

TASK FORCE RAID ON TOKYO, JAPAN FEBRUARY 16, & 17, 1945

FEBRUARY 15, 1945

- 0900-ONE OF OUR PICKET DESTROYERS JUST SANK A JAP SALPAM 25 MILES FROM US, ONE JAP SURVIVOR HAS BEEN BROUGHT ABOARD.
- 1400-YORKTOWN FIGHTERS HAVE JUST SHOT DOWN A JAP BETTY. IT HIT THE DRINK AND OUR FIGHTERS STILL KEPT ON FIRING UNTIL IT BURST INTO FLAMES. TOMORROW WE WILL HIT TARGETS IN AND AROUND TOKYO, JAPAN.

TASK FORCE RAID ON TOKYO, JAPAN FEB. 16, 1945 FIRST DAY

THE WEATHER IS QUITE COLD (45°) AND WINDY. WE HAVE AN OVERCAST WITH OCCASIONAL RAINS.

THE YORKTOWN HAS BEEN ASSIGNED 15 AIRFIELDS ON AND AROUND TOKYO. WE ARE OPERATING WITH THE USS RANDOLPH.

- 0615-THE FIRST STRIKE OF 16 VF HAS JUST BEEN LAUNCHED.
- 0625-GENERAL QUARTERS ALL HANDS HAVE LEANED THEIR BATTLE STATIONS.
- 0715-OUR SECOND STRIKE OF 16 VF HAS JUST TAKEN OFF.
- 0715-OUR POSITION IS NOW 165 MILES SOUTH WEST OF JAPAN AND HEADING IN.
- 0830-THE THIRD STRIKE OF 16 VF HAS JUST BEEN LAUNCHED.
- 0930-OUR FOURTH STRIKE OF 12 VF HAS JUST TAKEN OFF.
- 0945-THE FIRST STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED, ALL AIRCRAFT RETURNED. THIS STRIKE DID NOT REACH THE TARGET BECAUSE THEY ENCOUNTERED BAD WEATHER AND ICE WAS BEGINNING TO FORM ON THEIR WINGS SO THEY RETURNED.
- 1012-THE FIFTH STRIKE OF 20 VF HAS JUST BEEN LAUNCHED.
- 1031-OUR SECOND STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED, ALL AIRCRAFT RETURNED. THIS STRIKE ENCOUNTERED ENEMY AIR BORNE OPPOSITION. TWO JAP DIMES'S (TWIN ENGINE OBS. PLANE), ONE JAP OSCAR (ARMY FIGHTER) AND ONE JAP HAMP (NAVY FIGHTER) WERE SHOT DOWN. PROCEEDING TO THEIR ASSIGNED TARGETS, THEY SIGHTED 30 JAP BETTYS ON THE AIRFIELDS AND DOVE ON THEM. EIGHT WERE DEFINITELY DESTROYED. AT AN ADJACENT AIRFIELD 30 JAP FIGHTERS WERE OBSERVED ON THE GROUND OF WHICH 3 WERE LEFT BURNING AND 13 TO 16 WERE DAMAGED. AT STILL ANOTHER FIELD, ONE JAP FIGHTER WAS DESTROYED ON THE GROUND AND ANOTHER DAMAGED. HANGARS WERE ALSO HIT AND SET ON FIRE. STRONG BUT INACCURATE ANTI AIRCRAFT FIRE WAS ENCOUNTERED OVER THE TARGETS AND ALL OUR AIRCRAFT RETURNED.
- 1031-ENEMY AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN PICKED UP BY OUR RADAR AT 27 MILES DUE WEST. CANNOT PLANES HAVE GONE TO INTERCEPT.
- 1032-AN ENEMY PLANE HAS JUST BEEN SHOT DOWN BY CABOT FIGHTERS.
- 1033-FOUR ENEMY PLANES NOW BEARING 270 AT 15 MILES.
- 1037-ANOTHER JAP PLANE HAS BEEN SHOT DOWN BY CABOT FIGHTERS. THE OTHER 3 ENEMY PLANES HAVE TURNED BACK.
