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DIAGRAMS FOR THE BATTLE OF SAVO ISLAND,
AUGUST 9, 1942. STRATEGICAL AND
TACTICAL ANALYSIS. PART II

Richard W. Bates

Naval War College

Prepared for:

Bureau of Naval Personnel

1950

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13. ABSTRACT			
These diagrams portray the strategic area of the Savo Island battle, air searches and movement of forces, the Japanese approach, various phases of the action, the withdrawal of the Japanese cruiser force, and the composite tracks of the opposing naval forces. Each diagram is accompanied by a record of the events depicted therein.			

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DIAGRAMS

for

THE BATTLE

OF

SAVO ISLAND

AUGUST 9, 1942

STRATEGICAL

AND

TACTICAL ANALYSIS

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THE BATTLE OF SAVO ISLAND

DIAGRAMS:

- A STRATEGIC AREA CHART
- B AIR SEARCHES AND MOVEMENT OF FORCES, 6 AUGUST
- C AIR SEARCHES AND MOVEMENT OF FORCES, 7 AUGUST
- D AIR SEARCHES AND MOVEMENT OF FORCES, 8 AUGUST
- E JAPANESE APPROACH PAST RADAR PICKETS, 0000 TO 0132
- F ACTION WITH CHICAGO GROUP, 0132 TO 0150
- G OPENING PLAN OF ACTION WITH VINCENNES GROUP 0150 TO 0200
- H FINAL PHASE OF ACTION WITH VINCENNES GROUP 0200 TO 0220
- I WITHDRAWAL OF JAPANESE CRUISER FORCE, 0220 TO 0240
- J COMPOSITE TRACK CHART
- K AIR SEARCHES AND MOVEMENT OF FORCES, 9 AUGUST

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JAPANESE FOURTH FLEET AREA
JAPANESE EIGHTH-FLEET

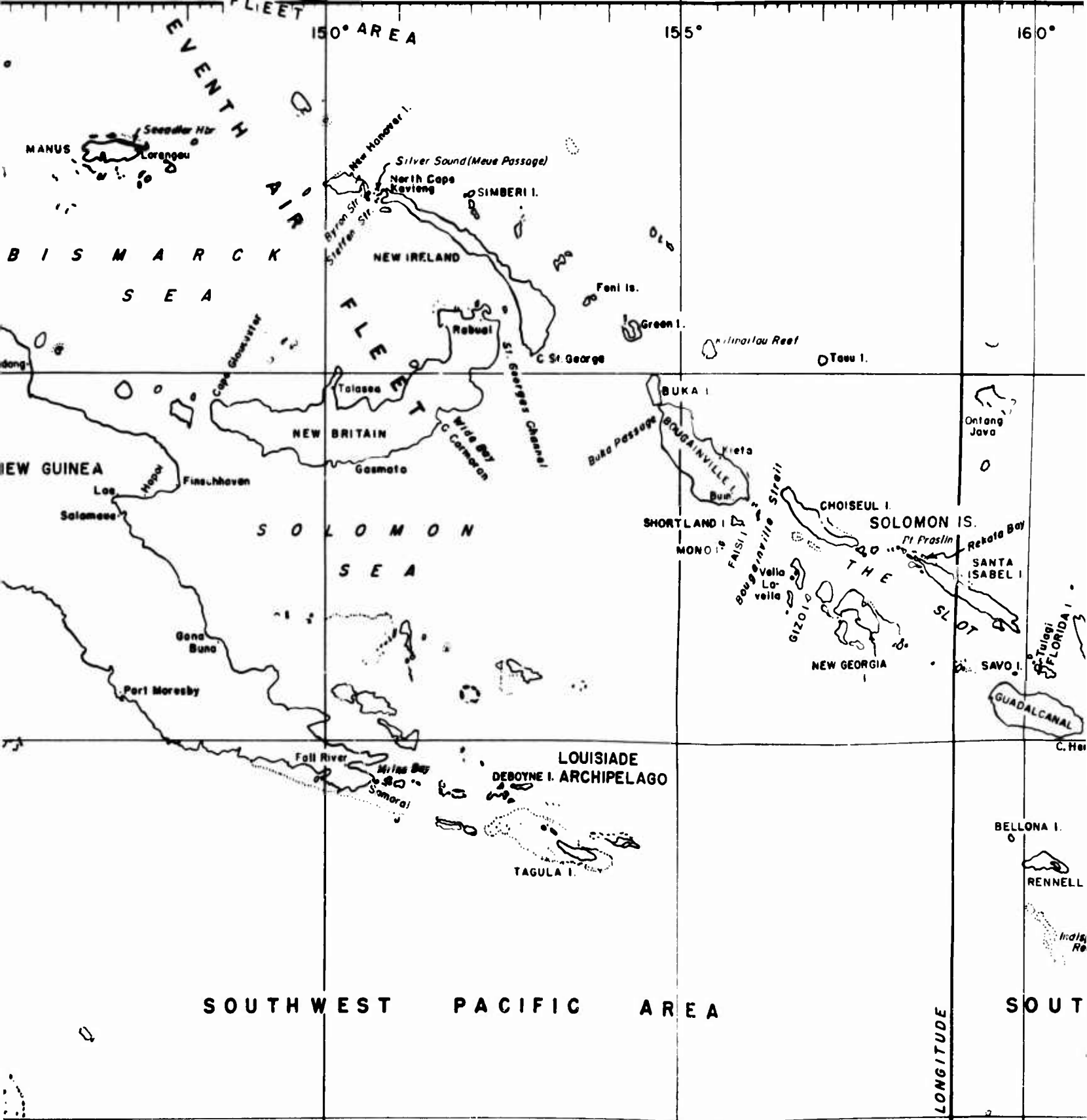
J A P A N E S E

C O M B I N E D

150° AREA

155°

160°



S O U T H W E S T P A C I F I C A R E A

C O R A L

LONGITUDE

S O U T H

9° EAST

NGI 1.

M B I N E D

F L E E T
EQUATOR

C E N T R A L

P A C I F

160°

165°

170°

tu Reef

Teou I.

Ontong
Java

0

CHOISEUL I.
SOLOMON IS.

Pt Praslin

Reketa Bay

SANTA
ISABEL I.

THE

SLOT

SAVO I.

NEW GEORGIA

MALAITA I.
MOTUOISO ESTIMY

GUADALCANAL

Luka Shoal

C. Henslow

SAN
CRISTOBAL I.

BELLONA I.

RENNELL I.

Indispensable
Reefs

SOUTH PACIFIC AREA

S O

NDENI SANTA CRUZ IS.

P A

LONGITUDE

59° EAST

ESPIRITU
SANTO I.

NEW
HEBRIDES

St. James Bay
Second Channel

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CENTRAL PACIFIC AREA

170°

175°

0°

GILBERT IS.

5°

ELLICE IS.

S O U T H

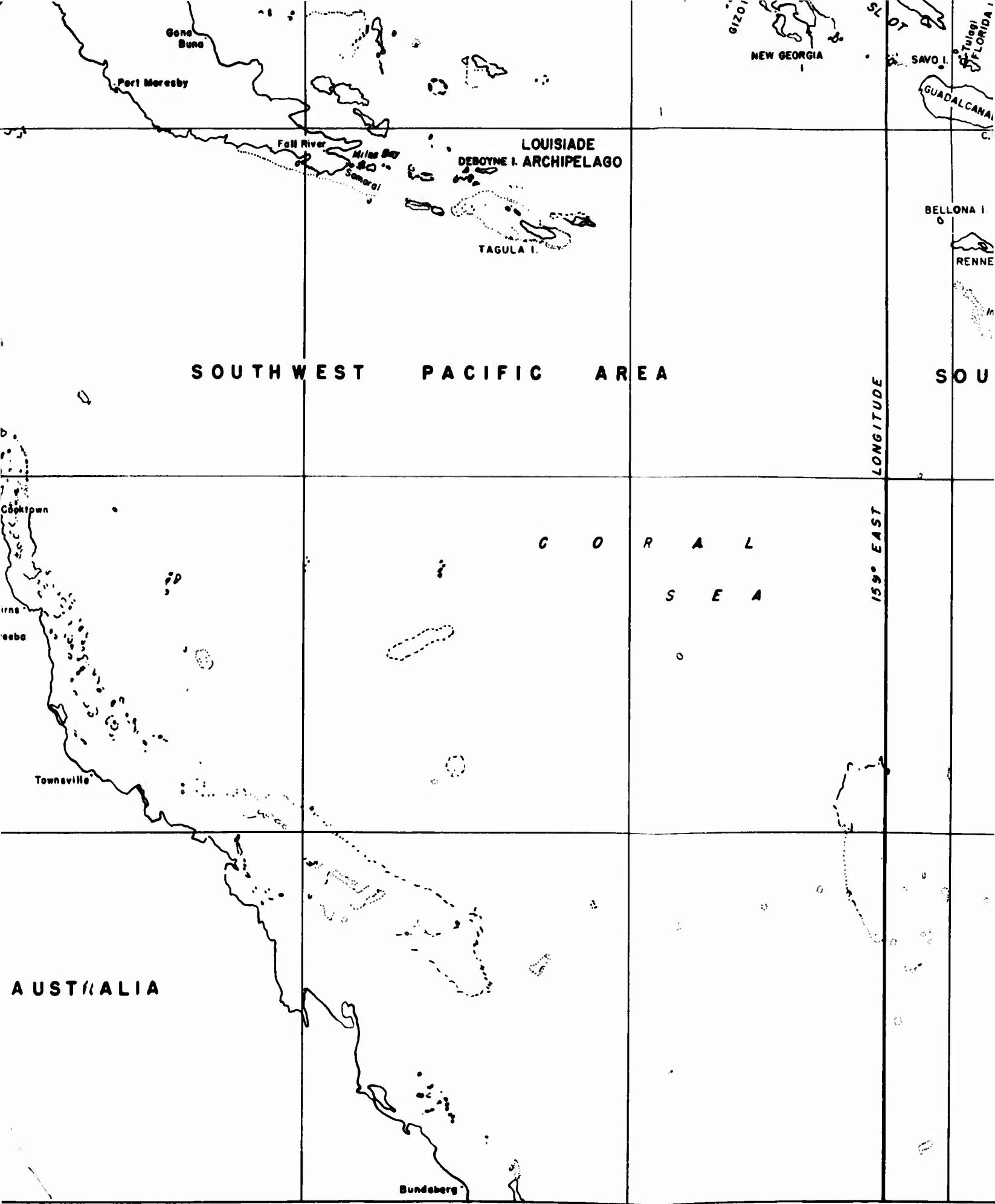
10°

SANTA CRUZ IS.

P A C I F I C

15°

GRACIOSO BOY
ESPIRITU SANTO I
NEW
SEBASTIAN CHANNEL



SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

G U L F O F C A R P E N T A R I A

LONGITUDE
159° EAST

A U S T R A L I A

Bundaberg

LOUISIADE
DEBOYNE I. ARCHIPELAGO

TAGULA I.

Port Moresby

Fall River

Milne Bay

Samarai

Gene Buna

NEW GEORGIA

SAVO I.

GUADALCANAL

BELLONA I.

RENNE

GIZO I.

