

NOV 9 1975
UNCLASSIFIED

REPORT

OF THE

**COMMANDING
GENERAL**

EIGHTH U. S. ARMY

ON THE

**MINDORO-MARINDUQUE
OPERATION**

1 JANUARY - 31 JANUARY 1945

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N-9275

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Smith
22 May

Alford 28 May
Pomeroy 29 May
W. Thomas 29 May
Ellison 29 May

✓ Munn 10/2

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PREFACE

This report is primarily concerned with the activities of the Western Visayan Task Force while the MINDORO-MARINDUQUE OPERATION was under Eighth Army control, from 1 January to 31 January 1945. A short summary of the initial action (15 December - 31 December 1944) under Sixth Army, follows.

On 15 December 1944, the Western Visayan Task Force consisting of the 19th Infantry RCT and the 503d Parachute RCT landed unopposed at SAN JOSE, the principal seaport, located on the southwest coast of MINDORO. The town was occupied that same day as work was started to place its two airdromes in operating condition.

During the early phase of the operation strong defensive positions were established along the perimeter and beach as enemy aerial attacks, aimed at our resupply convoys and airfields, increased. Though work on the airstrips was not seriously affected, suicide crash dives by enemy planes resulted in some serious damage to our naval craft and some losses of cargo vessels.

On 27 December a Japanese Naval Task Force, reported enroute to CALAPAN in north MINDORO, bombarded SAN JOSE while enemy planes increased their attacks on our airdromes. These naval units were driven off, however, after they had been severely mauled by our aircraft.

By 1 January two dry weather runways on HILL and SAN JOSE Fields were operational as plans for diversionary actions to the north were completed.

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NARRATIVE OF OPERATIONS 1 JAN - 31 JAN 1945:

As of 1 January 1945, the date Eighth Army assumed control of the MINDORO-MARINDUQUE OPERATION, activity along the east and west coasts of MINDORO increased. (See Map on Page 2).

That same morning, Company "I" of the 21st Infantry made an unopposed landing at BONGABONG on the east coast. On 2 January a rifle company of the 503d made another unopposed strike at MAMBURAO near the northwestern tip and pushed on to PALUAN which fell on the 5th after the extermination of the Jap garrison.

The most serious enemy resistance was encountered on the east coast in the vicinity of PINAMALAYAN where on 6 January, an enemy force estimated to be 300-400 men hurled our assault troops back on QUINABIGAN. The setback was, however, only temporary and PINAMALAYAN was in our hands on the 11th. The hostile garrison lost 37 men and retired northwest toward CALAPAN.

By the 30th of January no enemy forces capable of organized offensive or defensive action remained in northwest MINDORO and mopping-up operations were delegated to Filipino guerrillas. Elements of the 21st Infantry except for a small garrison at CALAPAN, the provincial capital, were evacuated to SAN JOSE.

Operations Instructions #80, General Headquarters, Southwest Pacific Area had read in part -----

"...after establishing a beachhead on MINDORO, seize and occupy MARINDUQUE ISLAND...and other feasible objectives off the west coast of BICOL to deceive the enemy."

Accordingly, on 3 January, Company "K" of the 21st Infantry landed near BUENA VISTA on MARINDUQUE ISLAND. On 11 January MOGPOG was occupied as the main Jap force, heavily entrenched at BOAC, was by-passed. Our forces, in conjunction with local guerrillas, then surrounded and destroyed the enemy garrison at BOAC.

In the latter part of January our forces began to assemble in the bivouac area north of the BUGSANGA RIVER in the vicinity of SAN JOSE. By 1 February all units except small garrisons left in CALAPAN and on MARINDUQUE were in the bivouac area, and control of MINDORO passed to X Corps.

Our casualties during the entire period were 62 killed in action, 184 wounded in action and 85 missing. Of these, 40 were killed and 41 wounded during the Eighth Army phase of the operation. The missing were principally Air Corps personnel lost during the period of greatest air activity.

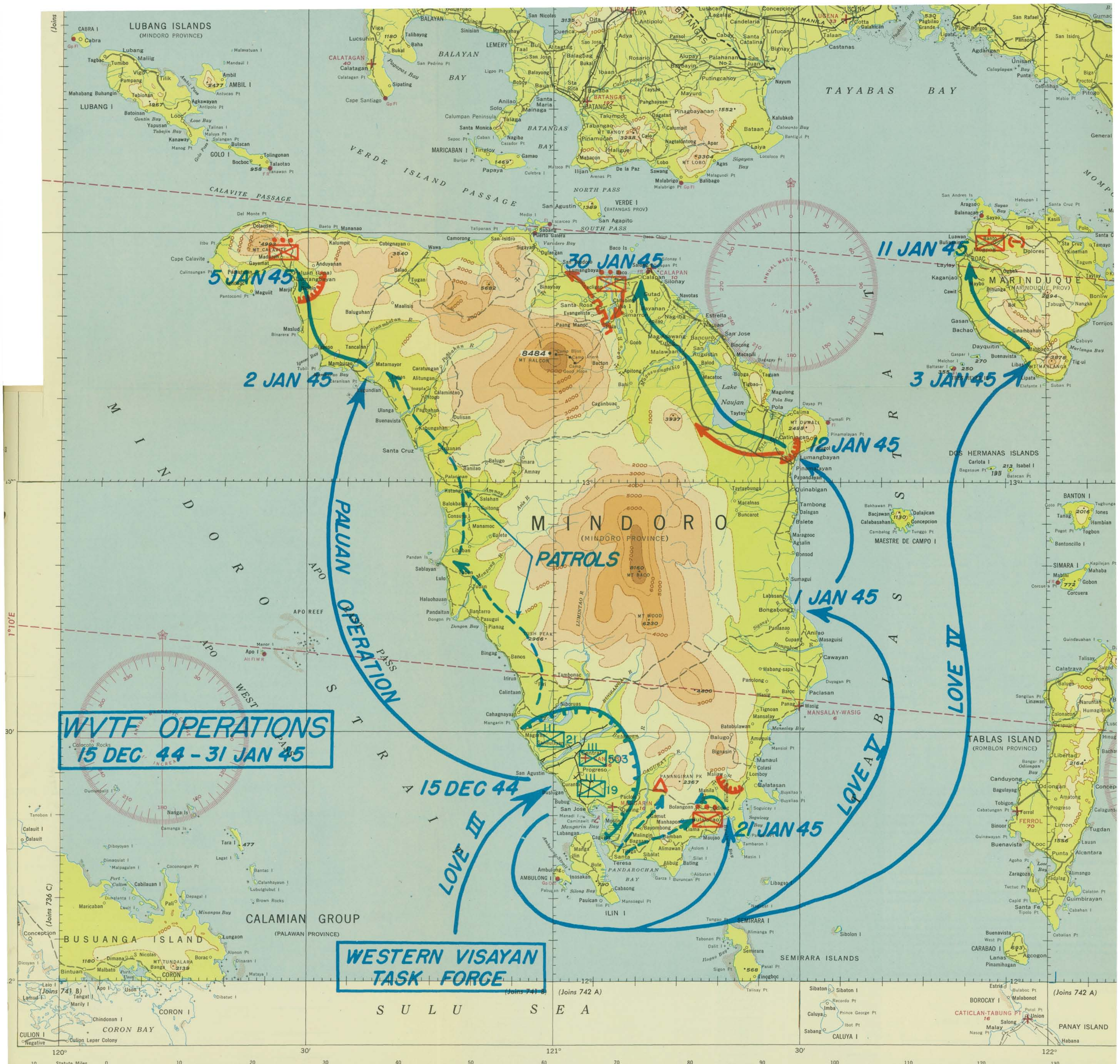
Enemy casualties were 247 killed and 38 captured. Of these, 228 were killed and captured during the Eighth Army phase.

