine chasers *Cha 8* and *Cha 9* are sunk by mines (laid on 6-8 July by British submarine *HMS Porpoise*) off Sumatra.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Tsinan Maru* is sunk by mine off Woosung, China.

- **10 September, Sun. --**

Pacific

TF 38 air strikes against Japanese shipping, facilities and airfields on Mindanao continue. During these operations, TF 38 planes sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.7 Unyo Maru* off Mindanao.

Submarine *Sunfish* (SS-281) sinks Japanese merchant tanker *Chihaya Maru* east of Quelpart Island, 33°47'N, 127°37'E.

Other Japanese casualties include army tanker *Bukun Maru* sunk by mine (laid by British submarine HMS *Porpoise* on 8 July 1944) in Strait of Malacca, 03°54'N, 98°42'E; and merchant tanker *No.2 Hoen Maru* sunk by mine off Woosung, China.

Europe

Command designated Naval Forces France (Vice Admiral Alan G. Kirk) is established with headquarters at Paris, France.

Mediterranean

U.S. motor torpedo boat *PT-206* on right flank of southern France beachhead gives chase to German explosive boat unit consisting of a control boat and two drones; one of the latter is destroyed. Minesweeper *Seer* (AM-112) is damaged by mine while sweeping Grande Passe to Rade d'Hyeres, 42°59'N, 06°20'E; fleet tug *Hopi* (ATF-71) tows the damaged ship to Toulon for repairs.

While patrolling between Noli and Genoa, Italy, *PT-559* and British motor torpedo boats attack southbound convoy, sinking one F-lighter and an ammunition barge. Escorting German patrol craft break off action.

- **11 September, Mon. --**

Second Quebec Conference (**OCTAGON**) between President Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Churchill and the Combined Chiefs of Staff commences in Quebec, Canada. The agenda principally concerns the role the Royal Navy will play in the Pacific War.

Pacific

Destroyer *Ellet* (DD-398) bombards supply dumps on Aguijan Island, Marianas.

Submarine *Albacore* (SS-218) sinks Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 165* off Kyushu, 32°20'N, 131°50'E.

Submarine *Finback* (SS-230) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Hassho Maru* and merchant cargo ship *No.2 Hak_n Maru* north of Chichi Jima, 27°45'N, 140°40'E.

Submarine *Pargo* (SS-264) sinks Japanese auxiliary netlayer *Hinoki Maru* in Java Sea, 06°17'S, 116°24'E.

USAAF B-24 aircraft bomb Iwo Jima, damaging Japanese cargo vessel *No.8 Saiwai Maru*; difficulties encountered in attempting to tow the damaged craft result in her being scuttled.

Japanese cargo ship *No.1 Horai Maru* is sunk by aircraft two miles off Palau.

- **12 September, Tue. --**

Romania signs armistice with U.S., Great Britain, and Russia.

Pacific

TF 38 (Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher) (TG 38.1, TG 38.2, and TG 38.3) begins operations against Japanese shipping and airfields in the Visayas. Planes from all three carrier groups pound enemy installations on Cebu and shipping offshore, sinking gunboat *Kiso Maru*, auxiliary submarine chasers *Mogami Maru* and *No.12 Kyo Maru*, auxiliary netlayer *Korei Maru*, auxiliary

minesweeper *No.18 Choun Maru*, guardboats *No.97 Banshu Maru* and *No.4 Fukuju Maru*, transports *Bugen Maru*, *Nichiei Maru*, army cargo ships *Keian Maru* and *Genkai Maru*, merchant tanker *Ayazono Maru*, merchant cargo ships *Toyo Maru*, *No.2 Shintai Maru*, *No.5 Shintai Maru*, and *No.8 Shintai Maru*, 10°20'N, 124°00'E; salvage ship *Miho Maru*, 10°35'N, 124°00'E; transport *Shiramine Maru*, 10°34'N, 124°01'E; transport *Oakita Maru*, 11°21'N, 124°07'E; transport *Rakuto Maru*, 10°35'N, 124°20'E. TF 38 planes also damage minesweeper *No.21 Choun Maru* off Cebu, 10°20'N, 124°00'E. Between Biliran and Cebu, TF 38 planes sink auxiliary minesweeper *Takao Maru* and auxiliary submarine chaser *Nan-Ho Maru*; in Bohol Strait, carrier aircraft sink motor torpedo boat *Gyoraitei No.483*.

Ensign Thomas C. Tillar, USNR, a pilot from *Hornet*, in TG 38.1, is rescued by Filipinos after his F6F ditches off Apit Island, off the southwestern coast of Leyte. Before Tillar is recovered by SOC from heavy cruiser *Wichita* (CA-45), he learns from his rescuers that the size of the Japanese garrison on Leyte is negligible. That fact, when combined with the lack of aerial opposition encountered and the few airfields that exist on Leyte and Samar, prompts Admiral Halsey (Commander Third Fleet) to recommend that the planned attack on Yap be abandoned and that the date of the landings on Leyte be advanced from 20 December to 20 October 1944.

Light minelayer *Preble* (DM-20) explodes acoustic mines in the shoals between Angaur and Peleliu; she and sistership *Montgomery* (DM-17) sweep most of the navigable waters by the end of the day.

Destroyer *Marshall* (DD-676) captures boat with 44 survivors of Japanese light cruiser *Natori* (see 18 August).

High speed transport *Noa* (APD-24) is sunk in collision with destroyer *Fullam* (DD-474) off Palau, Carolines, 07°01'N, 134°30'E; *Fullam* is damaged; oilers *Millicoma* (AO-73) and *Schuykill* (AO-76) are damaged in collision off the Palaus.

Submarine *Growler* (SS-215) sinks Japanese destroyer *Shikinami* 240 miles south of Hong Kong, 18°25'N, 114°30'E, and escort vessel *Hirado* 250 miles east of Hainan Island, 17°54'N, 114°49'E.

Submarine *Pampanito* (SS-383) sinks merchant passenger/cargo ship *Kachidoki Maru* (ex-U.S. passenger liner *President Harrison*) and tanker *Zuih_Maru*, 19°25'N, 112°27'E.

Submarine *Pipefish* (SS-388) sinks Japanese auxiliary vessel *No.7 Hakutetsu Maru* off Shiono Misaki, Japan, 33°32'N, 135°56'E.

Submarine *Redfin* (SS-272) carries out unsuccessful attack on Japanese cargo vessel *Tosho Maru*, 05°27'S, 120°28'E; counterattack by submarine chaser *Ch 53* is likewise unsuccessful.

Submarine *Sealion* (SS-315) sinks Japanese transport *Nankai Maru* and merchant passenger/cargo ship *Rakuyo Maru* in South China Sea, east of Hainan Island, 18°42'N, 114°30'E; *Sealion* crew is unaware that the latter carries Allied POWs.

Japanese tanker *No.2 Eiyo Maru*, damaged by *Paddle* (SS-263) on 7 September, is sunk by aircraft, 08°12'N, 122°37'E.

Atlantic

Motor minesweeper *YMS-409* founders and sinks off Atlantic Coast.

U.S. freighter *George Ade*, en route from Mobile, Alabama, to New York, via Key West, Florida, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-518* at 33°30'N, 75°40'W; the ship's Armed Guard fires two rounds at what they believe to be a surfaced submarine. There are no casualties among the 41-man merchant crew or the 27-man Armed Guard. Destroyer *Barton* (DD-722) contacts the stricken ship, and salvage vessel *Escape* (ARS-6) takes *George Ade* in tow (see 14-16 September).

- **13 September, Wed. --**

Pacific

TG 38.2 (Rear Admiral Gerald F. Bogan) continues operations against Cebu, supported by TG 38.1 (Vice Admiral John S. McCain) and TG 38.3 (Rear Admiral Frederick C. Sherman), as well as against Japanese targets in the area of Negros, Cebu, and Legaspi. Navy carrier-based planes sink submarine chaser *Ch 55* three miles northeast of Cebu, 10°20'N, 124°00'E. Late that afternoon, TG 38.1 (see 14 September) is detached to provide support for the landings at Morotai.

High speed minesweeper *Perry* (DMS-17) is sunk by mine, 750 yards off the southeast coast of Angaur, southern Palaus, 06°53'N, 134°10'E.

Submarine *Sunfish* damages Japanese army cargo ship *Gyoku Maru*, 34°32'N, 124°44'E, and sinks army cargo ship *Etajima Maru*, 35°04'N, 124°49'E.

USAAF A-20s sink merchant cargo ship *Akitsushima Maru* off southeastern Ceram, 03°04'S, 128°11'E.

Japanese landing ship *T.153* damaged (probably by USAAF aircraft) off Iwo Jima.

Atlantic

Destroyer *Warrington* (DD-383) is sunk by hurricane, 175 miles east-southeast of Great Abaco Island, Bahamas Islands, 27°00'N, 73°00'W.

- **14 September, Thu. --**

Pacific

TG 38.2 (Rear Admiral Gerald F. Bogan) attacks Japanese shipping and installations on and around Panay and Negros, supported by TG 38.3 (Rear Admiral Frederick C. Sherman); during these operations, Navy carrier-based planes damage motor torpedo boat *Gyoraitei No.482* north of Cebu, 11°00'N, 124°00'E. TG 38.1 (Vice Admiral John S. McCain), en route to support Morotai landings, carries out strikes on Japanese installations on Mindanao; during the course of these operations, SB2Cs (VB 2) sink fast transport *T.5* in Davao Gulf, 06°10'N, 126°00'E.

Destroyers *Farenholt* (DD-491), *McCalla* (DD-488), and *Grayson* (DD-435), detached from TG 38.1, bombard suspected Japanese radar installation on Cape San Augustin, at mouth of Davao Gulf.

Submarine *Pargo* (SS-264) lays mines near Natuna Island, South China Sea.

Japanese escort destroyer *Yashiro* is damaged by mine off Formosa, 22°42'N, 120°12'E.

Atlantic

Coast Guard cutters *Bedloe* (WPC-128) and *Jackson* (WPC-142) are sunk by storm off Cape Hatteras, *North Carolina*.

Coast Guard *Lightship No. 73* is sunk by storm, Vineyard Sound, Massachusetts.

Miscellaneous district auxiliary YAG-sinks after running aground off Chesapeake Bay, 36°57'N, 76°13'W.

Hurricane-engendered heavy seas cause towline from salvage vessel *Escape* (ARS-6) to the damaged U.S. freighter *George Ade*, torpedoed by *U-518* on 12 September 1944, to part; the ship anchors to resume the passage toward Hampton Roads the following day (see 15-16 September 1944).

Mediterranean

Cruiser-based SOC spots small naval craft off Imperia, Italy, a 300-foot merchantman seven miles to the east, and 14 small craft off Cape Delle Mele; destroyer *Ludlow* (DD-438), with SOC spot and unopposed by enemy shore battery fire, scores at least twelve direct hits on the vessels off Imperia.

- **15 September, Fri. --**

Pacific

1st Marine Division (Reinforced) (Major General William H. Rupertus, USMC) lands on Peleliu, Palaus, in **Operation STALEMATE II**. Landing is preceded by several days of intensive carrier-based aircraft bombing and ship gunfire bombardment (TG 32.5, Rear Admiral Jesse B. Oldendorf).

TF 77 (Rear Admiral Daniel E. Barbey) lands Army 41st Infantry (Reinforced) (Major General John C. Persons, USA) on Morotai Island, N.E.I., in **Operation TRADE WIND**; supported by two heavy cruisers, three light cruisers and ten destroyers (TG 77.2) (Rear Admiral Russell S. Berkey) and aircraft from six escort carriers (TG 77.1) (Rear Admiral Thomas L. Sprague), screened by eight destroyer escorts. Airfield facilities built on Morotai will be used in operations to support operations against Japanese positions in the Philippines.

Submarine *Guavina* (SS-362) sinks Japanese fast transport *T.3* off Pagubas, southern Mindanao, 05°35'N, 125°24'E.

Submarines *Pampanito* (SS-383) and *Sealion* (SS-315) rescue 73 British and 54 Australian POWs who survived loss of *Rakuyo Maru* when she was sunk by *Sealion* on 12 September, about 300 miles west of Cape Bojeador, Luzon. There had been some 1,300 men on board *Rakuyo Maru* when she was attacked.

Submarine *Stingray* (SS-186) lands men and stores on Majoe Island, Molucca Sea.

USAAF B-24s sink small Makassar-bound Japanese cargo vessels *Kirishima Maru* and *No.6 Keinan Maru* off Mongole Island.

RAAF Beaufighters and USAAF A-20s bomb Japanese shipping off southeast coast of Ceram, sinking fishing vessels *No.3 Hoyu Maru* and *No.4 Bonan Maru*.

U.S. aircraft sink Japanese guardboats *Kaiko Maru* and *No.1 Kaza Maru*, Marshalls.

Atlantic

Salvage vessel *Escape* (ARS-6) resumes tow of damaged U.S. freighter *George Ade* toward Chesapeake Bay (see 16 September).

- **16 September, Sat. --**

Second Quebec Conference (OCTAGON) attended by President Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Churchill ends. Combined Chiefs of Staff approve Admiral Halsey's recommendation to advance the invasion of Leyte from 20 December to 20 October.

Pacific

Marine Air Wings, Pacific is redesignated Aircraft, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific (Major General Francis P. Mulcahy, USMC) with headquarters at Ewa, Oahu.

Motor torpedo boat operations begin from Morotai, N.E.I., to maintain patrols, break up the movement of Japanese troops in barges, and prevent seaborne counterattacks from Halmahera. Two Morotai-based boats, *PT-489* and *PT-363* transit 60 miles of mined waters and then run an 11-mile gauntlet of coast defense batteries to rescue downed F6F pilot from escort carrier *Santee* (CVE-29) in Wasile Bay, Halmahera; under fire for two and a half hours, both boats receive superficial shrapnel damage in the successful operation that snatches the aviator out of danger. Lieutenant Arthur M. Preston (Commander, MTBRon 33), commanding the operation, will receive the Medal of Honor.

Destroyer *Wadleigh* (DD-689) is damaged by mine off eastern entrance to Kossol Passage, Palau, 07°51'N, 134°39'E.

U.S. submarines operate against Japanese shipping south of Formosa: *Picuda* (SS-382) sinks army cargo ship *Tokushima Maru* in Bashi Channel, 21°27'N, 121°35'E; *Redfish* (SS-395) sinks fleet tanker *No.2 Ogura Maru*, 21°24'N, 121°14'E.

Submarine *Sea Devil* (SS-400) sinks Japanese submarine *I-364* off Yokosuka, Japan, 34°30'N, 145°23'E.

Submarine *Shad* (SS-235) attacks, unsuccessfully, Japanese cargo ship *Hakozaki Maru*, 34°30'N, 138°25'E. Other Japanese losses include army cargo ship *Imaharu Maru* sunk by aircraft, 05°08'N, 121°14'E; and cargo vessel *Imaji Maru* sunk by mine, 05°08'N, 115°05'E.

Mediterranean

U.S. motor torpedo boats engage German explosive control boat and four drones off Cap Martin.

Atlantic

Salvage vessel *Escape* (ARS-6) brings damaged U.S. freighter *George Ade* into Hampton Roads; the ship is repaired and returns to active service.

- **17 September, Sun. --**

Pacific

TG 32.1 (Rear Admiral William H. P. Blandy) lands Army 81st Infantry (less 323d Infantry and reinforced by miscellaneous units) on Angaur, Palaus,

supported by carrier-based aircraft and naval gunfire. Airfield facilities on Angaur will be used to support operations against the Philippines.

Submarine *Barb* (SS-220) sinks Japanese escort carrier *Un'yo* and tanker *Asuza Maru*, 220 nautical miles southeast of Hong Kong, 19°08'N, 116°36'E. *Barb* and *Queenfish* (SS-393) pick up an additional 32 British and Australian POWs, survivors of the sunken *Rakuyo Maru* (see 12 and 15 September).

Motor torpedo boat *PT-371* is damaged by grounding, N.E.I., 02°05'N, 127°51'E.

USAAF P-40s sink Japanese fishing vessel *Hoyo Maru* and damage *No.5 Kyoiei Maru* off eastern Ceram.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Shinai Maru* is sunk by mine off east coast of Celebes.

- **18 September, Mon. --**

- Pacific

- Destroyer *Case* (DD-370) and submarine *Sealion* (SS-315) rendezvous some 700 miles west of Saipan to transfer medical officer and medical supplies to treat POWs rescued by the submarine on 15 September.

- Submarine *Flasher* (SS-249) sinks Japanese auxiliary gunboat *Saigon Maru* off Manila Bay, 14°20'N, 120°05'E.

- Submarine *Pipefish* (SS-388) damages Japanese army transport *Rokko Maru* off coast of Honshu, 32°49'N, 154°22'E.

- Submarine *Thresher* (SS-200) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Gyoku Maru* in Yellow Sea, 35°02'N, 124°24'E.

- British submarine HMS *Tradewind* sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Junyo Maru* off Sumatra, 02°53'S, 101°11'E.

- USAAF B-25s damage Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *Wa.5*, salvage tug *Futagami*, and coastal/harbor minesweeper *Ma 3* at Enderby Island, Carolines.

- Mediterranean

- Destroyer *Benson* (DD-421) is assigned jammer duties at Toulon; destroyer *Livermore* (SS-429) is assigned the same task at Marseilles.

- **19 September, Tue. --**

- Pacific

- Infantry landing craft (gunboat) *LCI(G)-459* is sunk by mine off west side of Peleliu reef.

- Motor torpedo boat *PT-371*, damaged by grounding off northwest coast of Halmahera, 02°05'N, 127°51'E, is sunk by demolition charges.

- Submarine *Bang* (SS-385) attacks Japanese shipping off east coast of Formosa, sinking tanker *No.2 Toosei Maru* and damaging *Coast Defense Vessel No.30*, 24°54'N, 122°23'E.

- Submarine *Redfin* (SS-395) sinks Japanese fishing vessel *Nanko Maru*, 05°36'N, 122°16'E.

- Submarine *Scabbardfish* (SS-397) damages Japanese submarine tender *Jingei*, 80 miles northwest of Okinawa, 27°45'N, 127°00'E.

Submarine *Shad* (SS-235) sinks coast defense ship *Ioshima* (ex-Chinese cruiser *Ning Hai*) 85 miles off Hachij_ Jima, 33°40'N, 138°20'E.

Saipan-based USAAF B-24s pound Japanese shipping off Chicchi Jima, damaging landing ship *T.153* and small cargo vessel *Tsukiura Maru*.

20 September, Wed. --

Arabian Sea

USAAF B-24 aircraft attack Japanese shipping off Formosa, damaging cargo vessels *Asaka Maru*, *Gokoku Maru*, and *Shinsho Maru*.

- **21 September, Thu. --**

Pacific

TF 38 (Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher) begins strikes on Japanese shipping in Manila and Subic Bays, Clark and Nichols Fields near Manila, and the Cavite Navy Yard. At Manila, planes from TG 38.1, TG 38.2, and TG 38.3 sink destroyer *Satsuki*, fleet tanker *Kyokuto Maru*, oilers *Sunosaki* and *Okikawa Maru*, tanker *No.2 Horai Maru*, army cargo ships *Norway Maru*, *Yozan Maru*, *China Maru* and *Tsukubusan Maru*, merchant tanker *Niyo Maru*, cargo ships *Hioki Maru*, *Risshun Maru*, and *Rozan Maru*, 14°35'N, 120°55'E; army cargo ships *Nansei Maru* and *Yamabuki Maru*, 14°45'N, 120°12'E; army cargo ships *Toyofuko Maru*, *Wakashiro Maru*, *Eikyu Maru*, and *Fukuei Maru*, cargo ships *Amahi Maru*, *Soerabaja Maru* and *Yamakaze Maru*. Navy carrier-based aircraft also sink *Coast Defense Vessel No.5*, passenger-cargo ship *Hofuku Maru*, tanker *No.1 Ogura Maru*, army cargo ships *Surakaruta Maru* and *Yuki Maru*, merchant tanker *Shichiyo Maru* and cargo vessel *Nansei Maru* north of Masinloc, 15°25'N, 119°50'E; destroyer *Hibiki* is damaged by strafing and by collision while attempting to save *No.1 Ogura Maru*. Planes also damage army cargo vessels *Yuki Maru*, *Tsukubasan Maru*, and tankers *Horai Maru* and *No.1 Ogura Maru*.

Japanese army cargo ships *Nansei Maru*, 15°06'N, 119°05'E, and *Soerakarta Maru*, 15°23'N, 119°50'E, are sunk by aircraft.

Submarine *Haddo* (SS-255), while lifeguarding for TF 38, sinks Japanese surveying ship *Katsuriki* 80 miles southwest of Manila, 13°35'N, 119°06'E.

Off north coast of Luzon, *Picuda* (SS-382) sinks Japanese transport *Awaji Maru*, 18°43'N, 120°53'E; and *Redfish* (SS-395) sinks transport *Mizuho Maru*, 18°37'N, 120°43'E.

Submarine *Searaven* (SS-196) sinks Kurils-bound Japanese army transport *Rizan Maru*, 49°13'N, 145°30'E.

Submarine *Shad* (SS-235) sinks Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *No.2 Fumi Maru* east of Shinto, 34°45'N, 139°40'E.

TU 33.13.1 (Captain Robley W. Clark), consisting initially of light minelayers *Montgomery* (DM-17) (flagship) and *Preble* (DM-20), four minesweepers and seven motor minesweepers (YMS), begins minesweeping operations in Ulithi lagoon. These operations will continue daily until 13 October, after which operations will be conducted on the 17th, 27th and 28th.

- **22 September, Fri. --**

Pacific

Aircraft from TF 38 continue to wreak havoc on Japanese shipping in the

Philippines: off Cebu, Navy carrier- based planes sink gunboat *Onoshi Maru* and auxiliary submarine chaser *No.16 Yusen Maru*, and auxiliary submarine chaser *No.7 Shonan Maru* off western tip of Luzon. Off San Fernando, Luzon, U.S. Navy carrier planes sink fishery protection gunboat *No.1 Suzuya Maru*, merchant cargo ship *Eishin Maru* and merchant tankers *No.9 Hammei Maru*, *No.7 Takasago Maru* and *No.24 Nanshin Maru*; they also damage auxiliary submarine chaser *No.2 Suzuya Maru* and army cargo ships *Taishin Maru* (which is run aground to prevent loss) and *Ceram Maru*.

Rescue tug *ATR-1* is stranded on submerged wreck [WHERE].

Submarine *Lapon* (SS-260) damages merchant cargo ship *Jungen Go*, 15°22'N, 119°17'E.

Submarine *Narwhal* (SS-167) lands men and supplies on southwest coast of Mindanao.

Submarine *Pargo* (SS-264) attacks, unsuccessfully, Japanese cargo vessel *Manshu Maru*, 08°13'N, 117°02'E; counterattack by destroyer *Shiokaze* is likewise unsuccessful.

Atlantic

Storeship *Yukon* (AF-9) is torpedoed by German submarine *U-979* about 43 miles west of Reykjavik, Iceland.

• **23 September, Sat. --**

Pacific

TG 33.19 (Rear Admiral William H.P. Blandy) lands 323d Army Regimental Combat Team (81st Division on undefended Ulithi Atoll, Carolines. Ulithi will supplant Eniwetok as the Pacific Fleet's foremost advanced base in the Pacific theater.

Battleship *West Virginia* (BB-48) reaches Pearl Harbor and rejoins the Pacific Fleet, marking the completion of the program of salvage and reconstruction of the ships damaged at Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941.

Submarine *Apogon* (SS-308) sinks Japanese guardboat *No.6 Choyo Maru* east of Honshu, 34°57'N, 154°44'E.

Submarine *Escolar* (SS-294) departs Midway for first war patrol.

German submarine *U-859* is sunk by British submarine HMS *Trenchant* off Penang, Malaya, 05°46'N, 100°04'E.

Navy land based aircraft sink Japanese auxiliary vessel *Toshu Maru* off Wowoni, Celebes, 04°23'S, 122°43'E.

PBY sinks cargo ship *Heiho Maru* in Celebes Sea, 03°40'N, 122°25'E.

Japanese gunboat *Nankai* and transport *Hokkai Maru* are damaged by mines (laid by submarine *Bowfin* on 29 January) off Balikpapan, Borneo, 03°37'S, 116°25'E.

Japanese army cargo ship *Kurogane Maru* is damaged by aircraft, Manila.

• **24 September, Sun. --**

Pacific

As Japanese shipping shifts south from Luzon in the wake of the heavy attacks there over the previous days, TF 38 follows, its planes hitting targets ranging from the Calamian group to the Visayas. Aircraft from three task groups (TG 38.1, TG 38.2, and TG 38.3) from TF 38 (Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher) participate. Off Calamian Island in Coron Bay, TF 38 planes sink flying boat support ship *Akitsushima*, cargo ship *Kyokusan Maru* and army cargo ship *Taiei Maru*, and damage ammunition ship *Kogyo Maru*, army cargo ship *Olympia Maru*, cargo ships *Ekkai Maru* and *Kasagisan Maru*, supply ship *Irako*, oiler *Kamoi* and small cargo ship *No.11 Shonan Maru*, 11°59'N, 120°02'E. South of Mindoro, other Navy carrier aircraft sink torpedo boat *Hayabusa*, 13°00'N, 122°00'E; minelayer *Yaeyama* and submarine chaser *Ch 32*, 12°15'N, 121°00'E. Off Masbate, they sink auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 39* and auxiliary minesweeper *Wa 7*, 12°18'N, 122°46'E, merchant cargo ship *Shinyo Maru*, 12°21'N, 123°00'E, and cargo ships *No.17 Fukuei Maru* and *No.2 Koshu Maru*, and transport *Siberia Maru*, 11°54'N, 123°10'E. In Visayan Sea, they sink army cargo ship *Chuka Maru* and tanker *Kenwa Maru*, 11°13'N, 123°11'E. In the South China Sea, they sink tanker *Okigawa Maru*, 14°00'N, 119°00'E.

TF planes also damage supply ship *Irako* and oiler *Kamoi*, Coron Bay.

Aircraft also sink Japanese army cargo ship *Chuka Maru*, 11°11'N, 123°11'E; army cargo ship *Olympia Maru*, 11°58'N, 120°03'E; and merchant cargo ship *Shinyo Maru*, Manila; cargo ship *No.2 Koshu Maru* is damaged by aircraft, 11°56'N, 123°08'E;

Hospital ship *Samaritan* (AH-10) is damaged by grounding on Tauu Island Reef to the northeast of Bougainville.

Submarine *Barbero* (SS-317) bombards Japanese radar installation on Batag Island off north coast of Samar.

Motor minesweeper *YMS-19* is sunk by mine off southeast coast of Angaur, Palaus, 06°53'N, 134°10'E;

- **25 September, Mon. --**

- Europe

- Minelayer *Miantonomah* (CM-10) is sunk by mine off Le Havre, France, 49°27'N, 00°17'E.

- Pacific

- Submarine *Barbel* (SS-316) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Bushu Maru* off Togara Gunto, 29°46'N, 129°40'E.

- Submarine *Guardfish* (SS-217) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.2 Miyakawa Maru* in Yellow Sea off Chinnampo, Korea, 38°30'N, 124°06'E.

- Submarine *Nautilus* (SS-168) lands supplies on Cebu.

- Submarine *Searaven* (SS-196) attacks Japanese small craft off southwest tip of Etorofu, Kurils, sinking *No.1 Hirota Maru*.

- Submarine *Thresher* (SS-200) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Nissei Maru* in Yellow Sea, 37°32'N, 124°33'E.

- Mediterranean

- USAAF B-24s sink German submarines *U-565* and *U-596*, Salamis, Greece.

- **26 September, Tue. --**

Pacific

Destroyer escort *McCoy Reynolds* (DE-440) sinks Japanese submarine *I-175* northeast of Palau, 09°14'N, 136°40'E.

Submarine *Pargo* (SS-264) sinks Japanese minelayer *Aotaka* off Borneo, 07°00'N, 116°00'E.

Submarine *Thresher* (SS-200) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Koetsu Maru* in Yellow Sea, 37°13'N, 123°48'E.

U.S. freighter *Elihu Thompson* is damaged by mines off Noumea, New Caledonia, 22°22'10"S, 166°34'E; fleet tug *Apache* (ATF-67) rescues survivors, and later beaches the ship to facilitate salvage. Of the 211 troops embarked as passengers, 32 perish in the explosions; there are no casualties among the 42-man merchant complement or the 33-man Armed Guard.

Japanese river gunboat *Saga* is damaged by mine, Hong Kong.

- **27 September, Wed. --**

Pacific

Special Air Task Force (STAG 1) (Commander Robert F. Jones) commences operations with TDR-1 drones (controlled from converted TBM-1c aircraft) against Japanese targets in the southwest Pacific. Four TDRs are launched against beached Japanese freighter used as anti-aircraft emplacement off Kahili airstrip, Bougainville. Two drones hit the ship, one crashes just short (bomb does not explode) and one is lost enroute.

Submarine *Apogon* (SS-308) sinks Japanese cargo ship *Hachirogata Maru* in Sea of Okhotsk off Shimushir Island, 46°32'N, 146°48'E.

Submarine *Bonefish* (SS-223) damages Japanese oiler *Kamoi* 240 miles southwest of Manila, 13°48'N, 148°38'E.

Submarines *Flasher* (SS-249) and *Lapon* (SS-260) attack Japanese convoy in South China Sea west of Luzon; *Flasher* sinks army transport *Ural Maru* and damages merchant tanker *Tachibana Maru*, 15°45'N, 117°20'E; *Lapon* sinks merchant tanker *Hokki Maru*, 15°50'N, 117°41'E.

Submarines *Narwhal* (SS-167) and *Stingray* (SS-186) land supplies on north coast of Mindanao and east coast of Luzon, respectively.

Submarine *Plaice* (SS-390) sinks Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.10*, 100 miles north-northwest of Amami-O- Shima, 29°26'N, 128°50'E.

Submarine *Searaven* (SS-196) damages Japanese destroyer *Momi* off Etorofu, Kurils, 45°44'N, 148°41'E.

British submarine HMS *Thorough* damages Japanese auxiliary sailing vessel *No.9 Kashiwa Maru* off north coast of Sumatra.

PBY damages Japanese cargo ship *Tateishi Maru* off Jolo, 06°02'N, 121°29'E; the ship is beached to prevent sinking.

Tank landing craft *LCT-823* sinks after running aground off Palau.

Caribbean

Garbage lighter *YG-39* sinks off Canal Zone, 10°10'N, 79°51'W.

Mediterranean

Motor torpedo boat *PT-559*, with British motor torpedo boats, attack northbound convoy off Raffallo, Italy.

- **28 September, Thu. --**

Pacific

Marines (3d Battalion, 5th Marines and Company "G" 2d Battalion, 5th Marines) occupy Ngesbus and Kongaruru Islands in the Palaus, covered by naval aircraft and gunfire.

Submarine *Bonefish* (SS-223) sinks Japanese merchant tanker *Anjo Maru* in South China Sea, 13°10'N, 120°08'E.

PBYs sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *Tone Maru* in Makassar Straits.

USAAF B-25s sink small Japanese cargo vessel *Keishin Maru* off Ceram.

- **29 September, Fri. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Narwhal* (SS-167) evacuates 81 Allied POWs who had survived the loss of Japanese transport *Shinyo Maru* (sunk by submarine *Paddle* (SS-263) on 7 September) from Sindangan Bay, Mindanao.

Submarine *Skate* (SS-305) sinks Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *H_{ei} Maru* and army cargo ship *Ekisan Maru* off Yoron Jima, 27°14'N, 128°25'E.

Japanese guardboat *Riki Maru* is sunk by mine off Kota Bharu, Malaya.

Atlantic

PB4Ys (VP 107) sink German submarine *U-863*, South Atlantic, 10°45'S, 25°30'W.

U.S. freighter *Edward H. Crockett*, while proceeding from Archangel to Scotland in convoy RA 60, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-310* at 73°00'N, 24°32'E; irreparably damaged, the freighter is scuttled by gunfire from a British destroyer. While there are no casualties to the 27-man Armed Guard, one of the 41-man merchant complement perishes in the explosion of the first torpedo.

Mediterranean

Motor torpedo boat *PT-310* is mistakenly strafed by RAF Beaufighter off southern France.

- **30 September, Sat. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Nautilus* (SS-168) lands supplies and evacuates certain people from near Libertad, Panay, P.I.

During Japanese air raid on U.S. shipping off Morotai, freighter *Carl G. Barth* is damaged by strafing; although 6 of the 118 passengers on board are injured, there are no casualties to either the 52-man merchant complement or the 26-man Armed Guard.

Atlantic

Destroyer escort *Fessenden* (DE-142) sinks German submarine *U-1062* in mid-Atlantic, 11°36'N, 34°44'W.

Mediterranean

U.S. motor torpedo boats make two gunnery runs on German explosive boat off San Remo, Italy.

October

- **1 October, Sun. --**

Office of Deputy Commander in Chief U.S. Fleet and Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Vice Admiral Richard S. Edwards) is established.

Pacific

Special Air Task Force (STAG 1) drone operations continue with two separate attacks on Japanese positions on Bougainville. In the first, four TDRs are launched against anti-aircraft gun positions on Ballale and Poporang Islands; one lands in the midst of them, a second detonates within 100 feet of the southwest end of Ballale runway; two explode on Poporang in the general area of the target. In the second, four TDRs (two allocated to each target) are launched against anti-aircraft positions on Kangu Hill, two miles south of Kahili airdrome, and the Pororeri River bridge north of Kangu Hill; the first two TDRs hit the lower slope of Kangu Hill but one does not explode; one TDR crashes (perhaps hit by anti-aircraft fire) while the second cannot find the target, and explodes north of Kangu Hill.

Destroyer *Bailey* (DD-492) is damaged by strafing off Palau, 06°59'N, 134°13'E.

During minesweeping operations in Ulithi lagoon with TU 33.13.1, motor minesweeper *YMS-385* is sunk by Japanese mine in Zowariyau Channel, 09°52'N, 139°37'E.

Submarine *Cabrilla* (SS-288) sinks Japanese tanker *Kyokuho Maru*, and merchant tanker *Zuiyo Maru* in South China Sea, west of Luzon, 16°15'N, 119°43'E.

Submarine *Hammerhead* (SS-364) sinks Japanese ore carriers *Kokusei Maru* and *Hiyori Maru* and cargo ship *Higane Maru* north of Borneo, 06°30'N, 116°11'E.

Submarine *Snapper* (SS-185) sinks Japanese coastal minelayer *Ajiro* and transport *Seian Maru* northwest of the Bonins, 28°11'N, 139°30'E.

Submarine *Trepang* (SS-412) sinks Japanese supply ship *Takunan Maru* north of Ogasawara-gunto, 25°30'N, 142°30'E.

Auxiliary minesweeper *Kaiyo Maru* is sunk by mine off Tsingtao, China.

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Gleaves* (DD-423) shells German gun positions in Ventimiglia, Italy, area and encounters intense shore battery fire; destroyer *Benson* (DD-421) shells enemy gun emplacement and then destroys two Italian motor torpedo boats (MAS).

Destroyer *Forrest* (DD-461) is damaged in collision with tank landing ship *LST-550* off Southern France, 43°20'N, 05°20'E.

- **2 October, Mon. --**

Pacific

Tank landing ships *LST-129*, *LST-278*, and *LST-661* are damaged by storm, Palau, 06°59'N, 134°13'E.

Submarine *Aspro* (SS-309) sinks Japanese cargo ship *Azuchisan Maru* in South China Sea west of Luzon, 18°25'N, 120°32'E.

Submarine *Pomfret* (SS-391) sinks Japanese army transports *Tsuyama Maru* and *Makassar Maru* south of Formosa, 21°00'N, 121°46'E.

Japanese army vessel *Ryochi Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Bantayan Island, north of Cebu.

Mediterranean

U.S. freighter *Johns Hopkins* drags anchor in storm and is mined off Marseilles, France, 43°16'N, 05°08'28"E; destroyer *Hobson* (DD-464) is among the ships that proceeds to the stricken freighter's assistance. Rescue tug *ATR-127* tows the merchantman into Marseilles, where she discharges her cargo and disembarks the 466 U.S. and French troops she had had embarked. There are no casualties among the 41-man merchant complement or the 28-man Armed Guard.

- **3 October, Tue. --**

Pacific

Destroyer escort *Shelton* (DE-407) is sunk by Japanese submarine *RO-41* off Morotai, 02°33'N, 129°18'E. During the ensuing antisubmarine operations, destroyer escort *Richard M. Rowell* (DE-403), unaware of the proximity of friendly submarines, accidentally sinks *Seawolf* (SS-197), which is transporting U.S. Army personnel to the east coast of Samar, 02°32'N, 129°18'E.

Destroyer escort *Samuel S. Miles* (DE-183) sinks Japanese submarine *I-177*, 60 miles north-northeast of Angaur, Palaus, 07°48'N, 133°28'E.

Submarine *Thresher* (SS-200) sinks Japanese guardboat *No.28 Nanshin Maru* north-northwest of Marcus Island, 30°49'N, 153°26'E.

Tank landing craft *LCT-1052* is sunk by tropical storm at Ulithi.

USAAF aircraft sinks Japanese merchant tanker *No.14 Nanshin Maru* off Zamboanga, 06°54'N, 122°04'E

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Niblack* (DD-424) destroys one MAS boat and damages three in San Remo, Italy, harbor, and then bombards Oneglia harbor. After encountering persistent and accurate fire from German 88-mm. gun battery, she shifts target to those guns and knocks them out; destroyer *Plunkett* (DD-431) shells German artillery in Ventimiglia area.

- **4 October, Wed. --**

Pacific

Minelayer *Salem* (CM-11) is damaged by grounding off Tinian, Marianas.

Tank landing craft *LCT-579* is sunk by mine off Palau.

Submarine *Flasher* (SS-249) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Taibin Maru* in South China Sea north of Luzon, 15°22'N, 119°51'E.

British submarine HMS *Rover* damages Japanese auxiliary sailing vessel *Mie Maru*, 08°05'S, 117°00'E.

PBYs sink Japanese cargo ship *Tateishi Maru* and auxiliary sailing vessels *Kigen Maru* and *Kiku Maru*, Jolo, Philippines.

USAAF B-25s sink Japanese motor sailship *Man Maru* in Ambon bay.

Atlantic

Two-platoon landing force from Coast Guard cutter *Eastwind* (WAG 279) captures German weather station at Little Koldeyey, Greenland, 76°41'N, 18°50'W.

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Niblack* (DD-424) bombards MAS boat pens in San Remo, harbor and artillery positions in Cap Martin area.

- **5 October, Thu. --**

Pacific

Special Air Task Force (STAG 1) operations continue in Southwest Pacific as four TDRs, each carrying a 2,000- pound bomb, are launched against Japanese supply caves in the Keravia Bay, Rabaul, area. One TDR hits in the vicinity of cave entrances; one misses the target area. Two are lost enroute due to interference from communications frequency used by motor gunboat (PGM) operating in the waters over which the drones fly.

Submarine *Cod* (SS-224) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Tatsuhiko Maru* in South China Sea west of Mindoro, 13°06'N, 120°15'E.

- **6 October, Fri. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Cabrilla* (SS-288) damages Japanese transport *Hokurei Maru* and sinks tanker *No.2 Yamamizu Maru* off west coast of Luzon, 17°31'N, 120°21'E.

Submarine *Seahorse* (SS-304) sinks Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No. 21*, 140 miles northwest of Cape Bojeador, Luzon, 19°27'N, 118°08'E.

Submarine *Whale* (SS-239) sinks Japanese transport *Kinugasa Maru* and merchant tanker *Akane Maru* west of Balintang Channel, north-northwest of Luzon, 19°40'N, 118°05'E.

British submarine HMS *Tally Ho* sinks Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 2*, 110 nautical miles west of Penang, Malaya, 04°20'N, 98°24'E.

Dutch submarine *Zwaardvisch* sinks German submarine *U-168* in Java Sea, 06°20'S, 111°28'E.

Japanese gunboat *Saga* is sunk by mine off Hong Kong, 22°17'N, 114°10'E.

Europe

U.S. freighter *George Popham* is mined off Normandy, but suffers little damage; there are no casualties among the 42-man merchant complement, the 26-man Armed Guard, or the 70 stevedores embarked to work cargo.

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Niblack* (DD-424) bombards railroad yards on Cape Impeglio.

Niblack is later damaged when accidentally rammed by destroyer *Jouett* (DD-396) when the latter drags anchor.

U.S. freighter *Elinor Wylie* is mined while en route from Marseille to Toulon, France, at 42°57'30"N, 05°49'30"E; there are, however, no casualties among the 40-man merchant complement or the 29-man Armed Guard, and the ship is towed into Toulon, where she discharges her cargo without further incident.

- **7 October, Sat. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Cabrilla* (SS-288) sinks Japanese transport *No.8 Shin'yo Maru* off Vigan, Luzon, 17°50'N, 119°37'E.

Submarine *Cod* (SS-224) damages Japanese oiler *Shiretoko* in South China Sea, west of Mindoro, 13°40'N, 119°25'E.

Submarine *Hawkbill* (SS-366) damages Japanese cargo ship *Kinugasa Maru*, 14°37'N, 115°55'E; *Baya* (SS-318) then finishes off *Kinugasa Maru* subsequently.

Submarine *Hoe* (SS-258) sinks Japanese army transport *Makassar Maru* in South China Sea west of Luzon, 17°46'N, 119°40'E.

- **8 October, Sun. --**

Pacific

Land-based aircraft from the Marianas increase tempo of air strikes on Iwo Jima.

Submarine *Becuna* (SS-319) damages Japanese seaplane carrier *Kimikawa Maru* in South China Sea, 14°05'N, 115°38'E.

Submarine *Hoe* (SS-258) sinks Japanese army transport *Kohoku Maru* and damages *Coast Defense Vessel No.8* in South China Sea east of Hainan, 18°32'N, 116°13'E.

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Eberle* (DD-430), with spot provided by aircraft from light cruiser *Brooklyn* (CL-40), bombards vessels in Maurizio harbor; enemy shore battery fire is accurate in return.

Destroyer *Jouett* (DD-396) is attacked by six small, fast craft, but suffers no damage in the encounter. The next morning *Jouett* will sink several floating mines.

- **9 October, Mon. --**

Pacific

In an operation timed to precede a fast carrier task force operations against Okinawa, three heavy cruisers and six destroyers of TG 30.2 (Rear Admiral Allan E. Smith) conduct a diversionary bombardment of Japanese installations on Marcus Island. Enemy return fire is intense and accurate at the outset, with Japanese gunners repeatedly straddling U.S. ships. In related operations, Saipan-based Navy PB4Ys, on interdiction patrols in the path of TF 58 as it approaches the Ryukyus, damage Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Sankyo Maru* off Okinawa.

Special Air Task Force (STAG 1) operations continue in Southwest Pacific as four TDRs are launched against Matupi Bridge, Simpson Harbor, Rabaul.

Antiaircraft fire, however, downs three of the TDRs; one is lost enroute to the target.

One company of the U.S. Army 321st Infantry is landed on Garekayo Island, north of Ngesebus, and quickly overruns the island.

In wide-ranging U.S. submarine operations against Japanese shipping in the South China Sea, *Becuna* (SS-319) damages tanker *San Luis Maru*, 12°45'N, 118°00'E; and teams with *Hawkbill* (SS-366) to sink merchant tanker *Tokuwa Maru*, 12°43'N, 118°05'E; *Croaker* (SS-246) sinks merchant cargo ship *Shinki Maru* west of Kyushu, 32°08'N, 129°51'E; *Sawfish* (SS-276) sinks merchant tanker *Tachibana Maru* at 19°33'N, 116°38'E.

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Eberle* (DD-430) bombards ammunition dump and buildings, later *Eberle* and destroyer *Jouett* (DD-396), and planes from light cruiser *Brooklyn* (CL-40), destroy several floating mines in the vicinity.

Tank landing craft *LCT-459* sinks after running aground off western coast of France.

• **10 October, Tue. --**

Pacific

In the first occasion since the Marianas campaign in which all four carrier task groups operate together as one unit, TF 38 (Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher) pounds Japanese shipping and installations on Okinawa and other islands in the Ryukyus. TF 38 planes sink submarine depot ship *Jingei*, landing ship *T.158*, minelayer *Takashima* and auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 87*, north-northwest of Okinawa, 26°39'N, 127°52'E. In or near Naha harbor, Navy carrier-based aircraft sink auxiliary minesweeper *Shimpo Maru*, 26°13'N, 127°40'E, and *No.6 Hakata Maru*, guardboats *No.26 Nansatsu Maru* and *No.5 Daisei Maru*, 26°13'N, 127°41'E; guardboat *Yuki Maru* and motor torpedo boats *Gyoraitei No.493*, *Gyoraitei No.496*, *Gyoraitei No.498*, *Gyoraitei No.500*, *Gyoraitei No.805*, *Gyoraitei No.806*, *Gyoraitei No.810*, *Gyoraitei No.812*, *Gyoraitei No.813*, *Gyoraitei No.814*, *Gyoraitei No.820* and *Gyoraitei No.820*, 26°30'N, 128°00'E; army cargo ship *Horai Maru*, 26°38'N, 127°54'E; merchant cargo ships *Taikai Maru*, *Fukura Maru*, *Koryu Maru*, and *Tetsuzan Maru*, 26°13'N, 127°39'E. Elsewhere in the vicinity, Navy planes sink auxiliary minesweeper *No.1 Takunan Maru* off Okino Daito Jima, 25°30'N, 131°00'E, and army cargo ship *Hirota Maru* off Miyako Jima, 24°26'N, 125°20'E, and merchant cargo ship *Nanyo Maru* off Kume Jima. TF 38 planes damage *Coast Defense Ship No.5* and submarine chaser *Ch 58* off Okinawa; and guardboat *No.6 Daisei Maru*, cargo ship *Toyosaka Maru*, and merchant cargo ship *No.7 Takashima Maru* outside Koniya harbor.

Motor torpedo boat *PT-368* is damaged by grounding off western New Guinea, 01°59'N, 127°57'E.

Submarine *Barb* (SS-220) sinks Japanese transport *Gokuku Maru* northwest of Hirado Jima, Kyushu, 33°31'N, 129°10'E.

Submarine *Lapon* (SS-260) sinks Japanese army transport *Ejiri Maru* in South China Sea west of Luzon, 16°10'N, 119°44'E.

Dutch submarine *Zwaardvisch* sinks Japanese guardboat *Koei Maru* southwest of Bawean Island, N.E.I., 05°57'S, 112°29'E.

- **11 October, Wed. --**

Pacific

In preparation for operations against Formosa, TG 38.1 (Vice Admiral John S. McCain) and TG 38.4 (Rear Admiral Ralph E. Davison) attack Japanese airfields and other facilities on the north coast of Luzon; task group planes damage escort destroyer *Yashiro* off San Vicente and cargo vessel *No.6 Banei Maru* off Aparri.

Submarine *Tang* (SS-306) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ships *Joshu Go* and *Oita Maru* in Formosa Strait, 25°00'N, 121°00'E.

Submarine *Trepang* (SS-412) sinks Japanese landing ship *T.105* off Honshu, 33°18'N, 137°42'E.

USAAF B-24 sinks Japanese motor sail ship *Hash_Maru* of Tacloban, P.I.

Japanese merchant vessel *Sumiei Maru* is damaged by aircraft, Takao, Formosa.

Atlantic

Tank landing craft *LCT-293* founders and sinks in heavy weather in English Channel.

- **12 October, Thu. --**

Pacific

TF 38 (Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher) hurls heavy air strikes against Japanese shipping, aerodromes, and industrial plants on Formosa, regarded as the strongest and best-developed base south of the homeland proper, and on northern Luzon. Strikes draw heavy Japanese aerial counterattacks off Formosa during which destroyer *Prichett* (DD-561) is damaged by friendly fire, 22°08'N, 123°19'E. TF 38 planes sink transport *Asaka Maru*, cargo ship *Shirotai Maru*, army cargo ship *Mitsuki Maru*, and merchant tankers *No.6 Horai Maru*, *No.23 Nanshin Maru*, and *No.26 Nanshin Maru* off the Pescadores, 23°30'N, 119°34'E; and transports *Bujo Maru* and *Joshu Maru*, army cargo ship *Yamahagi Maru*, merchant cargo ships *Gyoun Maru*, *Hakko Maru*, *No.11 Tenjin Maru*, and *No.1 Takatomi Maru*, and merchant tankers *No.5 Nanshin Maru*, *No.11 Nanshin Maru* and *No.20 Nanshin Maru*, dredge *Niitaka Maru*, and damage tanker *Eiho Maru* and army cargo ship *Shinto Maru* off Takao, 22°37'N, 119°34'E. Also damaged at Takao is German ship *Havenstein*, Japanese cargo vessels *Taisho Maru*, *Taihoku Maru*, and, at Keelung, *Hakozaki Maru*.

TF 38 planes also sink merchant cargo ship *Shinan Maru* in Putai harbor, 23°22'N, 120°10'E. Destruction of Japanese air power on Formosa paves way for USAAF B-29 bomber strikes on aircraft plant and airfield facilities on the island on 14 and 16 October 1944. Air strikes on the Formosa area sink Japanese transport *Joshu Maru*, and army cargo ship *Yamahagi Maru*, off Takao; army ship *Mitsuki Maru* and merchant tanker *No.6 Horai Maru*, off Mako; Japanese cargo ship *Shirotai Maru* is sunk by mine off Mako.

Motor torpedo boat *PT-368*, damaged by grounding, western New Guinea, 01°59'N, 127°57'E, is scuttled by demolition charges.

Submarine *Ray* (SS-271) sinks Japanese transport *Toko Maru* near Cape Cavalite, Mindoro, 13°32'N, 120°21'E, and survives counterattack by *Hiyodosi* and *Coast Defense Vessel No.2*.

Submarine *Trepang* (SS-412) damages Japanese destroyer *Fuyuzuki* off Omaesuki, 33°56'N, 138°09'E.

British submarine HMS *Strongbow* sinks Japanese cargoship *Manryo Maru* in Strait of Malacca, 02°50'N, 100°50'E.

- **13 October, Fri. --**

Pacific

During Japanese aerial counterattacks in the wake of TF 38 strikes on Formosa (see 12 October), carrier *Franklin* (CV-13) is damaged when a kamikaze slides across her flight deck and crashes nearby, 22°55'N, 123°12'E; heavy cruiser *Canberra* (CA-70), in TG 38.1, is damaged by aerial torpedo only 85 miles from Formosa, 22°48'N, 123°01'E. While heavy cruiser *Wichita* (CA-45) takes *Canberra* in tow, Cruiser Division 13 (three light cruisers under Rear Admiral Laurance T. DuBose), four destroyers from TG 38.3, and two from TG 38.1 are detached to provide cover. Fleet tug *Munsee* (ATF-107) relieves *Wichita* of towing *Canberra* and the group sets course for Ulithi.

Submarine *Bergall* (SS-320) sinks Japanese merchant tanker *Shinshu Maru* off Nha Trang, French Indochina, 11°52'N, 109°20'E.

British submarine HMS *Sturdy* sinks Japanese merchant coasters *Kosei Maru* and *Hansei Maru* in Gulf of Boni, south of Celebes.

Peleliu Island, Palaus, is secured.

- **14 October, Sat. --**

Pacific

While TF 38 remains nearby to provide cover for the ongoing salvage of crippled heavy cruiser *Canberra* (CA-70) that had been damaged the previous day, Japanese aerial counterattacks continue, inflicting damage on carrier *Hancock* (CV-19), 23°30'N, 121°30'E; light cruiser *Reno* (CL-96) (suicide plane); and destroyer *Cassin Young* (DD-793) (strafing), 22°30'N, 124°50'E. Light cruiser *Houston* (CL-81) is damaged by aerial torpedo, and destroyer *Cowell* (DD-547) is damaged when she fouls *Houston* as *Cowell* lies alongside assisting in salvage efforts, 22°27'N, 124°01'E. Heavy cruiser *Boston* (CA-69)--later relieved by fleet tug *Pawnee* (ATF-74)--takes *Houston* in tow. At this juncture, heavy air attacks on TF 38, together with enemy radio propaganda broadcasts that reflect a vast overestimation of the destruction wreaked by attacking Japanese aircraft, prompts Commander Third Fleet to withdraw TG 38.2 (Rear Admiral Gerald F. Bogan) and TG 38.3 (Rear Admiral Frederick C. Sherman) to the eastward to set upon any important Japanese fleet units that would attempt to finish off the "crippled remnants" of TF 38. The enemy, however, does not take the bait.

During TF 38 operations against Japanese shipping and installations on Formosa, Navy carrier-based planes damage coastal minelayer *Enoshima* and auxiliary submarine chasers *Cha 7* and *Cha 151* off Takao.

Submarine *Angler* (SS-240) sinks Japanese army transport *Nanrei Maru* south of Tablas Strait, 11°53'N, 121°39'E.

Submarine *Bonefish* (SS-223) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Fushimi Maru* in South China Sea off west coast of Luzon, 16°12'N, 119°45'E.

Submarine *Dace* (SS-247) sinks Japanese merchant tankers *Eikyo Maru* and *Nittetsu Maru* and damages merchant ore carrier *Taizen Maru* off North Borneo, 06°05'N, 115°55'E.

British submarine HMS *Sturdy* sinks Japanese *Communication Vessel No.128* in Gulf of Boni.

Carrier *Saratoga* (CV-3) and destroyer escort *Howard F. Clark* (DE-533) are damaged in collision during maneuvers off Oahu.

- **15 October, Sun. --**

Pacific

Command designated Minecraft, Pacific Fleet (Rear Admiral Alexander Sharp) is established; Rear Admiral Sharp breaks his flag in minelayer *Terror* (CM-5).

TG 30.3 (Rear Admiral Laurance T. DuBose) is formed to cover the retirement of the crippled heavy cruiser *Canberra* (CA-70) and light cruiser *Houston* (CL-81); an augmented TG 38.1 (Vice Admiral John S. McCain) provides cover while TG 38.2 (Rear Admiral Gerald F. Bogan) and TG 38.3 (Rear Admiral Frederick C. Sherman) take up position to waylay Japanese fleet units that might try to attack the damaged ships. TG 38.4 (Rear Admiral Ralph E. Davison), meanwhile, attacks Japanese installations near Manila, drawing an enemy aerial response that damages carrier *Franklin* (CV-13), 16°29'N, 123°57'E.

Sweep Unit (Captain Robley W. Clark) arrives off Ngulu Atoll, Western Carolines. Light minelayer *Montgomery* (DM-17) destroys Japanese radio and weather station, and, accompanied by five motor minesweepers (YMS), enters the lagoon to begin minesweeping operations which will continue daily until 23 October.

Special Air Task Force (STAG 1) operations continue in Southwest Pacific as four TDRs are launched against Matupi Bridge, as part of coordinated attack by other Green Island-based PBJs (VMB 423), F4Us (VMF 218 and VMF 222) and SBDs (VMSB 244 and VMSB 341) against Simpson Harbor Rabaul. Poor picture reception and pilot error results in none of the TDRs hitting their targets.

USAAF P-38 sinks Japanese auxiliary sailing vessel *No.5 Yamato Maru* off Bochi archipelago, 01°10'N, 128°21'E.

Dutch submarine *Zwaardvisch* sinks Japanese oceanographic research vessel *No.2 Kaiyo Maru* off Surabaya, Java, 06°30'S, 111°35'E.

Mediterranean

Minesweeping test is conducted in Bay de Ciotat, France, using blimp; the blimp proved very satisfactory, using loud hailer, VHF radio, and smoke flares to direct attention to mines.

- **16 October, Mon. --**

Pacific

Japanese torpedo planes attack TG 30.3 (Rear Admiral Laurance T. DuBose) and again damage light cruiser *Houston* (CL-81), 20°54'N, 125°09'E.

Destroyer *Ellet* (DD-398), together with surveying ship *Bowditch* (AGS-4), two infantry landing craft (gunboat) and a submarine chaser arrive at Ngulu Atoll, western Carolines, and encounter no opposition.

TF 38 planes sink Japanese torpedo boat *Hato*, 130 miles east-southeast of Hong Kong, 21°49'N, 115°50'E, and damage auxiliary vessel *Santos Maru*.

Submarine *Besugo* (SS-321) damages Japanese destroyer *Suzutsuki* off Toizaki, 32°30'N, 132°36'E.

Submarine *Tilefish* (SS-307) sinks Japanese guardboat *No.2 Kyowa Maru* five miles north of Matsuwa Jima, 48°07'N, 153°04'E.

Auxiliary minesweeper *No.6 Hakata Maru* is sunk by U.S. aircraft (perhaps PB4Y) off Minami Daito Jima, 25°30'N, 131°00'E.

USAAF aircraft (14th Air Force) sink Japanese cargo vessel *Tensho Maru*. They also damage auxiliary vessel *Santos Maru* and cargo ships *Sagamigawa Maru*, *No.5 Okinoyama Maru*, and *No.3 Akatsuki Maru*; and destroy army cargo vessel (in drydock at Kowloon) *Bunzan Maru*.

USAAF P-38s sink Japanese auxiliary sailing vessel *No.6 Take Maru* off Cagayan, Sulu Archipelago.

RAAF Beaufighters sink Japanese *Communications Vessel No.135* off Ambon harbor.

Atlantic

Coast Guard icebreaker *Eastwind* (WAG-279), supported by sistership *Southwind* (WAG-280), captures German weather ship *Externsteine* off Cape Borgen, Shannon Island, east coast of Greenland. *Eastwind's* crew unofficially christens the captured auxiliary "Eastbreeze." Both icebreakers, however, are damaged by pack ice.

• **17 October, Tue. --**

Pacific

TG 38.4 (Rear Admiral Ralph E. Davison) attacks Japanese installations at Legaspi and Clark Field, Luzon

Naval force (Rear Admiral Arthur D. Struble) lands army troops (6th Ranger Battalion) on Suluan and Dinagat Islands at the entrance to Leyte Gulf to destroy Japanese installations that could provide early warning of U.S. forces entering the gulf. Unfortunately, the Suluan Island unit transmits a warning, prompting Admiral Toyoda Soemu, Commander in Chief Combined Fleet, to order operation SHO-1 for defending the Philippines against American invasion and bringing about a decisive battle (see 23-25 October).

Submarine *Narwhal* (SS-167) lands supplies on northwest coast of Tawi Tawi, P.I.

Motor minesweeper *YMS-70* is sunk in storm off Leyte, 10°56'N, 125°12'E.

During the third day of sweeping operations in Ngulu Atoll, Western Carolines, light minelayer *Montgomery* (DM-17) is damaged by Japanese mine while anchoring, 10°56'N, 125°12'E.

Special Air Task Force (STAG 1) operations continue in Southwest Pacific as four TDRs are launched against Japanese installations near East Rabaul. One of the four hits the objective; a second hits a target of opportunity; a third is lost due to the failure of a tube in the drone receiver; a fourth may have been shot down (light and inaccurate antiaircraft fire is noted).

Dutch submarine *Zwaardvisch* sinks Japanese minelayer *Itsukushima* and damages minelayer/netlayer *Wakatake*, off Bawean Island, N.E.I., 05°26'S, 113°48'E. Submarine chaser *Ch 26* carries out determined counterattack, but *Zwaardvisch* escapes.

British carrier-based planes sink Japanese collier *Ishikari Maru* off Nicobar.

- **18 October, Wed. --**

- Pacific

- TG 38.1 (Vice Admiral John S. McCain) and TG 38.4 (Rear Admiral Ralph E. Davison) attack principal Japanese airfields near Manila and shipping in the harbor, sinking passenger-cargo ship *Hoeisan Maru*, 14°35'N, 120°50'E, and army cargo ship *Urato Maru* and merchant cargo ship *Tempi Maru*, 14°35'N, 120°55'E. Meanwhile, TG 38.2 (Rear Admiral Gerald F. Bogan) pounds enemy shipping off northern Luzon, sinking auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 95*, transports *Taiho Maru* and *Hokurei Maru* (damaged on 5 October by *Cabrilla*), and merchant cargo ships *Hoten Maru*, *Terukuni Maru*, and *Tsingtao Maru* off Camiguin, northern Luzon, 18°54'N, 121°51'E; cargo ship *Shinko Maru* near Babuyan Channel, 18°35'N, 121°40'E; and landing ships *T.135* and *T.136* and minelayer/netlayer *Maeshima* off northeastern Luzon, 17°46'N, 120°25'E. Cargo ship *No.3 Taibi Maru* may have also been lost in these attacks at this time.

- The first bombardment ships begin shelling Japanese installations on Leyte.

- Seventh Fleet aircraft, meanwhile, sink Japanese ships *Daikoku Maru*, *No.2 Gokoku Mar*, *No.8 Nankai Maru*, *Rinkyu Maru*, *Yoto Maru*, and *Zuin Maru* in the Cebu area.

- Submarine *Bluegill* (SS-242) sinks Japanese army cargo ships *Arabia Maru* and *Chinzei Maru*, and merchant cargo ship *Hakushika Maru* in South China Sea, west-southwest of Manila, 14°06'N, 119°40'E.

- Submarine *Raton* (SS-270) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Taikai Maru* and army cargo ship *Shiranesan Maru* in South China Sea, southwest of Luzon, 12°37'N, 118°46'E. Special Air Task Force (STAG 1) operations continue in Southwest Pacific as three TDRs are launched against lighthouse on Cape St. George, New Ireland. None hit the target.

- Atlantic

- Naval Advanced Base, La Havre, France, is established.

- Mediterranean

- Motor torpedo boat *PT-558* is damaged in engagement with two German R-boats west of Portofino; while retiring to Leghorn, Italy, *PT-561* is damaged by heavy seas. Tank landing ship *LST-906* drags anchor and is damaged when driven ashore by heavy sea, Leghorn.

- **19 October, Thu. --**

- Pacific

TG 38.1 (Vice Admiral John S. McCain) and TG 38.4 (Rear Admiral Ralph E. Davison) continue attacks on principal Japanese airfields near Manila and shipping in the harbor. Navy carrier-based planes sink army cargo ship *Belgium Maru* and merchant cargo ships *Jogu Maru* and *Toshikawa Maru*, 14°35'N, 120°55'E, and *Kurugane Maru* and *Tsukubasan Maru*, damage oiler *Ondo* (damaged by *Bluefish* in November 1943), and damage cargo ship *Urado Maru* so severely that that ship is run aground. TG 38.1 and TG 38.4 then proceed south to provide direct support for the landings at Leyte.

Off Leyte, destroyer *Ross* (DD-563) is damaged by mine, 10°17'N, 125°40'E; destroyer *Aulick* (DD-569), by shore battery, 11°13'N, 125°02'E.

Seventh Fleet aircraft sink Japanese ships *Kosei Maru*, *Kafuku Maru*, *Koei Maru*, *No.8 Kanekichi Maru*, *No.11 Akita Maru*, and *No.18 Taigyō Maru* at Cebu.

Submarine *Narwhal* (SS-167) lands men and supplies on southwest coast of Negros, P.I.

Special Air Task Force (STAG 1) operations continue in Southwest Pacific in two flights (one TDR each) conducted this date against Japanese gun positions west of Ballale. In the first, one drone misses its target during its run; in the second, the drone drops part of its ordnance (the two four-100-pound bomb clusters) on the target before it crashes.

Destroyer escort *Gilligan* (DE-508) bombards Mille Atoll.

USAAF B-24 sinks Japanese weather ship *Shonan Maru* in northern waters of Makassar Strait.

- **20 October, Fri. --**

- Pacific

- Naval Operating Base, Guam, is established.

- Under the overall command of General Douglas MacArthur, who makes good on his promise to "return" to the Philippines, and Vice Admiral Thomas C. Kinkaid, Commander Seventh Fleet, TF 78 (Rear Admiral Daniel E. Barbey) and TF 79 (Vice Admiral Theodore S. Wilkinson) land four divisions of the U.S. Sixth Army (Lieutenant General Walter Krueger) on Leyte. Fast carriers and battleships of the Third Fleet provide support, as do the older battleships and escort carriers of the Seventh Fleet.

- Japanese aerial counterattacks (horizontal bombers) result in damage to escort carrier *Sangamon* (CVE-26), 10°46'N, 126°23'E, and salvage vessel *Preserver* (ARS-8), 10°50'N, 125°25'E, and (aerial torpedo) to light cruiser *Honolulu* (CL-48), 11°01'N, 125°07'E. Japanese shore batteries damage destroyer *Bennion* (DD662), 10°50'N, 125°25'E, and tank landing ship *LST-452*, 11°01'N, 125°01'E.

- Submarine *Hammerhead* (SS-364) sinks Japanese transport *Oyo Maru*, 04°41'N, 113°22'E, and army cargo ship *Ugo Maru*, 04°52'N, 113°24'E, off Borneo.

- Special Air Task Force (STAG 1) operations continue: three TDRs are launched against Japanese gun positions west of Ballale: one is lost, one makes a hit with its bomb but crashes before it can be directed into its ultimate target (the beached Japanese freighter serving as an anti-aircraft gun site off the Kahili airstrip and christened the "Kahili Maru"), the last achieves a bomb hit and crashes into "Kahili Maru" as planned.

- **21 October, Sat. --**

Pacific

Leyte landings continue. Off invasion beaches, transport *Warhawk* (AP-168) is damaged in collision with battleship *Tennessee* (BB-43), 10°57'N, 125°02'E, while Japanese mortar fire damages tank landing ships *LST-269*, *LST-483*, and *LST-704*, 10°50'N, 125°25'E.

TG 38.2 (Rear Admiral Gerald F. Bogan) attacks Japanese shipping and installations near Panay, Cebu, Negros, and Masbate, Navy carrier-based planes sinking auxiliary minesweeper *Wa.8*, 11°30'N, 123°20'E; auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 15*, 12°55'N, 121°35'E; and army tanker *Doko Maru*, 12°35'N, 122°16'E.

British submarine HMS *Tantivy* sinks Japanese merchant cargo ships *No.2 Chokyu Maru*, *No.3 Takasago Maru*, and *Otori Maru* in Makassar Strait.

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Eberle* (DD-430) bombards targets near San Remo, Italy.

- **22 October, Sun. --**

Pacific

TF 38 planes sink Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 15* west of Tabals, P.I., 12°55'N, 121°35'E.

Navy carrier-based planes (TF 77°) sink Japanese motor sailships *No.3 Akebono Maru* and *No.5 Taihei Maru*

Submarine *Darter* (SS-227) detects a group of Japanese warships northwest of Borneo, 07°31'N, 115°22'E, and trails them (see 23 October 1944).

Submarine *Sea Dog* (SS-401) sinks Japanese supply ship *Muroto* south-southwest of Kagoshima, 29°19'N, 129°44'E, and gunboat *Tomitsu Maru* south of Akuseki Jima, 29°18'N, 129°44'E.

British submarine HMS *Tantivy* sinks Japanese *Communication Ship No.137* in Makassar Strait.

U.S. freighter *Augustus Thomas* is strafed in San Pedro Bay, Leyte; one man of the 27-man Armed Guard is wounded.

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Jouett* (DD-396) conducts two bombardment missions while destroyer *Madison* (DD-425) supports minesweeping operations in the vicinity [WHERE]

- **23 October, Mon. --**

Pacific

Battle for Leyte Gulf (a succession of distinct fleet engagements) opens. While *Darter* (SS-227) continues to trail Japanese ships detected the previous day, submarine *Bream* (SS-243) torpedoes heavy cruiser *Aoba* off Manila Bay, 14°06'N, 119°37'E. Subsequently, *Darter* and *Dace* (SS-247) attack what proves to be the "Center Force" (Vice Admiral Kurita Takeo), one of the three main bodies of the Japanese fleet moving toward Leyte in a major effort to drive U.S. forces from the Philippines. *Dace* sinks heavy cruiser *Maya*, 09°28'N, 117°20'E, while *Darter* sinks heavy cruiser *Atago* and damages her sistership *Takao*, 09°24'N, 117°11'E.

Destroyer escort *Gilligan* (DE-508) bombards Emidj Island, Jaluit Atoll.

Submarine *Croaker* (SS-246) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Hakuran Maru* in Yellow Sea, off west coast of Korea, 35°29'N, 126°05'E.

Submarine *Nautilus* (SS-168) lands men and supplies on east coast of Luzon; she will repeat the operation on 24 and 25 October 1944.

Submarine *Sawfish* (SS-276) sinks Japanese seaplane carrier *Kimikawa Maru* west of Luzon, 18°58'N, 118°31'E.

Submarine *Snook* (SS-279) damages Japanese merchant tanker *Kikusui Maru* in South China Sea, west of Luzon Strait, 19°44'N, 118°25'E.

Submarine *Tang* (SS-306) sinks Japanese cargo ships *Toun Maru* and *Tatsuju Maru* and transport *Wakatake Maru*, 24°49'N, 120°26'E, and merchant cargo ship *Kori Go*, 24°42'N, 120°21'E, in Formosa Strait.

Special Air Task Force (STAG 1) operations continue in two missions (three TDRs each) flown against beached Japanese ships in Moisuru Bay and off the south end of the Kahili airstrip. In the first mission, one TDR scores a direct hit on "Kahili Maru"; in the second, one TDR scores a direct hit on "Kahili Maru" while another hits a beached merchantman in Moisuru Bay.

Mediterranean

U.S. motor torpedo boats attack German southbound convoy in Ligurian Sea south of Sestri Levante with no success; a subsequent attack, however, results in the sinking of one F-lighter.

Destroyer *Woolsey* (DD-437) shells German targets in San Remo area; she repeats bombardment mission the next day.

• **24 October, Tue. --**

Pacific

Battle for Leyte Gulf continues as planes from TG 38.2, TG 38.3, and TG 38.4 attack the Japanese "Center Force" (Vice Admiral Kurita Takeo) in the Sibuyan Sea. Planes from carriers *Enterprise* (CV-6), *Intrepid* (CV-11), and *Franklin* (CV-13), and small carrier *Cabot* (CVL-29) sink battleship *Musashi* south of Luzon, 12°50'N, 122°35'E. Aircraft from the three task groups also damage battleships *Yamato* and *Nagato*, heavy cruiser *Tone*, and destroyers *Kiyoshimo*, *Fujinami* and *Uranami*. TG 38.4 planes attack Japanese "Southern Force" (Vice Admiral Nishimura Shoji and Vice Admiral Shima Kiyohide) as it proceeds through the Sulu Sea; planes from *Franklin* sink destroyer *Wakaba* off the west coast of Panay, 11°50'N, 121°25'E; aircraft from *Enterprise* and *Franklin* damage battleships *Fuso* and *Yamashiro*. Japanese planes, however, attack TG 38.3; combat air patrol and effective use of rain squalls as cover limits the damage to small carrier *Princeton* (CVL-23), hit by bomb from dive bomber, 15°21'N, 123°31'E. In trying to save *Princeton*, however, light cruiser *Birmingham* (CL-62) and destroyers *Morrison* (DD-560), *Gatling* (DD-671), and *Irwin* (DD-794) are damaged by rolling against the stricken carrier or by fragments from the explosion of *Princeton's* magazines when fires gain the upper hand; in addition, *Morrison's* bridge is damaged by a jeep (used to tow aircraft) falling from *Princeton's* flight deck. *Birmingham* suffers the greatest destruction because she is alongside the carrier when the latter's magazines explode. The cruiser's decks literally run red with blood: 229 men killed, four

missing, 211 seriously wounded and 215 with minor wounds. Ultimately, light cruiser *Reno* and *Irwin* scuttle *Princeton*.

During the aerial action that day, Commander David McCampbell, Commander Air Group 15, flying from carrier *Essex* (CV-9), again distinguishes himself in combat. With only one wingman, McCampbell attacks what is estimated as being over 60 hostile aircraft and downs nine, breaking up the attacking formation before it even reaches the fleet. For his "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life" on this occasion and on 19 June, McCampbell is awarded the Medal of Honor.

Elsewhere off Leyte, Japanese planes damage destroyer *Leutze* (DD-481), 10°50'N, 125°25'E; tank landing ship *LST-552*, 11°11'N, 125°05'E; and infantry landing craft *LCI-1065*. Oiler *Ashtabula* (AO-51) is damaged by aerial torpedo, 11°03'N, 125°22'E.

U.S. freighter *Augustus Thomas*, anchored in San Pedro Bay, Leyte, is attacked by a Japanese plane. The ship's Armed Guard gunfire sets the aircraft ablaze but the kamikaze presses home his attack, a wing striking the stack of the nearby tug *Sonoma* (ATO-12) before it crashes the freighter's starboard side. The bombs detonate in the water between the two ships, and the exploding suicider sets *Sonoma* afire. There are no casualties on board *Augustus Thomas* (41-man merchant complement, 27-man Armed Guard and 480 troop passengers), which is subsequently beached by tugs *Chowanoc* (ATF-100) and *Whippoowill* (ATO-169). *Sonoma* subsequently sinks off Dio Island, 10°57'N, 125°02'E.

U.S. freighter *David Dudley Field* is damaged by kamikaze off Tacloban, Leyte; there are no fatalities among the 40-man merchant complement, 30-man Armed Guard, 50 stevedores embarked to work cargo and 10 Army passengers. After repairs, the freighter will resume active service.

Late on 24 October, Commander Third Fleet (Admiral William F. Halsey Jr.) orders TF 38 (Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher) to proceed north to be in position to strike the "Northern Force" (Vice Admiral Ozawa Jisaburo) on the morning of 25 October, but does not inform Commander Seventh Fleet (Vice Admiral Thomas C. Kinkaid) of his action. Unbeknown to the Americans, remnants of the "Center Force" transit San Bernadino Strait and head for Leyte Gulf. Commander Seventh Fleet meanwhile makes his dispositions to meet the expected enemy onslaught: bombardment and support group TG 77.2 (Rear Admiral Jesse B. Oldendorf) is augmented by close covering group TG 77.3 (Rear Admiral Russell S. Berkey).

Local airfields, however, are not yet ready to base night reconnaissance aircraft, and the only carrier equipped to operate such planes, small carrier *Independence* (CVL-22), is proceeding north with TF 38.

Coordinated submarine attack group TG 17.15 (Commander Alan B. Banister), meanwhile, operates against Japanese shipping in South China Sea west of Luzon Strait: *Drum* (SS-228) sinks merchant cargo ship *Shikisan Maru*, 20°27'N, 118°31'E; *Icefish* (SS-367) sinks army cargo ship *Tenshin Maru*, 19°31'N, 118°10'E; *Seadragon* (SS-194) sinks transport *Eiko Maru* and cargo ship *Daiten Maru*, 20°31'N, 118°33'E, and merchant passenger/cargo ship *Kokuryu Maru*, 20°27'N, 118°31'E.

Hospital ship *Comfort* (AH-6), fully illuminated in accordance with the dictates of the Geneva Convention, is bombed 22 miles southeast of Leyte.

Tank landing ship *LST-695* is damaged by Japanese submarine *I-56* in Philippine Sea, west of Mindanao, 08°31'N, 128°34'E.

Destroyer escort *Richard M. Rowell* (DE-403) sinks Japanese submarine *I-54*, 70 miles east of Surigao, 09°45'N, 126°45'E.

Submarine *Besugo* (SS-321) damages Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.132* south of Ashizuri Saki, Japan, 30°19'N, 132°49'E.

Submarine *Croaker* (SS-246) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Mikage Maru* and passenger/cargo ship *Gassan Maru* southwest of Quelpart Island, 33°00'N, 125°49'E.

Submarine *Darter* (SS-227), damaged by grounding on Bombay Shoal, Palawan Passage, P.I. is scuttled by submarines *Nautilus* (SS-168) and *Dace* (SS-247) to avoid the boat's falling into enemy hands.

Submarine *Kingfish* (SS-234) sinks Japanese cargo ship *Ikutagawa Maru* east of Chichi Jima, 27°08'N, 143°13'E.

Submarine *Shark* (SS-314) is sunk, probably by Japanese destroyer *Harukaze*, in Luzon Strait, 20°41'N, 118°27'E.24

Submarine *Snook* (SS-279) sinks army cargo ships *Arisan Maru*, 20°54'N, 118°19'E, and *No.1 Shinsei Maru*, 20°10'N, 118°17'E. Merchant tanker *Kikusui Maru* sinks as the result of damage inflicted by *Snook* the day before, 19°46'N, 118°30'E.

Submarine *Tang* (SS-306) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Ebara Maru* in Formosa Strait, 25°03'N, 119°35'E, and damages tanker *Matsumoto Maru*, 25°04'N, 119°35'E, but is herself sunk by the circular run of one of her own torpedoes, 25°06'N, 119°31'E.

TF 38 planes damage Japanese light cruiser *Kinu* and destroyer *Uranami* at Manila, and sink Japanese army ore carrier *Fuyukawa Maru* off Luzon, 16°30'N, 120°15'E.

USAAF aircraft sink army cargo ship *Taimei Maru* off Sandakan, Borneo, 05°50'N, 118°07'E.

Mediterranean

Motor torpedo boats patrolling off Monte Grosso attack five south-bound targets, firing six torpedoes. No definite claims are made.

Destroyer *Woolsey* (DD-437) and British destroyer HMS *Fortune* sink two abandoned German explosive boats 16 miles off Cap Ferrat; *Woolsey* and minesweeper *Sway* (AM-120) recover prisoners.

• **25 October, Wed. --**

Unites States and Great Britain resume diplomatic relations with Italy.

Pacific

Battle for Leyte Gulf continues as TG 77.2 (Rear Admiral Jesse B. Oldendorf), augmented by TG 77.3 (Rear Admiral Russell S. Berkey) and TG 70.1 (39

motor torpedo boats) execute the classic maneuver of "crossing the tee" of the Japanese "Southern Force" (Vice Admiral Nishimura Shoji and Vice Admiral Shima Kiyohide) in the **Battle of Surigao Strait**. TG 70.1 begins the action against the Japanese ships. *PT-137* torpedoes light cruiser *Abukuma*, but *PT-493* is sunk by enemy secondary battery gunfire, 10°15'N, 125°23'E. DESRON 54 (Captain Jesse G. Coward) then attacks; *McDermut* (DD-677) sinks destroyer *Yamagumo*, 10°25'N, 125°20'E, and damages destroyers *Asagumo* and *Michisio*. Subsequently, light cruiser *Denver* (CL-58) sinks *Asagumo* at entrance of Surigao Strait, 10°04'N, 125°21'E. DESRON 24 (Captain Kenmore M. McManes) enters the fray and *Hutchins* (DD-476) (McManes's flagship) sinks *Michisio*, 10°25'N, 123°25'E; DESRON 56 (Captain Roland M. Smoot) attacks; *Albert W. Grant* (DD-649) is damaged by both friendly and Japanese gunfire at this phase of the battle, 10°27'N, 125°25'E. Two Australian warships take part in this fleet action--heavy cruiser HMAS *Shropshire* (in TG 77.3) and destroyer HMAS *Arunta* (in DESRON 24)--that see the destruction of battleships *Fuso* and *Yamashiro*, 10°25'N, 125°20'E. Heavy cruiser *Mogami* and destroyer *Shigure* are damaged.