- 1130-OUR THIRD STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED, ALL AIRCRAFT RETURNED. THIS STRIKE ENCOUNTERED 15 JAP FIGHTERS OVER THEIR TARGETS AND SHOT DOWN 5 OF THEM WITH 3 MORE PROBABLES AND 2 DAMAGED. WHEN THE DCG FIGHT WAS OVER, THEY PROCEEDED TO THEIR TARGET. ONE JAP BETTY WAS HIT ON THE GROUND AND DESTROYED. TWO LARGE HANGARS WERE BOMBED AND STRAFED STARTING LARGE FIRES.
- 1222-OUR SIXTH STRIKE OF 8 VF AND 15 VB HAS JUST BEEN LAUNCHED.
- 1240-THE FOURTH STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED, ONE FIGHTER WAS SO BADLY SHOT UP, IT WAS FORCED TO MAKE A WATER LANDING BUT THE PILOT WAS PICKED UP BY A CAN. ALL OTHER AIRCRAFT RETURNED. THIS STRIKE ENCOUNTERED 20 JAP FIGHTERS OVER THE TARGET AND A TERRIFIC DCG FIGHT STARTED. FIVE JAP FIGHTERS WERE SHOT DOWN WITH TWO MORE PROBABLES AND FIVE DAMAGED. OUR PILOTS WERE SO EXCITED THAT TWO OF THEM COLLIDED, RIPPING ALMOST HALF OF BOTH PLANES WINGS OFF, BUT THEY BOTH RETURNED TO MAKE PERFECT LANDINGS. OVER THEIR ASSIGNED TARGET, 50 JAP PLANES WERE OBSERVED ON THE AIRFIELD OF WHICH 10 WERE DESTROYED AND 15 WERE DAMAGED. ANTI AIRCRAFT FIRE WAS INACCURATE.
- 1300-OUR POSITION IS NOW 90 MILES SOUTH WEST OF JAPAN.
- 1330-OUR FIGHTERS HAVE JUST STRAFED 2 JAP LUGGARS 20 MILES FROM OUR TASK FORCE. BOTH CAN BE SEEN ON THE HORIZON SMOKING AND BURNING.
- 1345-THE FIFTH STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED, ALL AIRCRAFT RETURNED. THIS STRIKE ENCOUNTERED ENEMY AIR BORNE AIRCRAFT AND SHOT DOWN ONE JAP JAKE (TWIN FIGHT PLANE), ONE JAP FETE (SINGLE FLOAT PLANE), AND THREE JAP TONY'S (FIGHTER). OVER THE TARGET THEY SIGHTED MANY JAP AIRCRAFT ON THE AIRFIELD AND DESTROYED 7. HANGARS WERE ROCKETED AND SET AFIRE.
- 1420-CABOT FIGHTERS HAVE JUST SHOT DOWN A JAP ZEKE (NAVY FIGHTER).
- 1430-OUR SEVENTH STRIKE OF 20 VF HAS JUST BEEN LAUNCHED.
- 1520-THE SIXTH STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED, ALL PLANES RETURNED. THIS STRIKE ENCOUNTERED ENEMY AIR BORNE AIRCRAFT OVER THE TARGET. FIVE ZEKES, ONE OSCAR (ARMY FIGHTER), ONE JUDY (SING. ENG. DIVE BOMB.) AND ONE FRANK (TWIN ENG. BOMB.) WERE SHOT DOWN, A TOTAL OF EIGHT. ANOTHER WAS PROBABLY SHOT DOWN AND ANOTHER DAMAGED. WHEN TWO OF OUR FIGHTERS FIRED AT A JAP PLANE, IT DOVE CRAZILY, PRETENDING TO BE HIT, AND THREW OUT A DUBBY PILOT ON A PARACHUTE INTENDING TO FOOL OUR PILOT. IT DID NOT EVER GET DOWN OUT OF RANGE AND PULL AWAY, ANOTHER OF THEIR MANY SCHEM'D TRICKS. OVER THE TARGET, TWO PLANES WERE DESTROYED ON THE GROUND, ONE WAS A TOPSY.

TASK FORCE RAID ON TOKYO, JAPAN FEB. 16, 1945 FIRST DAY (CONT)

1545-OUR POSITION IS STILL 90 MILES SOUTH WEST OF JAPAN.