The major accomplishments in the MINDORO-MARINDUQUE operation were as follows:

1. Strategic air fields were established which enabled our air forces to adequately support the LUZON operations.
2. The Japanese were deceived as to our actual intentions in south LUZON by our diversionary actions.

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WVTF OPERATIONS
15 DEC 44 - 31 JAN 45

WESTERN VISAYAN TASK FORCE

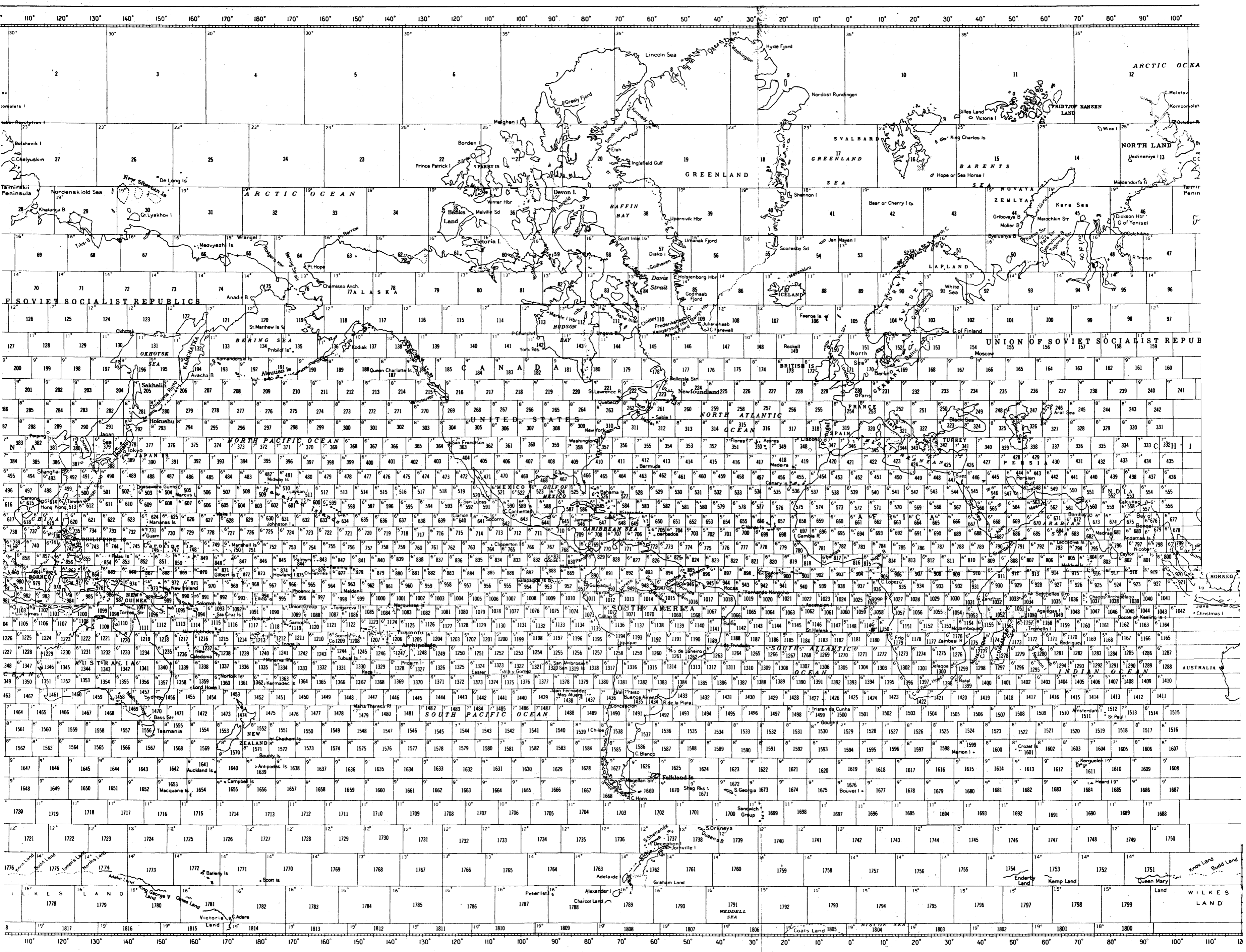
(735 D)

Lines of equal magnetic variation for 1943
Aeronautical information MAY 1944

Prepared under the direction of the Commanding General,
Army Air Forces, by the Aeronautical Chart Service, Washington, D. C.,
from best source material available, APRIL, 1944

Legend and Notes on reverse side
This chart is prepared for use in daylight,
under white, ultra-violet, red and amber lights.