Meanwhile, the "Center Force" (Vice Admiral Kurita Takeo), which includes four battleships and five heavy cruisers, having passed into the Philippine Sea during the night, surprises TG 77.4 (Rear Admiral Thomas L. Sprague) off Samar. Kurita's force wreaks havoc on the six escort carriers, three destroyers, and four destroyer escorts of TU 77.4.3 (northernmost carrier force) (Rear Admiral Clifton A. F. Sprague). In this battle, which becomes a precipitate flight in the face of an overwhelming enemy force, Kurita's ships inflict severe damage but emerge bloodied by the Homeric efforts of the "small boys" (destroyers and destroyer escorts) and planes from the escort carriers that compel Kurita to retire, inexplicably, without destroying the CVEs and their consorts in detail. In the **Battle off Samar**, Japanese surface gunfire sinks destroyers *Hoel*, 11°46'N, 126°33'E; *Johnston*, 11°46'N, 126°09'E; and destroyer escort *Samuel B. Roberts* (DE-413), 11°40'N, 126°20'E; and damages destroyer *Heermann* (DD-523), 11°40'N, 126°15'E; and destroyer escort *Dennis* (DE-405), 11°40'N, 126°20'E. *Johnston* damages heavy cruiser *Kumano*.

Japanese surface gunfire (either battleship *Haruna* or *Kongo*) straddles escort carrier *White Plains* (CVE-66), 11°40'N, 126°20'E, *St. Lo* (CVE-63), and *Kitkun Bay* (CVE-71) but scores no direct hits. Heavy cruisers *Chikuma*, *Haguro*, and *Chokai*; light cruiser *Noshiro*; and a destroyer sink escort carrier *Gambier Bay* (CVE-73), 11°31'N, 126°12'E. Japanese surface gunfire also damages *Fanshaw Bay* (CVE-70) and *Kalinin Bay* (CVE-68), 11°40'N, 126°20'E; the latter claims one hit on a Japanese heavy cruiser with her single 5-inch gun. Navy carrier-based aircraft damage battleships *Kongo* (from near-misses) and *Yamato* and heavy cruisers *Chikuma*, *Chokai*, and *Suzuya*.

Subsequently, Japanese planes attack escort carriers of TU 77.4.1 (Rear Admiral Thomas L. Sprague). *Suwannee* (CVE-27) is damaged by kamikazes, 09°45'N, 126°42'E, and *Santee* (CVE-29) by suicide plane and Japanese submarine *I-56*, 09°45'N, 126°20'E. Kamikazes near-miss *Sangamon*, 09°45'N, 126°42'E, and *Petrof Bay* (CVE-80). Destroyer escort *Richard M. Rowell* is damaged by strafing, 10°05'N, 127°10'E.

Following its ordeal off Samar, TU 77.4.3 (Rear Admiral Clifton A.F. Sprague) comes under Japanese air attack. Kamikazes sink *St.Lo*, 11°13'N, 126°05'E, and damage *Kalinin Bay* and *Kitkun Bay*, 11°10'N, 126°20'E. At the same time, in the **Battle off Cape Engano**, carrier aircraft from the Third Fleet (Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr.) strike the Japanese "Northern Force" (Vice Admiral Ozawa Jisaburo). Planes from carriers *Essex* and *Lexington* sink carrier *Zuikaku* 220 nautical miles east-northeast of Cape Engano, 19°20'N, 125°51'E, and carrier *Chitose* 235 nautical miles east of Cape Engano, 19°20'N, 125°20'E; carrier *Chiyoda*, damaged by planes from carriers *Lexington* and *Franklin* and small carrier *Langley*, is sunk by heavy cruisers *New Orleans* and *Wichita* and light cruisers *Santa Fe* and *Mobile* (CL-63) 260 nautical miles southeast of Cape Engano, 18°37'N, 126°45'E. Carrier *Zuiho* is sunk by planes from *Essex*, *Franklin*, *Lexington*, *Enterprise*, and small carrier *San Jacinto* east-northeast of Cape Engano, 19°20'N, 125°51'E.

U.S. aircraft, during the Battle for Leyte Gulf, damage Japanese battleships *Yamato* and *Nagato* and heavy cruiser *Myoko* in San Jose Strait; battleship *Haruna*, east of Samar; light cruiser *Yahagi* off Leyte; destroyer *Kiyoshimo* off Leyte. Heavy cruiser *Chikuma*, damaged by carrier-based aircraft (TU 77.4.2) off Samar, is scuttled by destroyer *Nowaki*, 11°22'N, 126°16'E; heavy cruiser *Suzuya*, damaged by carrier-based aircraft off Samar, is scuttled by destroyer *Okinami*, 11°50'N, 126°25'E; heavy cruiser *Chokai*, damaged by carrier-based aircraft (TU 77.4.2) off Samar, is scuttled by destroyer *Fujinami*, 11°26'N, 126°15'E; heavy cruiser *Mogami*, damaged by heavy cruisers *Minneapolis*, *Portland* (CA-33), *Louisville* (CA-28), light cruisers *Columbia* (CL-56) and *Denver*, and collision with heavy cruiser *Nachi*, south of Bohol Island, P.I., is scuttled by destroyer *Akebono*, 09°40'N, 124°50'E; light cruiser *Tama* is sunk by aircraft from *Essex* and *Lexington* and submarine *Jallao* (SS-368), east of Luzon Strait, 21°23'N, 127°19'E; destroyer *Hatsuzuki* is sunk by the gunfire of four heavy cruisers and twelve destroyers east north-east of Cape Engano, 20°24'N, 126°20'E.

Japanese air attacks continue against shipping off Leyte: U.S. freighter *Adoniram Judson* is attacked by Japanese planes off Tacloban; Armed Guard gunners claim splashing six. One bomb explodes close aboard, causing fragmentation damage and wounding two of the embarked stevedores. There are no casualties to the ship's company: 43 merchant seamen and 28 Armed Guards. Freighter *John W. Foster*, anchored in San Pedro Bay, is strafed; 7 of the 27-man Armed Guard, 3 of 170 embarked troops, and 1 officer, are wounded.

Submarine *Halibut* (SS-232) sinks Japanese destroyer *Akizuki* east-northeast of Cape Engano, 20°29'N, 126°36'E.

Submarine *Nautilus* (SS-168) lands men and supplies on east coast of Luzon.

Submarine *Seal* (SS-183) sinks Japanese transport *Hakuyo Maru*, north of Urup, Kurils, 50°18'N, 150°50'E.

Submarine *Sterlet* (SS-392) sinks Japanese merchant tanker *Jinei Maru* south of Yaku Jima, 30°15'N, 129°45'E.

Fleet tanker *Matsumoto Maru* sinks as the result of damage inflicted by submarine *Tang* (SS-306) in Formosa Strait the day before, 25°07'N, 119°45'E.

British submarine HMS *Tantivy* sinks Japanese motor sail ship *No.47 Tachibana Maru* in Flores Sea.

Navy F4Us sink Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 62* north of Palau.

Other Japanese casualties include auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 52* sunk at Palau, 07°30'N, 134°40'E; and merchant tanker *Shoho Maru* sunk by USAAF aircraft in South China Sea, 11°18'N, 114°50'E.

- **26 October, Thu. --**

Pacific

Battle for Leyte Gulf concludes as Navy carrier-based and USAAF land-based planes attack retiring Japanese ships that have survived the previous days' action. TF 38 planes sink light cruiser *Kinu* southwest of Masbate, 11°46'N, 123°11'E; destroyer *Hayashimo* 40 miles south of Mindoro, 12°05'N, 121°50'E. Aircraft from carriers *Hornet* (CV-12) and *Wasp* (CV-18) sink light cruiser *Noshiro* south of Mindoro, 11°35'N, 121°45'E; planes from carrier *Hancock* (CV-19) sink landing ship *T.102* in the Guimaras Straits, 11°00'N, 123°00'E; TF 38 planes damage heavy cruiser *Kumano*; destroyer *Okinami* in Sibuyan Sea. Planes from TU 77.4.2 sink destroyer *Uranami* 70 miles north-northeast of Iloilo, Panay, 11°50'N, 123°00'E. USAAF B-24s sink light cruiser *Abukuma* southwest of Negros Island, 09°20'N, 122°30'E; battleship *Haruna* is damaged by near-misses. In related action, U.S. cruisers and destroyers sink destroyer *Nowaki* 65 miles south-southeast of Legaspi, Luzon, 13°00'N, 124°54'E.

Motor torpedo boat *PT-132* is damaged by dive bomber, 09°00'N, 125°00'E.

U.S. freighter *Benjamin Ide Wheeler* is attacked by Japanese plane off Leyte, and damaged by near-miss of bomb that wounds three of the ship's embarked troops.

Submarine *Drum* (SS-228) sinks Japanese transport *Tats_ra Maru*, 19°00'N, 120°45'E, and merchant passenger/cargo ship *Taisho Maru* and cargo ship *Taihaku Maru* north of Luzon, 19°21'N, 120°50'E.

Submarine *Icefish* (SS-367) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Taiyo Maru* west of Luzon Strait, 19°04'N, 120°36'E, but is damaged by depth charges and is forced to terminate her patrol.

Submarine *Rock* (SS-274) sinks Japanese merchant tanker *No.7 Takasago Maru* near Balabac Strait, 10°18'N, 117°47'E.

British submarine HMS *Tantivy* damages Japanese ship *No.2 Katsuma Maru*.

U.S. Navy carrier-based aircraft sink merchant tanker *No.31 Nanshin Maru* west of Balabac Strait, 08°22'N, 116°55'E.

Special Air Task Force (STAG 1) operations in the southwest Pacific conclude as four TDRs are flown against lighthouse on Cape St. George, New Ireland. One of the four hits squarely and demolishes the structure.

USAAF aircraft sink merchant cargo ships *Kaiko Maru* and *Doei Maru* off South China coast, 20°50'N, 111°50'E.

Other Japanese casualties include merchant cargo ship *Seito Maru* sunk by Australian mine off Sumatra, 03°12'S, 116°15'E; and merchant cargo ship *Kompira Maru* sunk by aircraft, Shimushuri Island.

- **27 October, Fri. --**

Pacific

TG 38.3 (Rear Admiral Frederick C. Sherman) and TG 38.4 (Rear Admiral Ralph E. Davison) attack Japanese ships and installations in the Visayas and northern Luzon area. Navy carrier-based planes sink destroyer *Fujinami* 80 miles north of Iloilo, Panay, 12°00'N, 122°30'E; TF 77 planes sink destroyer *Shiranui* 80 miles north of Iloilo, Panay, 12°00'N, 122°30'E.

Off Leyte, battleship *California* (BB-44) is damaged by strafing off Leyte, 16°57'N, 125°02'E; submarine chaser (rescue) *PCER-848* is damaged by horizontal bomber, 11°11'N, 125°05'E; and motor torpedo boat *PT-523* is damaged by dive bomber. 11°15'N, 124°59'E.

U.S. freighter *Benjamin Ide Wheeler* is damaged by kamikaze that crashes the ship, killing one merchant sailor and one of the 27-man Armed Guard (whose heavy gunfire damages the inbound suicider) and sets fire to the gasoline cargo; salvage ship *Cable* (ARS-19) comes alongside and extinguishes the blaze while some of the ship's complement and passengers are transferred temporarily to nearby amphibious command ship *Wasatch* (AGC-9).

Damaged heavy cruiser *Canberra* (CA-70) and light cruiser *Houston* (CL-81) (see 13-16 October 1944) reach Ulithi with their supporting ships, their Odyssey over.

Submarine *Bergall* (SS-320) attacks Japanese convoy and sinks oiler *Nichiho Maru* and fleet tanker *Itsukushima Maru* to the west of Balabac Strait, 07°09'N, 116°40'E.

Submarine *Cero* (SS-225) drives Japanese guardboat *No.3 Kyohei Maru* ashore, Luzon, 17°00'N, 119°00'E.

Submarine *Kingfish* (SS-234) sinks Japanese landing ship *T.138* and army cargo vessel *No.4 Tokai Maru* 30 miles north-northeast of Iwo Jima, 25°22'N, 141°31'E.

Submarine *Nautilus* (SS-168) lands men and supplies on east coast off Luzon.

U.S. motor torpedo boats sink Japanese motor sail ship *Ky_ei Maru* off Ormoc Bay.

USAAF P-38s and P-47s sink Japanese motor sink sail ship *Senshin Maru* off Mactan Island.

USAAF aircraft (14th Air Force) damage Japanese ship *Kashii Maru* in South China Sea, 14°25'N, 110°38'E.

- **28 October, Sat. --**

Pacific

TG 38.4 (Rear Admiral Ralph E. Davison) bomb Japanese shipping near Cebu, damaging landing ship *T.101* off Ormoc, Leyte, 11°00'N, 123°00'E.

Destroyer escort *Dempsey* (DE-26), assisted by tank landing craft *LCT-406*, sinks a Japanese torpedo-carrying craft off the main unloading beach, Peleliu. U.S. freighter *United Victory* is damaged by gunfire from Japanese surface craft; there are no casualties to *United Victory's* complement, which includes a 27-man Armed Guard.

Destroyer *Helm* (DD-388), assisted by *Gridley* (DD-380) and TBF from small carrier *Belleau Wood* (CVL-24), sinks Japanese submarine *I-46*, 120 miles northeast of Surigao, 10°56'N, 127°13'E.

Light cruiser *Denver* (CL-58) is damaged by kamikaze off Leyte, 10°57'N, 125°02'E. During Japanese air attack on U.S. shipping in San Pedro Bay, Leyte, freighter *Cape Romano* is damaged by bombs exploding close aboard; bomb fragments injure two of the 26-man Armed Guard and two of the 47-man merchant complement.

Destroyer escort *Eversole* (DE-404) is torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine *I-45* off Leyte, 10° 18'N, 127° 37'E; *I-45*, however, is in turn sunk by destroyer escort *Whitehurst* (DE-634) 120 miles east-northeast of Surigao, 10°10'N, 127°28'E.26

Netlaying ship *Viburnum* (AN-57) is damaged by mine at Ulithi.

Japanese transport *Sumatra Maru* is sunk by swimmer vehicles ("Chariots") launched from British submarine *HMS Trenchant*, Phuket Harbor, 07°54'N, 98°28'E.

Japanese merchant tanker *Baiei Maru* is sunk by Japanese mine in Brunei Bay, 05°08'25"N, 115°05'E.

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Gleaves* (DD-423) bombards troop concentrations, barracks, and gun emplacements; she achieves excellent results. Enemy shore battery fire is inaccurate.

U.S. motor torpedo boats attack northbound convoy--four F-lighters with escorts--and sink two F-lighters.

• **29 October, Sun. --**

Pacific

Naval Operating Base, Leyte, and Naval Air Station, Samar, are established.

TG 38.2 (Rear Admiral Gerald F. Bogan) attacks Japanese airfields in the Manila area and shipping in Manila Bay, damaging heavy cruiser *Nachi*. During Japanese air attacks on the fast carriers operating off Leyte, a kamikaze crashes *Intrepid* (CV-11), 15°07'N, 124°01'E.

Japanese guardboat *No.3 Kyoei Maru* is also lost on this date off Luzon; although the agent of her demise is unspecified, it is most likely Navy carrier-based aircraft, given the level of U.S. naval aviation activity in that area.

PB4Y (VPB 115) sinks Japanese tanker *Itsukushima Maru* off Brunei Bay, 05°04'N, 119°47'E. Destroyer *Shigure* rescues survivors.

Japanese army tanker *Kokko Maru* is sunk by RAAF mine off Balikpapan, Borneo, 01°17'S, 116°48'E.

U.S. aircraft sink Japanese guardboat *No.16 Kiku Maru* at Rabaul.

U.S. freighter *John A. Johnson* is torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I-12* 1,000 miles northeast of Oahu, 29°36'30"N, 141°43'W, and is abandoned when she breaks in two. *I-12* surfaces, shells the wreck, setting both halves ablaze, before bearing down on the lifeboats and rafts and firing on them with machine guns and pistols. These brutal actions result in the death of 4 of the 41 merchant sailors, the Army security officer and 4 of the 28-man Armed Guard (see 30 October and 13 November 1944).

- **30 October, Mon. --**

Pacific

Carrier *Franklin* (CV-13) and small carrier *Belleau Wood* (CVL-24) are damaged by kamikazes, 10°20'N, 126°40'E.

Yacht *Argus* (PY-14) rescues survivors of U.S. freighter *John A. Johnson*, which had been sunk by Japanese submarine *I-12* the previous day.

Submarine *Salmon* (SS-182) damages Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.22* southwest of Toizaki, Kyushu, and teams with *Trigger* (SS-237) to damage merchant tanker *Takane Maru*, 30°13'N, 132°49'E, but *Salmon* is damaged by depth charges dropped by the three undamaged escorting coast defense vessels and deep submergence as she evades the escorts, 30°08'N, 132°33'E, and is forced to terminate her patrol.

USAAF P-38s (13th Air Force) damage Japanese submarine chaser *Ch 36* near Sibitu Passage, 05°27'N, 119°12'E, and sink merchant tankers *Kosho Maru* and *No.8 Nanshin Maru* off Sandakan, Borneo, 05°25'N, 119°20'E.

USAAF aircraft sink Japanese ship *Chuko Maru* off Hong Kong.

USAAF B-25s sink Japanese ship *No.5 Uwa Maru* off Lomblon Island, 08°25'S, 123°25'E.

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Madison* (DD-425) bombards and destroys German motor convoy, southern France, and sinks floating mines offshore.

- **31 October, Tue. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Gabilan* (SS-252) sinks Japanese oceanographic research vessel *No. 6 Kaiyo Maru* off Murotosaki, Japan, 32°50'N, 134°21'E.

Submarine *Guitarro* (SS-363) attacks Japanese convoy and sinks cargo ship *Komei Maru* and army cargo ship *Komei Maru* off Botolan Point, Luzon, 15°17'N, 119°50'E, and although damaged by the concussion generated by the explosion of one of these two ships, remains on patrol.

Submarine *Nautilus* (SS-168), en route to Mios Woendi after completing her clandestine mission (23, 24, and 27 October), finishes the destruction of submarine *Darter* (SS-227), aground on Bombay Shoal (09°26'N, 116°56'E) since 24 October, to prevent the boat from falling into enemy hands.

Submarine *Sterlet* (SS-392) sinks Japanese merchant tanker *Takane Maru*, damaged the day before by *Salmon* (SS-182) and *Trigger* (SS-237), southwest of Kyushu, 30°09'N, 132°45'E.

British submarine HMS *Stoic* sinks two Japanese sailing vessels, 07°40'S, 114°13'E, and bombards warehouses and fuel tanks at Jangka Island.

Motor gunboat *PGM-9* bombards Japanese targets on Aguijan Island, Marianas.

Other Japanese casualties include landing ship *T.131* damaged by aircraft, northeast of Panay; and auxiliary submarine chaser *Uruppu Maru* is sunk by aircraft, near Mindoro Island.

November

- **1 November, Wed. --**

Pacific

In Leyte Gulf, kamikazes sink destroyer *Abner Read* (DD- 526), 10°47'N, 125°22'E; and damage destroyers *Anderson* (DD-411), 10°11'N, 125°02'E, and *Claxton* (DD-571) and *Ammen* (DD-527), 10°40'N, 125°20'E. Destroyers *Bush* (DD- 529), 10°13'N, 125°21'E, and *Killen* (DD-593), 10°40'N, 125°20'E, are damaged by horizontal bombers.

Submarine *Atule* (SS-403) attacks Japanese convoy, and sinks transport *Asama Maru* in Luzon Strait, 20°09'N, 117°38'E.

Submarine *Blackfin* (SS-322) attacks Japanese convoy, and sinks auxiliary vessel *Caroline Maru* and transport *No.12 Unkai Maru* in Mindoro Strait, 12°54'N, 120°10'E.²⁷

Submarine *Ray* (SS-271) sinks Japanese merchant tanker *No.7 Horai Maru*, 13°02'N, 120°17'E, and lands men and supplies on west coast of Mindoro.

British submarine HMS *Storm* sinks Japanese schooner *No.3 Goenong Perak*, 04°56'S, 120°59'E.

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Benson* (DD-421), although troubled by inadequate spotting, fires bombardment mission against railroads and troop concentrations.

- **2 November, Thu. --**

Pacific

Japanese aircraft bomb U.S. airstrip and planes on the ground at Tacloban, Leyte.

USAAF B-24s and P-38s (13th Air Force) attack Japanese reinforcement convoy (TA Operation, Second Phase) unloading reinforcements at Ormoc Bay, sinking army cargo ship *Noto Maru*, 10°30'N, 125°00'E. The rest of the convoy, however, returns safely to Manila.

Submarine *Barbero* (SS-317), despite presence of escort vessel, sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Kuramazan Maru* in Makassar Strait, 04°30'S, 118°20'E.

Submarine *Pomfret* (SS-391) attacks Japanese convoy between Formosa and Luzon, sinking transport *Hamburg Maru* damaging transport *Atlas Maru* in Luzon Channel, 20°20'N, 121°30'E.

British submarine HMS *Tantalus* attacks Japanese Singapore-to-Manila convoy SIMA-04 one day after its departure, sinking cargo ship *Hachijin Maru* and damaging submarine chaser *Ch 1* about 225 miles east of Singapore, 00°48'N, 107°43'E.

British submarine HMS *Terrapin* sinks netlayer *Kumano Maru* in Strait of Malacca, 01°30'N, 103°00'E.

Japanese army cargo ship *No.2 Tateyama Maru* is sunk by aircraft, 13°16'N, 99°46'E.

Indian Ocean

U.S. tanker *Fort Lee* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-181* at 27°35'S, 83°11'E; of the 26-man Armed Guard, at least ten perish in the loss of the ship (see 7, 9 and 16 November 1944).

- **3 November, Fri. --**

Pacific

Japanese aircraft attack air facilities on Saipan and Tinian as part of a series of strikes on this area from which heavy bombing missions against their home islands are launched.

Japanese planes raid U.S. shipping and airfield facilities at Tacloban, Leyte; U.S. freighter *Matthew P. Deady* is crashed by kamikaze that is engaged with intense antiaircraft fire from the Armed Guard; the explosion of the crashing suicide plane starts a fire in the cargo that threatens the ship. Although firefighting efforts are successful, two Armed Guard sailors (of the 27-man detachment) and 26 troops (of the 300 on board) perish in the attack.

Light cruiser *Reno* (CL-96) is damaged by Japanese submarine *I-41* off Leyte, 13°46'N, 131°27'E.28

Submarine *Cero* (SS-225) lands men and supplies on east coast of Luzon.

Submarine *Gurnard* (SS-254) attacks Japanese convoy in the South China Sea, and sinks merchant cargo ship *Taimai Maru* about 275 miles west of Labuan, Borneo, 05°48'N, 111°12'E.

Submarine *Pintado* (SS-387) attacks small detachment of Japanese warships and sinks destroyer *Akikaze* 160 miles west of Lingayen Gulf, 16°50'N, 117°29'E.

Submarine *Pomfret* (SS-391) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Hamburg Maru* in Bashi Channel, 20°19'N, 121°30'E. Transport *Atlas Maru*, torpedoed by *Pomfret* the previous day, is beached, a total loss, off Sabtang Island, 20°18'N, 121°51'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Shino Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Palau.

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Woolsey* (DD-437) shells German troop concentrations near Franco-Italian border.

- **4 November, Sat. --**

Pacific

Submarines *Bream* (SS-243), *Guitarro* (SS-363) and *Ray* (SS-271) attack Japanese convoy off western Luzon, all three team up to sink transport *Kagu Maru* off Dasol Bay, 15°55'N, 119°44'E. *Guitarro* torpedoes landing ship *T.111*, 15°56'N, 119°44'E.

Submarine *Sailfish* (SS-192) damages Japanese destroyer *Harukaze* and landing ship *T.111* in Luzon Strait, 20°08'N, 121°43'E. Although damaged by aerial

bombs, 20°09'N, 121°43'E, the submarine remains on patrol; *Patrol Boat No.38* takes the damaged *Harukaze* in tow and brings her into port.

British submarine HMS *Terrapin* attacks Japanese convoy in Malacca Strait, and sinks minesweeper *W.5*, 03°14'N, 99°50'E.

U.S. freighter *Frank J. Cuhel* is damaged by friendly fire while anchored off Tacloban, Leyte; the explosion of a shell wounds one of the 500 troops being transported by the ship, and 2 of the 28-man Armed Guard. During Japanese air attack shortly thereafter, freighter *Cape Constance* is damaged when a kamikaze, having been hit by the heavy fire being put up by the Armed Guard gunners, explodes over the ship and scatters wreckage. Only the Armed Guard officer is wounded during the attack; there are no other casualties among the 41-man merchant complement and the 28-man Armed Guard.

Mediterranean

Destroyers *Benson* (DD-421) and *Woolsey* (DD-437) bombard German gun emplacements in Cap Ampeglio area.

- **5 November, Sun. --**

Pacific

TF 38 (Vice Admiral John S. McCain) begins two days of carrier strikes on Luzon, targeting Japanese aircraft, airfields, and shipping. TG 38.3 attacks warships and auxiliaries in Manila Bay, where planes from carriers *Lexington* (CV-16) and *Essex* (CV-9), and small carrier *Langley* (CVL-27) sink heavy cruiser *Nachi* five nautical miles west of Corregidor. F6Fs from TG 38.3 sink *Patrol Boat No.107* [ex-U.S. tug *Genessee* (AT-55)] off Lubang Island, 14°23'N, 120°25'E. Navy carrier-based planes (TG 38.3 hitting targets in Manila Bay, TG 38.1 targets off Santa Cruz) damage destroyer *Akebono* and escort destroyer *Okinawa*, landing ship *T.111*, motor sailship *Tanoguchi Maru* and cargo ships *Toyo Maru* and *Showa Maru*. During Japanese retaliatory air strikes, kamikaze damages carrier *Lexington* (CV-16), 16°20'N, 123°59'E.

Motor torpedo boat *PT-320* is damaged by aerial bomb off Leyte, 11°11'N, 125°05'E.

USAAF B-29s bomb Singapore, damaging Japanese fleet tanker *Notoro* while she lies in drydock at Selatar, 01°18'N, 103°52'E.

Japanese landing ship *T.112* runs aground off southwest Mindoro, 12°40'N, 121°22'E.

Japanese merchant ship *No.11 Bakshu Maru* is sunk by mine off Penang.

- **6 November, Mon. --**

Pacific

TF 38 (Vice Admiral John S. McCain) resumes strikes against Luzon; TG 38.3 planes sink Japanese transport *T.139*, Silanguin Bay, 14°35'N, 120°55'E. Planes from carrier *Ticonderoga* (CV-14), in TG 38.3, sink tanker *Marifu Maru*, previously damaged by submarine *Flier* (SS-250) on 13 June 1944, in Mariveles harbor, 14°26'N, 120°29'E.

Submarines *Guitarro* (SS-363), *Bream* (SS-243), and *Raton* (SS-270) each torpedo Japanese heavy cruiser *Kumano* west of Lingayen, 16°11'N, 119°44'E.

Kumano is towed to Santa Cruz, Luzon (see 9 November 1944). *Guitarro* is damaged by depth charges, 15°54'N, 119°44'E, but remains on patrol.

Submarine *Gurnard* (SS-254) lays mines off western Borneo.

The blockading of the Nanpo Shoto region, by mining, begins as PROJECT MIKE commences. USAAF B-24s (42d Bomb Squadron), fly from Guam and stage through Isely Field, Saipan, where the mines are loaded and fuel tanks topped off. The B-24s lay 10 mines off Chichi Jima.

RAAF Mitchells sink Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 118* off Soemba Island, N.E.I., 09°38'S, 120°17'E.

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Plunkett* (DD-431) shells German troop concentrations and pillboxes. She carries out shore bombardment against gun emplacement south of Ventimiglia.

- **7 November, Tue. --**

President Roosevelt wins an unprecedented fourth term in the White House, defeating Republican challenger Wendell Willkie for the second time.

Pacific

Motor torpedo boat *PT-301* is damaged by accidental explosion off western New Guinea, 01°15'S, 136°23'E.

Submarine *Albacore* (SS-218) is sunk by mine off the northern tip of Honshu, 41°49'N, 141°11'E.

Submarine *Greenling* (SS-213) sinks Japanese transport *No.8 Kiri Maru* and merchant tanker *K_tai Maru*, 34°34'N, 138°35'E.

Indian Ocean

British motor vessel *Ernebank* rescues 16 survivors of U.S. tanker *Fort Lee*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-181* on 2 November 1944 (see 9 and 16 November 1944).

- **8 November, Wed. --**

Pacific

Japanese party, armed with automatic weapons and light mortars, lands on Ngerogong Island five miles northeast of Peleliu, under cover of typhoon, and forces evacuation (without loss) of men from medium infantry landing craft *LCI(M)-740* that had been landed there three days before to provide protection for ships utilizing Denge's passage (see 9 November 1944).

Submarine *Growler* (SS-215) is sunk, probably by Japanese destroyer *Shigure*, patrol-escort vessel *Chiburi*, and *Coast Defense Vessel No.19* off Mindoro.

Submarine *Gunnel* (SS-253) attacks Japanese convoy off west coast of Luzon, and sinks torpedo boat *Sagi* about 60 miles west of Lingayen Gulf, 16°09'N, 118°56'E.

Submarine *Hardhead* (SS-365), despite proximity of two escorts, sinks Japanese tanker *Manei Maru* about 90 miles southwest of Manila, 13°30'N, 119°25'E.

Submarine *Queenfish* (SS-393) attacks Japanese convoy off southern Kyushu, and sinks cargo ship *Hakko Maru* and auxiliary submarine chaser *Ryusei Maru* near Uji Gunto, 31°10'N, 129°39'E.

Submarine *Redfin* (SS-272) attacks Japanese convoy in South China Sea, and sinks merchant tanker *No.2 Nichinan Maru*, 14°00'N, 116°48'E.

Submarine *Sea Fox* (SS-402) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Keijo Maru*, 29°05'N, 127°40'E.

- **9 November, Thu. --**

- Pacific

- Marine fighter aircraft based on Peleliu commence air strikes on Japanese on Ngeregong Island. These strikes, together with bombardment by vessels of LCI(L)-Flotilla 13, will continue on 10 November, rendering it untenable for the invaders (see 15 November 1944).

- PROJECT MIKE continues as USAAF B-24s (42d Bomb Squadron) lay 10 mines in Futami Ko, Chichi Jima.

- Submarine *Barbero* (SS-317) attacks Japanese convoy and sinks merchant tanker *Shimotsu Maru* about 250 miles west of Manila, 14°32'N, 116°53'E.

- Submarine *Haddo* (SS-255) sinks Japanese fleet tanker *No.2 Hishi Maru* in Mindoro Straits, 12°24'N, 120°45'E.

- Submarine *Queenfish* (SS-393) attacks Japanese convoy TAMA-28 in East China Sea, and sinks gunboat *Chojusan Maru* about 50 miles west of Kyushu, 31°15'N, 129°10'E.

- Japanese cruiser *Kumano*, damaged by U.S. submarines on 6 November 1944, breaks her anchor and drifts aground off Santa Cruz, Luzon.

- Japanese TA Operation (fourth phase) convoy reaches Ormoc Bay and unloads men and materiel brought from Manila (see 10 November 1944).

- USAAF B-25s and P-38s (13th Air Force) and motor torpedo boats *PT-492*, *PT-497*, *PT-524*, and *PT-525* begin attacks against Japanese convoy in Ormoc Bay, the former damaging escort vessels *Okinawa* and *Shimushu*.

- Indian Ocean

- U.S. tanker *Tumacacori* rescues 17 survivors of U.S. tanker *Fort Lee*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-181* on 2 November 1944 (see 16 November 1944).

- **10 November, Fri. --**

- Pacific

- Ammunition ship *Mount Hood* (AE-11) is destroyed by accidental ammunition explosion in Seeadler Harbor, Manus, Admiralty Islands. The cataclysmic blast damages nearby escort carriers *Petrof Bay* (CVE-80) and *Saginaw Bay* (CVE-82); destroyer *Young* (DD-580); destroyer escorts *Kyne* (DE-744), *Lyman* (DE-302), *Walter C. Wann* (DE-412), and *Oberrender* (DE-344); high speed transport *Talbot* (APD-7); destroyer tender *Piedmont* (AD-17); miscellaneous auxiliary *Argonne* (AG-31); cargo ship *Aries* (AK-51); attack cargo ship *Alhena* (AKA-9); oiler *Cacapon* (AO-52); internal combustion engine repair ships *Cebu* (ARG-6) and *Mindanao* (ARG-3); repair ship *Preserver*; fleet tug *Potawatomi*

(ATF-109); motor minesweepers *YMS-1*, *YMS-39*, *YMS-49*, *YMS-52*, *YMS-71*, *YMS-81*, *YMS-140*, *YMS-238*, *YMS-243*, *YMS-286*, *YMS-293*, *YMS-319*, *YMS-335*, *YMS-340*, *YMS-341*, and *YMS-342*; unclassified auxiliary *Abarenda* (IX-131), covered lighter *YF-681*, and fuel oil barge *YO-77*. *Mount Hood* has an estimated 3,000 tons of explosives on board, and except for a working party from the ship that is ashore at the time, her entire ship's company perishes. The force of the explosion blasts a trough in the harbor floor longer than the length of a football field and 50 feet wide and 30 to 40 feet deep; some fragments land more than 2,000 yards from where *Mount Hood* lies. Investigators find no fragment of the ship on the ocean floor larger than 16 by 10 feet. In terms of the extent of damage, it ranges from an estimated 48,000 man-hours to repair *Mindanao* (which suffers 23 dead and 174 injured) to "superficial" or "insignificant." In addition to the ships listed above, nine medium landing craft (LCM) and a pontoon barge moored to *Mount Hood* are also destroyed; 13 small boats or landing craft are sunk or damaged beyond repair, 33 are damaged but repairable.

Motor torpedo boat *PT-321*, damaged by grounding off Leyte, 11°25'N, 124°19'E, is scuttled.

Submarine *Barb* (SS-220) sinks Japanese transport *Gokoku Maru* seven miles off Koshiki Jima, eastern Kyushu, 33°24'N, 129°04'E.

Submarine *Flounder* (SS-251) sinks German submarine *U-537* in Java Sea, 07°13'S, 115°17'E.

Submarine *Greenling* (SS-213) sinks Japanese *Patrol Boat No.46* (ex-destroyer *Fuji*) southeast of Honshu, 34°30'N, 138°34'E.

Submarine *Steelhead* (SS-280) sinks Japanese repair ship *Yamabiko Maru* south-southwest of Yokosuka, 31°42'N, 137°50'E.

USAAF B-25s, P-47s, and P-38s (13th Air Force) attack Japanese convoy (TA Operation, third phase) in Ormoc Bay hit the previous day, sinking army cargo ships *Kashii Maru* and *Takatsu Maru*, 10°53'N, 124°25'E; and damaging destroyer *Akishimo*, *Coast Defense Vessel No.13* and army cargo ship *Kinka Maru*. B-25 attacks drive *Coast Defense Vessel No.11* aground in Matlang Bay, where she is scuttled and abandoned, 10°54'N, 124°27'E. Nearby fast transports *T.6*, *T.9*, and *T.10*, however, escorted by destroyers *Take* and *Kasumi*, are unmolested, and rescue survivors from *Kashii Maru* and *Takatsu Maru*. On their return voyage to Manila, the convoy rescues men from *Celebes Maru*, which has run aground off Bondoc Point, Luzon, earlier that day (see 15 November 1944).

USAAF B-24s attack Surabaya-bound Japanese ships off Soembawa, sinking *No.21 Tachibana Maru*, *Fuji Maru*, and *Tsukushi Maru* and damaging *Benten Maru*.

- **11 November, Sat. --**

- Pacific

- Aircraft from TG 38.1 (Rear Admiral Alfred E. Montgomery), TG 38.3 (Rear Admiral Frederick C. Sherman), TG 38.4 (Rear Admiral Ralph E. Davison) set upon Japanese convoy (fourth phase of TA Operation) as it enters Ormoc Bay, sinking destroyers *Hamanami*, *Naganami*, *Shimakaze*, and *Wakatsuki*; minesweeper *W.30*; army cargo ships *Mikasa Maru*, *Seiho Maru*, and *Tensho*

Maru; and merchant cargo ship *Taizan Maru* (ex-*St. Quentin*), 10°50'N, 124°35'E.

TG 30.2 (Rear Admiral Allan E. Smith) (three heavy cruisers and five destroyers) bombards airfields and other Japanese shore installations on Iwo Jima; shelling commences shortly before midnight and continues into 12 November. PB4Ys screen the group's approach, spot gunfire, and cover the retirement.

U.S. submarines begin series of attacks on Japanese convoy MOMA-07 (see 12-14 November 1944); *Queenfish* (SS-393) damages transport *Miho Maru* off Miike harbor, 32°20'N, 128°00'E.

Submarine *Scamp* (SS-277) is sunk, probably by Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.4* and naval aircraft off Tokyo Bay, 33°38'N, 141°00'E.

Japanese minesweeper *W.22* is sunk by mine off Babelthup, Palau.

Europe

U.S. freighter *Lee S. Overman* is mined off Le Havre, France; outside of one merchant sailor injured, there are no casualties among the 39-man civilian complement and the 27-man Armed Guard. The ship is later written off as a total loss.

- **12 November, Sun. --**

Pacific

Landing craft repair ships *Egeria* (ARL-8) and *Achilles* (ARL-41) are damaged by kamikazes off Leyte, 11°11'N, 125°05'E. U.S. freighters off Leyte come under attack from Japanese planes as well. *Leonidas Merritt* is crashed by two suiciders off Dulag, Leyte, but her crew controls the fires; 1 of the 28-man Armed Guard is killed, as are a merchant seaman and one of the embarked stevedores. *Thomas Nelson* is hit by a kamikaze, but despite ultimately successful firefighting efforts, 133 of the 578 embarked troops are killed, as are 3 of the 28-man Armed Guard; 88 men are injured. *Jeremiah M. Daily* is struck by a suicide plane, and the explosion and fires account for the deaths of 100 of the 557 troops on board, in addition to 2 of the 29-man Armed Guard and 4 of the 39-man merchant complement; 43 more men are injured and 50 troops jump overboard to escape the flames (they are rescued by nearby boats and craft). *William A. Coulter* is struck by two kamikazes, but there are no fatalities among the 41-man merchant complement, 27-man Armed Guard and four passengers. *Morrison R. Waite* is strafed and then crashed by a Japanese plane, and the resultant fires kill 21 troops and wound 41 (of the 600 embarked at the time); 2 of the 29-man Armed Guard are wounded in action. *Alexander Majors's* Armed Guard gunners deflect a kamikaze with a well-placed 5-inch round, but the plane strikes the mainmast and, along with its bomb, explodes and showers the forward part of the ship with burning gasoline that compels the Armed Guards at the forward guns to leap overboard to save themselves. Two of the merchant crew are killed and 16 injured, but there are no fatalities among the Armed Guard sailors and the Army passengers. All six of the freighters ultimately return to the west coast of the United States under their own power for repairs.

Destroyer *Nicholas* (DD-449) sinks Japanese submarine *I-37* south of Yap Island, 08°04'N, 138°03'E.

Submarines *Barb* (SS-220) and *Peto* (SS-265) continue attacks against Japanese convoy MOMA-07 in the East China Sea. *Barb* sinks army cargo ship *Naruo Maru* and damages merchant cargo ship *Gyokuyo Maru*, 31°39'N, 125°36'E (see 14 November 1944); *Peto* sinks army cargo ship *Tatsuraku Maru*, 31°18'N, 125°30'E.

Submarine *Redfin* (SS-272) damages Japanese ship *Asogawa Maru*, 12°45'N, 118°14'E.

PROJECT MIKE continues as USAAF B-24s (42d Bomb Squadron), finding cloudy weather at the primary objective, Chichi Jima, opt for the alternate, Haha Jima, and lay 15 mines in effective locations.

Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 84* is sunk by aircraft off Banggi, North Borneo.

PB4Y attacks Japanese convoy SIMA-04 (see 2 November 1944) and sinks merchant cargo ship *Atsuta Maru* off Malampaya Sound, 11°50'N, 119°19'E.

USAAF P-51s damage Japanese auxiliary-powered sailing vessel *Namikiri Maru* at entrance to Haiphong River, French Indochina.

Atlantic

German battleship *Tirpitz* is sunk by RAF Lancasters, Tromso Fjord, Norway.

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Woolsey* (DD-437) shells German howitzer emplacement east of San Remo, Italy, and encounters "fairly accurate" 88-millimeter gunfire in return; shrapnel showers the ship but she suffers no casualties.

• **13 November, Mon. --**

Pacific

Aircraft from three carrier task groups (TG 38.1, TG 38.3, and TG 38.4) of TF 38 (Rear Admiral Frederick C. Sherman, in the temporary absence of Vice Admiral John S. McCain) pound Japanese shipping and port facilities at Manila and in central Luzon. At the former place, TF 38 planes sink light cruiser *Kiso*, destroyers *Hatsuharu* and *Okinami*, and auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 116* 14°35'N, 120°50'E; and army cargo ships *Eiwa Maru*, *Kinka Maru*, *Kakogawa Maru*, *Sekiho Maru*, and *Teiyu Maru*, as well as merchant cargo ships *Taitoku Maru*, *Hatsu Maru*, *Seiwa Maru* and *Shinkoku Maru*, 14°35'N, 120°55'E, and damage destroyer *Ushio*. At Cavite, Navy carrier planes sink destroyers *Akebono* and *Akishimo*, fleet tanker *Ondo*, and guardboat *Daito Maru*, 14°29'N, 120°55'E. TF 38 planes also sink army cargo ship *Heian Maru* at Cabcaban, and auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 116* some 20 nautical miles west of Cavite, 14°30'N, 120°45'E.

Minesweeper *Ardent* (AM-340) and frigate *Rockford* (PF-48) sink Japanese submarine *I-12* (that had sunk freighter *John A. Johnson* on 29 October 1944) 100 miles west-southwest of Los Angeles, California, 31°55'N, 139°45'W.

Submarine *Seal* (SS-183) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Gassan Maru* north-northwest of Etorofu, Kurils, 45°35'N, 148°14'E.

Japanese submarine *I-53* is damaged, cause unspecified, off Marcus Island.

- **14 November, Tue. --**

Pacific

TF 38 (Rear Admiral Frederick C. Sherman) air strikes against Japanese shipping in Philippines continue. At Manila, Navy carrier-based planes sink transport *Tatsura Maru*, merchant tanker *No.5 Horai Maru*, merchant cargo ships *Hatsu Maru* and *Aoki Maru*, and damage transport *Tottori Maru* and army cargo ship *Myogi Maru*; cargo ship *Yukihisa Maru* is sunk just outside Manila Bay, 13°58'N, 120°36'E. Off Mindoro, F6Fs from carrier *Yorktown* (CV-10) attack Japanese convoy SIMA-04, sinking merchant tanker *Ayagiri Maru*, 12°40'N, 120°41'E; and damaging army cargo ship *Yutaka Maru* (see 15 November 1944) as well as escorting submarine chasers *Ch 1*, *Ch 19*, *Ch 26*, and *Ch 36*.

Submarine *Halibut* (SS-232) is damaged by depth charges and aerial bombs, Luzon Strait, 20°56'N, 121°33'E, but returns from patrol with no difficulty.

Submarine *Jack* (SS-259) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking merchant cargo ship *Hinaga Maru* and damaging merchant tanker *No.2 Yuzan Maru*, 11°02'N, 109°02'E (see 15 November 1944).

Submarines *Batfish* (SS-310), *Raton* (SS-270) and *Ray* (SS-271) attack Japanese convoy off the northwest coast of Luzon; *Raton* damages supply ship *Kurasaki* north-northwest of Cape Bolinao, 17°41'N, 118°00'E (see 15 November 1944), and sinks merchant tanker *No.5 Unkai Maru*, 17°48'N, 117°58'; *Ray* sinks *Coast Defense Vessel No.7* 65 miles northwest of Cape Bolinao, 17°45'N, 117°45'E.

Submarine *Skipjack* (SS-184) damages Japanese motor sailship *No.6 Tatsu Maru* off Shimushiru, Kurils, 46°40'E, 151°40'E. Strong currents then drive the damaged vessel upon a reef; she is declared a total loss.

Submarine *Spadefish* (SS-411) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Gyokuyo Maru*, previously damaged by *Barb* (SS-220) on 12 November 1944 while in convoy MOMA-07, 31°04'N, 123°56'E.

PROJECT MIKE continues as USAAF B-24s (42d Bomb Squadron) lay 6 mines in effective locations off Ani Jima and Haha Jima.

During Japanese air raid on U.S. shipping off Leyte, freighter *Floyd B. Olson* is damaged by bomb; there are, however, no casualties among the 43-man merchant complement, the 28-man Armed Guard, and the 409 stevedores embarked to work cargo.

USAAF B-24 sinks Japanese lugger *Kiho Maru* off Sandakan harbor.

Japanese ship *Heiyo* is sunk by mine, Adang Bay, 01°43'S, 116° 26'E.

- **15 November, Wed. --**

Pacific

TG 78.14 (Captain Lord Ashbourne, RN) lands Army troops (31st Division) on Mapia Island, 160 nautical miles northeast of Sansapor.

Marines reoccupy Ngeregong Island (see 9 and 10 November 1944), finding that the Japanese have abandoned it after being pounded by Marine aircraft and LCI(L)-bombardment.

Submarine *Barbel* (SS-316) attacks Japanese convoy in the South China Sea about 250 miles east of Tourane, French Indochina, sinking transports *Misaki Maru*, 15°10'N, 112°40'E, and *Sugiyama Maru*, 15°14'N, 112°14'E.

Submarine *Guavina* (SS-362) sinks abandoned Japanese army cargo ship *Yutaka Maru*, damaged the day before by Navy carrier-based aircraft, off Mindoro, 12°25'N, 120°55'E.

Submarine *Jack* (SS-259), operating in the South China Sea, sinks Japanese transports *Nichiei Maru*, 11°11'N, 108°56'E, and *No.2 Yuzan Maru*, 11°15'N, 108°57'E.

Submarine *Queenfish* (SS-393) attacks Japanese convoy HI-81, and sinks army cargo ship/aircraft transport *Akitsu Maru* at southern entrance of Tsushima Strait, about 60 miles east of Saishu Island, 33°05'N, 128°38'E.

Japanese supply ship *Kurasaki* sinks as the result of damage inflicted by submarine *Raton* (SS-270) the previous day, north-northwest of Cape Bolinao, Luzon, 17°27'N, 117°43'E.

Submarine *Saury* (SS-189) damages Japanese guardboat *Kojo Maru*, northwest of the Bonins, 29°59'N, 139°44'E (see 16 November 1944).

Submarines *Sterlet* (SS-392) and *Silversides* (SS-236) damage Japanese guardboat *No.12 Hachiryu Maru* northwest of Ogasawara-Gunto, 30°10'N, 137°23'E. *No.12 Hachiryu Maru* reaches port, but apparently performs no more service.

PB4Y completes destruction of Japanese ship *Celebes Maru*, aground since 10 November 1944 off Bondoc Point, Luzon, 13°17'N, 112°37'E.

Navy land-based aircraft sink Japanese ship *Harufuji Maru* off Borneo, 06°52'N, 116°51'E.

USAAF P-38s damage Japanese gunboat *Man-Yo Maru* off Balikpapan.

RAF Liberators bomb Japanese shipping at Mergui, sinking *No.3 Tanshin Maru* and communications boat *Kasumi*.

Mediterranean

Destroyer escort *Frament* (DE-677) collides with Italian submarine *Luigi Settembrini* 685 miles west of Gibraltar; *Frament* is damaged, but *Luigi Settembrini* sinks.

• **16 November, Thu. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Scabbardfish* (SS-397) sinks Japanese transport *Kisaragi Maru* north by west of Chichi Jima, 29°04'N, 142°12'E.

Submarine *Tambor* (SS-198) sinks Japanese guardboat *Takashiro Maru* southwest of Torishima, 30°00'N, 139°30'E.

Japanese guardboat *Kojo Maru*, damaged the previous day by submarine *Saury* (SS-189), sinks northwest of the Bonins, 29°59'N, 139°39'E.

Other Japanese losses include heavy cruiser *Haguro*, light cruiser *Oyodo*, and destroyer *Yukikaze* damaged by aircraft off Brunei, North Borneo; merchant

tanker *Asokawa Maru* damaged by unspecified cause off Brunei; and fleet tanker *Kyoei Maru* sunk by USAAF B-24 and P-38 aircraft; and *Man-yo Maru* damaged off Tarakan, Borneo.

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *Mary Ball* rescues 17 survivors of U.S. tanker *Fort Lee*, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-181* on 2 November 1944, but not before she has fired on the lifeboat until identifying it as friendly. Fortunately, there are no casualties.

Europe

U.S. freighter *Theodore Parker* is mined about 12 miles east of the mouth of the Humber River, 53°33'N, 00°39'E, but returns, under her own power, to the port of Hull for repairs. There are no casualties to the 42-man merchant complement or the 27-man Armed Guard.

• **17 November, Fri. --**

Pacific

Attack transport *Alpine* (APA-92) is damaged by kamikaze off Leyte, 11°07'N, 125°02'E. Elsewhere, during a Japanese air raid on shipping off Red Beach, Leyte, freighter *Benjamin Ide Wheeler* is damaged by bombs; there are no casualties.

TBM (VC 82) from escort carrier *Anzio* (CVE-57) and destroyer escort *Lawrence C. Taylor* (DE-415) sink Japanese submarine *I-26* in Philippine Sea, 12°44'N, 130°42'E.

Submarine *Bluegill* (SS-242) is damaged by depth charges in Makassar Strait, 00°48'N, 118°52'E, but remains on patrol.

Submarines *Burrfish* (SS-312) and *Ronquil* (SS-396) battle Japanese guardboat *Fusa Maru* in a spirited surface gunnery action fought in heavy weather south of Hachiro Jima, central Honshu, 32°15'N, 140°00'E; American gunfire damages the enemy patrol craft, but not before she in turn damages *Burrfish*. *Ronquil* is damaged by own gunfire (premature explosion of 40-millimeter shell or contact with lifeline stanchion) and is forced to terminate her patrol. *Fusa Maru* is written off as a total loss and performs no more active service.

Submarine *Gunnel* (SS-253) attacks Japanese convoy and sinks torpedo boat *Hiyodori* and merchant tanker *Shunten Maru* 130 miles east of Tourane, French Indochina, 16°56'N, 110°30'E. Destroyer *Shiokaze* and submarine chaser *Ch 21's* hunter-killer operations are ineffective.

Submarine *Picuda* (SS-382) sinks Japanese landing ship *Mayasan Maru* and damages merchant tanker *Awagawa Maru*, 33°16'N, 124°43'E.

Submarine *Spadefish* (SS-411) sinks Japanese escort carrier *Shinyo* 140 miles northeast of Shanghai, China, in Yellow Sea, 33°02'N, 123°33'E, and damages landing ship *Shinshu Maru*.

Submarine *Sunfish* (SS-281) damages Japanese army transport *Edogawa Maru* west of Quelpart Island, 33°40'N, 124°30'E; although *Coast Defense Ship No.61* claims her destruction, *Sunfish* escapes. *Edogawa Maru* sinks the next day.

PROJECT MIKE continues as USAAF B-24s (42d Bomb Squadron) lay 8 mines in effective locations in Futami Ko, Chichi Jima.

USAAF P-38s sink Japanese ships *Jinko Maru* and *No.3 Yawata Maru* off Merida, 10°55'N, 124°30'E.

Japanese merchant tanker *Seian Maru* runs aground off entrance to Subic Bay (see 19 November).

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Woolsey* (DD-437) shells German artillery at Ventimiglia; shrapnel again showers the ship but she suffers no casualties; destroyer *Benson* (DD-421) bombards barracks in same area.

- **18 November, Sat. --**

Pacific

Destroyer escort *Lawrence C. Taylor* (DE-415) and TBM (VC 82) from escort carrier *Anzio* (CVE-57) sink Japanese submarine *I-41* in Philippine Sea, 12°44'N, 130°42'E.

Submarine *Pampanito* (SS-383) sinks Japanese depot ship *No.17 Banshu Maru* and merchant cargo ship *No.1 Shinko Maru*, 19°12'N, 110°51'E.

Submarines *Peto* (SS-265), *Spadefish* (SS-411) and *Sunfish* (SS-281) operate against the same Japanese convoy attacked the previous day in the East China Sea west of Saishu Island, *Peto* sinks army cargo ships *Aisakasan Maru*, 33°50'N, 124°44'E, and *Chinkai Maru*, 33°39'N, 124°26'E; *Spadefish* sinks auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 156*, 33°07'N, 123°19'E; *Sunfish* sinks army transport *Seisho Maru*, 33°36'N, 124°18'E.

Submarine *Saury* (SS-189) damages Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.11 Asahi Maru*, 30°50'N, 141°56'E.

Japanese planes raid U.S. shipping off Leyte; freighter *Nicholas J. Sinnott* is near-missed by a kamikaze, 11°15'45"N, 125°02'45"E. There are no casualties among the 40-man merchant complement, the 80 Army passengers or the 26-man Armed Guard. Off Tacloban, Armed Guard gunners on board freighter *Gilbert Stuart* shoot the tail off a kamikaze which nevertheless crashes their ship, triggering fires that are ultimately brought under control with the help of fleet tug *Chickasaw* (ATF-83). While 5 of the 39-man merchant complement perish in the attack, only 1 of the 29-man Armed Guard is killed in action. Freighter *Cape Romano* is damaged by near-miss of bomb.

PROJECT MIKE continues as USAAF B-24s (42d Bomb Squadron) lay 12 mines in effective locations in Futami Ko, Chichi Jima. B-24s sink auxiliary sailing vessel *Sumiei Maru* off Haha Jima.

Off Borneo, aircraft damage Japanese escort destroyer *Okinawa* off Labuan. Guardboats *No.6 Kompira Maru*, *Benten Maru*, and *Eikoku Maru* are sunk by U.S. aircraft off Tarakan.

Europe

Tank landing ship *LST-6* is sunk by mine in Seine River, France.

Atlantic

Destroyer escort *Camp* (DE-251) is damaged in collision with tanker *Santa Cecilia* off coast of southern Ireland.

Mediterranean

Motor torpedo boat *PT-311* is sunk by mine off Spezia, Italy, 43°41'N, 09°37'E.

- **19 November, Sun. --**

Pacific

TF 38 (Vice Admiral John S. McCain) aircraft attack Japanese shipping off Luzon, in addition to airfields on that island. Navy carrier-based planes attack convoy ten miles off San Fernando, sinking merchant cargo ship *Esashi Maru* and damaging escorting submarine chasers *Ch 19* and *Ch 26*, 16°50'N, 120°08'E.

Elements of TG 78.14 (Captain Lord Ashbourne, RN) land Army troops (31st Division) on Asia Island, 100 nautical miles west of Sansapor.

Destroyer escorts *Conklin* (DE-439) and *McCoy Reynolds* (DE-440) sink Japanese submarine *I-37*, 100 miles west of Palaus, 08°07'N, 134°16'E.29

Submarine *Hake* (SS-256) torpedoes Japanese light cruiser *Isuzu* west of Corregidor, 14°22'N, 119°38'E.

British submarine HMS *Stratagem* sinks Japanese merchant tanker *Nichinan Maru* in Malacca Strait, 01°36'N, 102°53'E.

U.S. freighter *Alcoa Pioneer* is crashed by kamikaze, San Pedro Bay, Leyte, killing 6 of the 28-man Armed Guard. Thirteen other men from among the 46-man merchant complement and two passengers are injured; patrol escort vessel *PCE-851* provides medical assistance. Nearby, a second kamikaze crashes Norwegian motor vessel *General Fleischer*, while a third crashes U.S. freighter *Cape Romano*; there are, however, no casualties among *Cape Romano's* 47-man merchant complement, her two passengers, or the 26-man Armed Guard.

Navy aircraft sink motor sailship *No.8 Kyoun Maru* off Mindoro.

Aircraft sink Japanese submarine chaser *Ch 36* and merchant tanker *Seian Maru* off Subic Bay.

USAAF B-24s damage Japanese transport *Natsukawa Maru* off Brunei Bay, Borneo, 05°20'N, 115°13'E; *Natsukawa Maru*, however, does not return to service, a total loss.

- **20 November, Mon. --**

Atlantic

Heavy cruiser *Augusta* (CA-31) is damaged by explosion of unknown origin, Boston Navy Yard.

Pacific

Oiler *Mississinewa* (AO-59) is sunk by kaiten (fired by Japanese submarine *I-47* or *I-36*) Ulithi, 10°06'N, 139°43'E.30

Japanese planes attack three U.S. tankers proceeding from Ulithi to Eniwetok, near-misses and strafing account for damage to tanker *Fort Dearborn* at 12°00'N, 155°00'E. There are, however, only four men wounded among the ship's 50-man merchant complement, 27-man Armed Guard and five passengers.

Submarine *Atule* (SS-403) sinks Japanese minesweeper *W.38* southwest of Formosa, 21°21'N, 119°45'E.

Submarine *Gar* (SS-206) lands supplies on north coast of Mindoro.

British submarine HMS *Tally Ho* sinks Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *Ma 4* 30 miles east of the southern tip of Great Nicobar Island, 06°55'N, 94°15'E.

USAAF B-25 (14th Air Force) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Daichi Maru* in Yangtze River northeast of Shanghai, China, 31°57'N, 122°18'E.

USAAF B-25s sink Japanese ship *No.79 Nany_Maru* off Timor.

- **21 November, Tue. --**

- Pacific

- Two light cruisers and nine destroyers of TF 92 (Rear Admiral John L. McCrea) bombard Japanese naval air installations on Matsuwa Island, Kurils.

- Submarine *Flounder* (SS-251) attacks Japanese convoy in the South China Sea, damaging army cargo ship *Gyosan Maru*, 10°36'N, 115°08'; later, submarine *Guavina* (SS-362) completes destruction of *Gyosan Maru* off Tizard's Reef, 10°22'N, 114°22'E.

- Submarine *Scabbardfish* (SS-397) sinks Japanese victualling stores ship *Hokkai Maru* 200 nautical miles south of Tokyo, 33°20'N, 142°00'E.

- Submarine *Sealion* (SS-315) attacks Japanese task force, and sinks battleship *Kongo* and destroyer *Urakaze* about 60 miles north-northwest of Formosa, 26°07'N, 121°36'E.

- Japanese oceanographic research vessel *Kaiyo No.2* is sunk by U.S. aircraft in the Celebes Sea.

- USAAF B-24 sinks Japanese ship *Shinsei Maru* in Makassar Strait, 02°04'N, 119°12'E.

- Japanese cargo ship *Fukurei Maru* is sunk by marine casualty off west coast of Korea, 38°08'N, 124°34'E.

- **22 November, Wed. --**

- Pacific

- Aircraft from carrier group (Rear Admiral Ralph E. Davison) bomb Japanese air facilities on Yap, Carolines.

- Japanese planes raid U.S. air facility at Morotai, destroying 15 bombers and damaging 31.

- Submarine *Besugo* (SS-321) sinks Japanese landing ship *T.151* off northern tip of Palawan, 11°22'N, 119°07'E.

- Submarine *Guavina* (SS-362) sinks Japanese army cargoship *D_wa Maru* near Tizard's Bank, northwest of Borneo, 10°23'N, 114°21'E.

- Submarine *Scabbardfish* (SS-397) damages Japanese escort vessel *Oki*, 33°20'N, 142°00'E.

- Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 82* is sunk by aircraft off Balabac Island, P.I., 08°00'N, 117°00'E;

- USAAF planes damage cargo ship *Enoshima Maru* at Makassar.

- **23 November, Thu. --**

- Pacific

Attack transport *James O'Hara* (APA-90) is damaged by kamikaze off Leyte, 10°57'N, 125°02'E.

U.S. freighter *Gus W. Darnell* is torpedoed by Japanese plane off Samar Island, P.I., and catches fire. Beached to facilitate salvage, the ship is ultimately declared a total loss. There are no fatalities among the 41-man merchant complement, 27-man Armed Guard, and 15 Army passengers, although 17 men are injured.

Submarines *Bang* (SS-385) and *Redfish* (SS-395) attack Japanese convoy in the Formosa Strait; *Bang* sinks merchant cargo ship *Sakae Maru* and transport *Amakusa Maru*, 24°21'N, 122°28'E; *Redfish* sinks merchant cargo ship *Hozan Maru*, 24°27'N, 122°47'E.

Submarine *Gar* (SS-206) lands men and supplies on west coast of Luzon.

Submarine *Picuda* (SS-382) attacks Japanese convoy in Tsushima Strait, sinking merchant cargo ships *Fukuju Maru*, 34°19'N, 128°05'E, and *Shuyo Maru*, 34°19'N, 128°58'E.

District patrol craft *YP-383* is sunk in collision with infantry landing craft *LCI(L)-873* in Gulf of Panama, 08°22'N, 79°29'W.

Mediterranean

Motor torpedo boat patrol attacks southbound convoy off Portofino, damaging two coasters, while engaged by German shore battery that inflicts no damage on the PTs.

Europe

U.S. freighter *William D. Burnham* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-978* about five miles off Barfleur, France; 10 of the 26-man Armed Guard perish, as do eight of the 41-man merchant complement. British escort drifter *HMS Fidget* rescues survivors, transferring most to motor torpedo boat *PT-461*, and the wounded to British destroyer *HMS Vesper*. Salvage tug *ATR-3* later tows *William D. Burnham* to Cherbourg where the freighter is beached and ultimately assessed as a total loss.

• **24 November, Fri. --**

Pacific

USAAF B-29s based in the Marianas raid Tokyo, Japan, for the first time.

Motor torpedo boats are relieved of patrol duty in the northern Solomons. Infantry landing craft gunboats [LCI(G)] and motor gunboats [PGM] will operate in their stead.

Submarine chaser *PC-1124* and infantry landing craft *LCI-976* are damaged by dive bombers off Leyte, 10°50'N, 125°25'E.

USAAF P-40s and P-47s (13th Air Force) attack one of the groups of ships involved in the 5th phase of the TA Operation, sinking submarine chaser *Ch 46* and landing ships *T.111*, *T.141* and *T.160* in Cataingan Bay, Masbate Island, 11°35'N, 124°10'E.

Japanese weather observation ship *Tenkai No.3* is damaged by aircraft off Balabac, P.I.

- **25 November, Sat. --**

Pacific

TG 38.2 (Rear Admiral Gerald F. Bogan) and TG 38.3 (Rear Admiral Frederick C. Sherman) aircraft bomb Japanese shipping off central Luzon. Planes from carrier *Ticonderoga* (CV-14) sink heavy cruiser *Kumano* (see 6 and 9 November 1944) in Dasol Bay, 15°45'N, 119°48'E. F6Fs, SB2Cs and TBMs from carriers *Ticonderoga* and *Essex* (CV-9), along with F6Fs and TBMs from small carrier *Langley* (CVL-27) attack convoy about 15 miles southwest of Santa Cruz, on the west coast of Luzon, and sink coast defense ship *Yasojima* (ex-Chinese cruiser *Ping Hai*), 15°45'N, 119°45'E, and landing ships *T.112*, *T.142*, and *T.161*, 15°40'N, 119°45'E. Planes from carrier *Intrepid* (CV-11) sink fast transports *T.6* and *T.10*, and damage fast transport *T.9* and escort destroyer *Take*, Balanacan Harbor, Marinduque Island, 13°25'N, 121°55'E. Planes from *Essex* and *Langley* sink army cargo ship *No.6 Manei Maru* and damage cargo ship *Kasagisan Maru* in San Fernando harbor, 16°37'N, 120°19'E.

Kamikazes breach the fleet's fighter defenses, however, and press home determined attacks, damaging carriers *Essex*, *Intrepid* and *Hancock* (CV-19), 15°47'N, 124°14'E, and small carrier *Cabot* (CVL-28), 15°42'N, 123°09'E. Small carrier *Independence* (CVL-22) is damaged by crash of own aircraft into island structure, 15°58'N, 125°14'E

Japanese merchant tanker *Ceram Maru* is damaged by aircraft in Manila Bay.

Motor torpedo boat *PT-363* is sunk by shore battery off Cape Gorango, Halmahera Island, 00°55'N, 127°50'E.

Submarine *Atule* (SS-403) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Santos Maru* off Sabtang Island, Luzon, 20°12'N, 121°51'E. Although *Atule* claims destruction of the escorting submarine chaser *Ch 33*, the latter survives the attack.

Submarine *Cavalla* (SS-244) sinks Japanese destroyer *Shimotsuki*, west of Borneo, 02°28'N, 107°20'E.

Submarine *Haddo* (SS-255) damages Japanese escort destroyer *Shimushu*, 14°00'N, 119°25'E.

Submarine *Hardhead* (SS-365) attacks Japanese convoy about 60 miles west of Manila, and sinks *Coast Defense Vessel No.38* off Bataan peninsula, 14°33'N, 119°51'E.

Submarine *Mingo* (SS-261) attacks Japanese convoy SIMA-05, sinks army transport *Manila Maru* about 90 miles northwest of Miri, Sarawak, 05°30'N, 113°24'E, and survives a depth-charging by escort vessel *Kurahashi*.

Submarine *Pomfret* (SS-391) sinks Japanese *Patrol Boat No.38* and transport *Shoho Maru*, Luzon Strait, 20°18'N, 121°34'E.

USAAF B-24s (14th Air Force), on night reconnaissance flight over the South China Sea, attack Japanese shipping south of Hainan Island, bombing and strafing *Hida Maru* and escorting minesweepers *W.17* and *W.18*, 16°44'N, 108°24'E, damaging both minecraft. *Hida Maru* takes the crippled *W.18* in tow (see 26 November 1944).

Chinese aircraft attack Japanese river gunboats on the Yangtze near Anking, China, sinking *Fushimi* and damaging *Sumida*.

- **26 November, Sun. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Raton* (SS-270) sinks Japanese ammunition ship *Onoe Maru* north of Bismarck Archipelago, 00°40'N, 148°20'E.

Submarine *Pargo* (SS-264) damages Japanese fleet tanker *Y_h_Maru* off Miri, Sarawak, 04°55'N, 114°06'E, and although damaged by depth charges from one or both of the auxiliary vessel's escorts, remains on patrol.

U.S. freighter *Howell Lykes* is bombed by Japanese planes, San Pedro Bay, Leyte, and damaged by near-misses; while there are no casualties among the 41-man Armed Guard and 58 Army passengers, two of the ship's 79-man merchant complement are wounded in the attack.

Japanese minesweeper *W.18* sinks as the result of damage inflicted by USAAF B-24s (14th Air Force) the previous night, 16°52'N, 108°38'E.

Chinese planes damage Japanese river gunboats *Hira* and *Hozu* in the Yangtze River near Anking.

- **27 November, Mon. --**

Pacific

Destroyers bombard Japanese positions at Ormoc Bay, Leyte; firing continues on 28 November. In Leyte Gulf, kamikazes sink submarine chaser *SC-744*, 10°44'N, 125°07'E, and damage battleship *Colorado* (BB-45) and light cruisers *St. Louis* (CL-49) and *Montpelier* (CL-57), 10°50'N, 125°25'E.

Japanese planes also strike airfields and aircraft on the ground at Saipan in a surprise mid-day raid, destroying three USAAF B-29s and a P-47, and damaging three B-29s, a B-24 and a P-47.

Organized Japanese resistance on Peleliu ends.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kinko Maru* is sunk by aircraft, Yangtze River.

- **28 November, Tue. --**

Pacific

Destroyers *Saufley* (DD-465), *Waller* (DD-466), *Pringle* (DD-477), and *Renshaw* (DD-499) sink Japanese submarine *I-46* in Leyte Gulf, 10°48'N, 124°35'E.

Submarine *Guavina* (SS-362) attacks Japanese convoy, 12°54'N, 109°21'E, but while she achieves no success, she eludes counterattacks by submarine chaser *Ch 43*.

USAAF B-24 (13th Air Force) sinks Japanese merchant tanker *Atago Maru* off Miri, Borneo, 04°29'N, 114°00'E.

- **29 November, Wed. --**

Pacific

In Leyte Gulf, kamikazes damage battleship *Maryland* (BB-46), 10°41'N, 125°23'E, and destroyers *Saufley* (DD-465), 10°50'N, 125°25'E, and *Aulick* (DD-569), 10°35'N, 125°40'E.

U.S. freighter *William C.C. Claiborne*, anchored off Leyte, is hit by what is most likely friendly fire that wounds 3 of the 28-man Armed Guard and 1 of the ship's 42-man merchant complement.

Motor torpedo boats attack Japanese shipping in Ormoc Bay; *PT-127* sinks *Patrol Boat No.105* (ex-Philippine *Arayat*), 10°59'N, 124°33'E; *PT-128* and *PT-191* sink auxiliary minelayer *Kusentai No.105*.

USAAF B-25s and P-47s (5th Air Force) attack Japanese shipping near Ormoc Bay sinking submarine chaser *Ch 45*, 10°25'N, 124°00'E. P-40s and P-47s (5th Air Force) sink army cargo ship *Shinetsu Maru* off Camotes Island, 10°47'N, 124°17'E, and cargo ship *Shinsho Maru* off Ormoc, 11°01'N, 124°36'E.

Submarine *Archerfish* (SS-311) sinks Japanese carrier *Shinano* 160 nautical miles southeast of Cape Muroto, Japan, 32°00'N, 137°00'E.³¹

Submarine *Scabbardfish* (SS-397) sinks Japanese submarine *I-365* off Honshu, 34°44'N, 141°01'E.

Submarine *Spadefish* (SS-411) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.6 Daiboshi Maru* off the west coast of Korea, 37°17'N, 125°11'E.

British submarine HMS *Sturdy* sinks two Japanese fishing vessels off Bawean Island, 06°20'S, 112°40'E.

- **30 November, Thu. --**

- Pacific

- Submarine *Pipefish* (SS-388) is damaged by aerial bombs in South China Sea off Hainan, 18°07'N, 111°35'E, but remains on patrol.

- Submarine *Sunfish* (SS-281) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Dairen Maru* off western Korea, 38°08'N, 124°35'E.

- Japanese bomber, evading a 12-plane combat air patrol, damages floating drydock *ARD-17* with a near-miss, Kossol Roads, Palau.

- British submarine HMS *Stratagem* sinks Japanese cargo vessel *Kumano Maru* in Malacca Straits, 01°30'N, 103°00'E.

December

- **1 December, Fri. --**

- Pacific

- Naval Operating Base, Kwajalein, is established.

- Europe

- U.S. freighter *Arizpa* is damaged by mine in the Schelde River, 51°23'N, 03°18'W, but proceeds to Antwerp, her destination, under her own power. There are no casualties among her 41-man merchant complement or the 28-man Armed Guard.

- **2 December, Sat. --**

- Pacific

- Four destroyers (DesDiv 44) bombard Japanese positions at Palompon and northern Ormoc Bay, Leyte. Another group of three destroyers (DesDiv 120) (Commander John C. Zahm) enters Ormoc Bay at night and battles enemy aircraft, destroyers, and shore batteries.

Submarine *Gunnel* (SS-253) lands supplies and evacuates Allied aviators from Palawan, P.I.

Submarine *Sea Devil* (SS-400) attacks Japanese convoy MI-29 in the East China Sea, sinking merchant tanker *Akigawa Maru* and passenger/cargo ship *Hawaii Maru* about 80 miles south-southwest of Kyushu, 30°24'N, 128°17'E.

British submarine HMS *Sturdy* sinks Japanese *Communication Ship No.142* in Makassar Strait, 04°05'S, 119°32'E.

USAAF B-24s sink Japanese gunboat *Bantan Maru* and damage auxiliary minesweeper *Cha 105* and cargo ship *Sh_ka Maru* 140 miles nautical miles from Makassar, 03°30'S, 117°30'E.

USAAF P-40s attack Japanese shipping off Palompon, P.I., sinking motor sailship *Kosei Maru*.

- **3 December, Sun. --**

- Pacific

Destroyer engagement in Ormoc Bay that began late the previous night continues. Destroyer *Cooper* (DD-695) is sunk, possibly by torpedo from escort destroyer *Kuwa*, 10°54'N, 124°36'E, but not before *Cooper*, along with *Allen M. Sumner* (DD-692) and *Moale* (DD-693), sinks *Kuwa* and damages her sistership *Take*, 10°50'N, 124°35'E. "Black Cat" PBV-5A picks up *Cooper's* survivors that night and the next day. One PBV carries 56 in addition to its 8-man crew. *Allen M. Sumner* is damaged by horizontal bomber, and *Moale* is damaged (possibly by *Kuwa*) in Ormoc Bay, 10°54'N, 124°36'E.

Hospital ship *Hope* (AH-7), fully illuminated in accordance with the dictates of the Geneva Convention, is attacked by Japanese torpedo planes but not damaged, 125 miles east of Mindanao.

Submarines *Pampanito* (SS-383), *Pipefish* (SS-388), *Sea Cat* (SS-399) and *Searaven* (SS-196) attack Japanese convoy in South China Sea off coast of French Indochina, in a heavy seas and poor visibility. *Pipefish* probably torpedoes and sinks *Coast Defense Vessel No.64*, 18°36'N, 111°54'E; *Pampanito* torpedoes army cargo ship *Seishin Maru*, 18°20'N, 111°52'E, and *Sea Cat* or *Searaven* torpedoes tanker *Harima Maru*.

U.S. Navy land-based aircraft sink Japanese merchant tanker *No.13 Nanshin Maru* off Balikpapan, 01°22'S, 117°03'E; and merchant tanker *No.18 Nanshin Maru* off Borneo, 05°55'N, 117°03'E.

- Europe

U.S. freighter *Francis Asbury* is mined in the Schelde River, 51°22'N, 03°53'W; of her 41-man merchant complement and 28-man Armed Guard, 9 of the former and 6 of the latter are killed, one merchant sailor and one Armed Guard die later of their injuries. Forty-six from both groups are injured. *Francis Asbury* drifts aground off Ostend, Belgium, where she is sunk by gunfire as a menace to navigation.

- Mediterranean

Tank landing ship *LST-141* is damaged when she runs aground at Bizerte, Tunisia.

- **4 December, Mon. --**

Pacific

Destroyer *Drayton* (DD-366) is damaged by horizontal bomber off Leyte, 10°00'N, 125°00'E.

Submarine *Flasher* (SS-249) attacks Japanese convoy about 275 miles southwest of Manila, sinking destroyer *Kishinami*, 12°54'N, 116°27'E, and damages merchant tanker *Hakko Maru*. *Flasher* eludes efforts of the escorting *Yurijima* and *Coast Defense Vessel No.17*; *Hakko Maru* is later scuttled, 13°12'N, 116°35'E, most likely by *Yurijima* and/or *Coast Defense Vessel No.17*.

- **5 December, Tue. --**

Pacific

Naval Base, Tinian, is established.

Submarine *Hake* (SS-256) lands supplies on Panay, P.I. Tank landing ship *LST-23* and medium landing ship *LSM-20* are damaged by Japanese planes 70 miles northwest of Caiut Point, Leyte, 10°12'N, 125°19'E. Kamikazes damage destroyers *Drayton* (DD-366), 10°10'N, 125°20'E, and *Mugford* (DD-389), 10°15'N, 125°20'E.

Japanese planes attack convoy bound for Leyte, torpedoing U.S. freighter *Antoine Saugraine* at 09°42'N, 127°05'E; falling astern of the convoy, the freighter again comes under attack, is torpedoed a second time, and is abandoned. Frigates *San Pedro* (PF-37) and *Coronado* (PF-38), and Army tug *LT 454* rescue the 42-man merchant complement, 26-man Armed Guard and 376 Army troop passengers between them (see 6-7 December 1944). A kamikaze crashes freighter *Marcus Daly* in San Pedro Bay, Leyte, 09°34'N, 127°30'E; 1 of the 27-man Armed Guard is killed, as are 2 of the 40-man merchant complement and 62 of the 1,200 embarked Army troops; 49 men are wounded. Nearby, Armed Guard gunfire from freighter *John Evans* deflects a kamikaze from his suicidal course toward that ship, but the plane grazes the ship, glancing off the topmast and the stack before splashing close aboard. Bomb fragments cause some topside damage and wound four men (two of the 43-man merchant complement and 2 of the 26-man Armed Guard).

Medium landing ship *LSM-149* is damaged by grounding, Philippine Islands.

Japanese escort destroyer *Ikuna* is damaged by aircraft off Formosa.

Mediterranean

Tank landing craft *LCT-152*, under tow of tank landing ship *LST-141*, is damaged in a gale off Palermo, Sicily. Auxiliary tug *ATA-172* brings *LCT-152* into port.

- **6 December, Wed. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Haddo* (SS-255) damages Japanese tanker *No.3 Kyoei Maru*, 14°43'N, 119°39'E.

Submarines *Segundo* (SS-398), *Trepang* (SS-412), and *Razorback* (SS-394) attack Japanese convoy of ten cargo vessels and four escorts west of Dalupiri Island, P.I., en route from Takao to Manila; *Trepang* damages army cargo ship *Fukuyo Maru* and merchant cargo ships *Jinyo Maru* and *Yamakuni Maru*,

18°59'N, 121°05'E; *Segundo* damages merchant cargo ships *Kanjo Maru*, *Yasukuni Maru*, and *Shinfuku Maru*, 18°57'N, 120°58'E (see 7 December 1944).

Fleet tug *Quapaw* (ATF-110) arrives to assist freighter *Antoine Saugraine*, damaged the previous day by Japanese aerial torpedo off Leyte; she stands ready to tow the freighter if necessary (see 7 December 1944).

Aircraft sink Japanese army cargo ship *Shinto Maru* in South China Sea off Luzon, 18°52'N, 120°57'E;

British submarine HMS *Shalimar* damages Japanese merchant tanker *Shinbun Maru* in Strait of Malacca.

Atlantic

Car float *YCF-42* breaks in half and sinks in heavy seas while in tow of auxiliary tug *ATA-181* near Cape Lookout, South Carolina.

Mediterranean

Tank landing ship *LST-906*, aground since 18 October at Leghorn, Italy, is further damaged in gale.

Rescue tug *ATR-1* is damaged in collision in Tyrrhenian Sea, 41°27'N, 12°40'E.

• **7 December, Thu. --**

Pacific

TG 78.3 (Rear Admiral Arthur W. Struble) lands Army troops (77th Infantry) on the eastern shore of Ormoc Bay after bombardment by destroyers and LCI(R)s. Within three hours of the first soldiers' going ashore, however, enemy air attacks begin. Kamikazes damage destroyers *Mahan* (DD-364), 10°50'N, 124°30'E, and *Lamson* (DD-367), 10°28'N, 124°41'E; *Mahan* is scuttled by destroyer *Walke* (DD-723); destroyer *Flusser* (DD-368) and rescue tug *ATR-31* extinguish *Lamson's* fires and she is towed to Leyte Gulf. Other suiciders damage high speed transports *Ward* (APD-16), 10°51'N, 124°33'E, and *Liddle* (APD-60) 10°57'N, 124°35'E; *Ward* is scuttled by destroyer *O'Brien* (DD-725). Still other kamikazes damage tank landing ship *LST-737*, sink medium landing ship *LSM-318* and damage (by near-misses) *LSM-18* and *LSM-19*.

U.S. freighter *Antoine Saugraine*, damaged on 5 December by Japanese aerial torpedo off Leyte, is torpedoed again during enemy air attack upon shipping at that place, and sunk.