SL. OT

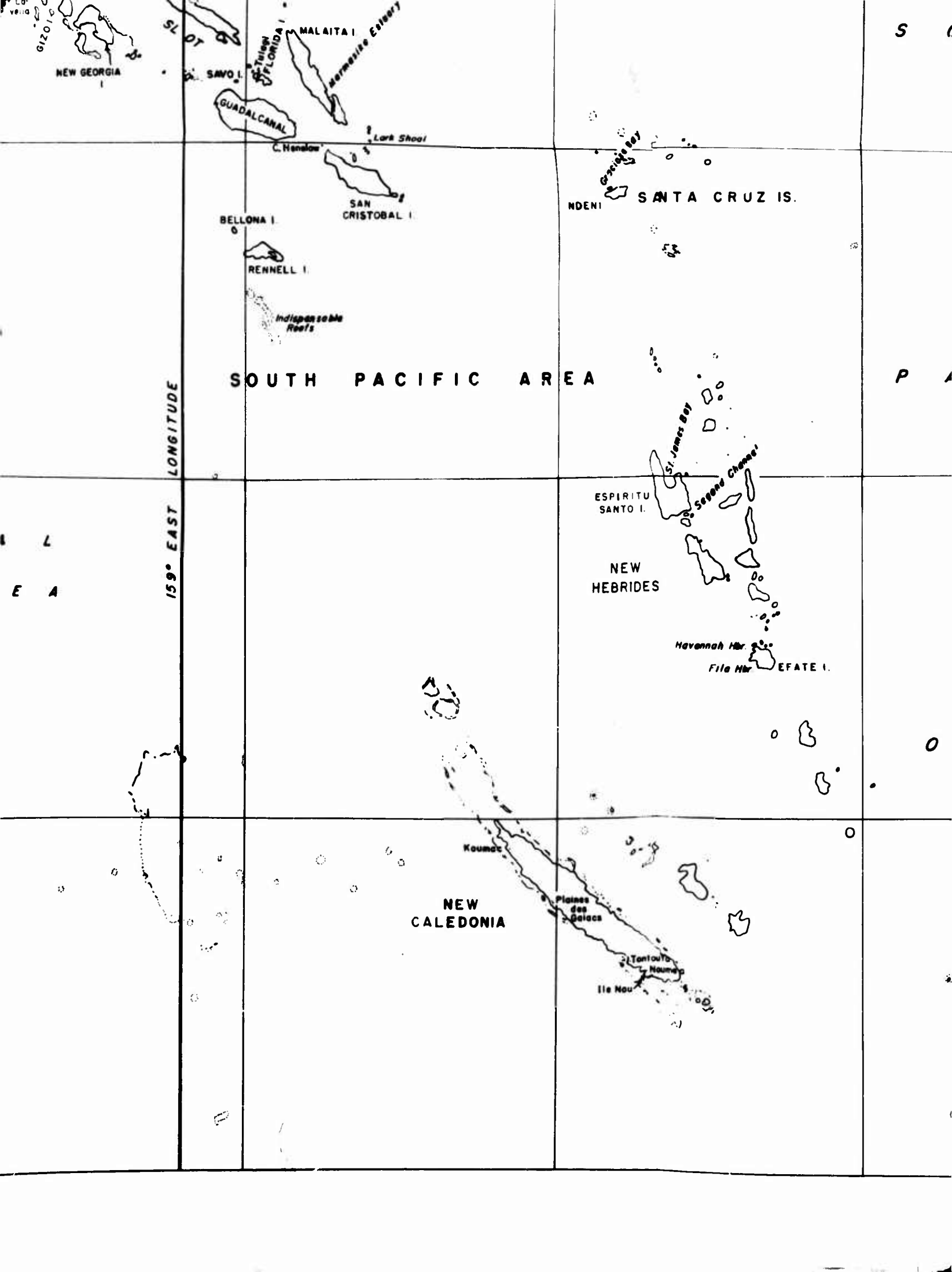
Tulagi
FLORIDA

Cooktown

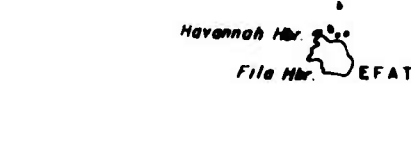
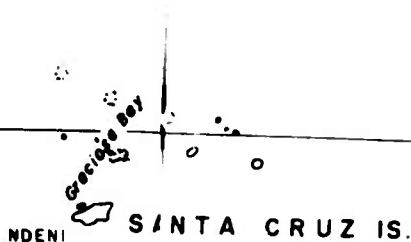
Irma

Reeba

Townsville



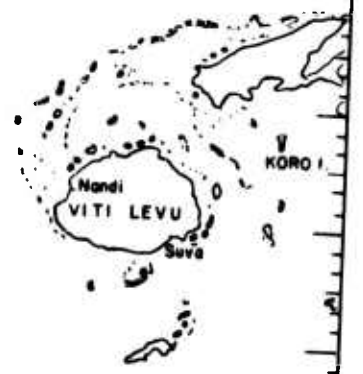
S O U T H



P A C I F I C

O C E A N

FIJI IS.



BATTLE OF SAVO ISLAND STRATEGIC AREA CHART

DIAGRAM "A"

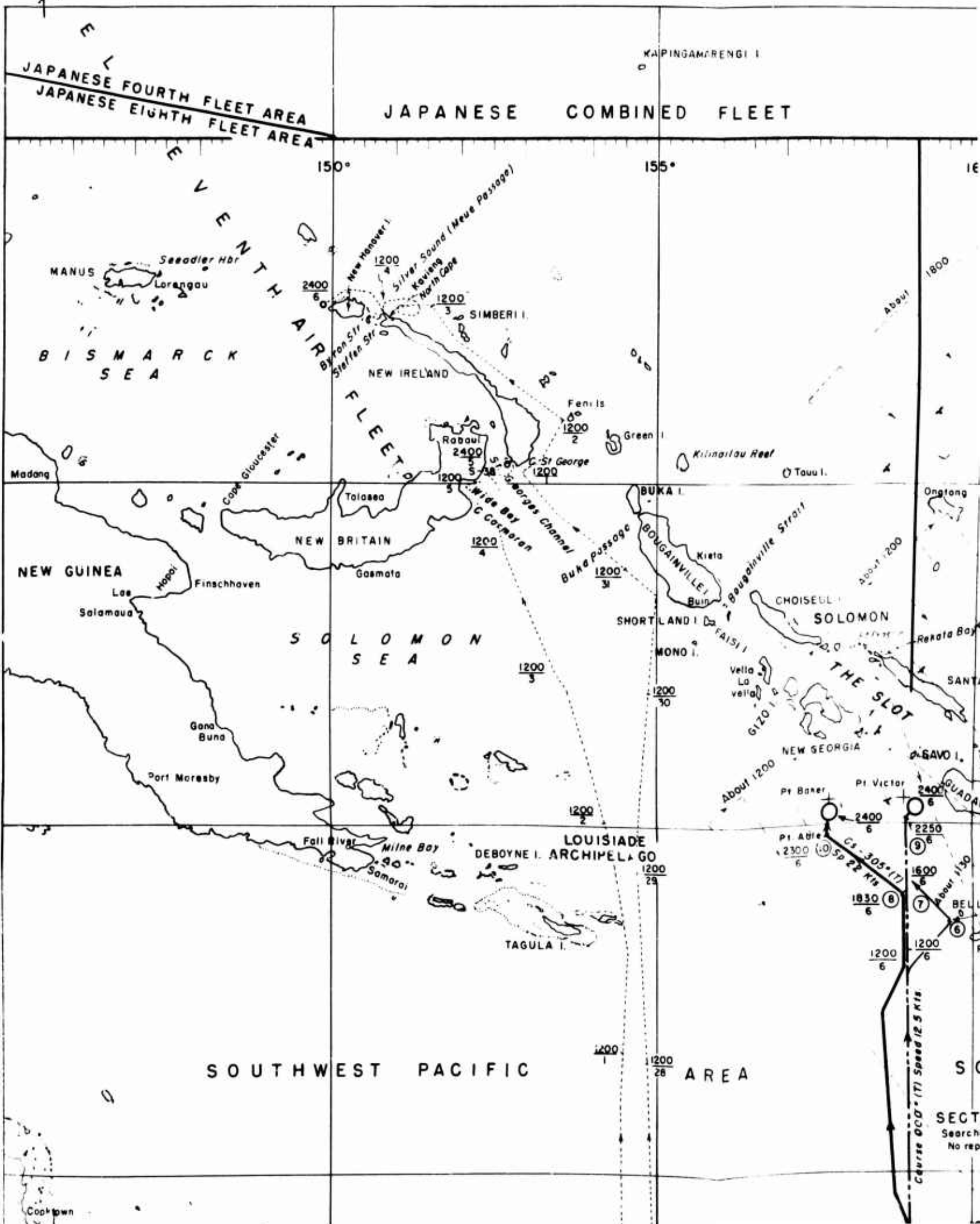
377 - START

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EVENTS DEPICTED ON DIAGRAM "B"

- (1) 1715 July 31st Amphibious force sortied from Koro Island, Fijis. Proceeded to Tulagi-Guadalcanal objective.
- (2) 1700 August 1st Amphibious Force (TG 61.2) and Air Support Force (TG 61.1) rendezvoused then proceeded on course 280°(T).
- (3) 1200 August 3rd The oiler CIMARRON rendezvoused with TF 61.1 to fuel as many ships as possible.
- (4) 1811 August 4th CIMARRON completed fueling operations with TF 62.
- (5) 1200 August 5th Amphibious Force (TG 61.2) c/e to 000°(T) on meridian of 159° East Longitude to approach Savo Island.
- (6) 1400 August 6th SELFRIDGE (COMDESRON FOUR) under orders from CTF 62, fixed navigational position on Bellona Island and proceeded to rejoin the Task Force by 1800, August 6th.
- (7) 1600 August 6th CTF 62 placed in effect his OpPlan A3-42, and directed his command to form the Attack Force Approach Disposition AR-3.
- (8) 1830 August 6th CTG 61.1 c/e to 305°(T) and increased speed to twenty-two knots in order to pass through Point ABLE at 2300, August 6th, and Point BAKER at 0030, August 7th.
- (9) 2250 August 6th CTF 62 reached position Latitude 09°-50'(S), Longitude 159°-00'(E), c/e to 040°(T), speed twelve knots to close Savo Island.
- (10) 2300 August 6th CTG 61.1 c/e to 000°(T) to head for Point BAKER.

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JAPANESE FOURTH FLEET AREA
 JAPANESE EIGHTH FLEET AREA

JAPANESE COMBINED FLEET

EIGHTH AIR FLEET

MANUS
 Seeadler Hbr
 Lorangau
 BISMARCK SEA

NEW GUINEA
 Madang
 Salamaua
 Hapoi
 Finschhafen
 Gona Bund
 Port Moresby

NEW BRITAIN
 Tolasea
 Gasmata

SOLOMON SEA

LOUISIAD E
 DEBOYNE I. ARCHIPELAGO
 TAGULA I.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC

KAPINGAMARENGI I

155°

150°

160°

NEW IRELAND
 New Hanover I.
 Silver Sound (Neue Passage)
 Kawing
 North Cape
 SIMBERI I.
 Fenis Is.
 Green I.

Kilingailau Reef
 Tauu I.

BUKA I.
 BOUGAINVILLE I.
 Kieta
 Buka passage
 Bougainville Strait

SHORTLAND I. D.
 FAISI I.
 MONO I.

CHOISEUL I.
 SOLOMON

THE SLOT
 GIZO I.
 Vella La vella

NEW GEORGIA
 SAVO I.
 Pt Baker
 Pt Victor

GUADAL
 Pt Able
 2300
 2400
 2250
 1600
 1830
 1200
 1200

BELL I.
 About 1150
 1200
 1200

Course 000° (T) Speed 12.5 Kts

1800

About 1200

About 1200

1200
 1200
 26

AREA

SECTO
 Search
 No rep

160°

165°

170°

Linailau Reef

Tau I.

1800

About

About 1800

SECTOR FIVE

Searched by 4 PBYS from Ndeni
Negative One PBY 5 (II-P-3) down
at sea Search planes at outer
limit at sunset, searching return legs
by radar.

SECTOR THREE

Searched by 5 PBYS from Espiritu Santo
Negative. Extreme western subsector not
reported because plane (23 P-15) failed to
return. Search planes at outer limit at
sunset, searching return legs by radar.

Tieta

CHOISEUL I.
SOLOMON

THE SLOT

SANTA ISABEL I.

FLORIDA I.

MALAITA I.

NEW GEORGIA

SAVO I.

GUADALCANAL

Marmasika Estuary

Tulagi

C. Henlow

Lark Sheaf

Pt. Baker

Pt. Victor

2400

6

Pt. Able

2300

6

2250

6

1600

6

1830

6

1200

6

1200

6

Course 000° (T) Speed 18.5 Kts.

About 1130

1400

6

RENNELL I.

Indispensable Reefs

MACKINAC

2400

6

SECTOR TWO

3 B-17 from
ESPIRITU
Negative

NDENI

0800

5

McFARLAND

1200/5

5

0800

5

2000

5

St. James Bay

Segond Channel

ESPIRITU SANTO I.

1200

4

CURTISS

1300

4

REA

SOUTH PACIFIC AREA

SECTOR ONE

Searched by 3 B-17s
No report received

Searched by 1 PBY 5
from Efote
Negative

CENTRAL PACIFIC AREA

170°

175°

0°

GILBERT IS.

About 1800

5°

S O U T H

ELLICE IS.

SECTOR THREE

Searched by 5 PBYSs from Espiritu Santo
Negative. Extreme western subsector not
sorted because plane (23-P-15) failed to
turn. Search planes at outer limit of
net, searching return legs by radar

About 1145

10°

SECTOR SIX

Searched by 4 PBYSs from Nandi
Negative

P A C I F I C

15°

McFARLAND
1200/3

SANTA CRUZ IS.