NOTE: Officers using this chart will mark hereon corrections and additions
which come to their attention and mail direct to "AERONAUTICAL CHART
SERVICE, HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES, WASHINGTON, D. C."



WORLD PILOTAGE CHART INDEX

SCALE OF SERIES 1:1,000,000

AERONAUTICAL CHART SUPPLY

(Ref: AAF Reg. 65-82, dated 26 Apr. 1944)

Charts, maps and publications distributed by Aeronautical Chart Service are indexed or listed in the "Catalog of Aeronautical Charts and Related Publications." Miscellaneous maps and charts not so indexed or listed are available for procurement and distribution through special order, when sufficiently accurate in name or number, scale, projection, and publisher if known.

Continental United States:

Requests for charts to be submitted to the supply facility designated by the Theater or for maintenance and distribution of aeronautical charts and maps.

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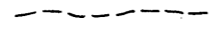
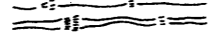
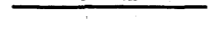








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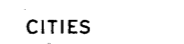
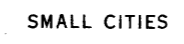
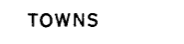

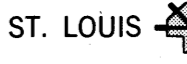

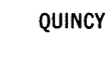

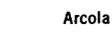
HYDROGRAPHIC FEATURES

-  STREAMS, RIVERS, LAKES & COASTLINES
-  STREAMS & RIVERS (INTERMITTENT)
-  STREAMS, RIVERS, LAKES & COASTLINES (UNSURVEYED)
-  RAPIDS & FALLS
-  CANALS
-  ONE FATHOM LINE (6 FEET BELOW LOW WATER LEVEL)
-  ROCKS
-  SPRINGS
-  WELLS & WATERHOLES
-  INTERMITTENT LAKES
-  GLACIERS
-  SWAMPS & MARSHES
-  REEFS & SHOALS (AREA BETWEEN HIGH & LOW WATER LEVEL)




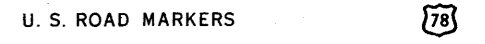

TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURES

-  PROMINENT PEAKS & RIDGES
-  CONTOURS
-  SAND AREAS
-  APPROXIMATE CONTOURS
-  SAND DUNE AREAS
-  DEPRESSION CONTOURS

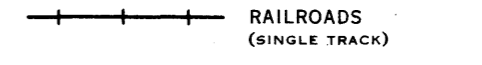
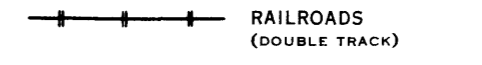
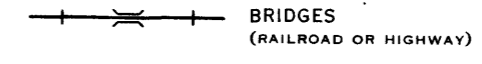
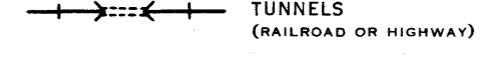
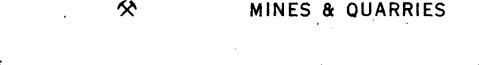
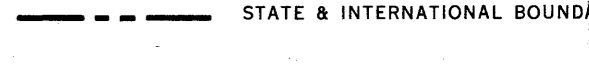
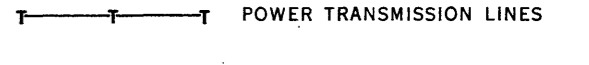
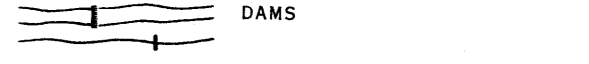
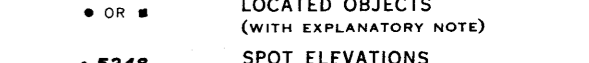


CITIES AND TOWNS

-  LARGE CITIES
-  CITIES
-  SMALL CITIES
-  TOWNS
-  VILLAGES & STATIONS
-  ST. LOUIS
-  ELMIRA
-  QUINCY
-  Corville
-  Arcola

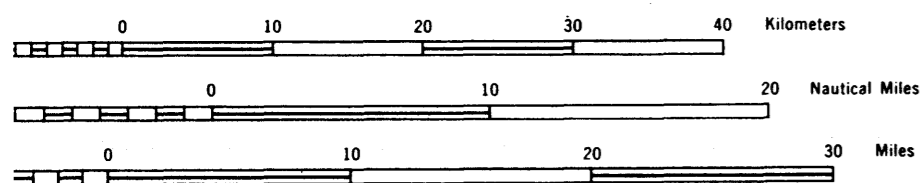
HIGHWAYS AND ROADS

-  MAIN ROADS
-  SECONDARY ROADS
-  TRAILS
-  U. S. ROAD MARKERS
-  NATIONAL STATE OR PROVINCIAL ROAD MARKERS

CULTURAL AND MISCELLANEOUS SYMBOLS

-  RAILROADS (SINGLE TRACK)
-  RAILROADS (DOUBLE TRACK)
-  BRIDGES (RAILROAD OR HIGHWAY)
-  TUNNELS (RAILROAD OR HIGHWAY)
-  MINES & QUARRIES
-  STATE & INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES
-  POWER TRANSMISSION LINES
-  DAMS
-  LOCATED OBJECTS (WITH EXPLANATORY NOTE)
-  SPOT ELEVATIONS
-  HIGHEST ELEVATION ON CHART

Scale 1:500,000—1 inch=7.89 miles



ANNEX #1

G-1 REPORT ON THE MINDORO-MARINDUQUE OPERATION

1. Organization of G-1 Section - G-1 section was organized into four sub-sections and functioned as outlined below:

a. Personnel sub-section handled routine administrative matters and coordinated the activities of the other three sub-sections.

b. Operations sub-section issued instructions to the Western Visayan Task Force in Administrative Order 2 to continue sending this headquarters the same information concerning personnel matters formerly submitted to Sixth Army.