Japanese planes bomb U.S. airfield on Saipan.

Seaplane tender (destroyer) *Gillis* (AVD-12) is accidentally rammed and damaged by U.S. merchant tanker *Gulf Star* 40 miles off Makapu Point, Oahu.

Submarines *Razorback* (SS-394), *Segundo* (SS-398) and *Trepang* (SS-412) continue their attacks on Japanese convoy beset the day before. West of Dalupiri Island, *Razorback* sinks army cargo ship *Kanjo Maru* (damaged the day before by *Segundo*), 18°57'N, 120°58'E. Cargo ship *Yasukuni Maru*, runs aground, written off as a total loss, as the consequence of damage inflicted by Navy carrier-based planes and *Segundo* the day before; *Trepang* sinks transport *No.31 Banshu Maru* north of Luzon, 18°54'N, 120°49'E. Army cargo ships *Jinyo Maru* and *Fukuyo Maru* sink as the result of damage inflicted by *Trepang* the previous day, 18°59'N, 121°05'E.

Opposing the 8th phase of the TA Operation, USAAF fighter-bombers (5th Air Force) and USMC F4Us (VMF 211, VMF 218, and VMF 313) attack Japanese shipping in San Isidro Bay, Leyte, sinking fast transport *T.11* and army cargo ships *Akagisan Maru*, *No.5 Shinsei Maru*, *Hakuba Maru*, and *Nichiyo Maru*; and damaging escort destroyers *Ume* and *Sugi*, 11°25'N, 124°20'E.

- **8 December, Fri. --**

Pacific

TG 94.9 (Rear Admiral Allan E. Smith) bombards airstrips and shore batteries on Iwo Jima.

Atlantic

Frigate *Huron* (PF-19) is accidentally rammed and damaged by U.S. freighter *James Fenimore Cooper* about 870 miles northeast of Bermuda.

Submarines *Paddle* (SS-263) and *Hammerhead* (SS-364), attacking from opposite sides of the Japanese Singapore-to-Manila convoy, sink merchant tanker *Shoei Maru*, 03°50'N, 111°30'E. *Paddle* escapes the post-attack attention of *Coast Defense Vessel No.43*.

- **9 December, Sat. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Plaice* (SS-390) damages Japanese escort destroyer *Maki*, 31°57'N, 129°01'E.

Submarine *Sea Devil* (SS-400) and *Redfish* (SS-395) damage Japanese carrier *Junyo*, 31°43'N, 129°04'E and 32°13'N, 129°13'E, respectively.

Mediterranean

Destroyers *Charles F. Hughes* (DD-428) and *Madison* (DD-425) bombard German coast artillery positions and troop concentrations along the Franco-Italian border.

Motor torpedo boat *PT-307*, en route to Leghorn, Italy, from Maddalena, Sardinia, is damaged by a heavy stern swell off her destination.

- **10 December, Sun. --**

Pacific

Off Leyte, destroyer *Hughes* (DD-410) is damaged by kamikaze, 10°15'N, 125°10'E; south of Dulag, a suicide plane crashes the previously damaged freighter *Marcus Daly*, which is discharging cargo to tank landing craft *LCT-1075* alongside. *LCT-1075* is hit by part of the kamikaze and sunk; *Marcus Daly* suffers no fatalities among the embarked complement (38 merchant sailors, 26-man Armed Guard, 60 stevedores and 124 troops) although eight men are wounded. Nearby freighter *William S. Ladd* is hit by kamikaze and gutted by fire despite the efforts of four infantry landing craft (LCI) that come alongside; there are no fatalities among the 41-man merchant complement, the 29-man Armed Guard and the 50 stevedores on board to work cargo, although six men are injured. Motor torpedo boat *PT-323*, damaged by suicide plane, 10°33'N, 125°14'E, is beached and abandoned.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Yokohamasan Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Cavite.

Europe

U.S. freighter *Dan Beard* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-1202*

off the coast of Wales, 51°56'N, 05°28'W; 17 of the 40-man merchant complement and 12 of the 27 Armed Guard perish with the ship.

Mediterranean

Local political and military disturbances result in cancellation of liberty at Piraeus, Greece; Greek snipers wound two crewmen in tank landing ship *LST-74*.

- **11 December, Mon. --**

Pacific

Japanese planes attack resupply convoy of 13 LSMs and LCIs, bound for Ormoc Bay; destroyer *Reid* (DD-369) is sunk by kamikaze off Leyte, 09°50'N, 124°55'E; destroyer *Caldwell* (DD-605) is near-missed by a suicider. Tank landing craft *LCT-1075* is sunk by aircraft, Leyte Gulf.

USMC F4Us (VMF 211, VMF 218, VMF 313) repeat mast-head attack on Japanese convoy 30 miles off Leyte, sinking cargo ships *Mino Maru* and *Tasmania Maru*, 11°20'N, 124°10'E.

USAAF B-25s, A-20s, P-38s, and P-40s attack Japanese supply and troop concentrations on the southern shore of Wasile Bay and along the shores of north Halmahera, sinking *No.2 Sumiyoshi Maru*.

Submarine *Gar* (SS-206) lands supplies on west coast of Luzon, and picks up intelligence documents.

Submarine *Sea Owl* (SS-405) sinks Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 76* in East China Sea, 33°48'N, 128°20'E.

PB4Ys sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *Sh_nan Maru* north of Banton Island, P.I., 12°42'N, 122°10'E.

Atlantic

Submarine chaser *SC-1059* sinks after running aground near Bahama Islands.

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Ludlow* (DD-438) chases German E-boat from a point six miles south of Cap Antibes to 20 miles south of Cap Ampeglio but fails to inflict any damage on the fast-moving (tracked at speeds up to 40 knots) enemy craft.

Large infantry landing craft *LCI(L)-526* is damaged when she strikes submerged wreck.

- **12 December, Tue. --**

Pacific

USMC (MAG 12) and USAAF (13th Air Force) planes thwart last attempt by Japanese to reinforce their Leyte garrison (the 9th phase of the TA Operation) by attacking convoy off the northeastern tip of Panay. Destroyer *Yuzuki* is sunk by USMC planes 65 nautical miles north-northeast of Cebu, 11°20'N, 124°10'E; landing ship *T.159* is sunk by USMC and USAAF planes north of Camotes Island, P.I., 11°20'N, 124°10'E.

Motor torpedo boats *PT-490* and *PT-492* sink Japanese destroyer *Uzuki* off Canaguayan Point, Leyte, 11°03'N, 124°23'E.

Destroyer *Caldwell* (DD-605) is damaged by kamikaze off Leyte, 10°30'N, 124°42'E; medium landing ship *LSM-42*, damaged by aircraft, is beached on west coast of Leyte.

Japanese escort destroyer *Kiri* and fast transport *T.15* are damaged by aircraft off Ormoc.

Japanese river gunboat *Katata* damaged by USAAF aircraft in the Yangtze River near Kiukiang, China.

- **13 December, Wed. --**

Pacific

Japanese suicide planes damage light cruiser *Nashville* (CL-43), 08°57'N, 123°28'E, and destroyer *Haraden* (DD-585), 08°40'N, 122°33'E, Mindanao-Negros area.³³

Submarine *Bergall* (SS-320) battles Japanese heavy cruiser *Myoko* off Royalist Bank, South China Sea, 08°09'N, 105°40'E; both ships emerge from the encounter damaged. Although *Bergall* damages her heavier adversary in that battle off French Indochina, she is hit by a dud 8-inch shell from *Myoko* and is forced to terminate her patrol.

Submarine *Pintado* (SS-387) sinks Japanese fast transport *T.12* and landing ship *T.104* in South China Sea, 19°30'N, 118°40'E. Although *Pintado* claims her destruction, the third ship in the convoy, landing ship *T.106*, continues on to Manila (see 15 December).

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Charles F. Hughes* (DD-428) fires first of three shore bombardment missions, targeting troop concentrations and artillery positions along the Franco-Italian border, that she will carry out between 13 and 16 December.

- **14 December, Thu. --** Rank of fleet admiral, U.S. Navy, is established.

Pacific

Submarine *Blenny* (SS-324) sinks Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.28* off Dasol Bay, Luzon, about 100 miles northwest of Manila, 15°50'N, 119°45'E, and guardboat *No.5 Taisho Maru*, 16°27'N, 119°43'E.

Planes from carrier *Hornet* (CV-12) sink Japanese landing ship *T.109* off Vigan, P.I., 17°35'N, 120°20'E;

British submarine HMS *Shalimar* sinks auxiliary minesweeper *No.7 Choun Maru* off Belawan, Sumatra, 03°55'N, 98°50'E.

- **15 December, Fri. --**

Admirals William D. Leahy (Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff), Ernest J. King (Chief of Naval Operations) and Chester W. Nimitz (Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet) are promoted to the rank of fleet admiral.

TG 78.3 (Rear Admiral Arthur D. Struble) lands Army forces on southwest coast of Mindoro under cover of carrier-based aircraft (Rear Admiral Felix B. Stump). Mindoro operation, conceived and undertaken to secure an all-weather airfield to support large-scale landings on Luzon, is regarded as a hazardous venture deep into Japanese-controlled waters. Tank landing ships *LST-472* and *LST-738*, damaged by kamikazes off southern tip of Mindoro, 12°19'N,

121°05'E, are scuttled by destroyer *Hall* (DD-583). Elsewhere off Mindoro, suiciders damage escort carrier *Marcus Island* (CVE-77); destroyers *Paul Hamilton* (DD-590) and *Howorth* (DD-592), 12°19'N, 121°02'E; and motor torpedo boat *PT-223*, 12°19'N, 121°05'E.

Miscellaneous auxiliary *Argonne* (AG-31) is damaged by explosion of depth charge accidentally dropped by submarine chaser *SC-702*, Kossol Roads, Palaus.

Submarine *Dragonet* (SS-293) is damaged when she runs aground 12,000 yards off Japanese seaplane base, Matsuwa Island, Kurils.

Submarine *Hawkbill* (SS-366) sinks Japanese destroyer *Momo* west of Luzon, 16°40'N, 117°42'E.

TF 38 planes sink Japanese landing ship *T.106*, which had escaped destruction by submarine *Pintado* (SS-387) on 12 December 1944, in South China Sea off Luzon, 15°30'N, 119°50'E, and damage *Coast Defense Vessel No.54* north of Calayan Island, Luzon Channel, 19°25'N, 121°25'E.

Atlantic

Command designated Naval Forces Germany (Admiral Robert L. Ghormley) is established with headquarters at Rosneath, Scotland.

- **16 December, Sat. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Dace* (SS-247) lays mines off French Indochina.

Submarine *Finback* (SS-230) in attack on Japanese convoy, sinks transport *Jusan Maru I-Go* about 50 miles northwest of Chichi Jima, 27°24'N, 141°04'E.

British submarine HMS *Stoic*, despite presence of escort, sinks Japanese gunboat *Shoei Maru* west of Sunda Strait, 05°45'S, 104°43'E.

TF 38 planes sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *Oryoku Maru*, escorted by destroyer *Momo* and submarine chaser *Ch 60*, in Subic Bay, 14°45'N, 120°13'E; aviators are unaware that *Oryoku Maru* is carrying over 1,600 Allied POWs (one of whom is Commander Francis J. Bridget, former commander of the Naval Battalion on Bataan in 1941-1942, who is killed). Those POWs who survive the ordeal of the loss of *Oryoku Maru* will be again helpless and unwitting victims of U.S. planes at Takao, Formosa, on 27 December 1944 and 9 January 1945. When the draft of POWs reaches its ultimate destination, Moji, Japan, only 497 of the original 1,600+ men remain.

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Niblack* (DD-424) fires first of three shore bombardment missions she will carry out between 16 and 19 December; she targets troop concentrations, rail lines, barracks, and motor convoys. Motor torpedo boat *PT-310*, in company with a British motor torpedo boat, attacks four north-bound F-lighters a mile off Point Sestri; the allied craft claim one F-lighter probably sunk and one damaged.

- **17 December, Sun. --**

Pacific

Motor torpedo boat *PT-84* is damaged by suicide plane off Mindoro, 12°19'N, 121°04'E.

Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.19* is damaged by aircraft south of Cam Ranh, French Indochina.

Mediterranean

U.S. and British motor torpedo boats and armed British trawlers, attack eight-ship convoy in vicinity of Mesco Point; they claim three F-lighters sunk.

- **18 December, Mon. --**

Pacific

Third Fleet (Admiral William F. Halsey Jr.) encounters a typhoon 180 miles northeast of Samar. Destroyers *Hull* (DD-350), *Monaghan* (DD-354), and *Spence* (DD-512) are sunk, 14°57'N, 127°58'E. Destroyer escort *Tabberer* (DE-418), which herself sustains storm damage, rescues 41 *Hull* survivors and 14 from *Spence* (remaining men will be rescued on 20 December). Ships that suffer varying degrees of damage include small carriers *Cowpens* (CVL-25), *Monterey* (CVL-26), *Cabot* (CVL-28), and *San Jacinto* (CVL-30); escort carriers *Altamaha* (CVE-18), *Nehenta Bay* (CVE-74), *Cape Esperance* (CVE-88), and *Kwajalein* (CVE-98); light cruiser *Miami* (CL-89); destroyers *Dewey* (DD-349), *Aylwin* (DD-355), *Buchanan* (DD-484), *Dyson* (DD-572), *Hickox* (DD-673), *Maddox* (DD-731), and *Benham* (DD-796); destroyer escorts *Melvin R. Nawman* (DE-416), *Tabberer* (DE-418), and *Waterman* (DE-740); oiler *Nantahala* (AO-60); and fleet tug *Jicarilla* (ATF-104).

Motor torpedo boat *PT-300* is damaged by kamikaze off Mindoro, 12°19'N, 121°05'E.

Other Japanese casualties include auxiliary submarine chaser *Keisho Maru* sunk by aircraft, Nagoya, Japan; merchant ship *No.1 Nikko Maru* sunk by TF 38 aircraft, 14°48'N, 120°16'E; and merchant ship *Hokko Maru* is damaged by aircraft, Changchia Chow.

Europe

U.S. freighter *Steel Traveller* is mined in the Schelde River, and sunk; survivors are rescued by French destroyer *La Combattante*. There are no casualties among the 26-man Armed Guard, but two of the ship's 45-man merchant complement perish.

- **19 December, Tue. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Redfish* (SS-395), despite presence of escorting destroyers, sinks Japanese carrier *Unryu* 200 nautical miles southeast of Shanghai, China, 28°19'N, 124°40'E. *Redfish* is damaged in the resultant depth charging, and is forced to terminate her patrol.

PB4Y-1s (VPB 104) attack Japanese convoy in South China Sea, and sink transport *Shinfuku Maru*, which had survived attack by submarine *Segundo* (SS-398) on 6 December 1944, 30 miles west of Manila, 13°40'N, 115°50'E.

USAAF P-51s (14th Air Force) attack Japanese shipping at Hong Kong and sink cargo ship *Hida Maru*, 22°17'N, 114°10'E.

Aircraft sink army cargo ship *No.3 Hiroshi Maru* in Kurils, 44°56'N, 147°39'E.

- **20 December, Wed. --**

Pacific

Organized Japanese resistance ends on Leyte.

Submarine *Sealion* (SS-315) damages San Fernando-bound Japanese supply ship *Mamiya* in the South China Sea about 450 miles northeast of Cam Ranh Bay, French Indochina, 17°48'N, 114°09'E, and escapes the attention of escorts, destroyer *Kari* and *Coast Defense Vessel No.17* (see 21 December).

Dutch Mitchells sink Japanese netlayer *Shoeki Maru* in Flores Sea, 07°00'S, 120°00'E.

Atlantic

Tank landing ship *LST-359* is sunk about 440 miles southwest of Cape Finisterre, 42°04'N, 19°08'W, and destroyer escort *Fogg* (DE-57) damaged, 43°02'N, 19°19'W, by German submarine *U-870*.

- **21 December, Thu. --**

Pacific

Off Mindoro, kamikazes damage destroyer *Foote* (DD-511), 11°05'N, 121°20'E, and tank landing ships *LST-460* and *LST-749*, 11°13'N, 121°04'E. Off Panay, freighter *Juan de Fuca* is crashed by a suicide plane; the explosion and resultant fire kills 2 and wounds 14 of the 65 embarked Army troops, as well as wounds 2 of the 27-man Armed Guard. *Juan de Fuca*, although damaged, continues on to Mindoro (see 31 December).

Submarine *Sealion* (SS-315) carries out second attack on Japanese supply ship *Mamiya*, and sinks her in the South China Sea, 17°55'N, 114°11'E.

Mines damage Japanese escort vessel *Amakusa* 680 miles from Kanameiwa and gunboat *No.2 Hiyoshi Maru* off Etorofu.

- **22 December, Fri. --**

Pacific

Tank landing ship *LST-563* sinks after grounding off Clipperton Island.

Destroyer *Bryant* (DD-665) is damaged by kamikaze off Mindoro, 12°00'N, 121°00'E.

Submarine *Flasher* (SS-249) attacks Japanese convoy in the South China Sea, and sinks fleet tanker *Omurosan Maru* and merchant tankers *Otowan Maru* and *Arita Maru* about 250 miles north of Cam Ranh Bay, French Indochina, 15°07'N, 109°05'E.

Submarine *Tilefish* (SS-307) sinks Japanese torpedo boat *Chidori* southwest of Omaezaki, 34°33'N, 138°02'E.

USAAF B-24s attack Japanese shipping off north Borneo, sinking small cargo vessels *Nitto Maru*, *Sumiyoshi Maru*, *Kanju Maru*, *Kojin Maru*, and *Hashiro Maru* and damaging *Chosiu Maru*.

RAF and Dutch Mitchells attack Japanese shipping off Koepang, Timor, sinking cargo vessel *Nanyo Maru*.

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Gleaves* (DD-423) is damaged by shore battery fire as she shells German troop concentrations on the Franco-Italian border.

- **23 December, Sat. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Blenny* (SS-324), despite proximity of escort vessel, sinks Japanese merchant tanker *Kenzui Maru* off San Fernando, 16°40'N, 120°16'E.

- **24 December, Sun. --**

Pacific

TG 94.9 (Rear Admiral Allan E. Smith) follows USAAF bombing raid on Iwo Jima by shelling airstrips and other installations there; destroyers *Case* (DD-370) and *Roe* (DD-418) sink Japanese fast transport *T.8*, 25°10'N, 141°00'E, and landing ship *T.157*, 24°47'N, 141°20'E.

Submarine *Barbero* (SS-317) sinks Japanese submarine chaser *Ch 30*, 02°45'N, 110°53'E, and damages transport *Junpo Maru*, 01°10'N, 108°20'E (see 25 December 1944).

USAAF B-25s sink Japanese fishing boat *Shinei Maru* off Timor.

Aircraft sink Japanese army cargo ship *Goro Maru*, Yangtze River.

Japanese tanker *Ryusho Maru* is damaged by grounding, 14°28'N, 109°07'E.

Europe

U.S. freighter *Timothy Bloodworth*, anchored at Antwerp, Belgium, and awaiting formation of a convoy to proceed to the United States, is damaged when one V-1 or V-2 rocket bomb explodes overhead and a second lands nearby. There are, however, no casualties among the 41-man merchant complement, the 26-man Armed Guard and one passenger.

- **25 December, Mon. --**

Pacific

Naval Air Station, Samar, is established.

Submarine *Barbero* (SS-317) attacks Japanese convoy and sinks transport *Junpo Maru* 130 miles west-southwest of Kuching, Borneo, 00°51'N, 108°08'E.

British submarines HMS *Trenchant* and HMS *Terrapin* sink auxiliary minesweeper *Reisui Maru*, cargo vessel *No.23 Hinode Maru*, and auxiliary sailing vessel *Wakamiya Maru* in Strait of Malacca, 03°19'N, 99°45'E.

TF 38 aircraft attack Japanese shipping off Masinloc, sinking landing ship *T.113*, 15°30'N, 119°55'E.

USAAF B-24s sink small Japanese cargo vessels *Chokyu Maru* and *Sumiei Maru* off Sandakan, Borneo, and badly damages *Asahi Maru* and *Nichifuku Maru*.

U.S. freighter *Robert J. Walker* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-862* in the Tasman Sea, 36°35'S, 150°43'E; Armed Guard 20-millimeter gunfire explodes a second torpedo, but a third hits the ship and causes irreparable damage. Two of the ship's 42-man merchant complement are killed. The ship is then abandoned and sinks (see 26 December).

- **26 December, Tue. --**

Pacific

Japanese "Intrusion Force" (Rear Admiral Kimura Masanori), consisting of heavy cruiser *Ashigara*, light cruiser *Oyodo*, three destroyers and three escort destroyers, approaches Mindoro to bombard the beachhead. USAAF B-25s, P-38s, P-40s, and P-47s and Navy PB4Ys and PBMs successively attack the force. These damage *Ashigara* (near-misses), *Oyodo*, destroyers *Asashimo*, *Kiyoshimo*, and *Kasumi*, and escort destroyers *Kaya* and *Kashi*. Kimura's force carries out its bombardment mission, then encounters U.S. motor torpedo boats; *PT-77* is damaged, probably accidentally bombed by friendly aircraft. Subsequently, *PT-223* sinks the already damaged *Kiyoshimo* off San Jose, 145 miles south of Manila, 12°20'N, 121°00'E.

As the "Intrusion Force" approaches, freighter *James H. Breasted* is ordered to seek safety in Ilin Strait; anchoring there, she comes under fire, being damaged by shell fragments during the Japanese bombardment. The ship is later bombed by what is probably a U.S. plane, touching off her cargo of gasoline. *James H. Breasted* is abandoned (only one of the 33-man merchant complement requires treatment for injuries; there are no casualties to the 27-man Armed Guard) but the survivors come under friendly fire that causes no further casualties. U.S. motor torpedo boats tow the three boatsful of survivors toward shore; the freighter is later written off as a total loss.

Destroyer *Fanning* (DD-385) sinks Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *No.7 Kyo Maru* off Okinomisaki, Bonins.

Submarine *Swordfish* (SS-193) departs Midway for thirteenth war patrol. Contact is made with *Swordfish* on 3 January 1945, but she is never seen again.

USAAF B-24 sinks Japanese cargo vessel *No.104 Nany_Maru* off south coast of Boeroe Island, 03°49'S, 126°51'E

Australian destroyer HMAS *Quickmatch* rescues the 40 merchant sailors, one passenger and the 26-man Armed Guard of freighter *Robert J. Walker*, that had been torpedoed and sunk in the Tasman Sea by German submarine *U-862* the day before.

- **27 December, Wed. --**

Pacific

TG 94.9 (Rear Admiral Allan E. Smith) follows up USAAF strikes with cruiser and destroyer bombardment of Japanese installations on Iwo Jima and shipping offshore. Destroyer *Dunlap* (DD-384) is damaged by shore battery, but not before she teams with *Fanning* (DD-385) and *Cummings* (DD-365) to sink fast transport *T.7* and landing ship *T.132*, 24°47'N, 141°20'E.

Japanese planes bomb shore positions and auxiliary shipping at Mindoro; attacks are repeated on 28, 29, and 30 December.

Submarine *Baya* (SS-318) locates Japanese heavy cruiser *Ashigara*, light cruiser *Oyodo*, and destroyers *Asashimo* and *Kasumi*, part of the "Intrusion Force" on its return passage to Cam Ranh Bay. *Baya's* attack (12°51'N, 113°27'E), however, is unsuccessful.

Submarine *Barbero* (SS-317) is damaged by aerial bomb, Lombok Strait, 08°20'S, 115°55'E, and returns to base on starboard shaft only.

Japanese cargo ship *Daicho Maru* is sunk by accidental bomb explosion, Batavia, Java, 06°06'S, 106°53'E.

- **28 December, Thu. --**

Pacific

Japanese air attacks commence against Mindoro-bound TG 77.11 (Captain George F. Mentz); kamikazes crash tank landing ship *LST-750* and U.S. freighters *William Sharon* and *John Burke*. *John Burke*, carrying ammunition, explodes, the cataclysmic blast damaging auxiliary *Porcupine* (IX-126) and motor torpedo boat *PT-332*. There are no survivors from among *John Burke's* 40-man merchant complement and 28-man Armed Guard. Fragments from *John Burke* also hit freighter *Francisco Morozan* 100 yards away, wounding three of that ship's merchant complement. *William Sharon*, set afire by the kamikaze and gutted by fires that are ultimately controlled, is abandoned, the survivors transferring to destroyer *Wilson* (DD-408), whose assistance proves invaluable in extinguishing the blaze that has consumed the freighter. Salvage vessel *Grapple* (ARS-7) later tows the merchantman to San Pedro Bay for repairs. *LST-750*, hit subsequently by aerial torpedo, is consequently scuttled by destroyer *Edwards* (DD-619), 09°01'N, 122°30'E. Enemy air attacks continue the following day.

Submarine *Dace* (SS-247) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking supply ship *Nozaki* off Cape Varella, French Indochina, 12°36'N, 109°38'E, and damaging *Chefoo Maru*.

USAAF B-24 sinks Japanese motor sailboat *No.38 Tachibana Maru* off Flores Island.

- **29 December, Fri. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Hawkbill* (SS-366) sinks Japanese merchant *Lighter No.130* in Java Sea, 05°35'S, 113°29'E.

Europe

German submarine *U-772* attacks convoy TBC 21 in the English Channel, 50°28'N, 02°28'W. Freighter *Arthur Sewall* is torpedoed and the explosion in the engine room kills one man and wounds 5; there are no casualties among the 29-man Armed Guard. Towed to Weymouth, England. *Arthur Sewall* is later written off as a total loss. Freighter *Black Hawk* is also a victim of a torpedo from *U-772*; the blast wounds four of the ship's 41-man merchant complement (one of whom dies later) but there are no casualties among the 27-man Armed Guard. *Black Hawk* is abandoned, the survivors being taken on board British corvette *HMS Dahlia*. Towed subsequently to Warboro Bay, England, *Black Hawk* is written off as a total loss.

- **30 December, Sat. --**

Pacific

Japanese air attacks continue on Mindoro-bound convoy; kamikazes damage destroyers *Pringle* (DD-477), 12°18'N, 121°01'E, and *Gansevoort* (DD-608), 12°21'N, 121°02'E; motor torpedo boat tender *Orestes* (AGP-10), 12°19'N, 121°04'E; and auxiliary *Porcupine* (IX-126), 12°21'N, 121°02'E. *Porcupine* is ultimately scuttled by *Gansevoort*. Freighter *Hobart Baker* is sunk by bombs off Mindoro, 12°17'55"N, 121°04'47"E; two of the 26-man Armed Guard are

wounded and of the ship's 38-man merchant complement, there are one dead and one wounded. Also off Mindoro, freighter *Francisco Morozan* is damaged when kamikaze is shot down by U.S. fighter and explodes over the ship; there are, however, no casualties to the 38-man merchant complement and the 29-man Armed Guard.

Submarine *Razorback* (SS-394) attacks Japanese Manila-to-Takao convoy about 60 miles southeast of Formosa, sinking destroyer *Kuretake* in Bashii Channel, 21°00'N, 121°24'E, and damaging cargo ships *Brazil Maru* and *_i Maru*.

USAAF B-25s, A-20s and P-40s (5th Air Force) attack Japanese shipping in approaches to Lingayen Gulf, off coast of Luzon, sinking *Coast Defense Vessel No.20*, 6°30'N, 120°18'E; submarine chaser *Ch 18* off Santiago Island, and army cargo ships *Aobasan Maru*, *Muroran Maru*, and *Teikai Maru* north of San Fernando, 17°18'N, 119°25'E.

- **31 December, Sun. --**

Pacific

U.S. freighter *Juan de Fuca* is torpedoed by Japanese plane about 20 miles off Mindoro, and runs aground off Ambulong Island; there are no casualties among the 41-man merchant complement and the 27-man Armed Guard (see 1 January 1945).

British submarine HMS *Shakespeare* attacks Japanese convoy and sinks merchant cargo ship *Unryu Maru* east of Port Blair, 11°40'N, 093°15'E.

During December (date unspecified), car float *YCF-42* founders in heavy weather, 34°47'N, 75°5'W.

Atlantic

USAAF heavy bombers pound Hamburg; in the massive raid, German submarine *U-906*, minesweeper *M 445* and cargo vessels *Faro*, *Mannheim* and *Rival* are sunk.

Footnotes

[¹] The most probable cause of *Scorpion's* loss is her striking a mine, in either the Yellow or East China Seas. She is listed as overdue, presumed lost, on 6 March 1944.

[²] During the last half of February 1944, ZP-42 blimps, operating from Brazilian bases, located and aided in the recovery of some 450 tons of baled rubber, part of *Rio Grande's* cargo.

[³] SERVRON 10 was based at Majuro (February-May 1944), Eniwetok (June-September 1944), Ulithi (October 1944-April 1945), and Leyte-Samar, P.I. (May-August 1945), during the war. At the height of its activities, the squadron controlled 609 vessels at five fleet anchorages.

[⁴] *Delhi Maru* is on her maiden voyage as a "Q-ship," her conversion having been completed 14 January.

[⁵] *U-129* and *U-516* are surprised at this fueling rendezvous as well, but both escape.

[6] *Bowfin* identifies the escort for the tanker as what she believes to be ex-*Stewart* (DD-224), which had been salvaged by the Japanese and commissioned as the unnamed *Patrol Vessel No.102* (see 19 February 1942).

[7] *Buchanan* was proceeding independently from Purvis Bay to Espiritu Santo when directed to the scene of the torpedoing of *Cache*.

[8] *Grayback* is listed as overdue, presumed lost, on 30 March 1944. If the Japanese account for a definite "kill" on that date is accepted, then the attribution for the sinking of naval transport *Ceylon Maru* on 27 February at 31°45'N, 127°45'E, for *Pogy* is questionable. Commonly given credit for the sinking, *Pogy* did not report any such attack in her patrol report for that date. *Grayback* could have been damaged and continued her patrol, sunk *Ceylon Maru*, and then succumbed to the effects of the damage inflicted on 26 February.

[9] *Trout* is reported as overdue, presumed lost, on 17 April 1944.

[10] *Karatsu* will never return to active service. She is one of four ships intentionally sunk to block the channel through the entrance of the breakwater off Manila in February 1945.

[11] *Suiten Maru* was raised on 12 July and re-entered active service.

[12] She was repaired in time to participate in the Marianas campaign.

[13] Fortunately, five LSTs in the Hawaiian Operating Area were uncommitted to other operations and were assigned to the force that would invade the Marianas in mid-June.

[14] *No.8 Shonan Maru* escaped from Saipan on 23 June and reached Manila on 1 July.

[15] Only one merchantman, *Inari Maru*, reached Japan.

[16] She is listed as overdue, presumed lost, on 26 July.

[17] *Phelps* moors alongside the battle damage repair ship *Phaon* (ARB-3) soon thereafter, in such a manner to permit the destroyer to continue to carry out her fire support duties!

[18] After U.S. forces capture Guam, the wreck of *Nichiyu Maru* is demolished with explosives sometime between 27 and 30 July.

[19] Among those lost with *Robalo* is her commanding officer, Lieutenant Commander Manning M. Kimmel, one of the sons of Rear Admiral Husband E. Kimmel, who had been Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet on 7 December 1941.

[20] Heavy guns at St. Mandrier (nicknamed "Big Willie") consisted of turrets taken off French battleship *Provence*, sistership to *Lorraine*.

[21] Submarine *Perch* (SS-313) loses contact with *Escolar* on 17 October, after which point *Escolar* is never heard from again. The most likely cause of *Escolar's* loss is her striking a Japanese mine about 17 October between 33°44'N., 127°33'E. and 33°44'N., 129°06'E., the site of minefields laid in 1943 and 1944. She is listed as overdue, presumed lost, on 27 November.

[22] Subsequently, the Navy charts the ship and renames her *Triana* (IX-223) and she is used as a floating storage facility.

[23] *Exernsteine* was taken into U.S. Navy service and commissioned 24 January 1945 as miscellaneous auxiliary *Callao* (IX-205). Bureau of Ships used the ship for experimental work into 1950.

[24] She is listed as overdue, presumed lost, on 27 November.

[25] *Houston's* service career proved short after her repairs, but *Canberra*, converted and reclassified as a guided missile heavy cruiser (CAG-2), went on to participate in the Vietnam War between 1965 and 1968.

[26] *Whitehurst* would eventually portray the fictional USS *Haynes* in the 1957 motion picture "The Enemy Below."

[27] Submarine *Ray* (SS-271) may have torpedoed *Caroline Maru* as well.

[28] Not since 1942 has a Japanese submarine successfully attacked a ship operating with a fast carrier task force. High winds and heavy seas from a nearby typhoon complicate the task of saving *Reno*, but "skillful seamanship, courage, and the unremitting effort of all of those remaining on board" allow her to reach Ulithi on 11 November.

[29] *I 37* is on a kaiten mission at the time, bound for the Palaus, when she is reported missing on 20 November.

[30] Since both submarines expended five kaitens between them (four from *I 47* and one from *I 36*) and none of the kaiten crews survived, no possibility exists of confirming which submarine should be credited with sinking *Mississinewa*.

[31] *Shinano*, converted from a *Yamato*-class battleship, is on her maiden voyage when she encounters *Archerfish*. She will be the largest warship sunk by any of the combatants' submarines during World War II.

[32] Three years to the day earlier, *Ward* (Lieutenant William W. Outerbridge) fired on a Japanese midget submarine attempting to gain entrance into Pearl Harbor. In a remarkable coincidence, Commander Outerbridge is *O'Brien's* commanding officer when she scuttles *Ward*.

[33] Rear Admiral Arthur D. Struble, commanding TG 78.3, consequently shifted his flag from the damaged *Nashville* to destroyer *Dashiell* (DD-659).

[34] Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr., will be promoted to fleet admiral after the conclusion of hostilities.

[35] *Dragonet*, on her maiden war patrol, eventually managed to clear the reef, and after a passage fraught with difficulty (including, at one point, a 63-degree port list), reached Midway on 20 December 1944.

[36] Lack of evidence militates against establishing the definite cause for *Swordfish's* loss. She (1) is sunk by *Patrol-Escort Vessel No.4* on 5 January 1945 off Torishima, Bonin Islands (29°25'N, 141°07'E, or (2) strikes a mine (12,000 had been laid in four fields in that area between January and June 1944) in the Okinawa area after 9 January 1945. She is listed as overdue, presumed lost, on 15 February 1945.

Chapter VII: 1945

January

- **1 January, Mon. --**

Pacific

Destroyer escort *Seid* (DE-256), tank landing ship *LST-225* and three infantry landing craft (LCI) (TU 94.5.10) land one company of Army troops (321st Infantry) on Fais Island to investigate whether or not it was being used as a midget submarine base and a communication center by the Japanese (see 3 and 4 January).

Submarine *Stingray* (SS-186) lands supplies at Tawi Tawi, P.I.

U.S. freighter *John M. Clayton* is damaged by bomb dropped by Japanese plane, and catches fire off Blue Beach, Mindoro; four of the 29-man Armed Guard sailors die of the resultant burns.^[1]

USAAF planes sink Japanese ships *No.7 Taiko Maru* and *No.3 Taiwan Maru* off Masinloc, P.I.

Japanese cargo vessel *Kyokko Maru* is sunk by mine (laid by British submarine *HMS Tradewind* on 30 October 1944), off Mergui, 12°26'N, 98°39'E.

- **2 January, Tue. --**

Pacific

Vice Admiral Sir Bertram H. Ramsay, RN, Allied Commander in Chief, Expeditionary Force, is killed in airplane accident near Paris, France.

Submarine *Aspro* (SS-309) damages Japanese landing ship *Shinshu Maru* south of Formosa Strait, 22°42'N, 119°14'E (see 3 January).

Submarine *Becuna* (SS-319) sinks Japanese ship *Daian Maru* east of Madoera Island, 05°50'S, 113°12'E.

USAAF A-20s and P-38s (Fifth Air Force) attack Japanese shipping off San Fernando, Luzon, sinking *Coast Defense Vessel No.138*, transport *Meiryu Maru*, army cargo ship *Shirokawa Maru*, merchant cargo ships *Taishin Maru*, *Hakka Maru*, *Hishikata Maru* and *Koryu Maru*, 16°37'N, 120°19'E.

- **3 January, Wed. --**

Pacific

TF 38 (Vice Admiral John S. McCain) begins operations against Japanese airfields and shipping in the Formosa area. Principally along the west coast of Formosa, TF 38 planes sink landing ship *Shinshu Maru* (previously damaged by *Aspro* on 2 January), cargo ships *Kinrei Maru*, *2 Ume Maru*, *22 Kawauchi Maru*, *Sanni Maru*, another unidentified *Maru*, and damage army cargo ship *Kibitsu Maru*, *Hyuga Maru* and *2 Nichiyu Maru* and *36 Taiwa Maru*, and *Kakuju Maru*.

Occupation of Fais Island (see 1 January) continues. Occupying force destroys Japanese radio station found there. Interrogation of natives and Japanese prisoners reveals that Fais had never been used to base ships.

Leading groups of U.S. fleet units bound for Lingayen Gulf make daylight passage of Surigao Strait, where they come under attack from Japanese planes. Oiler *Cowanisque* (AO-79) is damaged by kamikaze, 08°56'N, 122°49'E, motor minesweeper *YMS-53* by near-miss of bomb.

USAAF B-25s (13th Air Force) on a shipping sweep off Davao, sink Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 10*, 07°04'N, 125°37'E.

British submarine HMS *Shakespeare* and Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *Wa. I* damage each other in surface gun action east of Nancowry Strait.

Escort carrier *Sargent Bay* (CVE-83) and destroyer escort *Robert F. Keller* (DE-419) are damaged in collision during mail delivery exercise, Philippine Islands area.

Motor minesweeper *YMS-53* is damaged by near-miss of bomb off Luzon.

Submarine *Kingfish* (SS-234), attacking Japanese convoy in the Bonins, sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Shoto Maru* and merchant cargo ships *Yaei Maru* and *Shibazono Maru* 200 miles north of Chichi Jima, 30°29'N, 142°03'E.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Henry Miller*, in Hampton Roads-bound convoy GUS 63, is torpedoed and damaged by German submarine *U-870* 22 miles southwest of Cape Spartel, 35°51'N, 06°24'W; Coast Guard-manned frigate *Brunswick* (PF-68) takes off most of the crew and armed guard (there are no casualties in either group). The ship, with a reduced crew, reaches Gibraltar under her own power the following day; she is, however, later declared a constructive total loss.

• **4 January, Thu. --**

Pacific

TF 38 continues operations against Japanese airfields and shipping in the Formosa area. Navy planes sink auxiliary submarine chasers *Cha 163*, *Cha 176*, and *Cha 210* and damage escort vessel *Ikuna* and auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 204* in Formosa Strait; sink auxiliary netlayer *Iwato Maru* northeast of Taiwan; and damage minesweeper *W.41* near Takao, Formosa. Japanese air attacks continue against Lingayen Gulf-bound forces; a kamikaze crashes escort carrier *Ommaney Bay* (CVE-79) in the northeastern area of the Sulu Sea, irreparably damaging her; another suicider narrowly misses escort carrier *Lunga Point* (CVE-94). Destroyer *Burns* (DD-588) scuttles *Ommaney Bay*, 11°25'N, 121°19'E, but not before destroyer *Bell* (DD-587) is damaged by collision with the escort carrier as the former fights fires. South of Mindoro, a kamikaze crashes U.S. freighter *Lewis L. Dyche* (carrying bombs and fuses), which disintegrates, killing all hands, including the 28-man Armed Guard; debris from the exploding freighter damages nearby oiler *Pecos* (AO-65) and minelayer *Monadnock* (CM-9), 12°19'N, 121°04'E; small seaplane tender *Half Moon* (AVP-26) is damaged by near-miss of bomb.

USAAF planes damage Japanese submarine chasers *Ch 17*, *Ch 18*, *Ch 23*, *Ch 37*, and *Ch 38* off San Fernando, Luzon.

Fais Island is formally occupied (see 1 and 3 January).

Japanese army vessel *No.15 Horikoshi Maru* is sunk by mine off northeast shore of Mukai Jima.

Atlantic

Car float *YCF-59*, fills with water while in tow of rescue tug *ATR-57* while en route from New York to Philadelphia and is beached in Delaware River.

- **5 January, Fri. --**

Pacific

Japanese air attacks continue against Lingayen Gulf-bound forces in the teeth of heavy anti-aircraft fire and combat air patrol. Of the minesweeping group, infantry landing craft (gunboat) *LCI(G)-70* is damaged by kamikaze, small seaplane tender *Orca* (AVP-49) and fleet tug *Apache* (ATF-67) are damaged by near-misses of suiciders, 15°36'N, 119°20'E and 15°53'N, 120°00'E, respectively. Kamikazes attacking the bombardment and escort carrier groups succeed in damaging heavy cruiser *Louisville* (CA-28) and destroyer *Helm* (DD-388), 15°00'N, 119°00'E, escort carriers *Manila Bay* (CVE-61), 14°50'N, 119°10'E, and *Savo Island* (CVE-78), 14°50'N, 119°00'E, and destroyer escort *Stafford* (DE-411), 14°00'N, 120°00'E. Suiciders also damage Australian heavy cruiser HMAS *Australia* and destroyer HMAS *Arunta*. Japanese escort destroyers approach minesweeping group but turn away at approach of destroyer *Bennion* (DD-662) and Australian frigate HMAS *Gascoyne* and sloop HMAS *Warrego*; subsequently, planes from TG 77.4 (escort carrier group) sink *Momi* 20 miles southwest of entrance to Manila Bay, 14°00'N, 120°20'E, and damage *Hinoki* and *Sugi* west of Manila Bay. TG 94.9 (Rear Admiral Allan E. Smith), three heavy cruisers and six destroyers, together with USAAF B-24s (escorted by P-38s) jointly pound Japanese shipping and installations on Chichi Jima, Haha Jima, and Iwo Jima, Bonins. Approaching Chichi Jima, *Dunlap* (DD-384), *Fanning* (DD-386) and *Cummings* (DD-365) damage landing ship *T.107*; *Fanning* sinks her, 26°27'N, 141°11'E. Off Chichi Jima, *David W. Taylor* (DD-551) is damaged by mine, 27°04'N, 142°06'E, destroyer *Fanning* by gunfire. Off Iwo Jima, *Dunlap*, *Cummings*, *Ellet* (DD-398) and *Roe* (DD-418) sink landing ship *T.154*, 24°27'N, 141°20'E.

TF 92 (Rear Admiral John L. McCrea), three light cruisers and nine destroyers, bombards Japanese installations (airfield and fish canneries) at Suribachi Wan, Paramushiro, Kurils.

Destroyer escort *Edwin A. Howard* (DE-346) is damaged in collision with destroyer escort *Leland E. Thomas* (DE-420) off Mindanao, 09°48'N, 127°15'E.

Minelayer *Monadnock* (CM-9) is damaged by grounding off Ilin Island Luzon, 12°22'N, 121°01'E.

Submarine *Cavalla* (SS-244) sinks Japanese auxiliary netlayers *Kanko Maru* and *Shunsen Maru* in Java Sea, 05°00'S, 112°16'E.

Destroyer escort *Brackett* (DE-41) shells Japanese installations on Taroa, Marshalls.

PB4Y-1s (VPB 111) sink Japanese midget submarine *Ha.71* two miles southwest of Chichi Jima.

- **6 January, Sat. --**

Pacific

Japanese suicide plane attacks intensify against Lingayen Gulf invasion force; kamikazes damage battleships *New Mexico* (BB-40) (killing members of

anobserving British military mission) and *California* (BB-44), light cruiser *Columbia* (CL-56) and destroyers *Newcomb* (DD-586) (she is also hit by friendly fire) and *Richard P. Leary* (DD-664), 16°20'N, 120°10'E, heavy cruiser *Louisville* (CA-28), 16°37'N, 120°17'E, 2 destroyers *Allen M. Sumner* (DD-692) 16°40'N, 120°10'E, and *O'Brien* (DD-725), 16°23'N, 120°14'E. Destroyer *Lowry* (DD-770) is damaged by friendly fire, 16°40'N, 120°10'E.

Kamikazes attack minesweeping group, sinking high speed minesweeper *Long* (DMS-12), 16°12'N, 120°11'E, and damaging high speed minesweeper *Southard* (DMS-10), 16°11'N, 126°16'E, and high speed transport *Brooks* (APD-10), 16°20'N, 120°10'E. Destroyer *Walke* (DD-723), on detached duty covering the minesweeping operations, 16°40'N, 120°10'E, is attacked by four enemy aircraft; one crashes the ship's bridge, drenching it with burning gasoline and mortally wounding *Walke's* commanding officer, Commander George F. Davis. Davis nevertheless remains at his post, conning his ship amidst the wreckage and rallying his crew. Carried below only when assured that his ship would survive, he dies of his wounds within hours. He is subsequently awarded the [Medal of Honor](#), posthumously.

As a consequence of the kamikaze attacks, TF 38 (Vice Admiral John S. McCain) shifts its focus from Formosa to begin operations against Japanese airfields and shipping in Luzon area. In South China Sea off northern Luzon, Navy carrier-based planes sink army cargo ship *Kyodo Maru* and merchant tankers *No.1 Nanko Maru* and *8 Iyasaka Maru* and *6 Kyohei Maru* and *10 Nanshin Maru* and *10 Kyohei Maru* and *No.3 Kyohei Maru*.

Submarine *Besugo* (SS-321) sinks Japanese fleet tanker *Nichei Maru* in Gulf of Thailand 06°45'N, 102°55'E. *Coast Defense Ship No.17* carries out ineffective countermeasures.

Submarine *Sea Robin* (SS-407) attacks Japanese convoy, and sinks fleet tanker *Tarakan Maru* east of Hainan Island 19°45'N, 111°25'E.

USAAF aircraft sink auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 64* off Poulo Condore Island 08°55'N, 106°30'E, and merchant tanker *No.3 Iyasaka Maru* off Cape St. Jacques, French Indochina.

Mediterranean

U.S. freighter *Isaac Shelby* is damaged by mine when she straggles from Naples-bound convoy NV 90; fortunately, there are no casualties to either the merchant complement or the 12-man Armed Guard. The ship, however, is later declared a total loss.

• **7 January, Sun. --**

Pacific

Bombardment and fire support group, TG 77.2 (Rear Admiral Jesse B. Oldendorf) and planes from escort carrier group, TG 77.4 (Rear Admiral Calvin T. Durgin), begin pounding Japanese defenses of Lingayen Gulf. Enemy air attacks in the area, however, continue: high speed minesweeper *Hovey* (DMS-11) is sunk by aerial torpedo; high speed minesweeper *Palmer* (DMS-5) by bombs, 16°20'N, 120°10'E. Kamikazes damage attack transport *Callaway* (APA-35), 17°00'N, 120°00'E, and tank landing ship *LST-912*, 16°20'N, 120°10'E.

Destroyers *Charles Ausburne* (DD-570), *Braine* (DD-630), *Russell* (DD-414), and *Shaw* (DD-373) sink Japanese destroyer *Hinoki*, 50 miles west-southwest of Manila Bay, 14°30'N, 119°30'E.

Submarine *Picuda* (SS-382) damages Japanese army tanker *Munakata Maru* 28 miles northwest of Fukikaku, Formosa, 25°42'N, 121°08'E. *Munakata Maru* puts in to Keelung for repairs (see 21 January).

Submarine *Spot* (SS-413) sinks Japanese guardboat *No.2 Nichiei Maru* in the Inland Sea, 31°20'N, 123°40'E.

USAAF B-24s (14th Air Force), attacking Japanese convoy in the South China Sea, sink stores ship *Shinsei Maru* in Formosa Strait, 22°40'N, 118°45'E.

- **8 January, Mon. --**

- Pacific

- During continuing Japanese aerial onslaught on the Lingayen Gulf invasion force, kamikazes damage escort carriers *Kitkun Bay* (CVE-71), 15°48'N, 119°09'E, and *Kadashan Bay* (CVE-76), 15°10'N, 119°08'E. A suicider also crashes close aboard Australian heavy cruiser HMAS *Australia*, ending her support operations that day.

- Infantry landing craft (gunboat) *LCI(G)-404* is damaged by suicide swimmers, Yoo Passage, Palaus.

- Submarine *Balao* (SS-285) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Daigo Maru* southwest of Korea, 34°28'N, 122°39'E.

- Coordinated submarine attack group, TG 17.21 (Commander Charles E. Loughlin) attacks Japanese convoy off northwest coast of Formosa. *Barb* (SS-220) sinks merchant cargo ships *Anyo Maru*, 24°34'N, 120°37'E, and *Shinyo Maru*, 24°55'N, 120°26'E (which explodes violently, forcing *Barb* deep and tearing off deck gratings); and merchant tanker *Sanyo Maru*, 24°37'N, 120°31'E, and damages army cargo ship *Meiho Maru*, 24°25'N, 120°29'E; *Picuda* (SS-382) damages cargo ship *Rashin Maru*, 24°41'N, 120°40'E; and *Queenfish* (SS-393) damages tanker *Manju Maru*, 24°25'N, 120°28'E. In the confusion generated by TG 17.21's attack, merchant tanker *Hikoshima Maru* runs aground in Tungshiao Bay.

- Submarine *Piranha* (SS-389) damages auxiliary netlayer *No.2 Shinto Maru* in the Nansei Shoto, 29°55'N, 130°05'E.

- Japanese ship *No.22 Seikai Maru* is sunk by mine off Haha Jima.

- Cargo ship *Malay Maru* is damaged by mine (laid by British submarine HMS *Stoic* on 3 June 1944) off west coast of Malaya, 05°57'N, 100°14'E.

- Europe

- U.S. freighter *Blenheim* is damaged by explosion of German rocket bomb at Antwerp, Belgium; Armed Guard quarters are wrecked and there are 20 casualties among the 44 merchant sailors, 25 Armed Guard and one passenger on board at the time.

- **9 January, Tue. --**

- Pacific

- Under the overall direction of General Douglas MacArthur, USA, TF 77 (Vice

Admiral Thomas C. Kinkaid) lands Sixth Army troops (Lieutenant General Walter Krueger, USA) at **Lingayen Gulf** under cover of heavy gunfire from the bombardment force, TG 77.2 (Vice Admiral Jesse B. Oldendorf) and aircraft from the escort carrier force, TG 77.4 (Rear Admiral Calvin T. Durgin). The troops initially encounter little resistance, but Japanese air attacks and assault demolition boats continue to vex the invasion forces off the beaches. Kamikazes crash battleship *Mississippi* (BB-41), 16°08'N, 120°18'E; light cruiser *Columbia* (CL-56), 16°08'N, 120°10'E; and destroyer escort *Hodges* (DE-231), 16°22'N, 120°12'E, in addition to Australian heavy cruiser HMAS *Australia*, which is finally sent to the rear areas for repairs. Friendly fire damages battleship *Colorado* (BB-45), 16°08'N, 120°10'E; Japanese assault demolition boats damage transport *War Hawk* (AP-168) and tank landing ships *LST-925* and *LST-1028*, 16°20'N, 120°10'E.

TF 38 (Vice Admiral John S. McCain) supports the landings at Lingayen Gulf with attacks on Japanese airfields and shipping in the Formosa, Ryukyus, and Pescadores Islands areas. Off Formosa, TF 38 planes sink *Coast Defense Vessel No.3* north of Keelung, 27°10'N, 121°45'E; submarine chaser *Ch 61*, 22°40'N, 120°04'E; and fleet tanker *Kuroshio Maru*, merchant tanker *Kaiho Maru*, and cargo ship *Fukuyama Maru* south of Formosa; and small cargo vessel *No.21 Ume Maru* off Keelung; cargo ship *Hisagawa Maru*, 23°04'N, 119°51'E. They damage escort vessel *Yashiro*, oiler *Kamoi*, and escort destroyer *Miyake* and cargo ship *Tainan Maru* off Takao; *Coast Defense Vessel No.9*, *Coast Defense Vessel No.13*, and *Coast Defense Vessel No.60* off Saei; auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 161* in Formosa Strait; minesweeper *W.102* and auxiliary submarine chaser No.22 *Nitto Maru* off Keelung; and auxiliary submarine chaser *Kinsui Maru* north of Formosa.

Japanese merchant tanker *Hikoshima Maru* sinks as the result of damage inflicted by submarine *Barb* (SS-220) and beaching the previous day, 24°37'N, 120°31'E.

Dutch submarine HNMS *O 19* sinks gunboat *No.1 Shinko Maru* off Tandjung Puting, Borneo, Banten Bay, 03°41'S, 111°57'E.

Other Japanese shipping casualties include merchant tanker *No.4 Nanshin Maru* sunk by aircraft off northwest tip of Luzon; merchant cargo ship *No.9 Hokoku Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Ishigaki Jima; auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 216* damaged by aircraft off Paishatun.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Jonas Lie*, in New York-bound convoy ON 277, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-1055* at the entrance to the Bristol Channel, 51°43'N, 05°25'W. The ship, abandoned, later sinks on 14 January.

• **10 January, Wed. --**

Pacific

Japanese assault demolition boats infiltrate the transport areas off Lingayen, sinking infantry landing craft (mortar) *LCI(M)-974*, 16°06'N, 120°14'E and infantry landing craft (gunboat) *LCI(G)-365*, and damaging destroyers *Robinson* (DD-562) and *Philip* (DD-498), transport *War Hawk* (AP-168) and tank landing ship *LST-610*. Japanese air attacks against the fleet off Lingayen continue, damaging destroyer *Wickes* (DD-578), 16°04'N, 118°55'E; kamikazes damage

destroyer escort *Leray Wilson* (DE-414), 16°20'N, 120°10'E, and attack transport *Dupage* (APA-41), 16°17'N, 120°15'E.

Off west coast of Luzon, high speed transport *Clemson* (APD-31) and battleship *Pennsylvania* (BB-38) are damaged in collision, 16°20'N, 120°10'E. *Clemson* is also accidentally rammed the same day by attack transport *Latimer* (APA-152), 16°20'N, 120°10'E; oiler *Guadalupe* (AO-32) is damaged in collision with *Nantahala* (AO-60), 20°06'N, 121°34'E; tank landing ship *LST-567* is damaged in collision with *LST-610*, 16°20'N, 120°10'E.

Submarine *Puffer* (SS-268) sinks Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.42* and damages *Coast Defense Vessel No.30* in the East China Sea, 26°45'N, 126°11'E.

Merchant vessel *No.2 Seikai Maru* is damaged by aircraft off Mukai Jima.

- **11 January, Thu. --**

- Atlantic

- Motor minesweeper *YMS-14* is sunk in collision with destroyer *Herndon* (DD-638) in north channel of Boston, Massachusetts, Harbor.

- Pacific

- Off Luzon, high speed transport *Belknap* (APD-34) is damaged by kamikaze, 16°20'N, 120°10'E; tank landing ships *LST-270* and *LST-918* are damaged by shore battery, 16°20'N, 120°10'E; and tank landing ship *LST-700* is damaged by friendly fire, 16°43'N, 119°58'E.

- U.S. destroyer gunfire sinks Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *Wa.10*, south of Vigan, 17°20'N, 120°00'E. Auxiliary minesweeper *No.56 Banshu Maru* and auxiliary submarine chaser *Hakuyo Maru* are scuttled as blockships at south entrance of Manila Bay, Luzon.

- During hunter-killer operations near Yap, destroyer *Evans* (DD-552) and destroyer escort *McCoy Reynolds* (DE-440) bombard Japanese defenses; they repeat the operation the following day.

- Destroyer escort *Brackett* (DE-41) extracts party of Marshallese scouts from Jaluit, where they had been landed on 9 January to determine the condition of the garrison there.

- Japanese submarines commence operation KONGO, employing suicide torpedoes [kaitens]; *I 36* launches kaitens that damage ammunition ship *Mazama* (AE-9) and infantry landing craft *LCI-600* at Ulithi (see 12, 20 and 23 January).

- Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kinsei Maru* is sunk by marine casualty in Osaka Bay, Japan.

- **12 January, Fri. --**

- Pacific

- TF 38 (Vice Adm John S. McCain) operating in the South China Sea hits Japanese shipping, airfields, and other shore installations in southeastern French Indochina. TF 38 planes sink training cruiser *Kashii* north of Qui Nhon, 13°50'N, 109°20'E; escort vessel *Chiburi*, *Coast Defense Vessel No.17*, and *Coast Defense Vessel No.19* off Cape St. Jacques, 10°20'N, 107°50'E; submarine chaser *Ch 31*, minesweeper *W.101*, *Patrol Boat No.103* [ex-U.S. minesweeper *Finch* (AM-9)], *Coast Defense Vessel No.35*, *Coast Defense Vessel No.43*, and merchant tanker *Ayayuki Maru* off Cape Padaran, 11°10'N, 108°55'E; submarine chaser *Ch 43*

near Cam Ranh Bay, 11°53'N, 109°08'E; landing ship *T.140* and victualling stores ship *Ikutagawa Maru* at Saigon, 10°20'N, 107°50'E; *Coast Defense Vessel No.23* and *Coast Defense Vessel No.51* north of Qui Nhon, 14°15'N, 109°10'E; auxiliary minesweeper *Otowa Maru* at Cam Ranh Bay, 11°50'N, 109°00'E; oil tanker *Kumagawa Maru* and transports *Shinsei Maru* and *Toyu Maru* off Cape St. Jacques, 10°20'N, 107°45'E; transport *Kembu Maru* and army cargo ships *Yushu Maru* and *Kyokuun Maru* north of Qui Nhon; army cargo ships *Kiyo Maru* and *No.17 Shinsei Maru*, Saigon; and merchant cargo ships *Kenei Maru* and *Taikyu Maru* and tanker *No.9 Horai Maru* at Saigon; tanker *Akashi Maru* off Cape St. Jacques; cargo ship *Eiman Maru* and tanker *No.2 Nanryu Maru*, east coast (exact location unspecified) of French Indochina; tanker *Shoei Maru*, cargo ships *Hotsusan Maru*, *Tatsuhato Maru*, *Otsusan Maru*, *Yujo Maru*, and *No.63 Banshu Maru* north of Qui Nhon; and tankers *Koshin Maru*, *Ayanami Maru*, *Hoei Maru*, and *Eiho Maru*, and cargo ship *Kensei Maru*, southeast of Cape St. Jacques. TF 38 planes also damage escort vessels *Daito* and *Ukuru*, *Coast Defense Vessel No.27*, and fleet tanker *San Luis Maru* north of Qui Nhon; submarine chaser *Ch 34* and merchant cargo ship *Ryuyo Maru* at Cam Ranh Bay; landing ships *T.149* and *T.137* and fleet tanker *No.3 Kyoei Maru* off Cape St. Jacques; landing ship *T.131* near Saigon; guardboat *No.2 Fushimi Maru* at entrance to Vung Tau; army cargo ship *France Maru* and merchant tanker *Shingi Maru*, southeast of Cape St. Jacques; and merchant cargo ships *Chefoo Maru* and *Kanju Maru* at Saigon. Vichy French ships, due to their proximity to Japanese vessels, also come under attack: TF 38 planes sink light cruiser *Lamotte-Picquet* off Cat Lai, and sink French surveying vessel *Octant*.

Other Japanese casualties include *Coast Defense Vessel No.2* damaged by aircraft (location unspecified); and auxiliary vessel *Keishu Maru* damaged by aircraft off Longhai.

Off the west coast of Luzon, kamikazes damage destroyer escorts *Richard W. Suesens* (DE-342) and *Gilligan* (DE-508), 16°20'N, 120°10'E; attack transport *Zeilin* (APA-3), 15°23'N, 119°25'E; and tank landing ship *LST-700*, 14°04'N, 119°25'E; suicide pilots target U.S. merchant ships, damaging freighters *Elmira Victory* (there are no casualties to either the merchant complement or the 27-man Armed Guard) 16°11'N, 120°20'E (friendly fire also accounts for damage to the ship); *Otis Skinner*, on board which Armed Guard sailors contribute to fire-fighting efforts, 14°42'N, 119°35'E; *Edward M. Wescott* off the west coast of Luzon (10 of the 25-man Armed Guards are wounded by flying debris); *Kyle V. Johnson*, (on board which 129 of 506 Army troops, being transported, die) at 15°12'N, 119°30'E; and *David Dudley Field* at Subic Bay (Armed Guard gunfire deflects the kamikaze so that it only strikes the ship a glancing blow). Friendly fire accounts for damage to high speed transport *Sands* (APD-13) and tank landing ships *LST-710* and *LST-778*, 15°00'N, 119°30'E.

Operation KONGO continues; submarine *I 47* launches kaitens that damage U.S. freighter *Pontus H. Ross* off Hollandia, New Guinea, 02°33'S, 140°06'W; there are no casualties among the merchant sailors or the 27-man Armed Guard. Efforts by submarines *I 53* at Kossol Roads, Palau; *I 56* at Manus, in the Admiralties; and by *I 58* at Apra Harbor, Guam, are not unsuccessful (see 20 and 23 January).

- **13 January, Sat. --**

Pacific

Japanese kamikaze attacks against Lingayen Gulf invasion shipping culminate in suicide plane crashing and damaging escort carrier *Salamaua* (CVE-96), 17°09'N, 119°21'E.

Destroyer escort *Fleming* (DE-32) sinks Japanese submarine *I 362* 320 miles north-northeast of Truk, 12°08'N, 154°27'E.

Open lighter *YC-912* founders in heavy weather, North Pacific Ocean.

Mediterranean

Ex-USAAF aircraft rescue boat *P 584*, under administrative control of Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and manned by a navy crew, is destroyed by explosion at Leghorn, Italy, injuring 11 sailors.

- **14 January, Sun. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Cobia* (SS-245) sinks Japanese minelayer *Yurijima* off east coast of Malaya, 05°45'N, 103°13'E.

Motor torpedo boat *PT-73*, damaged by grounding, 13°50'N, 120°10'E, is beached and abandoned.

Army freight supply vessel *FS 41* breaks loose from her moorings at Amchitka, Alaska, in heavy weather, and demolishes 300 feet of an Army dock; fleet tug *Sarsi* (ATF-111) is sent from Adak to go to the ship's assistance.

USAAF P-51s (14th Air Force) sink Japanese army cargo ship *Akatsuki Maru* in the Yangtze between Wuhu and Kiukiang, 29°00'N, 116°00'E.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Martin Van Buren*, in Nova Scotia-bound convoy BV 141, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-1232* at 44°27'N, 63°26'W; 3 of the 27-man Armed Guard (members of a 5-inch gun crew) perish when blown overboard. Despite salvage efforts, the ship subsequently drifts ashore and is written off as a total loss.

Europe

U.S. freighter *Michael de Kovats* is damaged by explosion of German V-2 rocket bomb at Antwerp, Belgium; none of the 27-man Armed Guard are casualties.

- **15 January, Mon. --**

Pacific

District patrol craft *YP-73* sinks after running aground 1,000 yards east of Spruce Cape signal station, Kodiak, Alaska. Coast Guard tender *Bittersweet* (WAG-389) rescues survivors.

Escort carrier *Hoggatt Bay* (CVE-75) is damaged by accidental explosion of bombs as aircraft (VC 88) lands on board as the ship operates off west coast of Luzon, 17°01'N, 119°20'E.

TF 38 (Vice Admiral John S. McCain) attacks Japanese shipping and aircraft off Formosa and the China coast. Carrier planes sink destroyer *Hatakaze* and fast transport *T.14* at 22°37'N, 120°15'E; fleet tanker *Mirii Maru* and army cargo

ship *Enoshima Maru* off Takao; destroyer *Tsuga* off Mako, 23°33'N, 119°33'E; and damage auxiliary minelayer *Maroshima* off Formosa and army cargo ships *Beiju Maru* and *Yoshun Maru* off Keelung.

TF 38 planes sink Japanese salvage ship *Horei Maru*, San Fernando, Luzon.

Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *No.1 Kyo Maru* is sunk by mine (laid by British submarine HMS *Porpoise* on 9 January), south of Penang, Malaya, 05°18'N, 100°20'E;

Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.5 Kujyo Maru* is sunk by aircraft southwest of Paramushiro Island Kurils.

Japanese river gunboat *Narumi* is damaged by USAAF aircraft near Hankow, China.

Destroyer *Swanson* (DD-443) bombards Rota Island; she repeats the operation the following day.

Mediterranean

Destroyers *Boyle* (DD-600) and *McLanahan* (DD-615) support British and American light craft, including U.S. motor torpedo boats, in a night interdiction operation aimed at enemy coastwise shipping.

RAF Spitfire sights one large and one small enemy destroyer west of Portofino, Italy; *PT-313* and British *MTB 378* engage a southbound convoy of five flak lighters, sinking one and damaging another. The presence of the destroyers, however, results in the operation being discontinued.

- **16 January, Tue. --**

Pacific

TF 38 (Vice Admiral John S. McCain) strikes Japanese shipping and installations at Hong Kong, Hainan Island and along the China coast. Off Hong Kong TF 38 planes sink transport *Hokkai Maru*; merchant tankers *Tenei Maru*, *Matsushima Maru*, and *Sanko Maru*; and merchant cargo ship *No.2 Anri Go*. They also damage oiler *Kamoi*, destroyer *Hasu*, fast transport *T.108*, escort destroyers *Shinnan* and *Nomi*, and *Coast Defense Vessel No.60*; off Yulin, TF 38 planes sink merchant tanker *Harima Maru*, and damage escort destroyer *Daito*. Guardboat *No.1 Taiyo Maru* is sunk east of Hainan; merchant tanker *No.6 Nanryu Maru* is sunk off coast of South China.

Atlantic

Destroyer escorts *Otter* (DE-210), *Hubbard* (DE-211), *Hayter* (DE-212), and *Varian* (DE-798) sink German submarine *U-248* at 47°43'N, 26°37'W.

U.S. freighter *Marina* is damaged by mine outside of swept channel to Le Havre, France; there are no casualties.

Mediterranean

Non-rigid airship *ZPNK 123* is accidentally deflated at Port Lyautey, French Morocco; the envelope is damaged beyond repair.

- **17 January, Wed. --**

Pacific

Off Philippine Islands, escort carrier *Nehenta Bay* (CVE-74) is damaged by storm, 17°41'N, 117°33'E.

Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) sinks Japanese fast transport *T.15* off southern Kyushu, 31°09'N, 130°29'E.

British submarine HMS *Stygian* sinks small Japanese cargo vessel *Nichinan Maru* off Perak, 05°42'N, 98°57'E.

Japanese cargo ship *Minka Maru* is sunk by mine on Yangtze, above Kiukiang, China.

Mediterranean

Tank landing ship *LST-906*, which had been aground at Leghorn, Italy, since 18 October 1944, is refloated.

- **18 January, Thu. --**

Pacific

Japanese raiding parties land on Peleliu, Palau Islands. The attempt to damage aircraft on the ground and destroy ammunition is not successful.

Tank landing ship *LST-219* is damaged by grounding off west coast of Luzon, 16°10'N, 120°22'E;

Tank landing ship *LST-752* is damaged in collision off Leyte, 11°11'N, 125°05'E.

Infantry landing craft (gunboat) *LCI(G)-396* is damaged by mine, Palaus.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Reizan Maru* (previously damaged on 31 August 1944 by 14th Air Force planes) is sunk by mine in upper Yangtze.

- **19 January, Fri. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Spot* (SS-413) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Usa Maru*, 39°07'N, 122°51'E.

British submarine HMS *Supreme* damages Japanese auxiliary netlayer *Agata Maru* south of Ross Island Andaman Islands.

- **20 January, Sat. --**

Europe

Hungary surrenders to the allies.

Naval Technical Mission in Europe (Commodore Henry A. Schade) is established with headquarters in Paris, France.

Pacific

Submarine *Nautilus* (SS-168) lands supplies on south coast of Mindanao, P.I.

Submarine *Spot* (SS-413) sinks Japanese merchant fishing boat *Tokiwa Maru*, 34°45'N, 124°10'E.

Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) sinks Japanese torpedo recovery vessel *Shuri Maru* at southern end of Tsushima Strait, 33°37'N, 128°40'E.

Operation KONGO concludes with Japanese submarine *I 48* carrying out unsuccessful Kaiten attack on U.S. shipping at Ulithi (see 23 January).

- **21 January, Sun. --**

Pacific

TF 38 (Vice Admiral John S. McCain) attacks Japanese shipping and airfields

on Formosa, and in the Pescadores, as well as in Sakashima Gunto and on Okinawa in the Ryukyus. Japanese planes make concerted counterattacks on the task force ships; kamikazes damage carrier *Ticonderoga* (CV-14), 22°40'N, 122°57'E and destroyer *Maddox* (DD-731), 23°06'N, 122°43'E; small carrier *Langley* (CVL-27) is damaged by bomb, 22°40'N, 122°51'E. Accidental explosion of bombs carried by TBM (VT 7) damages carrier *Hancock* (CV-19), 22°40'N, 122°30'E.

TF 38 planes sink fleet tankers *Eiho Maru* and *Manjo Maru*; cargo ship *Kuroshio Maru*; army cargo ships *Enoura Maru*, *Asaka Maru* and 2 *Nichiyo Maru* and *Teifu Maru*; army tankers *Shincho Maru* and 3 *Hoei Maru* and 5 *Hoei Maru*, and *Yamazawa Maru*; fishing boat *Brunei Maru*; cargo vessels *Daijo Maru* and *Yayoi Maru*; and damage destroyers *Kashi* and *Sugi*, landing ships *T.114* and *T.143*, merchant cargo ship *Yulin Maru* and water supply vessel *Nikko Maru* off Takao, Formosa; planes from carrier *Yorktown* (CV-10) and small carrier *Cabot* (CVL-28) sink merchant tanker *Munakata Maru* at Keelung; TF 38 planes damage destroyer *Harukaze* off Mako.

USAAF B-24s (14th Air Force) sink Japanese salvage vessel *Haruta Maru* at Hong Kong, 22°20'N, 114°10'E.

Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) sinks Japanese merchant tanker *Zuiun Maru*, 33°33'N, 129°33'E;

Japanese army cargo ship *Shoshin Maru* is sunk by gunfire, 23°48'N, 125°16'E.

Landing craft *LCT-253* founders and sinks in heavy weather en route to Tarawa.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *George Hawley*, in convoy TBC 43, is torpedoed and irreparably damaged by German submarine *U-1199* off the Isle of Wight, 49°53'N, 05°44'W.

- **22 January, Mon. --**

Pacific

TF 38 (Vice Admiral John S. McCain) pounds Japanese shipping, airfields and other installations in the Ryukyus; TF 38 planes sink motor sailships *No.1 Iroha Maru* and *Myooei Maru*, and fishing boat *No.1 Waei Maru*. TF 38 planes also sink cargo vessel *Suma Maru* in Gima harbor, Kume Island; merchant tankers *No.2 Nanko Maru* and *No.2 Nanshin Maru* off Miyako Jima; and merchant cargo ship *Hikosan Maru* in Toguchi harbor, Okinawa, 26°39'N, 127°53'E. Guardboat *No.6 Chitose Maru* is sunk, probably by aircraft in Nansei Shoto.

Japanese submarine chaser *Ch 42* is damaged by mine off Chichi Jima.

Japanese river gunboat *Saga* is sunk by aircraft at Hong Kong.

British submarine HMS *Spirit* sinks Japanese ship *Ryushin Maru* in Java Sea, 06°02'S, 110°41'E.

- **23 January, Tue. --**

Atlantic

President Roosevelt embarks in heavy cruiser *Quincy* (CA-71) at Newport News, Virginia, on the beginning of the trip that will include his participation in **ARGONAUT Conferences** at Malta and Yalta.

Pacific

Destroyer escort *Conklin* (DE-439), supported by sisterships *Corbesier* (DE-438) and *Raby* (DE-698) sinks Japanese submarine *I 48* (fresh from her unsuccessful kaiten mission to Ulithi), 25 miles off Yap, 09°45'N, 138°20'E.

Submarine *Barb* (SS-220) enters Namkwan harbor, China, and despite her claim that she sinks three ships, "probably" sinks a fourth, and damages two more, she actually destroys only a single vessel, merchant cargo ship *Taikyo Maru*, 27°04'N, 120°27'E.

Submarine *Nautilus* (SS-168) delivers supplies to east coast of Mindanao.

Submarine *Sennet* (SS-408) sinks Japanese guardboat *No.7 Kainan Maru* in Hangchow Bay, China, 30°00'N, 120°16'E.

Mines laid by RAF Liberators the previous day sink Japanese merchant tanker *No.1 Hozan Maru* and cargo ship *Nikkaku Maru* south of Sembilan Island Sumatra, 04°08'N, 98°15'E.

- **24 January, Wed. --**

Pacific

Preceded in their approach by a barrier patrol of PB4Ys, TG 94.9 (Rear Admiral Oscar C. Badger), consisting of battleship *Indiana* (BB-58), three heavy cruisers, seven destroyers and a light minelayer, bombards Iwo Jima, together with USAAF B-24s (escorted by P-38s). Northeast of Iwo, destroyers *Dunlap* (DD-384) and *Fanning* (DD-385) sink transport *I-Go Yoneyama Maru* and auxiliary minesweepers *Keinan Maru* and *No.7 Showa Maru*, 24°50'N, 141°22'E, a small Japanese three-ship convoy that had just arrived that morning.

Navy land-based planes flying from the Philippines bomb Japanese shipping at Keelung, Formosa, sinking merchant cargo ship *Beiju Maru* and damaging cargo ship *Taizatsu Maru*, 25°09'N, 121°45'E.

Dock landing ship *Shadwell* (LSD-15) is damaged by aerial torpedo, P.I., 09°01'N, 123°45'E.

Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Shunyo Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Corregidor.

Submarine *Atule* (SS-403) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.1 Taiman Maru* in the central Yellow Sea, 36°47'N, 123°59'E.

Submarine *Blackfin* (SS-322) sinks Japanese destroyer *Shigure* 160 miles east of Khota Baru, Malaya, 06°00'N, 103°48'E, and teams with *Besugo* (SS-321) to damage merchant tanker *Sarawak Maru* off east coast of Malay Peninsula, 06°00'N, 103°45'E (see 19 March).

Submarine *Guardfish* (SS-217) mistakenly sinks salvage vessel *Extractor* (ARS-15) in Philippine Sea, 15°44'N, 133°29'E.

Europe

German planes bomb Antwerp, Belgium, damaging U.S. freighter *Alcoa Banner*; she is later written off as a total loss.

- **25 January, Thu. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Greenling* (SS-213) is damaged by depth charges off Nansei Shoto, 29°27'N, 130°09'E, and is forced to terminate her patrol.

Submarine *Silversides* (SS-236), despite presence of auxiliary submarine chasers *Cha 90* and *Cha 168*, sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Malay Maru*, 31°18'N, 130°08'E.

Mediterranean

Destroyer *McLanahan* (DD-615) shells German command post and then silences shore battery on the Italian Riviera.

- **26 January, Fri. --**

Pacific

Tank landing craft *LCT-1151* is lost in amphibious operations, 01°00'N, 138°36'E.

Submarine *Tautog* (SS-199) sinks Japanese merchant sail fishing boat *No.11 Naga Maru*, 30°00'N, 136°20'E.

Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Hakko Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Corregidor;

Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *No.13 Kyo Maru* is sunk by mine off Bengeri Point.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.1 Tamon Maru* is sunk by mine [laid by submarine *Dace* (SS-247) on 16 December 1944] off Gambir Island French Indochina, 13°36'N, 109°18'E.

- **27 January, Sat. --**

Pacific

Motor torpedo boat *PT-338* is damaged by grounding off Semimara Island Luzon, 12°06'N, 121°23'E.

Submarine *Bergall* (SS-320) sinks Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *Wa.102* in Lombok Strait, 08°34'S, 115°50'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Ryuzan Maru* is sunk by USAAF mine off Hankow, China, 29°46'N, 116°52'E; cargo ship *Hsin Yang Maru* is sunk by USAAF mine (laid by 14th Air Force B-24 on 19 January) off Kiukiang, China, 29°55'N, 115°20'E.

Japanese transport *Nagatsu Maru* is damaged by mine off Chichi Jima.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Ruben Dario* is torpedoed and damaged by German submarine, most likely *U-852*, off Saint George's Channel, 52°27'N, 05°21'W. There are no casualties among the 27-man Armed Guard.

- **28 January, Sun. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Spadefish* (SS-411) attacks Japanese convoy in the southern Yellow Sea and sinks escort vessel *Kume*, 33°50'N, 122°55'E and transport (ex-seaplane carrier) *Sanuki Maru*, 34°02'N, 123°00'E.

- **29 January, Mon. --**

Pacific

TG 78.3 (Rear Admiral Arthur D. Struble) lands troops (38th Infantry and 34th RCT of 24th Infantry) near San Antonio, northwest of Subic Bay. They encounter no enemy opposition, move rapidly inland and seize all initial objectives.

Landing craft repair ship *Amycus* (ARL-2) and medium landing ship *LSM-135* are damaged when accidentally bombed by SBD, Lingayen Gulf, 16°20'N, 120°10'E.

Cargo ship *Serpens* (AK-97) is sunk by explosion of undetermined origin off Guadalcanal; the blast damages submarine chasers *PC-588*, *SC-1039*, and *SC-1266*; motor minesweeper *YMS-281*; and district patrol craft *YP-514*.

Destroyer *Lardner* (DD-487) is damaged when she runs aground off Ngesebus Island Palau.

Submarine *Picuda* (SS-382) attacks Japanese convoy in Formosa Strait, sinking army cargo ship *Clyde Maru* about 50 miles northwest of Keelung, 25°20'N, 121°06'E.

USAAF B-25s sink Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *No.10 Takunan Maru* off Chichi Jima, 27°45'N, 142°00'E.

Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.47* is damaged by aircraft, 20°45'N, 142°00'E.

- **30 January, Tue. --**

- Pacific

- TG 78.3 (Rear Admiral Arthur D. Struble) lands army troops (38th Infantry) on Grande Island Subic Bay, in Operation MIKE SEVEN; they encounter no enemy opposition. Light cruiser *Denver* (CL-58) and destroyers *Fletcher* (DD-445) and *Radford* (DD-446) provide gunfire support. TG 77.4 (Rear Admiral William D. Sample), consisting of six escort carriers and their screen, provide direct air cover. Attack transport *Cavalier* (APA-37) is torpedoed by Japanese submarine *RO 46* off Subic Bay, 14°48'N, 119°18'E.

- Destroyer *Burns* (DD-588) sinks Japanese guardboat *No.2 Hokoku Maru* off Ojae, 08°42'N, 167°44'E.

- Submarine *Bergall* (SS-320) damages Japanese storeship *Arasaki*, 08°26'S, 115°40'E.

- Submarine *Threadfin* (SS-410) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *I ssei Maru* off southern Honshu, 33°30'N, 135°34'E, but although damaged by depth charges from escorts, 33°20'N, 135°30'E, remains on patrol.

- British submarine HMS *Tantalus* sinks Japanese fishing boat *No.12 Taisei Maru* in northern approaches to Bangka Strait, 01°26'S, 105°01'E.

