

MAGIC--FAR EAST SUMMARY
 No. 194
 30 Sept 1944

6. Japanese Intelligence--U.S. Air Units:

a. A number of Japanese reports on Allied air strength and order of battle have already been noted (FES 23 Aug, 5, 6 Sept 44). Some measure of the success of Japanese intelligence can be obtained from two additional messages, now available, giving detailed order of battle for Fifth Air Force units in New Guinea and Australia. The messages were sent on 31 July and 10 Aug by the Second Area Army at Mehado to its subordinate commands.

b. The second message is a supplement to the first and is designated "A" Intelligence, a term usually used to describe information derived from encoded Allied communications. In three instances the number of the Fifth Air Force unit is not given completely but has an "X" in place of one of the digits, a symbol which other traffic indicates to be the Japanese expression for an unsolved Allied code group. In seven instances the identification of the unit is followed by the phrase "designation unclear", which may be the Japanese way of describing a code solution regarded as doubtful. There are signs that the first message, of which the opening part is missing, is like the second based on "A" Intelligence.

c. The two messages indicate that the Japanese have not been notably successful in making accurate identifications and locations of our units. Of the 69 units listed in the messages, not more (and probably far less) than 13 are correct as given*, 28 are partially correct (with the correct numeral designation, but an incorrect designation of type or location), and 28 are wholly erroneous. The message correctly stated that there are 21 groups in the Fifth Air Force, but the Japanese identified only eight of them by the correct number and type. They underestimated the total of fighter groups by five and overestimated the total of troop carrier groups by six.

d. On 17 Aug Tokyo sent to the Japanese Military Attache at Stockholm a list of U. S. Army Air Groups in the whole Pacific theater. The message places the total of bombers and fighter groups in the Pacific at 54 (as of 31 July there were 44) and gives numerical identifications for 38. Of these 38, a total of 28 are correctly

*Only three units are clearly given by the correct name and location (the 310th Bomber Wing at Hollandia, the 374th Troop Carrier Group at Townsville and the 8th Fighter Sqdn at Biak). In the other ten instances the location cannot be checked--in five because the part of the message giving the location is missing, and in five others because the location is given in the message as "Rimasetto", which has not been identified.

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designated and placed in the correct general sector of the Pacific, although no detailed locations are given. Nor does the message attempt a breakdown of groups as between the Fifth and Thirteenth Air Forces, which are lumped together under the category "Far East Air Force." Seven groups actually in the Fifth Air Force, which are included in the units listed under "Far East Air Force", had been omitted from the Second Area Army's order of battle of the Fifth Air Force noted above.

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