0800

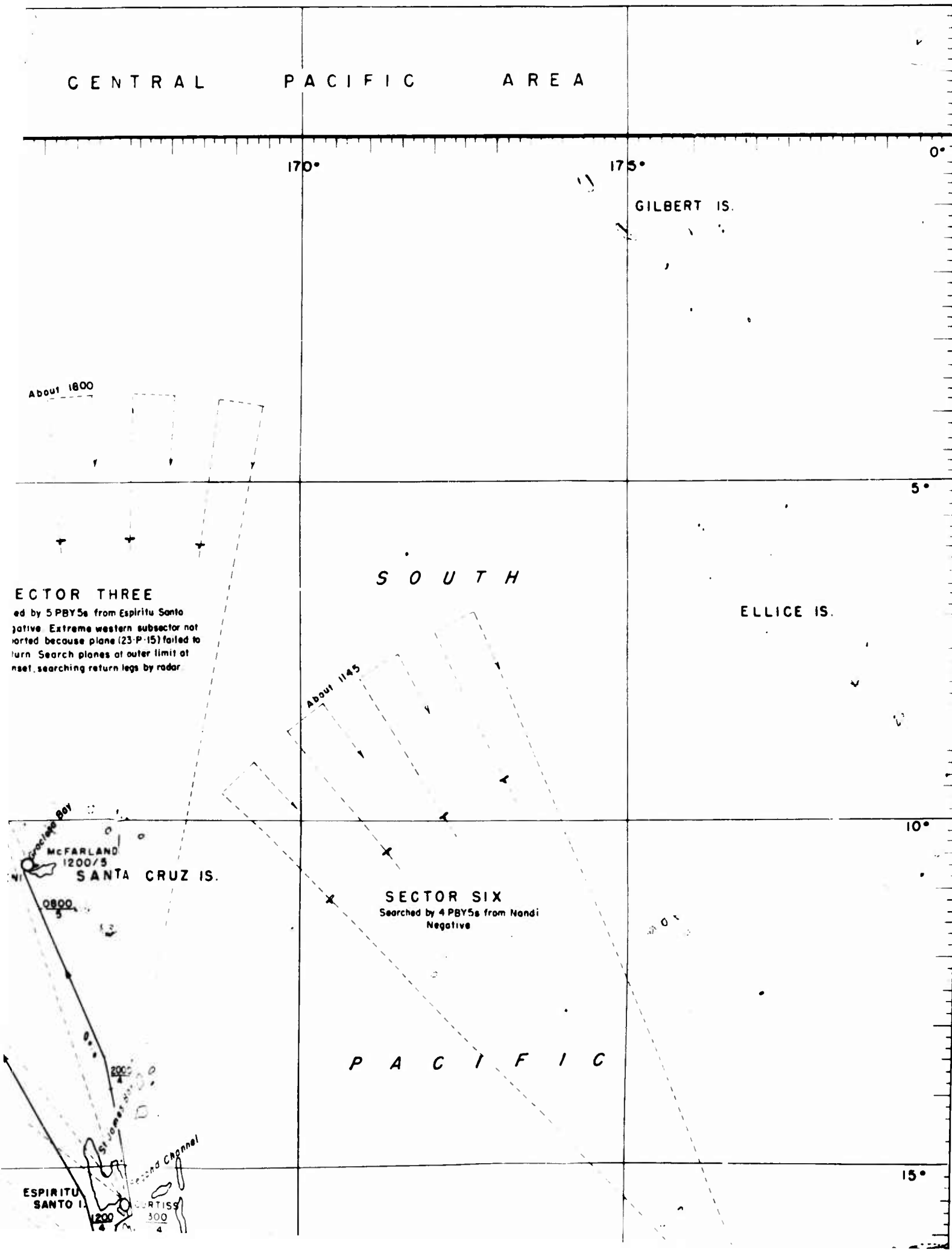
2000

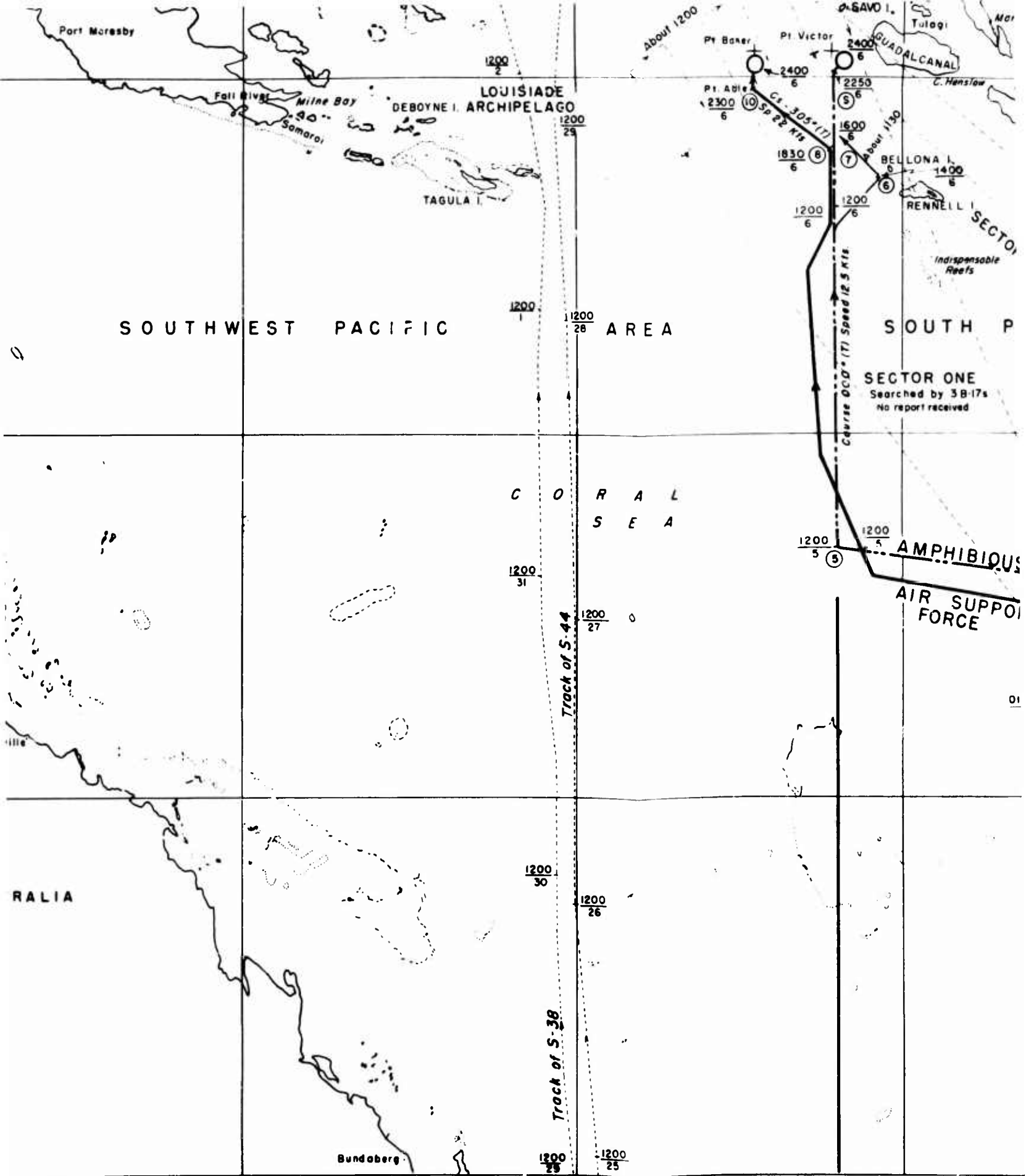
ESPIRITU
SANTO I.

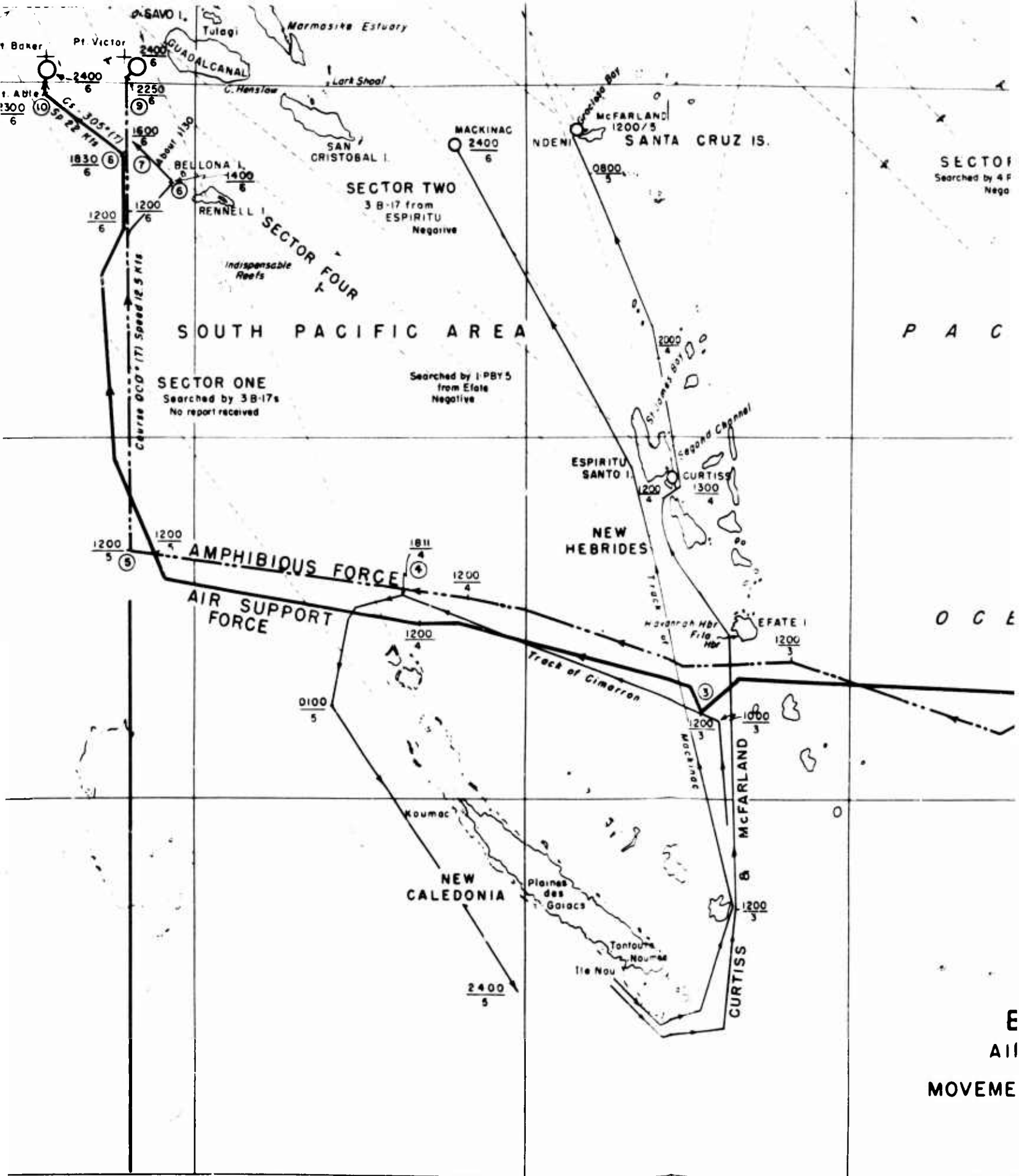
CURTISS
300

4

St. James Channel







E
AIR
MOVEMENT

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RECORD OF EVENTS DEPICTED ON DIAGRAM "C"

AUGUST 7th, 1942

0000 to 2400

- (1) 0000 Air Support Force (TG 61.1) was seventy-five miles to westward of Amphibious Force on course 000°(T) at fifteen knots. At 0030, TG 61.1 reached Point BAKER, and changed course to 090°(T) to reach Point VICTOR, the dawn launching point, by 0530.
- (2) 0000 Amphibious Force (TF 62), on course 040°(T) at twelve knots speed, was approaching the target area.
- (3) 0000 Seaplane Tender MACKINAC en route from Noumea to Maramasike Estuary.
- (4) 0000 Submarine S-44 en route around New Hanover Island to patrol station off southern entrance of Steffen and Byron Straits. (Did not arrive in time to intercept Japanese cruiser sortie at 0650.)
- (5) 0000 Submarine S-38 patrolling in St. George's Channel five miles off New Ireland. Shifted later in day to Japanese traffic lane eight miles off New Ireland.
- (6) 0230 Search planes in Sector II and IV took off from Espiritu Santo to reach positions abreast of Tulagi by sunrise (as requested by CTF 62 on July 29th). PBY5's in Sector IV returned to base on MACKINAC at Maramasike Estuary upon completion of search. One B-17, searching left-half of Sector II failed to return, and was probably lost because of bad weather.
- (7) 0300 Amphibious Groups YOKE and XRAY change course and separated - Group XRAY to course 075°(T), Group YOKE to 058°(T).
- (8) 0406 Amphibious Group XRAY changed course to 120°(T) to proceed south of Savo Island to Lunga Roads.
- (9) 0500 Amphibious Group YOKE, in position four miles north of Savo Island, changed course to 120°(T) to approach Tulagi.
- (10) 0530 Air Support Force (TG 61.1) reached Point VICTOR - dawn launching position - and commenced air supporting operations for the day.
- (11) 0630 Three B-17's took off from Port Moresby to search Reconnaissance (about) Areas "C", "D", and "E" along the tracks shown on the Diagram.