- **31 January, Wed. --**

- Pacific

- TG 78.2 (Rear Admiral William M. Fechteler) lands Army troops (two RCTs of the 11th Airborne Division) at Nasugbu, south of the entrance to Manila Bay in Operation MIKE SIX; TG 77.4 (Rear Admiral William D. Sample) provides cover. A third RCT of the 11th Airborne is airdropped at Tagtaytay Ridge, 14 miles inland and the three RCTs link up on 3 February. This operation, designed to outflank the enemy forces defending Manila, meets little resistance at the

outset; Japanese assault demolition boats attack the screen, however, and sink submarine chaser *PC-1129*, the flagship for the control unit, TU 78.2.7, 14°05'N, 120°30'E.

Submarine *Boarfish* (SS-327) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Enki Maru* 50 miles southeast of Tourane, French Indochina, 14°55'N, 109°01'E, and damages cargo ship *Taietsu Maru*, which is run aground (see 1 February) 14°56'N, 109°00'E.

Submarine *Pargo* (SS-264) damages Japanese escort vessel *Manju*, 11°51'N, 109°12'E.

Submarine *Spadefish* (SS-411) unsuccessfully attacks Japanese ship *Nanshin Maru* in Yellow Sea west of Ch'uja Kundo, Korea, 34°14'N, 122°36'E.

Motor torpedo boat *PT-338*, irreparably damaged by grounding (see 27 January) is destroyed by demolition squad off Semimara Island Luzon, 12°06'N, 121°23'E.

USAAF B-25s (Far Eastern Air Force) sink Japanese escort destroyer *Ume* and damage destroyer *Shiokaze* and escort destroyer *Kaede* west of Takao, Formosa, 22°30'N, 12°00'E.

Japanese small cargo vessel *No.4 Kiri Maru* is sunk by mine off Cape Tavoy, Burma, 13°32'N, 98°10'E.

February

- **1 February, Thu. --**

Pacific

Destroyers *Jenkins* (DD-447), *O'Bannon* (DD-450), and *Bell* (DD-587), and destroyer escort *Ulvert M. Moore* (DE-442) sink submarine *RO 115*, 125 miles southwest of Manila, 13°20'N, 119°20'E.

USAAF B-24s (14th Air Force), directed to the scene by *Boarfish* (SS-327), complete the destruction of grounded Japanese cargo ship *Taietsu Maru* (damaged by *Boarfish* and run aground the previous day), off the coast of French Indochina, 14°56'N, 109°00'E.

Motor torpedo boats *PT-77* and *PT-79* are damaged by friendly fire west of Mindoro, 13°55'N, 120°36'E.

USAAF P-51s sink Japanese landing ship *T.115* in Luzon Straits, 20°00'N, 121°00'E, and damage escorting submarine chaser *Ch 28*.

Japanese netlayer *No.16 Nissho Maru* is sunk by mine west northwest of Mokpo, Korea, 35°00'N, 125°00'E.

USAAF B-29s (20th Bomber Command) bomb Japanese shipping and harbor facilities at Singapore, damaging oiler *Shiretoko*, 01°20'N, 103°50'E.

British submarine *HMS Spark* sinks Japanese towboat *No.203 Katsura Maru* and damages motor sailboats *Nanyo Maru*, *Nampo Maru* and *No.80 Tachibana Maru* off Jabara, 06°41'S, 110°32'E.

Japanese tanker *No.26 Nanshin Maru* is sunk by mine, 30°05'N, 135°15'E.

- **2 February, Fri. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Besugo* (SS-321), attacking Japanese convoy off Malay Peninsula, sinks *Coast Defense Vessel No.144* off Cape Laguan, 04°32'N, 104°30'E.

Submarine *Hardhead* (SS-365) sinks Japanese merchant tanker *No.19 Nanshin Maru*, 05°40'N, 103°17'E.

USAAF B-24 attacks Japanese tanker *Yashima Maru* and forces her aground, damaged, off Flores Island.

Japanese merchant tanker *No.3 Kinyu Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Phantiet, French Indochina.

- **3 February, Sat. --**

- Pacific

- Submarine *Sea Robin* (SS-407) damages Japanese transport *Suiten Maru* off Bawean Island N.E.I.

- Japanese river gunboat *Karatsu* [ex-*Luzon* (PR-7)] is scuttled as blockship at Manila.

- Minesweeper *W.102* (ex-HMS *Waglan*) is damaged (cause unspecified) north of Haitan Island 25°40'N, 119°50'E.

- Merchant tanker *No.3 Nanryu Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Takao, Formosa.

- **4 February, Sun. --**

- General

- Yalta (**ARGONAUT**) Conference attended by President Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Churchill, and Russian Premier Stalin, begins. Matters discussed include the timing of the Russian entry into the war against Japan, and three postwar issues: the division of Germany, the extent of the Soviet sphere of influence in Europe, and the status of Poland.

- Pacific

- Submarine *Barbel* (SS-316) is sunk by Japanese naval aircraft in South China Sea, between Borneo and Palawan, 07°49.5'N, 116°47.5'E.3

- Submarine *Pargo* (SS-264) bombards Woody Island east of Tourane, French Indochina, destroying Japanese weather station and radio equipment, administration building, a jetty, and several fishing boats.

- Submarine *Spadefish* (SS-411) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Tairai Maru* in the Yellow Sea off the west coast of Korea, 37°18'N, 125°22'E.

- **5 February, Mon. --**

- Pacific

- Destroyer *Bearss* (DD-654) suffers minor damage from ammunition hangfire while on exercises in the Aleutians.

- Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.6* is damaged by marine casualty; and minesweeper *W.29* is damaged by mine off Chichi Jima.

- Mediterranean

- Motor torpedo boats *PT-308* and *PT-313*, on a routine patrol from Leghorn, Italy, sight two south-bound KT ships and one escort and engage them a half mile northwest of the swept channel off Portovenere, claiming at least one KT ship sunk.

- **6 February, Tue. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Pampanito* (SS-383), attacking Japanese convoy, sinks merchant tanker *Engen Maru* about 200 miles northeast of Singapore, 06°22'N, 106°00'E.

Submarine *Spadefish* (SS-411) sinks Japanese merchant passenger/cargo ship *Shohei Maru* off Port Arthur, Korea, 38°46'N, 121°28'E.

Navy PB4Ys attack Japanese convoy in the Sakishima- Okinawa area, sinking small cargo ship *No.77 Ume Maru*.

USAAF planes sink Japanese cargo ship *No.3 Kinyu Maru* at 12°50'N, 109°23'E.

Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.12* is damaged by aircraft, 36 miles northwest of Chichi Jima.

Japanese tanker *Obi Maru* is sunk by mine laid by USAAF B-29 (20th Bomber Command) on 25 January in Johore Strait, 01°09'N, 103°36'E.

Japanese battleship/carrier *Ise* is damaged by mine, Singapore.

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *Peter Silvester* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-862* in the Indian Ocean off the southeast coast of Australia, 34°19'S, 99°37'E; 7 of the 26-man Armed Guard perish with the ship.

Europe

U.S. freighter *Henry B. Plant*, in Antwerp-bound convoy TAM 71, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-245* at 51°19'24"N, 01°42'30"W; 7 of the 28-man Armed Guard perish in the abandonment. British minesweeper *HMS Hazard* and HM Trawler *Sir Lancelot* rescue survivors.

- **7 February, Wed. --**

Pacific

Motor torpedo boats *PT-373* and *PT-356* enter Manila Bay for night reconnaissance; these are the first U.S. naval units to enter that body of water since the surrender of Corregidor in 1942.

Destroyer escort *Thomason* (DE-203) sinks Japanese submarine *RO 55* off Iba, Luzon, 15°27'N, 119°25'E.

Submarine *Bergall* (SS-320), attacking Japanese convoy off east coast of French Indochina, sinks *Coast Defense Vessel No.53* and damages merchant tanker *Toho Maru* near Cam Ranh Bay, 11°56'N, 109°18'E.

Submarine *Guavina* (SS-362), attacking a Japanese convoy, sinks merchant tanker *Taigyō Maru* 250 miles south of Saigon, French Indochina, 06°45'N, 106°00'E.

Submarine *Parche* (SS-384) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Okinoyama Maru*, 29°09'N, 129°45'E.

Submarine *Ronquil* (SS-396) damages Japanese army cargo ship *Kuretake Maru*, 31°46'N, 140°17'E.

British submarine *HMS Subtle* sinks small Japanese cargo vessel *Nanei Maru*, 07°28'N, 94°56'E.

Mediterranean

Motor torpedo boats *PT-303* and *PT-304*, and British *MTB 422*, patrolling from Golfe Juan, France, engage southbound enemy convoy off Savona, Italy, sinking at least two vessels.

- **8 February, Thu. --**

Mediterranean

Destroyer *McLanahan* (DD-615) bombards German outpost on Italian Riviera, shelling troop concentration.

Motor torpedo boat *PT-308*, in company with two British motor torpedo boats, operating from Leghorn, Italy, attack three northbound flak lighters off Point Moneglia. The MTBs draw fire while *PT-308* scores damage on one flak lighter. A second allied attack is unsuccessful.

Pacific

TF 92 (Rear Admiral John F. McCrea), comprising three light cruisers and seven destroyers, sorties from Attu, bound for Matsuwa Island.

Submarine *Pampanito* (SS-383) attacks Japanese convoy in Gulf of Siam, sinking gunboat *Eifuku Maru* off Cape Camau, French Indochina, 07°05'N, 104°50'E.

Japanese landing ship *T.143* is run aground and abandoned southeast of the Pescadores Islands, 23°30'N, 119°40'E.

- **9 February, Fri. --**

Pacific

Navy aircraft sink Japanese army cargo ship *Hekisui Maru* off Mako, Formosa, 23°28'N, 119°40'E.

PV-1 sinks small Japanese cargo vessel *No.177 Nanshin Maru* in Flores Sea west of Maumere.

Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.61* is damaged by mine [laid by submarine *Ray* (SS-271) on 22 February 1944], 10 miles off Cape St. Jacques, French Indochina, 10°10'N, 106°55'E.4

Indian Ocean

U.S. freighter *Cape Edmont* rescues one boatload of survivors from sunken freighter *Peter Silvester*, sunk on 6 February by German submarine *U-862* (see 27 February).

- **10 February, Sat. --**

Pacific

Japanese suicide swimmers attempt attack upon surveying ship *Hydrographer* (AGS-2) in Schonian Harbor, Palaus.

Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.33* and escort destroyer *Mikura* are damaged in collision in Formosa Straits, 23°51'N, 117°52'E.

- **11 February, Sun. --**

General

Yalta (**ARGONAUT**) Conference attended by President Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Churchill, and Russian Premier Stalin ends.

Pacific

TF 92 (Rear Admiral John F. McCrea), comprising three light cruisers and seven destroyers, arrives off Matsuwa Island Kurils, to conduct bombardment, but encounters heavy weather that would make high-speed retirement impossible; the operation is accordingly cancelled and the ships return to Attu on 14 February.

Marianas-based USAAF B-29s carry out extended search missions to look for Japanese guardboats in the path of TF 58 as it steams toward Japan, augmented by Tinian-based PB4Ys and planes from the carriers. These searches will be repeated on 12 and 14 February.

Tank landing ship *LST-577*, torpedoed by Japanese submarine *RO 50* while in a reinforcement convoy proceeding from Hollandia to Leyte, 08°05'N, 126°17'E, is scuttled by destroyer *Isherwood* (DD-520). *RO 50* is damaged by gunfire in the encounter with U.S. ships.

Fleet tug *Takelma* (ATF-113) is damaged by collision east of Leyte, P.I., 10°50'N, 125°25'E.

Submarine *Batfish* (SS-310) sinks Japanese submarine *RO 112* off Camiguin, P.I., 18°53'N, 121°50'E.

Submarine *Burrfish* (SS-312) is damaged by depth charges and aerial bombs off Bonins, 27°51'N, 141°55'N, but remains on patrol.

Japanese escort destroyer *Miyake* is damaged by aircraft, 19°08'N, 108°15'E.

Japanese fast transport *T.13* is damaged by aircraft, Bonins.

USAAF aircraft sink Japanese cargo vessel *Shoto Maru*, Saigon, French Indochina.

Mediterranean

Destroyer *McLanahan* (DD-615), while withdrawing from bombardment mission off Italian Riviera, is damaged by near-misses from German shore battery at San Remo, Gulf of Genoa.

• **12 February, Mon. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Hawkbill* (SS-366) sinks small Japanese cargo vessel *Kisaragi Maru* and the two large landing barges she was towing at the time, Lombok Strait.

Japanese merchant ship *Shinko Maru* is sunk by aircraft, 26°57'N, 120°25'E.

• **13 February, Tue. --**

Indian Ocean

Frigate *Corpus Christi* (PF-44) rescues 102 survivors of U.S. freighter *Peter Silvester*, sunk on 6 February 1945 in the Indian Ocean by German submarine *U-862* (see 9 March).

Pacific

Although submarine *Sennet* (SS-408) is damaged by gunfire of Japanese guardboat [*No.8 Kotoshiro Maru* or *No.3 Showa Maru*], south of Japan, she administers the coup de grace to *No.8 Kotoshiro Maru* after the enemy patrol craft had already been damaged by *Lagarto* (SS-371) and *Haddock* (SS-231),

30°00'N, 136°30'E. *Haddock* then sinks *No.3 Showa Maru*, which had already been damaged by *Lagarto* and *Sennet*, 30°00'N, 136°30'E.

Submarine *Batfish* (SS-310) sinks Japanese submarine *RO 113* off Babuyan Islands, P.I., 19°10'N, 121°23'E.

RAAF Liberator sinks Japanese motor sailship *No.24 Sakura Maru* in Lesser Sundas.

- **14 February, Wed. --**

Pacific

Japanese shore batteries sink motor minesweeper *YMS-48* north of Corregidor, 14°24'N, 120°33'E, and damage destroyers *Fletcher* (DD-445) and *Hopewell* (DD-681) as they support the sweeping of those waters, 14°25'N, 120°30'E and 14°24'N, 120°33'E, respectively. On board *Fletcher*, Watertender First Class Elmer C. Bigelow, time not permitting his donning a rescue-breathing apparatus, plunges into the acrid powder smoke to extinguish the blaze that had resulted from shell fragments penetrating the number one gun magazine and setting fire to powder cases. Bigelow succumbs to smoke inhalation the following day; for his heroism, he is awarded the [Medal of Honor](#), posthumously.

Japanese shore batteries also sink support landing craft *LCS-26* and *LCS-49* off Luzon.

Mines damage destroyers *Radford* (DD-446) and *LaVallette* (DD-448) as they support the sweeping of a channel into Mariveles harbor, 14°25'N, 120°30'E.

Destroyer *Halford* (DD-480) is damaged in collision with U.S. merchant vessel *H.E. Stephenson*.

Submarine *Gato* (SS-212) sinks Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.9* in Yellow Sea, 34°48'N, 125°28'E.

Submarines *Haddock* (SS-231), *Lagarto* (SS-371), and *Sennet* (SS-408) damage Japanese guardboat *No.3 Kanno Maru* south of Japan, 29°50'N, 135°31'E.

Submarine *Hawkbill* (SS-366) sinks Japanese auxiliary submarine chasers *Cha 4* and *Cha 114* (ex-Dutch B-1 class patrol boat) in Java Sea, 08°28'S, 115°45'E.

Japanese army cargo ship *No.1 Yamanami Maru* is sunk by mine west of Kyushu; hospital ship *Hikawa Maru* is damaged by mine in Singapore Strait.

Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Tatsui Maru* is damaged by aircraft, 27°35'N, 121°16'E.

Arctic Convoys

U.S. freighter *Horace Gray* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-711* at the entrance to Kola Inlet, 69°21'N, 33°43'W. Beached the following day, *Horace Gray* will subsequently be determined a total loss. There are no casualties to either the merchant complement or the 28- man Armed Guard.

- **15 February, Thu. --**

Pacific

TG 78.3 (Rear Admiral Arthur D. Struble) lands army forces (151st Infantry RCT and 3d Battalion, 34th RCT) in the Mariveles Harbor area of Bataan Peninsula, Luzon; the troops encounter only light opposition and quickly secure

the town and the nearby airfield. Medium landing ship *LSM-169* is damaged by mine off Mariveles; motor minesweeper *YMS-46* is damaged by shore battery, 14°23'N, 120°36'E.

TF 58 planes sink Japanese guardboats *No.3 Choyo Maru* and *No.2 Santoku Maru* off southern Japan, 30°00'N, 141°00'E, and 30°00'N, 143°00'E, respectively.

Aircraft damage Japanese fast transport *T.16* off Iwo Jima.

Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *No.3 Taihei Maru* is damaged by aircraft off Yonaguni Island.

- **16 February, Fri. --**

Pacific

TF 58 (Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher) planes bomb airfields, aircraft factories, and shipping in the Tokyo area, Japan; attack is repeated on 17 February.

Fire support vessels and carrier-based aircraft begin three-day prelanding bombardment and bombing of Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands. Destroyers *Ingraham* (DD-694) and *Barton* (DD-722) are damaged in collision off Iwo, 31°45'N, 141°54'E.

TF 92 (Rear Admiral John L. McCrea) bombards Japanese installations at Kurabu Zaki, Paramushiro, Kurils.

Army forces, preceded by naval bombardment and attack by army aircraft, land on **Corregidor**, Luzon; 503d Parachute Infantry are air-dropped onto the main plateau while the 3d Battalion, 24th RCT is lifted to the island in navy medium landing craft (LCM). Support landing craft (large) [LCS(L)] and infantry landing craft (rocket) [LCI(R)] provide covering fire close-in. Motor torpedo boats also support the operation, at one point rescuing stranded army paratroopers. Submarine chaser *PC-1119* is damaged by shore battery, off Luzon, 14°23'N, 120°35'E.

Special gunfire support unit of six destroyers (Captain Robert W. Cavanaugh) is formed to provide naval gunfire support for the conquest of Corregidor. Between 16 and 28 February, this unit will deliver pin-point fire that proves a considerable help to the final elimination of Japanese troops on the island.

Support landing craft *LCS(L)-7* is sunk by Japanese assault demolition boats off entrance to Mariveles harbor.

Submarine *Sennet* (SS-408) sinks Japanese minelayer *Naryu* southeast of Honshu, 32°10'N, 135°54'E, but is damaged by depth bombs from enemy aircraft.

Oiler *Patuxent* (AO-44) is damaged by internal explosion from gasoline vapors.

Coast Guard lighthouse tender *Bramble* (WAGL-392) is damaged by grounding on Lockwood Rock, Wrangell Narrows, Aleutians (see 17 February).

Japanese army cargo ship *No.23 Ryoyu Maru* is sunk by aircraft, 14°36'N, 109°06'E.

PB4Y-1 (VPB-117) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *I ida Maru* in Cape St. Jacques harbor, French Indochina, 10°20'N, 107°06'E.; Japanese merchant cargo

ships sunk on this date: *No.3 Seikai Maru*, by aircraft, Central Pacific (exact location unspecified); *Kaian No.10*, by aircraft, Yangtze River, Wuhu, China; and *No.2 Nagaoka Maru*, by aircraft, off Hachijo Jima. Japanese naval vessels damaged on this date: *Coast Defense Vessel No.47*, by aircraft, Yokohama, Japan; escort destroyer *Amakusa*, by aircraft, east of Izu Oshima; auxiliary submarine chasers *Cha 211*, *Cha 225*, and *Cha 236*, by aircraft, Shimoda, Japan; and auxiliary minesweeper *Hagoromo Maru*, by aircraft, 10 miles south of Miyake Jima. USAAF B-24 damages small Japanese cargo vessel *No.23 Yoshitomo Maru* off Qui Nhon, French Indochina.

USAAF P-51s sink Japanese auxiliary powered sailing vessel *Minsui Maru* in Yangtze between Wuhu and Hankow.

Mediterranean

Motor torpedo boat *PT-303* and two British motor torpedo boats, operating out of Leghorn, Italy, engage two southbound enemy barges off Vernazza with doubtful results.

Atlantic

Destroyer *Edison* (DD-439) is damaged when accidentally rammed by British merchant tanker *Benedick* in New York harbor.

- **17 February, Sat. --**

Pacific

Fire support ships, minesweeping units, and underwater demolition teams (UDT) arrive off Iwo Jima and encounter fire from shore batteries. UDT reconnaissance discloses that no underwater obstacles exist, and that the surf and beach conditions are suitable for landings. Infantry landing craft (gunboat) *LCI(G)-474* is sunk by shore battery, while supporting UDT operations. Japanese guns also account for damage to battleship *Tennessee* (BB-43), 24°44'N, 141°19'E; heavy cruiser *Pensacola* (CA-24) and destroyer *Leutze* (DD-481), 24°46'N, 141°19'E; as well as to infantry landing craft (gunboats) *LCI(G)-346*, *LCI(G)-348*, *LCI(G)-438*, *LCI(G)-441*, *LCI(G)-449*, *LCI(G)-450*, *LCI(G)-457*, *LCI(G)-466*, *LCI(G)-469*, *LCI(G)-471*, and *LCI(G)-473*. On board the damaged *LCI(G)-449*, her commanding officer, Lieutenant Rufus G. Herring, although badly wounded, cons his crippled ship himself, maintaining her position in support of the unfolding UDT operations until she is able to move to safety. For his heroism, Herring is awarded the [Medal of Honor](#).

Light cruisers *Phoenix* (CL-46) and *Boise* (CL-47), along with three destroyers, provide call-fire support for continuing operations on Corregidor. Light cruiser *Cleveland* (CL-55) and destroyers *O'Bannon* (DD-450) and *Taylor* (DD-468) bombard the Ternate area, south shore of Manila Bay. Fleet tug *Hidatsa* (ATF-102) is damaged by mine in Mariveles harbor, Luzon, 14°25'N, 120°30'E.

Destroyer *Haynesworth* (DD-700) sinks Japanese guardboat *No.36 Nanshin Maru* southwest of Mikimoto light and auxiliary submarine chaser *Wafu Maru* off Omaezaki Light.

Submarine *Bowfin* (SS-287) sinks Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.56* five miles east of Mikura Jima, central Honshu, 33°53'N, 139°43'E. *Bowfin* and aircraft sink guardboat *No.26 Nanshin Maru* southwest of Mikimoto light, 30°05'N, 135°15'E.

British submarine HMS *Statesman* attacks Japanese convoy off Ujong Tamiang, 04°26'N, 98°16'E, sinking motor sailships *No.3 Matsujima Maru* and *19 Nippon Maru* and *17 Nanyo Maru* and *No. 14 Nippon Maru*.

Minesweeper *Champion* (AM-314) is damaged by horizontal bomber, 26°00'N, 128°00'E.

Coast Guard cutter *Atalanta* (WPC-102), en route to assist lighthouse tender *Bramble* (WAGL-389) (damaged by grounding the previous day) collides with and damages mail boat *Neptune* near Steamer Point Light, Aleutians. District patrol craft *YP-251* escorts the damaged *Neptune* to Naval Section Base, Ketchikan, while *Atalanta*, undamaged, continues on her mission.

District patrol craft *YP-94*, returning from landing supplies on Chirikof Island runs aground at the southern end of Tugidak and Sitkinak Islands; rescue tug *ATR-68* is dispatched from Kodiak, Alaska, to render assistance, while air-sea rescue coordination succeeds in rescuing all hands (see 23 February).

USAAF B-24s (5th Air Force), on an antishipping sweep over the South China Sea, sink Japanese landing ship *T.114* off southern coast of Formosa, 23°04'N, 120°30'E.

Japanese army cargo vessel *Yamashio Maru* is sunk by aircraft, Yokohama harbor.

Japanese merchant tanker *No.28 Nanshin Maru* is sunk by aircraft, 30°00'N, 138°30'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Daibi Maru* is sunk, by aircraft, off Chichi Jima.

Japanese submarine chaser *Ch 47* is damaged by aircraft, 32°45'N, 111°56'E.

During diving operations in West Loch, Pearl Harbor, on the wreckage of tank landing ships sunk in the ammunition explosions in that area in 1944, Boatswain's Mate Second Class Owen F. P. Hammerberg risks his own life to save two fellow divers trapped while tunnelling under a wrecked LST. Although Hammerberg's efforts are successful, he suffers mortal injuries in a cave-in, to which he succumbs 18 hours later. For his heroism, Hammerberg is awarded the [Medal of Honor](#), posthumously.

Europe

Motor torpedo boat *PT-605* is sunk by striking submerged object off Ostend, Belgium.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Michael J. Stone*, in convoy UGS 72, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-300* 27 miles from Gibraltar, 35°55'N, 05°53'W. There are no casualties on board and the damaged freighter reaches her destination under her own power.

- **18 February, Sun. --**

Atlantic

District patrol craft *YP-94* sinks after running aground off Trinity Islands, 56°32'N, 154°22'W.

Pacific

Battleship *Washington* (BB-56) and destroyer *Hailey* (DD-556) are damaged in collision off Iwo Jima.

Destroyer *Waldron* (DD-699) is damaged when she intentionally rams Japanese guardboat at 29°27'N, 141°34'E. *Dortch* (DD-670) sinks Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Ayukawa Maru* northwest of Iwo Jima, 27°35'N, 121°16'E, but is damaged by gunfire in the encounter.

Light minelayer *Gamble* (DM-15) is damaged by kamikaze, 24°55'N, 141°08'E.

High speed transport *Blessman* (APD-48) is damaged by horizontal bomber, 25°05'N, 141°10'E.

TF 58 planes sink Japanese gunboat *No.2 Hiyoshi Maru* at Futami, Chichi Jima, 27°05'N, 142°11'E.

Destroyers *Barton* (DD-722), *Ingraham* (DD-694) and *Moale* (DD-693) sink Japanese guardboats *No.35 Nanshin Maru* west of Torishima, 30°00'N, 137°30'E; *No.3 Kyowa Maru* south of Honshu, 31°00'N, 137°30'E; and *No.5 Fukuichi Maru* off Torishima, 30°00'N, 141°00'E.

- **19 February, Mon. --**

Pacific

Preceded by intense naval and air bombardment, 4th and 5th Marine Divisions (Lieutenant General Holland M. Smith, USMC) land on **Iwo Jima** in **Operation DETACHMENT**. The operation is under the overall command of Admiral Raymond A. Spruance, Commander Fifth Fleet; Vice Admiral Richmond K. Turner is the Joint Expeditionary Force Commander. Naval gunfire and aircraft will support the troops ashore during this difficult campaign. Offshore, collisions account for damage of varying degrees to heavy cruiser *Chester* (CA-27) and amphibious force flagship *Estes* (AGC-12), 24°13'N, 141°25'E; heavy cruiser *Indianapolis* (CA-35) and ammunition ship *Shasta* (AE-6) (during replenishment operations); destroyer escort *Finnegan* (DE-307) and infantry landing craft *LCI-627*, 22°46'N, 141°19'E; and attack cargo ship *Starr* (AKA-67) and heavy cruiser *Salt Lake City* (CA-25), 24°46'N, 141°19'E. Destroyer *John W. Weeks* (DD-701) is damaged by shore battery, 25°32'N, 141°01'E; hospital ship *Samaritan* (AH-10) by friendly fire, 24°46'N, 141°19'E. Japanese mortar fire damages medium landing ships *LSM-74*, *LSM-145*, *LSM-245* and *LSM-323*.

Army troops covered by USMC aircraft are landed on the northwest coast of Samar and on Capul Island P.I., to insure control of San Bernardino Strait.

Japanese merchant ship *Zuiho Maru* is sunk by aircraft in Yangzte River near Kiukiang, China.

- **20 February, Tue. --**

Pacific

Army troops, covered by USMC aircraft, are landed on Biri Island P.I., to insure control of San Bernardino Strait.

Off Iwo Jima, light cruiser *Biloxi* (CL-80) is hit by friendly fire, 25°47'N, 141°15'E; destroyer *Bradford* (DD-545) collides with uncharted submerged wreckage, 24°45.8'N, 141°19.44'E; attack transports *Napa* (APA-157) and

Logan (APA-196) are damaged in collision, 24°46'N, 141°19'E; tank landing ship *LST-779* and medium landing ship *LSM-216* are damaged by mortar fire.

Submarine *Guavina* (SS-362), attacking Japanese convoy rounding Cape Padaran, French Indochina, damages merchant tanker *Eiyo Maru*, 11°22'N, 109°22'E.

Submarine *Hawkbill* (SS-366), attacking Japanese convoy about 175 miles northwest of Singapore, sinks merchant cargo ship *Daizen Maru*, 00°42'S, 106°18'E. Although *Hawkbill* claims sinking one other cargo vessel, the two ships in company with the lost freighter, *Kanto Maru* and *Nankai Maru*, survive unscathed.

Submarine *Pargo* (SS-264) sinks Japanese destroyer *Nokaze* off Cape Varella, French Indochina, 12°48'N, 109°38'E; destroyer *Kamikaze*, in company with *Nokaze* at the time of *Pargo's* attack, unsuccessfully counterattacks with depth charges.

Submarine *Pintado* (SS-387) is damaged by aerial bomb, Gulf of Siam, 07°25'N, 111°56'E, but remains on patrol.

Japanese army ship *Rozan Maru* is sunk by mine below Taku, China.

Japanese cargo vessel *No.34 Kashiwa Maru* is sunk by mine off Surabaya.

- **21 February, Wed. --**

- Pacific

- Navy and USAAF planes bomb and strafe Japanese installations at Truk.

- Off Iwo Jima, kamikazes sink escort carrier *Bismarck Sea* (CVE-95), 24°36'N, 141°48'E, and damage carrier *Saratoga* (CV-3), 24°56'N, 142°01'E (*Saratoga* is also hit by a bomb); escort carrier *Lunga Point* (CVE-94), 24°40'N, 141°44'E; tank landing ships *LST-477*, 24°40'N, 141°44'E, and *LST-809*, 24°08'N, 142°06'E; and net cargo ship *Keokuk* (AKN-4), 24°36'N, 141°48'E. Small carrier *Langley* (CVL-27) is damaged by bomb. Japanese mortar fire damages tank landing ship *LST-390*, 24°46'N, 141°19'E. Collisions account for damage to destroyer *Williamson* (DD-244) and oiler *Suamico* (AO-49), 24°39'N, 142°01'E; destroyer *Bradford* (DD-545) and tank landing ship *LST-812*; attack cargo ship *Yancey* (AKA-93) and heavy cruiser *Pensacola* (CA-24), 24°46'N, 141°19'E. Heavy weather damages medium landing ship *LSM-43*.

- Tank landing craft *LCT-175* founders and sinks in heavy weather, 04°27'N, 133°40'E.

- Destroyer *Renshaw* (DD-499) is torpedoed by Japanese submarine *RO 43* south of Siquijor Island P.I., 24°36'N, 141°48'E. *RO 43* escapes a ten-hour search by destroyers *Waller* (DD-466) and *Shaw* (DD-373) around Siquijor Island.

- Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.72* and *Coast Defense Vessel No.150* are damaged in collision off Wenchow, China.

- Submarine *Gato* (SS-212) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Tairiku Maru* in Yellow Sea off west coast of Korea, 35°24'N, 125°23'E.

- Japanese merchant tanker *Eiyo Maru*, damaged by submarine *Guavina* (SS-362) the previous day, sinks off Cape Padaran, French Indochina, 11°22'N, 109°22'E.

Japanese cargo ship *Fukusei Maru* sinks after running aground off Cape Shirazaki, Honshu, 41°00'N, 142°00'E.

- **22 February, Thu. --**

Pacific

Off Iwo Jima, damage occurs when destroyer escort *Melvin R. Nawman* (DE-416) collides with tank landing ship *LST-807*, 24°46'N, 141°19'E, and tank landing ship *LST-779* collides with pontoon barges at 24°46'N, 141°19'E.

Submarine *Becuna* (SS-319), despite presence of two escort vessels, sinks Japanese merchant tanker *Nichiyoku Maru* off Cape Padaran, French Indochina, 11°28'N, 109°06'E.

Japanese fleet tanker *No.2 Tatekawa Maru* is damaged by USAAF mine (laid by 20th Air Force B-29s) and runs aground in Padaran Bay; USAAF B-25s (5th Air Force) complete the destruction of *No.2 Tatekawa Maru* later that day, 11°08'N, 108°44'E.

Japanese submarine chaser *Ch 41* is damaged by aircraft, 10°15'N, 107°15'E.

Japanese army ship *Ikuta Maru* is sunk by aircraft, Rabaul, New Britain.

- **23 February, Fri. --**

Pacific

Motor torpedo boats sweep Coron Bay, P.I., destroying launches, lighters, a lugger, and setting fire to a large fuel dump.

Off Iwo Jima, shore batteries damage tank landing ships *LST-684* and *LST-792*, 24°46'N, 141°19'E and medium landing ships *LSM-46* and *LSM-47*; operational casualties damage hospital ship *Solace* (AH-5), motor minesweeper *YMS-361*, and medium landing ship *LSM-92*; as well as submarine chaser *PC-877* and tank landing ship *LST-716*, 24°46'N, 141°19'E; friendly fire damages submarine chaser *PCS-1461*, 24°46'N, 141°19'E.

Submarine *Hammerhead* (SS-364) intercepts Japanese convoy, sinks escort vessel *Yaku* 15 miles south of Cape Varella, French Indochina, 12°42'N, 109°30'E, and eludes counterattack by *Coast Defense Ship No.31*.

District patrol craft *YP-94*, aground and damaged off Tugidak and Sitkinak Islands, Aleutians, since 17 February, breaks in two and sinks.

USAAF B-25s (Fifth Air Force) on antishipping sweep off French Indochina, attack Japanese convoy HI-88-G and sink submarine chaser *Ch 35*, and damage submarine chaser *Ch 20* and small tanker *No.35 Nanshin Maru* off Cape Padaran, 10°15'N, 107°31'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Bizan Maru* is damaged by aircraft, 23°14'N, 116°49'E.

Mediterranean

Conversion of tank landing ships into seatrains LSTs is completed at Palermo, Sicily. *LST-32* is to ferry rolling stock from Bizerte, Tunisia, to Reggio, Italy; *LST-140* is to ferry rolling stock from Oran, Algeria, to Marseilles, France.

Open lighter *YC-693* is struck from the Naval Vessel Register this date.^[5]

Europe

U.S. freighter *Jane G. Swisshelm* is damaged by explosion of V-2 rocket at Antwerp, Belgium. Only three men of the combined complement of 8 officers, 36 enlisted men, 27 Armed Guards and one passenger report any injuries.

U.S. freighter *Henry Bacon*, straggling from Scotland-bound convoy RA 64, is sunk by German planes after her Armed Guard puts up a stiff fight against a large number of attacking aircraft, 67°00'N, 07°00'E. Seven of the 26-man Armed Guard die in battle. British destroyers HMS *Opportune*, HMS *Zest* and HMS *Zambesi* rescue the survivors.

- **24 February, Sat. --**

Pacific

Japanese resistance in Manila ceases.

Off Iwo Jima, destroyers *Heywood L. Edwards* (DD-663) and *Bryant* (DD-665) are damaged by collision, 24°47'N, 141°25'E; heavy weather damages destroyer *Moale* (DD-693), 25°00'N, 141°00'E, and medium landing ships *LSM-202* and *LSM-241*. Tank landing ship *LST-792* is damaged by shore battery fire, 24°46'N, 141°19'E. Operational casualties account for damage to high speed minesweeper *Howard* (DMS-7) and submarine chaser *SC-1027*.

Submarine *Lagarto* (SS-371) sinks Japanese submarine *I 371* and merchant cargo ship *Tatsumomo Maru* off Bungo Suido, Kyushu, 32°40'N, 132°33'E.

Submarine *Trepang* (SS-412) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Uzuki Maru* north-northeast of Mikizaki, 32°40'N, 132°33'E.

Japanese cargo vessel *Kyuryu Maru* is damaged by mine (laid by RAF planes) off Bangkok, Thailand 13°45'N, 100°35'E; she is later abandoned as a total loss and scuttled.

Japanese escort destroyer *Nomi* is damaged by aircraft, four miles south of Wanshan Island.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Yulin Maru* sinks after running aground near Qui Nohn, French Indochina, 13°48'N, 109°14'E.

Europe

German submarine *U-3007* is sunk by USAAF aircraft, Bremen, Germany.

- **25 February, Sun. --**

Pacific

Aircraft from fast carrier task force (Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher) bomb aircraft factories and airfields near Tokyo, Japan.

Destroyer *Harrison* (DD-573) is damaged by storm south of Honshu, 33°00'N, 141°00'E.

Off Iwo Jima, collisions account for damage to tank landing ship *LST-121* (accidentally rammed by medium landing ship *LSM-140*), 24°46'N, 141°19'E; tank landing ship *LST-928* [successive collisions with tank landing ships *LST-764* and *LST-713* and attack transport *Fayette* (APA-43)], 24°46'N, 141°19'E; submarine chaser *PC-578* (with medium landing ship *LSM-207*), 24°46'N, 141°19'E; and attack transport *President Adams* (APA-19) (with tank landing ship *LST-370*), 24°46'N, 141°19'E. Friendly fire damages seaplane tender

Hamlin (AV-15), 24°46'N, 141°19'E; Japanese shore battery damages infantry landing craft *LCI-760*.

Motor minesweeper *YMS-275* is damaged by mine off the Carolines, 07°20'N, 134°35'E.

Destroyers *Hazelwood* (DD-531) and *Murray* (DD-576) sink Japanese guardboats *No.1 Fuji Maru* and *Koki Maru*, 31°06'N, 141°00'E, and guardboat *No.5 Seiun Maru* off Tori Jima, 31°00'N, 141°00'E.

Submarine *Flasher* (SS-531) sinks Japanese cargo vessel *Koho Maru* near Hainan, 20°01'N, 111°19'E; USAAF B-24 attacks escorting submarine chaser *Ch 21* while she is rescuing *Koho Maru's* survivors, but does not damage her.

Submarine *Hoe* (SS-258) attacks Japanese convoy and sinks escort vessel *Shonan* south of Hainan Island 17°05'N, 110°05'E.

Submarine *Piper* (SS-409) sinks Japanese guardboat *No.3 Hosen Maru* and sinks merchant cargo ship *Koho Maru*, 20°04'N, 111°22'E.

British submarine *HMS Trenchant* attacks Japanese convoy in South Malacca Strait, sinking cargo vessel *No.9 Akiyama Maru*, 03°07'N, 99°56'E; Japanese army aircraft bomb *Trenchant* but she escapes unharmed.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kazusa Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Miyake Jima; Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *Wa 14* is damaged.

Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 208* is damaged by aircraft, location unspecified.

Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *No.5 Miyatake Maru* is damaged by aircraft, off Shirahama.

- **26 February, Mon. --**

- Pacific

- Lieutenant General Millard F. Harmon, Commanding General, USAAF Air Forces, Pacific Area, departs Guam for Oahu, via Kwajalein, in his C-87 transport. The aircraft (its last reported position 11°15'N, 174°15'E) never reaches its destination. An extensive coordinated search by all services ensues for the next 20 days but fails to locate any trace of the missing plane or its passengers.

- Off Iwo Jima, storm damages heavy cruiser *San Francisco* (CA-38), destroyers *Colahan* (DD-658), *Halsey Powell* (DD-686), *Benham* (DD-796), *John W. Weeks* (DD-701), *Stephen Potter* (DD-538), and *Preston* (DD-795); attack cargo ship *Muliphen* (AKA-61) is damaged in collision with heavy cruiser *Salt Lake City* (CA-25), 24°46'N, 141°19'E. Tank landing ships *LST-760* and *LST-884* are damaged by shore battery fire, 24°46'N, 141°19'E.

- On Iwo Jima, Pharmacist's Mate Second Class George E. Wahlen, USNR, attached to a rifle company in the 2nd Battalion, 26th Marines, retrieves a wounded leatherneck from in front of his company's lines and carries him to safety. Wahlen, wounded in the left eye before he accomplishes this heroic act, will continue to discharge his duties with similar courage over succeeding days (see 28 February and 2 March).

Light cruiser *Pasadena* (CL-65), 31°20'N, 141°15'E, and destroyer *Porterfield* (DD-682), 33°10'N, 143°30'E, are damaged by gunfire from Japanese guardboat that penetrates task group formation south of Honshu.

Minesweeper *Saunter* (AM-295) is damaged by mine off El Fraile island Luzon, 14°17'N, 120°38'E.

Planes (VC 82) from escort carrier *Anzio* (CVE-57) sink Japanese submarines *I 368*, 35 miles west of Iwo Jima, 24°43'N, 140°37'E, and *RO 43*, 50 miles west-northwest of Iwo, 25°07'N, 140°19'E.

Destroyer escort *Finnegan* (DE-307) sinks Japanese submarine *I 370* 120 miles south of Iwo Jima, 22°45'N, 141°27'E.

USAAF planes sink Japanese tanker *No.9 Takasago Maru* at 20°01'N, 111°44'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Zuisho Maru* is damaged by gunfire, near Hong Kong.

Europe

U.S. freighter *Nashaba*, bound for Ghent, Belgium, in convoy TAM 91, sinks after striking a mine in the Schelde estuary, 51°22'18"N, 02°55'25"E. There are no casualties among the 27-man Armed Guard.

• **27 February, Tue. --**

Pacific

Off Iwo Jima, collisions account for damage to small carrier *San Jacinto* (CVL-30) and oiler *Merrimack* (AO-37), 23°00'N, 139°00'E; destroyer *Colhoun* (DD-801) and attack transport *Knox* (APA-46), 24°49'N, 141°20'E [*Colhoun* collides with attack cargo ship *Libra* (AKA-12) soon thereafter]; tank landing ship *LST-121* and attack cargo ship *Starr* (AKA-67), 24°46'N, 141°19'E; tank landing ship *LST-809* and tank landing ship *LST-224*, 24°46'N, 141°19'E; Japanese shore battery fire damages attack cargo ship *Leo* (AKA-60) and tank landing ship *LST-884*; mortar fire accounts for damage to medium landing ship *LSM-92*.

Submarine *Blenny* (SS-324), attacking Japanese convoy off French Indochina, sinks merchant tanker *Amato Maru* off Cape Padaran, 11°58'N, 109°18'E.

Submarine *Scabbardfish* (SS-397) sinks Japanese guardboat *No.6 Kikaku Maru*, 100 miles northeast of Keelung, Formosa, 25°45'N, 123°20'W.

Japanese merchant vessel *No.2 Suma Maru* is sunk by aircraft 80 miles off Amoy, China.

Indian Ocean

British escort carrier *HMS Activity* rescues one boatload of survivors (20 men) from sunken freighter *Peter Silvester*, sunk on 6 February by German submarine *U-862* in the Indian Ocean (see 10 March).

Europe

German submarine *U-327* is sunk by PB4Y-1 (VPB 112), and British escort vessels *HMS Labuan*, *HMS Loch Fada* and *HMS Wild Goose*, English Channel, 49°46'N, 05°47'W.

Atlantic

Destroyer *Bainbridge* (DD-246) is damaged by paint locker explosion, 350 miles north of Puerto Rico.

- **28 February, Wed. --**

Pacific

TG 78.2 (Rear Admiral William M. Fechteler) lands Army troops (186th Regimental Combat Team, Reinforced, of the 41st Division) on Puerto Princesa, Palawan Island P.I.; TG 74.2 (Rear Admiral Ralph S. Riggs), consisting of three light cruisers and four destroyers, provides support. The operation is unopposed.

Off Iwo Jima, destroyer *Bennett* (DD-473) is damaged by aircraft bomb, 24°46'N, 141°19'E; destroyer *Terry* (DD-513) by shore battery, 24°48'N, 141°33'E and medium landing ship *LSM-42*, by mortar fire; collisions account for damage to submarine chaser *PCS-1461* (with small craft), 24°46'N, 141°19'E, and tank landing ships *LST-641* and *LST-787*, 24°46'N, 141°19'E.

On Iwo Jima, as the 3d Battalion, 27th Marines, battles a Japanese counterattack, Pharmacist's Mate First Class John H. Willis is wounded while administering first aid to casualties. Although evacuated to an aid station, he sneaks away, returning to the front lines and resuming his duties with his assigned platoon. Going to the aid of a wounded man in a shell hole, Willis is treating the casualty when enemy troops lob hand grenades into the position. Willis throws out eight in succession, but a ninth explodes in his hand killing him. His courageous actions, witnessed by his platoon, prompt them to repulse the Japanese thrust. For his conspicuous gallantry, Willis is awarded the [Medal of Honor](#), posthumously.

Elsewhere on Iwo, Pharmacist's Mate Second Class George E. Wahlen, USNR, voluntarily rushes to the aid of an adjacent platoon that has suffered heavy casualties, treating 14 men before returning to his own unit. He braves heavy mortar and rifle fire to do so, actions that, together with that performed on 26 February, establish him as a hero in the eyes of the marines he serves (see 2 March).

USAAF B-24s attack Japanese convoy in Okinawa area, sinking motor sailship *No.7 Kokoku Maru*.

Atlantic

Destroyer escort *Fowler* (DE-222) and French *L'Indiscret* sink German submarine *U-869* off Morocco, 34°30'N, 08°13'W.

March

- **1 March, Thu. --**

Pacific

TF 58 (Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher) planes pound Japanese ground installations, airfields, and shipping in the Okinawa area. TF 58 planes sink torpedo boat *Manazuru* off Okinawa, 26°17'N, 127°35'E; minelayer *Tsubame* and damage escort destroyer *Fukue* and auxiliary minesweeper *Nuwajima* off Ishigaki Jima, 24°23'N, 124°12'E; supply ship *Kinezaki* and army cargo ship *No.11 Hoshi Maru* in Kuji Bay, 28°10'N, 129°05'E; gunboat *Chohakusan Maru* and merchant cargo ship *Ryukyu Maru* off Naha, transport *Toyosaka Maru* off Miyako-retto, 24°46'N, 125°30'E; cargo ships *Kinzan Maru* off Okinawa,

merchant cargo ships *Taiken Maru* off Miyako Jima and *Luzon Maru* off Naze. They also sink cargo ship *Kiku Maru* and damage torpedo boat *Tomozuru* and minesweeper *Seki Maru* off Amami-O-Shima, and damage submarine chaser *Ch 49* off Ishikiri, Suwanose Island. Japanese merchant ships *Dosei Maru* and *Otsu Maru* are sunk by gunfire in Kuji Bay and off Miyako Jima, respectively.

USAAF B-25s (5th Air Force) sink Japanese transport *Hokuhi Maru* off Mako, Pescadores, 23°35'N, 119°35'E.

Army troops supported by naval gunfire and USAAF planes land on Lubang Island P.I.

Task unit consisting of destroyer *Cony* (DD-508), destroyer escort *Formoe* (DE-509), minesweepers *Sentry* (AM-299) and *Salute* (AM-294) and two infantry landing craft (LCI), begin minesweeping and reconnaissance of Baler Bay and Casiguran Sound, Luzon, to investigate a possible fleet anchorage and determine composition of Japanese forces in the vicinity. Army scouts and interpreters are embarked for use ashore.

Submarine *Kete* (SS-369) departs Guam for second war patrol. Contact will be maintained with her until 20 March, but she is never seen again.^[6]

Off Iwo Jima, destroyers *Terry* (DD-513) and *Colhoun* (DD-801) are damaged by shore battery fire, 24°47'N, 141°21'E; medium landing ship *LSM-59* by operational casualty.

Submarine *Sterlet* (SS-392) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Tateyama Maru*, 34°11'N, 139°44'E.

USAAF B-24s attack Japanese convoy, damaging tanker *Terushima Maru* and cargo vessel *Kashima Maru*, 19°51'N, 108°50'E.

USAAF B-24s (14th Air Force) sink Japanese merchant vessel tanker *Eisho Maru* in Tonkin Gulf, 18°32'N, 108°11'E.

Japanese merchant ship *Daishin Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Manila.

Japanese merchant vessel cargo ship *Eijo Maru* is sunk by grounding in Shihtao Bay, off Shantung Peninsula, 36°09'N, 120°30'E.

Japanese army cargo ship *Daia Maru* is damaged by aircraft.

Europe

U.S. freighter *Robert L. Vann*, in convoy ATM 76, sinks after striking a mine off Ostend, Belgium, 51°22'N, 02°53'E. There are no casualties among the 27-man Armed Guard.

• **2 March, Fri. --**

Pacific

Task group (Rear Admiral Francis E. M. Whiting), consisting of three light cruisers and eight destroyers bombards Japanese positions on Okino Daito Jima, Ryukyus.

Destroyers (DesDiv 109) bombard Japanese positions on Parece Vela Reef in the Philippine Sea.^[7]

Off Iwo Jima, light cruiser *Biloxi* (CL-80) is damaged by shore battery fire; destroyer *Bennett* (DD-477), by dud bomb or torpedo; collisions account for damage to attack cargo ship *Stokes* (AKA-68), 24°46'N, 141°19'E; tank landing ship *LST-247* [with attack cargo ship *Selinur* (AKA-41)], 24°46'N, 141°19'E; tank landing ship *LST-224* [successive collisions with support landing craft *LCS-52* and tank landing ship *LST-634*], 24°46'N, 141°19'E; tank landing ship *LST-642* [with tank landing ship *LST-784*], 24°46'N, 141°19'E; and attack transport *Berrien* (AP-62); cargo ship *Hercules* (AK-41) is damaged when she runs aground; tank landing craft *LCT-1029* sinks.

Submarine *Bowfin* (SS-287) sinks Japanese transport *Chokai Maru* northeast of Miyake Jima, 33°50'N, 139°22'E.

British submarine *HMS Terrapin* attacks Japanese Penang-to-Singapore convoy in Malacca Straits, 03°28'N, 101°00'E, sinking small cargo vessel *Sanko Maru*.

PB4Y-2 (VPB-119) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking transport/ferry *Nichirin Maru* in East China Sea about 180 miles east by south of Wenchow, China, 27°12'N, 124°42'E.

Japanese transport *Kasei Maru* is sunk by unknown causes off Shiogama, northern Honshu.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Sekiyo Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Nansei Shoto.

Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.13* is damaged by aircraft, 19°47'N, 124°04'E.

USAAF B-25s (5th Air Force) sink Japanese landing ship *T.143* off Mako, Pescadores, 23°35'N, 121°35'E.

Mediterranean

Seatrain tank landing ship *LST-32* (see 23 February) is damaged when she strikes a submerged wreck at Reggio Calabria on her first lift of 20 railroad cars from Bizerte.

• **3 March, Sat. --**

Pacific

Army troops land on Masbate, Burias and Ticao Islands, P.I., supported by naval gunfire and USMC planes. Only small Japanese garrisons are found, requiring only minimal naval forces for support.

Attack transport *Bolivar* (APA-34) is damaged by shore battery off Iwo Jima, 24°46'N, 141°19'E.

On Iwo Jima, Pharmacist's Mate Second Class George E. Wahlen, USNR, wounded in the back the day before and having already performed heroic acts treating casualties on 26 and 28 February, is wounded a third time as he treats fallen shipmates. Unable to walk, he crawls 50 yards to render aid to a wounded marine. For this and previous acts of valor, Wahlen will be awarded the [Medal of Honor](#).

Elsewhere on Iwo, Pharmacist's Mate Third Class Jack Williams, USNR, while serving as an aid man with a marine rifle company, is thrice wounded as he goes to treat a casualty. Although in a partial state of shock from his wounds, the corpsman shields the marine with his own body as he administers medical care first to the wounded man and then to himself. Instead of going to the rear,

Williams remains at the front and tends a second wounded marine. As he finally struggles to the rear to have his own hurts treated, the corpsman is hit a fourth time, and killed. For his unwavering determination to carry out his mission, Williams is awarded the [Medal of Honor](#), posthumously.

Submarine *Sea Robin* (SS-407) sinks Japanese transport *Suiten Maru* off Malang, Java, 06°34'S, 113°01'E.

Submarine *Trepang* (SS-412) sinks Japanese gunboat *No.2 Nissho Maru* off southern Honshu, near Mijake Jima, 34°05'N, 139°54'E.

Submarine *Tuna* (SS-203) lands supplies on northeast coast of Borneo.

USAAF B-24 sinks Japanese cargo vessel *No.1 Yaei Maru* in Tonkin Gulf, 20°10'N, 109°31'E.

RAAF planes lay mines (70% U.S.-made, 30% British) in Yulinakin Bay, Hainan Island; Japanese oiler *Hario* hits one and sinks off Cape Bastian, 18°10'N, 109°40'E.

Japanese merchant tanker *No.1 Iyasaka Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Hainan Island.

- **4 March, Sun. --**

- Pacific

- Destroyers *Yarnall* (DD-541) and *Ringgold* (DD-500) are damaged in collision while simulating night torpedo attack, 12°15'N, 138°08'E.

- Submarine *Baya* (SS-318) attacks Japanese convoy HI-98, sinking merchant tanker *Palembang Maru* off Cape Varella, French Indochina, 12°50'N, 109°30'E (see 5 March).

- Submarine *Tilefish* (SS-307) sinks Japanese fishing vessel *Shiko Maru* off Setsuko Saki, 28°15'N, 129°08'E.

- British submarine HMS *Clyde* sinks Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Kiku Maru* off western Sumatra.

- British submarines HMS *Trenchant* and HMS *Terrapin* sink Japanese submarine chaser *Ch 8* in central Malacca Strait, 04°04'N, 110°35'E.

- USAAF planes (14th Air Force) lay mines in Yangtze River; Japanese ship *Wan Shih Maru* is sunk north of Shanghai.

- RAAF Venturas attack Japanese convoy off Soembawa Island sinking small cargo vessels *No.3 Kiri Maru* and *No.4 Matsu Maru*, 08°17'S, 118°56'E.

- **5 March, Mon. --**

- Pacific

- Tank landing ship *LST-642* is damaged in collision off Iwo Jima, 24°46'N, 141°19'E.

- Submarine *Bashaw* (SS-241) attacks same Japanese convoy (HI-98) vexed by *Baya* (SS-318) the day before, sinking oiler *Ryoei Maru* and army tanker *Seishin Maru* off Tourane, French Indochina, 16°47'N, 108°41'E.

- Submarine *Peto* (SS-265) is damaged by aerial bombs in South China Sea off Hainan, 20°57'N, 111°56'E, but remains on patrol.

Submarine *Sea Robin* (SS-407), attacking Japanese convoy in the Java Sea, sinks gunboat *Man-yo Maru*, 05°50'S, 113°46'E, auxiliary netlayer *Nagara Maru*, 05°23'S, 114°00'E, and merchant cargo ship *Shoyu Maru*, 05°23'S, 114°60'E.

Submarine *Tilefish* (SS-307) damages Japanese minesweeper *W.15* off Akuke Jima, Japan, 29°36'N, 129°45'E. Although run aground by *No.51 Banshu Maru* to facilitate her salvage, *W.15* is later regarded as a total loss.

TF 58 planes sink Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 224* off Mako, Pescadores.

USAAF B-25s (5th Air Force) attack Japanese convoy SAYU-02, sinking auxiliary submarine chasers *Kasuga Maru* and *Ujina Maru* and merchant cargo ship *Shoto Maru* off coast of French Indochina, 15°32'N, 108°37'E.

USAAF B-24 (13th Air Force) sinks Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 110* in Sape Strait, southeast of the Celebes, 08°36'S, 119°19'E.

Support landing craft *LCS-127* sinks after grounding off San Clemente Island California.

- **6 March, Tue. --**

- Pacific

- Attack cargo ship *Yancey* (AKA-93) is damaged by collision off Iwo Jima.

- USAAF B-24 (possibly a Navy PB4Y) sinks Japanese salvage vessel *Toei Maru* east of Sanmen Wan, 29°00'N, 122°00'E.

- USAAF planes attack Japanese convoy at 20°00'N, 112°30'E, and although the airmen believe that they sink a "destroyer," their quarry, actually *Coast Defense Vessel No. 207*, survives undamaged.

- Japanese army vessel tanker *Rikko Maru* is stranded and sunk near Keelung, Formosa, 25°09'N, 121°44'E.

- Japanese merchant cargo ship *Hokusui Maru* is sunk (most likely by drifting Japanese mine) off Otabe, Hokkaido, 41°27'N, 140°15'E.

- Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.22 Suma Maru* is damaged by aircraft, four miles northwest of Fukikaku Light.

- **7 March, Wed. --**

- Mediterranean

- Motor torpedo boats *PT-305* and *PT-307* are accidentally bombed (but not damaged) by friendly aircraft while patrolling southwest of Genoa, Italy.

- TG 89.9, comprising aviation supply ship *Tackle* (IX-217) and fleet tug *Moreno* (ATF-87), departs Naples for Odessa, USSR, with supplies for American POWs liberated from German camps by Soviet troops.

- Pacific

- Navy task unit completes its work in the Baler Bay-Casiguran Sound area, having found both bodies of water to afford excellent anchorages; it encounters no mines in Casiguran Sound but sweeps 98 in Baler Bay. Not more than 100 Japanese troops are determined to be in the vicinity.

Japanese submarine chaser *Ch 51* is damaged by aircraft off Hachijo Jima.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Enkei Maru* is damaged, most likely by marine casualty, 30°42'N, 128°20'E.

- **8 March, Thu. --**

General

Inter-American Conference, in session at Mexico City since 21 February 1945, ends.

Europe

Submarine chaser *PC-564* engages German minesweepers *M 412*, *M 432*, *M 442* and *M 452* and nine smaller craft off Chaussey. The Germans are bound for the port of Granville, France (see 9 March).

Pacific

Covered lighter *YF-926*, being towed to Pearl Harbor, T.H., founders in heavy weather and sinks.

USAAF aircraft sink Japanese landing ship *T.143* off Formosa, 23°35'N, 121°35'E.

Japanese guardboat *No.3 Daikoku Maru* is sunk by U.S. aircraft east of Ogari Jima.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Toyo Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Hankow, China.

USAAF aircraft (5th Air Force) sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *I shima Maru*, 22°34'N, 114°53'E.

USAAF B-24s (14th Air Force) sink Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.69* southeast of Hainan Island 19°02'N, 111°50'E (see 16 March).

Navy PBMs bomb Japanese convoy, sinking cargo vessel *No.21 Yusen Maru* off Chinman Tao, 24°27'N, 118°19'E.

USAAF B-24s (10th Air Force) attack Japanese shipping in Andaman Sea, sinking cargo vessel *Hoyo Maru*, 13°00'N, 98°00'E.

USAAF B-24s bomb Japanese shipping at Hong Kong, sinking guardboat *Hyushin Maru* off St. John Island 21°42'N, 112°44'E.

USAAF P-51s (14th Air Force) attack Japanese shipping in the Yangtze, off Hankow, sinking cargo vessel *Toyo Maru* (ex-Chinese *Tang Yang*), 30°33'N, 114°17'E.

Japanese cargo vessel *Kwan-Shan Maru* is sunk by mine off Kiangyin, China, 31°55'N, 120°16'E.

- **9 March, Fri. --**

Mediterranean

Motor torpedo boats *PT-304*, *PT-308* and *PT-313* engage German flak lighters off Point Mesco, Italy, claiming one sunk, one hit, and one possibly hit; *PT-304* is damaged by shrapnel during the attack. During retirement, however, *PT-308* is damaged when she is accidentally rammed by *PT-304*.

Europe

Submarine chaser *PC-564*, outgunned and badly damaged, manages to outrun

the German force engaged late on 8 March and is grounded on the French coast at Pierre de Herpin light. French fishing boats arrive to help the wounded, and the next day, *PC-564* is towed into St. Malo harbor. Shortly after *PC-564* is knocked out of action, German raiding party attacks Granville, demolishing installations, releasing German POWs held there, and sinking small British freighters *Kyle Castle*, *Nephrite*, and *Parkwood*, and Norwegian merchantman *Heien*. The Germans seize collier *Eskwood* and tow her to Jersey, in the Channel Islands. German minesweeper *M 412* runs aground and is blown up when it is realized that extricating her from her predicament is impossible in the time allowed.

Pacific

PB4Y carries out unsuccessful attack on submarine chaser *Ch 21*, 22°23'N, 115°03'E.

- **10 March, Sat. --**

Pacific

TG 78.1 (Rear Admiral Forrest B. Royal) lands Army troops (41st Infantry [Reinforced] less 186th RCT) near Zamboanga, Mindanao; landing is supported by naval gunfire and USAAF planes. Japanese shore batteries, however, sink tank landing ships *LST-591* and *LST-626*, and infantry landing craft *LCI-710* and *LCI-779*. Attacking troops encounter only light mortar and artillery fire.

Submarine *Kete* (SS-369) attacks Japanese Kagoshima-to-Naha convoy north of Okinawa, sinking transport *Keizan Maru* and army cargo ships *Sanka Maru* and *Dokan Maru* about 100 miles northwest of Amami O Shima, 29°48'N, 128°02'E; *Coast Defense Vessel No.44* and auxiliary minesweeper *No.2 Shinto Maru* carry out ineffective countermeasures.

USAAF B-25s (5th Air Force) sink Japanese army tanker *Seishin Maru* off Tourane, French Indochina, 16°01'N, 108°10'E.

Indian Ocean

Submarine *Rock* (SS-274) rescues the last 15 survivors from U.S. freighter *Peter Silvester*, sunk on 6 February by German submarine *U-862* (see 13 February).

- **11 March, Sun. --**

Europe

LCVPs (TG 122.5.1) go into action 200 miles from the sea, sailors assisting in erecting and maintaining an army pontoon bridge at the Remagen bridgehead. Navy support of the army's crossing the Rhine River proves invaluable and adds greatly to the successful invasion of the enemy's homeland.

USAAF heavy bombers (Eighth Air Force) sink German submarines *U-2515* and *U-2530* during raid on Hamburg, Germany.

PB4Y-1 (VPB 103) sinks German submarine *U-681* southwest of the Scilly Islands, 49°53'N, 06°31'W.

Pacific

Army troops landed on 10 March take Zamboanga, Mindanao

Japanese land attack planes [FRANCES], flying direct from Kanoya, Japan, attack U.S. fleet anchorage at Ulithi; one FRANCES damages carrier *Randolph* (CV-15), 10°01'N, 139°40'E, another crashes into Sorlen Island. Salvage vessel

Current (ARS-22) is damaged by collision with *Randolph* during fire-fighting operations.

Submarine *Segundo* (SS-398) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Shori Maru* off Shori Island southern Korea, 34°25'N, 127°54'E.

PBM-3D (VPB 28) attacks Japanese convoy in South China Sea, sinking water carrier *Wayo Maru* about 40 miles southeast of Macao, 21°31'N, 112°28'E.

USAAF B-25s bomb Japanese shipping off Tourane, French Indochina, sinking motor sailships *Kinsei Maru*, *Namikiri Maru* and *No.3 Hinode Maru*.

Japanese merchant trawler *Koko Maru* is sunk by USAAF mine in Yangtze River, 31°22'N, 121°34'E.

- **12 March, Mon. --**

- Pacific

- Japanese guardboats *No.1 Hinode Maru* and *Shosei Maru*, are sunk by U.S. aircraft east of the Ryukyus, 26°54'N, 131°38'E.

- **13 March, Tue. --**

- Pacific

- USAAF B-24s and B-25s on antishipping sweeps off the China coast between Foochow and Hong Kong attack Japanese convoy KAI-311, sinking cargo vessels *No.12 Aikoku Maru* and *37 Kokoku Maru* and *18 Tarumizu Maru* and *No.34 Tarumizu Maru*.

- USAAF B-24s (5th Air Force) sink Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.66* and transport *Masajima Maru* in South China Sea east of Swatow, 23°30'N, 117°10'E.

- Army barge PSB 111 runs aground on northeast side of Seguam Island Aleutians, but is pulled free by fleet tug *Sarsi* (ATF-111).

- **14 March, Wed. --**

- Pacific

- Destroyer *Cotten* (DD-669) and *Dortch* (DD-670) sink Japanese guardboats *Futa Maru* and *No.17 Kaiko Maru* off the Bonins, 30°58'N, 144°54'E.

- PVs (VPB 151) begin operating from Iwo Jim's Motoyama Airfield No.1, thus bringing Japanese guardboats operating off the home islands within range of rocket-firing planes.

- Submarine *Bream* (SS-243) sinks Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Keihin Maru*, 05°41'S, 114°03'E.

- Submarine *Rock* (SS-274) lands supplies on Lombok Island N.E.I.

- Submarine *Trepang* (SS-412) sinks Japanese guardboat *Kaiko Maru* off Inubosaki, 35°40'N, 141°00'E.

- British submarine HMS *Spirit* sinks Japanese auxiliary sailing vessel *Ryuhō Maru* off Massalambo Island 05°34'S, 114°26'E.

- USAAF B-24 on antishipping sweep off south China coast sinks Japanese army ship *No.3 Taisei Maru*, 03°35'N, 112°10'E.

USAAF B-29s (274 strong) pound Osaka; Japanese merchant cargo ships *Shiraume Maru* and *Shirogane Maru* are sunk in the fire bomb raid that lays waste to the heart of the city.

USAAF B-24s damage Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 235* off Mako, Pescadores.

Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Yatsushiro Maru* is damaged by aircraft, south of Wenchow, China.

Attacks against Japanese convoy KAI-311 continue, and USAAF B-24s and B-25s sink small cargo vessel *No.15 Gokoku Maru* off south China coast.

USAAF B-24 sinks small Japanese cargo vessel *No.3 Taisei Maru* off Hong Kong.

Navy aircraft sink small Japanese cargo vessel *No.1 Taiki Maru* and damage guardboat *No.1 Shinya Maru*, 27°10', 132°09'E.

Coastal yacht *Amethyst* (AMc-3) is damaged in collision with U.S. merchantman *Platte Park* 150 miles northwest of San Francisco.

- **15 March, Thu. --**

- Pacific

- On Iwo Jima, Pharmacist's Mate Second Class Francis J. Pierce, assigned to a marine rifle battalion, is leading a stretcher party to a forward aid station when the group comes under heavy Japanese rifle and machine gun fire that wounds the other corpsman and two of eight stretcher bearers. Pierce takes charge, carries the newly wounded men to shelter and treats them before he draws his pistol and engages the enemy, covering the litter bearers while they carry three wounded leathernecks to safety. After treating a hemorrhaging casualty who is hit again while the corpsman is taking care of him, Pierce expends the last of his ammunition and kills the enemy soldier who fired on them. Pierce, although exhausted and out of ammunition, makes two trips carrying wounded marines 200 yards over fire-swept terrain (see 16 March).

- TF 92 (Rear Admiral John L. McCrea), consisting of light cruisers *Richmond* (CL-9), *Concord* (CL-10) and *Trenton* (CL-11) and seven destroyers, bombards Japanese installations on Matsuwa, Kurils.

- Submarine *Bream* (SS-243) is damaged by depth charges off North Borneo, 05°36'N, 114°33'E, and is forced to terminate her patrol.

- USAAF B-24s bomb Japanese convoy YUMO-01, which had departed Hong Kong the day before, but while the attack upon cargo ship *Tatsumiya Maru* proves unsuccessful, the Liberators damage one of the escorts, *Coast Defense Vessel No.36*, 23°03'N, 116°52'E.

- USAAF B-24 sinks Japanese auxiliary powered sailing vessel *Hoseki Maru* in Tonkin Gulf, 18°34'N, 108°37'E.

- Japanese submarine chaser *Ch 21* is damaged by marine casualty off the south end of Namoa Island.

- Japanese netlayer *Wakamiya Maru* is damaged by marine casualty off Keelung, Formosa.

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Parker* (DD-604) and three British destroyers carry out anti-shipping sweep in the Gulf of Genoa, but encounter no enemy vessels.

Atlantic

Submarine *Lancetfish* (SS-296) is sunk by accidental improper operation of torpedo tube doors, Boston (Massachusetts) Navy Yard.

- **16 March, Fri. --**

Pacific

Iwo Jima is declared secured. Nevertheless, this day Pharmacist's Mate Second Class Francis J. Pierce, who distinguished himself the previous day, volunteers to accompany a patrol forward. Shot through the left arm, Pierce directs the treatment of a wounded marine and refusing having his own wounds dressed, fires his pistol to draw enemy fire. He remains in that exposed position in the line of fire until the casualty is safely borne away. For his actions this day and the previous one, Pierce is awarded the [Medal of Honor](#).

Transported in medium landing craft (LCM) and one submarine chaser (SC), and supported by gunfire from three destroyers, two LCI(R), three LCS(L) and 2 LCI(M), Army troops (a reinforced company) land on Basilan Island Sulu Archipelago, P.I.

Tank landing ship *LST-928* is damaged, by grounding, off Iwo Jima, 24°46'N, 141°19'E.

Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.69* sinks while in tow, eight miles off Hong Kong, 22°00'N, 113°40'E, as the result of damage inflicted by USAAF B-24s (14th Air Force) on 8 March.

Japanese guardboat *No.19 Gokoku Maru* is sunk by U.S. aircraft, Kikaiga Jima, Japan.

Japanese merchant tanker *No.1 Nanryu Maru* is sunk by aircraft, 29°09'N, 122°01'E.

- **17 March, Sat. --**

Mediterranean

Motor torpedo boats *PT-303* and *PT-305* engage two German F-lighters off Point Mesco, Italy; *PT-303* is damaged when she is accidentally rammed by *PT-305*.

Europe

LCVPs (TG 122.5.1) ferry 2,500 army troops across the Rhine River.

Pacific

Submarine *Sealion* (SS-315) sinks Bangkok-bound Thai oiler *Samui* off Trengganu coast, 05°18'N, 103°23'E.

Submarine *Spot* (SS-413) attacks Japanese Keelung-to-Shimonoseki convoy TAMO-49 escorted by escort vessel *Ikina*, *Coast Defense Vessel No. 41* and minesweeper *W.17*, sinking army cargo vessel *Nanking Maru* off Yushiyama Island 25°28'N, 120°10'E, and damaging cargo ship *I komasan Maru*, which is beached off Matsu Island 26°07'N, 119°57'E, to permit salvage. *Spot* is damaged, however, by gunfire from one or more of the escorts. Later that day, USAAF B-25s further damage *Ikomasan Maru* (see 26 March).

PB4Y attacks Japanese convoy TAMO-49, damaging cargo vessel *Kitakata Maru*, 29°09'N, 122°07'E.

U.S. freighter *Oliver Kelly*, while proceeding through Surigao Strait, is damaged by what is most likely a dud torpedo; Japanese midget submarine activity during this month is recorded from bases on the coast of Cebu.

Japanese transport *Ken'Yo Maru* is sunk by aircraft, Kagoshima Bay.

Japanese cargo ship *Mansei Maru* is sunk by USAAF mine in the Yangtze, near Shanghai, 31°19'N, 121°42'E.

USAAF B-29s (20th Air Force) bomb Kobe, Japan, damaging Japanese submarine *I 158* and cargo vessels *Enkei Maru* and *Teika Maru* (ex-*Cap Varella*).

- **18 March, Sun. --**

- Pacific

- TF 58 (Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher) planes bomb airfields on southern Kyushu and shipping, attacking convoy KATA-504, escorted by *Coast Defense Vessel No.29* and submarine chaser *Ch 58*, damaging cargo vessel *Kiyo Maru* and sinking transport *Kenyo Maru* and tanker *No.1 Nansei Maru*, and Okinawa-bound auxiliary sailing vessels *Kamo Maru* and *Tenjin Maru* off Noma Misaki, 31°24'N, 130°07'E. Off Kyushu, Japanese planes bomb carriers *Enterprise* (CV-6), 30°50'N, 133°42'E, and *Yorktown* (CV-10), 30°40'N, 133°49'E, damaging both. *Intrepid* (CV-11) is crashed by kamikaze and hit by friendly fire, 30°47'N, 133°50'E.

- TG 78.3 (Rear Admiral Arthur D. Struble) lands Army troops (40th Division, less one RCT) on Iloilo, off the southeast coast of Panay, under covering fire of light cruiser *Cleveland* (CL-55) and three destroyers (TU 74.2.2); the troops encounter only token resistance.

- PV-1s (VPB 128), on the basis of reports from Filipino guerillas, bomb two Japanese midget submarines in Davao Gulf.

- Tank landing ship *LST-635* is damaged by grounding, P.I., 11°05'N, 125°05'E.

- Submarine *Balao* (SS-285) sinks Japanese merchant trawler *No.2 Daito Maru*, 35°00'N, 123°51'E.

- Submarine *Springer* (SS-414), attacking Japanese convoy, sinks fast transport *T.18* and damages minesweeper *W 17* near Mutsure Jima, Ryukyus, 26°38'N, 127°12'E.

- Submarine *Trigger* (SS-237) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *No.3 Tsukushi Maru* northwest of Okinawa, 28°05'N, 126°44'E.

- TF 58 planes sink Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *No.43 Yusen Maru* 45 miles southwest of Satamisaki Light; planes from carrier *Hornet* (CV-12) sink merchant vessel *No.1 Nansei Maru* and damage *Tokuho Maru* and *Asahi Maru* in Yamakawa harbor.

- Japanese landing ship *T.137* is damaged by aircraft, Yaene, Hachijo Jima.

- Japanese merchant cargo ship *Taiju Maru* is sunk by aircraft, off Hime Jima.

Japanese ship *Koichi Maru* is damaged by aircraft, Amachi harbor, Kochi-Ken.

Atlantic

Destroyer escorts *Menges* (DE-320), *Mosley* (DE-321), *Pride* (DE-323), and *Lowe* (DE-325) sink German submarine *U-866*, northwest Atlantic, 43°18'N, 61°08'W.

- **19 March, Mon. --**

Pacific

TF 58 (Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher) pounds airfields on Kyushu, and shipping at Kure and Kobe, Honshu, destroying incomplete Japanese submarine *I 205* in drydock, and damaging battleships *Yamato* *Hyuga* and *Haruna*; carriers *Ikoma*, *Katsuragi*, *Ryuho* and *Amagi*; small carrier *Hosho*; escort carrier *Kaiyo*; heavy cruiser *Tone*, light cruiser *Oyodo*, submarines *I 400* and *RO 67*, auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 229* at Kure; and escort destroyer *Kaki* at Osaka.

Japanese planes single out carriers for attack: off Shikoku, *Wasp* (CV-18) is bombed, 32°16'N, 134°05'E. while friendly fire hits *Essex* (CV-9), 32°10'N, 134°20'E. On board *Franklin* (CV-13) damaged off Kyushu, 32°01'N, 133°57'E, as the ship is rocked by a succession of explosions, Lieutenant Commander Joseph T. O'Callaghan, ChC, the carrier's Roman Catholic chaplain, ministers to wounded and dying men irregardless of faith or creed, organizes and leads fire-fighting parties, directs the jettisoning of ammunition and the flooding of a magazine, and mans a hose to cool hot, armed bombs rolling on the listing deck. O'Callaghan's courage and fortitude inspires his shipmates. Elsewhere on board, Lieutenant (j.g.) Donald A. Gary calms anxious shipmates trapped in a smoke-filled compartment and after repeated tries through dark, debris-filled passageways manages to find a way to escape. Later, he organizes and leads fire-fighting parties in the blazing inferno of the hangar deck, and then enters number three fireroom to raise steam in one boiler in the face of extreme hazards. [O'Callaghan](#) and [Gary](#) will be awarded Medals of Honor.

Submarine *Balao* (SS-285) attacks Japanese convoy MOTA- 43, sinking troopship *Hakozaki Maru* and damaging transport *Tatsuharu Maru* off the Yangtze estuary about 90 miles north-northwest of Shanghai, 33°10'N, 122°10'E, and sinking merchant fishing vessels *No.1 Katsura Maru* and *I Eiho Maru* and *No.2 Eiho Maru*, 34°40'N, 122°55'E.

Submarine *Bluefish* (SS-222) damages Japanese guardboat *No.1 Shinya Maru*, 31°35'N, 137°50'E.

PV-1s (VPB 128) bomb and damage Japanese midget submarine at Cebu; strike is repeated the next day.

Japanese river gunboat *Suma* is sunk by USAAF mine (laid by 14th Air Force planes on 4 March), in the Yangtze, 51 miles above Kiangyin, China, 32°00'N, 120°00'E. Mine also claims merchant ship *Kozan Maru*, on the Yangtze below Chinkiang, 32°05'N, 119°56'E.

USAAF mine also sinks Japanese merchant tanker *Sarawak Maru*, repaired after her brush with *Besugo* (SS-321) on 24 January 1945, 10 miles off Horsburgh Light, Singapore, 01°25'N, 104°36'E.

Japanese merchant vessel *Mikawasan Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Iyo.

Japanese escort destroyer *Shinnan* is damaged by aircraft, 33°47'N, 131°35'E.

Japanese landing ship *T.105* is damaged by aircraft, near Ujina.

Japanese merchant vessel *Rashu Maru* is damaged by aircraft, off Uzaki, Hyogo prefecture.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Teiritsu Maru* is damaged by aircraft, 34°16'N, 13°03'E.

Europe

U.S. freighter *Hadley F. Brown*, in convoy TAG 12, is damaged by mine at entrance to Schelde Estuary, 51°22'N, 02°53'E. There are no casualties among the 27-man Armed Guard, and the ship reaches Flushing under tow soon thereafter.

• **20 March, Tue. --**

Mediterranean

Destroyer *Parker* (DD-604) shells German mortar positions, supply dumps, dugouts and buildings on the Franco-Italian border.

Pacific

TF 92 (Captain John M. Worthington) (six destroyers) sorties from Attu to proceed to Paramushiro to bombard Japanese installations in the Suribachi Wan area. Heavy ice, however, will cause a cancellation of the operation.

Off Japan, carrier *Enterprise* (CV-6) is damaged by friendly fire, 30°01'N, 134°30'E, and destroyer *Halsey Powell* (DD-686) is crashed by kamikaze at 30°27'N, 134°28'E. TF 38 planes sink Japanese guardboat *No.1 Kochi Maru* east of Honshu.

Submarine *Blenny* (SS-324) attacks Japanese convoy HI-88I off coast of French Indochina, sinking merchant tankers *No.21 Nanshin Maru* and *Hosen Maru*, and fishing boat *Yamakuni Maru* about 40 miles south of Cam Ranh Bay, 11°18'N, 108°57'E (see 21 March).

Submarine *Devilfish* (SS-292) is damaged by suicide plane off Volcano Islands, 25°36'N, 137°30'E, and is forced to terminate her patrol.

Submarine *Perch* (SS-313) lands men on east coast of Borneo.

Japanese army ship *No.1 Genzan Maru* is sunk by aircraft off coast of French Indochina.

USAAF B-25s attack Japanese convoy, sinking store ships *Heishin Maru* and *Fukusei Maru*, and damaging torpedo boat *Hatsukari* off Tungshan, China, 23°42'N, 137°15'E.

Japanese *Gyoraitei No.219* is damaged by aircraft, Toba, 30°06'N, 122°22'E.

Arctic

German submarines attack convoy JW 65 off Kola Inlet; *U-995* torpedoes U.S. freighter *Horace Bushnell* 24 miles east of Kilden Light, 69°23'N, 35°17'W.

Heavy seas prevent British destroyer HMS *Orwell* from beaching the crippled ship, but the warship embarks the freighter's survivors (including the entire 27-man Armed Guard). Russian tugs later beach the merchantman, which is subsequently declared a total loss. *U-968* torpedoes freighter *Thomas Donaldson*

about five miles off Kilden Island 68°26'30"N, 33°44'20"W. British corvettes HMS *Bamborough* Castle, HMS *Oxlip*, and HMS *Honeysuckle* rescue survivors; attempt to tow the ship to safety fails and she sinks a half mile from Kilden Island.

- **21 March, Wed. --**

Pacific

Japanese make first known operational use of piloted bombs [Baka] in unsuccessful air attack against TF 58.

