

WA 151  
WNC V RG NR 153

FROM CTG 30.6 000 0000 291455  
TO COM 3RD FLT GR AA

CINCPAC AFLOAT PASSED TO ADV ECHELON GEN HQTR SWPA, LEYTE  
AND RDO WASHN FOR INFO 292310

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A BLACKER HELLHOLE THAN POW HOSPITAL WE  
ARE NOW EVACUATING ONE HALF MILE NORTH OF MOORING X APPROXIMATELY  
500 HAVE NOW BEEN PROCESSED TO BENEVOLENCE INCLUDING FRACTURES  
OPEN WOUNDS CONCUSSIONS BURNS AND IN GENERAL THE WORST MALNUTRITION  
IMAGINABLE X BESTIAL BEATINGS WERE COMMON ESPECIALLY AT OFUNA X  
INQUISITORIAL DENS OF BRUTISM X THE CHEERS OF POWS AS OUR BOAT  
HOVE INTO SIGHT BROUGHT TEARS TO OUR EYES X OPERATIONS PROCEEDING  
ACCORDING TO PLAN X THE BATH MEDICAL CARE CHOW INTERVIEW AND CLEAN  
BED ROUTINE IS A MERCIFUL MACHINE OF EFFICIENCY X WILL NEED TWO  
MORE APD ON 30TH X REEVES ALMOST FULL OF AMBULATORY X ALERT  
MISSOURI TO HAVE 300 UNITS OF CLOTHING READY TO SEND UP ON FIRST  
APD REPORTING FOR DUTY X REGARDING FRIEND REQUEST X SUGGEST  
FORGOING INFO BE GIVEN THEM X PAPPY BOYINGTON AMONG POW SENDS  
GREETINGS TO ADM HALSEY X PRELIMINARY LIST OF POW WILL BE SENT  
COMMANDER THIRD FLEET IN MORNING X CAPT TAYLOR REPORTS COMDR  
HART IS OK AT ASHIO X SUGGEST LIMITED INTERVIEW ON BENEVOLENCE  
AND APD REEVES PURPOSE ABLE

BT 291455

R/PY

BUPERS...COG  
COMINCH...OP01...13...16...19  
MM...OPR...S05...00A

**ACTION F-2**



NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM INDEFINITE CALL		ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE	
RELEASED BY		UNIDENTIFIED CALL)	OP OP OP
DATE AUG 3 1945			ROUTINE
TOR CODE ROOM 1200			DEFERRED
DECODED BY VERKLER			
TYPE TRUSSELL/		A	PRIORITY
ROUTED BY			ROUTINE
			DEFERRED
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE.			IF OPERATIONAL CHECK BELOW
030635			NCR 66171
ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME:			DATE
TIME			GCT

ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

RDO HONO INTERCEPT

1V135 REPORTS SURVIVOR AT 35-04 N HAS JAPANESE DESTROYER CONTACTING.  
35-37 N SURVIVOR BEING STRAFED BY JAPANESE FIGHTERS

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Make original only. Deliver to Code Room 030635 Officer in person. (See Art. 76 (4) NAVREGS.)

OPNAV 19-67

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1944 16-41652-1

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3-17-05







# TOP-SECRET - ULTRA

1945

46 From: SA TE KO 4  
 To : N TE NH  
 1ST MOBILE BASE AIR FORCE TEN SIGDESOFORD #241.  
 (72231-Unident) ZUIUI Unit, at discretion of its commander,  
 from tomorrow the 29th after raids by B-29 planes, take off at  
 once and search the area out 50 miles between bearings 90  
 degrees and 180 degrees from Miyazaki. Destroy the crew  
members of any crashed B-29 planes and enemy submarine(s)  
picking them up.  
 (GZ-#6150-F-DI) 2905 April

28 Apr/1945  
 JN-25-P-051

GI COMMENT: For FRUPAC version which rendered a  
 specific B-29 crew involved see item 30, page 16,  
 RI Summary #1300/Q April.