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- (12) 0637 Amphibious Group YOKE arrived off Tulagi.
- (13) 0650 Amphibious Group XRAY arrived at Lunga Roads.
- (14) 0650 CHOKAI and CRUDIV SIX cleared Steffen Strait. CHOKAI, AOBA and KAKO were en route to Seeadler Harbor, Manus; KINUGASA and FURUTAKA were en route to Rabaul. Upon receipt of an urgent report of the Allied attack at Tulagi, all ships headed for Rabaul at twenty-four knots.
- (15) 0700 Two Type-97 large Japanese flying boats left Rabaul to search sector 100°(T) to 130°(T) to a distance of 700 miles. They proceeded out on tracks 107°(T) and 117°(T) each turned left at 1110 to cover a sixty miles cross-leg, and turned back toward Rabaul at 1151.
- (16) 0700 Eight VTB from the ENTERPRISE conducted search from point of origin Latitude 09°-44'(S), Longitude 159°-16'(E) to cover sector 270°(T) to 030°(T) to a radius of 200 miles. Giso Island and Tunnibuli Bay (southern end of Santa Isabel) were reconnoitered and photographed during this search. The outer limit of this search was covered at about 0900.
- (17) 0740 ENTERPRISE search plane located and attacked (unsuccessfully) a Japanese small craft, identified as probably a small oiler, in position seventy-five miles from point of origin of search.
- (18) 0900 Three land attack planes from Japanese SECOND Air Group departed Rabaul to conduct reconnaissance to a radius of 700 miles on the following courses:
- | Plane | Course | Lateral Distances |
|-------|---------|-----------------------|
| No. 1 | 170°(T) | 60 miles to the left |
| No. 2 | 117°(T) | 60 miles to the left |
| No. 3 | 127°(T) | 60 miles to the right |
- These planes reached the outer limit at 1307, completed their cross-legs at 1328, and returned to Rabaul at 1735. The No. 2 plane duplicated the sector which one of the two flying boats searched about two hours earlier.
- (19) 0900 The B-17 from Port Moresby assigned to conduct photographic reconnaissance in Reconnaissance Area "E" (Rabaul and Kavieng), turned back to base in position Latitude 7°-50'(S), Longitude 151°-21'(E).
- (20) 1000 Five R.A.A.F. Hudsons took off from Fall River (Milne Bay), one to search adjacent area, and four to search Reconnaissance Area "B" in the northern Solomons.

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- ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
- (21) 0600 Four PBY5's at Ndeni and three PBY5's at Espiritu Santo took off to search Sectors III and V, respectively.
 - (22) 1202 One Type-1 land attack plane departed Rabaul to reconnoiter Tulagi, expressly to determine the results of the Japanese bombing attacks on the Allied shipping. It completed this reconnaissance at 1521 and returned to Rabaul at 1840.
 - (23) 1210 CHOKAI sighted YUNAGI approaching. YUNAGI had been sent out from Rabaul by Commander EIGHTH Fleet to escort CHOKAI into harbor at maximum speed, arriving there at 1330. CRUDIV SIX remained outside Rabaul underway.
 - (24) 1239 CHOKAI and CRUDIV SIX observed thirteen Allied B-17's attacking airfields at Rabaul.
 - (25) 1330 SARATOGA planes reconnoitered Maramasike Estuary and notified MACKINAC it was safe to enter.
 - (26) 1628 Commander EIGHTH Fleet departed Rabaul in the CHOKAI accompanied by the TENRYU and YUBARI of CRUDIV EIGHTEEN, and by the only destroyer available, the YUNAGI.
 - (27) 1805 CRUDIV SIX joined in column astern of the CHOKAI. The TENRYU with YUNAGI in column took anti-submarine patrol station on the port bow, and the YUBARI took a similar station on the starboard bow of the CHOKAI.
 - (28) 1837 Allied carriers secured from flight operations in a mean position about twenty-five miles south of Cape Henslow, Guadalcanal. They commenced retirement for the night on course 263°(T) at fifteen knots to pass through Point EASY at 2330.
 - (29) 1945 Submarine S-38 sighted TENRYU and YUBARI, submerged and was passed by the CHOKAI and CRUDIV SIX at too close a range to fire torpedoes. S-38 tracked this force and later surfaced to report it on course 140°(T) at high speed.
 - (30) 2030 Japanese Cruiser Force reached position twenty miles south of Cape St. George, and changed course to 080°(T).
 - (31) 2222 S-38 sighted a large Japanese submarine heading southeast out of St. George's Channel at high speed too far away to attack. This submarine was the I-121 en route from Rabaul to Tulagi.
 - (32) 2330 Air Support Force (TG 61.1) reached Point EASY, and changed course to 180°(T).
 - (33) 2400 Japanese Cruiser Force position: twenty miles on bearing 285°(T) from Cape Henpan, Buka Island.

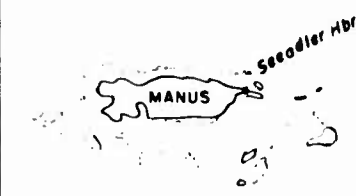
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150°

JAPANESE FOURTH FLEET AREA
JAPANESE EIGHTH FLEET AREA

JAPANESE COMBINED

E
V
E
N
T
H



Mussou

NEW HANOVER Strait

North Cape Kavieng

Simberi

NEW IRELAND

RECCO AREA "D"

Searched by 1B17 from Pt Moresby

RECCO AREA "E"

B I S M A R C K

E M S E A

1210 (23) (24) 1239

Feni Is

East Cape

Green Is

S-38

St George

0000/7

2400

33

Cape

Buka Passage

1-DD 1646

1-DD 1246

1 ship 1657

1-DD 1646

1-DD 1246

1 ship 1657

1-DD 1646

1-DD 1246

1 ship 1657

1-DD 1646

1-DD 1246

1 ship 1657

1-DD 1646

1-DD 1246

1 ship 1657

S-44
2400

0650

1210 (23)

(24)

1239

Rabaul

1624

(26)

1805

1945

(27)

2222

(31)

2030

(30)

1-DD

2030

(30)

1-DD

2030

(30)

1-DD

2030

(30)

1-DD

2030

(30)

B-17 returned to base
RECCO AREA "E"
not covered

(19)

0900

RECCO AREA "B"

Searched by 4 RAAF Hudsons from
Pt Moresby (Milne Bay)

(18)

0900

(18)

0900

NEW BRITAIN

RECCO AREA "C"

Searched by 1B17 from Pt Moresby

S O L O M O N

S E A

S O L O M O N

S E A

S O L O M O N

S E A

VITIAE STRAIT

Cape Gloucester

Talasea

Gasmata

Finschhafen

Salomona

Gona

Buna

Kiriwina

155°

160°

CENTRAL

COMBINED

FLEET

EQUATOR

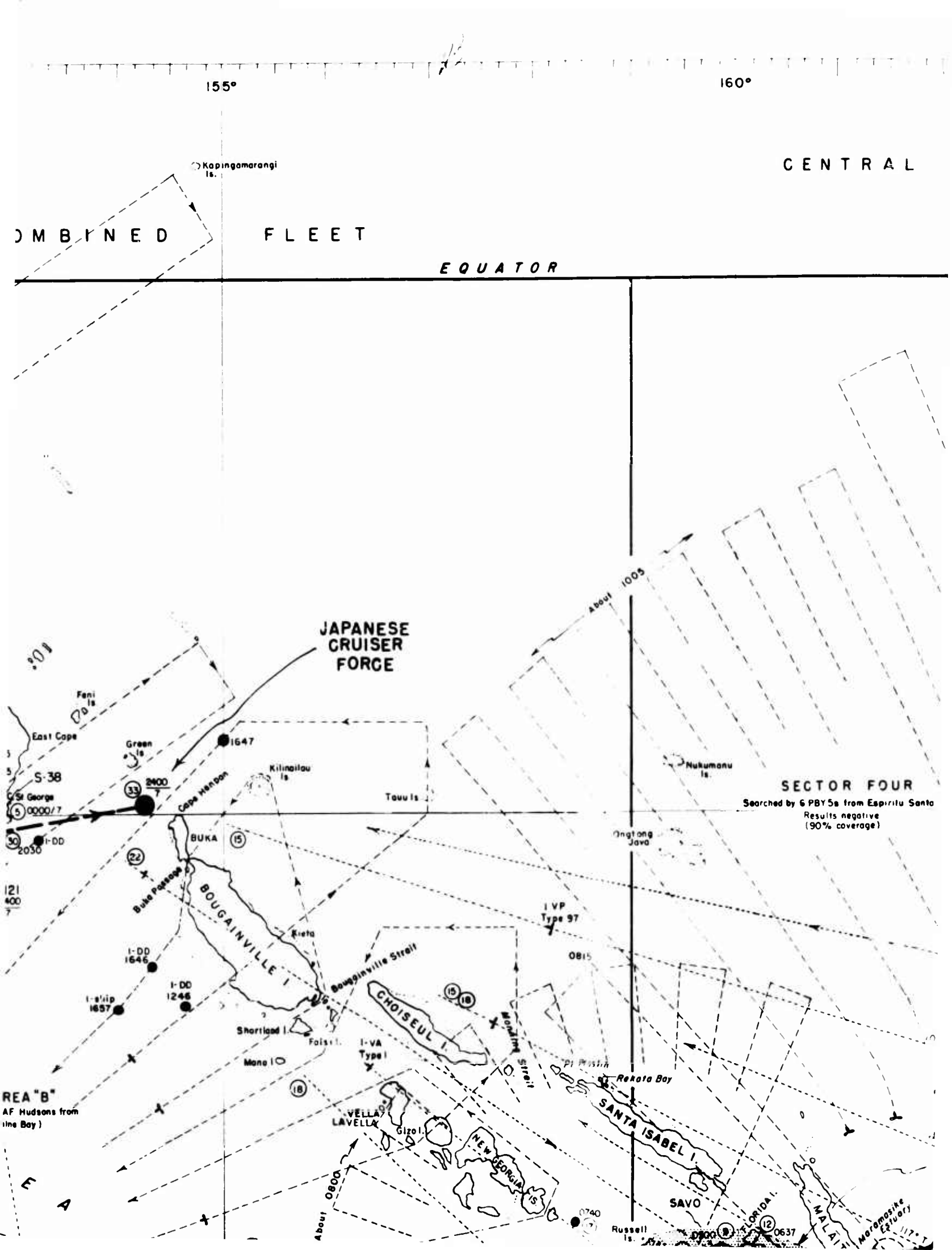
Kapingamarangi Is.

JAPANESE CRUISER FORCE

SECTOR FOUR

Searched by 6 PBY 5s from Espiritu Santo
Results negative
(90% coverage)

AREA "B"
AF Hudsons from
(line Bay)



160°

165°

CENTRAL PACIFIC AREA

0°

SECTOR FIVE

Searched by 4 PBYS from Ndeni
Results negative
(90% coverage)

S O U T H P A C I F I C O C E A N

SECTOR FOUR

Searched by 6 PBYS from Espiritu Santo
Results negative
(90% coverage)

SECTOR THREE

Searched by 3 PBYS
from Espiritu Santo
Results negative
(63% coverage)

TRANSPORT
GROUPS

ukumanu
Is

1130

About

About 1130

5°

1131

07° T from Rabaul

1110

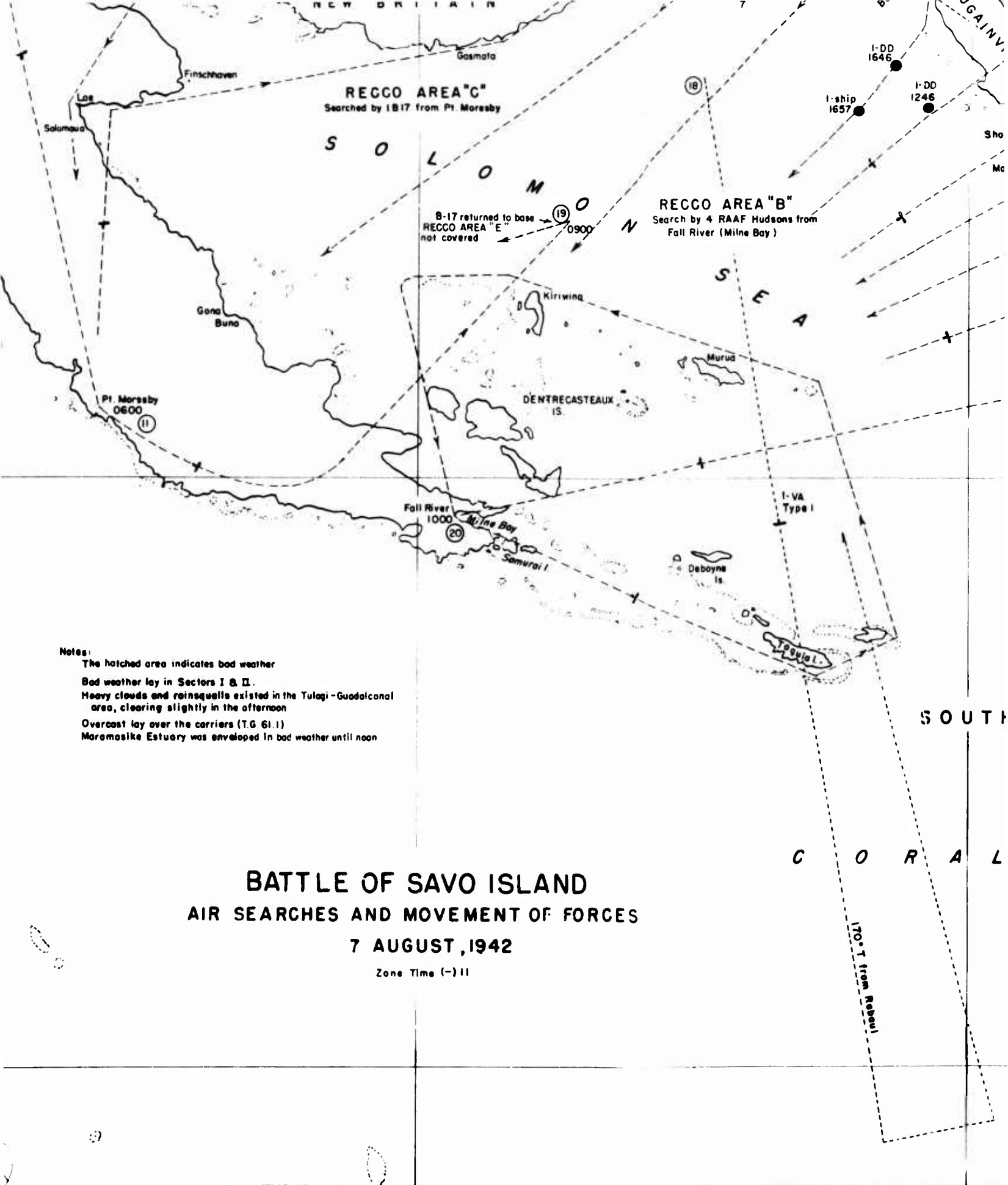
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1328