Patrols land on Guimaras Island across Iloilo Strait from Iloilo, Panay, and find it clear of Japanese troops.

Two U.S. motor torpedo boats, supported by a British destroyer, attack enemy shipping in Sarawak harbor.

Japanese convoy HI-88I comes under attack off coast of French Indochina. Submarine *Baya* (SS-318) sinks auxiliary netlayer *Kainan Maru* off Cam Ranh Bay, 12°00'N, 109°17'E, and although damaged by depth charges, 11°55'N, 109°18'E, remains on patrol. USAAF B-25s (Fifth Air Force) sink submarine chaser *Ch 33*, cable layer *Tateishi*, and cargo vessels *No.1 Motoyama Maru* and *2 Fushimi Maru* and *No.6 Takasago Maru* and damage submarine chaser *Ch 9* off Nha Trang, 11°50'N, 109°18'E. Surviving vessels, the damaged *Ch 9* and merchant tanker *No.30 Nanshin Maru* take refuge at Nha Trang and are assigned to convoy HI-88-J.

Japanese gunboat *Okitsu* is damaged by U.S. aircraft near Cape Hung Hua.

- **22 March, Thu. --**

Pacific

Patrols land on Inampulugan Island in Guimaras Strait, and destroy a Japanese mine control station and eliminate the small garrison there.

Japanese aircraft attack American shipping in Lingayen Gulf. During the ensuing anti-aircraft barrage, friendly fire damages U.S. freighter *Ransom A. Moore*; there are, however, no casualties among the merchant crew or the 27-man Armed Guard.

Tank landing ship *LST-727* is damaged by grounding off Iwo Jima, 24°46'N, 141°19'E.

Submarine *Perch* (SS-313) sinks Japanese *Communication Vessel No. 463* en route to Balikpapan, 01°03'S, 117°20'E.

Japanese submarine chaser *Ch 23* is damaged by mine at mouth of Yangtze River.

Covered lighters *YF-724* and *YF-725* founder and sink in heavy weather 380 miles off the Farallones.

Europe

German submarines attack Wales-bound convoy TBC 102 and Ghent, Belgium-bound convoy BTC 103. In the former, *U-399* torpedoes and sinks U.S. freighter *John R. Park*, 49°56'N, 05°26'W (all hands are rescued by U.S. freighter *American Press*); in the latter, what is most likely *U-1195* torpedoes and sinks freighter *James Eagan Lane*, 50°13'N, 04°14'W. British freighter *Monkstone* and

rescue tug *Flaunt* rescue the survivors. A skeleton crew (including four Armed Guard sailors) reboard the freighter and rig the ship for towing. Tugs *Flaunt* and *Atlas* beach the ship at Whitesand Bay, but *James Eagan Lane* is ultimately written off as a total loss.

U.S. freighter *Charles D. McIver* sinks after striking a mine as she leaves Antwerp, Belgium, in convoy ATM 100, 31°22'35"N, 03°05'50"W. British motor minesweeper *BYMS 2279* rescues one of the four boatloads of survivors; the other three boatloads, rescued by a motor torpedo boat, find safety on board tank landing ship *LST-430*. *Charles D. McIver* is later written off as a total loss; there are no casualties among the merchant crew or the 27-man Armed Guard.

- **23 March, Fri. --**

Europe

LCVPs (TG 122.5.1) ferry between 4,000 and 4,500 troops from General George S. Patton's Third Army as it crosses the Rhine at Oppenheim, Germany.

Atlantic

U.S. tanker *Oklahoma*, bound for Dakar, French West Africa, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-532* in mid-Atlantic, 13°52'N, 41°17'W; 36 of the 46-man merchant complement, and 14 of the 26-man Armed Guard die in the resulting conflagration as the ship had been carrying a cargo of high-octane gasoline and kerosene (see 14 April).

Pacific

TF 58 (Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher) begins daily strikes against Japanese shipping and installations in the Okinawa area. TF 58 planes sink army cargo ship *Kachosan Maru* 25 miles northwest of Okinawa, 30°23'N, 128°40'E. Cargo vessel *No.19 Yamato Maru* is also sunk in these strikes. In addition, TF 58 aircrew also claim sinking one midget submarine and damaging another, and damaging *Coast Defense Ship No.29* and submarine chaser *Ch 58* off Sotsukozaki.

Destroyer *Haggard* (DD-555) is damaged when she rams and sinks Japanese submarine *RO 41* in the Philippine Sea, 22°57'N, 132°19'E.

Submarine *Seahorse* (SS-304) is damaged by aerial bomb off the Ryukyus, 26°00'N, 128°00'E.

Submarine *Spadefish* (SS-411) attacks Japanese Sasebo-to-Ishigaki convoy SAI-05 in the East China Sea about 120 miles north-northwest of Amami O Shima, sinking transport *Doryu Maru*, 29°38'N, 127°36'E.

Fleet tug *Zuni* (ATF-95) is damaged by grounding off Iwo Jima, 24°46'N, 141°19'E.

USAAF B-24 (5th Air Force) sinks Japanese cargo ship *Hokka Go Maru* (ex-Chinese *Peihua*) 110 miles northeast of Wenchow, China, 29°21'N, 122°66'E.

USAAF B-24 attacks Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.40*, 26°58'N, 120°29'E, but although the airmen claim damage to their quarry, she in fact escapes undamaged.

Japanese destroyer *Kuri* is damaged by mine at mouth of Yangtze River.

- **24 March, Sat. --**

Europe

For the second time, LCVPs (TG 122.5.1) support the Third Army's crossing of the Rhine, ferrying troops at Boppard, Germany, under heavy enemy 20-millimeter fire. Other navy landing craft from TG 122.5.1 ferry troops of the Ninth Army across the Rhine south of Wesel, Germany. Medium landing craft (LCM) are used on the Rhine for the first time in this operation.

Pacific

TF 59 (Vice Admiral Willis A. Lee) bombards Okinawa. Japanese sources list two vessels sunk by naval gunfire on this date, perhaps the victims of the battleship bombardment: *Tosan Maru* and *No.10 Maiko Maru*.

USAAF B-24 (possibly a USN PB4Y) attacks nine-ship Japanese Naha-to-Kagoshima convoy KANA-304 (probably rerouted into the East China Sea because of Allied air activity in the Ryukyus), sinking auxiliary minesweeper *Seki Maru* off Tokara Gunto, 29°12'N, 125°13'E. Planes from TG 58.1--carriers *Bennington* (CV-20) and *Hornet* (CV-12) and small carriers *Belleau Wood* (CVL-24) and *San Jacinto* (CVL-30)--complete the destruction of KANA-304, sinking torpedo boat *Tomozuru*, *Coast Defense Vessel No. 68*, auxiliary minesweepers *Chitose Maru* and *No.16 Shonan Maru*, army cargo ships *Koshu Maru*, and merchant cargo ships *Soka Maru*, *Kaijo Maru* and *No.3 Tsukushi Maru* about 200 miles northwest of Okinawa, 28°25'N, 124°32'E. The same day, TF 58 planes also sink army cargo ship *Seizan Maru* and merchantmen *Sanko Maru* at 29°15'N, 125°13'E, and *Kobe Maru* at 30°00'N, 126°30'E.

USAAF B-24s (13th Air Force) sink Japanese cargo ship *Koshin Maru* off Boeton Island Celebes, 05°40'S, 122°49'E.

- **25 March, Sun. --**

Pacific

TF 54 (Rear Admiral Morton L. Deyo) battleships, cruisers, and destroyers bombard Kerama Retto and southeast coast of Okinawa, Ryukyus; bombardment continues daily. Off Okinawa, kamikazes damage destroyer *Kimberley* (DD-521), 26°02'N, 126°54'E; light minelayer *Robert H. Smith* (DM-23), 26°00'N, 128°00'E; high speed transport *Gilmer* (APD-11), 26°00'N, 127°20'E; destroyer escort *Sederstrom* (DE-31) is damaged in collision with escort carrier *Sangamon* (CVE-26), 25°00'N, 130°00'E; high speed transport *Knudsen* (APD-101) is damaged by horizontal bomber, 26°12'N, 127°04'E.

Submarine *Tirante* (SS-420) sinks Japanese auxiliary netlayer *Fuji Maru* off Tori Jima, Japan, 31°08'N, 130°30'E.

TF 58 planes sink Japanese merchant cargo ships *No.5 Okinoyama Maru* and *Chokai Maru* near Naha, Okinawa, 26°13'N, 127°39'E. Auxiliary submarine chaser *Sobun Maru* is damaged between Yaku Jima and Amami O Shima.

USAAF B-24s (5th Air Force) sink Japanese *Kori Go Maru* (ex-Chinese *Houlee*) in Yangtze estuary near Shanghai, 31°11'N, 122°23'E.

- **26 March, Mon. --**

Europe

Navy landing craft unit (TG 122.5.1.) ferries Third Army assault troops across

the Rhine at Oberwesel; medium landing craft (LCM) are used for the first time in the Third Army's Rhine-crossing operation.

Pacific

TG 51.1 (Rear Admiral Ingolf N. Kiland) lands Army force on Kerama Retto, Ryukyus, under cover of naval bombardment and carrier aircraft.

TG 78.2 (Captain Albert T. Sprague, Jr.) lands U.S. Army Americal Division (Reinforced) less one RCT, on Talisay Point, Cebu, P.I., covered by TG 74.3 (Rear Admiral Russell S. Berkey), consisting of three light cruisers (including Australian HMAS *Hobart*) and six destroyers. The landing is made against only slight resistance. U.S. freighter *Michael J. Owens* Armed Guard gunfire, despite lack of sophisticated fire control equipment, silences Japanese artillery battery on Cebu.

Off Okinawa, destroyer *Halligan* (DD-584) is sunk by mine, 26°10'N, 127°30'E; kamikazes damage battleship *Nevada* (BB-36), light cruiser *Biloxi* (CL-80), destroyer *Porterfield* (DD-682), destroyer escort *Foreman* (DE-633), high speed minesweeper *Dorsey* (DMS-1), 26°20'N, 127°18'E; destroyers *O'Brien* (DD-725), 26°16'N, 127°26'E, and *Callaghan* (DD-792), 26°20'N, 127°43'E, and minesweeper *Skirmish* (AM-303), 26°25'N, 127°05'E; destroyer *Murray* (DD-576) is damaged by dive bomber, 26°20'N, 129°46'E.

Tank landing craft *LCT-1090* is damaged in amphibious operations off Luzon; submarine chaser *PC-1133* is damaged by grounding, 10°13'N, 123°51'E.

Submarine *Balao* (SS-285) sinks Japanese army stores ship *No.1 Shinto Maru*, 35°18'N, 123°15'E.

British destroyers annihilate Japanese Port Blair-bound convoy east of Khota Andaman. HMS *Saumarez*, HMS *Volage*, HMS *Vigilant*, and HMS *Virago* sink submarine chasers *Ch 34* and *Ch 63*; HMS *Venus*, HMS *Verulam* and HMS *Virago* sink transport *Risui Maru* and supply ship *Teshio Maru*, 10°38'N, 94°42'E. RAF Liberators contribute to *Risui Maru's* destruction.

TF 58 planes sink Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Nisui Maru* east of Fuku Jima, and cargo ship *Daia Maru* (previously damaged on 1 March) in Kuji Bay, Ryukyus, 20°13'N, 127°16'E.

USAAF B-24s complete destruction of Japanese cargo ship *I komasan Maru*, previously damaged by submarine *Spot* (SS-413), then run aground, and bombed by USAAF B-25s on 17 March 1945 off Matsu Island 26°07'N, 119°57'E, and sink motor sailships *Koun Maru* and *No.6 Ebisu Maru*.

USAAF B-24s (Fifth Air Force) bomb Japanese shipping in Takao harbor, sinking cargo vessels *Enoura Maru* and *Kishu Maru*, 22°37'N, 120°15'E.

• **27 March, Tue. --**

Europe

Navy landing craft (TG 122.5.1) ferry army troops across the Rhine at Mainz, Germany, in the face of "all the fire power at [the Germans'] disposal," ranging from machine guns and small arms to the deadly 88-millimeter weapons.

Pacific

One battalion of army troops (Second Battalion, 151st Infantry, 38th Division), supported by destroyers *Conway* (DD-507) and *Cony* (DD-508) and three

rocket-equipped motor torpedo boats, lands on Caballo Island near Corregidor, preceded by an air strike.

Operation STARVATION, the USAAF aerial mining campaign (using Navy-provided mines) commences, as 94 B-29s mine the Shimonoseki Straits and the waters of Suo Nada, Japan. This operation and the six that follow are in support of the Okinawa campaign.

High speed transport *Newman* (APD-59), covering the landings on Cebu, sights and attacks a Japanese midget submarine off Talisay, Cebu. She is given credit for a "possible" submersible sunk.

Off Okinawa, an aircraft operational casualty damages carrier *Essex* (CV-9), 25°10'N, 132°05'E; kamikazes damage light minelayer *Adams* (DM-27), 26°17'N, 127°40'E.

Submarine *Trigger* (SS-237) sinks Japanese cable layer *Odate*, 200 miles southwest of Kyushu, 30°40'N, 127°50'E.

TF 58 planes sink Japanese guardboats *No.13 Choun Maru* and *No.27 Yusen Maru* and army cargo ship *No.28 Suma Maru*, Kuchinoerabu Bay, Osumi-Gunto, 30°30'N, 130°05'E, and *No.12 Myojin Maru*, west of Tori Jima, 30°00'N, 139°30'E.

British submarine HMS *Stygian* damages Japanese minelayer *Wakatake* (previously damaged on 25 March 1945 when she encounters a shoal upon leaving Macassar) in Java Sea, south of Kangean Island. Reaching Surabaya on 1 April 1945, *Wakatake* performs no more active service.

USAAF B-24s attack six-ship Japanese convoy off Surabaya, damaging submarine chaser *Ch 5* by near-misses.

Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *Wa.1* is sunk by mine (laid by RAF planes) near the Deli River, Sumatra, 03°52'N, 98°45'E.

- **28 March, Wed. --**

- Pacific

- Off Okinawa, minesweeper *Skylark* (AM-63) is sunk by mine, 26°20'N, 127°40'E; attack cargo ship *Wyandot* (AKA-92) is damaged by near-misses of bombs, 26°00'N, 127°00'E; medium landing ship *LSM-188* is damaged by kamikaze; infantry landing craft (gunboat) *LCI(G)-588* is damaged by assault demolition boat.

- Landing craft repair ship *Agenor* (ARL-3) is damaged in collisions with landing craft off Iwo Jima, 24°46'N, 141°19'E.

- Submarine *Blackfin* (SS-322) is damaged by depth charges off the southeast coast of French Indochina, and is forced to terminate her patrol.

- Submarines and USAAF planes begin attacks on Japanese convoy HI-88-J moving up the coast of French Indochina; submarine *Bluegill* (SS-242) damages tanker *Honan Maru* (ex-British *War Sirdar*) off Cape Varella, 12°40'N, 109°30'E; *Honan Maru* is beached to permit salvage (see 29 March). USAAF B-24 sinks merchant cargo ship *Asogawa Maru* off Nha Trang, 12°32'N, 109°22'E.

Submarine *Snook* (SS-279) departs Guam for her ninth war patrol; she is contacted by *Tigrone* (SS-419) on 8 April 1945, but she is never seen again.^[8]

Submarine *Threadfin* (SS-410) sinks Japanese escort vessel *Mikura* off Kyushu, 31°45'N, 131°44'E.

Submarine *Tirante* (SS-420) sinks Japanese fishing boat *Nase Maru* west of Oniki Cape, southwest coast of Kyushu, 32°15'N, 29°55'E.

Submarine *Trigger* (SS-237) is sunk by Japanese patrol vessel *Mikura*, *Coast Defense Vessel No.33*, and *Coast Defense Vessel No.59* in Nansei Shoto, 32°16'N, 132°05'E.^[9]

Floating workshop *YR-43*, being towed to Kodiak by Army tug *LT 373*, breaks free from her towline and runs aground two and half miles south of Zaikof Point, Montague Island; rescue tug *ATR-68* and Coast Guard lighthouse tender *Cedar* (WAGL-207) are sent from Kodiak, while tender *Bramble* (WAGL-392) is dispatched from Seward to assist. Army transport *Toloa* brings *YR-43's* crew on board and takes the men to Dutch Harbor.

Planes from carrier *Hornet* (CV-12) sink Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.33* south of Kyushu, 31°45'N, 131°45'E;

USAAF B-24 damages Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.102* and *Coast Defense Vessel No.106* (near-misses) off Keelung, Formosa.

USAAF B-24s (Fifth Air Force) sink Japanese army cargo ship *Meiho Maru* off north coast of Formosa, 25°00'N, 121°00'E.

USAAF B-24s (13th Air Force) attack Japanese shipping in the Celebes, sinking minesweeper *W.11* off Makassar, 05°06'S, 119°14'E, and *Patrol Boat No. 108* off Maniang Island 04°14'S, 121°28'E.

Japanese auxiliary submarine chasers *Cha 167* and *Cha 175* are sunk by aircraft, east of Fukushima.

USAAF B-24 damages Japanese cargo ship *Seito Maru* off North Laut Island 03°14'S, 116°13'E.

Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 178* is sunk by mine, 34°02'N, 130°54'E; cargo ship *Tensei Maru* is sunk by mine in Wakamatsu harbor.

- **29 March, Thu. --**

- Pacific

TG 58.1 (Rear Admiral Joseph J. Clark) and TG 58.3 (Rear Admiral Frederick C. Sherman) attack airfields and Japanese shipping in the Kagoshima Bay area, Kyushu. Carrier-based planes sink auxiliary submarine chasers *Cha 200* west of Sata Misaki, 31°05'N, 130°39'E, and *Chikuto Maru* in Kagoshima Bay, and *Cha 205*, Kuchinoerabu Jima, 30°30'N, 130°10'E, as well as cargo vessels *No.5 Yusen Maru* and *11 Ebisu Maru*, *Holin Maru*, *Genyo Maru* and *8 Seizan Maru* and *17 Koshin Maru* and *27 Koan Maru* and *32 Koan Maru* and *Taimokuzan Maru* in Yamagawa Harbor; merchant vessel *No.3 Yamato Maru* is damaged at the latter place.

In an operation associated with the taking of Panay, Army 185th RCT (40th Division), moves from Iloilo to Pulupandan Point, northern Negros, P.I., encountering no opposition.

Submarine and USAAF attacks continue against Japanese convoy HI-88-J; *Bluegill* (SS-242) further damages tanker *Honan Maru* off Cape Varella (see 5 April); *Hammerhead* (SS-264) damages *Coast Defense Vessel No. 84* 115 miles north of Cape Varella, 14°44'N, 109°16'E; USAAF B-25s (Fifth Air Force) sink *Coast Defense Vessel No.18*, *Coast Defense Vessel No.130* and cargo ship *Kaiko Maru*, 15°10'N, 109°26'E. Later the same day, PBMs further damage *Coast Defense Vessel No. 134* south of Hainan.

USAAF B-24 damages Japanese hospital ship *Kazura Maru* off coast of French Indochina, 15°05'N, 109°23'E.

USAAF B-24s (Fifth Air Force) sink Japanese auxiliary submarine chasers *Cha 156*, *Cha 189*, *Cha 192*, and merchant tanker *Iwakuni Maru* in Takao harbor, 22°40'N, 120°15'E.

Japanese auxiliary patrol vessel *Pa No.173* is sunk by mine, Wakamatsu, Japan.

Japanese submarine chaser *Ch 9* is damaged by aircraft, 15°10'N, 109°26'E.

Japanese submarine *I 47* (equipped with Kaitens) is damaged by 5th Fleet surface ships/craft off Okinawa and forced to return to Kure for repairs.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *O.B. Martin*, in convoy UGS 80, is damaged by depth charge explosions 25 miles west of Gibraltar; there are no casualties to either the merchant crew, passengers, or the 29-man Armed Guard.

• **30 March, Fri. --**

Europe

Over 1,250 USAAF heavy bombers (Eighth Air Force) hit U-boat yards and port facilities in Germany, sinking submarines *U-96*, *U-429*, and *U-3508* at Wilhelmshaven; *U-72*, *U-329*, *U-430*, *U-870*, *U-884*, and *U-886* at Bremen; and *U-2340*, *U-348*, *U-350*, and *U-1167* at Hamburg.

Pacific

Eighty-seven USAAF B-29s mine the Shimonoseki Straits and the waters off Kure, Hiroshima, and Sasebo, Japan.

Heavy cruiser *Indianapolis* (CA-35) is damaged by kamikaze off Okinawa, 26°25'N, 127°30'E.

High speed transport *Roper* (APD-20) is damaged in collision with attack transport *Arthur Middleton* (APA-25), Philippine Sea, 20°57'N, 132°05'E.

Submarine *Tirante* (SS-420) sinks Japanese guardboat *Eikichi Maru* off Kagoshima, Japan, 31°11'N, 130°09'E.

Attacks against Japanese convoy HI-88-J continue: USAAF B-25s sink auxiliary submarine chaser *Shinan Maru* and damage *Coast Defense Vessel No.26* off Yulin, Hainan Island 18°09'N, 109°42'E.

Japanese submarine *I 53* is damaged by mine, Suwo-Nada.

- **31 March, Sat. --**

Pacific

Off Okinawa, heavy cruiser *Pensacola* (CA-24) is damaged in collision with tank landing ship *LST-277*, 26°10'N, 127°19'E; kamikazes damage light minelayer *Adams* (DM-27), 26°12'N, 127°08'E; attack transport *Hinsdale* (APA-120), 25°54'N, 127°49'E; and tank landing ships *LST-724* and *LST-884*, 25°59'N, 127°50'E.

Small seaplane tender *Coos Bay* (AVP-25) is damaged when rammed accidentally by U.S. merchant ship *Matagorda*, central Pacific, 12°07'N, 156°27'E.

U.S. freighter *John C. Fremont* is damaged by mine south of Pier 7, Manila Bay; there are no casualties among the 27-man Armed Guard.

Destroyers *Morrison* (DD-560) and *Stockton* (DD-646) sink Japanese submarine *I 8*, 65 miles southeast of Okinawa, 25°29'N, 128°35'E.

Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 233* is sunk by aircraft, 32°19'N, 129°50'E.

USAAF B-24s attack Japanese convoy off Makassar, sinking small cargo vessels *No.3 Hainan Maru*, *Kanho Maru*, *Manko Maru*, and *Nanho Maru* and damaging *Oshima Maru*; attack convoy BASU-05 in Makassar Straits off Balikpapan, damaging submarine chaser *Ch 5*.

USAAF B-24s bomb Japanese convoy in harbor at Keelung, damaging hospital ship *Baikal Maru*, cargo vessels *Nikko Maru* and *No.3 Yamato Maru*, and motor sailship *No.47 Suma Maru*.

Mines damage Japanese destroyer *Hibiki* off Hime Jima and escort destroyer *Inagi* off Hesaki.

During March 1945 (exact dates indeterminate) carfloats *YCF-23*, *YCF-29*, *YCF-36*, and *YCF-37* break up in heavy seas while under tow en route to Eniwetok, Marshall Islands.

April

- **1 April, Sun. --**

Pacific

Marines and Army troops land on **Okinawa**, Ryukyus, under cover of heavy naval gunfire and aircraft, in **Operation ICEBERG**. The operation is under the overall command of Admiral Raymond A. Spruance, Commander Fifth Fleet. Vice Admiral Richmond K. Turner commands the Joint Expeditionary Force; the troops are commanded by Lieutenant General Simon B. Buckner, USA. Off Okinawa, kamikazes damage battleship *West Virginia* (BB-48), 26°20'N, 127°40'E; attack transports *Hinsdale* (APA-120) and *Alpine* (APA-92), 26°20'N, 127°41'E, and tank landing ship *LST-884*; battleship *Tennessee* (BB-43) is damaged by shell fragments (possibly friendly fire); Japanese dive bombers damage destroyer *Prichett* (DD-561), 26°38'N, 127°25'E, and minesweeper *Skirmish* (AM-303), 26°33'N, 127°33'E; horizontal bomber damages attack transport *Elmore* (APA-42), 26°20'N, 127°41'E; destroyer escort *Vammen* (DE-644) is damaged by explosion of undetermined origin (possibly depth charge dropped by Japanese assault demolition boat), 26°18'N, 127°29'E. Infantry

landing craft (mortar) *LCI(M)-807* is damaged by own mortar explosion; medium landing ship *LSM-192* by operational casualty. British ships are not immune from the breath of the "divine wind" as a kamikaze damages British fleet carrier *HMS Indefatigable*; destroyer *HMS Ulster* is damaged by bomb.

In the third of six mine drops carried out in support of *ICEBERG*, six USAAF B-29s mine the waters off Kure, Japan. Mines sink merchant cargo ship *Karikawa Maru* off Tsushima, and damage escort vessel *Inagi* southeast of Hsaki, and auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 226* in Kii Channel, Japan, 30°04'N, 130°54'E.

Army troops (158th RCT) are landed near Legaspi, southern Luzon, under cover of naval gunfire and USAAF aircraft. After the troops encounter only token opposition at the beaches, considerable opposition develops inland.

Submarine *Queenfish* (SS-393) inadvertently sinks Japanese relief ship *Awa Maru* in Formosa Straits, 25°25'N, 120°07'E. *Awa Maru*, a cartel ship, is carrying Red Cross supplies earmarked for distribution to Allied POWs in Singapore. Guaranteed safe conduct by the U.S. government, *Awa Maru* is properly marked and lighted, but *Queenfish's* commanding officer, Lieutenant Commander Charles E. Loughlin, does not discern the markings in the foggy weather in which his boat encounters the enemy vessel. Loughlin is relieved of his command for the mistake, and is court-martialed.

B-24s (Far East Air Force) bomb Japanese shipping at Keelung, irreparably damaging *Taiga Maru*.

- **2 April, Mon. --**
Pacific

Preceded by USMC air strikes (First Marine Aircraft Wing), Army 163rd RCT (Reinforced) of the 41st Division, supported by three destroyers, land on Sanga Sanga, Sulu Archipelago, P.I., without encountering any resistance. Filipino guerrillas had cleared the island the month before.

Ten USAAF B-29s mine the waters off Kure and Hiroshima, Japan.

Off Okinawa, destroyer *Franks* (DD-554) is damaged in collision with battleship *New Jersey* (BB-62), 25°49'N, 130°01'E; destroyer *Prichett* (DD-561), by bomb, 27°17'N, 127°51'E; destroyer *Borie* (DD-704), by collision with carrier *Essex* (CV-9), 23°36'N, 131°40'E; and destroyer escort *Foreman* (DE-633), by bomb, 26°10'N, 127°11'E. Kamikazes damage attack transports *Henrico* (APA-45), 25°59'N, 127°17'E, and *Goodhue* (APA-107) and *Telfair* (APA-210), 25°56'N, 127°17'E; attack cargo ships *Achernar* (AKA-53), 26°07'N, 127°45'E, and *Tyrrell* (AKA-80), 26°21'N, 127°45'E; and high speed transport *Dickerson* (APD-21). Attack transport *Chilton* (APA-38) is damaged by near-miss of kamikaze, 25°59'N, 127°17'E; attack cargo ship *Lacerta* (AKA-29) is damaged by friendly fire, 26°21'N, 127°43'E.

TG 58.4 planes sink Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No. 186*, fast transport *T.17*, and landing ship *T.145*, and damage submarine chaser *Ch 49* and landing ship *T.146*, near Amami-Oshima, 28°07'N, 129°09'E

Destroyer *Shaw* (DD-373) is damaged by grounding, Leyte, P.I., 09°36'N, 123°53'E.

Submarine *Hardhead* (SS-365) lays mines off Cape Camau, French Indochina.

Submarine *Sea Devil* (SS-400) attacks Japanese convoy TAMO-51 in the central Yellow Sea, sinking auxiliary vessel *Edogawa Maru*, army cargo ship *Nisshin Maru*, and merchant cargo ship *Daijo Maru*, 34°18'N, 124°04'E, and damaging merchant cargo ship *Yamaji Maru*, 34°02'N, 124°00'E.

British submarine HMS *Stygian* sinks Japanese coaster south of Kangean Island 07°02'S, 115°32'E.

USAAF P-51s damage Japanese river gunboat *Katata* at Shanghai.

USAAF aircraft sink small Japanese cargo vessel *No.1 Taisei Maru* off Cape St. Jacques, French Indochina, 10°10'N, 106°35'E.

USAAF B-24s bomb Japanese shipping at Hong Kong, sinking merchant cargo ship *Yokai Maru*.

- **3 April, Tue. --**

Europe Over 700 USAAF heavy bombers attack U-boat yards at Kiel, Germany, destroying submarines *U-1221*, *U-2542*, and *U-3505*.

Pacific

Nine USAAF B-29s mine the waters off Kure and Hiroshima, Japan.

Off Okinawa, escort carrier *Wake Island* (CVE-65) is damaged by near-miss of kamikaze, 26°05'N, 128°57'E, as is high speed minesweeper *Hambleton* (DMS-20), 27°00'N, 127°00'E; a kamikaze damages tank landing ship *LST-599*, 26°10'N, 127°16'E; tank landing ship *LST-554* is damaged by storm, 26°20'N, 127°45'E.

Motor minesweeper *YMS-71* is sunk by mine off Sanga Sanga, 04°59'N, 119°47'E.

TF 58 planes sink Japanese guardboat *No.1 Taijin Maru* and damage guardboat *No.2 Hosei Maru* southeast of Japan, 30°00'N, 137°30'E; and sink cargo ship *Imari Maru* off southwestern Kyushu, 33°45'N, 129°42'E. *Coast Defense Vessel No.32* is damaged at 31°51'N, 124°47'E.

USAAF B-24s (Far East Air Force) bomb Japanese shipping in Hong Kong harbor, sinking cargo vessels *Heikai Maru* and *Shozan Maru*, and damaging escort vessel *Manju*, 22°17'N, 114°10'E.

USN land-based planes sink Japanese tanker *No.30 Nanshin Maru* (the only surviving ship of the ill-starred convoy HI-88-I) (see 20-21 March) in Nha Trang Bay, French Indochina, 12°15'N, 109°10'E.

- **4 April, Wed. --**

Europe USAAF heavy bombers (939 strong) pound airfields and landing grounds in northern Germany, as well as munitions plant near Ulzen. U-boat yards at Hamburg and Kiel are also bombed, resulting in the destruction of submarines *U-237*, *U-749*, and *U-3003*.

Pacific

Off Okinawa, high speed transport *Dickerson* (APD-21), irreparably damaged by kamikaze on 2 April 1945, is towed out to sea and scuttled by salvage crew off Kerama Retto; infantry landing craft *LCI-82* is sunk by assault demolition boat; destroyer *Norman Scott* (DD-690) is damaged in collision with oiler

Cimarron (AO-22), 23°46'N, 129°25'E; kamikaze damages destroyer *Wilson* (DD-408) off southern end of Kerama Retto; destroyer *Sproston* (DD-577) is damaged by near-miss by bomb, 26°30'N, 127°30'E. Oiler *Cowanquesque* (AO-79) is damaged in storm; medium landing ship *LSM-12* founders in heavy weather. Groundings account for damage to tank landing ships *LST-70*, *LST-624*, *LST-675*, and *LST-756*, 26°21'N, 127°45'E; *LST-166*, *LST-689*, and *LST-736*, 26°20'N, 127°45'E; *LST-343*, 26°00'N, 128°00'E; *LST-570*, 26°21'N, 127°44'E, and *LST-781*, 26°23'N, 127°44'E. Tank landing ship *LST-399* is damaged in collision with salvage vessel *Gear* (ARS-34), 26°20'N, 127°45'E.

Japanese escort vessel *Mokuto* is sunk by USAAF mine laid by B-29 (20th Bomber Command) in Shimonoseki Strait, 33°53'N, 131°03'E. Japanese merchant cargo ship *Hozan Maru* is sunk by mine, 33°45'N, 131°44'E. Submarines *RO 64*, 34°14'N, 132°16'E, and *RO 67*, 34°00'N, 133°00'E, are damaged by USAAF B-29-sown mines in the Inland Sea.^[10]

Japanese guardboat *No.12 Kotoshiro Maru* is sunk by U.S. aircraft off Torishima, 30°00'N, 140°00'E.

USAAF B-24s (Far East Air Force) bomb Japanese shipping at Mako, Pescadores, sinking merchant tanker *No.2 Kinyu Maru* and cargo vessel *Horei Maru*, 23°32'N, 119°34'E.

Japanese ship *No.1 Manyu Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Tajin Island.

Japanese hospital ship *Arimasan Maru* is damaged by mine, while en route to Singapore.

British submarine *HMS Spark* attacks Japanese light cruiser *Isuzu* without success, in the Flores Sea (see 5-7 April).

- **5 April, Thu. --**

- Pacific

- Naval Advanced Air Base, Iwo Jima, is established.

- In Japan, the cabinet of Premier Koiso Kuniaki resigns; Admiral Suzuki Kantaro becomes Prime Minister.

- Submarine *Besugo* (SS-321) twice attacks Japanese light cruiser *Isuzu* in the Flores Sea (see 6-7 April).

- Boarding party from submarine *Bluegill* (SS-242) completes destruction of beached and abandoned fleet tanker *Honan Maru* (see 28 March) with demolition charges and incendiaries, near Nha Trang, French Indochina.

- Off Okinawa, battleship *Nevada* (BB-36) is damaged by shore battery, 26°13'N, 127°40'E; a dud aerial torpedo damages light minelayer *Harry F. Bauer* (DM-26), 26°30'N, 127°30'E. Collisions account for damage to seaplane tender (destroyer) *Thornton* (AVD-11) and oiler *Escalante* (AO-70), 24°24'N, 128°58'E; landing craft repair ship *Agenor* (ARL-3) and tank landing ship *LST-646*, 24°46'N, 141°19'E; tank landing ships *LST-273* and *LST-810*, 26°25'N, 127°42'E; tank landing ship *LST-923* (with tank landing ship *LST-20*); tank landing ship *LST-940* [with attack cargo ship *Diphda* (AKA-59)], 26°21'N, 127°43'E; and tank landing ship *LST-1000* (with tank landing ship *LST-20*), 26°21'N, 127°44'E; tank landing ship *LST-698* is damaged by grounding, 26°24'N, 127°45'E.

U.S. shore battery sinks Japanese auxiliary minelayer *No.2 Shinto Maru* and damages auxiliary minelayer *Taian Maru* in Naha Harbor, Okinawa, 26°30'N, 128°00'E.

Destroyer *Hudson* (DD-475) sinks Japanese submarine *RO 41* west of Okinawa, near Kerama Retto, 26°22'N, 126°30'E.

Submarine *Hardhead* (SS-365) attacks unescorted Japanese convoy SASI-45, damaging cargo ship *Araosan Maru* in the Gulf of Siam, 09°37'N, 102°48'E (see 6 April).

PBMs attack Japanese convoy, sinking merchant cargo ship *No.2 Tokai Maru* in Pinghai Wan, 22°45'N, 116°10'E; USAAF B-24s, B-26s, and P-38s (5th Air Force) attack same convoy, sinking cargo ship *Kine Maru*, 22°24'N, 115°28'E.

USAAF B-24s (Far East Air Force) bomb Japanese shipping at Hong Kong, damaging *Coast Defense Vessel No.52* and *Coast Defense Vessel No.1*, submarine chasers *Ch 9* and *Ch 20*, 22°45'N, 116°10'E, and fleet oiler *Kamoi*.

Mine laid by USAAF B-29 (20th Bomber Command) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.13 Nichinan Maru* two miles southeast of Hesaki Light, 33°58'N, 131°02'E. Cargo ship *Iki Maru* is damaged by mine, 33°54'N, 130°53'E.

Japanese cargo ship *Jozan Maru* is damaged by mine, 01°23'N, 104°01'E.

Atlantic

U.S. tanker *Atlantic States* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-857* off Cape Cod, 42°07'N, 70°00'42"W; there are no casualties to either the merchant crew or the 12-man Armed Guard. Auxiliary *Guinevere* (IX-67) rescues the crew (with the exception of five men, including the Armed Guard officer, who remain on board to keep the ship trimmed) while destroyer escort *Richard S. Bull* (DE-402) stands by to render assistance. Later, old tug *Wandank* (ATO-26), assisted by rescue tugs *ATR-14* and *ATR-89*, tow the damaged ship to Boston where she is repaired.

• **6 April, Fri. --**

Pacific

Japanese kamikaze onslaught against U.S. ships off Okinawa begins: destroyer *Bush* (DD-529) is sunk, 27°16'N, 127°48'E; four kamikazes irreparably damage destroyer *Colhoun* (DD-801), 27°16'N, 127°48'E, which is then scuttled by destroyer *Cassin Young* (DD-793). High speed minesweeper *Emmons* (DMS-22) is damaged by five suiciders, 26°48'N, 128°04'E; destroyer *Mullany* (DD-528) is damaged by two, 26°24'N, 128°10'E; as is destroyer escort *Witter* (DE-636), 26°04'N, 127°52'E. Other kamikazes damage destroyers *Morris* (DD-417), 25°55'N, 127°52'E [while high speed transport *Daniel T. Griffin* (APD-38) is damaged by collision with *Morris* as she fights fires alongside] 25°57'N, 127°57'E, *Leutze* (DD-481) and *Newcomb* (DD-586), 26°38'N, 127°28'E; *Howorth* (DD-592), 26°32'N, 127°40'; *Haynesworth* (DD-700), 26°55'N, 129°29'E; minesweepers *Facility* (AM-233), 26°00'N, 127°00'E; *Defense* (AM-317), 26°38'N, 127°31'E; and *Devastator* (AM-318), 26°26'N, 127°40'E; destroyer escort *Fieberling* (DE-640), high speed minesweeper *Rodman* (DMS-21), and minesweeper *Ransom* (AM-283), 26°48'N, 128°04'E; motor minesweepers *YMS-311*, 26°38'N, 127°48'E, and *YMS-321*, 26°00'N, 128°00'E; and tank landing ship *LST-447*, 26°09'N, 127°18'E. Near-misses by kamikazes

damage small carrier *San Jacinto* (CVL-30), 26°46'N, 129°43'E, and destroyer *Harrison* (DD-573), 27°05'N, 129°22'E. Destroyer *Hyman* (DD-732) is damaged by kamikaze and torpedo, 26°45'N, 27°42'E; destroyer *Taussig* (DD-746) is damaged by near-miss of bombs, 27°07'N, 128°39'E; high speed minesweeper *Harding* (DMS-28) is damaged by horizontal bomber, 26°00'N, 127°00'E. Friendly fire accounts for damage to battleship *North Carolina* (BB-55), 26°41'N, 129°32'E; light cruiser *Pasadena* (CL-65), 27°00'N, 129°00'E; destroyer *Hutchins* (DD-476) [from destroyer *Heywood L. Edwards* (DD-663)], 26°00'N, 128°00'E; attack transport *Barnett* (APA-5) and attack cargo ship *Leo* (AKA-60), 26°21'N, 127°43'E; attack transport *Audrain* (APA-59), 26°22'N, 127°43'E; tank landing ships *LST-241*, 26°20'N, 127°45'E, and *LST-1000*, 26°21'N, 127°44'E; and submarine chaser *PCS-1390*, 26°00'N, 128°00'E. U.S. freighter *Logan Victory*, carrying 7,000 tons of ammunition, is irreparably damaged by kamikaze off Kerama Retto, 26°10'N, 127°16'E. Survivors are rescued by minesweeper *Strategy* (AM-308) and small craft; 3 (including its commander) of the 42-man Armed Guard are killed. The burning merchantman is then scuttled. U.S. freighter *Hobbs Victory*, also carrying ammunition, is attacked by two kamikazes northwest of Kerama Retto. Armed Guard gunners shoot down one and damage the second, but the latter manages to crash the freighter and start uncontrollable fires that lead to her abandonment, 26°05'N, 125°14'E. Minesweeper *Success* (AM-310) rescues survivors, transferring them later to attack transport *Gosper* (APA-170). *Hobbs Victory* explodes and sinks the following morning.

Submarine *Besugo* (SS-321) sinks Japanese minesweeper *W.12* in Saeku Strait, N.E.I., 08°13'S, 119°14'E.

Submarine *Hardhead* (SS-365) again attacks unescorted Japanese convoy SASI-45, sinking merchant cargo ship *Araosan Maru* in Gulf of Siam, 09°37'N, 102°48'E

USAAF B-25s on China coast shipping strike attack Japanese convoy HOMO-03, sinking *Coast Defense Vessel No.1* and *Coast Defense Vessel No.134* south-southwest of Amoy, 23°55'N, 117°40'E, and irreparably damaging destroyer *Amatsukaze* five miles east of Amoy, 24°30'N, 118°10'E; while *Amatsukaze's* crew manages to beach the ship at the entrance to Amoy harbor, she will perform no more wartime service.

Mines sink Japanese merchant cargo ships *Koun Maru* in Yangtze near Chinkiang, *Kabuto Maru* at 32°02'N, 119°59'E, and (laid by USAAF planes on 4 March) *Hsing Yun Maru* in Yangtze, near Chinkiang, 32°05'N, 119°56'E. Japanese merchant cargo ship *Fushimi Maru* is sunk by USAAF mine in Shimonoseki Straits, 33°59'N, 130°52'E.

Dutch Mitchells (which claim two hits) and RAAF Liberators (which claim many near misses) attack Japanese light cruiser *Isuzu* off Flores, N.E.I. (see 7 April).

Mediterranean

Fleet tug *Moreno* (ATF-87) is damaged by striking submerged object off Palermo, Sicily.

Atlantic

Fishing boat *Captain Nathaniel B. Palmer* unwittingly snags depth charge in its

net about nine miles south-southeast of Block Island; as the charge is being raised to the surface it explodes, sinking the craft and killing three of the four-man crew. Fishing boat *Mandalay* rescues the sole survivor.

- **7 April, Sat. --**

Atlantic

Destroyer escort *Gustafson* (DE-182) sinks German submarine *U-857* off Cape Cod, Massachusetts, 42°22'N, 69°46'W.

U.S. freighter *James W. Nesmith* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-1024* off Holyhead, England 53°23'N, 04°53'W; Canadian corvette HMCS *Belleville* tows the ship to safety, beaching her off Holyhead the next evening. There are no casualties to either the merchant complement or the 41-man Armed Guard; the ship is later repaired and returned to service.

Pacific

TF 58 (Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher) attacks Japanese First Diversion Attack Force, formed around battleship *Yamato*, moving through East China Sea toward Okinawa. TF 58 planes (numbering 386) sink *Yamato* and light cruiser *Yahagi* west-southwest of Kagoshima, Japan, 30°40'N, 128°03'E; destroyers *Asashimo* in East China Sea, 31°00'N, 128°00'E, *Hamakaze* and *Isokaze* 150 miles southwest of Nagasaki, 30°40'N, 128°03'E, and *Kasumi* in East China Sea, 30°57'N, 127°57'E, and damage destroyers *Suzutsuki* *Hatsushimo*, *Yukikaze*, and *Fuyuzuki* in East China Sea, 30°40'N, 128°03'E.11

Off Okinawa, high speed minesweeper *Emmons* (DMS-22), irreparably damaged by five kamikazes the previous day, is scuttled by high speed minesweeper *Ellyson* (DMS-19); tank landing ship *LST-447* sinks as the result of damage inflicted by kamikaze the previous day, 26°09'N, 127°18'E. Motor gunboat *PGM-18* is sunk by mine, 26°13'N, 127°55'E; while picking up *PGM-18's* survivors, motor minesweeper *YMS-103* is damaged by mine, 26°13'N, 127°54'E.

Also off Okinawa, kamikazes damage carrier *Hancock* (CV-19), 27°00'N, 130°00'E; battleship *Maryland* (BB-46), 26°40'N, 127°29'E; destroyers *Longshaw* (DD-559), 26°29'N, 127°41'E, and *Bennett* (DD-473), 27°16'N, 127°48'E; destroyer escort *Wesson* (DE-184), 26°48'N, 127°55'E; and motor minesweeper *YMS-81*, 26°35'N, 127°53'E; shore battery damages motor minesweeper *YMS-427*, 26°14'N, 127°52'E; tank landing ship *LST-698* is damaged by grounding, 26°24'N, 127°45'E; tank landing ship *LST-890* is damaged in collision with *LST-788*, 26°20'N, 127°45'E.

Submarines *Gabilan* (SS-252) and *Charr* (SS-328) sink Japanese light cruiser *Isuzu*, transporting troops from Koepang, Timor, to Surabaya, off Soembawa Island Celebes, N.E.I., 07°38'S, 118°09'E.

Submarine *Tirante* (SS-420) sinks Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Tama Maru* 10 miles east of Shokokusanto, southwest of Korea, 34°35'N, 125°20'E.

Japanese fleet tanker *Kamoi* is sunk by aircraft, Hong Kong.

Mine laid by USAAF B-29 (20th Bomber Command) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Hatsukari Maru* off Wakamatsu harbor, 33°55'N, 130°50'E.

Mine damages Japanese naval auxiliary *Shinto Maru* below Woosung, China.

Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *No.43 Hino Maru* is damaged by aircraft, south end of Hirato Jima, near Kyushu, Japan.

- **8 April, Sun. --**

Pacific

Off Okinawa, destroyer *Charles J. Badger* (DD-657) is damaged by assault demolition boat, 26°18'N, 127°39'E; destroyer *Gregory* (DD-802) is damaged by kamikaze, 27°07'N, 128°39'E; motor minesweeper *YMS-92* is damaged by mine, 26°12'N, 127°53'E; tank landing ship *LST-939* is damaged in collision with tank landing ship *LST-268*, 26°22'N, 127°44'E; tank landing ship *LST-940* is damaged by grounding, 26°20'N, 127°45'E.

British submarine *HMS Stygian* unsuccessfully attacks Japanese cargo vessel *Enoshima Maru*, 06°30'S, 113°08'E.

USAAF B-24 (13th Air Force) attacks Japanese auxiliary submarine chasers southeast of the Celebes, sinking *Cha 101* and damaging *Cha 72*, 04°43'S, 122°17'E.

Mines (laid by USAAF planes) sink Japanese cargo ship *No.12 Tamon Maru* in Yangtze, near Shanghai, 31°16'N, 121°45'E, and damages escort destroyer *Habushi* ten miles below Woosung.

- **9 April, Mon. --**

Pacific

U.S. Army troops (163rd RCT) supported by three destroyers and USMC planes, land on Jolo, Sulu Archipelago, P.I. The Japanese garrison withdraws into the hills.

Twenty USAAF B-29s mine Shimonoseki Straits.

Off Okinawa, escort carrier *Chenango* (CVE-28) is damaged by crash of F6F (VF 25) on flight deck; kamikaze damages destroyer *Sterett* (DD-407), 26°47'N, 128°42'E; destroyer *Porterfield* (DD-682) is damaged by friendly fire, 26°34'N, 128°28'E; high speed transport *Hopping* (APD-51) is damaged by shore battery, 26°15'N, 127°55'E, as is tank landing ship *LST-557*, 26°14'N, 127°57'E; attack cargo ship *Starr* (AKA-67) is damaged by premature explosion of assault demolition boat, 26°20'N, 127°44'E.

Destroyers *Mertz* (DD-691) and *Monssen* (DD-798) sink Japanese submarine *RO 56*, 45 miles east of Okinawa, 26°09'N, 130°21'E.

Submarine *Parche* (SS-384) sinks Japanese minesweeper *W.3* as she is escorting transport (ex-armed merchant cruiser) *Ukishima Maru* northeast of Sendai, 39°07'N, 141°57'E. Later, *Sunfish* (SS-281) attacks *Ukishima Maru* at the entrance to Yamada Bay, 39°30'N, 142°05'E. Although *Sunfish* claims damage, *Ukishima Maru* reaches port unscathed.

Submarine *Spadefish* (SS-411) damages Japanese merchant cargo ship *Ritsu Maru* off west coast of Korea, 37°21'N, 125°08'E. *Ritsu Maru* attempts to run aground to facilitate salvage, but sinks before she can accomplish her goal.

Submarine *Tirante* (SS-420) attacks Japanese convoy TAMO-53 in Yellow Sea, sinking army tanker *Nikko Maru* and damaging *Coast Defense Vessel No.102*, 36°50'N, 123°55'E; transport (ex-seaplane carrier) *Kiyokawa Maru* evades *Tirante* and ultimately tows the damaged *Coast Defense Vessel No.102* to safety.

USN land-based aircraft attack Japanese shipping in Kwangchow Bay, China, sinking cargo vessel *Minko Maru*, 21°26'N, 111°20'E.

Mines damage Japanese training ship (ex-armored cruiser) *Izumo* and fast transport *T.19* off Okurokami Island.

Europe

U.S. freighter *Solomon Juneau*, bound for Cherbourg, France, in convoy TBC 123, is torpedoed by German midget submarine off Dungeness, England 50°53'15"N, 01°03'45"E. Of the 41-man Armed Guard, one man is blown overboard and lost; a second dies of injuries. None of the 41-man merchant complement are casualties, and the ship is towed to safety.

• **10 April, Tue. --**

Pacific

U.S. Army 27th Division, supported by Eastern Island Attack and Fire Support Group and carrier aircraft, land on Tsuken Shima off east coast of Okinawa, to begin the search for isolated pockets of Japanese troops.

Off Okinawa, destroyer *Porterfield* (DD-682) is damaged by own gunfire; submarine chaser *SC-667* is damaged by grounding, 26°11'N, 127°57'E; motor minesweeper *YMS-96* is damaged in collision with high speed minesweeper *Hambleton*, 26°03'N, 127°48'E.

Submarine *Crevalle* (SS-291) damages Japanese escort destroyer *Ikuna* southwest of Iki Island 33°38'N, 129°13'E.

Dutch submarine *O-19* sinks Japanese merchant tanker *Hosei Maru* as the enemy ship proceeds from Balikpapan to Batavia, 05°30'S, 106°40'E.

Japanese merchant cargo vessel *Maruko Maru* is sunk by mine (laid by USAAF B-29s on 4 and 28 March) in Yangtze, 31°15'N, 121°29'E. Mines also damage Japanese destroyer *Tsubaki*, 58 miles off Woosung, China; gunboat *Uji* and transport *Kotobuki Maru* (ex-Italian liner *Conte Verde*); *Coast Defense Vessel No.124* near Futaoi-Jima; *Coast Defense Vessel No.156* off Mutsure Light; and minesweeper *W.21* east of the mouth of the Yangtze.

• **11 April, Wed. --**

Pacific

Kamikazes damage battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) and destroyers *Bullard* (DD-660) and *Kidd* (DD-661), 26°00'N, 130°00'E; carrier *Enterprise* (CV-6) (near-miss of two suiciders), 26°00'N, 128°00'E; and destroyer escort *Samuel S. Miles* (DE-183), 26°12'N, 127°20'E; carrier *Essex* (CV-9) is damaged by bomb, 26°50'N, 130°30'E; destroyer *Hale* (DD-642) is damaged by bomb, 26°00'N, 120°00'E; strafing accounts for damage to destroyer *Hank* (DD-702), 27°00'N, 130°00'E, and destroyer escort *Manlove* (DE-36), 26°12'N, 127°20'E; attack transport *Berrien* (APA-62) is damaged by collision with tank landing ship *LST-808*, 26°22'N, 127°43'E; friendly fire accounts for damage to destroyer *Trathen* (DD-530), 27°13'N, 130°15'E, and attack cargo ship *Leo* (AKA-60), 26°21'N, 127°43'E; tank landing ship *LST-399* is damaged by grounding, 26°20'N, 127°45'E.

Submarine *Parche* (SS-384) sinks Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *Togo Maru* off Todogasaki, 38°53'N, 142°05'E.

Submarine *Spadefish* (SS-411) sinks Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *No. 17 Hinode Maru* off Tokckok-Kundo, 37°13'N, 125°11'E.

RAF Liberators (203 Squadron) sink Japanese submarine chaser *Ch 7* and auxiliary netlayer *Agata Maru* in Andaman Sea, 08°57'N, 93°38'E.

Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 215* is sunk by mine off Futaoi-Jima, Shimonoseki.

Andaman Sea

RAF Liberators (No. 203 Squadron) sink Japanese submarine chae *Ch 7* and auxiliary netlayer *Agata Mary*, 08°57'N, 93°38'E.

Europe

U.S. freighter *Morgantown Victory*, in convoy VWP 21, strays from swept channel 11 miles off Le Havre, France, 49°46'N, 00°21'E, and is damaged by mine. She is towed to safety; there are no fatalities among the ship's complement (including 14 Armed Guard sailors).

- **12 April, Thu.**

United States President Roosevelt dies in Warm Springs, Georgia; Vice President Harry S. Truman succeeds to the Presidency.

Europe

Off Plymouth, England tank landing ship *LST-493* sinks after running aground, 50°20'N, 04°09'W.

U.S. freighter *Will Rogers*, bound for Antwerp, Belgium, in convoy BB 80, is torpedoed by German submarine *U-1024* 30 miles southwest of Holyhead, England 53°45'N, 04°44'W. Beached off that place under her own power, the ship is repaired and returned to active service, and suffers no casualties among the merchant complement or the 27-man Armed Guard.

Pacific

In the final mining mission carried out in support of the Okinawa campaign, five USAAF B-29s mine Shimonoseki Straits.

Off Okinawa, destroyer *Mannert L. Abele* (DD-733) is sunk by Baka, 27°25'N, 126°59'E--she is the first U.S. Navy ship to be sunk by that type of weapon; destroyer *Stanly* (DD-478) is damaged by Baka, 27°12'N, 128°17'E; high speed minesweeper *Jeffers* (DMS-27) is damaged by Baka and kamikaze, 26°50'N, 126°35'E; kamikazes sink support landing craft *LCS-33* and damage battleship *Idaho* (BB-42), 26°26'N, 127°32'E; battleship *Tennessee* (BB-43), destroyer *Zellars* (DD-777), destroyer escort *Riddle* (DE-185), 26°00'N, 128°00'E; destroyers *Purdy* (DD-734), 27°16'N, 127°50'E, and *Cassin Young* (DD-793), 27°17'N, 127°50'E; destroyer escorts *Rall* (DE-304), 26°36'N, 127°39'E, *Walter C. Wann* (DE-412), 26°17'N, 127°20'E, and *Whitehurst* (DE-634), 26°04'N, 127°12'E, and light minelayer *Lindsey* (DM-32), 26°28'N, 127°15'E; minesweeper *Gladiator* (AM-319) is damaged by near-miss of kamikaze, 26°05'N, 127°35'E. Friendly fire accounts for damage to battleship *New Mexico* (BB-40), 26°31'N, 127°37'E and destroyer *Bennion* (DD-662); while attack cargo ship *Wyandot* (AKA-92) is damaged in collision with medium landing ship *LSM-312*, 26°21'N, 127°44'E; tank landing ship *LST-555* is damaged by grounding, 26°20'N, 127°45'E. Kamikazes also attack U.S. freighter *Minot Victory*, but Armed Guard gunners inflict sufficient damage on the suicider that

it only strikes the ship a glancing blow and then disintegrates; there are no fatalities on board the merchantman among the 57-man merchant complement, the 27 Armed Guard sailors and nine passengers.

Submarine *Chub* (SS-329) is damaged by aerial bombs, Java Sea, 06°03'S, 113°56'E, but remains on patrol.

Submarine *Silversides* (SS-236) sinks Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Shiratori Maru* east of Tanega Jima, 30°45'N, 131°57'E.

British submarine HMS *Stygian* sinks Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *Wa 104* and damages auxiliary submarine chasers *Cha 104* and *Cha 114* off north coast of Bali, 08°05'S, 115°06'E.

Mines sink Japanese submarine *RO 64* off Kobe, Japan, 34°14'N, 132°16'E, and merchant cargo ship *Minatogawa Maru* off Wakamatsu.

B-24 aircraft (service and nationality unspecified) sinks Japanese ship *No.2 Hakushi Maru* off Badjowe, 04°33'S, 120°23'E.

Fire of undetermined origin destroys buildings and damages Finger Bay dock, Adak Island; the blaze also damages floating drydock *YFD-22* and floating workshop *YR-36*. Gasoline tanker *Ogeechee* (AOG-35) is saved from further damage by escort patrol vessel *PCE-895*, which pulls her out into Finger Bay.

- **13 April, Fri. --**

- Pacific

- Off Okinawa, destroyer escort *Connolly* (DE-306) is damaged by kamikaze, 26°55'N, 126°46'E; gasoline tanker *Wabash* (AOG-4) is damaged in collision with small craft, 26°00'N, 128°00'E.

- Submarine *Parche* (SS-384) sinks Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *No.1 Misago Maru*, 38°36'N, 141°41'E, and guardboat *No.2 Kosho Maru*, 38°27'N, 142°13'E off Todogasaki.

- British submarine HMS *Stygian* sinks auxiliary minesweeper *Wa.104* off Bali, 08°05'S, 115°06'E.

- U.S. freighter *Harrington Emerson* is mistakenly bombed and strafed by U.S. aircraft off Borneo, 05°03'N, 119°44'E. The ship is only slightly damaged, and there are no fatalities among the merchant crew, the passengers, stevedores, or the 29 Armed Guards.

- Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Kaiko Maru* is sunk by aircraft, 21°25'N, 109°20'E.

- Mines laid by USAAF B-29 (20th Bomber Command) sinks Japanese cargo ship *Shinro Maru* southeast of Hesaki Light, 33°53'N, 131°02'E, and damage *Coast Defense Vessel No.40* off Futaio Jima. B-29-laid mine sinks cargo ship *Kinoto Maru* off Cape Wada light, 34°39'N, 135°11'E.

- USAAF B-24s (13th Air Force) sink Japanese merchant tanker *No.12 Nanshin Maru* off southeast coast of Borneo, 04°00'N, 116°20'E.

- **14 April, Sat. --**

- Pacific

- Off Okinawa, kamikazes damage battleship *New York* (BB-34), 26°00'N,

128°00'E, and destroyers *Sigsbee* (DD-502), *Dashiell* (DD-659), and *Hunt* (DD-674), 27°15'N, 130°25'E; gunboat *PGM-11* is damaged by grounding, 26°13'N, 127°27'E.

Tank landing ship *LST-241* is damaged by collision, 14°38'N, 140°19'E.

Submarine *Gabilan* (SS-252) attacks Japanese Surabaya-to-Makassar convoy, sinking cargo vessel *Kako Maru*, 05°19'S, 117°06'E, and auxiliary submarine chaser *No.1 Shonan Maru*, 05°13'S, 118°12'E.

Submarine *Tirante* (SS-420) attacks Japanese convoy MOSI-02 in the approaches to the Yellow Sea, sinking transport *Jusan Maru*, escort vessel *Nomi*, and *Coast Defense Vessel No.31* west of Quelpart Island 33°25'N, 126°15'E. For his skill and daring in carrying out this surface attack through mined and shoal-obstructed waters, Lieutenant Commander George L. Street III, *Tirante*'s captain, will receive the [Medal of Honor](#).

Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 11* is sunk by aircraft, 15°45'N, 108°28'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kako Go* is sunk by aircraft near Rima Island.

Mines damage Japanese minelayer *Tokiwa* 78 miles off Hesaki, and auxiliary minelayer *Koei Maru* off Hime Jima lighthouse.

USAAF B-24s (14th Air Force) bomb Japanese shipping at Shanghai, sinking cargo vessel *Takko Maru*, 31°14'N, 121°30'E.

Atlantic

U.S. tanker *Delaware*, directed to the scene by a Navy plane, rescues survivors of tanker *Oklahoma* (sunk on 28 March 1945 by German submarine *U-532* in mid-Atlantic) at 11°45'N, 66°06'W.

- **15 April, Sun. --**

Atlantic

Destroyer escorts *Frost* (DE-144) and *Stanton* (DE-247) sinks German submarine *U-1235*, North Atlantic, 47°54'N, 30°25'W.

Pacific

Aircraft of fast carrier task force (Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher) attack airfields and aircraft on the ground in southern Kyushu, Japan; strike is repeated on 16 April.

Army troops land on Carabao Island at the entrance to Manila Bay; landing is preceded by cruiser/destroyer and aircraft bombardment.

Off Okinawa, kamikazes damage destroyers *Wilson* (DD-408), 26°03'N, 127°20'E, and *Laffey* (DD-724), 27°16'N, 127°50'E; Japanese assault demolition boat damages motor minesweeper *YMS-331*, 26°15'N, 127°36'E; attack transport *Berrien* (APA-62) is damaged by friendly fire.

Submarine *Charr* (SS-328) lays mines off the Malay Peninsula.

Japanese guardboat *No.2 Hinode Maru* is sunk by U.S. aircraft off Chezhudo, 33°19'N, 127°21'E.

Mine laid by USAAF B-29 (20th Air Force) sinks Japanese cargo ship *No.3 Yamanami Maru* southeast of Hesaki Light, 33°53'N, 131°02'E.

Hulk of Japanese army tanker *Shincho Maru* (sunk by TF 38 planes on 21 January) is scuttled across entrance of Takao, Formosa, harbor.

- **16 April, Mon. --**

Atlantic

Destroyer escorts *Frost* (DE-144) and *Stanton* (DE-247) sink German submarine *U-880*, North Atlantic, 47°53'N, 30°26'W.

Pacific

Army forces covered by naval gunfire and carrier aircraft land on Ie Shima, Ryukyus.

Off Okinawa, kamikazes sink destroyer *Pringle* (DD-477), 27°26'N, 126°59'E; and damage carrier *Intrepid* (CV-11), 27°37'N, 131°14'E; battleship *Missouri* (BB-63), 26°00'N, 130°00'E; destroyer *Bryant* (DD-665), 27°05'N, 128°13'E; destroyer escort *Bowers* (DE-637), 26°52'N, 127°52'E; high speed minesweepers *Hobson* (DMS-26), 27°26'N, 126°59'E, and *Harding* (DMS-28), 26°42'N, 127°25'E; and oiler *Taluga* (AO-62), 26°03'N, 127°26'E. Destroyer *McDermut* (DD-677) is damaged by friendly fire, 27°30'N, 130°20'E.

Submarine *Sea Dog* (SS-401) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Toko Maru* off Mikura Jima, 33°31'N, 139°36'E.

Submarine *Sunfish* (SS-281) attacks Japanese convoy emerging from Yamado harbor, Honshu, and sinks *Coast Defense Vessel No.73* and transport *Manryu Maru*, 39°35'N, 142°06'E.

Mine laid by USAAF B-29 (20th Air Force) damages Japanese cargo vessel *No.10 Kaishin Maru* off Shimonoseki, 33°53'N, 131°09'E.

- **17 April, Tue. --**

Pacific

Army forces are landed near Malabang, Parang, and Cotabato on Mindanao, by naval attack group (Rear Admiral Albert G. Noble); landings are supported by cruiser and destroyer gunfire and aircraft. The defenders do not make a determined stand.

Off Okinawa, destroyer *Benham* (DD-796) is damaged by kamikaze and by friendly fire, 24°01'N, 132°32'E.

Mines sink Japanese guardboat *No.92 Banshu Maru* off Goto Rette.

PB4Y (VPB 111) sinks Japanese cargo ship *Gyoyo Maru* off coast of Malaya, 03°27'N, 103°37'E.

Mine laid by USAAF B-29 (20th Air Force) sinks Japanese cargo ship *Sonjo Maru* off Shanghai, 31°13'N, 121°52'E.

Mine laid by USAAF B-29 (21st Bomber Command) sinks Japanese cargo ship *Tairyu Maru* off Wada Misaki light, 34°27'N, 135°11'E.

Japanese ship *Yamadono Maru* is damaged by aircraft, Kobe harbor.

- **18 April, Wed. --**

Pacific

Off Okinawa, light cruiser *Mobile* (CL-63) is damaged by on-board explosion, 26°13'N, 127°52'E; light minelayer *Tolman* (DM-28) is damaged by grounding, 26°16'N, 127°32'E; and tank landing ship *LST-929* is damaged in collision with tank landing ship *LST-267*, 26°21'N, 127°43'20"E.

Destroyers *Heermann* (DD-532), *McCord* (DD-534), *Mertz* (DD-691), and *Collett* (DD-730), assisted by destroyer *Uhlmann* (DD-687) and TBM (VT 47) from small carrier *Bataan* (CVL-29) sink Japanese submarine *I 56* 150 miles east of Okinawa, 26°42'N, 130°38'E.

Submarine *Seahorse* (SS-304) is damaged by depth charges in Tsushima Strait, 33°45'N, 128°26'E, and is forced to terminate her patrol.

Submarine *Sea Owl* (SS-405) sinks Japanese submarine *RO 46* 500 yards off Wake Island 19°17'N, 166°35'E.

Japanese transport *Teizui Maru* (ex-German *Mosel*) is sunk by mine near western entrance to Shimonoseki Strait, 34°04'N, 130°50'E.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Cyrus H. McCormack*, while in convoy HX 348, is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-1107* 70 miles southwest of Brest, France, 47°47'N, 06°26'W; British rescue ship *Gothland* picks up the survivors, but two Armed Guard sailors (of the 12-man detachment) are lost along with four of the 40-man merchant crew.

U.S. freighter *Swiftscout* is torpedoed by German submarine *U-548* about 145 miles northeast of Cape Henry, Virginia, 37°30'N, 72°45'W; Armed Guard gunfire drives the attacker down, but *U-548* returns to torpedo the ship a second time, sinking her. Only one man is lost (none of the 10-man Armed Guard) and the survivors are rescued by steamship *Chancellorsville*.

- **19 April, Thu. --**

Atlantic

Destroyer escorts *Buckley* (DE-51) and *Reuben James* (DE-153) sink German submarine *U-879*, North Atlantic, 42°19'N, 61°45'W.

Pacific

Submarine *Cero* (SS-225) sinks Japanese guardboat *No.3 Isuzu Maru* south of Japan, 30°42'N, 136°42'E.

Submarine *Pogy* (SS-266) is mistakenly attacked by PB4Y (VPB 102) as *Pogy* approaches a Japanese convoy southeast of Honshu, 32°59'E, 139°58'E. Fortunately, the submarine escapes the encounter undamaged and remains on patrol.

Submarine *Sennet* (SS-408), attacking Japanese convoy in Kii Suido off the south coast of Kyushu, sinks auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 97*, 33°32'N, 135°23'E, and merchant cargo ship *Hagane Maru*, 33°35'N, 135°23'E.

Submarine *Silversides* (SS-236) sinks Japanese guardboat *Kairyu Maru*, 32°57'N, 145°03'E.

Submarine *Sunfish* (SS-281) attacks Japanese convoy TSO-201 off Hokkaido, sinking gunboat *Kaiho Maru*, 42°22'N, 142°16'E, and merchant cargo ship *Taisei Maru*, 42°22'N, 142°13'E.

Submarine *Trutta* (SS-421) sinks Japanese merchant vessel *Kaiyo Maru*, 37°52'N, 122°24'E, and merchant fishing boats *Kinshu Maru* and *Mitsuyama Maru*, 37°52'N, 122°24'E.

USAAF B-24s bomb Japanese shipping at Saigon, adding further damage to merchant cargo ships *Kenei Maru* and *Chefoo Maru* (previously damaged in TF 58's 12 January 1945 strike).

Japanese tanker *Shonan Maru* sinks after running aground off Belawan, Sumatra, 03°55'N, 98°49'E.

- **20 April, Fri. --**
Pacific

Army troops supported by naval vessels and USAAF aircraft land on Catanduanes Island, P.I.

Battleship *Colorado* (BB-45) is damaged by on-board explosion off Okinawa, 26°10'N, 127°20'E.

Escort carrier *Corregidor* (CVE-58), while operating east of the Marianas on antisubmarine patrol in TG 12.3, is damaged in typhoon.

Submarine *Guitarro* (SS-363) lays mines in Berhala Strait off northeast coast of Sumatra, N.E.I.

Submarine chaser *SC-737* is damaged by grounding, Sulu Sea, 09°45'N, 118°44'E.

Mines laid by USAAF B-29s (20th Air Force) sink Japanese cargo vessels *Yamamitsu Maru* off Nojima, 34°32'N, 128°44'E, and *Sanko Maru* at 33°48'N, 131°00'E, and damage cargo ship *Kitsurin Maru* at western entrance of Shimonoseki Strait.

USAAF P-38s and P-51s attack Japanese shipping off Rangoon, Burma, sinking motor torpedo boat *Gyoraitei No.412*.

- **21 April, Sat. --**
Pacific

Off Okinawa, destroyer *Ammen* (DD-527) is damaged by near-miss of bomb, 27°13'N, 128°16'E.

Japanese guardboat *Zenyo Maru* is sunk by U.S. aircraft off Shionomisaki, 31°30'N, 135°40'E.

Japanese cargo vessel *No.2 Toshi Maru* is damaged by mine off Singapore.

- **22 April, Sun. --**

- Atlantic

Destroyer escorts *Carter* (DE-112) and *Neal A. Scott* (DE-769) sink German submarine *U-518*, North Atlantic, 43°26'N, 38°23'W.

Caribbean

Submarine chaser *SC-1019* sinks after running aground in Yucatan Channel, 22°28'N, 84°30'W.

Europe

U.S. freighter *Benjamin H. Bristow*, en route to Southend, England with convoy ATM 123, is mined off Flushing, Holland 51°24'30"N, 03°22'E. There are no fatalities among the ship's complement (42 merchant sailors, the 26-man Armed Guard and a pilot), and the ship is towed to Terneuzen, Holland for repairs.

Pacific

Off Okinawa, support landing craft *LCS-15* is sunk by aircraft, 27°20'N, 127°10'E; kamikazes sink minesweeper *Swallow* (AM-65), 26°10'N, 127°12'E, and damage destroyers *Hudson* (DD-475), 27°00'N, 127°00'E, and *Wadsworth* (DD-516), 26°10'N, 126°24'E; destroyer *Isherwood* (DD-520) and minesweeper *Ransom* (AM-283), 26°14'N, 127°28'E; and light minelayer *Shea* (DM-30), 26°00'N, 127°00'E; minesweeper *Gladiator* (AM-319) is damaged by strafing and near-miss of kamikaze, 26°21'N, 127°45'E;

Submarine *Cero* (SS-225) sinks Japanese guardboat *Aji Maru* west of Tori Jima, 31°38'N, 139°00'E, and damages guardboat *No.9 Takamiya Maru*, 30°04'N, 136°43'E.

Submarine *Hardhead* (SS-365) sinks Japanese cargo vessel *Mankei Maru* off Chimpon, 10°25'N, 99°06'E.

Dutch submarine *O 19* torpedoes Japanese heavy cruiser *Ashigara* as the latter proceeds in company with destroyer *Kamikaze* toward Batavia, 05°37'S, 106°55'E.

Japanese guardboat *Ariake Maru* is sunk by U.S. aircraft in Ise Bay, 34°43'N, 136°43'E.

USAAF P-51s sink Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Chikuyu Maru* south of Toshi Jima.

Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.81* is damaged by aircraft, 31°26'N, 123°30'E.

- **23 April, Mon. --**

Atlantic

Eagle boat *Eagle 56* (PE-56) is sunk by explosion off Portland Maine.^[12]

Pacific

Submarine *Besugo* (SS-321) sinks German submarine *U-183* in Java Sea, 04°57'S, 112°52'E.

PB4Ys (VPB 109) employ "Bat" missiles against Japanese shipping off Balikpapan, Borneo, in the first combat use of the only automatic homing missile to be used in World War II.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Tamae Maru* is sunk by accidental ammunition explosion in Sakai harbor.

- **24 April, Tue. --**

Atlantic

Destroyer escort *Frederick C. Davis* (DE-136) is torpedoed and sunk by German

submarine *U-546*, 570 miles east of Cape Race, Newfoundland 43°52'N, 40°15'W; but destroyer escorts *Pillsbury* (DE-133), *Flaherty* (DE-135), *Chatelain* (DE-149), *Neunzer* (DE-150), *Hubbard* (DE-211), *Keith* (DE-241), *Janssen* (DE-396), and *Varian* (DE-798) sink *U-546*, 43°53'N, 40°07'W.

Europe

German submarine *U-1223* is sunk by USAAF and British aircraft at Wessermunde, Germany.

Pacific

USAAF B-24s sink Japanese motor sailship *Shinyo Maru* off coast of French Indochina.

Japanese tanker *San Diego Maru* is damaged by mine in swept channel of Hiroshima Bay, 34°06'N, 132°25'E.

- **25 April, Wed. --**

Europe

German submarine *U-1107* is sunk by naval land-based aircraft (VPB 103) in English Channel, 48°12'N, 05°42'W.

Pacific

Carrier-based aircraft bomb enemy installations on Okino Daito Jima, Ryukyus.

Off Okinawa, escort carrier *Steamer Bay* (CVE-87) and destroyer *Hale* (DD-642) are damaged in collision, 24°48'N, 131°58'E.

High speed transport *Horace A. Bass* (APD-124) sinks Japanese submarine *RO 109*, 280 miles south-southeast of Okinawa, 21°58'N, 129°35'E.

Submarine *Cod* (SS-224) sinks Japanese minesweeper *W.41* north of Keelung, Formosa, 26°10'N, 121°30'E.

USAAF B-24s bomb Japanese shipping at Saigon, French Indochina, sinking transport *Kaiko Maru*.

USAAF B-24s on anti-shipping sweep of Makassar Strait sink Japanese *Shuttle Boat No.302* off Salinguigan Island 02°19'S, 117°14'E.

Japanese cargo vessel *Sano Maru* is damaged by mine in Yangtze River near Nanking.

- **26 April, Thu. --**

Pacific

Destroyer *Hutchins* (DD-476) is damaged by depth charge, off Okinawa, 26°14'N, 127°49'E.

Submarine *Perch* (SS-313) is damaged by depth charges off North Borneo, 05°32'N, 116°07'E, but remains on patrol.

British submarines HMS *Solent* and HMS *Sleuth* sink Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *Wa.3* in Java Sea west of Kalambau Island 04°50'S, 115°40'E.

Mines sink Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *Mejima Maru* off Futaoi light, 34°04'N, 130°47'E; and merchant cargo ships *Sanko Maru* in Chochiku channel.

Japanese guardboat *No.6 Chozan Maru* is sunk by aircraft east of Kammon Strait, off Shimonoseki, Japan.

Japanese merchant cargo vessel *Heiyu Maru* is damaged by aircraft, 34°41'N, 128°54'E.

- **27 April, Fri. --**

Pacific

Off Okinawa, kamikazes damage destroyer *Ralph Talbot* (DD-390), 26°00'N, 128°00'E; destroyer escort *England* (DE-635), 26°40'N, 127°40'E; and high speed transport *Rathburne* (APD-25), 26°26'N, 127°36'E; heavy cruiser *Wichita* (CA-45) is damaged by shore battery, 26°14'N, 127°50'E; destroyer *William D. Porter* (DD-579) is damaged by friendly fire, 26°21'N, 127°43'E. A kamikaze also crashes U.S. freighter *Canada Victory* killing one merchant officer and two of the 27-man Armed Guard; *Canada Victory* sinks, the survivors swimming to nearby attack transport *Lauderdale* (APA-179).

Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *No.31 Yusen Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Amami-Oshima.

USAAF mine (laid on 27 March) sinks Japanese cargo vessel *Kaiho Maru* at western entrance of Shimonoseki Strait, 34°00'N, 130°50'E.

- **28 April, Sat. --**

Atlantic

Frigate *Huron* (PF-19) accidentally rams and damages French submarine *Argo* off Key West, Florida.

Pacific

Off Okinawa, kamikazes damage destroyers *Wadsworth* (DD-516), 26°47'N, 126°38'E; *Daly* (DD-519), 27°12'N, 128°16'E; *Twiggs* (DD-591), 27°12'N, 128°16'E; and *Bennion* (DD-662), 27°26'N, 127°51'E; high speed minesweeper *Butler* (DMS-29), 26°00'N, 127°00'E; hospital ship *Comfort* (AH-6), 25°30'N, 127°40'E; and transport fitted for the evacuation of wounded *Pinkney* (APH-2), 26°00'N, 127°00'E. Destroyer *Lang* (DD-399) is damaged in collision with oiler *Brazos* (AO-4), 26°11'N, 127°20'E. Japanese assault demolition boat causes extensive damage to U.S. freighter *Bozeman Victory*; six men among the 59-man merchant crew, 13 stevedores and the 27-man Armed Guard suffer injuries.

Motor minesweeper *YMS-329* is damaged by mine off Tarakan, Borneo, 03°14'N, 117°42'E.

Submarine *Sennet* (SS-408) sinks Japanese cable layer *Hatsushima* off Kii Suido, south-southeast of Mikizaki, 33°55'N, 136°18'E.

Submarine *Springer* (SS-414) sinks Japanese submarine chaser *Ch 17* west of Kyushu, 32°25'N, 128°46'E, as the latter is escorting landing ship *T.146*; later that day, submarine *Trepang* (SS-412) sinks *T.146* off Osezaki, Japan, 32°24'N, 128°40'E.

British submarine HMS *Tradewind* attacks Japanese convoy off coast of Malaya, sinking merchant tanker *Takasago Maru* 53 miles from Kota Bharu, 06°48'N, 101°36'E.

USAAF B-25s and P-38s (Far East Air Force) bomb Japanese shipping at Saigon, sinking tanker *No.8 Takasago Maru*, 10°49'N, 106°41'E, and motor sailships *No.10 Shingi Maru* and *9 Nittai Maru* and *1 Kashima Maru*, *Shuttle Boat No.51*, *Shuttle Boat No.57* and *Shuttle Boat No. 74*.

Japanese escort vessel *Uku* and *Patrol Vessel No.102* [ex-U.S. destroyer *Stewart* (DD-224)] are damaged by aircraft, 34°52'N, 124°23'E.

USAAF mine sinks Japanese cargo vessel *Gakujo Maru* at western entrance of Shimonoseki Strait, 34°00'N, 130°50'E.

- **29 April, Sun. --**

Pacific

Off Okinawa, kamikazes damage destroyers *Hazelwood* (DD-531), 27°02'N, 129°59'E, and *Haggard* (DD-555), 27°01'N, 129°40'E; and light minelayers *Shannon* (DM-25), 26°00'N, 127°00'E, and *Harry F. Bauer* (DM-26), 26°47'N, 128°42'E.

Motor minesweeper *YMS-51* is damaged by mine off Tarakan, Borneo, 03°18'N, 117°33'E.

Japanese carrier attack planes (KATEs) flying from Truk attack Naval Base, Manus, Admiralty Islands, torpedoing the advance base section docks *ABSD-2* and *ABSD-4* in the belief that the shapes they perceive in the nocturnal strike are aircraft carriers.

TBM (VC 92) from escort carrier *Tulagi* (CVE-72) sinks Japanese submarine *I 44*, 220 miles southeast of Okinawa, 24°15'N, 131°16'E.

Submarine *Besugo* (SS-321) sinks Japanese guardboat *Otome Maru* southeast of Borneo, 05°45'S, 107°30'E.

Submarine *Bream* (SS-243) sinks German minesweeper depot ship *Quito* off Tanjong Puting, Borneo, N.E.I., 04°11'S, 111°17'E. ^[13]

Submarine *Cero* (SS-225) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Taishu Maru* off Kamaishi, Japan, 39°15'N, 141°58'E.

