

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER OF OPERATIONS (Fifth Air Force) On the ground at [Nadzab Airfield](#) parked [A-20G 43-9391](#) exploded in its revetment and damaged ten other parked A-20s including: [A-20G 43-21627](#).

(Thirteenth Air Force) B-17's pound [Bairoko](#)

(JAAF) 16 Ki-21 Sallys of the 14th Sentai (misidentified as Bettys), escorted by Oscars and Zeros, attack the newly landed American forces on the beachheads of [Munda](#) and Rendova, they are met by heavy anti-aircraft fire and fighters, losing five bombers, and shooting down three American fighters.

(USN) Grounded and scuttled is [PT-153](#).

#### MONDAY, 5 JULY 1943

SOUTH PACIFIC THEATER OF OPERATIONS (Thirteenth Air Force) 9 B-24's over Buin fail to find shipping and bomb Munda and [Ballale](#).

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER OF OPERATIONS (Fifth Air Force) B-25's bomb and strafe [Salamaua Airfield](#), Komiatum Track, and HQ areas at Kela and [Salamaua](#).

RAAF: Shot down by US Navy anti-aircraft fire over [Nassau Bay](#) is [Boomerang A46-88](#).

USN - Battle of Kula Gulf (night of July 5-6). Sunk is [USS Helena CL-50](#)  
Grounded and destroyed near [Munda Point](#) is [PT-158](#).

#### TUESDAY, 6 JULY 1943

ALASKA (Eleventh Air Force) Two B-24's and two P-40's on three weather reconnaissance missions report [Kiska](#) overcast, and take photos of Segula. Six B-24's bomb Main Camp on [Kiska](#). Eight B-25's abort a radar run over [Kiska](#) when one has engine trouble and the others fail to locate a PV Pathfinder. They sight a submarine which crash-dives immediately.

CHINA (Fourteenth Air Force)  
In China, 5 B-25's and 8 P-40's hit runway and revetment area at Pailochi Airfield.

SOUTH PACIFIC THEATER OF OPERATIONS (Thirteenth Air Force) B-17's and B-24's pound bomb [Kahili Airfield](#), on [Ballale Airfield](#) and [Buka Airfield](#). Lost are [B-24D 42-40230](#) (MIA) and [B-24D 41-24093](#) (MIA). B-25's hit a beached destroyer at Bamberi, New Georgia Island. Heavy raids on Bougainville soften it up for a future target for invasion forces.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER OF OPERATIONS (Fifth Air Force) B-25's attack the airfield at Penfoei on Timor Island and hit Labu Lagoon area in New Guinea.

USN: [PB4Y Liberator 31992](#) performs a lone reconnaissance over [Kapingamarangi](#) to report enemy movements. Over the target, the bomber came under anti-aircraft fire and aerial opposition. Van Voorhis made six ground attacks on the base, hitting radio station, and claimed one plane in the air shot down, and three destroyed in the water. Likely caught by its own bomb blast or accurate anti-aircraft fire, it crashed into the lagoon only 700 meters from the base, near the beach area it was attacking. Everyone aboard was killed. For his actions, [Van Voorhis earned the Medal of Honor](#), the only navy PB4Y-1 pilot awarded one.

#### WEDNESDAY, 7 JULY 1943

CHINA (Fourteenth Air Force) 7 B-25's and 22 P-40's attack shipping at Canton, China. At least 2 interceptors are shot down.

SOUTH PACIFIC THEATER OF OPERATIONS (Thirteenth Air Force) B-25's and P-38's attack [Vila Airfield](#) and B-24's bomb [Kahili Airfield](#). Lost are [B-24D "Scrap Iron" 42-40384](#) and [Hudson NZ2033](#)

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER OF OPERATIONS (Fifth Air Force) In New Guinea, B-24's and B-25's, along with Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) airplanes, operate in direct support of Allied ground operations in the Mubo area, dropping over 100 tons of bombs on numerous targets as the MacKechnie Force begins an assault on Bitoi Ridge and Australian forces (2/6 Battalion) capture Observation Hill, an important terrain feature W of Mubo.

USN: Lost on a training mission off Hawaii is [PB4Y-1 Liberator 32005](#).

#### THURSDAY, 8 JULY 1943

ALASKA (Eleventh Air Force) 9 B-25's fly a special mission to [Attu](#).

CHINA (Fourteenth Air Force) 22 B-24's, escorted by 13 P-40's, attack shipping, docks, and a cement works at [Haiphong](#).

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER OF OPERATIONS (Fifth Air Force) B-25's continue to pound enemy positions around Mubo and along the coast of NE New Guinea, hitting Kela Point and village, Malolo, Buigap Creek, and trails from [Salamaua Airfield](#) and Kennedy's Crossing to [Loqui](#). Lost is [B-25D "Blunder Bus" 41-30028](#). The 319th