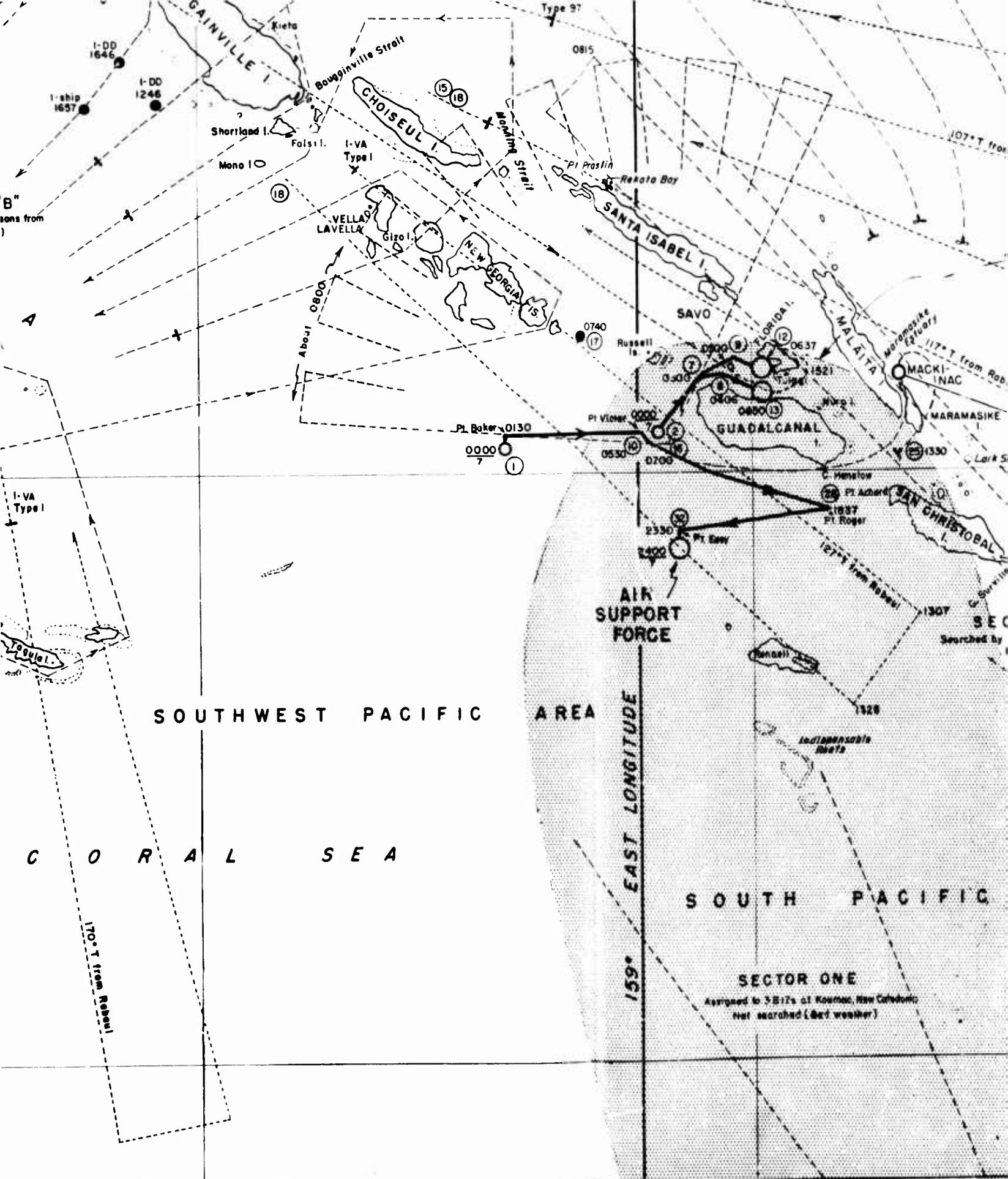
DAI

1131



Notes:
 The hatched area indicates bad weather
 Bad weather lay in Sectors I & II.
 Heavy clouds and rainsqualls existed in the Tulagi-Guadalcanal area, clearing slightly in the afternoon
 Overcast lay over the carriers (T.G. 61.1)
 Moresby Estuary was enveloped in bad weather until noon

BATTLE OF SAVO ISLAND
AIR SEARCHES AND MOVEMENT OF FORCES
7 AUGUST, 1942
 Zone Time (-)11



S O U T H W E S T P A C I F I C

A R E A

C O R A L S E A

S O U T H P A C I F I C

S E C T O R O N E

Assigned to 3 B-24s at Koroheke, New Caledonia
Not searched (Bad weather)

SECTOR THREE
 Searched by 3 PB7-5s
 from Espiritu Santo
 Results negative
 (63% coverage)

TRANSPORT GROUPS

SECTOR TWO
 Searched by 2 B17s from Espiritu Santo
 Right half only searched
 Results negative

SECTOR ONE
 Assigned to 3 B17s at Koroimo, New Caledonia
 Not searched (Bad weather)

SOUTH PACIFIC AREA

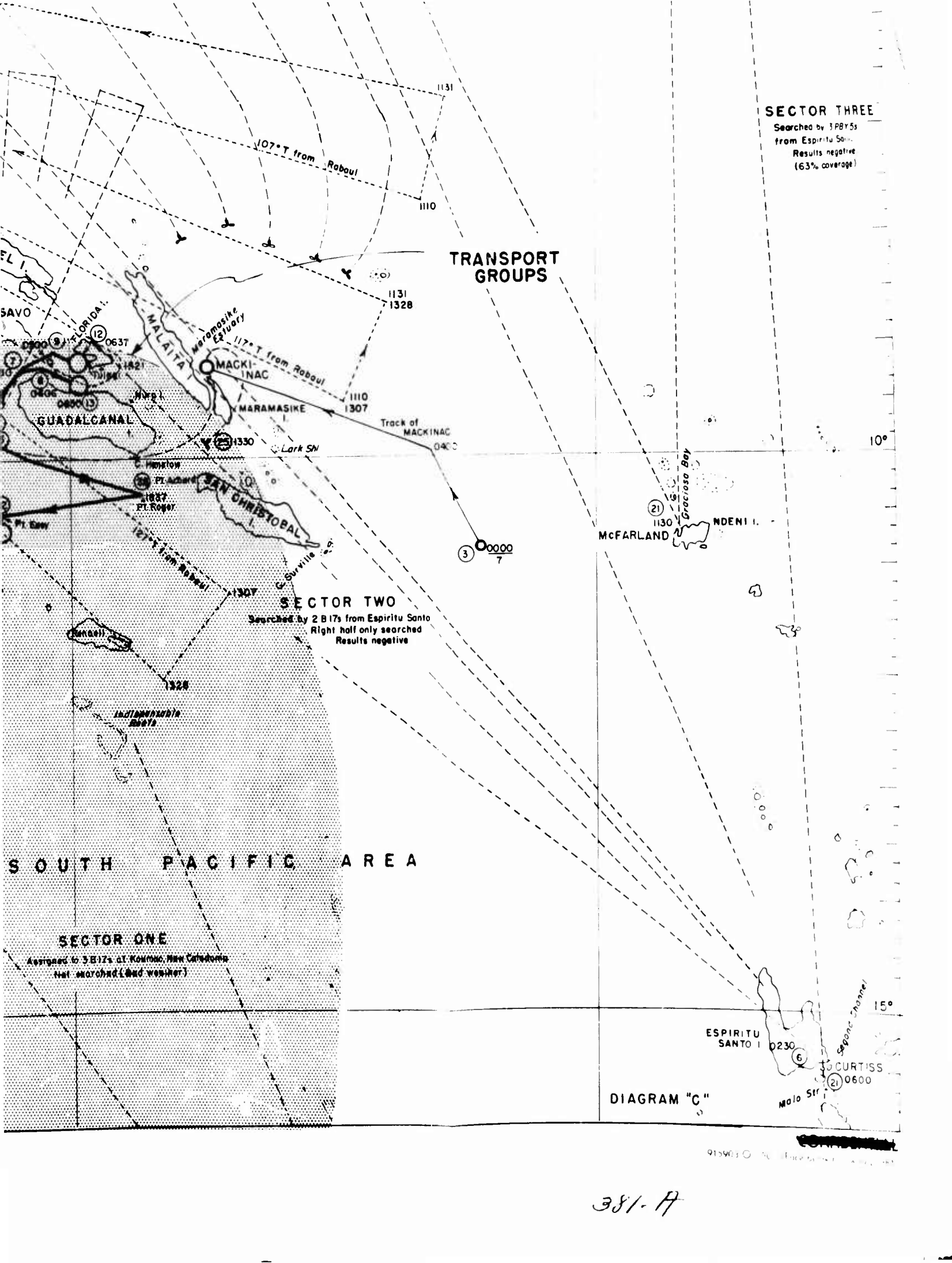


DIAGRAM "C"

381-A

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RECORD OF EVENTS DEPICTED ON DJAGRAM "D"

AUGUST 8th, 1942

0000 to 2400

- (1) 0000 Japanese Cruiser Force en route to attack transports at Tulagi and Guadalcanal anchorages, midnight position twenty miles northwest of Cape Henpan, Buka Island, course 080°(T), speed twenty-four knots.
- (2) 0000 Japanese submarine I-121 en route to Tulagi on course 150°(T). Midnight position twenty-five miles south of Cape St. George.
- (3) 0000 Air Support Force, (Task Group 61.1) midnight position sixty miles south of Cape Henslow, Guadalcanal Island; this position was 125 miles from Tulagi. Course of TG 61.1 080°(T), speed fifteen knots, maneuvering during the night in a retired position to reach dawn launching point twenty-five miles south of Cape Henslow.
- (4) 0000 Allied submarine S-44 patrolling off southern entrances of Steffen and Byron Straits continued until 2100.
- (5) 0540 One Type-1 large flying boat from FOURTEENTH Air Group left Rabaul to search along track 130°(T), distance 700 miles. Negative sightings. Landed at Rabaul at 1615.
- (6) 0600 Commander Cruiser Force reached operating area in vicinity of Latitude 05°-50'(S), Longitude 156°-20'(E) where he planned to operate until 1200.
- (7) 0606 Task Group 61.1 in dawn launching position at Point ROGER, eighty-seven miles on bearing 167°(T) from Tulagi and thirty-four miles from Cape Henslow. WASP launched twelve scout bombers to search sector 280°-040°(T), radius 200 miles. Pilots extended search to 220°(T). Coverage sixty-five per cent because of bad weather northeast of Solomons chain.
- (8) 0625 Japanese cruisers catapulted three scouting planes to search from point of origin Latitude 05°-34'(S), Longitude 156°-20'(E) to a distance of 250 miles as follows: CHOKAI plane out on 070°(T), KINUGASA plane out on 100°(T), KAKO plane out on 115°(T). The AOBA plane to proceed on track 130°(T) for 300 miles to Tulagi to reconnoiter Allied positions in Iron Bottom Sound.
- (9) 0630 CTF 63 land and tender-based search planes took off from Espiritu Santo, Ndeni, and Maramasike Estuary to search Sectors III, IV, V, and VII. (Sector II planes had taken off about 0330 to arrive abreast Tulagi at sunrise).

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- (10) 0630 Three R.A.A.F. Hudsons took off from Fall River Field, Milne Bay, New Guinea, to reconnoiter northern Solomons in Reconnaissance Area "B".
- (11) 0636 One Type-97 large flying boat from YOKOHAMA Air Group left Rabaul to search along 100°(T), distance 600 miles. No sightings. Returned to Rabaul at 1700.
- (12) 0700 Three Type-1 land attack planes left Rabaul to search out along tracks 110°(T), 120°(T), and 140°(T), distance 700 miles, then laterally to left sixty miles and return. Allies not sighted. All planes landed at 1615.
- (13) 0700 One Type-1 land reconnaissance plane from TAINAN Air Group left Rabaul to reconnoiter Tulagi-Guadalcanal Area.
- (15) (14) 0800 WASP scout shot down Japanese twin-float seaplane north of Rekata Bay.
- (17) (15) 0900 AOBA scouting plane arrived Tulagi, utilized cloud cover and made excellent reconnaissance of Allied naval units.
- (18) 0915 Japanese reconnaissance plane intercepted thirty miles northwest of Tulagi by three Allied fighters and driven off. This reconnaissance plane landed at Rabaul at 1400.
- (19) (17) 1025 R.A.A.F. Hudson (Flight Al6/216 from Fall River) contacted and reported Japanese Cruiser Force as: three heavy cruisers, three destroyers and two seaplane tenders or gunboats in Latitude 05°-49'(S), Longitude 156°-07'(E) on course 120°(T), speed fifteen knots. This Hudson plane was sighted by Japanese at 1020 and was lost to view at 1036.
- (20) (18) 1101 R.A.A.F. Hudson (Flight Al6/185 from Fall River) contacted and reported Japanese Cruiser Force as: two heavy or light cruisers and one small unidentified ship in Latitude 05°-42'(S), Longitude 156°-05'(E). This plane reconnoitered the Japanese forces until 1200, and was believed by them to be the same plane they had first picked up at 1020.
- (21) (19) 1127 R.A.A.F. Hudson (Flight Al6/216) sighted the I-121 in position Latitude 07°-35'(S), Longitude 154°-07'(E) on course 150°(T).
- (22) (20) 1200 Commander Cruiser Force, steaming on course 300°(T) to deceive the R.A.A.F. Hudson reconnaissance plane as to his destinations, changed course to the southward when this plane disappeared.
- (23) (21) 1200 Task Group 61.1 commenced retiring to the southeastward.