No replacements were furnished units of the Western Visayan Task Force during the period 1 January through 31 January 1945.

Weekly periodic reports were submitted to this headquarters by the Western Visayan Task Force from 2 January to 30 January 1945.

c. Miscellaneous sub-section processed the following awards and decorations to personnel in the Western Visayan Task Force:

Legion of Merit	1
Silver Star	3
Bronze Star Medal	126
Meritorious Service Unit Plaque	7

Recommendations for the following awards are still awaiting action by USAFFE:

Legion of Merit	3 (one to a Naval Officer)
Bronze Star Medal	2 (to guerrilla officers)

d. Civil Affairs Section - Philippine Civil Affairs Unit No. 9 was attached to the Western Visayan Task Force for the control of civil affairs on MINDORO. During the period of Eighth Army control in this area the unit administered relief to civilians, aided in the opening of schools, prevented government equipment and supplies from falling into unauthorized hands and assisted civil authorities in enforcing law and order.

Combat units required a large supply of laborers but only a limited number were available in San Jose. By registering all available laborers and through cooperation with local officials, PCAU No. 9 procured a maximum of workers.

In cooperation with the Army Medical Units the PCAU Medical Officer instituted a program to decrease the high malaria rate (highest in the Philippines) by insuring that all civilians took atabrine.

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2. Dissolution of Task Force - The Western Visayan Task Force was dissolved as of 0001 I, 1 February and headquarters personnel returned to the organizations to which they were assigned.

3. Summary of Lessons Learned

a. Proper cooperation between Commanding Officers and civilian authorities will result in a minimum of government property falling into the hands of unauthorized civilians.

b. Similar cooperation can also effect the procurement of a maximum number of laborers at minimum wages.

c. Philippine Civil Affairs Units can render invaluable aid to a military operation of this nature by relieving troops of all civilian problems.

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ANNEX #2

G-2 REPORT ON MINDORO - MARINDUQUE OPERATION

1. The period of Eighth Army control over the MINDORO-MARINDUQUE area extended from 1 January 1945 to 31 January 1945. Before this period opened, the landings on MINDORO had been successfully consolidated. The landings on MARINDUQUE occurred on 3 January, and planning and preparations for this operation had been completed before Eighth Army assumed control. For this reason, the principal function of G-2 Eighth Army with respect to MINDORO-MARINDUQUE consisted of compiling reports on operations in the area for the information of higher headquarters and other interested units, and disseminating pertinent intelligence to the Western Visayan Task Force. A number of requests made by the task force were acted upon, in the manner described in succeeding paragraphs.

2. The Western Visayan Task Force requested maps, photos, terrain studies and meteorological data on BUSUANGA ISLAND and the Calamian Group. In reply to this request, G-2 Eighth Army forwarded a few copies of available photos on BUSUANGA ISLAND and CUYO ISLAND. The task force did not request a special mission. There were no terrain studies covering the area. Available information concerning water supply, weather, and tides was forwarded by the Engineer Section. A small number of all available maps of the specified areas was sent to the task force, and it was suggested that the sheets desired in bulk be specified. No request along these lines was received, and no further action was taken.

3. The Psychological Warfare Branch was involved in considerable activity in connection with this operation. On 15 January 1945 the G-2, Western Visayan Task Force, requested a Psychological Warfare Representative. W. O. 1 Barry Robinson, Australian Imperial Forces, on duty with G-2 Eighth Army, was at once dispatched and leaflets were furnished. Leaflets were dropped on MARINDUQUE ISLAND in connection with the landing there. A "spot" leaflet was also prepared for use on LUBANG ISLAND, but was not used because it was decided to make no attack on LUBANG during the period under consideration.

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ANNEX #3

G-3 REPORT ON THE MINDORO-MARINDUQUE OPERATION.

1. Tactically, this operation was unique for the following reasons. Although it was an amphibious assault and there was a possibility of the enemy making a defensive stand in the SAN JOSE area, the chief threat to the WVTF was a possible over-water movement by Jap forces to drive us out of MINDORO. Therefore plans for defensive as well as offensive operations were required and a defensive field order was issued prior to embarkation.

The same boundaries between regiments were used for the defensive plan as for the assault plan. These were based on three probable lines of enemy action which are listed in order of importance as follows:

- a. An amphibious landing on the same beaches used by our forces.
- b. A landing to the northwest in the vicinity of the LUMINTAO River, with an overland envelopment against the SAN JOSE area.
- c. A landing southeast of our position with an ensuing overland assault on the SAN JOSE area.

The defense plan was divided into two phases. Phase I covered a period of approximately one week's duration prior to the installation of heavy obstacles and splinter-proof gun positions. The OPLR was at the beachline while the MLR paralleled the beach at 1000 yards. As time and materials became available, the MLR was developed along the beach with heavy barbed wire entanglements and interlocking FPLs (Phase II).

Adequate protection of the airfield sites necessitated the defense of large ground areas. This was accomplished by maximum use of automatic weapons and obstacles at the beach, constant observation along the perimeter and the holding out of strong mobile reserves. Use of the narrow-gauge railway for movement of local reserves was included in the plan due to limited road facilities.

2. Defense of the airfields presented the problem of efficient employment of air corps troops. The air corps requested that the infantry be held responsible for the close-in defense of airplanes as well as the defense of the airfields. Due to the insufficiency of infantry troops to perform this mission, it was planned during an emergency, to assemble all available air corps personnel under command of the local infantry commander.

3. Considering the complexity of the task force mission which involved the construction of airfields, naval facilities, the use of MINDORO as a base for resupply of other operations, coupled with the constant influx of new units; this was an ideal mission for a division reinforced.

The task force however, had to function with an inexperienced staff whose members were unacquainted with each other and which was 50% understrength.