USAAF B-24s on anti-shipping sweep of Makassar Strait sink Japanese cargo vessel *No.5 Hirata Maru* in Pamukan Bay, 02°30'S, 116°25'E.

Japanese passenger ferry *No.2 Kuroshio* (ex-landing ship *T.149*) is damaged by mine during passage from Singapore to Batavia; transport (ex-seaplane carrier) *Kumikawa Maru* is damaged by mine laid by RAAF Catalina off Balikpapan, Borneo. Merchant cargo ship *No.1 Aioi Maru* is sunk by mine three miles off Tsunemi.

- **30 April, Mon. --**

Europe

Grossadmiral Karl Doenitz proclaims himself head of the German state by Hitler's appointment.

Sometime during April 1945 (exact dates indeterminate), USAAF and British aircraft sink German submarines *U-3525* in the Baltic; *U-1131* and *U-1227* at Kiel, Germany; and *U-677*, *U-982*, and *U-2516* at Hamburg, Germany.

Atlantic

Destroyer escorts *Thomas* (DE-102), *Bostwick* (DE-103), *Coffman* (DE-191), and frigate *Natchez* (PF-2) sink German submarine *U-548*, off Virginia, 36°34'N, 74°00'W.

PBY (VP 63) sinks German submarine *U-1055* west of France, 48°00'N, 06°30'W.

Pacific

Off Okinawa, kamikazes damage destroyer *Bennion* (DD-662), 27°26'N, 127°51'E, and minelayer *Terror* (CM-5), 26°10'N, 127°18'E. One suicide plane damages U.S. freighter *S. Hall Young* in Nago Bay; there are no fatalities among the crew, passengers, and 12-man Armed Guard.

Destroyer *Jenkins* (DD-447) is damaged by mine off Tarakan, Borneo, 03°12'N, 117°37'E.

Submarine *Trepang* (SS-412), despite proximity of three escorting coast defense ships, attacks Japanese convoy MOSI-05, sinking transport *Miho Maru* in Yellow Sea, 34°27'N, 123°48'E.

Japanese army tanker *Yuno Maru* is sunk by mine [laid by submarine *Guitarro* (SS-363) on 20 April 1945 or Dutch submarine *O-19* on 13 April 1945] off east coast of Sumatra, 01°00'S, 104°30'E.

Japanese auxiliary minelayer *Nuwashima* is damaged by aircraft southeast of Dainyu-Jima, Saeki.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.18 Yamabishi Maru* is damaged by mine, off Wakamatsu light.

USAAF B-24s (13th Air Force) sink Japanese transport (ex-seaplane carrier) *Kunikawa Maru* (previously damaged by Australian mine) in Balikpapan Bay, 01°15'S, 116°50'E.

May

- **1 May, Tue. --**

Pacific

Naval attack force (Vice Admiral Daniel E. Barbey) lands Australian troops on Tarakan Island Borneo, supported by naval gunfire and aircraft.

U.S. freighter *Henry L. Abbott* is damaged by mine, Manila Bay, 14°35'N, 120°58'E. Two of the merchant crew die in the explosion; there are no casualties among the 27-man Armed Guard.

Submarine *Bowfin* (SS-287) sinks Japanese gunboat *Chowa Maru* southeast of Erimosaki, Hokkaido, Japan, 41°02'N, 144°36'E.

Submarine *Sennet* (SS-408) damages Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.50* off Wakayama, 3358'N, 136°17'E.

PBMs (VPB 11 and FAW-1) sink Japanese cargo vessel *Kyugoku Maru* off Mokpo, Korea, 34°35'N, 126°00'E; USN land-based planes on anti-shipping sweeps over Yellow Sea also sink merchant cargo ships *Miyatama Maru* and *Komadori Maru* off Mokpo, 34°11'N, 126°35'E. Land-based USN aircraft are also most likely responsible for damage inflicted on merchant vessel *Taruyasu Maru* in the Chochiku Channel the same day.

Japanese merchant tanker *No.2 Iyasaka Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Singapore.

Japanese merchant ship *Richo Go* is sunk by mine off Woosung, China.

- **2 May, Wed. --**

Pacific

On Okinawa, Hospital Apprentice Second Class Robert E. Bush, serving as a corpsman with a rifle company with the 2d Battalion, 5th Marines, is administering blood plasma to a wounded marine when the Japanese launch a fierce counterattack against his unit. Steadfastly remaining at the wounded man's side, Bush holds the plasma bottle in one hand and draws his .45 with the other, expending his ammunition at the charging enemy. Seizing a discarded carbine, the battling corpsman, who suffers the loss of an eye among other injuries, kills six Japanese as the marines drive the enemy back. Bush refuses medical attention for himself until the marine that he had protected is evacuated. Bush then collapses before he himself can reach an aid station. For his selfless heroism, the corpsman is awarded the [Medal of Honor](#).

Off Tarakan, Borneo, Japanese shore batteries sink motor minesweeper *YMS-481* and damage *YMS-364*, 03°27'N, 117°32'E, and *YMS-334*, 03°26'N, 117°40'E. *YMS-363* is damaged by mine, 03°26'N, 117°32'E.

Submarine *Raton* (SS-270) attacks Japanese convoy SE-3, sinking merchant cargo ship *Toryu Maru* southeast of the Shantung Peninsula, 37°24'N, 123°50'E.

Submarine *Springer* (SS-414) sinks Japanese escort vessel *Oga* in Yellow Sea, 33°56'N, 122°49'E (see 3-4 May).

Japanese merchant ship *Daian Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Woosung, China.

- **3 May, Thu. --**

Pacific

TG 78.2 (Rear Admiral Albert G. Noble) lands Army troops at Santa Cruz, Davao Gulf, P.I.;

Phase II of Operation STARVATION commences: in the first of two operations aimed at blockading Japan's industrial centers, 97 USAAF B-29s sow mines in the Shimonoseki Straits and the waters off Kobe, Osaka and Suo Nada.

Off Okinawa, kamikazes sink destroyer *Little* (DD-803), 26°24'N, 126°15'E and medium landing ship *LSM-195*, and damage destroyer *Bache* (DD-470) and high speed minesweeper *Macomb* (DMS-23), 26°01'N, 126°53'E; light minelayer *Aaron Ward* (DM-34), 26°24'N, 126°15'E, and large support landing craft *LCS-25*. Cargo ship *Carina* (AK-74) is damaged by assault demolition boat, 26°13'N, 127°50'E; infantry landing craft *LCI-768* by operational casualty. Battleship *New Mexico* (BB-40) 40-millimeter mount accidentally fires upon and damages nearby War Department-chartered U.S. freighter *Sea Flasher*, injuring 47 men and killing seven troops of those men being transported on board.

U.S. freighter *Edmund F. Dickens* is damaged by mine, Manila Bay; there are no casualties among the merchant crew or the 27-man Armed Guard.

Submarine *Lagarto* (SS-371) is sunk by Japanese minelayer *Hatsutaka* in Gulf of Siam, 07°55'N, 102°00'E.

Submarine *Springer* (SS-414) sinks Japanese *Coast Defense Ship No.25* in Yellow Sea, 34°56'N, 122°49'E, as that ship proceeds to the scene of the sinking of escort vessel *Oga*, sunk by *Springer* the previous day (see 4 May).

- **4 May, Fri. --**

Pacific

Japanese planes attack Yontan airfield, Okinawa, and U.S. and British ships supporting Okinawa operation. Kamikazes sink destroyers *Luce* (DD-522), 26°35'N, 127°10'E, and *Morrison* (DD-560), 27°10'N, 127°58'E, and medium landing craft *LSM-190* and *LSM-194*; and damage light cruiser *Birmingham* (CL-62), 26°19'N, 127°43'E; escort carrier *Sangamon* (CVE-26), 26°01'N, 237°26'E [destroyer *Hudson* (DD-475) collides with *Sangamon* as the destroyer lies alongside, 26°01'N, 127°26'E]; destroyers *Ingraham* (DD-694), 27°10'N, 127°58'E; *Cowell* (DD-547), 26°11'N, 126°35'E; and *Lowry* (DD-770), 27°12'N, 128°17'E; light minelayer *Gwin* (DM-33), 26°13'N, 126°22'E; high speed minesweeper *Hopkins* (DMS-13), 26°32'N, 126°58'E; motor minesweeper *YMS-331*, 26°32'N, 126°58'E; British carrier HMS *Formidable* [carrier HMS *Indomitable* is also crashed by a suicider, but her armored deck deflects the attacker into the sea]. In addition, light minelayer *Shea* (DM-30) is damaged by a Baka, 27°26'N, 126°59'E; minesweeper *Gayety* (AM-239) is damaged by near-misses of kamikaze and Baka, 26°32'N, 126°58'E; motor minesweeper *YMS-327* is damaged by kamikaze and by friendly fire, 26°32'N, 126°58'E; motor minesweeper *YMS-311* is damaged by friendly fire, 26°00'N, 128°00'E; motor gunboat *PGM-17* is damaged by grounding, 26°42'N, 128°01'E; large support landing craft *LCS-31* and *LCS-57* are damaged by air attack. Coordinated with the air strike, a minor Japanese counterlanding is attempted and repulsed.

Fleet Air Wing 18 (Rear Admiral Marshall R. Greer) is established at Guam for operations in the forward areas.

Submarine *Cero* (SS-225) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Shinpen Maru* off Yamada Bay, 39°28'N, 142°04'E.

Submarine *Trepang* (SS-412) sinks Japanese minesweeper *W.20* in Yellow Sea 140 nautical miles southeast of Mokpo, Korea, 34°16'N, 123°37'E, as *W.20* proceeds to the scene of the sinking of escort vessel *Oga*, sunk by *Springer* (SS-414) on 2 May 1945 (see 2 and 3 May).

USN land-based planes sink Japanese merchant tankers *Koan Maru* and *No.15 Takasago Maru* off Pusan, Korea, 34°40'N, 127°30'E. Navy PBMs damage cargo vessel *Harukawa Maru* while she is en route from Jinsen to Moji, 34°50'N, 128°30'E.

Japanese tanker *No.2 Yaei Maru* is sunk by USAAF B-29 (20th Bomber Command)-laid mine off Singapore, 02°00'S, 105°00'E; stores ship *Hayasaki* is damaged by mine [laid by submarine *Guitarro* (SS-363) on 20 April 1945] while en route from Batavia to Singapore, 01°00'S, 104°30'E.

USAAF B-24 (13th Air Force) attacks Japanese shipping off Cape Camau, French Indochina, sinking auxiliary netlayer *Tokachi Maru*, 08°36'N, 104°43'E.

Tank landing craft *LCT-1358* sinks after running aground off California coast.

- **5 May, Sat. --**

Pacific

In the second of two operations aimed at blockading Japan's industrial centers, 98 USAAF B-29s sow mines in the Inland Sea and off Kobe, Osaka, Tokyo and Nagoya.

Off Okinawa, kamikazes damage seaplane tender *St. George* (AV-16), 26°10'N, 127°19'E, and surveying ship *Pathfinder* (AGS-1), 26°38'N, 127°53'E.

Japanese army cargo ship *Manshu Maru* is damaged by USAAF B-29-laid mine, 33°47'N, 131°35'E.

Japanese merchant tanker *No.5 Takasago Maru* is sunk by aircraft, 34°44'N, 126°16'E.

Japanese merchant tanker *No.11 Takasago Maru* is sunk by aircraft, off Yosu, Korea.

Japanese merchant cargo ships *Yamatogawa Maru* and *Naka Maru* are sunk by aircraft off Mokpo, Korea.

Navy patrol bomber (PBMs and PB4Ys are operating in this area) sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.9 Taiun Maru* west of Kunsan, 34°00'N, 130°00'E.

USAAF B-24s (13th Air Force) raid Japanese shipping and shore installations at Makassar, sinking cargo vessel *Kenzan Maru*.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Okusu Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Karatsu.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Washi Maru* is sunk by aircraft, 35°33'N, 126°18'E.

Japanese escort destroyer *Oki* is damaged by aircraft, 37°36'N, 126°00'E.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Black Point* is torpedoed and sunk by German submarine *U-853* about five miles southeast of Point Judith, Rhode Island 41°19'02"N, 71°25'01"W. One of the five Armed Guard sailors is killed, as are 11 of the 41-man merchant complement. Yugoslavian freighter *Karman* and Norwegian *Scandanavia*, crash boats from Quonset Point, Rhode Island and a Coast Guard craft rescue the survivors of the last U.S.-flag merchantman sunk by a U-boat in World War II. *U-853's* sailors, however, do not get to ponder the significance of their achievement for long (see 6 May).

- **6 May, Sun. --**

Atlantic

Destroyer escort *Atherton* (DE-169) and frigate *Moberley* (PF-63) sink German submarine *U-853* near Block Island Rhode Island 41°13'N, 71°27'W.

Destroyer escort *Farquhar* (DE-139) sinks German submarine *U-881*, North Atlantic, 43°18'N, 47°44'W. *U-881* is the last submarine sunk in the Atlantic by U.S. forces.

Pacific

Naval landing force, covered by destroyer escort *Wintle* (DE-25) and motor minesweeper *YMS-354*, evacuates about 500 Marshallese from Jaluit in infantry landing craft *LCI-394*, *LCI-479* and *LCI-481*.

Off Okinawa, battleship *South Dakota* (BB-57) is damaged by explosion of five 16-inch powder tanks in magazine, 26°30'N, 129°30'E.¹⁴

Floating drydock *ARD-28* is damaged by horizontal bomber, 25°33'N, 127°27'E.

Submarine *Hammerhead* (SS-364) sinks Japanese fleet tanker *Kinrei Maru* in Gulf of Thailand 08°15'N, 102°00'E.

Japanese guardboat *Kiho Maru No.1* is destroyed by fire, location unspecified.

Off Inchon, Korea, Japanese merchant tanker *No.5 Hoei Maru* is sunk by aircraft; USN land-based planes sink merchant cargo ship *Eiko Maru* in Yellow Sea, 36°26'N, 126°37'E.

Japanese cargo ship *Sagamigawa Maru* is sunk by USAAF mine laid by B-29 (20th Bomber Command). Submarine *I 366*, en route to take delivery of kaitens, is damaged by mine off Hikari.

Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Kumi Maru* is damaged and merchant cargo ship *No.3 Kinzan Maru* is sunk, by aircraft off Kuche Island.

USN land-based aircraft sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.1 Tora Maru* off Mokpo, Korea. PBMs or PB4Ys sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *Nakagawa Maru* off Yosu, Korea, 34°30'N, 127°00'E.

Japanese merchant vessel *Niosan Maru* is sunk by aircraft north of Kumun Island.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Enzan Maru* is damaged by aircraft, 34°21'N, 127°24'E.

- **7 May, Mon. --**

- Atlantic and Europe

- **Germany surrenders** unconditionally to the Western Allies and Russia at Reims, France.

- Pacific

- Japanese minesweeper *W.29* and cargo vessel *Kashima Maru* are sunk by mines (laid by USAAF B-29s) in Shimonoseki Strait, 34°02'N, 130°54'E; mines also sink merchant cargo ship *Shofuku Maru* off Dairen, Manchuria; and merchant vessel *Teiko Maru* off Futaoi Jima.

- USAAF B-24s (13th Air Force) bomb Japanese shipping and shore installations at Makassar, sinking gunboat *Kenzan Maru* and cargo ship *Hakko Maru*, 05°08'S, 119°35'E.

- PBMs or PB2Ys on sweeps off west coast of Korea sink Japanese cargo ships *Tatsuchiyo Maru*, 34°00'N, 126°00'E; *No.2 Kozan Maru*, 35°16'N, 126°03'E; and *Kaba Maru* and *Hoei Maru*, 34°00'N, 130°00'E.

- Japanese minesweeper *Nuwajima*, damaged by aircraft, is beached, Saeki Bay.

- **8 May, Tue. --**

- Europe and Atlantic

- As of 6:01 PM this date, all offensive operations against German land sea, and air forces, ceases ("**V-E Day**").

- Europe

- U.S. freighter *Horace Binney*, in convoy TAM 62, is damaged by mine 15 miles off Ostend, Belgium, 51°21'N, 02°27'E; there are no fatalities among the ship's complement (which includes a 36-man Armed Guard). The ship is towed to Deal, England and beached, where she is later written off as a total loss.

Pacific

Submarine *Bowfin* (SS-287) sinks Japanese fishing boat *No.3 Daito Maru* east-southeast of Todogasaki, 39°38'N, 142°08'E.

Submarine *Bream* (SS-243) lays mines off Puolo Obi, French Indochina, in the last U.S. Navy submarine mine plant of World War II.

Mines sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *Shuncho Maru* south of Futaoi Jima, and damage minesweeper *W.39*, 4.85 kilometers southeast of Futaoi Light. Transport *Kotobuki Maru* (ex-Italian liner *Conte Verde*) is damaged by mine laid by USAAF B-29 (20th Bomber Command) off southern Korea, 34°30'N, 126°19'E.

Japanese merchant vessel *No.6 Kosho Maru* is sunk by aircraft, 21°51'N, 113°09'E.

- **9 May, Wed. --**

Atlantic German submarine *U-249* surrenders to PB4Y (FAW 7) off the Scilly Islands, becoming the first to do so after hostilities cease in Europe.

Pacific

Off Okinawa, kamikazes damage destroyer escorts *Oberrender* (DE-344), 26°32'N, 127°30'E, and *England* (DE-635), 26°18'N, 127°13'E; and British carriers HMS *Formidable* and HMS *Victorious*.

Japanese escort vessel *Uku* is damaged by mine off Futaoi Light.

Japanese merchant tanker *No.13 Horai Maru* is damaged by aircraft, 36°10'N, 126°02'E.

- **10 May, Thu. --**

Pacific

TG 78.3 (Rear Admiral Arthur D. Struble) lands Army troops at Macajalar Bay, Mindanao.

Off Okinawa, kamikazes damage destroyer *Brown* (DD-546), 26°26'N, 127°20'E, and light minelayer *Harry F. Bauer* (DM-26), 26°25'N, 128°31'E.

Mines sink Japanese transport *Tatsuwa Maru* off Imabari, Kurahashi Jima, 34°04'N, 132°26'E; merchant cargo ship *Otowa Maru*, 34°38'N, 135°12'E; and damage merchant tugboat *No.7 Naniwazu Maru* off Wadanomisaki.

USN land-based planes sink Japanese merchant tanker *No.1 Toyu Maru* and cargo ship *No.2 Yumihari Maru* off west coast of Korea.

- **11 May, Fri. --**

Pacific

Japanese aircraft attack U.S. ships off Okinawa; two kamikazes crash carrier *Bunker Hill* (CV-17), 25°44'N, 129°28'E; kamikazes also crash destroyer *Evans* (DD-552), 26°58'N, 127°32'E, and large support landing craft *LCS-88*; destroyer *Hugh W. Hadley* (DD-774) is damaged by Baka, 26°59'N, 127°32'E.

On Okinawa, Pharmacist's Mate Second Class William D. Halyburton, Jr., USNR, advances into an open field under fire to treat a casualty. Hit by a bullet while tending to the wounded marine, Halyburton unhesitatingly shields the man with his own body to protect him from further injury. In so doing, the corpsman

is mortally wounded. For his heroically saving another man's life at the cost of his own, Halyburton is awarded the [Medal of Honor](#), posthumously.

Japanese guardboat *No.8 Sagami Maru* is sunk by U.S. aircraft off Hong Kong, 21°52'N, 113°08'E.

USAAF B-24s (11th Air Force) sink Japanese army cargo ship *Aitoku Maru* and damage escort destroyer *Hachijo* in Kataoka harbor, Kurils, 50°42'N, 156°13'E.

PB4Y-2s (VPB 118) operating against Japanese shipping off coast of Korea, sink merchant cargo ships *Seiri Maru*, 34°17'N, 126°50'E, and *Shinzan Maru*, 34°15'N, 127°10'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kamiyama Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Mokpo, Korea.

Mines sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kitsurin Maru* off Wadanomisaki, 34°39'N, 135°11'E; and damage auxiliary minelayer *Koei Maru* seven miles off Umezaki and damage two tugboats off Wadanomisaki.

- **12 May, Sat. --**

Pacific

Destroyers support landing of Army troops on Torishima, Ryukyus.

Off Okinawa, a kamikaze damages battleship *New Mexico* (BB-40), 26°22'N, 127°43'E; heavy cruiser *Wichita* (CA-45) is damaged by friendly fire, 26°22'N, 127°43'E.

Submarine *Raton* (SS-270) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Rekizan Maru* in the Yellow Sea off the Shantung Peninsula, 37°25'N, 123°42'E.

Mines sink Japanese army cargo ship *Brazil Maru* off Kobe, Japan; mine laid by USAAF B-29s on 3 May 1945 sink merchant cargo ship *Manbo Maru* off Osaka, 34°30'N, 135°10'E; cargo ship *No.1 Nissho Maru* is sunk by USAAF mine (laid by 20th Air Force B-29s) off Futaoi Light, Shimonoseki, 34°06'N, 130°47'E; and *No.1 Nisshin Maru* in Shimonoseki channel; and damage merchant cargo ship *Hokusei Maru* (northwest of Mutsure Jima).

Japanese merchant tanker *No.13 Takasago Maru* is damaged by aircraft, Kogunsan-Kundo.

Navy patrol bombers (TU 50.5.5) damage Japanese merchant ship *Chile Maru*, which is run aground to permit salvage on the north coast of Iki Jima, 34°16'N, 129°40'E. *Chile Maru* is written off, however, as a total loss.

Atlantic

Minesweeper *Jubilant* (AM-255) and Italian submarine *Mameli* are damaged when they collide in Casco Bay, Maine.

- **13 May, Sun. --**

Pacific

Aircraft from fast carrier task force (Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher) begin two-day attack on Kyushu airfields.

Phase III of Operation STARVATION, a blockade of northwest Honshu and Kyushu, commences as 12 USAAF B-29s mine Shimonoseki Straits and the waters off Niigata, Japan.

Off Honshu, small carrier *Bataan* (CVL-29) is damaged by friendly fire, 30°30'N, 132°30'E; off Okinawa, kamikazes damage destroyer *Bache* (DD-470), 26°01'N, 126°53'E, and destroyer escort *Bright* (DE-747), 26°21'N, 127°17'E.

Submarine *Baya* (SS-318) attacks Palembang-bound Japanese convoy, sinking tanker *Yosei Maru*, 06°31'S, 111°19'E; guardboat *No.17 Shonan Maru* carries out unsuccessful counterattack. Although *Baya* claims a second ship sunk, her quarry, tanker *Enoshima Maru*, emerges unscathed.

Submarine *Cero* (SS-225) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Shinnan Maru* off Todozaki, Honshu, 39°06'N, 141°57'E.

Submarine *Plaice* (SS-390) attacks Japanese guardboat *Nisshin Maru* southwest of Uruppu Island 45°30'N, 147°04'E.

British submarine HMS *Trump* sinks Japanese guardboat *No.15 Shosei Maru* at Sapudi Strait, 07°05'S, 114°13'E.

Japanese guardboat *No.8 Choyo Maru* is sunk by U.S. aircraft, Kumun Island 34°28'N, 127°45'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.2 Funakawa Maru* is sunk by aircraft, 34°00'N, 128°00'E.

Mine laid by USAAF B-29 (20th Air Force) sinks Japanese tanker *No.2 Takasago Maru* off Wadanomisaki, 34°39'N, 135°11'E. Mines sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kinoto Maru* and *Mishima Maru* (off Kobe, Japan), merchant cargo ship *Magane Maru* (location unspecified), and damage auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 170* (off Shodo Jima), (laid by USAAF B-24) merchant cargo ship *Gyoryu Maru* off Kobe, 34°40'N, 135°10'E; and merchant vessel *Miyajima Maru* 129 miles off Ezaki light, 34°36'N, 134°59'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Hakuju Maru* is damaged by aircraft between Kurosaki and Shirohana.

- **14 May, Mon. --**

Pacific

Carrier *Enterprise* (CV-6) is damaged by kamikaze off Honshu, 30°23'N, 132°36'E.

Off Okinawa, operational casualties account for damage to tank landing ship *LST-137* and medium landing ship *LSM-137*.

Submarine *Cobia* (SS-245) is damaged by depth charges, Gulf of Siam, 09°35'N, 101°44'E, but remains on patrol.

Submarine *Sand Lance* (SS-381) sinks Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *Yoshino Maru* off Erimosaki, Hokkaido, 32°00'N, 146°36'E.

Navy aircraft (TU 50.5.5) on sweeps over the South China Sea, sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kurokamisan Maru* west of Kuche Island 34°27'N, 127°30'E, and *Samukaze Maru*, 33°00'N, 129°20'E.

Mine laid by USAAF B-29 (20th Air Force) damages Japanese merchant ship *Miyajima Maru* at Awaji, Japan, 34°28'N, 134°30'E (see 15 May). Mines sink Japanese transport *Anko Maru* off Shimonoseki and merchant tug *No.13 Uwajima Maru* off Hiraiso light buoy, 34°30'N, 134°30'E; sink/damage merchant cargo ship *Tatsukei Maru*, 34°28'N, 134°45'E, and damage merchant cargo ship *No.6 Kaiyo Maru* off Hesaki light.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Keishin Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Inchon, Korea.

Japanese merchant vessel *Kanpu Maru* is sunk by aircraft, 33°02'N, 129°27'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kainan Maru* is damaged by aircraft three miles off Ioshima light.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Chofuku Maru* is damaged by aircraft near Hakata Bay.

- **15 May, Tue. --**

Europe

Commander U.S. Ports and Bases Germany (Rear Admiral Arthur G. Robinson) establishes headquarters at Bremen, Germany.

Pacific

Submarine *Hammerhead* (SS-364) sinks Singapore-bound Japanese transport *Tottori Maru* in Gulf of Siam, 09°12'N, 101°20'E. Escorting minelayer *Hatsutaka* conducts unsuccessful counterattack (see 16 May).

Submarine *Sea Poacher* (SS-406) sinks Japanese army luggers *No.56 Ume Maru* and *Fukumo Maru*, 45°29'N, 149°01'E.

Submarine *Shad* (SS-235) damages Japanese merchant cargo ship *Mako Maru*, 33°42'N, 126°37'E.

USN land-based planes, in wide-ranging sweeps against Japanese shipping, sink merchant cargo ship *No.1 Kyodo Maru*, 34°15'N, 126°56'E; merchant cargo ship *Keiun Maru* off Karatsu, western Kyushu, 33°57'N, 129°51'E, and merchant cargo ship *No.3 Hakutetsu Maru* off east coast of Korea.

Japanese merchant vessel *Miyajima Maru*, while under tow after being damaged the previous day by a mine, strikes a second mine and sinks, 34°28'N, 134°50'E. *Mishima Maru* is sunk by USAAF mine laid off Kobe on 3 May 1945, 34°30'N, 135°10'E.

- **16 May, Wed. --**

Pacific

Thirty USAAF B-29s mine Shimonoseki Straits and the waters off Miyazu and Maizuru, Japan.

Escort carrier *Shipley Bay* (CVE-85) is damaged in collision with oiler *Cache* (AO-67) off Okinawa, 25°00'N, 130°00'E.

Avengers from British escort carrier HMS *Emperor* sight and attack Japanese heavy cruiser *Haguro* heading into Malacca Strait; subsequently, British destroyers HMS *Saumarez*, HMS *Venus*, HMS *Verulam*, HMS *Vigilant*, and

HMS *Virago* sink *Haguro* 55 nautical miles west-southwest of Penang, Malaya, 04°49'N, 99°42'E, as the enemy ship, in company with destroyer *Kamikaze* (which is damaged in the engagement) is evacuating troops from Port Blair to Singapore.

Submarine *Hawkbill* (SS-366) sinks Japanese minelayer *Hatsutaka* off east coast of Malaya, 04°49'N, 103°31'E.

Submarine *Raton* (SS-270) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Eiju Maru* in Yellow Sea off west coast of Korea, 37°34'N, 124°13'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.5 Yamanami Maru* is sunk by mine laid by USAAF B-29s (20th Bomber Command) off Wadanomisaki, 34°36'N, 135°08'E.

- **17 May, Thu. --**

Pacific

Carrier aircraft (Rear Admiral Clifton A.F. Sprague) strike Japanese installations on Taroa Island Maloelap Atoll, Marshalls.

USAAF 21st Bomber Command begins operations against airfields on Kyushu and Shikoku from which Japanese kamikaze attacks are launched; the raids will continue through 11 May 1945.

Destroyer *Douglas H. Fox* (DD-779) is damaged by kamikaze off Okinawa, 25°59'N, 126°54'E.

Off Wadanomisaki, Japan, USAAF mines sink Japanese transport *Tairyu Maru*, 34°27'N, 135°11'E, and army cargo ship *Koan Maru*, 34°38'N, 135°11'E; mines also sink merchant cargo ship *Mikazuki Maru* in Yangtze below below Woosung, China, 32°05'N, 119°56'E, and damage *Coast Defense Vessel No.200* inside Miyazu harbor.

Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *Wa.101* is damaged by aircraft from carriers *Saratoga* (CV-3) and HMS *Illustrious*, at Surabaya, Java.

Japanese auxiliary submarine chasers *No.2 Hakusan Maru*, *Wakatake Maru* and *Yobai Maru* are damaged by aircraft off Ishigaki Island.

- **18 May, Fri. --**

Pacific

Thirty-four USAAF B-29s mine Shimonoseki Straits and the waters off Tsuruya, Japan.

Destroyer *Longshaw* (DD-559), damaged by shore battery off Naha, Okinawa, 26°11'N, 127°37'E, explodes; wreck is demolished by destroyers *Heywood L. Edwards* (DD-663) and *Picking* (DD-685). Also off Okinawa, high speed transport *Sims* (APD-50) is damaged by kamikaze, 26°00'N, 127°00'E, and tank landing ship *LST-808* by aerial torpedo, 26°42'N, 127°47'E. U.S. freighter *Cornelius Vanderbilt* (carrying gasoline and explosives, as well as general cargo) is bombed by Japanese plane and set afire off Ie Shima, but the 38-man merchant crew, 27-man Armed Guard and the 108 stevedores on board working cargo assemble firefighting parties and put out the blaze in short order.

Submarine *Shad* (SS-235) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Chosan Maru* in the Yellow Sea off Gunzan, Korea, 35°41'N, 126°17'E.

Navy land-based aircraft sink Japanese cargo vessel *Enkyo Maru* off western Korea, 33°14'N, 120°50'E.

Japanese submarine chaser *Ch 57* is damaged by mine [laid by British submarine HMS *Porpoise* on 9 January 1945], south channel into Penang, Malaya, 05°20'N, 100°08'E.

Japanese landing ship *T.137* is damaged by aircraft, 12 miles off Daiosaki.

Japanese transport *No.18 Nissho Maru* is damaged by mine, 34°33'N, 134°47'E.

Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *No.3 Takunan Maru* is damaged by aircraft, 32°05'N, 124°40'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.5 Nissen Maru* is damaged by aircraft, 34°43'N, 137°50'E.

- **19 May, Sat. --**

Atlantic

Destroyer *Moffett* (DD-362) is damaged when she strikes an unidentified submerged object 65 miles east of Portland Maine.

Pacific

Destroyers bombard Japanese installations on Paramushiro, Kurils.

Destroyer escort *Vammen* (DE-644) is damaged in collision with oiler *Cimarron* (AO-22) off Okinawa, 26°24'N, 127°53'E. *Cimarron* is also damaged by grounding, 26°25'N, 127°53'E.

Motor gunboat *PGM-1* is damaged by explosion off Luzon, 14°41'N, 121°46'E.

Japanese army cargo ship *Kaiko Maru* is sunk by aircraft in Keelung harbor.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Daishin Maru* is sunk, and light cruiser *Kashima* damaged, when the two ships collide in Tsushima Strait, 34°40'N, 128°38'E.

Japanese cargo vessel *Ogishima Maru* is damaged by aircraft, 34°39'N, 137°32'E.

Japanese merchant tanker *Soei Maru* is damaged by mine six kilometers east of Mushima.

- **20 May, Sun. --**

Pacific

Thirty USAAF B-29s mine Shimonoseki Straits and the waters off Maizuru and Miyazu, Japan.

Off Okinawa, kamikazes damage destroyer *Thatcher* (DD-514), 26°33'N, 127°29'E; destroyer escort *John C. Butler* (DE-339), 26°47'N, 127°52'E; high speed transports *Chase* (APD-54), 26°18'N, 127°14'E and *Register* (APD-92), 26°25'N, 127°21'E; and tank landing ship *LST-808*, 26°42'N, 127°47'E; high speed transport *Tattnall* (APD-19) is damaged by horizontal bomber, 26°00'N, 128°00'E.

TBF/TBMs from TG 58.3 provide close air support for efforts to take Japanese position holding up the advance of U.S. ground forces northeast of Shuri castle, Okinawa.

Submarine *Cero* (SS-225) sinks Japanese merchant whaler *No.5 Seki Maru* east-southeast of Kinkazan, 38°06'N, 142°24'E.

Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 244* is sunk by aircraft, 22°35'N, 128°51'E.

Japanese army cargo vessel *No.1 Konan Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Hong Kong.

USAAF B-24s (Fifth Air Force) sink Japanese army cargo vessel *Torai Maru* off Keelung, Formosa, 26°00'N, 122°00'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Nikkan Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Pusan, Korea; merchant refrigerated stores ship *Kanagawa Maru* is sunk by aircraft off south coast of Korea.

Japanese merchant tanker *No.11 Horai Maru* is damaged by aircraft, location unspecified.

- **21 May, Mon. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Chub* (SS-329) sinks Japanese minesweeper *W.34* in Java Sea off Kepualuan, 06°15'S, 116°01'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Santen Maru* is sunk by USAAF mine laid by B-29 (20th Air Force) off Niihama, 33°57'N, 133°16'E.

- **22 May, Tue. --**

Pacific

Thirty-two USAAF B-29s mine Shimonoseki Straits.

Planes from carriers *Bennington* (CV-20) and *Hornet* (CV-12) sink Japanese submarine chasers *Ch 37* and *Ch 58*, and landing ship *T.173* southwest of Kyushu between Sasebo and Oshima, 29°45'N, 129°10'E.

Mines sink Japanese merchant cargo ships *No.25 Uwajima Maru* off Moji, 34°20'N, 134°20'E, and *Sagami Maru* off Wakamatsu, and damage auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 157* eight miles off Niigata harbor.

Japanese auxiliary patrol vessel *Pa 25* is damaged by aircraft one kilometer off Omaesaki.

- **23 May, Wed. --**

Pacific

Mines laid by USAAF B-29s (20th Air Force) sink Japanese cargo vessels *Sagami Maru* at 34°00'N, 131°00'E and 2 *Shinri Maru* off Hesaki, 33°58'N, 131°02'E, and *Kimigayo Maru* west of Hime Jima, 33°06'N, 129°43'E. Mine damages merchant cargo ship *Iwai Maru* three kilometers southeast of Mushima.

- **24 May, Thu. --**

Pacific

Aircraft from TF 58 (Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher) attack airfields in southern Kyushu.

Japanese aircraft attack U.S. positions and ships at Okinawa; strikes continue on 25 May. Kamikazes damage destroyer escort *William C. Cole* (DE-641),

26°45'N, 127°52'E; high speed transport *Sims* (APD-50), 26°00'N, 127°00'E; and large support landing craft *LCS(L)-121*; friendly fire damages destroyer *Heywood L. Edwards* (DD-663), 26°20'N, 127°43'E. Escort carrier *Suwannee* (CVE-27) is damaged when plane landing on her flight deck explodes upon landing, 24°00'N, 124°00'E.

PBMs sink Japanese *Special Coast Defense Ship No.21* off China coast, 20°58'N, 110°30'E.

Thirty USAAF B-29s mine Shimonoseki Straits and the waters off Niigata, Nanao, and Fushiki, Japan. Mine laid by USAAF B-29 (20th Air Force) sinks Japanese cargo vessel *No.14 Kaishin Maru* west of the mouth of Kammon Channel, 34°31'N, 130°54'E. Mines sink Japanese merchant cargo ships *Fukuei Maru* off Shodo Jima, *Kinryuzan Maru* off Moji, *Tatsufuku Maru* off Hesaki, *Inaba Maru* west of Oshima, Kagawa prefecture, and (USAAF B-29-laid mine) merchant tanker *No.7 Nanko Maru* off Motoyamamisaki, 33°55'N, 131°20'E; and damage transport (ex-seaplane carrier) *Kiyokawa Maru* off Motoyamamisaki, and merchant cargo ships *Nitcho Maru* 44 kilometers southwest of Onna Jima, *Yamazumi Maru* at 34°05'N, 130°51'E, and *No.2 Tomoe Maru* at 32°52'N, 129°15'E.

- **25 May, Fri. --**

Pacific

Off Okinawa, kamikazes sink high speed transport *Bates* (APD-47), 26°41'N, 127°47'E, and medium landing ship *LSM-135*; and damage destroyers *Guest* (DD-472), 26°22'N, 127°44'E, and *Stormes* (DD-780), 27°06'N, 127°38'E; destroyer escort *O'Neill* (DE-188), 26°20'N, 127°43'E; high speed transports *Barry* (APD-29), 26°30'N, 127°00'E (see 21 and 22 June), and *Roper* (APD-20), 26°34'N, 127°36'E; high speed minesweeper *Butler* (DMS-29), 26°12'N, 127°50'E; and minesweeper *Spectacle* (AM-305), 26°40'N, 127°52'E. Friendly fire damages destroyer *Cowell* (DD-547), 26°41'N, 126°50'E. Japanese plane torpedoes U.S. freighter *William B. Allison* in Buckner Bay; six merchant sailors and a stevedore die in the explosion. The 34-man merchant complement, 28 Armed Guard sailors and 150 stevedores, however, unload the ship's cargo. ^[15]

Submarine *Blenny* (SS-324) sinks Japanese gunboat *Kairyu Maru*, 06°04'S, 107°27'E.

Submarine *Ray* (SS-271) sinks Japanese schooner *Tsuki Maru* 35 miles east of Kaiyo Island 39°04'N, 123°06'E.

British submarine HMS *Thorough* sinks Japanese cargo ship *Nittei Maru* off west coast of Borneo, 06°45'S, 112°31'E.

British submarine HMS *Trenchant* sinks Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *Wa 105* east of Mandalike Island 06°23'S, 110°55'E.

Mines laid by USAAF B-29s (20th Air Force) sink Japanese cargo vessel *Hikawa Maru* at 33°58'N, 131°02'E, and merchant tanker *No.3 Toyo Maru* 3.2 kilometers off Hesaki, 33°55'N, 131°20'E. Mines also sink transport *Tobi Maru* northwest of Kyushu 33°58'N, 130°52'E, cargo ship *Matsushima Maru* two miles south of Matsuzaki Island and merchant cargo ships *Shiragi Maru* near Hesaki, and *No.1 Nissan Maru* off Mutsure, and damage destroyers *Sakura* seven kilometers off Hesaki Light and *Tsubaki* off Shimonoseki anchorage,

Patrol Boat No.104 5.4 kilometers off Futaoi Light, army cargo ships *Ginsei Maru* and *Ginzan Maru* three kilometers off Mutsure Island merchant cargo ships *No.3 Shinto Maru* off Hesaki, and *Iyo Maru* east of the mouth of Kammon Channel, and merchant tanker *No.4 Nanko Maru* 6.5 kilometers off Hesaki.

USAAF planes sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *Amoy Maru* off north coast of Tsushima, 34°46'N, 129°23'E.

Japanese merchant vessel *Kokei Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Pusan, Korea.

Japanese transport *Kamishima Maru* is damaged by stranding off north coast of Java, N.E.I., 06°25'S, 111°00'E.

- **26 May, Sat. --**

Pacific

Thirty USAAF B-29s (20th Bomber Command) mine Shimonoseki Straits and the waters off Fukuoka, Karatsu, and Fushiki, Japan. Mines sink Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 172* at entrance to Fushiki harbor, Honshu, 36°48'N, 137°05'E, and merchant cargo ships *Mogi Maru* south of Hime Jima, 33°43'N, 131°38'E, *Shiokubi Maru* off Motoyamazaki and *9 Kaishin Maru* at 34°00'N, 130°50'E, and *No.6 Miyakawa Maru* 3.5 kilometers south of Hesaki, 33°55'N, 131°02'E, and damage Japanese gunboat *Hirota Maru*, 34°18'N, 133°32'E, transport *Akeshima Maru* near Moji, 34°47'N, 131°35'E, and transport *Inari Maru* off Motoyamamisaki, and army cargo ships *Ginzan Maru* off Takenoko signal station and *Igasa Maru* 2.2 kilometers south of Hesaki, and merchant cargo ships *Kunugi Maru* outside Kobe harbor, 34°39'N, 135°11'E, *Shozan Maru* off Tokuyama, Shimonoseki Strait, 33°57'N, 131°46'E, and *Mitsukisan Maru* at 33°52'N, 131°02'E.

Off Okinawa, kamikazes damage high speed minesweeper *Forrest* (DMS-24), 26°00'N, 128°00'E, and submarine chaser *PC-1603*, 26°25'N, 127°53'E.

Submarine *Billfish* (SS-286) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.7 Kotobuki Maru* off Nagasaki, Japan, 33°19'N, 129°31'E.

Japanese guardboat *Kaishin Maru* is damaged by stranding at north end of Paramushiro Island Kurils.

- **27 May, Sun. --**

Pacific

Admiral William F. Halsey Jr., Commander Third Fleet, relieves Admiral Raymond A. Spruance, Commander Fifth Fleet, of operational control at Okinawa. TF 58 thus becomes TF 38.

Off Okinawa, two kamikazes damage destroyer *Braine* (DD-630), 26°25'N, 128°30'E; kamikazes also damage destroyer *Anthony* (DD-515), 26°25'N, 128°30'E, high speed minesweeper *Southard* (DMS-10), 26°00'N, 127°00'E, high speed transports *Loy* (APD-56), 26°30'N, 127°30'E, and *Rednour* (APD-102), 26°29'N, 127°21'E, surveying ship *Dutton* (AGS-8), 26°15'N, 127°59'E, submarine chaser *PCS-1396* and degaussing vessel *YDG-10*, 26°00'N, 128°00'E; destroyer escort *Gilligan* (DE-508) is damaged by dud torpedo fired by kaiten from Japanese submarine *I 367*, 26°47'N, 127°47'E; minesweeper *Gayety* (AM-239) is damaged by near-miss of bomb, 26°00'N, 128°00'E; large support

landing craft *LCS-52* is damaged by near-miss of kamikaze; fleet tug *Pakana* (ATF-108) is damaged by strafing, 26°22'N, 127°44'E.

In the final mine-laying operation of Phase III of Operation STARVATION, eleven USAAF B-29s (20th Bomber Command) mine Shimonoseki Straits and the waters off Moji, Japan. USAAF B-29-laid mines sink cargo vessels *Chizan Maru* off Wadanomisaki light, 33°30'N, 130°30'E, and *Kongo Maru* in Shimonoseki Strait off Hakata, 33°41'N, 130°15'E, and merchant tanker *Hojo Maru* off south coast of Yoshimi Island and damage merchant cargo ship *Kifune Maru* 1.4 kilometers north of Niigata light.

Submarine *Tench* (SS-417) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kinei Maru* off Kushiro light, 42°54'N, 144°18'E.

Submarine *Tigrone* (SS-419) sinks Japanese guardboat *No.3 Yawata Maru* off Tori Jima, 29°24'N, 141°01'E.

Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *No.3 Misago Maru* is sunk by U.S. aircraft at entrance to Ise Wan, Japan, 34°37'N, 137°19'E.

Japanese naval vessel *Shinoh Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Sosa, Chiba prefecture.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.2 Daito Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Yosu.

Commanding General, Alaskan Department, requests Navy assistance in evacuating local citizens endangered as Yukon River floods (see 28 and 31 May).

Europe

U.S. freighter *John Woolman*, in convoy ATM 167, is damaged by mine 16 miles off Dunkirk, France; there are no fatalities among the ship's complement.

• **28 May, Mon. --**

Pacific

Off Okinawa, kamikazes sink destroyer *Drexler* (DD-741), 27°06'N, 127°38'E, and damage attack transport *Sandoval* (APA-194), 26°15'N, 127°51'E, and large support landing craft *LCS(L)-119*. A suicider crashes and damages U.S. freighter *Mary A. Livermore* in Buckner Bay, 26°12'N, 127°46'E; the 27 Armed Guards and 75 Construction Battalion sailors on board contribute men to firefighting efforts (four Armed Guard sailors, as well as seven merchant seamen, die in the explosion and fires). Another kamikaze crashes and damages U.S. freighter *Brown Victory* off Ie Shima; two of the 27 Armed Guards are killed instantly, and 18 injured (one merchant sailor and an Armed Guard sailor die of their wounds later). Still another suicider crashes U.S. freighter *Josiah Snelling* off Okinawa; Armed Guard gunfire manages to deflect the Japanese plane from its suicidal course toward the amidships deckhouse and into a less vulnerable part, saving the ship from worse damage. There are no fatalities on board.

Submarines *Blueback* (SS-326) and *Lamprey* (SS-372) battle Japanese submarine chaser *Ch.1* in a surface gunnery action off Japara, N.E.I., 06°28'S, 110°37'E, and damage the enemy escort vessel.

Submarine *Ray* (SS-271) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Biko Maru* northwest of Changshan, 38°21'N, 123°58'E.

Commander, Kodiak Sector, Alaskan Sea Frontier, dispatches four PBVs (three from FAW 1 and one from NAS Kodiak) to Fairbanks, via Anchorage, Alaska, to provide assistance in evacuating citizens threatened by rising Yukon River floodwaters (see 31 May).

USAAF B-29-laid mines sink Japanese transport *Akitsu Maru* south of Kure, and damage *Coast Defense Vessel No.29* off Kyushu, 33°07'N, 129°44'E, merchant cargo ships *Mishimasan Maru* three kilometers off Tateishikzaki and *Annette Fritzen Go* at 33°53'N, 130°05'E; and fishing boat *No.3 Genei Maru* outside Sasebo Bay.

- **29 May, Tue. --**

Pacific

Off Okinawa, kamikazes crash destroyer *Shubrick* (DD-639), 26°38'N, 127°05'E, and high speed transport *Tatum* (APD-81), 26°40'N, 127°50'E; groundings account for damage to motor minesweeper *YMS-81*, 26°16'N, 127°52'E, and tank landing ship *LST-844*, 26°17'N, 127°51'E.

Mine laid by USAAF B-29 (20th Air Force) sinks Japanese cargo vessel *Umatsu Maru* off Mutsure Jima, 34°00'N, 130°50'E, and damage army cargo ship *No.6 Unyo Maru* 3.6 miles off Hesaki light, 31°41'N, 129°45'E, and merchant cargo ship *No.5 Nissen Maru* off Mutsure Jima.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Etsunan Maru* is sunk by RAF-laid mine at 10°30'N, 99°24'E; later that day, submarine *Hawkbill* (SS-366) torpedoes *Kamiyama Maru* as she picks up *Etsunan Maru* survivors, and forces the rescuing ship to take refuge at Cape Khokwang.

Submarine *Sterlet* (SS-392), despite proximity of escorting *Coast Defense Ship No.65*, sinks Japanese army cargo ships *Kuretake Maru* and *Tenryo Maru*, 46°46'N, 144°16'E.

- **30 May, Wed. --**

Pacific

Planes (VC 82) from escort carrier *Anzio* (CVE-57) sink Japanese submarine *I 361*, 400 miles southeast of Okinawa, 22°22'N, 134°09'E.

Submarine *Blenny* (SS-324) sinks Japanese cargo ship *Hokoku Maru* 40 miles southwest of Bandjermasin, 04°09'S, 114°16'E.

Submarine *Croaker* (SS-246), despite proximity of escorting auxiliary submarine chaser *Kenkai Maru*, sinks *No.154 Shuttle Boat* and *No.146 Shuttle Boat* at 04°50'S, 113°10'E.

Mines laid by USAAF B-29s (20th Bomber Command) sink Japanese transport *Hakuun Maru* off Hakata, Japan, 33°36'N, 130°25'E, and merchant cargo ships *Fujitama Maru* off Wadanomisaki light, 34°30'N, 135°11'E, *Kasumi Maru* .8 kilometers off Mijizaki, and *No.14 Takasago Maru* northwest of Tadotsu, 35°15'N, 133°44'E, and damage army cargo ships *Hyuga Maru* 3.6 kilometers south-southeast of Genka Jima and *Shinno Maru* at mouth of Tsuruga Bay.

- **31 May, Thu. --**

Pacific

Four PBVs (three from FAW 1 and one from NAS Kodiak) dispatched to Fairbanks, via Anchorage, by Commander, Kodiak Sector, Alaskan Sea Frontier, return to Kodiak, their mission of providing assistance in evacuating citizenry threatened by rising Yukon River floodwaters having been completed.

Soviet merchantman *Uzbekistan* and U.S. freighter *American Star* are damaged in collision off Dutch Harbor, Alaska; big harbor tug *YTB-191* provides assistance.

Mines laid by USAAF B-29s (20th Bomber Command) sink Japanese cargo ship *Man Maru* off Hesaki light, and damage gunboat *Kazan Maru* off Genka Jima Light, 33°40'N, 129°57'E, army cargo ships *No.2 Yoro Maru* southeast of Hesaki and *Peking Maru* off Onna Jima, and merchant cargo ship *Jindai Maru* northwest of Mutsure Jima. USAAF B-29-laid mine damages transport *Tensho Maru* at 34°35'N, 135°15'E, but *Tensho Maru* sinks after being towed into Osaka harbor.

June

- **1 June, Fri. --**

Pacific

Naval Air Facility, Peleliu Island Palau Islands, is established.

Naval Air Base, Tarawa, is disestablished.

USAAF B-29s (458 strong) bomb Osaka; in the course of the raid on that Japanese port city, the B-29s damage army cargo ships *Yamazono Maru*, *Shinwao Maru*, and army tankers *Shunsho Maru* and *Eijun Maru*, and merchant cargo ships *No.2 Kimagayo Maru*, *Daito Maru*, *Hokuju Maru*, *Denshin Maru*, *Biyo Maru*, *Tonegawa Maru*, and merchant tankers *Ohyama Maru* and *Encho Maru*.

Mines laid by USAAF B-29s (20th Bomber Command) sink Japanese army cargo ship *Seishu Maru* off Shodo Jima, and merchant cargo ships *Abukamagawa Maru* 34°34'N, 134°14'E, and *No.7 Kenkon Maru* and *Meitei Maru* off Shimonoseki, 34°58'N, 130°56'E, merchant tanker *Yoko Maru*, 34°30'N, 135°15'E, merchant cargo ship *Myosei Maru* in Shimonoseki Strait, 33°58'N, 131°03'E; and damage merchant cargo ship *Kishun Maru* north by east of Mojizaki light, *Goko Maru* northwest of Wakamatsu, 33°58'N, 130°41'E, *Uten Maru* west of Seto, Inland Sea, and *Shinano Maru* outside Fushiki harbor, and cargo vessel *Shinju Maru* 35°42'N, 136°04'E, and *No.1 ToyoMaru* at entrance of Shimonoseki Strait, 33°57'N, 130°40'E.

Submarine chaser *PC-1599* is damaged by grounding off Okinawa, 26°25'N, 127°43'E.

British submarine *HMS Tiptoe* sinks Japanese cargo ship *Tobi Maru* off Matasiri Island 04°40'S, 115°32'E.

Europe

Naval Advanced Base, Bremerhaven, Germany, is established.

- **2 June, Sat. --**

Pacific

TF 38 (Vice Admiral John S. McCain) bombs airfields in southern Kyushu, Japan; attack is repeated on 3 June.

Submarine *Tench* (SS-417) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Mikamasan Maru* southeast of Shiriyazaki, 41°22'N, 141°28'E.

Mines laid by USAAF B-29s (20th Bomber Command) damage Japanese cargo ships *Nissho Maru* two kilometers north of Tateishisaki and 3 *Yubari Maru* west of the mouth of Kammon Strait, *Kashima Maru* at 33°58'N, 130°42'E, *Katsura Maru* between Yoshi Jima and Sanakai Jima, and *No.1 Toyo Maru* at entrance of Shimonoseki Strait, 33°48'N, 130°42'E.

Japanese cargo vessel *Kojin Maru* is sunk, cause unspecified, near Rabaul.

Army coastal cargo vessel *FS 34* reports to District Coast Guard Officer, Ketchikan, Alaska, for temporary duty. *FS 34* will operate out of Dutch Harbor under the Coast Guard for a four-month period, transporting construction materials, fuel, supplies and workers to expedite the building of direction finder stations on the islands of St. Paul, Unimak, and St. George.

- **3 June, Sun. --**

- Pacific

- Naval task group (Rear Admiral Lawrence F. Reifsnider) lands Marines on Iheya Jima, Ryukyus.

- Off Okinawa, kamikazes damage cargo ship *Allegan* (AK-225), 26°00'N, 128°00'E, and large infantry landing craft *LCI(L) 90*.

- Submarine *Blueback* (SS-326) sinks unnamed Japanese merchant fishing boat, 05°39'S, 106°47'E.

- Submarine *Segundo* (SS-398) sinks Japanese merchantman *No.94 Anto Maru* off Jinsen, Korea, 36°41'N, 125°23'E.

- Mines laid by USAAF B-29s (20th Bomber Command) sink Japanese naval vessel *No.15 Hakutetsu Maru* in Inland Sea, army cargo ship *Taiei Maru*, 3.7 kilometers off Motoyama light, 38°56'N, 137°05'N, merchant cargo ships *Osara Maru* off Motoyama Bay, *Konei Maru* outside Karatsu harbor, 33°33'N, 129°58'E, and *Momo Maru* at 34°35'N, 134°15'E, and damage minelayer *Tokiwa* two kilometers off Bakuchizaki, and merchant cargo ship *Erimo Maru* off Hime Jima light, 33°47'N, 131°14'E.

- Japanese ship *No.6 Tankai Maru* is sunk by aircraft, Hitakata, Ibaraki prefecture.

- Japanese merchant cargo ship *Anri Maru* is damaged by aircraft, 34°57'N, 129°13'E.

- Japanese merchant cargo ship *Anjo Maru* is damaged by aircraft off Pusan, Korea.

- Destroyer *Porter* (DD-800), operating with TF 92, is damaged in collision with U.S. Army cable ship *Silverado*, the latter being convoyed by escort vessel *PCE-893*, off Kuluk Bay, Adak, Alaska, in "extremely poor" visibility conditions.

- **4 June, Mon. --**

- Europe

- U.S. freighter *Colin P. Kelly, Jr.*, bound for Antwerp, Belgium, in convoy TAM

89, is damaged by mine off the Downs, 51°22'48"N, 02°35'E; there are no fatalities among the ship's complement (which includes a 37-man Armed Guard), but the ship is later written off as a total loss.

Black Sea

U.S. freighter *New Bern Victory*, en route to Constanta, Rumania, is damaged by mine six miles off Odessa, USSR; there are no casualties to the ship's complement and the ship is later repaired and returns to active service.

Pacific

District patrol vessel *YP-41* is damaged by operational casualty off Okinawa, 26°18'N, 127°52'E.

Submarine *Billfish* (SS-286) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Taiu Maru* off Chinnampo, Korea, 38°32'N, 124°45'E.

Submarine *Tench* (SS-417) sinks Japanese transport *Ryujin Maru* off Hachinohe, 40°54'N, 141°29'E.

USAAF B-24s (13th Air Force) sink Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 112* and motor torpedo boat *Gyoraitei No. 162* and damage auxiliary submarine chaser *Kenkai Maru* in Java Sea off Laut Island 05°00'S, 116°04'E.

Mines sink Japanese weather observation ship *Hijun Maru* 5.5 miles off Hesaki, 33°54'N, 131°06'E, and cargo ships *Aichi Maru* (location unspecified), *Hinode Maru* off Moji City; *No.2 Shiwa Maru* off Taishu Light; unidentified tugboat off south end of Motoyamazaki; merchant cargo ships *Kifune Maru* off Niigata and *No.5 Yamabishi Maru* at 33°44'N, 131°06'E; and damage transport *Tsukushi Maru* at 33°50'N, 131°19'E, and merchant cargo ship *Sawa Maru* two kilometers off Mutsure, 33°54'N, 130°54'E, and *Chikushi Maru* off Motoyama Bay.

Japanese tanker *Hasu Maru* is damaged by mine in Berhala Straits, between Sumatra and Lingga anchorage.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.5 Miyakawa Maru* is sunk by marine casualty off Hirato Jima.

USAAF planes sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *Shobu Maru* at 34°20'N, 124°30'E.

Japanese cargo ship *Banshu Maru* is damaged by aircraft, 34°27'N, 129°35'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.1 Taikai Maru* is damaged by aircraft, 31°18'N, 129°24'E.

- **5 June, Tue. --**

Pacific

Typhoon off Okinawa damages battleships *Indiana* (BB-58), *Massachusetts* (BB-59), *Alabama* (BB-60), and *Missouri* (BB-63); carriers *Hornet* (CV-12) and *Bennington* (CV-20), small carriers *Belleau Wood* (CVL-24) and *San Jacinto* (CVL-30), escort carriers *Windham Bay* (CVE-92), *Salamaua* (CVE-96), *Bougainville* (CVE-100), and *Attu* (CVE-102), heavy cruisers *Baltimore* (CA-68), *Quincy* (CA-71), and *Pittsburgh* (CA-72), light cruisers *Detroit* (CL-8), *San Juan* (CL-54), *Duluth* (CL-87), and *Atlanta* (CL-104), destroyers *Schroeder* (DD-501), *John Rodgers* (DD-574), *McKee* (DD-575), *Dashiell* (DD-659),

Stockham (DD-683), *De Haven* (DD-727), *Maddox* (DD-731), *Blue* (DD-744), *Brush* (DD-745), *Taussig* (DD-746), and *Samuel N. Moore* (DD-747), destroyer escorts *Donaldson* (DE-44), *Conklin* (DE-439), and *Hilbert* (DE-742), oilers *Lackawanna* (AO-40) and *Millicoma* (AO-73), and ammunition ship *Shasta* (AE-6).

Off Okinawa, kamikazes damage battleship *Mississippi* (BB-41), 26°09'N, 127°35'E, and heavy cruiser *Louisville* (CA-28), 26°07'N, 127°52'E.

Destroyer *Dyson* (DD-572) is damaged when she is accidentally rammed by destroyer escort *Abercrombie* (DE-343) at Kerama Retto, Okinawa, 26°09'N, 127°49'E. Tank landing ship *LST-540* is damaged by operational casualty off Okinawa.

Destroyer escort *French* (DE-367), on antisubmarine screening duties off Peleliu, bombards Malakal and Arakabesan Islands, Palaus.

Minesweeper *Scuffle* (AM-298) is damaged by grounding in Brunei Bay, 08°01'N, 117°13'E.

Gasoline tanker *Sheepscot* (AOG-24) is damaged by grounding off Iwo Jima, 24°46'N, 141°18'E.

Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 230* is sunk in collision with army transport *Azusa Maru* one mile south of Sop-To light, Korea, 34°00'N, 127°18'E. *Azusa Maru* is damaged in the collision.

Japanese guardboat *No.13 Kintoku Maru* is sunk by U.S. aircraft off Fujinamiohama, Japan.

Mines sink Japanese cargo ship *No.5 Yawata Maru* off Tsunemi, Moji; and merchant cargo ship *Taisho Maru* two kilometers off Mutsure Island 33°54'N, 130°54'E, and damage destroyer *Yoizuki* 5.8 kilometers northwest of Hime Jima light, escort destroyer *Shii* in Bungo Straits, army cargo ship *Toyo Maru* near Aohama, merchant cargo ship *Annette Fritzen Go* off Asa Jima, Fusan, 33°56'N, 131°03'E, and cargo vessel *Toyo Maru* off Shimonoseki, 33°57'N, 131°02'E.

Japanese fast transport *T.9* is damaged by aircraft, north of Chichi Jima.

Japanese army cargo ship *Taiko Maru* is damaged by marine casualty off Kannonzaki.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.2 Nansei Maru* is damaged by marine casualty, near Moji.

- **6 June, Wed. --**

Pacific

Off Okinawa, minesweepers *Requisite* (AM-109) and *Spear* (AM-322) are damaged in collision, 26°00'N, 127°00'E; light minelayers *Harry F. Bauer* (DM-26) and *J. William Ditter* (DM-31) are damaged by kamikazes, 26°14'N, 128°01'E, and landing craft flotilla flagship *LC(FF)-995* is damaged by operational casualty.

Mines sink Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 195*, Nanao Bay, Honshu, Japan, 37°10'N, 137°05'E; guardboat *No.5 Yawata Maru* off Tsurumi; merchant cargo ship *Gassan Maru* off Moji, 34°00'N, 130°50'E, destroyer *Kaki* off

Kominase, 33°46'N, 130°24'E, escort destroyer *Habuto* 1.3 kilometers north of Kannonzaki light, and cargo ship *No. 18 Tamon Maru* off Hesaki light.

Japanese army cargo ship *No.20 Hokko Maru* is damaged by marine casualty off east coast of Aomori prefecture.

Auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 251* (ex-submarine chaser *Ch 51*) is damaged by aircraft, three miles off Akashima.

- **7 June, Thu. --**

Pacific

Phase IV of Operation STARVATION, an intensified blockade of northwestern Honshu and Kyushu, begins as 26 USAAF B-29s mine Shimonoseki Straits and the waters off Fukuoka, Japan.

TG 74.3 (Rear Admiral Russell S. Berkey), comprising three U.S. light cruisers, one Australian light cruiser, and seven destroyers, provides close cover and fire support for minesweepers and underwater demolition teams off Brunei Bay.

Carrier *Randolph* (CV-15) is damaged when accidentally crashed by stunting USAAF P-38 fighter, Leyte, P.I.

Off Okinawa, kamikazes damage escort carrier *Natoma Bay* (CVE-62), 24°46'N, 126°37'E, and destroyer *Anthony* (DD-515), 27°07'N, 127°38'E; operational casualties account for damage to medium landing ship *LSM-270*, landing craft flotilla flagship *LC(FF)-988* and tank landing craft *LCT-1054*; tank landing ship *LST-540* is damaged by grounding, 26°21'N, 127°45'E; destroyer *Beale* (DD-471) is damaged in collision with gasoline tanker *Yahara* (AOG-37) at Kerama Retto, 26°10'N, 127°20'E.

Submarine *Shad* (SS-235) sinks Japanese army transport *Azusa Maru* and tanker *No.22 Nanshin Maru*, 50 miles southwest of Yoso-do, Korea, 33°55'N, 126°50'E.

Submarine *Tench* (SS-417) sinks Japanese guardboat *Hanshin Maru* in Sea of Japan, 42°41'N, 143°53'E.

Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *No.43 Hino Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Hiradojima, Miyanooura.

Mines sink Japanese auxiliary minelayer *Hakun Maru* near Hong Kong, merchant cargo ship *No.2 Yubari Maru* west of the mouth of Kammon Strait, and damage merchant cargo ship *Taigen Maru* outside Fushiki harbor.

- **8 June, Fri. --**

Pacific

TF 38 (Vice Admiral John S. McCain) planes attack Kanoya Airfield, Kyushu, Japan.

TG 74.3 (Rear Admiral Russell S. Berkey) bombards Japanese positions in preparation for the landings at Brunei Bay, covering the reconnaissance parties ashore; bombardment is repeated on 9 June (see 7 June). During sweeping operations in Brunei Bay, minesweeper *Salute* (AM-294) is sunk by mine, 05°08'N, 115°05'E.

As fighting continues on Okinawa, Hospital Apprentice First Class Fred F. Lester, serving with a rifle platoon, sees a wounded marine beyond the front lines. As he advances under heavy fire, Lester is hit and severely wounded. He attempts unaided to drag the wounded marine to safety, but is hit again. Although paralyzed on his right side, Lester succeeds in dragging the marine to cover. Realizing he has been mortally wounded, the corpsman, spurning medical attention for himself, directs marines to treat the casualty he had brought to safety, thus saving that man's life. Lester devotes his last efforts to directing the treatment of two other wounded marines before he dies. For his courage "above and beyond the call of duty," Lester is awarded the [Medal of Honor](#), posthumously.

British submarine HMS *Trenchant* torpedoes and sinks Japanese heavy cruiser *Ashigara* 14 nautical miles west-southwest of Muntok, in northern entrance of Bangka Straits, 02°00'S, 104°56'E.

Submarine *Cobia* (SS-245) sinks Japanese transport *Hakusa* and tanker *No.22 Nanshin Maru* off southern French Indochina, 08°56'N, 105°37'E.

Japanese submarine tender *Chogei* is damaged by mine, 1.6 kilometers southwest of Bakuchizaki.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Ojima Maru* is damaged by aircraft, between Ainoura and Tainosaki.

USAAF B-24s bomb Japanese shipping near Bandjermasin, sinking *Shuttle Boat No.466* and damaging *Shuttle Boat No. 423* near mouth of Barita River.

- **9 June, Sat. --**

- Pacific

- Naval task group (Rear Admiral Lawrence F. Reifsnider) lands Marines on Aguni Jima, Ryukyus.

- Naval task group (Rear Admiral Arthur W. Radford) bombs and bombards Okino Daito Jima, Ryukyus.

- Twenty-seven USAAF B-29s mine Shimonoseki Straits.

- Submarine *Sea Owl* (SS-405) sinks Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.41* in Tsushima Strait, southeast of Mokpo, Korea, 34°22'N, 128°11'E.

- Submarine *Crevalle* (SS-291) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Hokuto Maru* west of Aomori Prefecture, in western approaches to Tsugaru Strait, 40°54'N, 139°48'E.

- Submarine *Sea Dog* (SS-401) attacks Japanese shipping off northwest coast of Honshu, sinking merchant cargo ships *Sagawa Maru* and *Shoyo Maru*, 38°10'N, 138°20'E.

- Submarine *Tench* (SS-417) sinks Japanese transport *Kamishika Maru* off southern Hokkaido, 41°49'N, 141°11'E.

- Submarine *Tinosa* (SS-283) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Wakatama Maru* off east coast of Korea, 37°32'N, 129°10'E.

Mines laid by USAAF B-29s (20th Air Force) sink Japanese merchant cargo ships *No.35 Banshu Maru*, 36°19'N, 136°12'E, and *Inaura Maru*, .7 kilometers off Takase light, 34°00'N, 131°00'E.

PB4Ys or PBMs sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.5 Kaishin Maru* at 37°05'N, 129°08'E.

USAAF B-24s bomb Japanese shipping off Bandjermasin, sinking cargo vessel *Koryu Maru* and 423 *Shuttle Boat* and *No.444 Shuttle Boat*, and damaging cargo vessel *No.8 Nippo Maru*.

- **10 June, Sun. --**
Pacific

TG 74.3 (Rear Admiral Russell S. Berkey) cruiser and destroyer gunfire and strikes by USAAF and RAAF planes support landing of Australian troops at Brunei Bay, Borneo.

Naval task group (Rear Admiral Joseph J. Clark) bombs and bombards enemy airfield and other installations on Minami Daito Jima, Ryukyus.

Off Okinawa, destroyer *William D. Porter* (DD-579) is sunk by kamikaze, 27°06'N, 127°38'E; despite the fires and exploding ammunition, Lieutenant Richard M. McCool, Jr. unhesitatingly places his ship, large support landing craft *LCS(L)(3)-122* alongside the sinking warship to take off her survivors (see 11 June).

Also off Okinawa, destroyer escort *Gendreau* (DE-639) is damaged by shore battery, 26°03'N, 127°12'E.

Submarine *Crevalle* (SS-291) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Daiki Maru* in western approaches to Tsugaru Strait, 40°44'N, 139°48'E.

Submarine *Dace* (SS-247) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking merchant cargo ship *Hakuyo Maru* in Sea of Okhotsk, about 120 miles west of Shimushu Island 47°21'N, 149°07'E.

Submarine *Flying Fish* (SS-229) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Taga Maru* off Seishin, northwestern Korea, 41°42'N, 129°34'E.

Submarine *Skate* (SS-305) sinks Japanese submarine *I 122* in Sea of Japan, six miles off Cape Rokugo lighthouse, 37°30'N, 137°24'E.

Submarine *Spadefish* (SS-411), attacking Japanese shipping off Hokkaido, sinks merchant cargo ship *No.2 Taigen Maru* off Otaru, 43°23'N, 140°39'E; transport *No.8 Unkai Maru* off Shakotan Mizaki, 43°55'N, 141°13'E; and cargo ship *Jintsu Maru*, 43°28'N, 140°28'E.

Submarine *Tench* (SS-417) sinks Japanese merchant tanker *No.6 Shoei Maru*, 41°15'N, 141°31'E.

PB4Y-2s (VPB 118), flying from Okinawa, commence mining waters of the Korean archipelago. The intent is to drive Japanese shipping, forced by the work of PB4Ys and PBMs to carry out nocturnal operations (sheltering by day in small protected anchorages) out into the open sea to facilitate mast-head attacks. The mines thus planted could sink undiverted shipping and place an additional burden on the already overtaxed Japanese minesweeping force. On this initial

mission, the first aerial mining using Privateers, however, the PB4Ys encounter intense anti-aircraft fire from Japanese warships in Tsushima Strait during the run-in to the objective, Pusan harbor. The PB4Ys mine the waters along the Korean coast between Shinchi-To and Seigan-To instead (see 11 June-1 July).

Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 63* is sunk in collision west of Mokpo, Korea, 34°50'N, 126°10'E.

Mines damage Japanese escort destroyer *Habuto*, 2.6 kilometers north of Kannonzaki, and guardboat *Choei Maru* off Shinminato.

PB4Ys (VB 102°) sink Japanese merchant tanker *Tado Maru* off west coast of Korea, 36°00'N, 125°00'E.

- **11 June, Mon. --**

Pacific

Off Okinawa, Japanese air attacks continue against ships on radar picket stations; large support landing craft *LCS(L)(3)-122* is damaged when kamikaze crashes near her conning tower. Her commanding officer, Lieutenant Richard M. McCool, Jr., although wounded at the outset, releases men trapped in a burning compartment, suffering further injuries in so doing. For his courageously saving the lives of his men and inspiring his crew to save their ship, in addition to his actions the previous day in rescuing survivors of kamikazed destroyer *William D. Porter* (DD-579), McCool is awarded the [Medal of Honor](#).

Elsewhere off Okinawa, a kamikaze crashes alongside U.S. freighter *Walter Colton*; the ship receives additional damage from friendly fire of nearby ships in the anchorage. Of the combined complement of 41 merchant sailors, 29 Armed Guards and 11 Construction Battalion men, only three men suffer injuries. Dock landing ship *Lindenwald* (LSD-6) is also damaged by friendly fire, 26°17'N, 127°53'E.

Cruisers and destroyers (Rear Admiral John H. Brown, Jr.) bombard Japanese installations on Matsuwa, Kurils.

Twenty-six USAAF B-29s mine Shimonoseki Straits and the waters off Tsuruga, Japan. Japanese merchant cargo ship *Hiwaka Maru* is sunk by mine, 34°44'N, 125°52'E.

Okinawa-based PB4Y-2s (VPB 118) fly second aerial mining mission into the Korean archipelago, but fog, blanketing the entire objective, compels the Privateers to jettison the mines en route back to base.

Submarine *Bowfin* (SS-287) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.3 Shinyo Maru* off Genzan, Korea, 39°24'N, 128°59'E.

Submarine *Crevalle* (SS-291) sinks Japanese gunboat *No.5 Hakusan Maru* off Henashi Zaki, Honshu, 40°43'N, 139°51'E.

Submarine *Flying Fish* (SS-229) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Meisei Maru* near Rashin, Korea, 41°47'N, 131°44'E.

Submarine *Sea Dog* (SS-401) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kofuku Maru*, 40°28'N, 139°47'E.

Submarine *Segundo* (SS-398) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.2 Fukui Maru*, in the Yellow Sea off the Shantung peninsula, 37°11'N, 123°23'E.

Submarine *Tirante* (SS-420) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Hakuju Maru* at Ha Jima, southern Kyushu, 42°37'N, 129°45'E.

PB4Y-2 sinks Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 237* at entrance to Ise Bay, 34°30'N, 137°06'E; the explosion of the enemy patrol vessel, however, heavily damages the attacking Privateer.

Japanese guardboat *No.5 Nichiei Maru* is sunk by U.S. aircraft southwest of Paramushiro, Kurils, 50°00'N, 155°00'E.

Japanese cargo ship *Kimi Maru* is sunk by aircraft off west coast of Aomori prefecture.

- **12, Tues. --**

- Pacific

- Off Okinawa, light cruiser *Vicksburg* (CL-86) is damaged when own shell bursts as it leaves muzzle, 26°10'N, 127°20'E.

- Submarine *Sea Dog* (SS-401) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ships *Shinsen Maru* and *Kaiwa Maru*, 40°11'N, 139°46'E.

- Submarine *Skate* (SS-305) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ships *Yozan Maru*, *Kenjo Maru*, and *Zuiko Maru*, and damages *Kankyo Maru* in Togi harbor, northern Honshu, 37°08'N, 136°42'E.

- Submarine *Spadefish* (SS-411) sinks Japanese guardboat *Daido Maru* west of Wakkanai, Hokkaido, 45°08'N, 141°10'E.

- Submarine *Tinosa* (SS-283) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Keito Maru*, 37°30'N, 129°20'E.

- Japanese submarine chaser *Ch 57* and passenger ferry *No.2 Kuroshio* (ex-landing ship *T.149*) are sunk by British destroyers *HMS Tartar*, *HMS Eskimo*, and *HMS Nubian* (10th Destroyer Flotilla), 20 miles north of Sabang, Sumatra, 06°20'N, 94°45'E, as the enemy is engaged in withdrawing his troops from the Andamans.

- Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Myoken Maru* is sunk by aircraft, Atsuta dockyard.

- Okinawa-based PB4Y-2s (VPB 118), using radar, mine the waters off Chin-To, Korean Archipelago. The same waters are mined again the following day.

- Mines laid by USAAF B-29s sink Japanese army cargo ship *Aizan Maru* in Hakata Bay, 33°38'N, 130°22'E, merchant cargo ships *Sagami Maru*, 25 miles off Kaburazaki, and *Fumitsuki Maru* off Shirasu, 33°57'N, 130°44'E, and liaison ship *Shimonoseki Maru* at 36°30'N, 130°19'E, and damage army tanker *Yamadono Maru*, 2.5 kilometers off Manabe Island.

- **13 June, Wed. --**

- Pacific

- Large infantry landing craft *LCI(L)-871*, on routine patrol along the east coast of Urukthapel Island Palaus, engages Japanese artillery and mortar batteries.

Twenty-nine USAAF B-29s (20th Air Force) mine Shimonoseki Straits and the waters off Niigata, Japan. Mines laid in these and previous plants by B-29s sink merchant cargo ship *Matsuo Maru*, 3.4 kilometers south of Motoyama light, and *Hiyoshi Maru* and *No.8 Nissho Maru* off Hesaki light, 33°54'N, 131°07'E, *Koryu Maru* off Hesaki light, 33°55'N, 131°07'E, and damage escort destroyer *Io*, 1.7 kilometers southeast of Kannonzaki, and merchant cargo ships *Kinyo Maru*, Kyokenzaki, Kammon Strait, *Kannon Maru* (unspecified location), *Hakujitsu Maru* at 33°58'37"N, 130°44'E, *Takakurasan Maru* at 37°07'N, 137°03'E, and 2 *Kofuku Maru*, 37°07'N, 137°03'E.

Off Okinawa, battleship *Idaho* (BB-42) is damaged by grounding, 26°14'N, 127°57'E.

Submarine *Bergall* (SS-320) is damaged by mine (U.S. or British proximity-fuzed) in Gulf of Siam, 11°45'N, 99°50'E, and is forced to terminate her patrol.

Submarine *Bonefish* (SS-223) sinks Japanese cargo ship *Oshikasan Maru* in Japan Sea, 38°30'N, 136°58'E.

Submarine *Bowfin* (SS-287) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Meiho Maru*, 39°00'N, 128°05'E.

Submarine *Skate* (SS-305) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Hattenzan Maru*, 37°20'N, 134°28'E.

Submarine *Spadefish* (SS-411) mistakenly sinks Russian cargo ship *Transbalt*, 45°44'N, 140°48'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kaisho Maru* is sunk by aircraft, 35°49'N, 126°23'E.

Mines laid by USAAF B-24s (14th Air Force) sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *Koun Maru* off Macao, 23°30'N, 113°30'E.

- **14 June, Thu. --**

Pacific

British TG 111.2 (Rear Admiral Eric J.P. Brind, RN), comprising fleet carrier HMS *Implacable*, escort carrier HMS *Ruler*, four light cruisers and five destroyers, attacks Truk atoll to neutralize Japanese air bases there (see 15 June).

Motor gunboat *PGM-24* is damaged when accidentally rammed by light minelayer *Thomas E. Fraser* (DM-24) off Okinawa, 25°30'N, 126°00'E.

Submarine *Sea Devil* (SS-400), despite presence of two escorts, sinks Japanese transport *Wakamiyasan Maru* in the northern Yellow Sea, 37°35'N, 123°30'E.

Submarine *Spadefish* (SS-411) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Seizan Maru* off western Sakhalin, 47°03'N, 142°01'E.

PB4Y-2s (VPB 118), flying from Okinawa, mine waters between Gyuji-To, Toso-To and Jobai-To, Korean Archipelago, encountering antiaircraft fire from nearby anchored shipping. The same waters are mined each day over the next three days, but the Privateers encounter no further antiaircraft fire on those occasions.

Mine laid by USAAF B-29s sinks Japanese army cargo ship *No.18 Umajima Maru* at 33°39'N, 130°15'E.

PB4Y bombs Japanese shipping off Bandjermasin, sinking *No.470 Shuttle Vessel*.

Black Sea

U.S. freighter *Attleboro Victory*, en route to Constanta, Romania, is damaged by mine in the Black Sea, 44°59'N, 30°54'E. There are no casualties to the ship's complement (which includes 12 Armed Guard sailors) and the ship is later repaired and returns to active service.

• **15 June, Fri. --**

Pacific

British TG 111.2 (Rear Admiral Eric J.P. Brind, RN), bombards Japanese installations, Truk atoll.

Fifteen motor minesweepers (YMS), accompanied by the high speed transport *Cofer* (APD-62) and landing craft equipped with light minesweeping gear, arrive off Balikpapan, Borneo, to begin mine clearance operations.

Thirty USAAF B-29s mine Shimonoseki Straits and the waters off Fushiki, Fukuoka, and Karatsu, Japan.

Destroyer escort *O'Flaherty* (DE-340) is damaged in collision with escort carrier *Block Island* (CVE-106) off Okinawa, 26°00'N, 128°00'E.

Submarine *Sea Dog* (SS-401) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Koan Maru*, 39°53'N, 139°40'E.

Japanese guardboats *Gion Maru* and *Jinko Maru* are sunk by U.S. aircraft, Cam Ranh Bay, French Indochina.

Japanese freighter *No.2 Tanshin Maru* is sunk by marine casualty, near Malay peninsula.

USAAF B-24s (10th Air Force) attack Japanese convoy in Gulf of Siam, damaging destroyer *Kamikaze* and minesweeper *W.4* and sinking merchant tanker *Toho Maru* off Samui Island 09°25'N, 99°54'E,

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Heiryu Maru* sinks after colliding with submerged wreck southwest of Shinshin Island Korea, 36°39'N, 126°07'E.