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- (22) 1215 B-17's in special sector requested by CTF 62, missed contact on Japanese Cruiser Force by sixty miles.
- (25) 1300 Commander Cruiser Force set course 175°(T), speed twenty-four knots to transit Bougainville Strait.
- (24) 1347 ENTERPRISE commenced launching afternoon search planes. Seven torpedo planes were to search from point of origin Latitude 09°-32'(S) Longitude 159°-30'(E) to radius 200 miles between bearings 345°(T) and 090°(T). The sector was actually extended to 220 mile radius by the pilots who encountered heavy rain squalls 100 miles to the eastward and 140 miles to the northeastward.
- (25) 1350 ENTERPRISE launched seven additional torpedo planes to conduct afternoon search from point of origin Latitude 09°-50'(S), Longitude 160°-56'(E) to radius 200 miles between bearings 270°-015°(T). All pilots extended the search to 220 miles except the last two to the westward who extended the radius to 260 miles.
- (26) 1550 ENTERPRISE scouts searching to northwestward reached the 220 miles extremity. The third plane (clockwise from bearing 270°(T)) was at this time thirty miles short of the Japanese Cruiser Force which was just emerging from Bougainville Strait into "The Slot". Allowing fifteen mile radius of visibility, this scout missed contact by but fifteen miles. Had it extended the search also to 260 mile radius, CTF 61 and CTF 62 would have been immediately alerted to the movement of the Japanese force down "The Slot".
- (27) 1612 Japanese Cruiser Force launched one plane from the AOBA to proceed along 140°(T) to reconnoiter Tulagi. Japanese force changed course at this time to the southeast to conform to New Georgia Sound ("The Slot") and at 1654 steadied on course 120°(T).
- (28) 1640 Commander Cruiser Force issued his Signal Order No. 25 containing his battle plan for the night action near Savo Island.
- (29) 1715 Japanese cruisers sighted AKITSUSHIMA hull down to the southward heading for the Japanese seaplane base at Giso Island. Course 100°(T) set at this time.
- (30) 1745 Commander Cruiser Force set course 120°(T), which he held until midnight.
- (31) 1815. AOBA plane shot down over Iron Bottom Sound.
(about)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 34 (32) 1857 Task Group 61.1 completed flight operations for the day, retired on course 140°(T) at fifteen knots.
- 35 (33) 1915 Commander Cruiser Force shot off signal flares to "home" the AOBA plane. This plane failed to return, having been shot down over Tulagi.
- (26) (34) 2100 The submarine S-44, patrolling off southern entrances to Steffen and Byron Straits, received orders to proceed to Area ZED (off Cape St. George), started around western end of New Hanover Island.
- 37 (35) 2255 The submarine S-38, patrolling a fifteen mile run in St. George's Channel along line 320°-140°(T), sighted large Japanese submarine standing out on course 140°(T) at high speed, too far away to attack. This was the I-122 en route from Rabaul to Tulagi.
- (25) (36) 2330 Task Group 61.1 reached farthest retired position abreast the southern tip of San Cristobal Island (Cape Surville), changed course to 230°(T) to adjust position in order to reach morning launching position at dawn.
- 39 (37) 2315 Commander Cruiser Force catapulted two cruiser planes one each from the AOBA and KAKO with orders to reconnoiter and report Allied naval positions in Iron Bottom Sound and to illuminate the transports when the Japanese Cruiser Force was twenty miles away.
- 40 (38) 2400 Japanese Cruiser Force shifted from cruising disposition to battle formation, changed course from 120°(T) to 140°(T), changed speed from twenty-four to twenty-six knots and commenced approaching Savo Island.
- 41 (39) 2400 Six Japanese transports, escorted by one destroyer, en route from Rabaul to Tulagi-Guadalcanal loaded with reinforcements.
- 42 (40) 2400 Japanese submarine I-122, en route Rabaul to Tulagi, midnight position, about thirty miles south of Cape St. George.
- (41) 2400 Japanese submarine I-121, en route Rabaul to Tulagi, midnight position 250 miles west of Savo Island.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

A

150°

151°

JAPANESE FOURTH FLEET AREA
JAPANESE EIGHTH FLEET AREA

JAPANESE COMBINED

0°

E
V
E
N
T
H

Seeadler Hbr.
MANUS

S-44
2400
8

NEW HANOVER
North Cape
Kaviang

S-44 Patrol

RECCO AREA "E"
Searched by 1B-17 from Moresby
photographic coverage

B I S M A R C K S E A
RECCO AREA "D"
Searched by 1B-17 from Moresby

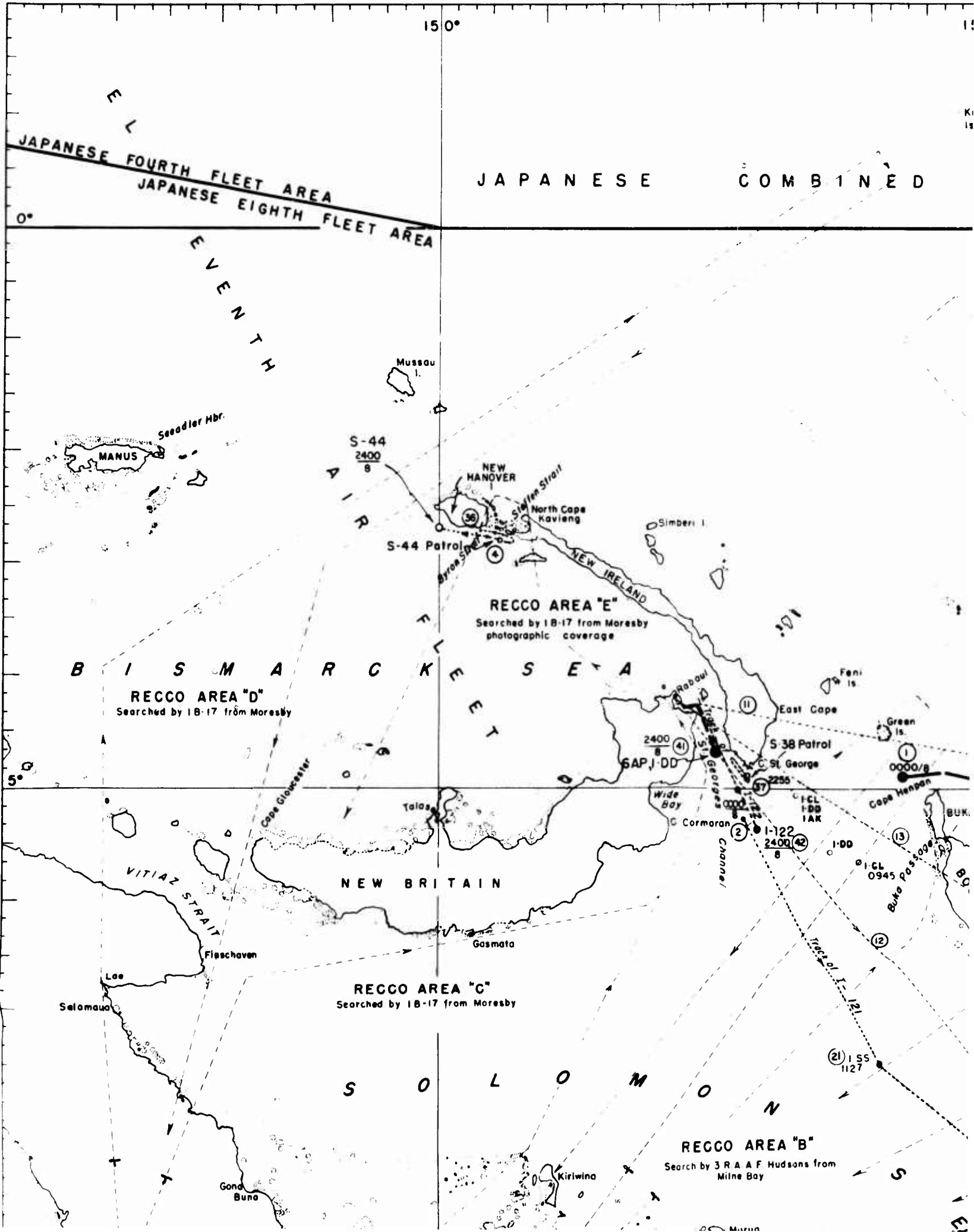
2400
8
SAPJ-DD

S-38 Patrol
2255

NEW BRITAIN

RECCO AREA "C"
Searched by 1B-17 from Moresby

RECCO AREA "B"
Search by 3 RAAF Hudsons from
Milne Bay



155°

160°

Kepingamarangi Is.

CENTRA

COMBINED

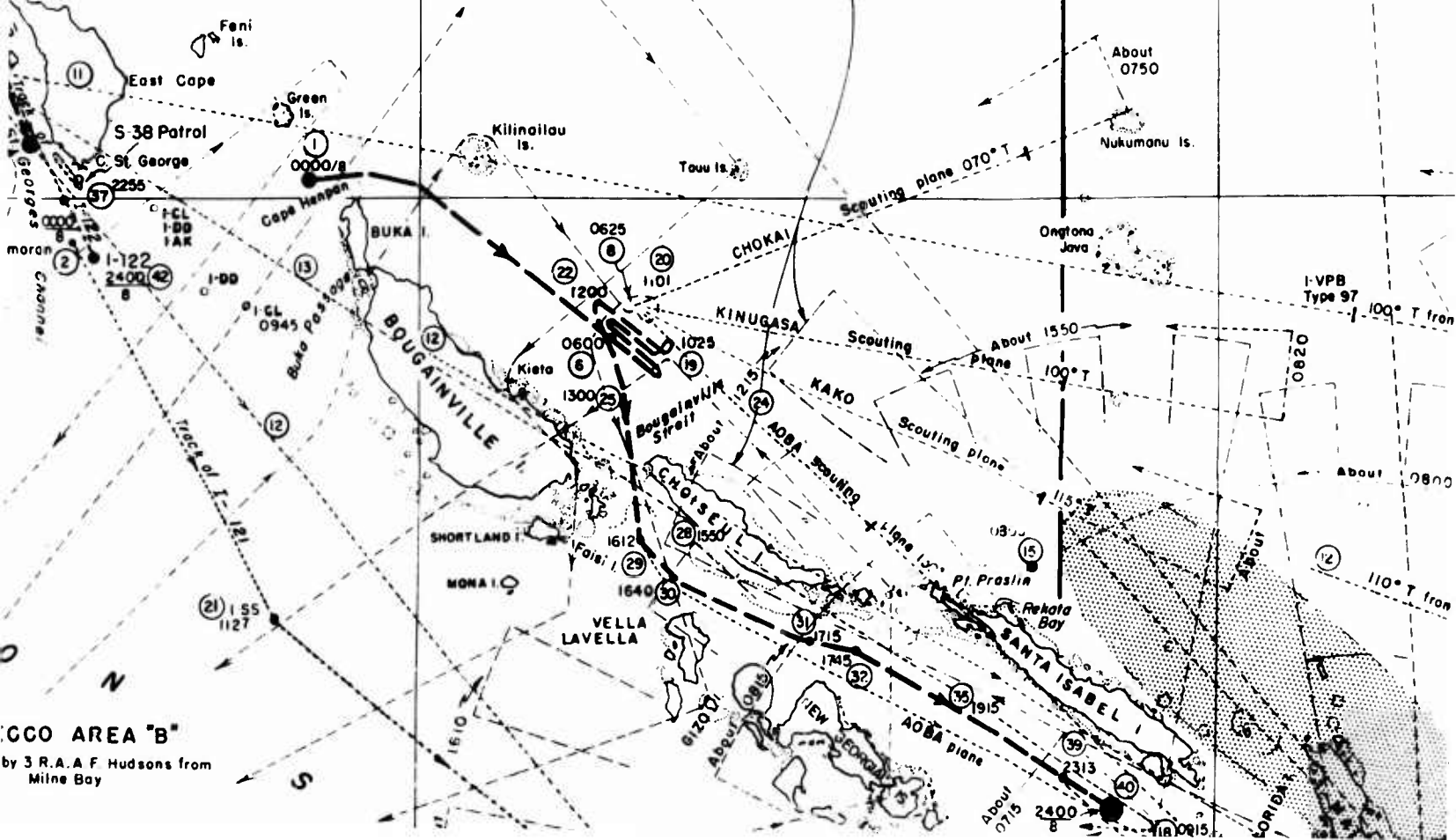
EQUATOR

SECTOR FOUR

Searched by 6 PB5s from Maromanike negative (95% coverage to 600 miles) outer 50 miles of 650 mile radius not covered.