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Coordination between a regular infantry RCT and a parachute infantry RCT created problems that would not ordinarily arise within the units organic to the division.

4. The team work, cooperation and flexibility of operation demonstrated by units of the PT squadron, the air corps and the ground forces in meeting the Japanese naval task force threat (two cruisers and six destroyers) on the night of 26/27 December was superb.

The enemy task force was reported about 80 miles northwest of SAN JOSE at 1300 I, 26 December. Our air forces and PTs immediately went into action, inflicting tremendous damage. Planes strafed and bombed the Jap warships. They then returned, refueled, reloaded and repeated the process until long after dark, using landing lights to carry out their mission.

As a result of this determined action, one destroyer was sunk, two possibly sunk and the remainder so severely damaged as to make their naval bombardment, highly ineffective when they finally arrived about 6 miles offshore from our positions.

5. Lessons learned:

- a. In future operations the use of elements of ground crews for close-in defense of planes should be air corps standard operating procedure.
- b. The assignment of unloading details of 100 men for each LST not mobile loaded, should be standard procedure. In this operation this proved to be eminently sound both tactically and logistically.
- c. In an operation where considerable enemy air activity is expected the antiaircraft units of fire should be increased. In this instance six units of fire were requested but were not supplied.

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INCLOSURE "A" TO
ANNEX #3

SIGNAL REPORT ON THE MINDORO-MARINDUQUE OPERATION

In this operation the Eighth Army Signal Officer was directed to continue the installation, operation and maintenance of communication facilities in the MINDORO area effective 1 January 1945. The facilities referred to were previously established and operated by the WVTF under control of Sixth Army.

Preparations for the continuation of the mission were discussed at a GHQ conference on 18 November 1944, which covered communication problems involved in the original landing and occupation of the island.

The establishment of radio frequencies to be used on circuits between Eighth Army and WVTF was included in Item 30-3, SOI, Headquarters Eighth Army, dated 20 December 1944, and Item 31-3, SOI, Headquarters Eighth Army, dated 20 December 1944. Fixed call signs and radio telephone code words were assigned in Item 33-3, SOI, Headquarters Eighth Army, dated 20 December 1944. The telephone code name for WVTF was assigned in Item 40-2, SOI, Headquarters Eighth Army, 20 December 1944.

Distribution of codes and ciphers was made in the usual manner. Upon request by the WVTF, SIGKIJI rotors and SIGIVI baskets were furnished in order to facilitate operation.

On 1 January 1945, the operation of Air Safehand Courier Service was taken over, using our planes and personnel. Schedules were arranged to coordinate the MINDORO run with other courier runs throughout the Southwest Pacific Area.

All enemy intercepts were handled by the WVTF directly with GHQ with the exception of one radio relayed by this headquarters to GHQ for disposition.

Signal Supply activities consisted of the follow-up and forwarding to MINDORO of miscellaneous unshipped items.

Inspection of the 193d Signal Radar Maintenance Unit, Type A, revealed that this unit had been unable to perform its mission since arrival as all equipment, except two trucks, had been sunk on an LST enroute. The commanding officer of this unit was on detached service throughout the operation. This headquarters arranged the assignment of a new commanding officer. As replacement of equipment had not been made, however, maintenance responsibilities were assumed by the 203d Radar Maintenance Unit.

Maintenance work performed by the 203d Radar Maintenance Unit, Type C, for the 166th AAA Gun Battalion was excellent.

Signal units comprising communication troops for WVTF, namely, 1st Platoon, Company A, 98th Signal Battalion and the 24th Radio Station Section, were cited for zealous devotion to duty while under severe shelling, bombing and ack-ack fire from enemy naval vessels. These units continued their excellent performance during the period covered by this report.

On 31 January 1945 the responsibility for communications on MINDORO was taken over by the 24th Infantry Division.

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ANNEX #4

G-4 REPORT OF MINDORO-MARINDUQUE OPERATION

SUPPLY FACILITIES

From 15 December 1944 through 31 December 1944 the Commanding General, Sixth Army was responsible for the logistical support of the MINDORO-MARINDUQUE operation. On 1 January 1945 the logistical support and control of the operation was delegated to the Commanding General, Eighth Army.

The operation was to be resupplied from Base "K", LEYTE. Blockloaded San Francisco Port of Embarkation ships were to be furnished according to a predetermined schedule which was based on an eight-day turn around.

The Commanding General, Western Visayan Task Force, operated an Army Supply Point at SAN JOSE, MINDORO.

The status of supply as of 1800, 31 December was as follows:

Ration Strength:	28,000
Rations on hand:	10 D/S. 6 D/S reported on hand by Western Visayan Task Force, estimated 4 D/S additional arrived on LST's on U / 15.
V-80 gasoline :	9 D/S. 4 D/S reported on hand by Western Visayan Task Force, estimated 5 D/S additional arrived on LST's on U / 15.
Diesel fuel :	Nil D/S reported on hand, estimated 2 D/S arrived on LST's on U / 15.
100 Octane gas :	6700 drums, nil bulk.
Bombs :	15 D/S (information from 5th AF).

THE PLAN OF RESUPPLY

Supply levels were to be maintained in the MINDORO AREA as follows:

Class I to IV		30 D/S
Class V	Combat units	3 U/F
	Service units	2 U/F

Subsequent to 7 January 1945, scheduled resupply convoys were to be run in conjunction with those for the Mike-I area. Standard blockloaded ships were to be called forward as required to arrive at the MINDORO AREA not later than indicated below:

5 January 1945	1 ship
22 January 1945	1 ship
28 January 1945	1 ship
9 February 1945	1 ship

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EXECUTION OF THE PLAN

When this operation was taken over, the force on MINDORO was engaged in minor operations on the nearby islands and in mopping up enemy forces on MINDORO. Only routine supply problems were involved in the continuation of the operation.