Japanese cargo vessel *Junkawa Maru* is sunk by mine, 04°41'S, 106°13'E.

• **16 June, Sat. --**

United States Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, Maryland is established.

Pacific

Off Okinawa, destroyer *Twiggs* (DD-591) is sunk by aerial torpedo, 26°08'N, 137°35'E, and escort carrier *Steamer Bay* (CVE-87) is damaged by aircraft operational casualty, 24°00'N, 128°00'E.

Submarine *Piranha* (SS-389) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Eiso Maru*, 41°57'N, 140°56'E.

British submarine HMS *Taciturn* sinks Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 105* and unnamed air warning picket hulk (ex-Dutch submarine *K-XVIII*) off Surabaya, Java, N.E.I.

Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Wakatake Maru* is sunk by aircraft, Keelung harbor.

Japanese army cargo ship *Taikyu Maru* is sunk by mine west of the mouth of Kammon channel.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Takeshima Maru* is sunk by aircraft, 34°35'N, 125°58'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kinsho Maru* is sunk, agentand location unspecified.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.35 Banshu Maru* is sunk by mine, 33°57'N, 130°43'E.

Japanese destroyer *Natsuzuki* is damaged 3.1 kilometers off Mutsure Island.

- **17 June, Sun. --**

Pacific

Twenty-seven USAAF B-29s mine Shimonoseki Straits and the waters off Kobe, Japan.

Gasoline tanker *Chestatee* (AOG-49) is damaged in collision with U.S. tanker *Sinclair Superflame* off Luzon, 07°04'N, 122°06'E.

Submarine *Spadefish* (SS-411) attacks Japanese convoy, sinking Japanese auxiliary minelayer *Eijo Maru* off Matsuta Misaki, Hokkaido., 42°38'N, 139°49'E.

Submarine chaser *PC-794* is damaged when she strikes an uncharted rock off Theodore Point, Otter Island Alaska, 52°45'10"N, 172°53'20"E.

Japanese cargo ship *Kongo Maru* is sunk by aircraft, north of Shumushu Island.

Japanese fast transport *T.16* is damaged by aircraft, 15 miles off Oshima.

Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.46* is damaged by marine casualty north of Tsingtao, China.

Japanese naval vessel *Bingo Maru* is damaged by marine casualty, two kilometers off Paekyongdo.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Jintsugawa Maru* is sunk by marine casualty off Najin, Korea.

- **18 June, Mon. --**

Pacific

Battleship *Nevada* (BB-36) and two destroyers (Captain Homer L. Grosskopf), en route from Pearl Harbor to Saipan, bombards shore installations on Emidj Island, Jaluit Atoll, Marshalls, coordinated with bombing by land-based planes from U.S. bases in the Marshalls.

Lieutenant General Simon B. Buckner, USA, commander of the Tenth Army, is killed on Okinawa; Major General Roy S. Geiger, USMC, assumes temporary command of the Tenth Army to direct its final combat operations on the island.

Rear Admiral Forrest B. Royal, Commander, Amphibious Group 6, dies on board amphibious force flagship *Rocky Mount* (AGC-3) of coronary thrombosis.

Motor minesweeper *YMS-50*, damaged by mine off Balikpapan, Borneo, 01°18'S, 116°49'E, is scuttled by light cruiser *Denver* (CL-58).

Submarine *Apogon* (SS-308), attacking Japanese convoy RU, sinks transport *Hakuai Maru* and guardboat *No.2 Kusunoki Maru* southwest of Paramushiro, Kurils, 50°30'N, 155°01'E (see 19 June).

Submarine *Bonefish* (SS-223), after conferring with *Tunny* (SS-282) at 37°02'N, 135°32'E, off western coast of Honshu, sinks Japanese cargo ship *Konzan Maru*, 37°13'N, 137°18'E. *Bonefish*, however, is later sunk by escort destroyer *Okinawa*, *Coast Defense Vessel No.63*, *Coast Defense Vessel No.75*, *Coast Defense Vessel No.158* and *Coast Defense Vessel No.207* in Sea of Japan, 37°18'N, 137°55'E.16

Submarine *Bullhead* (SS-332) sinks Japanese auxiliary sailing vessel *No.58 Sakura Maru* in Sunda Strait, off Merak, 05°35'S, 106°02'E.

Submarine *Dentuda* (SS-335) sinks Japanese guardboats *Reiko Maru* and *Heiwa Maru* in East China Sea, 30°45'N, 126°00'E.

Submarine *Tinosa* (SS-283) sinks Japanese ship *Wakae Maru* at 38°25'N, 128°34'E.

PB4Y-2s (VPB 118) continue aerial mining of waters in Korean archipelago, sowing mines in the waters north of Roka-To.

Mines sink Japanese transport *Shintai Maru* west of Noto-Hanto, 36°50'N, 134°36'E, auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 197*, 1.48 kilometers southwest of Mojizaki light, and merchant cargo ships *Nissho Maru* off Moji, and *Bizan Maru* at 33°58'N, 130°44'E, and damage naval vessel *Shintai Maru* at 36°59'N, 136°43'.

Marine casualties damage Japanese merchant cargo ships *No.1 Oshima Maru* east of Tachang Shan Island, *Shinko Maru* one kilometer off Nisshin, and *Hazuki Maru* off Kuzuiwa.

Japanese *Motor Gunboat No.54* is sunk by aircraft off Port Arthur.

- **19 June, Tue. --**

- Pacific

- Destroyer *Dunlap* (DD-384), while patrolling north of Chichi Jima, sinks Japanese luggers *Gorgen Maru*, *Legaspi Maru*, and cargo ship *Kasidori Maru*; the enemy vessels are en route to evacuate non-combatants from Chichi Jima to the Japanese home islands, and to take off supplies of gasoline.

- Twenty-eight USAAF B-29s mine Shimonoseki Straits and the waters off Niigata, Miyazu, and Maizuru, Japan.

PB4Y-2s (VPB 118) continue aerial mining of waters in Korean archipelago, sowing mines in the waters north of Roka-To, in a repeat of the mission flown the previous day. On this occasion, however, all planes are damaged by antiaircraft fire when they strafe a ship encountered in the vicinity.

Submarine *Bullhead* (SS-332) sinks Japanese auxiliary sailing vessel *No.57 Tachibana Maru* in Sunda Strait, off Merak, 05°56'S, 106°00'E.

Submarine *Cabezon* (SS-334), attacking Japanese convoy beset by *Apogon* (SS-308) the previous day, sinks merchant cargo ship *Zaosan Maru* southwest of Paramushiro, Kurils, 50°39'N, 154°38'E.

Submarine *Sea Dog* (SS-401), attacking Japanese convoy off northwest coast of Hokkaido, sinks army cargo ship *Kokai Maru* and merchant cargo ship *No.3 Shinhei Maru*, and damages merchant vessel *Naga Maru*, 43°12'N, 140°19'E.

Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Koshun Maru* is lost to marine casualty, 4.5 kilometers off Yura Saki, eastern Bungo Suido..

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Hattenzan Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Masan, Korea; freighter *Heian Maru* is damaged by marine casualty off Hunghae, 36°03'N, 129°35'E..

Japanese merchant tanker *No.1 Nanki Maru* is sunk by mine off Aki-Nada, in western part of the Inland Sea; guardboat *No.3 Kaigyo Maru* is damaged by mine 1.9 kilometers off He Saki, Japan.

Atlantic

U.S. freighter *Calvin Coolidge*, en route from Le Havre, France, to Boston, Massachusetts, is damaged by mine, 49°50'N, 04°57'W. There are no casualties to the 56 merchant crew, 31 Armed Guard sailors and 457 embarked troops.

• **20 June, Wed. --**

Pacific

TG 12.4, en route from Pearl Harbor to Leyte, attacks Wake Island; planes from carriers *Hancock* (CV-19) and *Lexington* (CV-16) and small carrier *Cowpens* (CVL-25) (Rear Admiral Ralph E. Jennings) bomb Japanese installations.

Tank landing ship *LST-562* is damaged when accidentally rammed by tank landing craft *LCT-1310*, Brunei Bay, Borneo, 04°29'N, 114°01'E.

Minesweepers *Device* (AM-220) and *Dour* (AM-223) are damaged in collision off Okinawa, 26°00'N, 127°00'E.

Motor minesweeper *YMS-368* is damaged by mine off Balikpapan, Borneo, 01°19'S, 116°58'E.

Tank landing ship *LST-288* is damaged by operational casualty off Okinawa.

Submarine *Kraken* (SS-370) sinks Japanese auxiliary sailing vessel *No.58 Tachibana Maru* in Sunda Strait, off Merak, 05°56'S, 106°00'E.

Submarine *Tinosa* (SS-283), on patrol off the east coast of Korea, sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Taito Maru*, 36°04'N, 130°26'E, and merchant cargo ship *Kaisei Maru*, 35°39'N, 130°29'E.

Japanese merchant tanker *Nanshin Maru* is sunk by mine, possibly laid by submarine *Ray* (SS-271) on 22 February 1944, off Cape St. Jacques, French Indochina.

Mine sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kenan Maru* in north Kyushu channel, 33°59'N, 130°48'E, mine laid by USAAF B-29 (20th Air Force) sinks merchant tanker *No.1 Nanki Maru* off Aki-Nada, 33°58'N, 131°01'E, and damage merchant cargo ships *Nitto Maru* 5.7 kilometers off Tateishi light, and *Keizan Maru* seven kilometers southeast of Motoyamazaki. Cargo ship *Huashan Maru* is sunk by B-29-laid mine near Fukuoka, Kyushu, 33°38'N, 130°22'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kamome Maru* is sunk by aircraft between Pusan, Korea, and Yosu.

USAAF B-24s (Fifth Air Force) on shipping sweep off coast of Korea sink cargo ship *Keijo Maru* off Mokpo, 34°47'N, 126°23'E.

PB4Y-2s (VPB 118) continue aerial mining of waters of Korean archipelago in a repeat of the mission of the previous day, but on this occasion encounter heavy antiaircraft fire from Japanese warships in the vicinity.

- **21 June, Thu. --**

Pacific

Okinawa is declared secured 82 days after the initial landings; Japanese air attacks on U.S. ships offshore, however, continue. Kamikazes damage destroyer escort *Halloran* (DE-305), 26°00'N, 128°00'E, and sink medium landing ship *LSM-59*, while she is escorting fleet tug *Lipan* (ATF-85) and high speed transport *Barry* (APD-29). *Barry* (previously damaged by kamikaze on 24 May) and in tow of *Lipan*, is en route to Ie Shima (see 22 May 1945 and 22 June).¹⁷ In addition, suicider planes damage seaplane tenders *Curtiss* (AV-4) and *Kenneth Whiting* (AV-14), 26°10'N, 127°18'E.

Twenty-seven USAAF B-29s mine the waters off Oura, Senzaki, Nanao, Fushiki and Osaka, Japan.

PB4Y-2s (VPB 118), flying from Okinawa, continue aerial mining of waters of Korean archipelago, sowing mines in waters in channel between Hikin-To, Iion-To, and Gantai-To; one plane encounters antiaircraft fire from Japanese warship in vicinity. Waters north of Roka-To are mined again as well.

Landing craft repair ship *Endymion* (ARL-9) is damaged by Japanese submarine *I 36* north of Truk, 12°41'N, 156°20'E.

Motor minesweeper *YMS-335* is damaged by shore battery, Balikpapan, Borneo, 01°18'S, 116°50'E.

Submarine *Parche* (SS-384) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Hizen Maru*, 41°19'N, 141°28'E.

Submarine *Piranha* (SS-389) damages Japanese merchant cargo ship *Shirogane Maru*, 39°28'N, 142°10'E.

- **22 June, Fri. --**

Pacific

High speed transport *Barry* (APD-29) (previously damaged twice by kamikazes)

sinks as the result of damage received the previous day (see 24 May 1945 and 21 June).

Off Okinawa, kamikazes damage high speed minesweeper *Ellyson* (DMS-19), 26°04'N, 127°55'E; and tank landing ship *LST-534*, 26°18'N, 127°49'E; medium landing ship *LSM-213* is damaged by operational casualty.

Motor minesweeper *YMS-10* is damaged by shore battery, Balikpapan, Borneo, 01°18'S, 116°51'E.

USAAF B-29s (162 strong) bomb naval facility at Kure, Japan, destroying the incomplete submarines *I 204* and *I 352*, and damaging escort destroyer *Nire* and submarine *RO 67*.

Submarine *Crevalle* (SS-291) damages Japanese escort destroyer *Kasado*, 43°23'N, 139°47'E.

Submarine *Parche* (SS-384) sinks unnamed Japanese fishing boat, 42°08'N, 140°58'E.

Submarine *Piranha* (SS-389) damages *Coast Defense Vessel No.196*, 39°32'N, 142°11'E.

Mines laid by USAAF B-29s (20th Air Force) sink Japanese merchant cargo ships *Yubu Maru* in Kammon Channel, 34°00'N, 131°00'E, *Tokasegawa Maru* off Tsutura, in Kammon Channel, 33°55'N, 131°20'E, *Taigen Maru* near Kammon Channel, 34°00'N, 130°30'E, and *Ungetsu Maru* north of Mutsure, and damage transport *Tatsumiya Maru* one kilometer off Ganryu Jima Light.

PB4Y-2s (VPB 118), flying from Okinawa, continue aerial mining of waters of Korean archipelago, sowing mines in waters in channel between Hikin-To, Iion-To, and Gantai-To.

PBMs bomb lighthouse and Japanese shipping off south coast of Korea, 36°55'N, 125°47'E.

Mediterranean

U.S. freighter *Pierre Gibault*, en route from Izmir, Turkey, to Oran, Algeria, is damaged by mine off Kythera Island 36°04'30"N, 26°06'30"E. Greek destroyer escort *Themosticles* takes off the wounded (seven Armed Guard sailors) and dead (two merchant sailors and two Armed Guards) soon thereafter. The ship, beached on 26 June 1945 off Kythera Island is subsequently written off as a total loss.

• **23 June, Sat. --**

Pacific

Twenty-six USAAF B-29s mine the waters off Karatsu, Fukuoka, Sakai, and Niigata, Japan.

PB4Y-2s (VPB 118), flying from Okinawa, continue aerial mining of waters of Korean archipelago, sowing mines in waters in channel north of Iion-To and Gantai-To, and off Ninshi-To and Chi-To.

Motor minesweeper *YMS-364* is damaged by shore battery, Balikpapan, Borneo, 01°19'S, 116°52'E.

Submarine *Hardhead* (SS-365) sinks Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 42* in Java Sea, 05°44'S, 114°16'E, and after undergoing counterattack by auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 113*, sinks *Cha 113* and *No. 833 Shuttle Boat*, 05°45'S, 114°16'E.

Submarine *Tirante* (SS-420) sinks Japanese merchant sailing junk *No.293 Antung Maru*, 37°54'N, 125°34'E.

Mines sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *Goshu Maru* off Mutsure light, and damage merchant cargo ship *Kocho Maru* 1.5 kilometers off Takenoko light.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Shingishu Maru* is damaged by aircraft off Pusan, Korea.

- **24 June, Sun. --**

Pacific

Destroyer escort *Neuendorf* (DE-200) is damaged in collision, P.I., 10°41'N, 122°35'E.

Motor minesweeper *YMS-339* is damaged, accidentally, by U.S. aircraft off Balikpapan, Borneo, 01°19'S, 116°52'E.

Submarine *Tirante* (SS-420) sinks Japanese merchant sailing junk *No.284 Antung Maru*, 38°36'N, 124°40'E.

British submarine HMS *Statesman* damages Japanese submarine depot ship *Komahashi* off northern Sumatra.

British submarine HMS *Torbay* sinks unnamed merchant coaster [motor sailboat] in Malacca Strait.

Mines sink Japanese merchant cargo ships *Katsura Maru*, 34°19'N, 133°35'E; *No.8 Kenkon Maru*, 2.4 kilometers off Mutsure light, and *Tatsukaba Maru*, at mouth of Karatsu Bay; and damage merchant cargo ships *Tsurukawa Maru*, 33°55'N, 131°05'E, and *Unzen Maru*, 35°33'N, 133°17'E.

PB4Y-2s (VPB 118), flying from Okinawa in a repeat of mission carried out the previous day, continue aerial mining of waters of Korean archipelago, sowing mines in waters north of Iion-To and Gantai-To, and off Ninshi-To and Chi-To. The Privateers, upon completion of the mining operation, strafe targets of opportunity that include railroad facilities, airports and Japanese shipping, sinking merchant ship *Pluto Go* off Mokpo.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Wakamatsu Maru* is damaged by aircraft, 33°47'N, 131°31'E.

- **25 June, Mon. --**

Pacific

PB4Y-2s (VPB 118), flying from Okinawa, continue aerial mining of waters of Korean archipelago, sowing mines in waters north of Chin-To. Upon completion of the mining operation, the Privateers strafe targets of opportunity that include lighthouses and Japanese shipping.

Twenty-six USAAF B-29s mine Shimonoseki Straits and the waters off Tsuruga and Ohama, Japan. Mines sink Japanese merchant cargo ships *Anri Go* off

Mutsure, and *Kozan Maru* off Wakamatsu; and damage escort destroyer *Kuga* in Fukagawa Bay.

Underwater demolition teams, covered by aircraft, begin operations on the beaches at Balikpapan, Borneo, in advance of landings slated to begin there.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Katori Maru* is sunk by aircraft, 36°02'N, 129°25'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.5 Ise Maru* is sunk by aircraft, outside Sakito harbor.

- **26 June, Tue. --**

- Pacific

- Naval task group (Captain Charles A. Buchanan) lands marines on Kume Jima, Ryukyus.

Underwater demolition teams at Balikpapan continue operations to clear obstacles, covered by close support unit (an element of TG 78.2) comprising 10 landing craft [LCS(L)], 8 rocket-equipped infantry landing craft [LCI(R)] and 6 infantry landing craft (gunboats) [LCI(G)].

PB4Y-2s (VPB 118), flying from Okinawa, continue aerial mining of waters of Korean archipelago, sowing mines in waters north of Chin-To, and north of Iion-To and Gantai-To.

Destroyer escort *Halloran* (DE-305) is strafed by Japanese aircraft in Davao Gulf, P.I.

Off Balikpapan, Borneo, motor minesweeper *YMS-39* is sunk by mine, 01°19'S, 116°49'E; motor minesweeper *YMS-365*, damaged by mine, 01°18'S, 116°50'E, is scuttled by U.S. forces.

Off Okinawa, small seaplane tender *Suisun* (AVP-53) is damaged when accidentally rammed by tank landing craft *LCT-1407*, 26°10'N, 127°19'E.

Destroyers *Bearss* (DD-654), *John Hood* (DD-655), *Jarvis* (DD-799), and *Porter* (DD-800) sink Japanese auxiliary submarine chasers *Cha 73*, *Cha 206* and *Cha 209*, and guardboat *No.2 Kusunoki Maru*, and damage auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 198*, south of Onkotan, Kurils, 49°40'N, 155°30'E.

Submarine *Parche* (SS-384), attacking Japanese convoy, sinks gunboat *Kamitsu Maru* and merchant cargo ship *Eikan Maru* seven miles off Todozaki, southern Honshu, 39°25'N, 142°04'E, but although damaged by depth charges, remains on patrol.

Japanese escort destroyer *Enoki* is sunk by mine, Obama Wan, Fukui, Japan, 35°28'N, 135°44'E. Destroyer *Hatsuume* is damaged by mine off Maizuru.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kisei Go* is sunk by aircraft, 34°43'N, 127°15'E.

Japanese submarine *I 162* is damaged by marine casualty off south coast of Korea.

Japanese naval vessel *Bingo Maru* is damaged by aircraft, East China Sea.

Japanese cargo ship *Nadamitsu Maru* is damaged by aircraft off Yodoe, Tottori prefecture.

Japanese cargo ship *No.11 Shinsei Maru* is damaged by marine casualty east of Kamoizaki.

- **27 June, Wed. --**

Pacific

Twenty-nine USAAF B-29s mine the waters off Hagi, Niigata, Kobe, and Osaka, Japan.

PB4Y-2s (VPB 118), flying from Okinawa, continue aerial mining of waters of Korean archipelago, sowing mines in fields off Chin-To and northwest of Roka-To.

Destroyer *Caldwell* (DD-605) is damaged by mine in Brunei Bay, Borneo, 05°07'N, 115°06'E.

Submarine *Blueback* (SS-326) sinks Japanese submarine chaser *Ch 2* north of Lombok, Java Sea, 07°25'S, 116°00'E.

Japanese submarine *I 165* is sunk by naval land-based aircraft (VPB 142), 450 miles east of Saipan, Marianas, 15°28'N, 153°39'E.

Japanese auxiliary minelayer *Kyushu Maru* is sunk by U.S. aircraft east of Otsu, Japan.

Mines sink Japanese merchant cargo ships *Mifuku Maru* outside Nanao harbor, 37°06'N, 137°02'E, and *No.7 Kaishin Maru* off Mutsure, Japan, and damage escort destroyer *Sakito*, 34°13'N, 126°36'E, army cargo ship *Maoka Maru*, .3 kilometers off Niigata light, and merchant cargo ships *Yuzuki Maru* off Moji, and *Mifunesan Maru* off Harima-Nada.

Japanese army cargo ship *Hozu Maru* is sunk by aircraft, near Rabaul, New Britain.

Japanese submarine chaser *Ch 19* is damaged by aircraft, south of Korea; merchant cargo ship *Keisei Maru* is damaged by aircraft, near Mokpo, Korea.

Navy land-based aircraft damage Japanese cargo vessel *Keijo Maru*, 34°19'N, 126°27'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.7 Nichiyu Maru* is damaged by marine casualty, 36°53'N, 129°26'E.

- **28 June, Thu. --**

Pacific

Japanese submarine *I 36* carries out unsuccessful kaiten attack on general issues stores ship *Antares* (AKS-3) southeast of the Marianas, 13°10'N, 154°57'E; destroyer *Sproston* (DD-577) comes to *Antares's* aid, sinking one kaiten and damaging *I 36*, 12°50'N, 154°50'E.

Off Balikpapan, Borneo, motor minesweeper *YMS-47* is damaged by mine, 01°19'S, 116°55'E; motor minesweeper *YMS-49* is damaged by shore battery, 01°00'S, 117°00'E.

PB4Y-2s (VPB 118), flying from Okinawa, continue aerial mining of waters of Korean archipelago in a repeat of mission the previous day, sowing mines in fields off Chin-To and northwest of Roka-To. Although fighter opposition

materializes to this mission, the Privateers "after considerable sparring" drive off the enemy without loss.

Mines sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *Daikokusan Maru* (off Moji, Japan) and damage cable ship *Osei Maru* (three kilometers southeast of Jizozaki) and merchant cargo ship *Yahiko Maru* (34°21'N, 130°56'E).

Japanese naval vessel *Toyokawa Maru* is damaged by marine casualty 450 meters southeast of Hikoshima.

- **29 June, Fri. --**

Pacific

Twenty-five USAAF B-29s (20th Air Force) mine Shimonoseki Straits and the waters off Maizuru and Sakata, Japan. Mines laid by B-29s in these and previous plants sink merchant cargo ship *Kyokuto Maru* off Mutsure, and damage naval vessel *Soshu Maru* two kilometers off Tsuruga light, 35°41'N, 136°05'E, merchant cargo ships *Akizuki Maru* in Tsuruga harbor and *I Nichiyu Maru* at 34°04'N, 130°52'E, and *Hiyoriyama Maru* outside Sakai harbor.

PB4Y-2s (VPB 118), flying from Okinawa, continue aerial mining of waters of Korean archipelago, sowing mines in fields off Gyuji-To, Jobai-To, and Toso-To.

- **30 June, Sat. --**

Naval vessels on hand (all types)--67,952. Personnel: Navy--3,383,196; Marine Corps--476,709; Coast Guard--171,192. Total personnel--4,031,097.

Pacific

Open lighter *YC-1272*, beached on south side of Cerritos Channel, San Pedro, California, is lost during June (date indeterminate).

PB4Y-2s (VPB 118), flying from Okinawa, continue aerial mining of waters of Korean archipelago, sowing mines in fields off the south central coast.

Off Balikpapan, Borneo, destroyer *Smith* (DD-378) is damaged by shore battery, 01°17'S, 116°53'E; minesweeper *YMS-314* by mine, 01°18'S, 116°51'E.

Submarines *Baya* (SS-318) and *Capitaine* (SS-336) attack Japanese Makassar-to-Surabaya convoy MASU-705, engaging the escorting submarine chaser *Ch 5* and sinking cargo vessel *Bandai Maru*, 06°27'S, 117°13'E.

Japanese army cargo ship *Hokushin Maru* is lost to unknown cause in South China Sea, about 15°00'N, 115°00'E.18

Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.1 Ryuho Maru* is sunk by aircraft, 35°01'N, 140°10'E.

Mines damage Japanese escort destroyer *Nara*, six miles west-southwest of Shimonoseki, Japan, 33°54'N, 130°49'E, *Coast Defense Vessel No.154*, 2.8 kilometers off Hesaki light, and merchant cargo ships *Chikuma Maru*, 15 kilometers off Himejima, *Taruyasu Maru*, 37°07'N, 137°04'E, and *Taisei Maru*, 35°00'N, 133°00'E.

Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.215* is damaged 2.8 kilometers off Iwasaki.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.1 Taiyu Maru* is damaged by aircraft, Moji harbor.

Open lighter *YC-1272*, beached on south side of Cerritos Channel, San Pedro, California, is lost during June (date indeterminate).

July

- **1 July, Sun. --**

Pacific

TG 78.2 (Rear Admiral Albert G. Noble) lands Australian troops [Seventh Australian Division (Reinforced) less one brigade] at Balikpapan, Borneo; landing is covered by Allied naval gunfire and aircraft. This, the final major amphibious assault of the Borneo campaign, is unopposed.

Over 530 USAAF B-29s firebomb Ube, Kure, Shimonoseki, and Kumamoto, Japan; auxiliary minelayer *Himetaka Maru* is damaged at Kure.

PB4Y-2s (VPB 118), flying from Okinawa, conclude aerial mining of waters of Korean archipelago, sowing mines in fields off Chin-To. VPB 118 wraps up its mining operations this date having sown 195 mines. The aircrew notice an absence of shipping in the areas mined, leading to the conclusion that the effort "has effectively stopped the movement of enemy ships in the inner channels around the southwest coast of Korea."

Twenty-four USAAF B-29s mine Shimonoseki Straits and the waters off Nanao and Fushiki, Japan. Mines sink Japanese merchant cargo ships *Tenryu Maru* at entrance of Niigata harbor, and *Naoshima Maru* three miles north of Shodo Jima, and damage merchant cargo ships *Yamaji Maru* at 34°28'N, 135°08'E, and *Eijun Maru* off Moji, Japan.

Submarine *Haddo* (SS-255) sinks Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.72* and merchant cargo ships *Konri Maru* and *1 Taiun Maru* and *No.2 Taiun Maru* in Yellow Sea off west coast of Korea, 38°08'N, 124°38'E.

Japanese minesweeper depot ship *Chohei Maru* and merchant cargo ship *Koa Maru* are damaged by U.S. aircraft, Woosung, China.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Mitakesan Maru* is damaged by aircraft, 34°20'N, 129°24'E.

USAAF planes (5th Air Force) sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *Shinneisho Maru* at mouth of Yangtze River, 31°21'N, 121°38'E.

- **2 July, Mon. --**

Pacific

Japanese planes attack fleet units patrolling off Okinawa; high speed transport *Scribner* (APD-122) is narrowly missed by aerial torpedo.

Submarine *Apogon* (SS-308) damages Japanese auxiliary submarine chasers *Cha 58* and *Cha 65*, 49°28'N, 154°19'E.

Submarine *Barb* (SS-220) employs rockets in bombardment of Japanese shore installations at Kaihyo Island off the east coast of Karafuto; this is the first successful use of these weapons against shore positions by a U.S. submarine.

Submarines *Haddo* (SS-255) and *Paddle* (SS-263) attack Japanese shipping, sinking one unnamed cargo vessel and leaving another drifting, 37°55'N, 124°58'E.

Mines sink Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 188* in Sea of Japan, 1.5 kilometers off Mutsure light, 33°59'N, 130°52'E, and damage army motor sailer *Nanko Maru*, by mine, .5 kilometers off Kammon light.

Japanese merchant tanker *No.5 Nanki Maru* is sunk by marine casualty, 34°18'N, 141°25'E. Marine casualties (most likely groundings or storms) account for damage to cargo ship *Awa Maru* between Hakodate and Yokohama, and cargo vessel *Annette Fritzen* at entrance to Pusan harbor, Korea.

USAAF B-29s (20th Air Force) bomb Japanese shipping and installations at Kure, sinking cargo vessel *Himetaka Maru*, 34°11'N, 132°31'E.

USN land-based planes sink Japanese sailing vessel *Nishima Maru* off Gunzan, west coast of Korea, 35°50'N, 126°30'E, and cargo ship *No.12 Shima Maru* at 35°43'N, 126°32'E.

- **3 July, Tue. --**

Europe

Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Germany, (Vice Admiral Robert L. Ghormley) establishes headquarters at Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

Pacific

Over 560 USAAF Air Force B-29s firebomb Kochi, Himeji, Takamatsu, and Tokushima, concluding the raid early the following morning.

Final mine plant of Phase IV of Operation STARVATION: 31 USAAF B-29s mine Shimonoseki Straits and the waters off Maizuru and Funakawa, Japan.

Japanese merchant tanker *No.5 Nanko Maru* is sunk by marine casualty, Seto, Inland Sea.

Japanese army cargo ship *Hoei Maru* is sunk by aircraft, 34°22'N, 126°25'E.

USAAF B-24s bomb Japanese shipping at Bandjermasin, sinking cargo vessel *No.3 Misaki Maru*.

- **4 July, Wed. --**

Pacific

TF 32 (Rear Admiral Jesse B. Oldendorf), consisting of 3 battleships, 2 heavy cruisers, 1 light cruiser, 4 escort carriers, 11 destroyers and 4 destroyer escorts, departs Buckner Bay to provide cover for the minesweeping operation slated to begin the following day (see 5 July).^[19]

Destroyer *Murray* (DD-576) intercepts Japanese hospital ship *Takasago Maru* as she evacuates sick and wounded members of Wake Island garrison. *Murray* reports subsequently that the many months of isolation and bombardment have reduced life on the atoll to a mere struggle for survival.

Submarine *Tirante* (SS-420) sinks Japanese guardboats *Koshe Maru* and *Mashuye Maru* in the Yellow Sea, east of Tsingtao, China, 37°15'N, 123°19'E.

Japanese auxiliary patrol vessel *Pa No.177* is destroyed by fire, following raid by USAAF B-29s on Tokushima, Japan (see 3 July).

Mines damage Japanese transport *Tsukushi Maru* southeast of Shimonoseki, 33°50'N, 131°19'E, and damage army cargo ship *Taiko Maru* off Bakuchizaki, and merchant cargo ship *Sagami Maru* off Osaka.

Marine casualties account for damage to Japanese merchant cargo ships *Hiyoriyama Maru* outside Sakai harbor, and *Unzen Maru* three miles south of Taki harbor.

- **5 July, Thu. --**

Pacific

General of the Army Douglas MacArthur announces the liberation of the Philippines.

TF 39 (Rear Admiral Alexander Sharp) composed of 7 light minelayers (DM), 52 minesweepers (AM), 6 high speed minesweepers (DMS), 49 motor minesweepers (YMS) and 7 netlayers, begins minesweeping operations in the East China Sea.

Destroyer *Smith* (DD-378) is accidentally damaged by depth charge off Balikpapan, Borneo, 01°00'S, 117°00'E.

Submarine *Barb* (SS-220) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.11 Sapporo Maru* outside Odomari harbor, southwest of Sakhalin, 46°04'N, 142°14'E.

Submarines *Lizardfish* (SS-373) and *Puffer* (SS-268) bombard Japanese port facilities and shipping at Chelukun Buwang, on north coast of Bali; *Lizardfish* sinks auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 37* and *No.153 Shuttle Vessel*, in addition to barges and landing craft, 08°10'S, 114°50'E. Fires started by the shelling destroys small cargo vessel *Hino Maru*. *Puffer* destroys cargo vessels *Heiyo Maru* and *Nihon Maru* in Bulelong Roads, 08°04'S, 115°05'E.

Mines sink Japanese transport *Toyokawa Maru* near Mutsure Jima, 33°56'N, 130°53'E, and merchant tanker *No.1 Tosei Maru*, 1.7 kilometers off Niigata harbor, and damage merchant cargo ships *Miurasan Maru* at 34°47'N, 128°49'E, *Enho Maru* at 33°29'N, 130°15'E, and *Take Maru* near Moji, Japan.

Japanese landing ship *T.147* is damaged by aircraft off Hachijo Jima.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Awa Maru* is damaged by aircraft, 20 miles off Katsuura light.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Hirano Maru* is damaged by aircraft, 41°11'N, 140°04'E.

USAAF planes sink Japanese cargo vessel *Tone Maru* at 03°20'S, 114°35'E.

Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.95* is damaged by marine casualty, Tsurumi harbor.

- **6 July, Fri. --**

Pacific

Mines sink Japanese merchant cable ship *Toyo Maru*, 73 miles northeast of Tobigasuhana, merchant cargo ship *Shori Maru* off Ogushi, and merchant cargo

ships *No.5 Tokai Maru* off Mutsure Light, 33°59'N, 130°52'E, and *Shinei Maru* near Shimonoseki, 33°54'N, 131°01'E; and damage auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 153* off Niigata harbor; army cargo ships *Ujina Maru*, 120 meters north of Niigata light, and *Nissho Maru*, at mouth of Senzaki Bay, and merchant cargo ship *Sakaki Maru*, 3.1 kilometers south of Motoyama light.^[20]

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Mitsuminesan Maru* is damaged by marine casualty near Chinhae, Korea.

- **7 July, Sat. --**

Atlantic

President Truman, Secretary of State James F. Byrnes, and Fleet Admiral William D. Leahy embark in heavy cruiser *Augusta* (CA-31) for Antwerp, Belgium, on the first leg of their trip that will ultimately take them to Potsdam.

Pacific

Submarine *Trepang* (SS-412) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.2 Koun Maru*, 42°21'N, 141°28'E.

Mines sink Japanese merchant cargo ships *Meizan Maru* at mouth of Mokpo harbor, and *Nachizan Maru* in Kammon Strait, and damage merchant tanker *No.10 Kinyu Maru*, Osaka harbor, and cargo ships *Tairi Maru* off Hime Jima, and *Taiju Maru* and *No.5 Tokai Maru* (location unspecified).

- **8 July, Sun. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Cod* (SS-224) rescues officers and men of Dutch submarine *O 19* that had been stranded on Ladd Reef, in South China Sea, 300 miles northwest of Brunei Bay. *O 19* is then scuttled by torpedoes and gunfire.

Submarine *Sea Robin* (SS-407) sinks Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 85* off Quelpart Island 33°50'N, 126°42'E.

Submarine *Tirante* (SS-420) sinks Japanese merchant passenger/cargo ship *Saitsu Maru* near Dairen, Korea, 38°48'N, 121°25'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Mikunisan Maru* is sunk by aircraft at mouth of Mokpo harbor, Korea.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Sumera Maru* is damaged by aircraft near Sakitozaki.

Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.95* is damaged by mine inside Yokosuka harbor.

Japanese army cargo ship *Tensho Maru* and merchant cargo ship *Koshin Maru* are damaged by collision at 40°14'N, 131°42'E.

- **9 July, Mon. --**

Pacific

USAAF B-29s (475-strong) firebomb Sendai, Sakai, Gifu, and Wakayama, concluding the raid early the following morning; 61 B-29s bomb the oil refinery at Yokkaichi.

Phase V of Operation STARVATION, aimed at the total blockade of the Japanese home islands, begins as 30 USAAF B-29s mine Shimonoseki Straits and the waters off Niigata and Nanao. Mines sink cargo ship *Nippu Maru* outside Wakamatsu harbor, damage cargo ship *Kamishima Maru* off Wakamatsu, and damage army cargo ship *Gakujo Maru* at 33°57'N, 130°43'E, merchant cargo ships *Shinto Maru* outside Wakamatsu harbor, and *Sanzen Maru*, five kilometers southeast of Genkai Jima light, and merchant tanker *Mitsu Maru* in Kobe harbor.

Motor minesweeper *YMS-84* is sunk by mine off Balikpapan, Borneo, 01°19'S, 116°48'E.

Submarine *Bluefish* (SS-222) sinks Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 50* off east coast of Malaya, 02°13'N, 105°03'E.

Japanese gunboat *Choun Maru* is damaged by aircraft, 36°13'N, 140°42'E.

Japanese merchant tanker *Tenwa Maru* is damaged by marine casualty in Kobe harbor, Japan.

- **10 July, Tue. --**

- Pacific

- Aircraft from TF 38, the fast carrier task force (Vice Admiral John S. McCain) attack airfields on the Tokyo plain, Japan.

- Submarine chaser *SC-521* founders and sinks, Solomon Islands, 11°03'S, 164°50'E.

- Tank landing ship *LST-1107* is damaged by grounding off Okinawa, 26°21'N, 126°47'E.

- Submarine *Hammerhead* (SS-364) sinks Japanese cargo ship *Sakura Maru* and merchant tanker *No.5 Nanmei Maru*, 09°38'N, 101°31'E.

- Submarine *Lionfish* (SS-298) attacks Japanese submarine *I 162* 144 kilometers south of Ashisurisaki, 32°31'N, 131°54'E. Although *Lionfish* claims two hits and to have sunk her quarry, *I 162* escapes undamaged.

- Submarine *Moray* (SS-300) sinks Japanese merchant whaler *No.6 Fumi Maru* east of Kinkazan, 38°11'N, 142°15'E.

- Submarine *Runner* (SS-476) sinks Japanese minesweeper *W.27* off Tadosaki, northern Honshu, 39°20'N, 142°07'E.

- Submarine *Sea Robin* (SS-407) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Sakishima Maru* north of Quelpart Island 33°39'N, 126°40'E.

- Japanese guardboat *No.3 Kashima Maru* and merchant cargo ship *No.10 Hachiryu Maru* are sunk by U.S. aircraft 40 miles north of the mouth of the Yangtze.

- Mine laid by USAAF B-29 (20th Air Force) sinks Japanese cargo ship *Nippu Maru* outside Wakamatsu harbor, 33°06'N, 129°43'E; merchant cargo ship *Chikuma Maru* is sunk by mine, 18 kilometers off Mojizaki; merchant vessel *Tsukuba Maru* is damaged 4.5 miles west of Osaka harbor.

- **11 July, Wed. --**

- Pacific

Twenty-seven USAAF B-29s mine Shimonoseki Straits and the waters off Najin and Pusan, Korea (marking the first mining operation in Korean waters by B-29s) and off Maizuru, Japan. Mines sink Japanese escort destroyer *Sakura* off Osaka, 35°50'N, 135°20'E, and merchant cargo ship *No.3 Takechi Maru* near Shodo Jima, and damage merchant vessel *Tatsutyuyu Maru* off Senzaki.

Submarine *Barb* (SS-220) sinks Japanese guardboat *No.15 Seiho Maru* and merchant diesel sampan *No.15 Seiho Maru* off Hokkaido, 44°03'N, 146°30'E.

Submarine *Kingfish* (SS-234) sinks Japanese fishing boat *Inari Maru* off Maedate, Japan, 38°03'N, 142°29'E.

- **12 July, Thu. --**

- Pacific

- Submarine chaser *PC-582* is damaged by grounding, P.I., 11°05'N, 125°20'E.

- Mines sink Japanese salvage ship *Nasu Maru* near Niigata, Japan, cargo vessel *No.3 Fukushima Maru* off Osaka harbor lighthouse, merchant cargo ship *Kojun Maru* 180 miles east of Niigata light, 37°57'N, 139°04'E, and tanker *Mitsu Maru* in Akashi Strait, 33°38'N, 135°03'E; and damage freighters *Takarasan Maru* outside Wakamatsu harbor, Japan, and *Nasu Maru* off Niigata.

- Japanese merchant cargo ship *Hakara Maru* is damaged by aircraft off Hakata.

- Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kashi Maru* is damaged by marine casualty off south end of Chizenmisaki.

- **13 July, Fri. --**

- Pacific

- TF 95 (Rear Admiral Francis S. Low), comprising large cruisers *Alaska* (CB-1) and *Guam* (CB-2), four light cruisers and nine destroyers, sorties from Leyte Gulf to conduct anti-shipping sweeps in the East China Sea.^[21]

- TF 93 (Rear Admiral John H. Brown, Jr.), comprising light cruisers *Richmond* (CL-9) and *Concord* (CL-10) and five destroyers, commences an anti-shipping sweep; these ships will pass down the Kurile Island chain and into the Sea of Okhotsk. Although shadowed by Japanese planes, TF 93 will not be attacked.

- Italy declares war on Japan.

- Thirty-one USAAF B-29s mine Shimonoseki Straits and the waters off Masan, Reisui, and Chongjin, Korea, and Fukuoka, Japan. Mines (laid this day and on previous occasions) sink merchant cargo ships *No.7 Agata Maru* and *No.13 Yamabishi Maru*, Wakamatsu harbor, and damage merchant cargo ship *Hayahi Maru* ten kilometers north of Mutsure light; cargo ship *Korasan Maru* in Shimonoseki Strait, 33°56'N, 130°56'E.

- Japanese guardboats *No.7 Myojin Maru* and *No.6 Sakae Maru* are sunk by U.S. aircraft off Chichi Jima, 27°04'N, 142°11'E.

- British submarine HMS *Trenchant* sinks unnamed Japanese schooner, western Celebes, 03°10'S, 118°50'S.

- **14 July, Sat. --**

- Pacific

- Since bad weather prevents attacks on the primary targets (airfields in northern

Honshu and Hokkaido), planes from TF 38 (Vice Admiral John S. McCain) hit shipping, rail facilities, and ground installations in those areas instead; attack is repeated on 15 July. TF 38's planes sink escort destroyer *Tachibana* and *Coast Defense Vessel No.219* in Hakodate harbor, Hokkaido, 41°48'N, 140°41'E, *Coast Defense Vessel No.65* and *Coast Defense Vessel No.74*, 15 miles south of Muroran, Hokkaido, 42°21'N, 140°59'E, submarine chaser *Ch 48*, 2.1 kilometers off Nakanegishi; auxiliary minesweepers *No.2 Choyo Maru*, five miles off Kikonai, 41°38'N, 140°35'E and 3 *Keijin Maru*, northeast of Shiriyasaki, 41°30'N, 141°30'E, *Sonobe Maru* off Hiroo, Hokkaido, 42°11'N, 143°36'E and 2 *Tamazono Maru*, Kushiro Pier, Hokkaido, 42°58'N, 144°25'E; guardboats *Chitose Maru*, four miles off Kayabe, Hokkaido and 18 *Eikoku Maru* off Cape Shiobuki, Hokkaido and 2 *Meiji Maru* off Hakodate, *Ojima Maru* off Shiriyasaki, 41°30'N, 141°40'E; gunboat *Hokoku Maru* off Oma-saki, Tsugaru-kaikyo, 41°33'N, 141°08'E, and transport *No.1 Un'yo Maru* off Muroran, Hokkaido, 42°21'N, 140°59'E; army cargo vessel *No.6 Nissen Maru* near Tsugaru Strait; merchant vessels *Taisei Maru* and *Shimofusa Maru* at west entrance of Tsugaru Strait, and *Osaki Maru*, Hakodate; merchant cargo ships *Shichiyo Maru*, 43°47'N, 141°12'E; *Imizu Maru*, Furubiba, Otaru Bay; *Setagawa Maru*, off Yongtok; *Eiho Maru* and *No.5 Kaisei Maru*, Hakodate; and *Saito Maru* off east coast of Korea, and train ferries *No.2 Seikan Maru* and 3 *Seikan Maru* and 4 *Seikan Maru* and 10 *Seikan Maru*, *Tsugaru Maru*, *Shoho Maru* and *Hiran Maru*, merchant cargo ships *Senzan Maru* and *Awa Maru* in Aomori-Hakodate area.²² In addition, TF 38 planes damage destroyer *Yanagi* in Tsugaru Strait; *Coast Defense Vessel No.205* outside Otaru harbor, and *Coast Defense Vessel No.215*, Hakodate harbor; auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 72* and auxiliary minesweeper *Minakami Maru* off Usujiri; guardboat *Miya Maru* off the eastern mouth of Tsugaru Strait; auxiliary minesweeper *No.1 Tamazono Maru*, Kushiro Pier, Hokkaido, 42°58'N, 144°25'E; army vessels *Kaizan Maru* outside Hachinohe harbor, and *Sachi Maru* off Otaru; army cargo ship *Taisho Maru* (location unspecified); train ferries *No.6 Seikan Maru* and 8 *Seikan Maru*, *Matsumae Maru* in Aomori-Hakodate area; merchant cargo ships *Eitoku Maru*, *Hanasaki Maru*, and *Kenkoku Maru* in Hakodate harbor; merchant cargo ships *Taka Maru* and 23 *Hokuryu Maru*, *Eireki Maru*, and *No.3 Koun Maru* off Muroran; merchant vessel *Hokushin Maru* in Tsugaru Strait; merchant cargo ships *Shoho Maru* off Yobetsu; *Hirano Maru* (beached), Miuyama Bay; *Kotsu Maru* and *No.13 Kyodo Maru*, Otaru; *Shunko Maru* (location unspecified); *Hachirei Maru*, nine miles off Iwanai; *Toyo Maru* off Cape Temma; merchant tankers *No.5 Kyoei Maru*, beached off Matsumae, and *No.6 Shoun Maru*, beached off Akashi, and dredger *Kushiro Maru*, location unspecified.

Three battleships, two heavy cruisers, and nine destroyers of TU 34.8.1 (Rear Admiral John F. Shafroth) bombard the coastal city of Kamaishi, Honshu; this is the first naval gunfire bombardment of the Japanese homeland. The primary target is the Japan Ironworks plant.

Tank landing ships *LST-684* and *LST-826* are damaged by grounding off Okinawa, 26°12'N, 127°57'E.

Mines sink Japanese merchant cargo ships *Senju Maru* off Moji, Japan, and *Kiukiang Maru* at 35°06'N, 129°43'E.

- **15 July, Sun. --**

Pacific

Three battleships, two light cruisers, and eight destroyers of TU 34.8.2 (Rear Admiral Oscar C. Badger) bombard steel and iron works at Muroran on southern coast of Hokkaido, primarily targeting the large Nihon Steel Company and Wanishi Iron and Steel Manufacturing Company.

In a repeat of the attacks the previous day, TF 38 planes sink Japanese minesweeper *W.24* off Tsugaru, northern Honshu, 41°38'N, 141°00'E; *Coast Defense Vessel No.219* off northern Honshu, 41°48'N, 140°41'E; auxiliary submarine chaser *Bunzan Maru* off Hachinoe, Honshu; guardboat *Shinei Maru*, Shirojiri, Hokkaido, merchant cargo ships *Shoka Maru*, Otaru; *Tokai Maru* at entrance to Sutsu Bay; *No.5 Seikai Maru* off Mutsure; *Urakawa Maru* and *Toyu Maru* off Nemuro, Japan; and *Shinko Maru* at 40°48'N, 140°05'E; merchant train ferry *No.1 Seikan Maru* near Miumaya; and merchant fishing boat *No.15 Taisho Maru* off Ofuyo; and damage merchant cargo ship *Rijo Maru* off Aomori. TF 38 planes damage escort destroyer *Kasado*, and *Coast Defense Vessel No.47* and *Coast Defense Vessel No.55*, off Otaru; escort destroyers *Io* and *Fukue* and auxiliary submarine chasers *Cha 81* and *Yaryu Maru*, Hachinoe harbor, Honshu; *Coast Defense Vessel No.215*, Fukushima anchorage; *Coast Defense Vessel No.221* at entrance to Tsugaru Strait; and submarine chaser *Ch 47*, Yamada anchorage. Auxiliary minesweeper *Fuji Maru* is stranded after bomb damage off Hakodate, Hokkaido.

Twenty-seven USAAF B-29s mine the waters off Najin, Wonsan, Hungnam and Pusan, Korea, and off Naoetsu and Niigata, Japan. Japanese cargo ship *Sorachi Maru* is damaged by mine in Rashin harbor. Merchant cargo ship *No.5 Nichiyu Maru* is damaged by mine off Tomita.

Light minelayer *Thomas E. Fraser* (DM-24) is damaged in collision with miscellaneous auxiliary *Elk* (IX-115) off Okinawa, 26°13'N, 127°50'E.

Submarine *Bluefish* (SS-222) sinks Japanese submarine *I 351*, 100 miles east-northeast of Natuna Besar, Borneo, 05°44'N, 110°06'E.

Submarine *Skate* (SS-305) sinks Japanese transport *Miho Maru* east of South Sakhalin, Kurils, 48°29'N, 147°36'E.

- **16 July, Mon. --**

United States

First atomic bomb test is held at Alamogordo, New Mexico.

Pacific

TF 37, the British fast carrier task force (Vice Admiral Henry B. Rawlings, RN), comprising one battleship, four aircraft carriers, eight light cruisers and 18 destroyers, joins Third Fleet. The British force will operate as part of the U.S. Third Fleet until hostilities end.

Aircraft (VC 13) from escort carrier *Anzio* (CVE-57) teams with destroyer escort *Lawrence C. Taylor* (DE-415) to sink Japanese submarine *I 13*, 540 miles east of Yokohama, Japan, 34°28'N, 150°55'E.

Submarine *Baya* (SS-318) sinks Ambon-bound Japanese torpedo boat *Kari* in Java Sea, 05°48'S, 115°53'E.

Submarine *Blenny* (SS-324) sinks Japanese gunboat *Nankai* west of Surabaya, Java, N.E.I., 05°26'S, 110°33'E.

Mines sink Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Byoritsu Maru* at entrance to Chongjin Bay; merchant cargo ship *Nanjin Maru* off Wakamatsu, merchant cargo ships *Nissho Maru* off Mutsure, and *Taikosan Maru* off Motoyama-misaki; and merchant cargo vessel *Rijo Maru* off Ube; and irreparably damage submarine depot ship *Nachi Maru* north of Kyushu, off Mutsure Jima, 33°59'N, 130°52'E.

Japanese merchant tanker *No.6 Toyu Maru* is damaged by aircraft, Kudamatsu.

- **17 July, Tue. --**

Europe

Potsdam (TERMINAL) Conference begins. Attended by President Truman, British Prime Minister Churchill and Soviet Premier Stalin, this will be the last wartime meeting of the heads of state of those respective powers.

Pacific

Aircraft from TF 38 (Vice Admiral John S. McCain) and British TF 37 (Vice Admiral Henry B. Rawlings, RN) attack airfields in the Tokyo area.

Five battleships, two light cruisers, and ten destroyers of TU 34.8.2 (Rear Admiral Oscar C. Badger) bombard heavily industrialized Mito-Hitachi area of Honshu. British battleship HMS *King George V* and two British destroyers are attached to the force, making this the first joint U.S.-British bombardment of the Japanese homeland. Carrier *Bon Homme Richard* (CV-31) provides night combat air patrol to cover the operation.

Twenty-eight USAAF B-29s mine Shimonoseki Straits and the waters off Chongjin, Korea, and Nanao and Fushiki, Japan.

Over 200 USAAF B-24s, B-25s and A-26s, and P-47s, attack Kiangwan airdrome, Shanghai, which contains the largest concentration of Japanese aircraft in China.

Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.204* is damaged by marine casualty, Senzaki Bay.

Mediterranean

U.S. freighter *John H. Hammond* is damaged by mine off Elba, 42°55'30"N, 10°08'00"E; the three Armed Guard sailors are uninjured in the incident, but three merchant sailors die and four are injured. The ship is subsequently towed to Piombino, Italy.

- **18 July, Wed. --**

Pacific

Aircraft from TF 38 strike Yokosuka Naval Base and airfields in the Tokyo area, Japan. Primary target at the former place is Japanese battleship *Nagato*, which is damaged. TF 38 planes also sink training ship (ex-armored cruiser) *Kasuga*, escort destroyer *Yaezakura* (60% completed) and submarine *I 372*, submarine chaser *Harushima*, auxiliary patrol vessels *Pa No.37*, *Pa No.110* and *Pa No.122* at Yokosuka.23 TF 37 and TF 38 planes sink Japanese motor torpedo boat *Gyoraitai No.28* at Yokosuka, and damage battleship *Nagato*, motor torpedo

boat *Gyoraitei No.256*, landing ship *T.110*, target ship *Yakaze*, and auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 225*.

TG 35.4 (Rear Admiral Carl F. Holden), composed of four light cruisers and the destroyers of DesRon 62, detached from TG 38.1, conduct anti-shipping sweep off the entrance to Sagami Nada and bombard Japanese radar installations at Cape Nojima, Honshu (see 19 July). En route to the objective, destroyers *Hank* (DD-702) and *Wallace L. Lind* (DD-703), detached to take a radar contact under fire, mistakenly shell (but do not damage) submarine *Gabilan* (SS-252).

Planes from carrier *Wasp* (CV-18) bomb Japanese installations on Wake Island.

Submarine *Barb* (SS-220) sinks Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.112* south of Sakhalin, Japan, 46°04'N, 142°16'E.

Submarine *Cero* (SS-225) is damaged by aerial bomb off Kurils, 45°14'N, 148°41'E, and is forced to terminate her patrol.

Submarine *Hawkbill* (SS-366) is damaged by depth charges off Malaya, 04°41'N, 103°30'E, and is forced to terminate her patrol.

British submarine HMS *Trenchant*, attacks Japanese convoy, sinking army shuttle vessel *Hayabusa Maru* and damaging cargo vessels *No.3 Taikyo Maru* and *3 Nichiei Maru* and *No.2 Saiwai Maru* northwest of Lombok Island 08°22'S, 116°02'E,

USN land-based planes sink Japanese merchant cargo vessels *Chishima Maru* off Kawajiri, 34°36'N, 125°00'E, *Shintai Maru* at 34°25'N, 130°40'E, and *Tagami Maru* off Tsushima, 34°47'N, 137°02'E.

Japanese escort carrier *Kaiyo* is damaged by mine, 135 miles northwest of Satamisaki.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Tenyo Maru* is sunk (cause unknown), north of Honshu.

Japanese fast transport *T.9* is damaged by aircraft four miles east of Hatsushima.

Japanese merchant tanker *No.8 Horai Maru* is damaged by marine casualty, Atsuta, north of Ishikari.

- **19 July, Thu. --**

- Pacific

- Twenty-nine USAAF B-29s mine the waters off the Japanese ports of Niigata, Kobe, Osaka, Maizuru and Miyazu, and the Korean ports of Wonsan and Hungnam.

- TF 38 planes damage Japanese carriers *Amagi* and *Katsuragi*, and battleship *Haruna* at Kure, Japan.

- TG 35.4 (Rear Admiral Carl F. Holden) concludes its bombardment of Japanese radar installations at Cape Nojima, Honshu.

- Aircraft carrier *Antietam* (CV-36) is damaged by premature explosion of 5-inch shell during gunnery exercises, Hawaiian Operating Area.

Japanese planes attack U.S. fleet units off Okinawa; one kamikaze crashes and damages destroyer *Thatcher* (DD-514), 26°15'N, 127°50'E; another nearly crashes destroyer *Charles J. Badger* (DD-657).

Submarine *Bumper* (SS-333), attacking Japanese convoy in Gulf of Siam, sinks fleet tanker *No.3 Kyoei Maru*.

Mines sink Japanese merchant dredger *Daikoku Maru* inside Niigata harbor.

- **20 July, Fri. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Bumper* (SS-333) attacks Japanese convoy in Gulf of Siam, sinking guardboat *No.3 Kyoraku Maru*, 08°08'N, 103°40'E.

Submarine *Threadfin* (SS-410) sinks Japanese minesweeper *W.39* northwest of Mokpo, Korea, 35°01'N, 125°42'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Tatsutagawa Maru* is sunk by mine, Shimonoseki Strait.

Japanese merchant ship *Shintai Maru* is lost to unknown cause in Gulf of Siam.

- **21 July, Sat. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Sea Robin* (SS-407) sinks Japanese cargo vessels *Chio Maru* and *Yoshi Maru* 30 kilometers east of Shinishi Island 33°45'N, 126°25'E.

Mines sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *Nichiyo Maru* in Tomita harbor, and damage army cargo ship *Kazuura Maru* off Pusan, Korea.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Meiyu Maru* is damaged by aircraft, 5.4 kilometers off Makinoshima light.

- **22 July, Sun. --**

Pacific

TF 93 (Rear Admiral John H. Brown, Jr.) consisting of light cruisers *Richmond* (CL-9) and *Concord* (CL-10) and five destroyers, conducts unopposed bombardment of installations at Suribachi, Paramushiro, Kurils.

DesRon 61, on anti-shipping sweep in vicinity of Sagami Bay, picks up on its radar screens a four-ship Japanese convoy about five miles west of Nojima Zaki and engages it (see 23 July).

Twenty-six USAAF B-29s mine Shimonoseki Straits and the waters off Najin, Pusan and Masan, Korea.

Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *No.7 Toshi Maru* is wrecked off Sata-Misaki, Japan, 31°00'N, 130°40'E.

Mines sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *Katori Maru* off Niigata; unnamed merchant motor sailer, 1.5 kilometers off Cape Motoyama; and damage auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 20* off Kobe, Japan; and merchant cargo ships *Kojo Maru*, off Niigata; *Choyo Maru*, off Najin; and *Daikoku Maru*, Hagi harbor; and merchant tanker *Yuyo Maru*, 1.6 kilometers off Mushima light.

Japanese merchant ship *Hokko Go* is sunk by aircraft, 35°10'N, 129°30'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.3 Manei Maru* is sunk by USAAF mine laid by B-29 (20th Air Force) ten kilometers west of Funagawa, Honshu, 39°53'N, 139°52'E.

Japanese merchant fishing boat *No.58 Nanshin Maru* is damaged by aircraft, 35°20'N, 130°00'E.

- **23 July, Mon. --**

- Pacific

- DesRon 61 concludes its engagement with a Japanese convoy off Sagami Bay, sinking *No.3 Hakutetsu Maru* off Mora, Chiba prefecture, 34°54'N, 139°50'E.

- Submarine *Barb* (SS-220) lands an eight-man commando party which blows up a Japanese train on east coast of Karafuto.

- Submarine *Hardhead* (SS-365) sinks Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 117* off Java, N.E.I., 08°10'S, 115°29'E.

- Submarine *Sea Poacher* (SS-406) sinks Japanese guardboat *No.2 Kiri Maru* between Onoosaki and Shoyasaki, Japan, 37°16'N, 141°04'E.

- Mines sink Japanese guardboat *No.2 Taisho Maru* off Chinhae, Korea; merchant tug *Kaiko Maru* and cargo ship *Shoko Maru* off Niigata; merchant cargo ships *No.1 Taiha Maru* and *No.2 Taishin Maru* off Moji; *No.6 Nissho Maru*, Kammon Strait; *Yamadori Maru* outside Wakamatsu harbor, and merchant cargo ship *No.2 Tsurukawa Maru* off Wakamatsu, and merchant vessel *Kocho Maru* off Mutsure; and damage merchant cargo ship *Gizan Maru* near Moji.

- USAAF B-24s (5th Air Force) on antishipping sweep off south coast of Korea sink Japanese merchant tanker *No.15 Horai Maru* off Hokko, 36°02'N, 129°23'E.

- Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.5 Adaka Maru* is damaged by aircraft, 34°36'N, 130°55'E.

- **24 July, Tue. --**

- Pacific

- Aircraft from TF 38 launch two-day attack on the Inland Sea area, Japan, striking Kure Naval Base and airfields at Nagoya, Osaka, and Miho. TF 38 planes sink battleship-carrier *Hyuga* in Hiro Bay, Kure, 34°10'N, 132°33'E; heavy cruiser *Tone*, 34°14'N, 132°27'E (she is pushed aground to facilitate salvage) and training ship (ex-coast defense ship) *Iwate* off Eta Jima, 34°14'N, 132°30'E; target ship (ex-battleship) *Settsu* at Kure; guardboat *Kaiwa Maru* north of Himejima, Kyushu; and damage carrier *Ryuho* and battleship-carrier *Ise* at Kure; battleship *Haruna* and light cruiser *Oyodo* off Eta Jima; heavy cruiser *Aoba* at Kure Navy Yard; escort destroyer *Hagi* and fast transport *T.19* at Kure; torpedo cruiser *Kitakami* and destroyers *Yoizuki* and *Hari*, near Kure; escort destroyer *Kaba*, Osaka; escort destroyer *Tsubaki* near Okayama, 34°38'N, 133°50'E; *Coast Defense Vessel No.190*, Tanabe harbor; *Coast Defense Vessel No.4*, Toba; transport (ex-seaplane carrier) *Kiyokawa Maru*, beached at Shida, Shimonoseki Straits. Carrier *Amagi* is hit by only one rocket off Kurahashi Jima, Kure, 34°11'N, 132°30'E, but its passage close by the commanding officer so unnerves the captain that he unhesitatingly orders the ship abandoned.

- Japanese escort carrier *Kaiyo* is damaged by planes from British carriers HMS *Formidable*, HMS *Indefatigable*, and HMS *Victorious*. *Kaiyo's* travails, however,

do not end there. She is damaged by USAAF mine (laid by a 20th Air Force B-29) off Beppu; destroyer *Yukaze* takes the wounded warship in tow (see 29 July).

Aircraft [service unspecified] sink Japanese merchant cargo ships *Ito Maru* off Kominase light; *Inari Maru*, Moji harbor; *Komyo Maru* off Okinoshima light; *No.2 Ise Maru* off Mihogasaki; *Kinokawa Maru*, off Yoshiura; merchant tankers *No.9 Kinyu Maru* off Tsurushima; *Sabang Maru*, Okurokami Island; *Kanatsu Maru*, Awashima anchorage; merchant tug *Mutsurejima Maru* off Kagaji, Oita prefecture; merchant vessels [types unspecified] *Sugamada Maru*, Jinzai harbor, and *Sen Maru* off Hakodate.

Aircraft [service unspecified] sink/damage Japanese merchant cargo ships *Kagetsu Maru* off Uwajima, and *Shokai Maru* outside Shimotsu harbor.

Aircraft [service unspecified] damage Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kurogane Maru*, Kobe, Japan; and merchant tanker *Gyokuei Maru*, by aircraft, 33°55'N, 131°45'E.

Guardboats *No.3 Seisho Maru* and *Taiko Maru* are sunk by U.S. aircraft at Kobe, Japan.

Auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 98* is sunk by aircraft, Moji, Japan.

Japanese transport *No.11 Kaishin Maru* is sunk by aircraft, 33°31'N, 129°47'E.

TG 35.3 (Rear Admiral J. Cary Jones, Jr.) consisting of four light cruisers (from TG 38.3) and six destroyers (from TG 38.4) conducts high-speed anti-shipping sweep across Kii Suido. Destroyer *Colahan* (DD-658) fires upon only surface contact, which proves to be submarine *Toro* (SS-422), on lifeguard station south of Shikoku. Fortunately, *Toro* is not damaged in this case of mistaken identity (see 25 July).

Escort carrier *Vella Gulf* (CVE-111), as TU 19.6.1, carries out air strikes on Pagan, one of the two remaining bases in the Marianas. She carries out strikes against Rota (the other) two days later.

Destroyer escort *Underhill* (DE-682), damaged by kaitens from Japanese submarine *I 53* off Luzon, 19°20'N, 126°42'E, is scuttled by submarine chasers *PC-803* and *PC-804*, and escort patrol vessel *PCE-872*.

Submarine *Chub* (SS-329) sinks Japanese tug (ex-Dutch *Ginah*), 07°46'S, 114°24'E.

Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *Wa.3* is sunk by aircraft, Surabaya, Java, N.E.I.

Mines sink Japanese merchant cargo ships *Koichi Maru*, Wonsan harbor, Korea, and *Himekawa Maru*, four kilometers off Himejima; and damage auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 226*, off Moji; and merchant tanker *Tatsukusu Maru*, Hagi.

Japanese merchant tanker *No.6 Nanki Maru* is damaged by marine casualty, 38°18'N, 141°25'E.

- **25 July, Wed. --**

- Pacific

- TF 38 air strikes on targets of opportunity in Inland Sea area continue. TF 38 planes sink Japanese guardboats *No.10 Dairi Maru* and *No.2 Kompira Maru* off Moji, and *No.10 Fukuei Maru* in Bungo Suido, 33°00'N, 132°10'E; army tanker

Kaisoku Maru, off Hiro; merchant cargo ship *Daio Maru* at 35°06'N, 129°40'E; merchant tankers *No.6 Ryuei Maru* off eastern part of Okurokami Island; and *No.6 Kinyu Maru* off east coast of Anishima; and damage heavy cruiser *Aoba*, Kure, 34°13'N, 132°31'E; *Coast Defense Vessel No.4*, Toba, and merchant cargo ships *No.6 Tokai Maru* and *No.5 Shokai Maru* off Shimane peninsula; *Meiho Maru*, Agenosho; and merchant tanker *Tenwa Maru*, Kanoya.

TG 35.3 (Rear Admiral J. Cary Jones, Jr.) of four light cruisers (from TG 38.3) and six destroyers (from TG 38.4) bombards Kushimoto Seaplane Base, airfield near Shiono Misaki, Honshu, and adjacent facilities.

Thirty USAAF B-29s (20th Air Force) mine the waters off Chongjin and Pusan, Korea, and Fushiki, Nanao, Ohama and Tsuruga, Japan. Mines laid by B-29s sink Japanese merchant cargo ships *Hoshi Maru* at mouth of Maizuru Bay, 34°35'N, 135°21'E and *Eian Maru* off Tottori, Honshu, 35°33'N, 133°14'E.

Submarine *Barb* (SS-220) bombards lumber mill and sampan-building yard at Shibetoro, destroying 35 sampans under construction.

British submarine HMS *Stubborn* sinks Makassar-bound Japanese *Patrol Boat No.2* (ex-destroyer *Nadakaze*) in Java Sea, 07°06'S, 115°42'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Azuna Maru* is damaged, agent unspecified, Hakata Bay.

- **26 July, Thu. --**

- Pacific

- Destroyer *Lowry* (DD-770) is damaged by on-board tetrachlorethane (chemical) explosion, Philippine Sea, 19°30'N, 128°00'E.

- U.S. aircraft sink Japanese auxiliary minesweepers *No.18 Hinode Maru* and *Rikuzen Maru* off Haeju-Won, Korea, 37°58'N, 126°40'E, and 37°58'N, 125°40'E, respectively.

- Aircraft [service unspecified] sink Japanese merchant tanker *Seria Maru* near Aioi; merchant cargo ship *Mishima Maru* near Hizen, Oshima; and merchant fishing vessel *No.40 Misago Maru* off Uketo.

- Japanese target ship (ex-battleship) *Settsu* is damaged by marine casualty, Eta Jima harbor.

- Japanese merchant cargo ship *Annette Fritzen Go* is damaged by mine, off Pusan, Korea.

- Cargo ship *Spica* (AK-16) and U.S. freighters *Jonathan Harrington* and *Enos A. Mills* depart Dutch Harbor, Alaska, for Point Barrow, transporting men and supplies for Navy Petroleum Reserve 4 (see 3, 8, 10, 22, 24 and 25 August).

- **27 July, Fri. --**

- Pacific

- Potsdam Declaration** calling for unconditional surrender is delivered to the Japanese government. The Japanese, however, ignore the ultimatum, prompting President Truman to approve plans to drop atomic weapons on Japan.

- Twenty-five USAAF B-29s (20th Air Force) mine Shimonoseki Straits and the waters off Niigata, Miyazu, Maizuru and Senzaki, Japan. Mines laid by USAAF

B-29s sink Japanese army cargo ship *Unten Maru* off Suo Nada, 33°56'N, 131°11'E ; merchant cargo ships *Meiko Maru* off Kokushi, Yamaguchi prefecture, 34°10'N, 130°55'E, and *No.55 Banshu Maru*, Odo Strait, Shimonoseki; and damage merchant cargo ships *Jinstugawa Maru* off Fushiki and *Tatsumaki Maru* off Wakamatsu signal station.

Cargo ship *Ganymede* (AK-104) is damaged in collision with Army barge *BKP 42* (346th Harbor Craft Company), P.I., 11°11'N, 125°05'E.

U.S. freighter *John A. Rawlins* is damaged by Japanese aerial torpedo in Naha harbor, Okinawa; in addition to the 39-man merchant crew, 28 Armed Guards and 191 Construction Battalion men are on board at this time. Of those men, only three are injured; the ship, however, will ultimately be written off as a total loss.

U.S. freighter *Pratt Victory* is torpedoed by Japanese plane south of Ie Shima; the blast sinks tank landing craft *LCT-1050* that lies moored alongside discharging cargo. There are no fatalities among the 27-man Armed Guard on board *Pratt Victory*, which offloads the remainder of her cargo without further incident.

Submarine *Pargo* (SS-264) is damaged by depth charges and aerial bombs off northern Celebes, 01°35'N, 125°20'E, but remains on patrol.

Submarine *Pogy* (SS-266) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Chikuzen Maru* southwest of Kyogasaki, about 90 miles north of Tottori, Honshu, 37°00'N, 134°02'E.

British submarine HMS *Tudor* sinks Japanese fishing vessel at 06°15'S, 108°08'E.

USAAF planes (5th Air Force) sink Japanese landing ship *T.176* off southern Kyushu, 31°00'N, 130°33'E.

Japanese transport *Doshi Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Nishitomari.

Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *No.40 Giso Maru*, is sunk by aircraft off Urajiri.

Aircraft sink/damage Japanese merchant cargo ships *Rokuzan Maru* off southeast coast of Korea, and *Yushin Maru*, 35°35'N, 129°33'E.

Aircraft damage Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *No.11 Shonan Maru* inside Chefoo harbor, China; and damage merchant tanker *No.2 Seiko Maru* off Osaka.

- **28 July, Sat. --**

- Pacific

- Aircraft from TF 38 of the Third Fleet (Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr.) strike Inland Sea area, between Nagoya, and Northern Kyushu; principally targeting the Kure Naval Base. TF 38 planes sink battleship *Haruna* off Eta Jima, eight miles northwest of Kure, 34°15'N, 132°29'E; battleship-carrier *Ise*, five miles northwest of Kure, 34°12'N, 132°31'E; training ship ex-coast defense vessel *Izumo* off Eta Jima, 34°14'N, 132°30'E; heavy cruiser *Aoba*, Kure Navy Yard, 34°13'N, 132°31'E, light cruiser *Oyodo*, 34°13'N, 132°25'E; submarine *I 404*, Kure; escort destroyer *Nashi*, Mitajirizaki, Kure, 34°14'N, 132°30'E; guardboat *No.5 Fukuju Maru* at Kujukurihama, Chiba prefecture; guardboats *No.2 Fukusei*

Maru and *No.2 Inari Maru*, Kobe; submarine depot ship *Komahashi*, victualling stores ship *Kosho Maru*, and auxiliary minesweeper *No.18 Banshu Maru*, Owase; guardboat *No.2 Han'ei Maru*, Aomori; naval auxiliary *Koryu Maru*, Innoshima dockyard; in addition to merchant cargo ships *Kinzan Maru* four miles east of Ogashima, and *Kiyotada Maru* in Ube harbor; merchant cargo ships *No.11 Kyowa Maru* in Kobe harbor and *No.3 Mikage Maru* off Otaru; and merchant tankers *No.4 Kinyu Maru* 34°48'N, 134°28'E; and *No.6 Kinyu Maru* at 34°23'N, 134°50'E. British carrier planes (TF 37) sink *Coast Defense Vessel No.4* in Ise Bay, 3443'N, 13643'E Yokosuka; *Coast Defense Vessel No.30* off Yura.

TF 38 planes also damage carrier *Katsuragi* and training carrier *Hosho*, Kure; torpedo cruiser (ex-light cruiser) *Kitakami* in Hiroshima Bay; submarine *I 205* (repaired after damage inflicted by TF 58 aircraft on 19 March) in drydock, Kure; destroyer *Asagao* west of Bisan-Seto; *Coast Defense Vessel No.45* and submarine chaser *Ch 14* near Yokosuka; escort destroyer *Habushi* and *Coast Defense Vessel No.44*, Sasebo; *Coast Defense Vessel No.190* in Yura Straits; guardboats *No.2 Kainan Maru* and *No.2 Inari Maru*, Kobe harbor; motor torpedo boat *Gyoraitei No.823*, Yokosuka; and auxiliary minesweepers *No.10 Showa Maru* and *No.1 Kyojin Maru* off Owase, Japan, as well as merchant passenger ship *Tenzan Maru*, 35°42'N, 132°42'E; merchant cargo ships *No.8 Shinto Maru*, 35°06'N, 129°45'E, and *Nagasaki Maru* off south side of Osagi Jima; merchant tankers *No.18 Nissho Maru* and *No.2 Seiko Maru*, Osaka; and *Shingi Maru*, Kobe; merchant cargo ship *Taigen Maru*, in dock at Innoshima.

The four escort carriers in TF 32 (Rear Admiral Jesse B. Oldendorf) providing cover for the ongoing minesweeping operations in the East China Sea (Rear Admiral Alexander Sharp) launch planes to conduct strikes on shipping off the mouth of the Yangtze River. No targets, however, are found.

Destroyer *Callaghan* (DD-792) is sunk by kamikaze, on radar picket station approximately 50 miles southwest of Okinawa, 25°43'N, 126°55'E; she is the last Allied vessel to be lost to that weapon. Destroyer *Prichett* (DD-561) is damaged by near-miss of suicide plane, 25°43'N, 126°56'E, as she assists the mortally damaged *Callaghan*. Reflecting the depth of desperation reached by the Japanese kamikaze forces, *Callaghan's* assailant is a bomb-carrying WILLOW (primary training biplane)!

Submarine *Hardhead* (SS-365) damages Japanese *No.165 Shuttle Boat*, 09°09'S, 115°25'E.

Submarine *Sennet* (SS-408), attacking Japanese convoy off western Honshu, sinks merchant cargo ships *Hagikawa Maru*, eight miles west of Noshiro harbor, 40°17'N, 139°50'E, and *No.15 Unkai Maru* and *Hakuei Maru* off Sakata, 39°49'N, 139°47'E.

Japanese auxiliary minesweeper *No.1 Keijin Maru* sinks after running aground off Owase, Japan, 34°05'N, 136°14'E.

Japanese army cargo ship *Hitora Maru* is damaged by marine casualty, Innoshima Dockyard.

Japanese transport *Teiritsu Maru*, damaged by mine sown by USAAF B-29s (20th Air Force); she is run aground .2 kilometers southwest of Bakuchizaki, 35°32'N, 135°20'E (see 30 July).

- **29 July, Sun. --**

Pacific

Three battleships, four heavy cruisers, and ten destroyers of TU 34.8.1 (Rear Admiral John F. Shafroth) begins bombardment of shops, aircraft factory, and other facilities at Hamamatsu, Honshu. British battleship HMS *King George V* and three destroyers operates independently but joins in the bombardment. Carrier *Bon Homme Richard* (CV-31) supplies precautionary night combat air patrols and spotter aircraft.

Twenty-six USAAF B-29s (20th Air Force) mine Shimonoseki Straits and the waters off Najin, Korea, and Fukuoka, Japan. Merchant cargo ship *Tatsukashi Maru*, damaged by mine, is beached off Pusan, Korea.

Heavy cruiser ***Indianapolis* (CA-35) is torpedoed and sunk** by Japanese submarine *I 58* northeast of Leyte, 12°02'N, 134°48'E.

Destroyer *Cassin Young* (DD-793) and high speed transport *Horace A. Bass* (APD-124) are damaged by suicide planes off Okinawa, 26°08'N, 127°58'E and 26°17'N, 127°34'E, respectively.

USAAF P-47s (7th Air Force) on sweep for targets of opportunity in the Nagasaki, Japan, area, sink auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 207*, 32°00'N, 130°00'E.

USAAF B-25s (5th Air Force) damage Japanese escort carrier *Kaiyo* in Hiji harbor, Beppu Wan, 33°20'N, 131°32'E.

Aircraft sink Japanese army cargo ship *No.18 Ono Maru* and merchant cargo ship *Tangetsu Maru* off Ulsan, Korea, and merchant passenger ship *Tenzan Maru*, 35°40'N, 132°39'E.

USAAF B-25s and P-51s on antishipping sweep off southeast coast of Korea sink Japanese army cargo ship *Hokusei Maru* off Kuryungpo; merchant cargo ship *Seishin Maru*, 35°32'N, 127°30'E; tanker *Yushin Maru*, and cargo vessel *Shoryu Maru*, 35°32'N, 127°30'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.12 Reisui Maru* is sunk/damaged by aircraft, 34°59'N, 128°59'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kokyu Maru* is damaged by aircraft near Pusan, Korea.

USAAF A-26s damage Japanese merchant tanker *No.5 Yamamizu Maru* off Nagasaki.

Marine casualties sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *Sumioyoshi Maru* outside Kamaishi harbor, and damage merchant cargo ships *Miesan Maru* near Shira Jima, and *No.2 Mitsu Maru* south of Cape Wakamiya, Iki Island and also result in the loss of guardboats *Asahi Maru* east of Pusan, Korea, and *No.6 Kaiyo Maru* off Cape Wakamiya, Korean Strait.

- **30 July, Mon. --**

Pacific

Aircraft from TF 38 (Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr.) bomb airfields and industrial targets in central Honshu, and fly sweeps against Japanese shipping in Maizuru Bay. TF 38 planes sink escort vessel *Okinawa* six miles north-

northwest of Maizuru, 35°30'N, 135°21'E; submarine chaser *Ch 26* in Korea Strait, 34°47'N, 128°27'E; minelayer *Toshima* off Maizuru; auxiliary submarine chasers *Keisho Maru* and *Chikuzen Maru*, and guardboat *No.12 Kogyo Maru* at Imaura; auxiliary submarine chasers *No.2 Nippon Maru* in Usami Bay and *No.53 Banshu Maru* off Obama; guardboat *No.10 Sumiyoshi Maru* eight miles north of Kohi Jima; merchant cargo ships *Kashi Maru* (off Tsuruga, 35°30'N, 135°21'E) and *Taruyasu Maru* off Maizuru; merchant ship *Kamogawa Maru* off Ullung Island 35°20'N, 130°30'E; and damage escort destroyer *Takane* near Maizuru; submarine depot ship *Chogei*, submarines *I 153* and *I 202*, and *Coast Defense Vessel No.2* and minelayer *Tatsumiya Maru* off Maizuru; *Coast Defense Vessel No.27* in Korea Strait, 34°47'N, 128°27'E; auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 182* off Ito; guardboat *No.18 Sumiyoshi Maru*, damaged by TF 38 aircraft, is run aground north of Kohi Jima. TF 38 planes also damage merchant cargo ship *Shotai Maru* and merchant vessel *Fukuan Maru* off Maizuru. British carrier planes from TF 37 complete the destruction of transport *Teiritsu Maru*, aground off Maizuru, 35°92'N, 135°20'E.