*Attacks m*  
*ms*

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ULTRA

<u>Ship and Date Sunk</u>	<u>Place Sunk</u>	<u>P/Ws en route from</u>	<u>No. P/Ws Aboard</u>	<u>No. Saved</u>	<u>No. Miss- ing</u>
Tamahoko (6780 grt) 24 June	Off SW Kyushu	Java	455 British 275 Dutch <u>42</u> U.S. 772	212 (incl. 13 U.S.)	560
Harukiku (3040 grt) 26 June	Off N Sumatra	Sumatra	720 Allied	540	180
Shinyo (2518 grt) 7 Sept	Off Mindanao	Mindanao	750 U.S.	83 (escaped)	667
Rakuyo (9418 grt) 12 Sept	South China Sea	Thailand	1317 British and Austral- ian	396 (incl. 151 by U.S. subs)	921
Kachidoki (10509 grt) 12 Sept	South China Sea	Possibly Thailand	950 Allied	519	431
Unidentified 21 Sept	Off Bataan	Possibly P.I.	1250 Allied	271	979
Arisan (ton- nage unknown) 24 Oct	Between Luzon and Formosa	Probably P.I.	1783 U.S.	5 (escaped)	1778
Oryoku (7365 grt) 15 Dec	Subic Bay	Luzon	1700 U.S. (approx.)	1335 (approx.)	363
				2 escaped	
		Totals	9242	3363	5879

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1944 Sinkings of Japanese Ships  
Carrying Allied Prisoners of War

1. The Japanese have notified the U. S. Department of State that a transport carrying 772 Allied prisoners of war (42 American, 455 British, 275 Dutch) from Java was torpedoed and sunk off the coast of Japan on 20 June 44, and that the Japanese rescued 212 of the prisoners (including 13 Americans). A Japanese Army shipping message of 27 June, reporting the sinking, identifies the ship as the 6,780-grt freighter Tamahoko Maru and confirms the number of prisoners aboard as 772\*, but gives no information on the number lost. Two other Japanese messages, as well as a U.S. submarine cruise report, indicate that the sinking actually occurred not on 20 June but on 24 June, off Nagasaki (SW Kyushu).

2. The Japanese have notified the Department of State that a transport carrying 720 Allied prisoners was sunk by a submarine off Sumatra on 26 June 44, and that the Japanese rescued 540 of the prisoners. Two days after the sinking the Japanese Army prisoner depot at Singapore sent the following message to Tokyo:

"A ship carrying 720 prisoners of war and

\*The ship was also carrying 409 passengers and 1,400 tons of sugar.

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a staff of 54 from Medan [N Sumatra] to Pakanbaroe [Central Sumatra] was attacked by an Allied submarine at 1400 on the 26th, at a point 100 nautical miles south of Belawan. It sank 15 minutes later. Twenty-seven civilian employees, three "staff personnel" and 180 prisoners of war were killed. The rest, who were rescued, arrived at Singapore on the 28th and were quartered there. There are many wounded, however, and for the present it is impossible to transport them to their destination."

Other messages indicate that the ship carrying the prisoners was the Harukiku Maru, a 3040-grt passenger-freighter.

3. The Japanese have notified the Department of State that a transport carrying 750 American prisoners of war was sunk by a submarine off Mindanao on 7 Sept 44. The Japanese did not report that any prisoners had been rescued, and a Domei broadcast of 17 Sept stated that "750 American prisoners as well as the Japanese crew were lost." Eighty-three of the prisoners escaped, however, and made their way ashore to join guerrilla forces. A Japanese Navy message of 6 Sept identifies the ship as the 2,518-grt freighter Shinyo Maru, which was en route from Davao to Manila, and confirms the number of prisoners

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aboard as 750. On the basis of reports from the prisoners who escaped, the Department of State has filed a protest against "the cruel, inhumane treatment" to which the prisoners on the ship were subjected.

4. The Japanese have notified the British Government that the Japanese rescued 245 prisoners of war from a ship which, while en route from Thailand to Japan, was sunk by an Allied submarine on 12 Sept 44. It is known from a number of sources that the ship was the Rakuyo Maru (9,418-grt passenger-freighter), which was torpedoed in the South China Sea at about 0500I on 12 Sept, and that it was carrying British and Australian prisoners of war. U.S. submarines rescued 151 additional prisoner survivors (60 British, 91 Australian). The British have protested against the Japanese treatment of the prisoners at the time of the sinking.