Two of the three airstrips had been completed and the third was completed during this period. The supply dumps were moved inland from the beach area to the vicinity of SAN JOSE. The dumps were well dispersed and efficiently operated. A two-lane road was built for hauling supplies from the beach to the dumps and one way roads were constructed throughout the dump areas. These roads were arranged in such a way that very little cross traffic and delay was encountered.

About 8 of the 50 miles of narrow gauge railroad on the island was put into operation and served to carry supplies from the beach to the dump area. Roadbeds were improved and tracks extended so that all dumps could be serviced. This aided greatly in moving supplies from beach to dump and materially reduced truck traffic on the roads.

The facilities of the Army Supply Point were developed so that the Mike-VI operation could be resupplied from MINDORO. The mission of resupply included arranging air drops, flying emergency supplies to the Mike-VI area and establishing credit and facilities for air evacuation of casualties.

The operation of the supply point was delegated to the Commanding General, 24th Infantry Division on 31 January 1945 when Headquarters Western Visayan Task Force was dissolved.

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INCLOSURE "A" TO
ANNEX #4

ENGINEER REPORT ON THE MINDORO-MARINDUQUE OPERATION

GENERAL

Effective 0001, 1 January 1945, Sixth Army was relieved of its mission on MINDORO ISLAND and Eighth Army was assigned the mission of completing the operation. At this time the following engineer units were involved in the operation:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Commander</u>
Western Visayan Task Force	Lt. Col. William Ellison, Jr. (Task Force Engineer)
532d Engr Boat & Shore Regt (- Co A & Co C less 1 Pl)	Col. A. M. Neilson
3d Airfield Cons Squadron (RAAF)	Squadron Leader A. D. Bouch
240th Engr Construction Bn	Lt. Col. Walter S. Schamel, Jr.
860th Engr Aviation Bn	Lt. Col. Benjamin E. Meadows
866th Engr Aviation Bn	Lt. Col. John H. Hamilton
187th Engr Aviation Bn	Lt. Col. Robert W. Love
Co B, 3d Engr Combat Bn	Capt. Louis P. Zupet
Co C, 161st Engr Parachute Bn	Capt. James S. Bayer
1458th Engr Maint Co (-1st & 2d Pls)	1st Lt. E. W. Sparks
2d Pl, 453d Engr Depot Co	1st Lt. Leon Skolnick
Det, 783rd Engr Pet Dist Co	1st Lt. Cecil Young
Det, 1541st Engr Base Survey Co	2d Lt. Dean E. Hodges

At approximately 0645 1 January 1945 a detachment of Hq & Hq Company, 932d Engineer Construction Group (Avn) commanded by Lt. Col. Stephen M Smith arrived at Hill Field. Upon arrival Lt. Col. Smith became the assistant task force engineer.

No other major changes in units and personnel were made during the period 1 January to 31 January 1945.

PLANNING

All engineer planning for this operation had been accomplished by Sixth Army prior to the start of the operation. Additional engineer planning by this headquarters was not necessary.

CONSTRUCTION:

On 1 January two dry weather runways on MINDORO were operational, Hill Field and San Jose Field. On 5 January a short heavy rainfall made both of these runways non-operational. The San Jose runway which had been crowned was back into operation about 36 hours before the Hill Field runway. Taxiway A on Hill Field was used as a temporary runway about 12 hours before the runway itself was back in operation. This rain had no adverse effect on the flow of supplies. Both Blue and White beach were connected to the unit bivouac areas by all weather gravel roads which remained in excellent condition. On 12 and 13 January con-

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tinuous rains again made the dry weather fields non-operational for a period of approximately sixty (60) hours. On 24 January the avgas jetty was utilized to pump avgas directly into storage from a medium sized tanker and on the same day a water line was completed making it possible to furnish fresh water to the tanker.

During the period 1 January to 7 January 1945, construction progress was delayed because of heavy shipping losses and continuous nightly attacks by Japanese aircraft. The aircraft attacks after 7 January were negligible but the shipping losses began to make themselves felt. During the remainder of the month the construction progress was hampered by the following shortages: floating pile driver, motor fuel, tires for dump trucks, lumber, bitumen, bulk storage tanks, and four inch invasion pipe fittings. These shortages resulted in the completion of the first all-weather runway (Camina Drome) ten (10) days later than originally planned. In addition the construction of an adequate drum cleaning and filling plant had to be delayed until sufficient storage tanks were available.

SUPPLY

Initial supply of engineer materials for the Mindoro operation was provided by Sixth Army. Just prior to assumption of responsibility by Eighth Army, enemy suicide bombings disabled the vessel JUAN DE FUCA and drove it on a reef. This vessel carried bitumen, timber, and miscellaneous engineer supplies, as well as avgas installation materials which had been trans-loaded from two FS boats. Part of this cargo was salvaged a month later, but construction of avgas installation, fuel jetty, and the first all-weather drome was delayed to some extent until replacement materials arrived. Delay in arrival and incomplete cargoes of ships from New Guinea carrying landing mat and avgas tankage further complicated the supply problem, but critical supplies were furnished by diversion of the vessel ELIJAH WHITE carrying heavy equipment, piling, cement, culvert and nails, and by emergency loading of LST's and the vessel COOLEY at Leyte with bitumen and portable huts.

The most difficult problem encountered in supply of the Mindoro operation was the arrival of ships in the objective area. The vessel ELIJAH WHITE arrived at the M-6 area by mistake; the vessel COOLEY was left sitting at Leyte while two convoys it was scheduled to join sailed away. Eventually these vessels arrived in the Mindoro area.

MAPS

The Eighth Army Engineer received notification from the Sixth Army Engineer on 31 December 1944 that bulk map stocks for the Mindoro operation were ready for turnover. At that time the Eighth Army had no personnel or facilities available for the proper handling, storage, and distribution of maps. Twelve (12) men from the 11th Airborne Division were immediately obtained on a temporary duty status and organization of the Eighth Army Provisional Map Depot was accomplished by 2 January 1945. This newly formed unit handled 100,000 maps during the operation.

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The mapping mission of Eighth Army, to resupply maps on call to the Commanding General, Western Visayan Task force, was accomplished satisfactorily.