1730-THE SEVENTH STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED, ALL AIRCRAFT RETURNED. THIS STRIKE ENCOUNTERED HEAVY ENEMY AIR OPPOSITION, AND ANOTHER TERRIFIC DOG-FIGHT DEVELOPED. SEVEN JAP PLANES WERE SHOT DOWN AND TWO MORE PROBABLY SHOT DOWN WITH AT LEAST 9 DAMAGED. DURING THE FIGHTS, ANOTHER BOMB PARACHUTE WAS DROPPED BY A DESPERATE JAP AND HE ALSO GOT AWAY. OUR PLANES THEN PROCEEDED TO THEIR TARGET AT KASUMIGIYAMA BASE. STRONG ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE WAS ENCOUNTERED AND SOME OF OUR PLANES WERE SHOT UP. SIX HANGARS WERE BOMBED, ROCKETED AND SMASHED AND LEFT BURNING. A REPAIR SHOP AND AN ASSEMBLY PLANT WERE BOMBED, ROCKETED AND PRACTICALLY DESTROYED. EVERY BOMB WAS A DIRECT HIT ON ALL OBJECTIVES. WHILE THE STRIKE WAS RETURNING TO THE FORCE, THEY SIGHTED A JAP JILL (TORPEDO PLANE), 25 MILES FROM US, AND SHOT IT DOWN. THIS ENDED THE MOST PERFECT DAY IN THE YORKTOWN HISTORY. OUR TOTAL SCORE TODAY READS AS FOLLOWS: 39 JAP PLANES SHOT DOWN, 10 PROBABLY SHOT DOWN AND 16 DAMAGED IN THE AIR. 21 JAP PLANES DESTROYED ON THE GROUND, 7 PROBABLY DESTROYED AND 21 DAMAGED. A TOTAL OF 114 JAP AIRCRAFT. TOKYO NOW RETURN AGAIN TO HIT TOKYO, JAPAN.

1910-WE ARE NOW SECURING FROM GENERAL QUARTERS.

TASK FORCE RAID ON TOKYO, JAPAN FEB. 17, 1945 SECOND DAY

0625-GENERAL QUARTERS, ALL HANDS HAVE WASHED THEIR BATTLE STATIONS.

0652-THE FIRST STRIKE OF 24 VF HAS JUST BEEN CATAPULDED.

0715-OUR SECOND STRIKE OF 16 VF HAS JUST BEEN LAUNCHED.

0855-THE THIRD STRIKE OF 18 VF, 15 VT, AND 10 VB HAS JUST TAKEN OFF.

0905-THE RANDOLPHS CAP HAS JUST SPLASHED A JAP ZEKE 21 MILES FROM OUR FORCE.

1020-THE FIRST STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED, ALL AIRCRAFT RETURNED. THIS STRIKE MET HEAVY AIR OPPOSITION AS SOON AS THEY GOT OVER THE ISLAND, AND THEREFORE COULD NOT REACH THEIR ASSIGNED TARGET. 16 JAP PLANES WERE ENCOUNTERED AND 3 HANGARS AND 2 OSCARS WERE SHOT DOWN. THE STRIKE THEN WENT ON TO A SECONDARY TARGET WHERE THEY DAMAGED 4 JAP PLANES ON THE GROUND. ONE OF OUR FIGHTERS WAS VERY BADLY SHOT UP BUT THE PILOT WAS UNINJURED.

1045-OUR SECOND STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED, ALL AIRCRAFT RETURNED. THIS STRIKE ENCOUNTERED 20 HEAVY AIR BOMB AIRCRAFT OVER THE TARGET. 7 JAP FIGHTERS WERE SHOT DOWN AND 2 MORE PROBABLY SHOT DOWN WITH 2 DAMAGED. ON THE TARGET 5 JAP PLANES WERE DESTROYED ON THE AIRFIELD.

1255-THE THIRD STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED, ALL AIRCRAFT RETURNED. 2 VB WERE HIT BY FLACK BUT NO PERSONNEL WERE INJURED. THIS STRIKE SIGHTED MANY AIRCRAFT AND DROVE ON THEM DROPPING 22. THE PRIMARY TARGETS WERE AN ENGINE ASSEMBLY SHOP, AIRCRAFT PLANT, AND A RESEARCH PLANT. OUR PLANES DROPPED 61 500 LB. BOMBS, 10, 1000 LB. BOMBS AND 22, 250 LB. BOMBS ON THESE PLANTS. EVERY BOMB WAS A DIRECT HIT. THE ENGINE PLANT BURST INTO FLAMES AND WAS COMPLETELY RUINED. THE COMPLETE WESTERN END OF THE AIRCRAFT PLANT WAS LEVELLED AND AFIRE WHILE ONLY A FEW BUILDINGS WERE LEFT STANDING ON THE EASTERN END. THE ADJACENT RESEARCH PLANT WAS COMPLETELY DEMOLISHED. ALL 3 BUILDINGS WERE LEFT A COMPLETE WRECK. A JAP FIGHTER JUMPED ONE OF OUR BOMBERS BUT THE REAR GUNNER SENT 400 ROUNDS AT HIM AT WHICH TIME OUR FIGHTERS CAME IN AND SHOT HIM DOWN. TODAY'S OPERATIONS COMPLETED THE RAIDS ON TOKYO AND BROUGHT OUR SCORE TO 13 JAP PLANES SHOT DOWN, AND 2 DAMAGED IN THE AIR. 5 WERE DETROYED ON THE GROUND AND 22 DAMAGED ON THE GROUND, A TOTAL OF 48 JAP AIRCRAFT.

