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To: COMSUBDIV14

From: COMSUBPAC

Date: March 1, 1944

Subject: General Orders Cycle 10 (July 2009)

Rmks 1.> Effective this cycle, all submarines based at Brisbane will be transferred to the Fremantle Command. The areas formerly covered by U.S. submarines basing from Brisbane have become empty of targets or have fallen into friendly hands.

Rmks 2.> The Marshall Islands have been secured. Our fast carrier task forces raided one or more atolls in the Marshalls every day from January 29 to February 6, virtually destroying enemy air and sea power in the archipelago before the amphibious operation began. The Japanese made almost no attempt to counter our massive onslaught. Majuro was occupied on January 31. By February 7, Kwajalein Atoll was entirely American. On February 17, our fast carrier task forces began a two-day visit to Truk (code-named Catchpole), and there they eliminated the enemy's ability to offer any serious opposition to our occupation of Eniwetok Atoll. At Truk, our aviators destroyed 200,000 tons of merchant shipping, four destroyers, two light cruisers, and 275 planes. Prior to the Truk strikes, Admiral Koga had withdrawn other major fleet units to the Palaus and Japan, however one of our submarines attacked and sank the light cruiser *Agano* as she sortied. The Japanese bases on Truk are still usable for planes, but it has become a vulnerable area for the Empire and is not expected to pose a serious threat to our ongoing operations. Therefore, it will be bypassed as we move on to the Marianas. Eniwetok Atoll was finally secured on February 21. Operations Flintlock and Catchpole have clearly demonstrated our ability to combine air, surface, submarine, and ground forces to project fighting power irresistibly across the Pacific Ocean.

Rmks 3.> On August 17-18, 1943, Southwest Pacific air forces raided Wewak, the principal Japanese base in New Guinea, and destroyed over 100 planes. On January 16, U.S. Marines under the command of General MacArthur secured a beachhead and a perimeter at Cape Gloucester, on New Britain's west coast. This move gives the Seventh Fleet complete control over all passages between New Britain and New Guinea. Troops under the command of General MacArthur landed on Los Negros Island, on February 29. This is a major step in our strategy to isolate the 100,000 defenders on the Japanese garrison at Rabaul. The remainder of the Admiralty Islands should also be occupied by April. General MacArthur's next plan is to leapfrog the strong Japanese garrison at Wewak into Hollandia, and set up new advance headquarters there.

Rmks 4.> The overall concept for Operation Forager, the U.S. invasion of the Marianas Islands, has been issued.

"The objective is the capture of Saipan, Tinian, and Guam, in order to secure control of sea communications through the Central Pacific for the support of further attacks on the Japanese."

Once secured, bases will be established on the islands for B-29 attacks on the Japanese home islands. On February 23, our carriers made bombing raids on Saipan, Tinian, and Guam, destroying about 150 aircraft. Similar but more massive attacks will be made on the Palaus on March 31 and April 1 (code-named Desecrate). The amphibious invasion of Saipan by U.S. Marines is scheduled for June 15.

Our code breakers have discerned the Japanese contingency plan in the event of bombing raids on Palau of the scale called for in Desecrate. Admiral Koga will move his headquarters from Palau to Davao. The major elements of the Japanese fleet will retreat to Davao, Tawi-Tawi, Surabaya, and Singapore.

Fremantle Command is ordered to assign submarines to patrol these areas to sink retreating fleet units.



Rmks 5.> Pearl Harbor Command is ordered to assign at least four boats to patrol the Palau Islands in support of Operation Desecrate. The assigned boats are ordered to sink enemy fleet and merchant ships as they sortie and to rescue downed aviators.

Rmks 6.> Please make patrol assignments to your submarine commanders commensurate with the importance of the foregoing objectives, making the best possible use of available resources, and, to the extent possible, covering the following patrol areas.

**Pearl Harbor Command**

Palau Islands (PI)  
 Mariana Islands (MARIANAS)  
 Yellow Sea (YS)  
 Bonin Islands (BI)

**Fremantle Command**

Davao (SP-2 & CS-1)  
 Tawi Tawi (SP-1 & CS-1)  
 Surabaya (JN-2 & JS-2)  
 Singapore (MP-1)

Rmks 7.> Supplies of the new Mark 27 torpedo are now available. The Mark 27 (also called "The Cutie") is an anti-escort, passive acoustic

homing torpedo designed to "swim out" of the torpedo tube under its own power, leaving no visible air bubbles. It is especially useful in shallow water or in close proximity to a target. At 720 pounds, it carries 95 pounds of torplex explosive. Its speed is 12 knots, with a range of 5,000 yards. Please refer to the following resource for additional information.

<http://www.bergall.org/cutie.html>

Give them hell boys!

**Vice Admiral Charles A. Lockwood**

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