SPECIAL SECTOR

Requested by CTF 62.
Searched by 2 B-17s from Espiritu Santo.



COO AREA "B"
by 3 R.A.A.F. Hudsons from Milne Bay

160°

165°

CENTRAL PACIFIC AREA

0°

SECTOR FIVE

Searched by 4 PBYS from Ndani
outer 50 miles not covered negative (95% coverage)

S O U T H
P A C I F I C
O C E A N

About 1200

5°

SECTOR SEVEN

1 PBY5
from Espiritu
negative (85% coverage)

SECTOR THREE

Searched by 2 PBYS from
Espiritu negative (85% coverage)

1-VPB
Type 97

100° T from Rabaul

About 1200

About 1150

0820

About 0800

About 1545

(12)

110° T from Rabaul

1 VA
Type

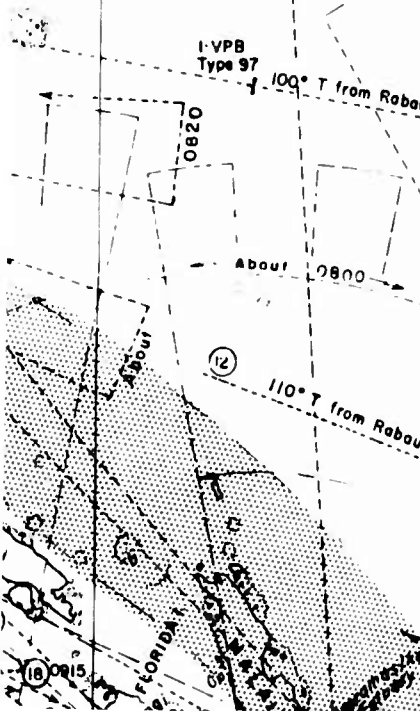
About 1055

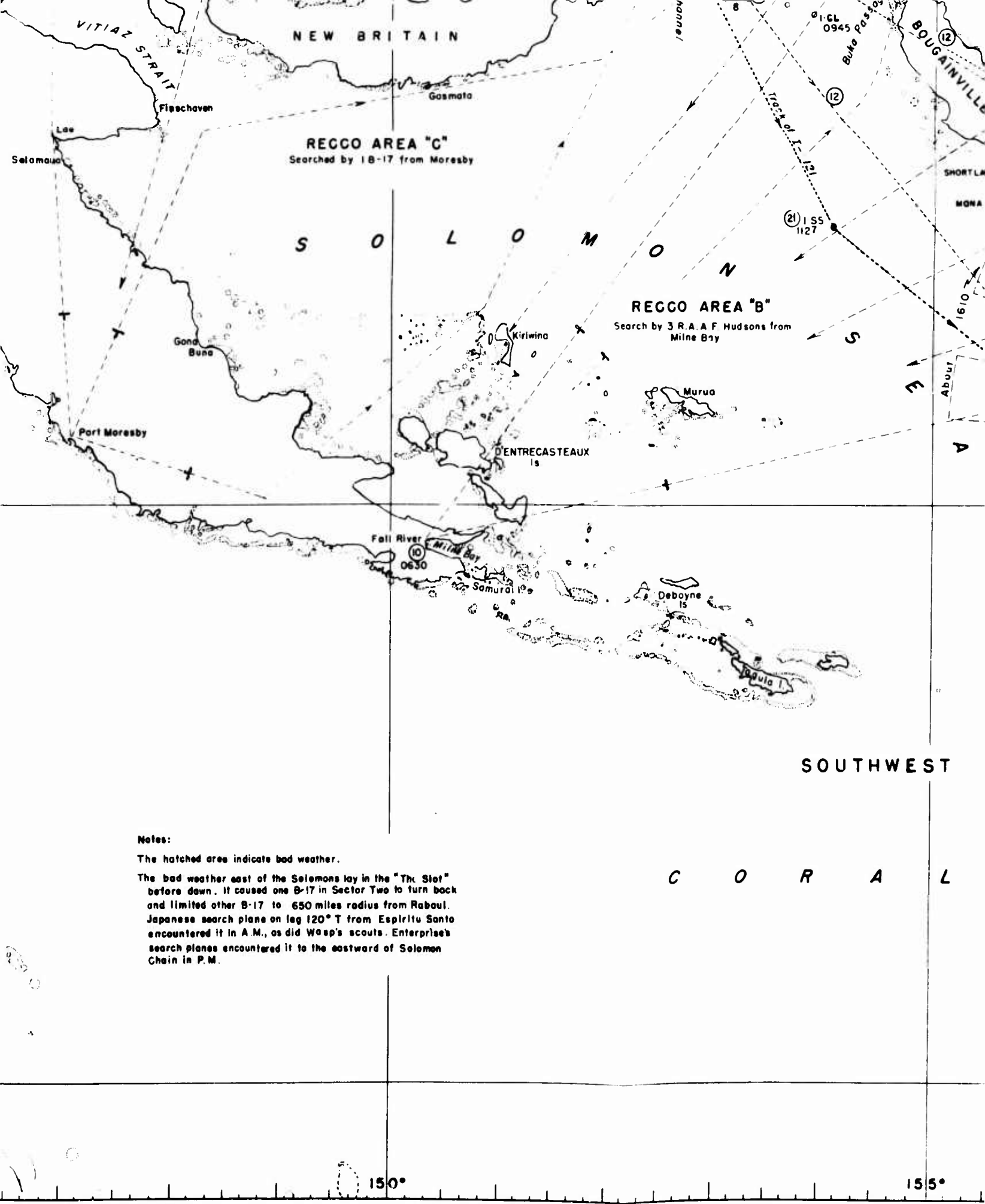
ENTERPRISE
Search

1 VA
Type 1

11
50

Rabaul Is.



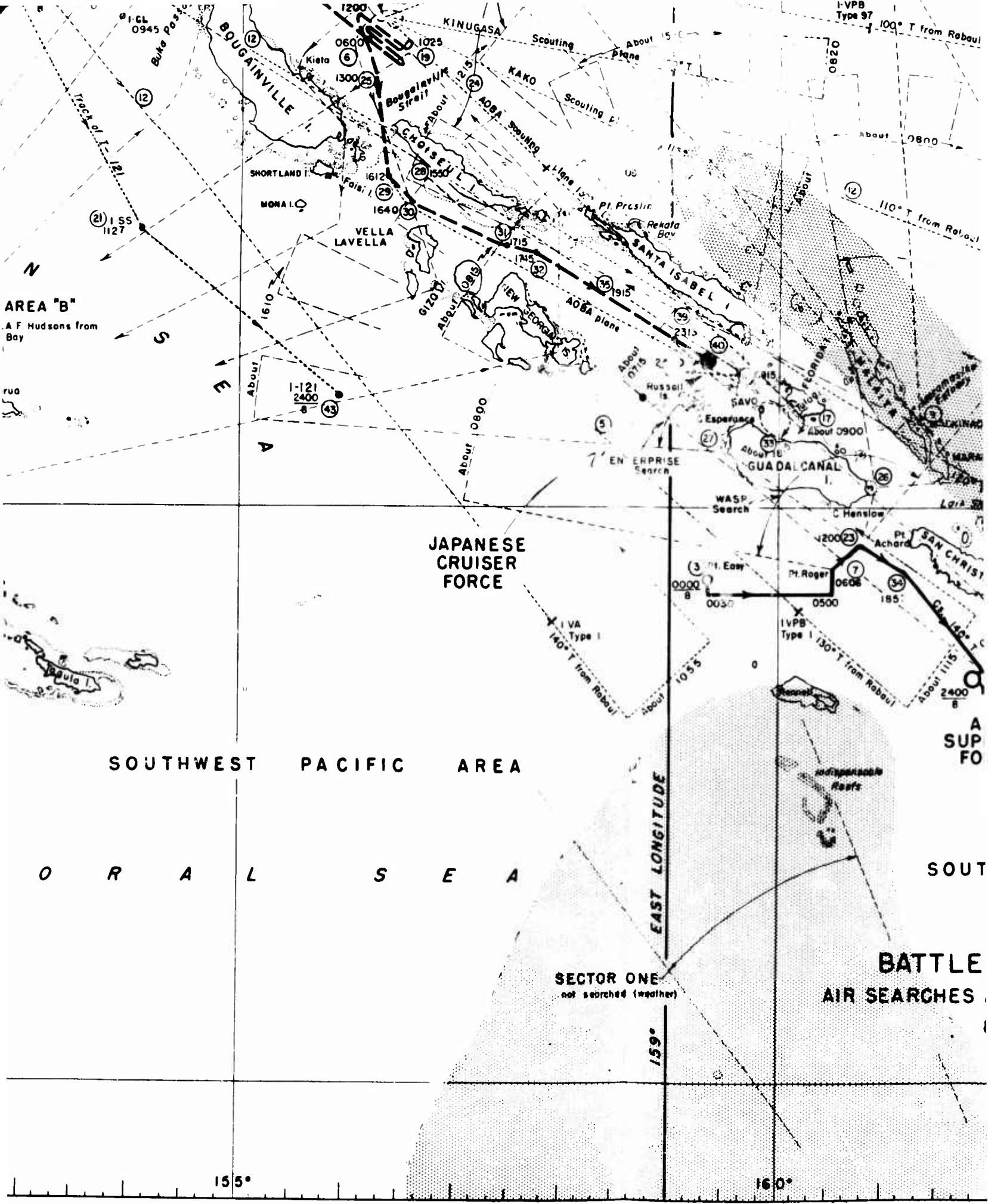


Notes:

The hatched area indicate bad weather.

The bad weather east of the Solomons lay in the "The Slot" before dawn. It caused one B-17 in Sector Two to turn back and limited other B-17 to 650 miles radius from Rabaul. Japanese search plane on leg 120° T from Espiritu Santo encountered it in A.M., as did Wasp's scouts. Enterprise's search planes encountered it to the eastward of Solomon Chain in P.M.

C O R A L



AREA "B"
A F Hudsons from Bay

JAPANESE CRUISER FORCE

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

O R A L S E A

SECTOR ONE
not searched (weather)

BATTLE AIR SEARCHES

155°

160°

EAST LONGITUDE

159°

SOUT

A SUP FO

Indispensable Rafts

WASP Search

EN ERPRISE Search

GUA DAL CANAL

SAVO

Esperance

Russell Is.

SAVO

SAVO

SAVO

SAVO

SAVO

SAVO

SAVO

SAVO

SAVO

SAVO

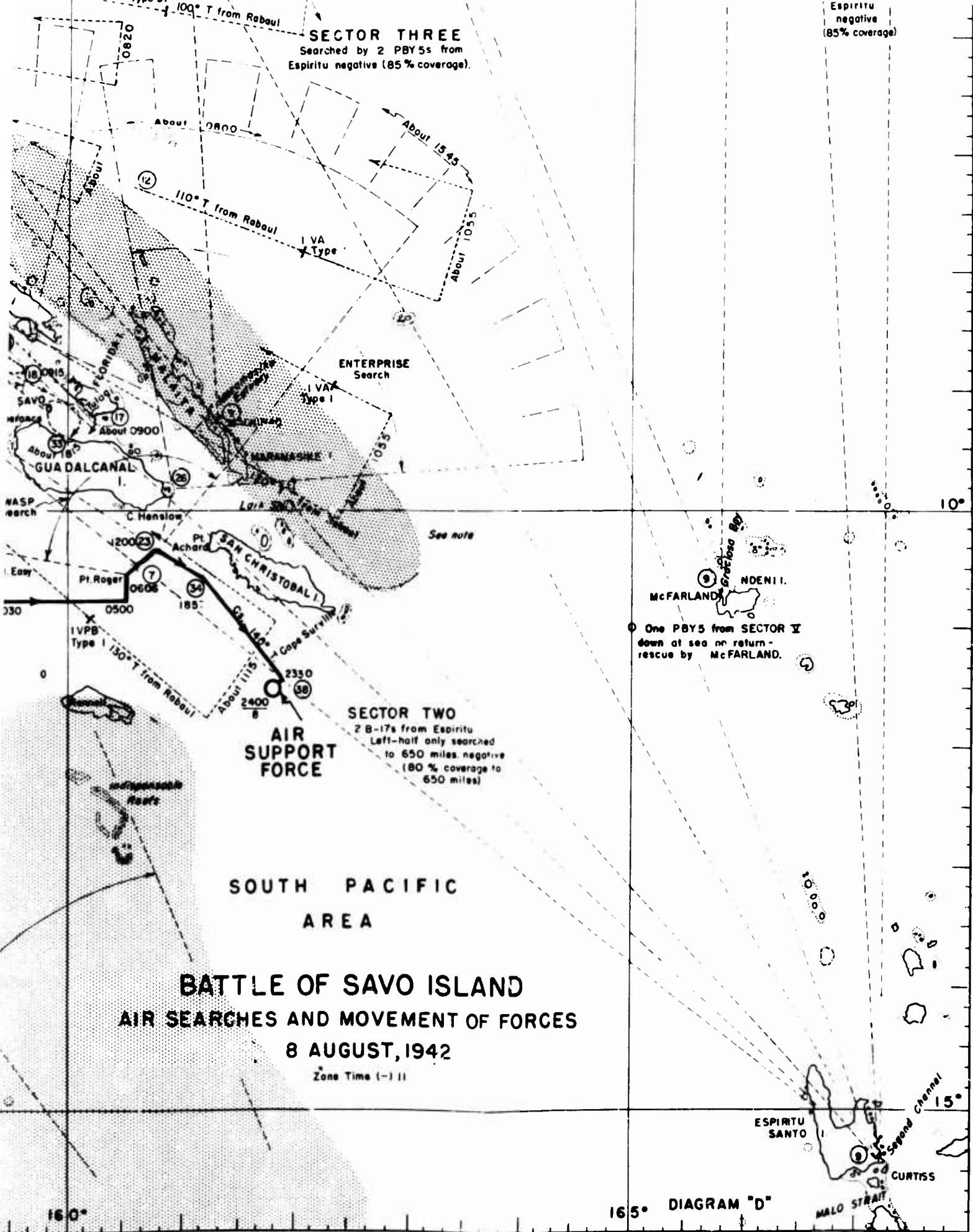
SAVO

SAVO

SAVO

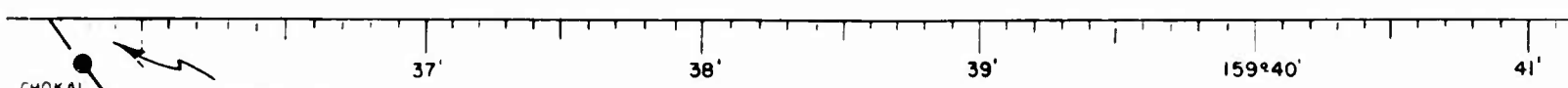
SAVO

SAVO



Espritu negative (85% coverage)