1900-ALL STRIKES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO DEVELOPING BAD WEATHER.

1310-THE RANDOLPH HAS JUST HAD A BAD CRACK UP AND FIRE. FIRE WAS IMMEDIATELY PUT OUT.

1835-OUR POSITION IS NOW 195 MILES SOUTH OF JAPAN AND HEADED SOUTH.

1905-WE ARE NOW SECURING FROM GENERAL QUARTERS.

TOKYO NOW HIT CHICKI JIMA IN THE BONIN ISLANDS.

OUR COMPLETE TASK FORCE INFLECTED THE FOLLOWING DAMAGE ON THE ENEMY IN THE LAST 2 DAYS.

392 JAP PLANES SHOT DOWN.

177 JAP PLANES DESTROYED ON THE GROUND.

159 JAP PLANES PROBABLY DAMAGED.

TASK FORCE 58 LOST 49 PLANES BUT ONLY 30 TO 40 PILOTS.

THE YORKTOWN DID NOT LOSE A SINGLE PILOT IN THIS OPERATION.

TASK FORCE RAID ON TOKYO JAPAN - FEBRUARY 16 & 17, 1945 (CONT'D)

- 1730 - THE SEVENTH STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED, ALL AIRCRAFT RETURNED. THIS STRIKE ENCOUNTERED HEAVY ENEMY AIR OPPOSITION, AND ANOTHER TERRIFIC DOG-FIGHT DEVELOPED. SEVEN JAP PLANES WERE SHOT DOWN AND TWO MORE PROBABLY WITH AT LEAST TEN DAMAGED. DURING THE FIGHTS, ANOTHER DUMMY PARACHUTE WAS DROPPED BY A DESPERATE JAP AND HE GOT AWAY. OUR PLANES THEN PROCEEDED TO THEIR TARGET AT KASUICARA BASE. STRONG ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE WAS ENCOUNTERED AND SOME OF OUR PLANES WERE SHOT UP. SIX HANGARS WERE BOMBED, ROCKETED AND SMASHED AND LEFT BURNING. A REPAIR SHOP AND AN ASSEMBLY PLANT WERE BOMBED AND ROCKETED AND PRACTICALLY DESTROYED. EVERY BOMB WAS A DIRECT HIT ON ALL OBJECTIVES. WHILE THE STRIKE WAS RETURNING TO THE FORCE, THEY SIGHTED A JAP TORPEDO PLANE 25 MILES FROM US, AND SHOT IT DOWN. THIS ENDED THE MOST PERFECT DAY IN THE YORKTOWN'S HISTORY. OUR TOTAL SCORE TODAY READS AS FOLLOWS: 39 JAP PLANES SHOT DOWN, 10 PROBABLY SHOT DOWN AND 16 DAMAGED IN THE AIR. 21 JAP PLANES DESTROYED ON THE GROUND, 7 PROBABLY DESTROYED AND 21 DAMAGED. A TOTAL OF 114 JAP AIRCRAFT. TOMORROW WE RETURN AGAIN TO HIT TOKYO AGAIN.
- 1910 - WE ARE NOW SECURING FROM GENERAL QUARTERS.