COMMENTS

A floating pile driver should be available in the objective area early enough in the operation to allow for the completion of jetties and docks by the target dates set up.

The Australian Engineer unit (3d Airfield Construction Squadron, RAAF) attached to the task force performed all its tasks in an excellent manner. The capabilities of this unit were on a par with those of the average United States Construction Battalions.

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Inclosure "B" to Annex #4

QUARTERMASTER REPORT ON THE MINDORO-MARINDUQUE OPERATION

The MINDORO-MARINDUQUE operation was initially under the direction of Sixth Army. The Quartermaster plan published as Annex 1 to Sixth Army Administrative Order 15, dated 23 November 1944, prescribed among the other things that after U plus 22 a thirty (30) day level of Classes I, II, III and IV supplies would be maintained.

Effective 1 January 1945, quartermaster units gained were as follows:

- 301st QM Rhd Co (-1 Plat)
- 389th QM Trk Co (-3d Plat)
- 1st Plat 3818 QM Gas Top Co
- 4th Plat 360th QM Bkry Co
- 1st Sec 101st QM GR Plat
- 193d QM Ldry Plat (2d Field Hosp)

Total strength of troops at MINDORO at that time was 25,802.

On 4 January 1945 this section recommended to G-4 and Chief of Staff that the following additional quartermaster units be moved to MINDORO to provide quartermaster service on a projected strength of 54,000 to 60,000:

- 1 QM Serv Co
- 1 QM Rhd Plat
- 3 QM Refer Sections
- 1 QM Bkry Co
- 1 QM Ldry Plat

Since there were no units of the above type available to Eighth Army for movement to MINDORO a letter was drafted for dispatch to GHQ requesting the additional units. Additional truck units were not requested in view of the early arrival of the 24th Division Quartermaster Company and six (6) quartermaster aviation truck companies at MINDORO or enroute. However, the request to GHQ was not approved by the Chief of Staff, this headquarters, on the basis that previous requests for additional units for MINDORO had been disapproved by GHQ.

It was realized that the most critical need was an additional bakery unit. This section recommended on 16 January 1945 the movement of Headquarters and 1st Platoon, 123d QM Bakery Company from LEYTE to MINDORO upon release from its present duties on or about 25 January. This was approved and the unit was scheduled for shipment to MINDORO on 8 February 1945.

Automatic resupply of the operation was originally set up to be maintained through U / 70, but was changed

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to remain in effect through 1 April 1945. On 11 January 1945 this section requested four resupply ships stocked with Class I, Class II and IV, Class III and PX supplies for thirty thousand (30,000) men for twenty (20) days. V-80 gasoline and diesel fuel supplies included in Class III were limited to 102,500 gallons each. These ships were to arrive as follows:

One ship on 16 Jan.
One ship on 22 Jan.
One ship on 3 Feb.
One ship on 13 Feb.

A critical cigarette shortage developed when the resupply ship, Allen Johnson, arrived without its quota of cigarettes aboard. Request was made on Base "K" for 1200 cases by the Western Visayan Task Force Commander and a four day supply was dispatched on FS Boat 160. With the arrival of the second resupply ship, the Russell Chittenden, without cigarettes aboard, the situation became more critical.

Base "K" advised the commander of the WVTF by radio to establish air priority for 1200 cases of cigarettes, which had been made available at Base "G". This was requested but the Regulating Officer, LEYTE did not concur. Arrangements were made by the WVTF with the 5th Air Force to send planes to Base "G" for 1200 cases but as of 1 February this matter was still pending.

On 9 January the quantity of V-80 gasoline became critically short and resupply was flown into the objective area by C-47's.

In accordance with Eighth Army Administrative Order #4 dated 15 January, the Commanding General, WVTF was charged with the responsibility for receiving and storing supplies for resupply of units in the Mike-six operation.

Major Carroll E. McHenry of this section returned on 17 January from an inspection trip to MINDORO. His report did not reveal any serious difficulties and all quartermaster units were found to be operating in a most satisfactory manner.

On 2 February 1945 the following quartermaster units were awarded the service unit plaque for superior performance and devotion to duty from 20 November 1944 to 20 January 1945 by the Commanding General, Eighth Army.

1st Plat, 3818 QM Gas Supply Co
301st QM Rhd Co
4th Plat, 360th QM Bkry Co

The Western Visayan Task Force was dissolved on 31 January and the Commanding General, 24th Infantry Division assumed control of MINDORO on 1 February 1945.

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Inclosure "C" to Annex #4

CHEMICAL WARFARE REPORT on the MIIDORO-MARINDUQUE OPERATION.

Though a state of non-gas warfare existed throughout this operation, the usefulness of a small detachment of chemical service troops was clearly demonstrated.

A detachment of fifteen enlisted men under the command of one officer from the 272d Chemical Service Platoon furnished the chemical troops for the task force. One enlisted flamethrower mechanic was attached to each of the two regiments, and twelve enlisted men were used as general chemical service troops. The function of the service troops was to collect, repair, and maintain the chemical warfare equipment of the task force.

The only offensive chemical weapons taken on this operation were the portable flamethrowers. Opportunity for their use however, was limited.

Throughout the action, shipping in the harbor was exposed to enemy air attacks which became quite serious. Plans were developed for a smoke screen to be laid over the harbor using floating smoke pots. The plan was tested and proved quite successful. A chemical mortar company was requested to help put up defensive screens over shipping, but due to the lack of such troops, the request was not granted.

The gas masks of all the ground force troops were inspected by the chemical detachment, and it was found that about 4500 masks needed replacement or repairs. These repairs, in addition to the jobs of operating a central flamethrower repair shop and establishing a sizable chemical dump, kept the detachment quite busy.

No evidence was found on this operation which would indicate that the Japanese intended to use gas. A gas alert was called on one occasion, but upon investigation it proved to be a false alarm.

The Task Force Chemical Officer and his detachment did a commendable job in planning and executing the harbor smoke screen and in the accomplishment of their repair, maintenance and other missions.