Three battleships, four heavy cruisers, and ten destroyers of TU 34.8.1 (Rear Admiral John F. Shafroth) completes bombardment of shops, aircraft factory, and other facilities at Hamamatsu, Honshu, Japan. One British battleship and three destroyers take part in this effort as well.

Task force (Rear Admiral Alexander Sharp) completes minesweeping operations in the East China Sea; his ships sweep approximately 7,300 square miles and destroy 404 mines without casualty.

British midget submarines *XE 1* (towed to the area by submarine *HMS Spark*) and *XE 3* (towed by *HMS Stygian*) penetrate into Singapore Harbor to attack Japanese heavy cruisers *Myoko* and *Takao*, respectively (see 31 July).

Submarine *Sennet* (SS-408) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Yuzan Maru* near Mutsuta Mizaki, western Hokkaido, 42°36'N, 139°49'E.

Mines laid by USAAF B-29s (20th Air Force) sink destroyer *Hatsushimo* inside Miyazu Bay, 12 miles west-northwest of Maizuru, Japan, 35°33'N, 135°12'E; and passenger/cargo vessel *Shokei Maru* at 42°36'N, 139°48'E, and damage destroyer *Yukikaze* near Miyazu.

Aircraft sink Japanese army cargo ship *Gessan Maru* off Ulsan, Korea; merchant passenger ship *Shokei Maru* in Miyazu Bay; merchant cargo ships *No.2 Shozan Maru* off Ulgi, and *Koshin Maru* off Pang-O-Jin; and merchant cargo ship *Shinko Maru* off Choshi; and damage merchant cargo ships *Choko Maru* off Himo; *Shoko Maru*, Wakasa Bay; and *No.5 Kenkon Maru* at 35°44'N, 124°57'E; merchant tug *Hokusai Maru*, Pusan, Korea; and merchant cargo ship *Nissho Maru* off Tsuruga.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Matsuura Maru* is damaged by marine casualty, beached, at mouth of Yujin harbor.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.15 Yamabishi Maru* is lost to marine casualty, Wakasa Bay.

- **31 July, Tue. --**
Pacific

Destroyers of Destroyer Squadron 25, conducting anti-shipping sweep in Suguru Gulf, bombard railroad yards and industrial area of Shimuzu, Japan.

PB4Ys (FAW 1) operating from Yontan Field, Okinawa, destroy a span of the Seisen River bridge, severing the main north-south double track railroad line in Korea.

Destroyer *Bancroft* (DD-598) is damaged in collision with miscellaneous auxiliary *Carondelet* (IX-136) off Luzon, 14°50'N, 120°15'E.

Submarine *Thornback* (SS-418) damages Japanese submarine chaser *Ch 42* five miles off Osaki, Japan, 38°53'N, 141°35'E.

Japanese heavy cruiser *Takao* is damaged by charges placed by British midget submarines *XE 3* and *XE 1* the night before, at Singapore (see 30 July).^[24]

Mines sink Japanese guardboat *No.5 Teru Maru* off Wonsan, Korea; and naval auxiliary *No.5 Matsumae Maru* off Pusan, Korea.

Auxiliary submarine chaser *No.9 Kamoi Maru* is damaged by grounding, Ukushima.

Japanese naval vessels sunk during July 1945 (exact date unspecified): guardboats *No.51 Tama Maru*, by U.S. aircraft, at mouth of Yangtze River; *No.3 Kaigyo Maru*, by mine, east of the mouth of Kammon Strait; and *No.5 Shinshu Maru*, by U.S. aircraft, off Japan [exact location unspecified]; auxiliary minesweeper *No.2 Keijin Maru*, by aircraft, four kilometers north of Shiriya.

Japanese merchant vessels damaged during July 1945 (exact date unspecified): cargo ships *Shojun Maru*, agent unknown, near Masan, Korea; *Imazugawa Maru*, by aircraft, location unspecified; *No.8 Hino Maru*, agent unknown, at northern entrance of Kammon Strait; and *No.1 Shinyo Maru*, agent and location of loss/damage unspecified; tanker *No.11 Yoshitomo Maru*, agent and location of loss/damage unspecified.

August

- **1 August, Wed. --**
Pacific

TG 12.3 attacks Wake Island. Planes from small carrier *Cabot* (CVL-28) bomb installations. Battleship *Pennsylvania* (BB-38) bombards the atoll but is damaged by shore battery, 19°20'N, 166°30'E.

TG 95.2 (Rear Admiral Francis S. Low), a fast striking group consisting of large cruisers *Alaska* (CB-1) and *Guam* (CB-2), four light cruisers and nine destroyers, departs Okinawa and proceeds into the East China Sea to conduct anti-shipping sweeps off Shanghai, China.

TG 95.3 (Vice Admiral Jesse B. Oldendorf), consisting of three battleships, a heavy cruiser, a light cruiser, three escort carriers, six destroyers and three destroyers escorts, accompanies TG 95.2 to furnish covering support.

Heaviest USAAF B-29 raid to date: 774 planes drop 6,632 tons of bombs on five different targets in Japan. Additionally, in what will be the largest operation of its kind, 42 USAAF B-29s mine Shimonoseki Straits and the waters off Najin

and Chongjin, Korea, and Hamada, Japan. Japanese escort vessel *Ikura* is damaged by mine in Oguchi Channel.

USAAF B-24s (Far East Air Force) bomb Nagasaki dockyard area, damaging motor torpedo boat *Gyoraitei No.102*; USAAF B-25s and fighter-bomber aircraft (Far East Air Force) bomb Japanese shipping in Nagasaki harbor, damaging merchant cargo ship *Kinko Maru* and tanker *Tada Maru*. Other USAAF (Fifth Air Force) planes sink merchant cargo ship *Hayabusa Maru* near Eboshi light, 33°41'N, 129°59'E.

Japanese merchant tanker *Chokai Maru* is damaged by marine casualty, 34°38'N, 134°56'E.

British submarines HMS *Thorough* and HMS *Taciturn* attack Japanese shipping in Bulelong Roads; while *Taciturn* engages shore batteries, *Thorough* sinks cargo vessels *Hino Maru* and *Shoei Maru* and shells warehouses.

Submarine chaser *PC-784* collides with Army tug *LT 666* in a dense fog off entrance to Amchitka, Alaska, harbor; both vessels suffer damage but there are no injuries to either crew.

- **2 August, Thu. --**

- Europe

- Potsdam (TERMINAL) Conference attended by President Truman, British Prime Minister Clement Attlee (who had replaced Churchill as prime minister in the July general elections in Britain), and Russian Premier Stalin, ends.

- Pacific

- PV (FAW-18), flown by a relief crew from VPB-28, en route from Saipan to Jinamoc, Philippine Islands, makes initial sighting of survivors from sunken heavy cruiser *Indianapolis* (CA-35) around 11°32'N, 133°34'E.25

- Destroyers *Conner* (DD-582) and *Charrette* (DD-581) intercept and search Japanese hospital ship *Tachibana Maru*, which is found to be carrying arms and ammunition in boxes marked with red crosses; the destroyers place prize crew of 80 marines and sailors on board. *Tachibana Maru* is then taken to Morotai for examination.

- Submarine *Bugara* (SS-331) operating against Japanese coastal shipping off the Malay peninsula, sinks schooner with gunfire and takes on board crew. One lifeboat, however, sinks and fouls the submarine's port screw, damaging it, 06°40'N, 101°51'E. Later, *Bugara* happens across Malay pirates attacking Chinese-manned Japanese schooner en route to Singapore, 06°21'N, 102°15'E. The brigands flee upon *Bugara's* approach. After taking off the Chinese crew (who are grateful for the submarine's timely arrival, the Malayan cutthroats having already killed two crewmen) and sinking the schooner, *Bugara* then pursues the pirates and destroys them. Later, *Bugara's* divers, working in the dark, repair the screw damaged earlier in the day.

- Army tender *TP 122* grounds off East Cape, Amchitka, near Irakin Point; rescue tug *ATR-32* is sent to the scene to assist.

- USAAF mines sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *Santo Maru* off Niigata, Japan, 37°57'N, 139°04'E, and damage minesweeper *W.17* south of Chinhae, Korea, 36°06'N, 128°40'E.

- **3 August, Fri. --**

Pacific

Mines laid by USAAF B-29s (20th Air Force) sink Japanese merchant cargo ships *No.3 Kamikage Maru* outside Najin harbor and *Tairetsu Maru* in Kobe harbor, 34°39'N, 135°12'E; and transport *Aga Maru* off Takatakao Light; and damage army ship *Osho Maru* off Tsuruga, 35°40'N, 136°04'E; and merchant cargo ships *Kokuyo Maru* east of Hesaki and *Shotai Maru* in Fushiki harbor.

Cargo ship *Taii Maru* is damaged, agent unspecified, 5.6 kilometers off Karasu Jima.

British submarines HMS *Trump* and HMS *Tiptoe* attack Japanese Batavia-to-Singapore convoy escorted by *Patrol Boat No. 109*, sinking army cargo vessel *Tencho Maru*, 05°07'S, 106°05'E.

Navy Petroleum Reserve 4 Expedition, formed around cargo ship *Spica* (AK-16) and U.S. freighters *Jonathan Harrington* and *Enos A. Mills*, anchors off Icy Cape, Alaska. There it will remain until ice conditions improve at Point Barrow, its ultimate destination (see 8, 10, 22, 24 and 25 August).

- **4 August, Sat. --**

Pacific

Japanese merchant tanker *Koshin Maru* is sunk by mine in Osaka harbor, 34°37'N, 135°18'E. Mines also damage army cargo ship *Tensho Maru* outside Najin harbor, and merchant tanker *No.4 Nanko Maru* near Hesaki harbor light.

Navy PBMs sink Japanese vessel *No.1 Hanshin Maru* off China coast, 32°57'N, 117°26'E.

Adriatic

U.S. freighter *William J. Palmer* is sunk by mine five miles out of Trieste, Italy, 45°34'15"N, 13°36'15"E.

- **5 August, Sun. --**

Pacific

Twenty-eight USAAF B-29s mine the waters off Najin, Korea, and Geijitsu, Tsuruga, Oura and Hagi, Japan.

Destroyer escort *Earl V. Johnson* (DE-702) is damaged by explosion [near-miss of kaiten fired by submarine *I 53*, Philippine Sea, 20°17'N, 128°07'E.

Destroyer *Bristol* (DD-857) is damaged in collision with oiler *Ashtabula* (AO-51) off Iwo Jima, 29°00'N, 142°00'E.

Submarine *Aspro* (SS-309) rescues USAAF P-51 pilot deep in Sagami Wan, covered by PB4Ys that splash 4 of 12 Japanese planes that try to interfere with the extraction.

Submarine *Billfish* (SS-286), attacking Japanese convoy in the Yellow Sea, sinks merchant cargo ship *Kori Maru* off the Kwantung Peninsula, 38°51'N, 121°59'E.

Submarine *Pogy* (SS-266) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kotohirasano Maru* in the Japan Sea about 30 miles west of Akita, Honshu, 39°52'N, 138°52'E.

Mines damage Japanese fast transport *T.20* four miles off Koiwai Jima, Japan, and damage merchant cargo ship *Nissho Maru* in vicinity of Nanao and Oguchi, and merchant tanker *No.32 Yoshitomo Maru*, 5.5 kilometers off Genkai Jima.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Iki Maru* is damaged by aircraft off Hamada Island.

RAAF Liberator sinks Japanese ship *No.15 Eigyo Maru* off western Flores Island.

Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *No.25 Hino Maru* sinks after running aground in Bungo Suido off Hinomisaki Light.

- **6 August, Mon. --**

Pacific

USAAF B-29 "Enola Gay" (509th Composite Group) drops **atomic bomb on Hiroshima**, Honshu; USN Commander William S. Parsons is the weaponeer on this mission.

TG 95.3 planes, from escort carriers *Lunga Point* (CVE-94), *Makin Island* (CVE-93) and *Cape Gloucester* (CVE-109) (Vice Admiral Jesse B. Oldendorf) strike enemy shipping in Tinghai Harbor, China.

Carrier *Intrepid* (CV-11)'s air group bombs Japanese installations on Wake Island as the ship is en route from Pearl Harbor to join TF 38 in the western Pacific.

TF 58 planes damage Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.37* and small minelayer/netlayer *Kyosai* east of Nojimazaki, 34°52'N, 139°58'E.

Submarine *Bugara* (SS-331) comes across British submarine HMS *Sleuth* and four Japanese junks. *Bugara*, in display of Anglo-American cooperation, assists the British boat by sinking two of the enemy craft by gunfire, 06°51'N, 101°44'E.

Submarine *Bullhead* (SS-332) is sunk, probably by Japanese Army aircraft (73d Chutai), off Bali, Java Sea, 08°20'S, 115°42'E.

USAAF B-25s and P-51s (Far East Air Force) attack Japanese shipping in Tsushima Strait, sinking merchant cargo ships *No.7 Shintai Maru* and *Kowa Maru* five miles east of Tsuno Jima, 34°26'N, 129°16'E.

USAAF mines sink Japanese merchant cargo ships *No.2 Chokai Maru* off Fushiki Light, 38°49'N, 137°04'E, *Isojima Maru* in south channel of Kammon Strait, 33°56'N, 130°56'E, and *No.2 Kozan Maru* at 33°53'N, 132°00'E.

Japanese auxiliary minelayer *Kinjo Maru* and auxiliary netlayer *Kosei Maru*, are damaged by aircraft, near Kujukuruhama.

- **7 August, Tue. --**

Pacific

Submarine *Pargo* (SS-264), attacking Japanese convoy off northeastern Korea, sinking merchant cargo ship *Rashin Maru*, 41°15'N, 131°19'E.

Thirty USAAF B-29s mine Shimonoseki Straits and the waters off Maizuru and Sakai, Japan, and Najin, Korea.

USAAF B-29s (20th Air Force) on shakedown flight bomb Japanese installations at Truk, sinking auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 66*, 07°23'N, 151°53'E.

Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Rumoe Maru* is sunk by aircraft near My Tho, French Indochina.

USAAF B-25s (5th Air Force) attack Japanese convoy off Fusan, Korea, sinking *Coast Defense Vessel No.39* at 35°06'N, 129°03'E, and merchant tankers *No.7 Kinyu Maru* and *No.9 Nanki Maru* near Koje-Do, 34°55'N, 128°44'E.

Japanese army cargo ship *Kibitsu Maru* is sunk by mine 250 meters east of Hiraiso, 34°37'N, 135°03'E.

Japanese merchant ship *Keizan Maru* is damaged by aircraft 13 miles south-southwest of Hime Jima light. Japanese merchant cargo ships *Daigen Maru* and *Chiyotama Maru* are damaged when they collide four miles south of Funagawa pier.

- **8 August, Wed. --**

Pacific

Destroyer *Cassin* (DD-372) boards Japanese hospital ship *Kiku Maru*, about 250 miles northwest of Marcus Island and after observing no violations, permits the vessel to proceed to Yokosuka.

Submarine *Muskallunge* (SS-262) is damaged by machine gun fire while engaging Japanese "sea trucks" off the Kurils, 46°41'N, 151°43'E, but remains on patrol.

Navy Petroleum Reserve 4 Expedition, formed around cargo ship *Spica* (AK-16) and U.S. freighters *Jonathan Harrington* and *Enos A. Mills*, departs Icy Cape, Alaska, for Point Barrow (see 10, 22, 24 and 25 August).

U.S. freighter *Casimir Pulaski* is damaged when nearby dredging operations detonate mine or bomb off the ship's port bow as she lies alongside Pier 13, Manila, P.I.; the blast injures 2 of the 28-man Armed Guard.

PB4Ys attack Japanese shipping off Pusan, Korea, sinking *No.7 Yamabishi Maru* and *Kagoshima Maru* off that port, and guardboat *No.63 Hino Maru* east of Kyosaitoo.

Japanese cargo vessel *Shinten Maru* is damaged by mine, a half mile off Wada Misaki light.

USAAF B-24s, B-25s, A-26s, P-51s and P-47s (Far East Air Force) carry out strikes against targets on Kyushu, and Japanese shipping between Kyushu and Korea, sinking merchant cargo ship *Shokai Maru* off Pusan and *Megami Maru* off Shodo Jima; *Kainan Maru* is damaged.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Tenzan Maru* is damaged by marine casualty, northeast of Kamaishi, Japan.

- **9 August, Thu. --**

Pacific

USAAF B-29 "Bock's Car" (509th Composite Group) drops **atomic bomb on Nagasaki**, Kyushu; USN Commander Frederick W. Ashworth is the weaponeer

on this mission. In the nuclear devastation unleashed upon that Japanese port city, merchant tanker *Tsuruoka Maru* is damaged.

USN carrier-based aircraft from TF 38 carriers (Admiral William F. Halsey Jr.) pound Japanese shipping and airfields, ranging from northern Honshu and Hokkaido to the coast of Korea, sinking auxiliary submarine chasers *Shintohoku Maru* and 2 *Kongo Maru* and 6 *Takunan Maru*, minesweepers *W.1* and *W.33*, and fleet tanker *Juko Maru*, and merchant cargo ship *No.36 Banshu Maru* off Hamada, 39°30'N, 142°04'E. USN (TF 38) and British carrier aircraft (TF 37) sink escort vessels *Amakusa* and *Inagi* off Onagawa.

Off Honshu, retaliatory air strikes by Japanese planes result in friendly fire damage to destroyer *John W. Weeks* (DD-701), 35°00'N, 143°00'E; kamikaze damages destroyer *Borie* (DD-704) at 37°21'N, 143°45'E.

TU 12.5.6--battleship *New Jersey* (BB-62), light cruiser *Biloxi* (CL-80) and four destroyers--bombards Wake Island while en route from Pearl Harbor to Eniwetok.

TU 34.8.1, battleships and cruisers (Rear Admiral John F. Shafroth) shells industrial targets at Kamaishi, Honshu. Two British light cruisers participate in the bombardment as well.

Soviet forces enter Korea. Russian planes sink Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.82* north of Joshin, Korea, 41°21'N, 131°12'E, and merchant vessels *Kasado Maru* and *No.2 Ryuho Maru* off Kamchatka, Sea of Okhotsk.

Submarine *Hawkbill* (SS-366) shells Tambelan Island 230 miles east of Singapore, destroying Japanese radio station.

Destroyer escort *Johnnie Hutchins* (DE-360), carrying out an antisubmarine sweep on the convoy route between Leyte and Okinawa, sinks what may have been kaitens launched by *I 58*, known to have been in the area at that time.

USAAF B-25s on antishipping sweeps against Japanese shipping traffic off the coast of Korea sink auxiliary submarine chaser *No.63 Hino Maru* west of Koje-do, merchant cargo ship *No.7 Yamabishi Maru* off Tsushima, 35°09'N, 129°30'E, and army cargo ship *Daito Maru*, 15 miles off Chongjin, Korea.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Izu Maru* is sunk by aircraft, Shiogama harbor.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.7 Yamanami Maru* is sunk by U.S. aircraft, 25°15'N, 138°44'E.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kagoshima Maru* and [type unspecified] *Toyoshima Maru* are sunk by aircraft off Pusan, Korea.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *Senko Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Chongjin, Korea, *Tensho Maru* is damaged.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.2 Ryuho Maru* is sunk by aircraft off Utka.

Japanese merchant cargo ships *Edamitsu Maru* and *Sotsu Go*, tanker *Empo Maru* are sunk by aircraft off Najin, Korea. Japanese merchant cargo ship *Rakusan Maru* is damaged by aircraft.

Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.6 Banshu Maru* is damaged by aircraft off Hamada, Japan.

Japanese destroyer *Yanagi* and minelayer *Tokiwa* are damaged by aircraft, Ominato, Japan.

Japanese escort vessel *Yashiro* and *Coast Defense Vessel No.87*, and army cargo ship *Ryuwa Maru*, and merchant cargo ship *Meiyu Maru* are damaged by aircraft off Unggi, Korea.

USAAF B-25s (5th Air Force) damage Japanese fast transport *T.21* off Tsuwa Jima, 33°59'N, 132°31'E. Although *T.21* is run aground to permit salvage, she never returns to active service (see 10 August).

Japanese transport *Choun Maru* is damaged by aircraft, location unspecified.

Mines damage Japanese merchant cargo ships *Enoshima Maru* in Oguchi channel, Nanao; *Genyo Maru*, 35°51'N, 131°15'E; *Shinri Go*, 34°06'N, 131°19'E; and damage merchant vessel *Okita Maru* near Sumoto.

- **10 August, Fri. --**

- Pacific

- USN carrier-based planes from fast carrier task forces of the Third Fleet (Admiral William F. Halsey Jr.), pound Japanese shipping, airfields and railroads in northern Honshu. Planes from British TF 37 participate as well. TF 38 planes sink submarine chaser *Ch 42* and minesweeper *W.1* in Yamada Bay, 38°26'N, 141°30'E, auxiliary minesweeper *No.2 Kongo Maru* off Onagawa, 38°30'N, 141°29'E; merchant cargo ship *Masayoshi Maru* and tanker *No.3 Nanki Maru* in Sakata harbor, 38°55'N, 139°49'E; merchant cargo ship *No.14 Horai Maru* off east coast of Korea, 37°00'N, 130°24'E; merchant cargo ship *No.5 Nishiki Maru* off Hachinohe harbor; and cargo ship *Chichibu Maru* in Keelung harbor, Formosa, 42°20'N, 130°24'E. TF 37 or TF 38 planes sink auxiliary submarine chaser *No.6 Takunan Maru* off Onagawa. TF 38 planes damage auxiliary minelayer *Koei Maru* off Ominato, and merchant cargo ship *Toyotama Maru* off Sakata, 38°15'N, 139°22'E.

- In addition, aircraft (service not specified) on antishipping missions against Japanese warships and merchantmen operating at or near Niigata, sink army cargo ship *Ujina Maru*, and merchant cargo ships *Manei Maru* and *No.7 Hosei Maru*, and damage auxiliary patrol vessel *Pa No.84*, army cargo ship *Yorihime Maru*, and merchant cargo ship *No.7 Manei Maru*, and in Tsugaru Strait damage liaison vessel *Aniwa Maru*; in antishipping sweeps off the Korean coast, planes sink cargo ships *Taishun Maru* and *Awakawa Maru* off Chongjin, 41°26'N, 129°49'E, and merchant cargo vessels *Taiko Maru*, *Erimo Maru*, and *Kari Go* in or off Najin harbor, army cargo ship *Isshin Maru* off Ulsan, and in Tsushima Strait, sink merchant cargo ship *Shofuko Maru*, 34°43'N, 129°50'E, and damage *Coast Defense Vessel No. 194*, *Coast Defense Vessel No. 198* and army cargo ship *Tairetsu Maru*, 34°42'N, 130°13'E.

- Thirty-one USAAF B-29s (20th Air Force) mine Shimonoseki Straits and the waters off Hagi and Yuyawan, Japan, and Wonsan, Korea. Mines sink merchant cargo ship *Shinjo Maru* off Hime Jima, and damage *Coast Defense Vessel No. 63* in Nanao Bay, 37°08'N, 136°50'E, and merchant cargo ships *Harada Maru* at 34°23'N, 134°57'E, *Tsushima Maru* (location unspecified) and *12 Nissho Maru*,

1.6 kilometers off Cape Echizen, and merchant tanker *No.8 Kinyu Maru* in Maizuru harbor.

Soviet forces enter Korea. Russian planes sink Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.82* north of Joshin, Korea, 41°21'N, 131°12'E, and merchant vessels *Kasado Maru* and *No.2 Ryuho Maru* off Kamchatka peninsula, in Sea of Okhotsk.

Submarine *Hawkbill* (SS-366) shells and destroys Japanese radio station on Djemadja Island 150 miles northeast of Singapore,

Navy Petroleum Reserve 4 Expedition, formed around cargo ship *Spica* (AK-16) and U.S. freighters *Jonathan Harrington* and *Enos A. Mills*, reaches Point Barrow and discharges some tonnage until ice and weather conditions force a halt in operations (see 22, 24 and 25 August).

U.S. freighter *Jack Singer* is torpedoed by Japanese plane off Naha, Okinawa. None of the 29-man Armed Guard are injured, and only one merchant seaman reports any injuries suffered in the incident. The ship is later written off as a total loss.

Japanese fast transport *T.21* sinks as the result of damage suffered the previous day off Tsuwa Jima, 33°59'N, 132°31'E.

- **11 August, Sat. --**

- Pacific

- TG 95.4 (Captain Henry J. Armstrong, Jr.) comprising four light minelayers (DM), 40 minesweepers (AM) and 10 motor minesweepers (YMS), and various supporting vessels, departs Buckner Bay, Okinawa, to proceed into the East China Sea to conduct minesweeping operations.

- TF 38 planes damage Japanese destroyer *Kaba* and submarines *I 36*, *I 159*, and *I 402* at Kure, Japan.

- Destroyer *McDermut* (DD-677) is damaged by small-caliber naval gunfire in Kurils, 49°30'N, 155°01'E.

- Submarine *Chub* (SS-329) sinks Japanese army auxiliary sailing vessel *No.32 Sakura Maru*, 06°40'S, 115°44'E.

- Submarine *Hawkbill* (SS-366) puts landing party and Australian commandoes ashore at Terampah Harbor, Matak Island Anambas Islands, that destroys a gasoline dump, captures intelligence documents, and rescues an Indian POW.

- Submarine *Jallao* (SS-368) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Teihoku Maru*, 38°03'N, 133°12'E.

- Mines laid by USAAF B-29s (20th Air Force) sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.2 Nisshin Maru* eight kilometers off Wakamatsu light, 33°45'N, 131°30'E, and damage landing ship *T.153* two miles east-northeast of Kanawaiwa, Japan.

- Japanese merchant vessel *Wajun Go* is damaged by marine casualty near Funagawa.

- **12 August, Sun. --**

- Pacific

- TF 92, comprising two light cruisers and 12 destroyers (Rear Admiral John H.

Brown, Jr.) bombards Japanese installations on Matsuwa Island and at Kurabu Cape and Suribachi Bay, Paramushiro Island Kurils. A pre-bombardment sweep of the Sea of Okhotsk results in the destruction of ten trawlers.

Japanese submarine *I 58* conducts unsuccessful kaiten attack on dock landing ship *Oak Hill* (LSD-7) while she is en route from Okinawa to Leyte Gulf accompanied by destroyer escort *Thomas F. Nickel* (DE-587).

Battleship *Pennsylvania* (BB-38) is damaged by aerial torpedo, Buckner Bay, Okinawa, 26°14'N, 127°50'E.

Aircraft sink Japanese auxiliary patrol vessel *Pa 166* five miles southeast of Urasaki, Japan, and merchant cargo ship *Hozugawa Maru* off the east coast of Korea, 35°00'N, 126°00'E, and damage *Kitanami Maru* off Mishima light.

Mines sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.1 Shinyo Maru* north of Kyushu, and damage merchant cargo ship *Yurakawa Maru* eight kilometers off Wakamatsu light, and army cargo ship *No.16 Tamon Maru* in Koguchi Channel, Nanao, 37°07'N, 137°02'E.

- **13 August, Mon. --**

- Pacific

- Aircraft from fast carrier task force (Vice Admiral John S. McCain) bomb targets in the vicinity of Tokyo.

- USAAF OA-10A extracts TBM crew (VT 87) from *Ticonderoga* (CV-14) from the inner reaches of Tokyo Bay midway between Yokohama and Kizarazu, marking the first time that a U.S. plane has accomplished a rescue in those waters.

- Attack transport *Lagrange* (APA-124) is crashed by suicide plane, Buckner Bay, Okinawa, 26°14'N, 127°52'E.

- Submarine *Atule* (SS-403) sinks Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.6* and damages *Coast Defense Vessel No.16* off Hokkaido, 42°16'N, 142°12'E.

- Submarine *Torsk* (SS-423) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship *Kaiho Maru*, 36°17'N, 136°09'E.

- USAAF B-24s and/or B-25s operating against Japanese shipping in Korea Strait sink guardboat *Ayanami Maru* at 34°50'N, 131°10'E and damage merchant cargo ship *Tatsukiri Maru* at 34°35'N, 131°23'E.

- Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.11 Tosei Maru* is damaged by aircraft off Hekata.

- Japanese army tanker *No.10 Nitto Maru* is damaged by mine, 34°22'N, 130°54'E.

- **14 August, Tue. --**

- Pacific

- **Japan** accepts the provisions of the Potsdam Declaration and **agrees to surrender** ("VJ Day"). General of the Army Douglas MacArthur is named Supreme Allied Commander to receive the enemy's capitulation and conduct the occupation of his homeland.

- Thirty-five USAAF B-29s mine Shimonoseki Straits and the waters off Nanao, Maizuru and Hamada, Japan, in the final B-29 minelaying operations of the war.

Submarine *Spikefish* (SS-404) sinks Japanese submarine *I 373*, then en route from Sasebo to Takao, 190 miles southeast of Shanghai, China, 29°00'N, 124°00'E.

in Sea of Japan, submarine *Torsk* (SS-423) sinks *Coast Defense Vessel No.13* at 35°44'N, 134°38'E, and *Coast Defense Vessel No.47* at 35°41'N, 134°38'E.

Mines laid by USAAF B-29s (20th Air Force) sink Japanese gunboat *Hirota Maru* off Mutsure, Japan, 33°59'N, 130°52'E, cargo ship *Mikamasan Maru* at 39°18'N, 126°28'E, and merchant cargo ships *Yojo Maru* in Osaka harbor, 34°38'N, 135°28'E; and *Kashima Maru* off coast of Korea, 35°10'N, 129°00'E.

Marine casualties account for damage to Japanese merchant tankers *No.8 Nankai Maru* at 36°54'N, 126°12.5'E and tanker *Nanki Maru* 300 miles off Bontensen.

Aircraft (nationality and type unidentified) sink Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.6 Hatokama Maru* off Tanoura. and damage merchant cargo ships *No.5 Shinko Maru* at 34°35'N, 131°23'E, and *Tatsusugi Maru* at 34°12'N, 129°46'E. Merchant cargo ship *No.3 Takakawa Maru*, damaged by aircraft, is beached north of Hirato Island.

- **15 August, Wed. --**

- Pacific

- Before receiving the announcement of the end of hostilities, planes from fast carrier task force (Vice Admiral John S. McCain) raid airfields in the vicinity of Tokyo, encountering heavy aerial opposition. Second strike is cancelled while it is en route to objectives; pilots jettison their ordnance and return to their carriers.

- TG 30.6 (Commodore Rodger W. Simpson) is formed to liberate, evacuate, and care for Allied POWs in Japan.

- Japanese escort vessel *Kanju* is sunk by Russian aircraft off Wonsan, 39°10'N, 127°27'E.

- Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 167* is sunk by accident, Kure.

- Japanese merchant cargo ship *No.12 Yamabishi Maru* is damaged by aircraft, 34°41.5'N, 129°36'E.

- Mediterranean

- U.S. freighter *William D. Byron* is damaged by two mines off Savona, Italy, 44°00'N, 09°00'E; one of four Armed Guard sailors is injured.

- **16 August, Thu. --**

- Pacific

- Destroyer *Healy* (DD-672) makes sonar contact with underwater object about 100 miles east of Iwo Jima and carries out depth charge attack.

- Submarine *Piper* (SS-409) is attacked in Japan Sea by unknown assailant.

- **17 August, Fri. --**

- Pacific

- General Prince Higashikuni becomes Prime Minister of Japan and forms a new cabinet.

- Japanese *Coast Defense Vessel No.46* is sunk by mine off Mokpo, Korea, 34°51'N, 126°02'E.

- **19 August, Sun. --**

Pacific

Formation of fleet Marine and bluejacket landing forces from officers and men afloat begins; these men are transferred, at sea, to transports for the impending occupation of Yokosuka under Commander, TF 31 (see 20 August). Japanese delegates arrive in Manila to receive surrender instructions.

Japanese escort vessel *Oki* is damaged by mine off Pusan, Korea.

- **20 August, Mon. --**

Pacific

TF 31 (Rear Admiral Oscar C. Badger) is formed to assume responsibility for the occupation of Yokosuka naval base.

Navy patrol planes reconnoiter Indochina and south China coasts; Japanese fighters attempt to intercept them.

- **21 August, Tue. --**

Pacific

Two Chinese junks (Lieutenant Livingston Swentzel Jr., USNR) manned by 7 Americans and 20 Chinese guerrillas are attacked by Japanese junk (with a crew of 83 men) while enroute from Haimen to Shanghai, China. In a 45-minute action, the Chinese craft, directed by Lieutenant Swentzel, engage the enemy with bazookas, machine guns, and grenades. Upon boarding the Japanese craft, the Allied force finds 45 dead and 35 wounded; the victory has been achieved at the cost of four Chinese killed, and one American and five Chinese wounded. For his heroism above and beyond the call of duty, Lieutenant Swentzel is awarded the Navy Cross in what probably proves to be the **last surface action of World War II**.

Japanese escort vessel *Miyake* is damaged by mine near Moji, Japan, 33°58'N, 131°00'E.

Tenth Army security patrols on Okinawa by this point have captured 69 Japanese and killed 218 since the island is declared secure.

Asiatic Wing, Naval Air Transport Service, is established at Oakland California.

- **22 August, Wed. --**

Pacific

Captain Harold B. Grow, Atoll Commander, Majuro, accepts surrender of Mille Atoll, Marshalls (the first Japanese garrison to capitulate in the Pacific) on board destroyer escort *Levy* (DE-162).

Navy Petroleum Reserve 4 Expedition, formed around cargo ship *Spica* (AK-16) and U.S. freighters *Jonathan Harrington* and *Enos A. Mills*, discharges remainder of tonnage at Point Barrow (see 24 and 25 August).

Japanese antiaircraft batteries near Hong Kong fire upon navy patrol planes over China Coast.

Japanese destroyer *Asagao* is damaged by mine in Shimonoseki Straits.

- **23 August, Thu. --**

Pacific

Planes from TG 38.4 (Rear Admiral Arthur W. Radford) search for Japanese

shipping between Hachijo Jima and the Bonins. Such movement would have been contrary to surrender instructions, but the searching aircraft report no violations.

- **24 August, Fri. --**

Pacific

U.S. freighters *Jonathan Harrington* and *Enos A. Mills*, of the Navy Petroleum Reserve 4 Expedition, are damaged by ice floes off Point Barrow, Alaska (see 25 August).

- **25 August, Sat. --**

Pacific

Aircraft from carrier task groups begin daily flights over Japan to patrol airfields, shipping movements, and to locate and supply prisoner of war camps; operation continues until 2 September.

TG 95.4 (Captain Henry J. Armstrong, Jr.) returns to Buckner Bay having completed its mine clearance work in the East China Sea and destroyed 578 mines during eleven days of sweeping.

Carrier *Wasp* (CV-18) and destroyer *Chauncey* (DD-667) are damaged by typhoon.

Chief of Naval Operations accords Navy Petroleum Reserve 4 Expedition a "well done" for accomplishing its mission "in an expeditious and seamanlike manner in spite of fog and ice."

- **27 August, Mon. --**

Pacific

Third Fleet (Admiral William F. Halsey Jr.) stands into Sagami Wan, the outer bay to Tokyo, Japan.

Japanese submarine *I 14* surrenders to destroyers *Murray* (DD-576) and *Dashiell* (DD-659) east of northern Honshu. Prize crew from destroyer escort *Bangust* (DE-739) boards *I 14* about 450 miles east of Nojima Zaki.

Japanese submarine *I 400* surrenders to destroyers *Blue* (DD-744) and *Mansfield* (DD-728) east of northern Honshu; destroyer escort *Weaver* (DE-741) places boarding party on board *I 400*.

PB4Y (FAW 18) lands at Atsugi Airdrome, 14 miles from Tokyo, because of mechanical difficulties. No Japanese approach the plane, which returns to Iwo Jima the same day.

- **28 August, Tue. --**

Pacific

USAAF technicians land at Atsugi Airdrome, near Tokyo; these are the first American troops to land in Japan.

Administrative and operational control of the Seventh Fleet (Admiral Thomas C. Kinkaid) passes from Commander in Chief, Southwest Pacific Area (General of the Army Douglas MacArthur) to Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet (Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz).

- **29 August, Wed. --**

Pacific

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief Pacific Fleet, arrives in Tokyo Bay on board PB2Y, and breaks his flag in battleship *South Dakota* (BB-57).

Submarine *Segundo* (SS-398) encounters Japanese submarine *I 401* off northeast coast of Honshu, and "after considerable negotiation," places prize crew on board.

TG 30.6 (Commodore Rodger W. Simpson) arrives in Tokyo Bay to undertake emergency evacuation of Allied POWs in waterfront areas. Guided by TBMs from small carrier *Cowpens* (CVL-25) and taken to the scene by LCVPs from high speed transport *Gosselin* (APD-126), Commodore Simpson carries out his orders. The appearance of the LCVPs off the camp at Omori (the first liberated) triggers "an indescribable scene of jubilation and emotion" by the former captives, some of whom swim out to the approaching landing craft.

Japanese garrisons on Halmahera and Morotai surrender.

- **30 August, Thu. --**

- Pacific

- Landings by the occupation forces begin in the Tokyo Bay area under cover of guns of the Third Fleet plus Naval and USAAF aircraft.

- Rear Admiral Robert B. Carney and Rear Admiral Oscar C. Badger accept surrender of Yokosuka Naval Base. Headquarters of Commander Third Fleet is established there.

- Conference is held on board destroyer *Stack* (DD-406) at Truk to discuss the surrender of that Japanese base. Brigadier General Leo D. Hermle, USMC, is the leader of U.S. representatives.

- Four motor torpedo boats transport 50 Japanese troops from Miti Island to Morotai, to contact scattered units there to effect a complete surrender.

- U.S. freighter *Peter White* is damaged by mine 50 miles from Mauban, Luzon, 14°37'N, 122°26'E; only four men of the ship's total complement (52 merchant sailors, one passenger, and 17 Armed Guards) are injured, and the ship reaches Leyte.

- **31 August, Fri. --**

- Pacific

- Rear Admiral Francis E. M. Whiting accepts surrender of Marcus Island on board destroyer *Bagley* (DD-386).

- Marines (Company "L," Third Battalion, Fourth Marines) land at Tateyama Naval Base, Honshu, on the northeast shore of Sagami Wan, and accept its surrender. They will reconnoiter the beach approaches and cover the landing of Army's 112th Cavalry.

- Japanese submarine *I 401* surrenders to submarine *Segundo* (SS-398) at entrance to Tokyo Bay.

- U.S. freighter *Joseph Carrigan* is damaged by mine in Brunei Bay, Borneo.

- Japanese merchant vessels sunk/damaged during August 1945 (exact dates indeterminate): refrigerated cargo ship *Banshu Maru*, agent unknown, location

unspecified. Cargo ship *Eito Maru*, by aircraft, off Murozu. Cargo ship *No.1 Taikai Maru*, by aircraft, location unspecified.

Japanese merchant vessel damaged during August 1945 (exact date indeterminate): cargo ship *Shincho Maru*, by mine, off Ube.

September

- **1 September, Sat. --**

Pacific

Two civilian internment camps are located in Tokyo area; internees are evacuated in hospital ship *Benevolence* (AH-13).

- **2 September, Sun. --**

Pacific

Japanese surrender documents are signed on board battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) at anchor in Tokyo Bay. General of the Army Douglas MacArthur signs for the Allied Powers; Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz signs for the U.S.

TF 33 (Rear Admiral John L. Hall) lands army forces at Yokohama.

Japanese surrender Palau Islands in ceremony on board destroyer escort *Amick* (DE-168).

Japanese surrender Truk in ceremony on board heavy cruiser *Portland* (CA-33).

Japanese surrender Pagan Island northern Marianas, on board destroyer *Rhind* (DD-404).

Japanese surrender Rota, Marianas, in ceremony on board destroyer escort *Heyliger* (DE-510).

- **3 September, Mon. --**

Pacific

Japanese surrender Wake Island in ceremony on board destroyer escort *Levy* (DE-162).

Escort carrier *Anzio* (CVE-57) is damaged in collision with oiler *Suamico* (AO-49) while fueling off Okinawa.

- **4 September, Tue. --**

Pacific

Japanese surrender Aguijan Island Marianas, in ceremony on board Coast Guard Cutter *No.83425*.

- **5 September, Wed. --**

Pacific

Japanese surrender Yap Island in ceremony on board destroyer *Tillman* (DD-641).

- **6 September, Thu. --**

Pacific

Japanese surrender Maleolap Atoll in ceremony on board destroyer escort *Wingfield* (DE-194).

U.S. troops begin return to United States as TF 11 (Vice Admiral Frederick C. Sherman) sails from Tokyo Bay for the west coast.

- **11 September, Tue. --**
Operation MAGIC CARPET begins.
- **11 September to 31 December 1945 --**
Between the signing of the capitulation documents on board the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) and the end of the year, Japanese garrisons on the Asiatic mainland and on by-passed islands scattered throughout the western Pacific surrender. Occupation of Japan progresses and the administrative organization of the U.S. naval forces in the area is adjusted where necessary to enable the Navy to carry out occupation and demilitarization duties. Naval combat strength shrinks as demobilization procedures are set in motion. On 10 October 1945 Headquarters of the Commander in Chief U.S. Fleet (Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King) is disestablished.

Footnotes

^[1] The Liberty ship is beached the next day to prevent further damage; the Navy subsequently repairs her. She is renamed Harcourt and classified as a miscellaneous auxiliary (IX-225).

^[2] Rear Admiral Theodore E. Chandler, Commander Cruiser Division Four, who, as a captain, had commanded light cruiser *Omaha* (CL-4) when she seized German blockade runner *Odenwald* in November 1941, is fatally wounded in the attack on *Louisville*.

^[3] She is reported as overdue, presumed lost, on 16 February 1945.

^[4] She is towed to Saigon, but is never repaired, and is ultimately broken up there.

^[5] A thorough search of Dutch Harbor and all other sector activities fails to disclose any trace of this particular district craft, and it is stricken from the Register this date. Its exact fate is unknown.

^[6] Two possible explanations for *Kete's* disappearance exist, neither definitive: (1) she strikes a mine about 20 March 1945 in a field laid by minelayer *Tokiwa* and auxiliary minelayer *Koei Maru* less than a month before (27 February 1945) or (2) is sunk by one of four Japanese submarines (*Ro 41*, *Ro 49*, *Ro 56* or *I 8*--all lost soon thereafter) believed to be in the vicinity sometime between 20 and 23 March, east of Okinawa. The most likely candidate of the four is *Ro 41*. *Kete* is listed as overdue, presumed lost, on 16 April 1945.

^[7] During the retirement phase, destroyer *Preston* (DD-795) rescues eight survivors from a downed USAAF B-29.

^[8] While no definitive explanation exists for *Snook's* loss, there are three possibilities: (1) she is sunk by Japanese naval aircraft (256th, 453rd and 951st Air Flotilla) on 9 April 1945 near the Shuzan Islands; (2) she is sunk by patrol-escort vessel *Okinawa*, *Patrol-Escort Vessel No. 8*, *Patrol-Escort Vessel No. 32* and *Patrol-Escort Vessel No. 52* after being detected by planes from the afore-mentioned naval air flotillas; or (3) she is possibly sunk by Japanese submarine *I 56* while *Snook* was operating on lifeguard duty (her last assignment) in the Nansei Shoto region. She is listed as overdue, presumed lost, on 16 May 1945.

^[9] She is listed as overdue, presumed lost, on 1 May 1945.

^[10] *RO 67* is ultimately decommissioned 20 July 1945 and used as a pontoon at Sasebo.

^[11] *Yamato* only carries enough fuel for a one-way voyage. Plans call for the massive battleship to be beached off Okinawa to employ her 18.1-inch guns in defense of the island.

^[12] German submarine *U-853* was known to have been in the vicinity at the time; whether or not she conducted an attack that sank *Eagle 56*, however, may never be known, since *U-853* is sunk with all hands on soon thereafter (see 6 May 1945).

^[13] Some sources list *Bream's* victim as *Teishu Maru*; ULTRA material, however, uses the German name, and refers to communications between Tokyo and Berlin concerning her loss.

^[14] "Superb damage control measures and fire fighting," *South Dakota's* war diarist notes, "quickly brought the fire under control and narrowly averted a major disaster." *South Dakota* lay alongside ammunition ship *Wrangell* (AE-12) at the moment the first tank exploded.

^[15] Fleet tug *Tenino* (ATF-115) later tows *William B. Allison*, written off by the War Shipping Administration as a total loss, to Kerama Retto, where she undergoes repairs and is taken over by the Navy for use as a mobile storehouse for lubricants and drummed petroleum products. Classified as a miscellaneous auxiliary (IX-117), she is renamed *Gamage*.

^[16] She is reported as overdue, presumed lost, on 30 July 1945.

^[17] *Barry*, decommissioned that morning, sailed loaded with empty powder cases, shell cases, ammunition tanks and empty oil drums, being employed to a picket station off Okinawa as a decoy to "absorb several suiciders." The already-damaged submarine chaser *PC-1603* was earmarked for the same purpose.

^[18] Probable agent of destruction is submarine *Lagarto* which is assigned to patrol the South China Sea at that time. *Lagarto* does not return from her war patrol.

^[19] This force will operate approximately 150 miles northwest of Okinawa.

^[20] Japanese Monograph No. 116 lists two army vessels (unspecified as to type) identified only by number (*No. 94* and *No. 1491*) that are damaged by aircraft off Quelpart Island.

^[21] Those operations, carried out between 21 and 23 July, yield a paucity of targets, since no Japanese shipping larger than sampans (several of which are sunk) is encountered.

^[22] The sinking of the seven train ferries on the 14th and one the following day, together with the damage inflicted upon three additional vessels of this type, is deemed a severe blow to transportation facilities between Hokkaido and the main island of Honshu, virtually cutting off important agricultural and mineral supplies of the northern island.

^[23] Submarine chaser *Harushima* had originally been the U.S. Army cable ship *Colonel G. F. E. Harrison*, salvaged from Mariveles Bay, Luzon, P.I., in 1942.

^[24] *XE 1* had been earmarked to attack Japanese heavy cruiser *Myoko*, also at Singapore, but could not find her, and ended up joining *XE 3* in attacking Takao.

^[25] Ironically, the patrol plane commander who makes the sighting, Lieutenant (j.g.) S.M. Worthington, USNR, is himself forced down at sea while making his first patrol with VPB-28 on 5 August 1945. He and his crew are rescued by destroyer escort *Leslie L.B. Knox* (DE-580).

Appendix I:

Principal Civilian Officials And Naval Officers In Command 7 December 1941 -- 2 September 1945¹

Secretary of the Navy

Frank Knox: 7 December 1941--28 April 1944
James V. Forrestal (A): 28 April 1944--19 May 1944
James V. Forrestal: 19 May 1944--2 September 1945

Undersecretary of the Navy

James V. Forrestal: 7 December 1941--19 May 1944
Ralph A. Bard: 24 June 1944--30 June 1945
Artemus L. Gates: 3 July 1945--2 September 1945

Assistant Secretary of the Navy

Ralph A. Bard: 7 December 1941--24 June 1944
H. Struve Hensel: 30 January 1945--2 September 1945

Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Air

Artemus L. Gates: 7 December 1941--30 June 1945
John L. Sullivan: 1 July 1945--2 September 1945

Chief of Naval Operations

Admiral Harold R. Stark: 7 December 1941--26 March 1942
Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King: 26 March 1942--2 September 1945

Vice Chief of Naval Operations

(Established 12 March 1942.)

Admiral Frederick J. Horne: 26 March 1942--2 September 1945

Joint Chiefs of Staff

(Established 9 February 1942)

Chairman: Fleet Admiral William D. Leahy: 20 July 1942--2 September 1945

Navy: Admiral Harold R. Stark: 9 February 1942--26 March 1942
Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King: 26 March 1942--2 September 1945

Army: General of the Army George C. Marshall: 9 February 1942--2 September 1945.

Army Air Forces: General of the Army Henry H. Arnold: 9 February 1942--2 September 1945

Chief of Staff to the Commander In Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States

(Established 20 July 1942)

Fleet Admiral William D. Leahy: 20 July 1942--2 September 1945

Chairman of the General Board

Rear Admiral Walton R. Sexton: 7 December 1941--10 August 1942
Admiral Arthur J. Hepburn (Ret): 11 August 1942--2 September 1945

Commandant, United States Marine Corps

Lieutenant General Thomas Holcomb: 7 December 1941--31 December 1943
General Alexander A. Vandegrift: 1 January 1944--2 September 1945

Commandant, United States Coast Guard

Admiral Russell R. Waesche: 7 December 1941--2 September 1945

BUREAU CHIEFS

Bureau of Aeronautics

Rear Admiral John H. Towers: 7 December 1941--7 October 1942
Rear Admiral John S. McCain: 9 October 1942--6 August 1943
Rear Admiral DeWitt C. Ramsey: 6 August 1943--1 June 1945
Rear Admiral Harold B. Sallada: 1 June 1945--2 September 1945

Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

Vice Admiral Ross T. McIntyre: 7 December 1941--2 September 1945

Bureau of Navigation

(Changed to Bureau of Personnel 12 May 1942)

Rear Admiral Chester W. Nimitz: 7 December 1941--19 December 1941
Vice Admiral Randall Jacobs: 19 December 1941--13 May 1942

Bureau of Naval Personnel

Vice Admiral Randall Jacobs: 13 May 1942--2 September 1945

Bureau of Ordnance

Rear Admiral William H.P. Blandy: 7 December 1941--9 December 1943
Vice Admiral George F. Hussey: 10 December 1943--2 September 1945

Bureau of Ships

Rear Admiral Samuel M. Robinson: 7 December 1941--31 January 1942
Rear Admiral Alexander H. Van Keuren: 1 February 1942--2 November 1942
Vice Admiral Edward L. Cochrane: 2 November 1942--2 September 1945

Bureau of Supplies and Accounts

Rear Admiral Ray Spear: 7 December 1941--31 May 1942
Rear Admiral William B. Young: 1 June 1942--8 March 1945
Rear Admiral William J. Carter: 8 March 1945--2 September 1945

Bureau of Yards and Docks

Vice Admiral Ben Moreell: 7 December 1941--2 September 1945

COMMANDANTS, NAVAL DISTRICTS AND RIVER COMMANDS

First Naval District

Rear Admiral William T. Tarrant: 7 December 1941--15 July 1942
Vice Admiral Wilson Brown Jr.: 15 July 1942--8 February 1943
Rear Admiral Robert A. Theobald: 9 February 1943--28 October 1944
Rear Admiral Felix X. Gyax: 28 October 1944--2 September 1945

Third Naval District

Rear Admiral Adolphus Andrews: 7 December 1941--16 March 1942
Rear Admiral Edward J. Marquart: 17 March 1942--31 March 1944
Rear Admiral William R. Munroe: 31 March 1944--6 November 1944
Rear Admiral Monroe Kelly: 6 November 1944--2 September 1945

Fourth Naval District

Rear Admiral Adolphus E. Watson: 7 December 1941--30 August 1942
Rear Admiral Milo F. Draemel: 30 August 1942--2 September 1945

Fifth Naval District

Rear Admiral Manley H. Simons: 7 December 1941--31 May 1943
Rear Admiral H. Fairfax Leary: 1 June 1943--30 October 1943
Rear Admiral David M. LeBreton: 30 October 1943--20 August 1945
Rear Admiral Walden L. Ainsworth: 20 August 1945--2 September 1945

Sixth Naval District

Rear Admiral William H. Allen: 7 December 1941--2 June 1942
Rear Admiral William A. Glassford: 2 June 1942--14 May 1943
Rear Admiral Jules James: 14 May 1943--2 September 1945

Seventh Naval District

(Combined with Sixth until 1 February 1942)

Captain Russell S. Crenshaw (A): 1 February 1942--3 June 1942
Rear Admiral James L. Kauffman: 3 June 1942--3 February 1943
Captain Howard H.J. Benson (A): 3 February 1943--1 April 1943
Rear Admiral William R. Munroe: 1 April 1943--25 March 1944
Captain Howard H.J. Benson (A): 25 March 1944--17 July 1944
Vice Admiral Walter S. Anderson: 17 July 1944--2 September 1945

Eighth Naval District

Captain Thaddeus A. Thomson (A): 7 December 1941--22 April 1942
Rear Admiral Frank T. Leighton: 22 April 1942--18 March 1943
Captain Eugene T. Oates (A): 18 March 1943--14 June 1943
Rear Admiral Andrew C. Bennett: 14 June 1943--2 September 1945

Ninth Naval District

Rear Admiral John Downes: 7 December 1941--3 January 1944
Vice Admiral Arthur S. Carpender: 3 January 1944--2 September 1945

Tenth Naval District

Vice Admiral John H. Hoover: 7 December 1941--12 August 1943
Vice Admiral Arthur B. Cook: 12 August 1943--14 May 1944
Vice Admiral Robert C. Giffen: 14 May 1944--20 August 1945
Vice Admiral William R. Munroe: 20 August 1945--2 September 1945

Eleventh Naval District

Rear Admiral Charles A. Blakely: 7 December--9 December 1941
Rear Admiral John S. McCain (A): 9 December 1941--22 December 1941
Rear Admiral Ralston S. Holmes: 22 December 1941--31 December 1942
Captain George M. Ravenscroft (A): 31 December 1942--30 March 1943
Rear Admiral David W. Bagley: 30 March 1943--31 January 1944
Rear Admiral Wilhelm L. Friedell: 31 January 1944--2 September 1945

Twelfth Naval District

Vice Admiral John W. Greenslade: 7 December 1941--1 February 1944
Rear Admiral Carlton H. Wright: 1 February 1944--2 September 1945

Thirteenth Naval District

Vice Admiral Charles S. Freeman: 7 December 1941--21 November 1942
Vice Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher: 21 November 1942--12 October 1943
Rear Admiral Sherwoode A. Taffinder: 12 October 1943--15 December 1944
Rear Admiral Robert M. Griffin: 15 December 1944--2 September 1945

Fourteenth Naval District

Rear Admiral Claude C. Bloch: 7 December 1941--4 April 1942
Rear Admiral David W. Bagley: 4 April 1942--17 February 1943
Vice Admiral Robert L. Ghormley: 17 February 1943--25 October 1944
Rear Admiral William R. Furlong (A): 25 October 1944--28 November 1944
Vice Admiral David W. Bagley: 28 November 1944--25 July 1945
Vice Admiral Sherwoode A. Taffinder: 25 July 1945--2 September 1945

Fifteenth Naval District

Rear Admiral Frank H. Sadler: 7 December 1941--15 April 1942
Rear Admiral Clifford E. Van Hook: 15 April 1942--14 October 1943
Rear Admiral Harold C. Train: 14 October 1943--10 June 1944
Captain Ellis S. Stone (A): 10 June 1944--3 November 1944
Rear Admiral Howard F. Kingman: 3 November 1944--9 July 1945

Captain Schuyler Mills (A): 9 July 1945--23 August 1945
Rear Admiral John R. Beardall: 23 August 1945--2 September 1945

Sixteenth Naval District

(Ceased to exist on 6 May 1942)

Rear Admiral Francis W. Rockwell: 7 December 1941--18 March 1942
Captain Kenneth M. Hoeffel: 18 March 1942--6 May 1942

Seventeenth Naval District

(Created on 15 April 1944)

Rear Admiral Francis E.M. Whiting: 15 April 1944--12 August 1944
Rear Admiral Allan E. Smith (T): 12 August 1944--24 August 1944
Rear Admiral Ralph F. Wood: 24 August 1944--2 September 1945

Potomac River Naval Command

(Established 8 December 1941)

Rear Admiral George T. Pettengill (Ret): 8 December 1941--15 September 1942
Rear Admiral Ferdinand L. Reichmuth: 15 September 1942--2 September 1945.

Severn River Naval Command

(Established 8 December 1941)

Rear Admiral Russell Willson: 8 December 1941--30 December 1941
Captain Thomas S. King (A): 30 December 1941--31 January 1942
Rear Admiral John R. Beardall: 31 January 1942--8 August 1945
Vice Admiral Aubrey W. Fitch: 8 August 1945--2 September 1945

SEA FRONTIER COMMANDERS

Alaskan

(Established 15 April 1944)

Vice Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher: 15 April 1944--2 September 1945

Caribbean

(Naval Coastal Frontier until 6 February 1942)

Vice Admiral John H. Hoover: 7 December 1941--12 August 1943
Vice Admiral Arthur B. Cook: 12 August 1943--14 May 1944
Vice Admiral Robert C. Giffen: 14 May 1944--20 August 1945
Vice Admiral William R. Munroe: 20 August 1945--2 September 1945

Eastern

(North Atlantic Naval Coastal Frontier until 6 February 1942)

Vice Admiral Adolphus Andrews: 7 December 1941--1 November 1943
Vice Admiral H. Fairfax Leary: 1 November 1943--2 September 1945

Gulf

(Southern Naval Coastal Frontier until 6 February 1942)

Rear Admiral William H. Allen: 7 December 1941--3 February 1942

Captain Russell S. Crenshaw (A): 3 February 1942--3 June 1942
Rear Admiral James L. Kauffman: 3 June 1942--3 February 1943
Captain Howard H.J. Benson (A): 3 February 1943--1 April 1943
Rear Admiral William R. Munroe: 1 April 1943--25 March 1944
Captain Howard H.J. Benson (A): 25 March 1944--17 July 1944
Rear Admiral Walter S. Anderson: 17 July 1944--2 September 1945

Hawaiian

(Naval Coastal Frontier until 6 February 1942)

Rear Admiral Claude C. Bloch: 7 December 1941--2 April 1942
Rear Admiral David W. Bagley: 2 April 1942--17 February 1943
Vice Admiral Robert L. Ghormley: 17 February 1943--25 October 1944
Commodore Marion C. Robertson (A): 25 October 1944--28 November 1944
Vice Admiral David W. Bagley: 28 November 1944--25 July 1945
Vice Admiral Sherwoode A. Taffinder: 25 July 1945--2 September 1945

Moroccan

(Established 19 November 1942 as Sea Frontier Forces, Western Task Force.

Name changed 17 February 1943.

Disestablished 1 August 1945)

Rear Admiral John L. Hall: 19 November 1942--9 February 1943
Captain Chester L. Nichols (T): 9 February 1943--19 February 1943
Rear Admiral Frank J. Lowry: 19 February 1943--20 September 1943
Captain Chester L. Nichols (T): 20 September 1943--13 October 1943
Commodore Benjamin V. McCandlish: 13 October 1943--1 August 1945

Northwest

(Pacific-Northern Naval Coastal Frontier until 6 February 1942

Disestablished 15 April 1944)

Vice Admiral Charles S. Freeman: 7 December 1941--21 November 1942
Vice Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher: 21 November 1942--15 April 1944

Panama

(Naval Coastal Frontier until 6 February 1942)

Rear Admiral Frank H. Sadler: 7 December 1941--15 April 1942
Rear Admiral Clifford E. Van Hook: 15 April 1942--14 October 1943
Rear Admiral Harold C. Train: 14 October 1943--10 June 1944
Captain Ellis S. Stone (A): 11 June 1944--3 November 1944
Rear Admiral Howard F. Kingman: 3 November 1944--9 July 1945
Captain Schuyler Mills (A): 9 July 1945--23 August 1945
Rear Admiral John R. Beardall: 23 August 1945--2 September 1945

Philippine

(Naval Coastal Frontier until 6 February 1942)

Inactive from 6 May 1942 to 13 November 1944)

Rear Admiral Francis W. Rockwell: 7 December 1941--18 March 1942
Captain Kenneth M. Hoeffel: 18 March 1942--6 May 1942
Vice Admiral James L. Kauffman: 13 November 1944--2 September 1945

Western

(Pacific-Southern Naval Coastal Frontier until 6 February 1942)

Vice Admiral John W. Greenslade: 7 December 1941--1 February 1944

Vice Admiral David W. Bagley: 1 February 1944--17 November 1944

Admiral Royal E. Ingersoll: 17 November 1944--2 September 1945

FLEET COMMANDERS^[2]

United States Fleet

(On 20 December 1941, Admiral Ernest J. King was designated Commander in Chief United States Fleet. He assumed the duties in Washington and established his headquarters in the Navy Department on 30 December 1941)

Admiral Husband E. Kimmel: 7 December 1941--17 December 1941

Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King: 30 December 1941--2 September 1945

Atlantic Fleet

(Additionally designated Second Fleet, 15 March 1943)

Admiral Ernest J. King: 7 December 1941--31 December 1941

Admiral Royal E. Ingersoll: 1 January 1942--15 November 1944

Admiral Jonas H. Ingram: 15 November 1944--2 September 1945

Pacific Fleet

Admiral Husband E. Kimmel: 7 December 1941--17 December 1941

Vice Admiral William S. Pye (T): 17 December 1941--31 December 1941

Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz: 31 December 1941--2 September 1945

Asiatic Fleet

(Ceased to exist on 4 February 1942)

Admiral Thomas C. Hart: 7 December 1941--4 February 1942

Third Fleet

(Established 15 March 1943, formerly South Pacific Force)

South Pacific Force

(Established 20 April 1942)

Vice Admiral Robert L. Ghormley: 19 June 1942--18 October 1942

Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr.: 18 October 1942--15 March 1943

Third Fleet

Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr.: 15 March 1943--2 September 1945

Fourth Fleet

**(Established 15 March 1943,
formerly South Atlantic Force,
originally Task Force 23 Atlantic Fleet.
Disestablished 15 April 1945)**

Task Force 23

Vice Admiral Jonas H. Ingram: 7 December 1941--15 September 1942

South Atlantic Force

(Established 15 September 1942)

Vice Admiral Jonas H. Ingram: 15 September 1942--15 March 1943

Fourth Fleet

Vice Admiral Jonas H. Ingram: 15 March 1943--11 November 1944

Vice Admiral William R. Munroe: 11 November 1944--15 April 1945

Fifth Fleet

(Established 26 April 1944, previously Central Pacific Force which was formed 5 August 1943)

Admiral Raymond A. Spruance: 5 August 1943--2 September 1945

Seventh Fleet

**(Established 19 February 1943,
formerly Southwest Pacific Force,**

Southwest Pacific Force absorbed U.S. Naval Forces Southwest Pacific, on 20 April 1942,

which in turn had succeeded Asiatic Fleet on 4 February 1942)

United States Naval Forces Southwest Pacific

(Designated 4 February 1942)

Vice Admiral William A. Glassford: 4 February 1942--2 April 1942

Rear Admiral William R. Purnell: 2 April 1942--20 April 1942

Southwest Pacific Force

(Absorbed United States Naval Forces, Southwest Pacific, on 20 April 1942)

Vice Admiral H. Fairfax Leary: 20 April 1942--11 September 1942

Vice Admiral Arthur S. Carpenter: 11 September 1942--19 February 1943

Seventh Fleet

Vice Admiral Arthur S. Carpenter: 19 February 1943--26 November 1943

Admiral Thomas C. Kinkaid: 26 November 1943--2 September 1945

Eighth Fleet

**(Established 15 March 1943, and disestablished on 15 April 1945;
forces became part of Twelfth Fleet)**

Admiral H. Kent Hewitt: 29 March 1943--11 April 1945

Vice Admiral William A. Glassford: 11 April 1945--15 April 1945

Tenth Fleet

(All United States antisubmarine activities and forces in Atlantic coordinated and controlled by Tenth Fleet)

Established on 20 May 1943, and disestablished on 12 June 1945)

Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King: 20 May 1943--12 June 1945

Twelfth Fleet

**(Established 15 March 1943,
previously Naval Forces, Europe, which was formed 30 April 1942)**

Admiral Harold R. Stark: 15 March 1943--15 August 1945

Admiral H. Kent Hewitt: 16 August 1945--2 September 1945

AREA COMMANDERS

Pacific Ocean Areas

(Established 3 April 1942)

Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz: 8 May 1942--2 September 1945

North Pacific Area

(Established 17 May 1942)

Rear Admiral Robert A. Theobald: 17 May 1942--4 January 1943

Vice Admiral Thomas C. Kinkaid: 4 January 1943--11 October 1943

Vice Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher: 11 October 1943--2 September 1945

South Pacific Area

(Established 20 April 1942)

Vice Admiral Robert L. Ghormley: 19 June 1942--18 October 1942

Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr.: 18 October 1942--15 June 1944

Vice Admiral John H. Newton: 15 June 1944--13 March 1945

Vice Admiral William L. Calhoun: 13 March 1945--2 September 1945

Southeast Pacific Area

(Established 8 December 1941)

Rear Admiral Abel T. Bidwell: 8 December 1941--6 January 1942

Rear Admiral John F. Shafroth: 6 January 1942--25 December 1942

Rear Admiral Francis E.M. Whiting: 25 December 1942--12 October 1943

Rear Admiral Harold C. Train: 12 October 1943--8 June 1944

Captain Ellis S. Stone (A): 8 June 1944--3 November 1944

Rear Admiral Howard F. Kingman: 3 November 1944--9 July 1945

Captain Schuyler Mills (A): 9 July 1945--23 August 1945

Rear Admiral John R. Beardall: 23 August 1945--2 September 1945

Southwest Pacific Area

(Established 18 April 1942)

General of the Army Douglas MacArthur: 18 April 1942--2 September 1945

TYPE COMMANDERS

Air Force Atlantic Fleet

(Established 1 January 1943 by combining Carriers Atlantic Fleet (formerly Aircraft Atlantic Fleet), with Fleet Air Wings, Atlantic Fleet (formerly Patrol Wings Atlantic Fleet))

Aircraft Atlantic Fleet

Rear Admiral Arthur B. Cook: 7 December 1941--6 April 1942

Carriers, Atlantic Fleet

(Established 6 April 1942)

Rear Admiral Ernest D. McWhorter: 6 April 1942--1 January 1943

Patrol Wings Atlantic Fleet

Rear Admiral Ernest D. McWhorter: 7 December 1941--3 April 1942

Rear Admiral Alva D. Bernhard: 10 April 1942--1 November 1942

Fleet Air Wings, Atlantic Fleet

(Established 1 November 1942)

Rear Admiral Alva D. Bernhard: 1 November 1942--1 January 1943

Air Force, Atlantic Fleet

Rear Admiral Alva D. Bernhard: 1 January 1943--8 March 1943

Captain Thomas L. Sprague (A): 8 March 1943--20 March 1943

Vice Admiral Patrick N.L. Bellinger: 20 March 1943--2 September 1945

Amphibious Force Atlantic Fleet

(Established 14 March 1942, deleted from Atlantic Fleet organization 18 October 1943)

Rear Admiral Roland M. Brainard: 14 March 1942--18 April 1942

Captain Robert R.M. Emmett (A): 18 April 1942--28 April 1942

Vice Admiral H. Kent Hewitt: 28 April 1942--28 February 1943

Rear Admiral Alan G. Kirk: 28 February 1943--18 October 1943

Battleships Atlantic Fleet

(Functions of type commander transferred on 1 November 1943 to Commander Fleet Operational Training Command, Atlantic Fleet)

Rear Admiral John W. Wilcox: 7 December 1941--27 March 1942

Rear Admiral Alexander Sharp: 27 March 1942--22 August 1942

Rear Admiral Monroe Kelly: 22 August 1942--8 May 1943

Rear Admiral Olaf M. Hustvedt: 8 May 1943--1 November 1943

Cruisers Atlantic Fleet

(No type commander assigned from 28 April 1942 to 1 November 1943 when functions of type commander were assumed by Commander Fleet Operational Training Command, Atlantic Fleet)

Rear Admiral H. Kent Hewitt: 7 December 1941--28 April 1942

Destroyers Atlantic Fleet

Rear Admiral Ferdinand L. Reichmuth: 7 December 1941--22 December 1941

Rear Admiral Arthur S. Carpenter: 22 December 1941--3 June 1942

Rear Admiral Oscar C. Badger: 3 June 1942--14 December 1942

Rear Admiral Morton L. Deyo: 14 December 1942--1 January 1944

Rear Admiral James C. Jones: 1 January 1944--20 September 1944

Rear Admiral Oliver M. Read: 20 September 1944--2 September 1945

Service Force Atlantic Fleet

(Established 1 March 1942, formerly Train, Atlantic Fleet)

Train, Atlantic Fleet

Rear Admiral Randall Jacobs: 7 December 1941--17 December 1941

Vice Admiral Ferdinand L. Reichmuth: 17 December 1941--1 March 1942

Service Force Atlantic Fleet

Vice Admiral Ferdinand L. Reichmuth: 1 March 1942--22 August 1942

Vice [Rear?] Admiral Alexander Sharp: 22 August 1942--11 October 1944

Commodore Charlton E. Battle (A): 11 October 1944--23 December 1944

Vice Admiral Sherwoode A. Taffinder: 23 December 1944--15 July 1945

Commodore Charlton E. Battle (A): 15 July 1945--26 August 1945
Vice Admiral Robert C. Giffen: 26 August 1945--2 September 1945

Submarines Atlantic Fleet

Rear Admiral Richard S. Edwards: 7 December 1941--3 January 1942
Captain Elwin F. Cutts (A): 3 January 1942--30 March 1942
Rear Admiral Freeland A. Daubin: 30 March 1942--25 November 1944
Rear Admiral Charles W. Styer: 25 November 1944--2 September 1945

Air Force Pacific Fleet

**(Established 1 September 1942 combining Carriers Pacific Fleet
[formerly Aircraft Battle Force, Pacific Fleet],
and Patrol Wings, Pacific Fleet
[formerly Aircraft Scouting Force, Pacific Fleet])
Aircraft, Battle Force, Pacific Fleet**

Vice Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr.: 7 December 1941--10 April 1942
Carriers, Pacific Fleet
(Established 10 April 1942)

Vice Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr.: 10 April 1942--11 July 1942
Rear Admiral Aubrey W. Fitch: 11 July 1942--31 August 1942
Aircraft, Scouting Force, Pacific Fleet

Rear Admiral John S. McCain: 7 December 1941--10 April 1942
Patrol Wings, Pacific Fleet
(Established 10 April 1942)

Rear Admiral John S. McCain: 10 April 1942--1 May 1942
Rear Admiral Patrick N.L. Bellinger: 1 May 1942--9 August 1942
Rear Admiral Aubrey W. Fitch: 9 August 1942--31 August 1942

Air Force, Pacific Fleet

Rear Admiral Aubrey W. Fitch: 1 September 1942--15 September 1942
Rear Admiral Leigh Noyes (A): 15 September 1942--15 October 1942
Vice Admiral John H. Towers: 15 October 1942--28 February 1944
Rear Admiral Charles A. Pownall: 28 February 1944--16 August 1944
Vice Admiral George D. Murray: 16 August 1944--20 July 1945
Vice Admiral Alfred E. Montgomery: 20 July 1945--2 September 1945

Amphibious Force Pacific Fleet

(Established 20 February 1942)

Maj. Gen. Clayton B. Vogel: USMC: 20 February 1942--10 April 1942
Vice Admiral Wilson Brown Jr.: 10 April 1942--1 July 1942
Rear Admiral Milo F. Draemel: 1 July 1942--10 August 1942
Captain Frank A. Braisted (A): 10 August 1942--23 August 1942
Rear Admiral Francis W. Rockwell: 23 August 1942--15 August 1943
Admiral Richmond K. Turner: 15 August 1943--2 September 1945

Battleships Pacific Fleet

**(Established 10 April 1942, formerly Battleships Battle Force. Type command
divided into two Battleship Squadrons on 15 December 1944)**

Battleships Battle Force

Rear Admiral Walter S. Anderson: 7 December 1941--10 April 1942
Battleships Pacific Fleet

Rear Admiral Walter S. Anderson: 10 April 1942--28 September 1942
Vice Admiral H. Fairfax Leary: 28 September 1942--16 April 1943
Vice Admiral Willis A. Lee: 16 April 1943--15 December 1944

Battleship Squadron ONE

Vice Admiral Jesse B. Oldendorf: 15 December 1944--2 September 1945

Battleship Squadron TWO

Vice Admiral Willis A. Lee: 15 December 1944--16 June 1945
Rear Admiral John F. Shafroth: 16 June 1945--2 September 1945

Cruisers Pacific Fleet

**(Established 10 April 1942 by combining Cruisers Battle Force, Pacific Fleet, with
Cruisers Scouting Force, Pacific Fleet)**

Cruisers Battle Force, Pacific Fleet.

Rear Admiral H. Fairfax Leary: 7 December 1941--6 February 1942
Rear Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher: 6 February 1942--10 April 1942

Cruisers Scouting Force, Pacific Fleet

Rear Admiral John H. Newton: 7 December 1941--31 December 1941
Rear Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher: 31 December 1941--10 April 1942

Cruisers Pacific Fleet

Vice Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher: 10 April 1942--29 October 1942
Rear Admiral Thomas C. Kinkaid: 29 October 1942--31 March 1943
Rear Admiral Mahlon S. Tisdale: 1 April 1943--2 January 1944
Rear Admiral John L. Kauffman: 2 January 1944--31 October 1944
Rear Admiral Walden L. Ainsworth: 31 October 1944--13 July 1945
Rear Admiral William H.P. Blandy: 13 July 1945--2 September 1945

Destroyers Pacific Fleet

(Established 10 April 1942 from Destroyers Battle Force, Pacific Fleet)

Destroyers Battle Force, Pacific Fleet

Rear Admiral Milo F. Draemel: 7 December 1941--30 December 1941
Rear Admiral Robert A. Theobald: 30 December 1941--10 April 1942

Destroyers Pacific Fleet

Rear Admiral Robert A. Theobald: 10 April 1942--4 July 1942
Rear Admiral Walden L. Ainsworth: 4 July 1942--8 January 1943
Rear Admiral Mahlon S. Tisdale: 8 January 1943--2 January 1944
Rear Admiral John L. Kauffman: 2 January 1944--31 October 1944
Rear Admiral Walden L. Ainsworth: 31 October 1944--13 July 1945
Rear Admiral William H.P. Blandy: 13 July 1945--2 September 1945

Minecraft Pacific Fleet

(Established 15 October 1944)

Rear Admiral Alexander Sharp: 15 October 1944--30 August 1945
Rear Admiral Arthur D. Struble: 30 August 1945--2 September 1945

Motor Torpedo Boat Squadrons Pacific Fleet

(Established 1 February 1944)

Commodore Edward J. Moran: 9 March 1944--3 April 1945
Commodore Richard W. Bates: 20 May 1945--2 September 1945

Service Force Pacific Fleet

Base Force, Pacific Fleet

Rear Admiral William L. Calhoun: 7 December 1941--27 February 1942

Service Force, Pacific Fleet

Vice Admiral William L. Calhoun: 27 February 1942--6 March 1945

Vice Admiral William W. Smith: 6 March 1945--2 September 1945

Submarine Force Pacific Fleet

(Established 10 September 1942,

formerly Submarines Pacific Fleet,

originally Submarines, Scouting Force Pacific Fleet)

Submarines Scouting Force, Pacific Fleet

Rear Admiral Thomas Withers: 7 December 1941--1 January 1942

Submarines Pacific Fleet

(Established 1 January 1942)

Rear Admiral Thomas Withers: 1 January 1942--14 May 1942

Rear Admiral Robert H. English: 14 May 1942--20 September 1942

Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet

Rear Admiral Robert H. English: 20 September 1942--21 January 1943

Captain John H. Brown Jr. (A): 21 January 1943--14 February 1943

Vice Admiral Charles A. Lockwood: 14 February 1943--2 September 1945

Commander South China Patrol

(Inactivated 10 December 1941)

Captain Lester J. Hudson: 7 December 1941--10 December 1941

Footnotes

^[1] * (A) Acting. = Rank shown for a military officer is highest rank held while in assignment indicated. (T) Temporary.

^[2] Only Fleets comprising actual groups of ships are listed. Those with Fleet designations for administrative purposes only (*i.e.*, First Fleet, Ninth Fleet) have been omitted

Appendix II:

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Glossary of Terms

FAA	Fleet Air Arm (Royal Navy)
HMAS	Her Majesty's Australian Ship (Royal Australian Navy)
HMNZS	Her Majesty's New Zealand Ship (Royal New Zealand Navy)
HMS	Her Majesty's Ship (Royal Navy)
RAAF	Royal Australian Air Force
RAN	Royal Australian Navy
RFA	Royal Fleet Auxiliary
RN	Royal Navy
RNZAF	Royal New Zealand Air Force
VB	Bombing Squadron
VCS	Cruiser Scouting Squadron
VF	Fighting Squadron
VJ	Utility Squadron
VMD	Marine Reconnaissance Squadron
VMF	Marine Fighting Squadron
VMSB	Marine Scout Bombing Squadron
VO	Observation Squadron
VR	Transport Squadron
VS	Scouting Squadron
VT	Torpedo Squadron

Aircraft Types Mentioned in Text

United States	
U.S. Navy	
F4F	Grumman F4F Wildcat
FM	General Motors FM Wildcat
OS2U	Vought OS2U Kingfisher
OS2N	Naval Aircraft Factory OS2N Kingfisher
P2Y	Consolidated P2Y (no nickname)
PBM	Martin PBM Mariner
PBO	Lockheed PBO Hudson
PBY	Consolidated PBY Catalina
PB2Y	Consolidated PB2Y Coronado

PB4Y-1	Consolidated PB4Y-1 Liberator
PB4Y-2	Consolidated PB4Y-2 Privateer
PV-1	Lockheed PV-1 Ventura
R3D	Douglas R3D (no nickname)
R4C	Curtiss R4C Condor
R4D	Douglas R4D Skytrain
SBD	Douglas SBD Dauntless
SOC	Curtiss SOC Seagull
SON	Naval Aircraft Factory SON Seagull
TBD	Douglas TBD Devastator
TBF	Grumman TBF Avenger
TBM	General Motors TBM Avenger
XPBS	Sikorsky XPBS flying boat
U.S. Army Air Forces	
A-24	Douglas A-24 Dauntless (Army variant of SBD)
A-28	Lockheed A-28 Hudson (Army variant of PBO)
A-29	Lockheed A-29 Hudson (Army variant of PBO)
B-17	Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress
B-18	Douglas B-18 Bolo
B-24	Consolidated B-24 Liberator (Army variant of PB4Y)
B-25	North American B-25 Mitchell
B-26	Martin B-26 Marauder
B-29	Boeing B-29 Superfortress
C-87	Consolidated C-87 Liberator (cargo variant of B-24)
LB-30	Consolidated LB-30 Liberator (export variant of B-24)
P-35	Seversky P-35 (no nickname)
P-36	Curtiss P-36 Hawk
P-39	Bell P-39 Airacobra
P-40	Curtiss P-40 Kittyhawk/Warhawk
P-51	North American P-51 Mustang
P-400	Bell P-400 Airacobra (export P-39)
Foreign	
British/Commonwealth	
Catalina	Consolidated PBY Catalina
Hudson	Lockheed Hudson (export variant of PBO)
Swordfish	Fairey Swordfish torpedo/strike aircraft

Vildebeest	Vickers Vildebeest torpedo/strike aircraft
Dutch	
Brewster B-339	Export variant of F2A Buffalo
DO-24	Dornier 24 flying boat
German	
AR-196	Arado AR 196 floatplane
HE-111	Heinkel HE 111 medium/torpedo bomber
HE-115	Heinkel HE 115 floatplane
JU-87	Junkers JU 88 dive bomber
JU-88	Junkers JU 88 medium bomber
Italian	
SM-79	Savoia-Marchetti SM 79 medium/torpedo bomber