TASK FORCE RAID ON TOKYO JAPAN - (SECOND DAY) FEBRUARY 17, 1945

- 0625 - GENERAL QUARTERS, ALL HANDS HAVE MANNED THEIR BATTLE STATIONS.
- 0652 - THE FIRST STRIKE OF 24 VF HAS JUST BEEN CATAPULTED.
- 0715 - OUR SECOND STRIKE OF 16 VF HAS JUST BEEN LAUNCHED.
- 0855 - THE THIRD STRIKE OF 18 VF, 15 VT, AND 10 VB HAS JUST TAKEN OFF.
- 0905 - THE RANDOLPH'S C.A.P. HAS JUST SPLASHED A JAP ZEKE, 21 MILES FROM OUR FORCE.
- 1005 - THE CABOT'S C.A.P. HAS SHOT DOWN A JAP ZEKE, 22 MILES FROM OUR FORCE BEARIN 225.
- 1020 - THE FIRST STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED, ALL AIRCRAFT RETURNED. THIS STRIKE MET ENEMY AIR OPPOSITION AS SOON AS THEY GOT OVER THE ISLAND, AND THEREFORE COULD NOT REACH THEIR ASSIGNED TARGET. 16 JAP PLANES WERE ENCOUNTERED AND 3 HAMP AND 2 OSCARS WERE SHOT DOWN. THE STRIKE THEN WENT ON TO A SECONDARY TARGET AND DAMAGED 4 JAP PLANES ON THE GROUND. ONE OF OUR FIGHTERS WAS VERY BADLY SHOT UP BUT THE PILOT WAS UNINJURED.
- 1045 - OUR SECOND STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED - ALL AIRCRAFT RETURNED. THIS STRIKE ENCOUNTERED 20 ENEMY AIR-BORNE AIRCRAFT OVER THE TARGET. 7 JAP FIGHTERS WERE SHOT DOWN AND 2 MORE PROBABLY WITH 2 DAMAGED. ON THE TARGET, 5 JAP PLANES WERE DESTROYED ON THE AIRFIELD.
- 1255 - THE THIRD STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED, ALL AIRCRAFT RETURNED. 2 VB'S WERE HIT IN FLAK BUT NO PERSONNEL WERE INJURED. THIS STRIKE SIGHTED MANY ENEMY AIRCRAFT AT AN AIRFIELD AND DROVE ON THEM DAMAGING 22. THE PRIMARY TARGETS WERE AN ENGINE ASSEMBLY SHOP, AIRCRAFT PLANT, AND A RESEARCH PLANT. OUR PLANES DROPPED 61-500 LBS. BOMBS, 10-1000 LB. BOMBS, AND 22-250LB. BOMBS ON THESE PLANTS. EVERY BOMB WAS A DIRECT HIT. THE ENGINE PLANT BURST INTO FLAMES AND WAS COMPLETELY RUINED. THE COMPLETE EASTERN END OF THE AIRCRAFT PLANT WAS LEVELLED AND A FIRE WHILE ONLY A FEW BUILDINGS WERE LEFT STANDING ON THE EASTERN END. THE ADJACENT RESEARCH PLANT WAS COMPLETELY DEMOLISHED. ALL 3 BUILDINGS WERE LEFT A COMPLETE WRECK. A JAP FIGHTER JUMPED ONE OF OUR BOMBERS BUT THE REAR GUNNER SENT 400 ROUNDS AT HIM AT WHICH TIME OUR FIGHTERS CAME IN AND SHOT HIM DOWN. TODAY'S OPERATIONS COMPLETED THE RAIDS ON TOKYO AND BROUGHT OUR SCORE TO 13 JAP PLANES SHOT DOWN, 2 PROBABLY SHOT DOWN, AND 2 DAMAGED IN THE AIR. 5 WERE DESTROYED ON THE GROUND AND 22 DAMAGED ON THE GROUND, A TOTAL OF 48 JAP AIRCRAFT.
- 1300 - ALL STRIKES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO DEVELOPING BAD WEATHER.
- 1310 - THE RANDOLPH HAS JUST HAD A BAD CRACK-UP AND FIRE. FIRE WAS IMMEDIATELY PUT OUT.
- 1835 - OUR POSITION IS NOW 195 MILES SOUTH OF JAPAN AND HEADED SOUTH.
- 1905 - WE ARE NOW SECURING FROM GENERAL QUARTERS. TOMORROW WE HIT CHICHI JIMA, IN THE BONIN ISLANDS.

OUR COMPLETE TASK FORCE INFLICTED THE FOLLOWING DAMAGE ON THE ENEMY IN THE LAST TWO DAYS:

332 JAP PLANES SHOT DOWN.
177 JAP PLANES DESTROYED ON THE GROUND.
159 JAP PLANES PROBABLY DAMAGED.

TASK FORCE SE LOST 49 PLANES AND 30 TO 40 PILOTS DOWNED.