It is recommended in future operations that a detachment of chemical troops be attached to the task force in the following ratio - 1 platoon per division and proportionate parts of a platoon for smaller forces.

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INCLOSURE "D"
TO ANNEX #4

MEDICAL REPORT ON THE MINDORO-MARINDUQUE OPERATION

MEDICAL UNITS AND MISSIONS

The following non-divisional medical units were located in this area:

412th Medical Collecting Company, Separate
2d Field Hospital, Semi-mobile (w/atch ldry plat)
13th Station Hospital (250 bed)
1st Platoon, 605th Medical Clearing Company
39th Malaria Survey Unit
8th Malaria Control Unit
55th Malaria Control Unit
10th Portable Surgical Hospital

All of the medical units functioned in the vicinity of SAN JOSE, MINDORO, and performed the following missions.

1. The 412th Medical Collecting Company engaged in performing routine ambulance support for the 24th Division.
2. The 2d Field Hospital (w/atchd ldry plat) and the 13th Station Hospital (250 bed) were established under tentage with a minimum of prefabricated huts. They operated at about 70% capacity. Unit nurses arrived on 22 January.
3. The 1st Platoon, 605th Medical Clearing Company, Separate, established a holding station at the airstrip for air evacuation of casualties and operated a clearing station one-half mile south of Hill Airdrome.
4. The 38th Malaria Survey had practically completed its survey of the objective area by 1 January. This survey was directed toward insect sectors.
5. The 8th and 55th Malaria Control Units engaged in fly, mosquito and insect control in the survey area. Special emphasis was placed on mites.
6. The 10th Portable Surgical Hospital assisted one of the 24th Division's medical collecting companies in the treatment of surgical casualties in an advanced area north of SAN JOSE.
7. The 9th Medical Supply Platoon, Aviation, arrived at MINDORO on 30 January and established a depot in the vicinity of the 13th Station Hospital.
8. The above units furnished medical service to guerrillas and civilians wherever necessary and when the military situation permitted.

SUPPLY

A 30 days' level for all classes of supply was maintained at MINDORO. This included medical supplies earmarked for operations in southern LUZON. All supplies were received, stored and issued by the Division

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Medical Officer, 24th Division. Whole blood was shipped by air on request from the Task Force Surgeon. Reports by inspectors indicated no shortage of critical items.

HOSPITALIZATION

Hospitalization for the troops in the MINDORO area was adequate. However, the total number of beds occupied during January does not reflect the actual number of casualties. Actually there was a minimum of casualties in the MINDORO operation. The additional beds occupied were by patients evacuated from LUZON.

Toward the latter part of January the strength of the garrison was greatly augmented by the arrival of air personnel reinforcements. To meet this increase in hospitalization requirements it was deemed necessary to move the 165th Station Hospital (250 bed) from LEYTE to MINDORO. This unit arrived on 8 February following X Corp's assumption of control.

All hospital sites were located on firm ground and were convenient to the troops. The areas were level and covered with "Cogon" grass (similar to Kunai grass). Areas were promptly cleared of this grass. Ample drainage was provided and the water supply, provided by engineer units, was adequate. Within the hospital areas water was piped to messes, surgery, X-ray, laboratory and to patient's, officer's and detachment's showers. Floored tents with screens provided adequate quarters for nurses. Privacy was afforded by burlap partitions.

EVACUATION

Prior to Eighth Army control evacuation had been principally by naval assault shipping. As air facilities developed, however, air became the chief means of evacuation. There was no death attributable to air or water transportation. Only those casualties which required more definitive treatment or prolonged hospitalization were evacuated. Practically all the evacuation was to LEYTE where the patients were admitted to USASOS hospitals. The treatment of patients both in MINDORO and after evacuation was observed by members of the professional section of this office and was deemed excellent.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Epidemic diseases of importance encountered in the MINDORO operation were Infectious Hepatitis and Scrub Typhus. Outbreaks of both diseases were investigated and control measures instituted.

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1. Infectious Hepatitis: From 15 December 1944 to 28 January 1945 three hundred and nineteen (319) cases of this disease were admitted to MINDORO hospitals. Fifty-five (55) separate organizations were affected, thirty-six (36) of which were ground force units, the remainder air force. The epidemiological evidence indicates that in the majority of units the infection was acquired on LEYTE. Importance of sanitation and a rat-extermination program were stressed as control measures.

2. Scrub Typhus: From 15 December 1944 to 20 February 1945 seventy-one (71) cases of this disease were hospitalized on MINDORO. The peak of the outbreak was reached early in January, two or three weeks after the initial landing. None of the units affected was equipped with impregnated clothing. The areas of exposure were localized and contact with "Cogon" grass was established in all cases. Examination of "cane" rats in the area revealed numerous mites and some ticks on the ears of all rats examined.

Extensive clearing and burning of bivouac areas beginning in January brought the outbreak under control. An emergency supply of bulk di-methyl phthalate was dispatched by air to MINDORO as soon as the first cases of Scrub Typhus were recognized. This headquarters issued a directive on typhus control and provided material for impregnation. Some units were slow in carrying out this preventive measure even after the material was provided. This deficiency was brought to the attention of Task Force Headquarters and was immediately corrected.

3. Schistosomiasis: Previously unrecognized cases of this disease were discovered by the Army Medical Inspector in MINDORO hospitals. Forty-four (44) cases were subsequently recognized and reported. All were clearly related to the endemic areas on LEYTE where personnel and units had been previously staged.

CONCLUSIONS

Hospitalization and evacuation were ample for the forces employed. As the amount of troops increased hospital facilities were proportionately augmented.

Evacuation was principally by air and the results obtained were excellent.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that unit nurses should join units as soon as practicable. In this particular operation enemy opposition did not preclude the possibility of bringing nurses in earlier. This would have greatly facilitated the care of the sick and wounded.

It is also recommended that a more thorough medical survey of the objective area be made, which will result in a decrease in the number of non-battle casualties due to disease.

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