

MAGIC--FAR EAST SUMMARY

No. 252

27 Nov 44

3. S. China Coast--Warnings of U. S. Air Attacks:

a. Formosa--Luzon Area: At 1340I on 26 Nov an unidentified Japanese Navy originator warned convoys in the South China Sea that "communication intelligence" indicated that U. S. air forces based in China planned to attack Japanese ships in Luzon Strait on the 27th.

b. Hainan: At 2250I on 26 Nov Japanese convoys operating off the S coast of Hainan were alerted against air attacks.

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5. Japanese Intelligence on U. S. Air Forces:

a. On 23 Nov the Second Area Army (HQ Pingrang, SW Celebes) sent the following staff message to Tokyo, the Southern Army, the Fourteenth Area Army and the Fourth Air Army:

"According to 'A' Intelligence (as of 21 Nov):

"(1) The main force of the 49th Fighter Group, which is under the 5th Fighter Command, is at Leyte. It has P-38's and P-40's. (J 2970)

"(2) The commander of the 13th Bomber Command is at Sansapor [NW New Guinea]. The 42nd Bomber Group, the 13th Fighter Command and the 347th Fighter Group are also at Sansapor. The 3rd Attack Bomber Group is at Hollandia."

Note: The term "A" Intelligence is generally used by the Japanese to describe information derived from encoded Allied communications. An "A" Intelligence message sent on 10 Aug by the Second Area Army contained comparatively inaccurate information on the identity and location of U. S. Fifth Air Force units (FES 30 Sept 44). The four Groups mentioned in the present message, however, are actually at the locations given.

b. Also on 22 Nov the Fourteenth Area Army, which commands Japanese forces in the Philippines, sent the following message to the Second Area Army:

"With reference to enemy plane movements in the Morotai sector, we have been using the current 'A' Intelligence of your Army as our only source of information. Since your 'A' Intelligence is very valuable data for us, in the future please make these reports currently. Also, in order to have a complete grasp of the real situation we must rely on messages [possibly sighting reports] from the 32nd Div [Halmahera] (J 2839)
 From now on please send such messages directly to us."

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