LAST NIGHT RAID AND INVASION OF I/O JIA IN THE VOLCANO ISLANDS FEB. 20, 1945
TASK FORCE RAID ON I/O JIA, CUCHI JIA AND KITA JIA-FEB. 20, 1945
TASK FORCE RAID ON KITA I/O JIA-FEB. 21, 1945

INVASION OF I/O JIA-FEB. 19, 1945

BATTLEMANS ARE CONTINUING THEIR UNLOADING OF BATTERY PLACEMENTS AND FIRST
ILLATIONS WITH PAT. BOMBERS ON SEVERAL DAYS. CARRIER PLANE JOINED IN ON
THE ATTACK TODAY IN SUPPORTING THE MARINES OF THEIR LANDINGS AT 0900 THIS
MORNING. THE BEACHES WERE STRAFED BY CARRIER FIGHTERS AS THE MARINES
ASCENDED ON THEIR SEPARATE SECTIONS OF THE ONLY FAVORABLE BEACH. FIVE WAVES
OF LWTS LANDING 8000 MEN UNDER COVER OF ROCKET FIRE FROM OUR DEFS. A-
PREVIOUS WANKS WERE USED AND PENETRATED 500 YARDS THROUGH VERY HEAVY
BATTERY FIRE. BATTERY PLACEMENTS FORCED THE MARINES TO PROCEED ON FOOT. LWTS
THEN FOLLOWED THE SUPPLIES AND THE MARINES PUSHED ON AHEAD IN THREE
DIRECTIONS. ONE HEADED TOWARD THE AIRFIELD AND TOOK ONE MURKIN D STATE
HEAVY OPPOSITION. ANOTHER COLUMN WITH TANK SUPPORT HEADED SOUTH TO THE
VOLCANO TO FLANK THE AIRFIELD. A THIRD PLANK TOOK TO THE FOOTHILLS WHERE
HEAVY BATTERY FIRE WAS COMING FROM. THESE GUN POSITIONS ON THE VOLCANO ARE
BEING CONTINUALLY HIT BY OUR PLANES.

YOKOTA TASK FORCE RAID ON I/O JIA-FEB. 20, 1945

THE WEATHER IS LOW OVERCAST AND SOLD WITH OCCASIONAL RAINS. WE ARE OP-
ERATING WITH THE RANDOLPH. OUR BATTLEFATIONS HAVE OPENED FIRE AGAIN AND ARE
BOMBARDING ENEMY POSITIONS, BLOCKHOUSES AND PILLBOXES ON I/O JIA. THE
MARINES WERE PUSHED BACK BY FURIOUS JAP OPPOSITION LAST NIGHT, BUT REMAINED
IN THIS MORNING.

0900-THE JAPS HAVE OPENED UP AGAIN AND ARE FIRING BATTERLY, THE MARINES HAVE
CALLED FOR ARIAL ASSISTANCE.

0930-OUR FIRST STRIKE OF 16 VF HAS JUST BEEN LAUNCHED.

1215-THE FIRST STRIKE HAS LANDED, ALL AIRCRAFT HAVE RETURNED. THIS STRIKE HIT
ENEMY POSITIONS INCLUDING ONE TROOP IN HEAVY MURKIN. DIRECT FIRE FROM
SCORES OF ENEMY GUN POSITIONS AND JAP TROOP CONCENTRATIONS WERE HEARD AT
LOW LEVELS.

1240-OUR SECOND STRIKE OF 16 VF AND 10 VB HAS JUST BEEN LAUNCHED.

1530-THE SECOND STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED, ALL AIRCRAFT RETURNED. THESE CONCRETE
BLOCK HOUSES WERE BOMBED AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT POSITIONS WERE HIT. THE CHINESE
WAS SO LOW OVER THE TARGET, THAT MANY OF OUR PLANES ON SCRAMBLE WERE
HIT BY PLACEMENTS OF THEIR GUN BATTER. A RADIO STATION WAS HIT AND DIS-
RUPTED. THE TWO AIRFIELDS WERE ALSO HIT AND HAVE BEEN ALL BUT COMPLETELY
BY CARRIER PLANES. THIS STRIKE ALSO HIT TARGETS IN CUCHI JIA AND KITA
JIA TO AY CAUSING SOME DAMAGE. FOUR JAP BOMBS WERE SIGHTED OFF THE
COAST OF I/O JIA AND WERE SHOT. THE ARMY, USING PLANE TROOPS, TOOK
THE JAPS OUT OF HIDEES AND PILLBOXES AND ADVANCED TO GET A SECURE HOLD ON
THE ISLANDS LARGEST AIRFIELD. HEAVY MORTAR FIRE FROM JAP GUN POSITIONS
IN THE VOLCANO, IS BEING RECOVERED BY THE MARINES. ONE THIRD OF I/O
JIA IS NOW IN MARINE HANDS.