A Japanese Army shipping message sent on 22 Sept (ten days after the sinking) made the following report on the Rakuyo Maru:

(1) "There were 1,317 prisoners of war aboard, and 1,051 are missing."\*

\*Those figures indicate that the Japanese rescued 266 prisoners--21 more than the figure in their later notification to the British Government. The difference may represent men who died after being rescued.

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(2) "There were 600 passengers aboard (2 are missing) and 127 ship's personnel (5 are missing)."

(3) The ship was carrying a substantial amount of bauxite.

From a number of other messages it appears that the Rakuyo Maru was part of the HI-72 Convoy (Singapore to Empire), which lost a total of four merchant ships as a result of U.S. submarine attacks in the South China Sea on 12 Sept.

5. After the attack on the Rakuyo Maru the HI-72 Convoy headed for refuge at Yulin (S Hainan). At 2240I on the night of the 12th another ship in the convoy, the Kachidoki Maru (10,509 grt, ex-President Harrison), was sunk by a U.S. submarine, about 150 miles northwest of where the Rakuyo Maru had gone down. The Japanese have given no official notification that prisoners of war were aboard that ship, and there has been no non-Ultra evidence that such was the case. The 22 Sept shipping message, however, besides reporting on the Rakuyo Maru, stated that 950 prisoners were aboard the Kachidoki Maru, and that 431 of them were missing. (The message also stated that 17 of the 453 ship's passengers and 12 of the 158 ship's personnel were missing, and that the "majority" of the

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429 patients aboard were rescued. There is some indication that the prisoners on the Kachidoki Maru (like those on the Rakuyo Maru) were from Thailand.

6. The Japanese have notified the Department of State that a ship carrying 1,250 Allied prisoners was sunk by aircraft off Bataan Peninsula on 21 Sept 44 (during the carrier strike against the Manila area), and that the Japanese rescued 271 of the prisoners. No other information on that sinking is available.

7. According to five American prisoners of war who managed to escape, a northbound Japanese ship, carrying about 1,800 American prisoners of war, was torpedoed at sundown on the afternoon of 24 Oct 44 between Luzon and Formosa. Similar information has been furnished by a Japanese who was aboard the ship. It is believed that the ship in question was the Arisan Maru (tonnage unknown). A number of Japanese messages disclose that the Arisan Maru was sunk on 24 Oct, at the time and place indicated by the statements. Moreover, a Japanese Army shipping message sent from Manila on 25 Oct (apparently before news of the sinking was received) stated that the Arisan Maru had been loaded with "1,783 men

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[presumably prisoners], guards, 30 [Japanese] noncommissioned officers and men, and 300 cases of unit baggage." The message added that the ship had left Manila on 20 Oct and was scheduled to arrive at Takao on the 25th. On 25 Oct a Japanese destroyer reported the rescue of the "commander and 60 men" from the Arisan Maru. There is no other evidence available on whether any prisoners aboard the ship were rescued by the Japanese.

8. According to one of two American prisoners of war who managed to rejoin U.S. forces, a northbound ship carrying 1,600 American prisoners which left Manila on 14 Dec was attacked by aircraft in Subic Bay on the 14th and 15th. Analysis of photographs taken during the attacks indicated that the ship, which sank on the 15th, probably was the 7,365-grt passenger-freighter Oryoku Maru. A number of Japanese messages confirm that identification, disclose that the ship was en route to Takao, and indicate that as many as 1,700 prisoners may have been on board. According to a captured diary, the ship also was carrying a number of Japanese evacuees.

A Japanese Army shipping message sent from Manila

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on 20 Dec 44 stated that "the transportation [to Manila] by land route of the 33 guards and about 1,300 white prisoners who were shipwrecked on the Oryoku Maru will be completed by the 24th." A captured document states that 365 prisoners were lost in the sinking.

Note: The Japanese have not given official notification on either of the last two cases (24 Oct and 15 Dec), and the Department of State has requested the Swiss Government to make appropriate inquiries.

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