YOKOTA TASK FORCE RAID ON I/O JIA AND KITA I/O JIA-FEB. 21, 1945

LAST NIGHT THE MARINES WERE PUSHED BACK 200 YDS BY CONCENTRATED ENEMY
OPPOSITION. HOWEVER THE MARINES RE-ARRANGED THEIR POSITIONS THIS MORNING
WHEN THEY ADVANCED 700 YDS WITH TANK SUPPORT. THE MARINES NOW OCCUPY
MOTOVA AIRFIELDS ONE AND ARE PUSHING TO THE SECOND AIRFIELD UNDER CON-
CENTRATED ENEMY ARTILLERY, MORTAR, MACHINE GUN AND RIFLE FIRE. THE DE-
TERMINED MARINES ARE USING PLANE TROOPS TO MANN OUT PILL BOXES AND
STRONG CAVE POSITIONS.

0645-WE LAUNCHED OUR FIRST STRIKE OF 12 VF AND 10 VB.

1000-THE STRIKE HAS NOW LANDED, ALL AIRCRAFT RETURNED. THIS STRIKE HIT AR-
TILLERY POSITIONS AND GUN PLACEMENTS ON THE ISLAND. MARINE TROOPS WERE
STRAFED AND BOMBED ON THESE RUNS. ALL OTHER STRIKES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED
DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS. 30,000 MARINES ARE NOW EXAMINING JAPS
ON I/O JIA WHO ARE OFFERING HEAVY OPPOSITION WITH INTERMEDIATE FIRE. HOWEVER,
SATISFACTORY PROGRESS IS BEING MADE AND CASUALTIES ARE REPORTED MODERATE.

1045-ENEMY PLANES REARLY 015 AT 8 MILES ARE CLOSING. OUR TASK FORCE IS NOW
FIRING ON THE PORT SIDE-A TWIN ENGINE JAP BOMBER IS COMING IN LOW. OUR
GUNS HAVE NOT OPENED FIRE.

1850-THE JAP PLANE FLEW TO STWD. AND GO' AWAY.

1900-ENEMY PLANES BEARING 110-11, 111 IS CLOSING ON TASK GROUP 50.2.

1913-THE SAGAMI HAS BEEN HIT BY FOUR JAP SUICIDE PLANES, THREE STRUCK. ONE
HIT ON THE FORECASTLE, ANOTHER ON THE STACK STRUCTURES, ONE NEAR THE FUNNEL
AND STILL ANOTHER AID SHIPS ON THE STBD. SIDE. DAMAGE IS BELIEVED TO BE
EXTENSIVE AND CASUALTIES HIGH. THE BISMARCK SEA (JAP CARRIER) WAS ALSO HIT
BY ONE JAP SUICIDE BOMBER. INTERNAL EXPLOSIONS RESULTED AND IT CAPSIZED
AND SANK. LOSS OF LIFE IS BELIEVED TO BE HEAVY. THE LINER POINT (JAP JOB)
SUFFERED FOUR ENEMY TORPEDO ATTACKS BUT WAS HIT BY A JAP SUICIDE PLANE AND
WAS DAMAGED. THE CARRIER IS STILL ABLE TO MAINTAIN FLEET SPEED AND OF-
FENSIVE PLANES HOWEVER.

YORKTON TASK FORCE ON IWO JIMA AND KITA JIMA - FEB. 21, 1945 (CONT)

1936-ENEMY PLANES BEARING 005 - 6 MILES AWAY. OUR TASK GROUP IS FIRING ON THE STARBOARD SIDE. OUR GUNS HAVE OPENED FIRE NOW.

1938-THE JAP PLANE FLEW LOW AND GOT AWAY.

1954-ENEMY AIRCRAFT BEARING 240 - - 7 MILES - CLOSING. OUR GUNS HAS AGAIN OPEN FIRE

1958-THE FIRING CAUSED THE JAP TO TURN AND GOT AWAY.

2030-WE ARE NOW SECURING FROM GENERAL QUARTERS.

YORKTON TASK FORCE RAID ON IWO JIMA, VOLCANO ISLANDS FEB. 22, 1945

FIGHTING HAS ENTERED ITS FOURTH DAY AS MARINES DROVE THEIR LINES FORWARD ISOLATING THE VOLCANO FROM WHICH JAPS WERE POURING ARTILLERY AND MORTAR FIRE.

0930-OUR FIRST STRIKE OF 12 VF & 10 VB HAS JUST BEEN LAUNCHED.

1230-THE STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED. ALL AIRCRAFT RETURNED. THIS STRIKE SIGHTED SEVERAL JAP LUGGER OFF THE ISLAND AND SANK THEM. GUN POSITION, BLOCKHOUSES AND POINTS OF HEAVY ENEMY RESISTANCE WERE HIT ON THESE RUNS. WEATHER CONDITION HAVE CAUSED ALL FURTHER STRIKES TO BE CANCELLED. THE MARINES REACHED THE MOTOYAMA AIRFIELD 2 LAST NIGHT BUT WERE REPULSED BY BITTER JAP RESISTANCE THE SAME NIGHT. OUR BATTLEWAGONS OPENED UP AGAIN THE MORNING AND BOMBARDED ENEMY POSITIONS. THE MARINES WERE MOVING AHEAD AGAIN TODAY AFTER BREAKING UP SEVERAL JAP COUNTERATTACKS. MARINES TANKS WERE HITTING CAVES AND RIDGES IN THE VOLCANO WHICH WAS STILL RETURNING HEAVY CONCENTRATED FIRE.

1615-55, MARINE LANDINGCRAFT ARE NOW UNLOADING TROOPS AND SUPPLIES ON THE BEACH HEADS. FIGHTING HAS BEEN FURIOUS TODAY AND THE MARINES HAVE BEEN MAKING SLIGHT ADVANCES. MARINES NOW HOLD ON EXCEPT OF IWO JIMA (THE SOUTHERN EXTREMITY) WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE VOLCANO.

YORKTON TASKFORCE RAID ON IWO JIMA - FEB. 23, 1945 3rd DAY

THE JAPS TRIED TO INFILTRATE AMERICAN LINES DURING THE NIGHT BUT WERE UNSUCCESSFUL.

0930-OUR FIRST STRIKE OF 16VF'S HAS JUST BEEN LAUNCHED.

1230-THE STRIKE HAS JUST LANDED, ALL AIRCRAFT RETURNED. THIS STRIKE STRAFED ENEMY LINES AND BOMBED GUN POSITIONS AND ARTILLERY PLACEMENTS. ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE IS STILL BEING ENCOUNTERED, AND TWO OF OUR PLANES RECEIVED DAMAGE. TWO CS2 U'S FROM OUR BATTLEWAGON FLEET WERE SHOT DOWN OVER THE TARGET. OUR BATTLEWAGONS ARE CONTINUING THEIR BOMBARDMENT OF THE ISLAND. THE FOURTH MARINES TODAY PUSHED 300 YARDS TO TAKE CONTROL OF HALF THE MOTOYAMA II AIRFIELD. HEAVY ENEMY COUNTERATTACKS WERE REPELLED AND THE SITUATION LOOKS MUCH MORE FAVORABLE. CONCRETE PILLBOX AND CAVE OPPOSITIONS WAS BEING MET BY THE THIRD MARINES AS THEY CONTINUED TO PUSH SLOWLY AHEAD AGAINST HEAVY ENEMY RESISTANCE. THE FIFTH MARINES ENCIRCLED THE VOLCANO AND ARE STILL SLUGGING IT OUT AT A STANDSTILL AGAINST HEAVY ENEMY FIRE. TODAY MAY BE THE TURNING POINT FOR THE FIGHT FOR IWO JIMA.

FEBRUARY 24, 1945 -

OUR TASK FORCE WILL PATROL TODAY IN WATERS BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE BONINS. OUR TARGET TOMORROW WILL BE TOKYO, JAPAN & HACHUJO ISLANDS IN THE IZO SHICHITO GROUP. WE WILL MAKE OUR RUN IN TONIGHT. OUR TARGETS WILL BE (1) AIRFIELDS NORTH OF TOKYO (2) INFLAMMABLE AREAS OF TOKYO, (3) ENGINE PLANT AND AIRCRAFT FACTORIES, & (4) THE NAVAL BASE.