385-A



CHOKAI
0045
Battle
stations
alerted

JAPANESE
CRUISER
FORCE

Course 140 (T)
Speed 26 knots

0053
CHOKAI sights BLUE
bearing 162° (T)
range 10,900 yds.

CHOKAI changed course to 100 (T)
Commander Cruiser Force signaled:
"Enter by north entrance!"

0058
Course 100° (T)

159°40'

41'

42'

43'

44'

159°45'

CHOKAI changed course to 100° (T)
Commander Cruiser Force signaled:
"Enter by north entrance!"

Course 100° (T)

0105

CHOKAI turned to course 150° (T)
Commander Cruiser Force ordered:
"Enter by south passage!"

0103
CHOKAI sights small
ship bearing 159° (T)
range 6900 yds

Course 150° (T)

0107
AOBA sights
small ship
bearing 180° (T)
range 6000 yds.

44'

159°-45'

46'

47'

48'

59'

9°-00'

01'

02'

03'

04'

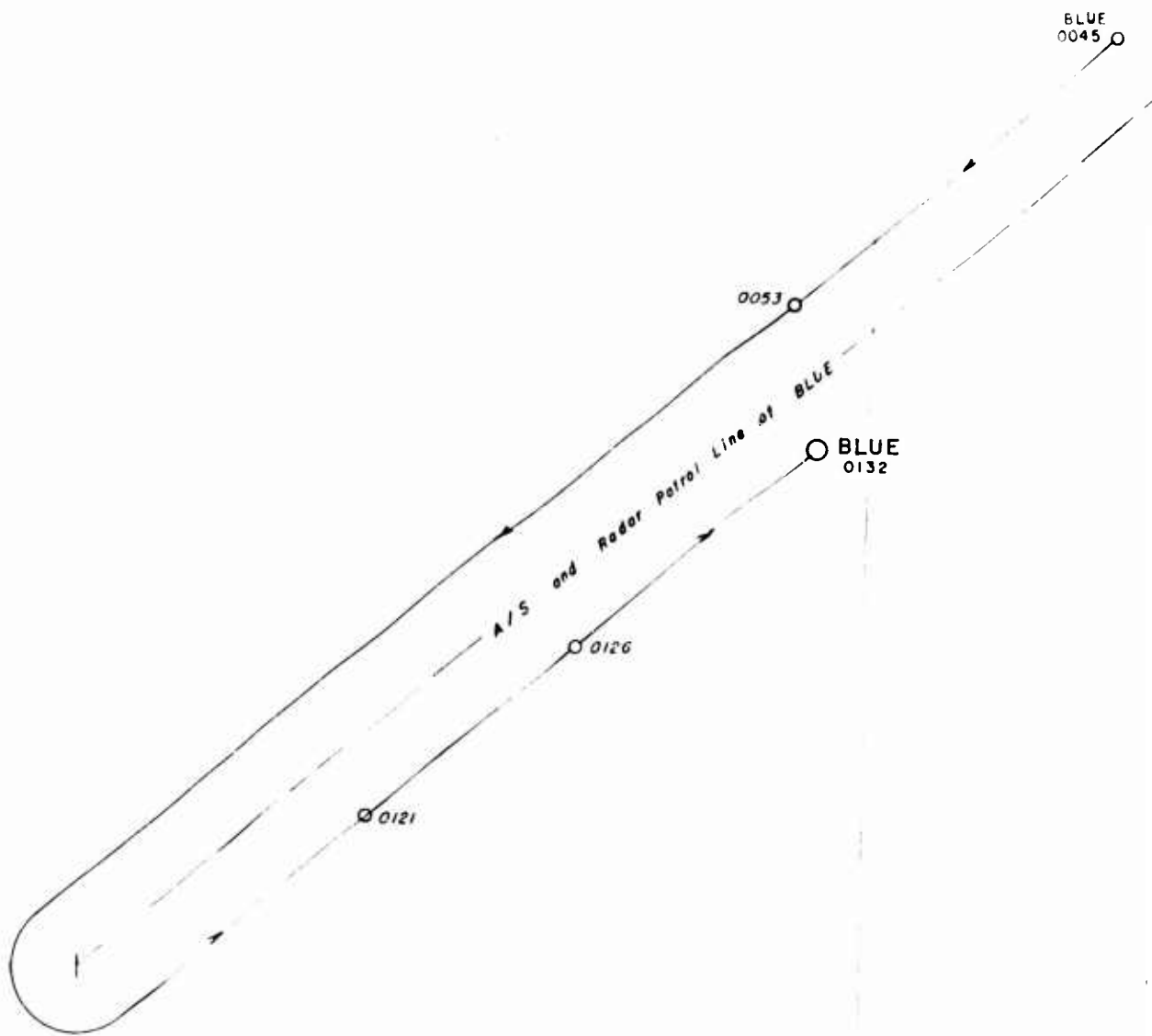
9°-05'

course 150° (T)
Force ordered:
sage'



CHOKAI sights BLUE
bearing 162° (T)
range 10,900 yds

0058 CHOKAI changed course to 100 (T)
Commander Cruiser Force signaled:
"Enter by north entrance!"
Course 100° (T)



CHOKAI changed course to 100° (T)
Commander Cruiser Force signaled:
"Enter by north entrance!"

Course 100° (T)

0105

CHOKAI turned to course 150° (T)
Commander Cruiser Force ordered
"Enter by south passage!"

0103
CHOKAI sights small
ship bearing 159° (T)
range 6900 yds

Course 150° (T)

0107
AOBA sights
small ship
bearing 180° (T)
range 6000 yds

BLUE
0045

0115
FURUTAKA sights
small ship
bearing 217° (T)
range 4600 yds

CHOKAI
0112

0053

real line of BLUE

BLUE
0132

Schooner
(Japanese)
0132

0115

0107

0103

0121
FURUTAKA sights BLUE
range 12,700 yds
bearing 260° (T)

Course 160° (T)

0118
CHOKAI

CS 180° (T)

0126
FURUTAKA sights BLUE
bearing 285° (T)
range 12,500 yds.

0120

CS 150° (T)

to course 150° (T)
Cruiser Force ordered
with passage 1"

Course 150° (T)

AKA sights
1 ship
217° (T)
4600 yds

CHOKAI
0112

N point of Savo I
due east

Course 160° (T)

0121
FURUTAKA sights BLUE
range 12,700 yds
bearing 260° (T)

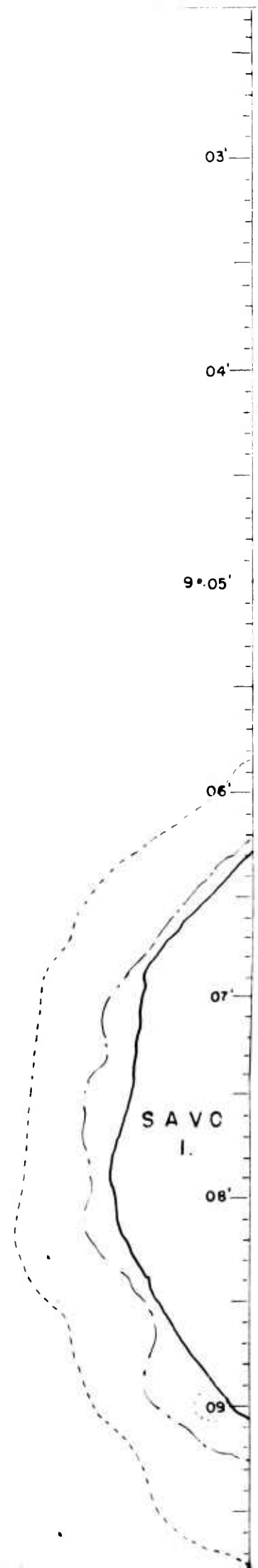
0118
CHOKAI

0126
FURUTAKA sights BLUE
bearing 285° (T)
range 12,500 yds.

Course 180° (T)

0120

Course 150° (T)



03'

04'

9° 05'

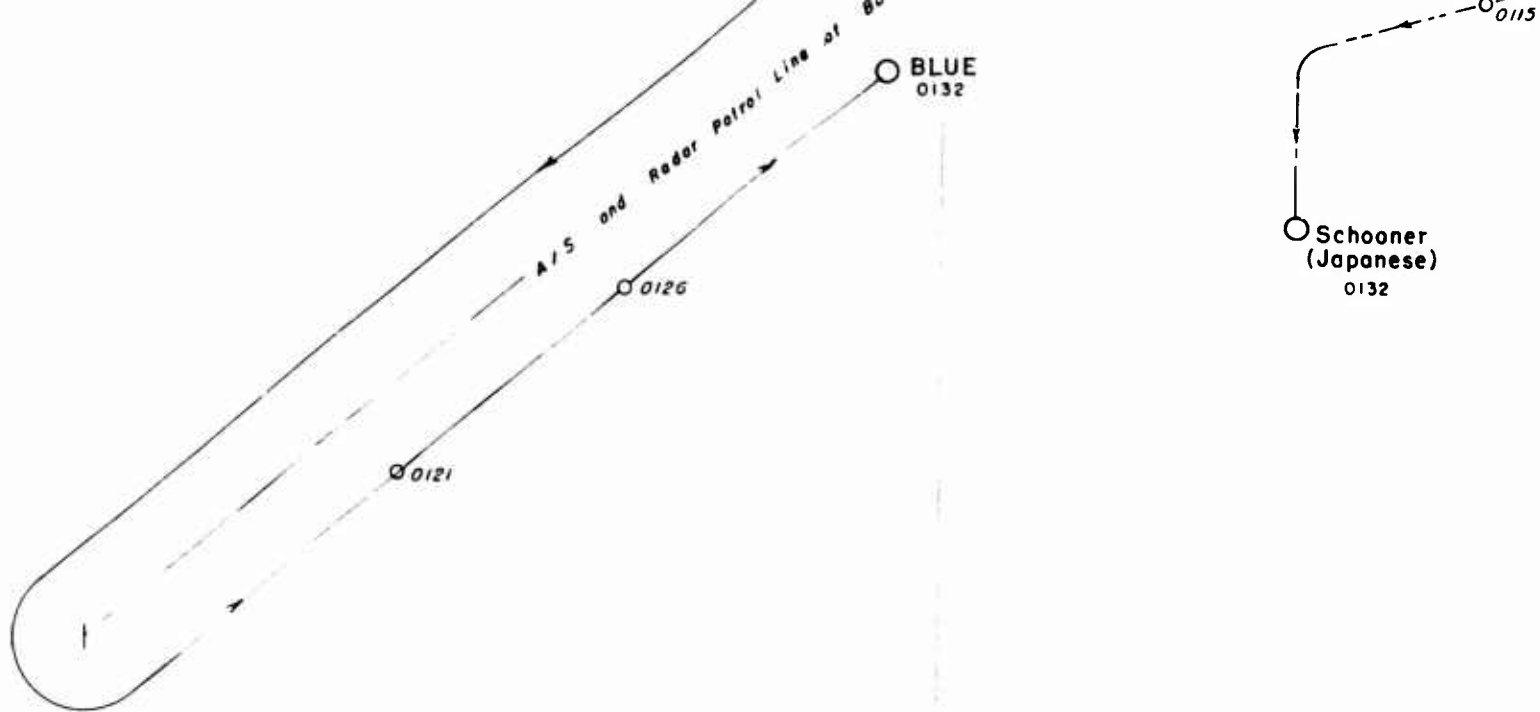
06'

07'

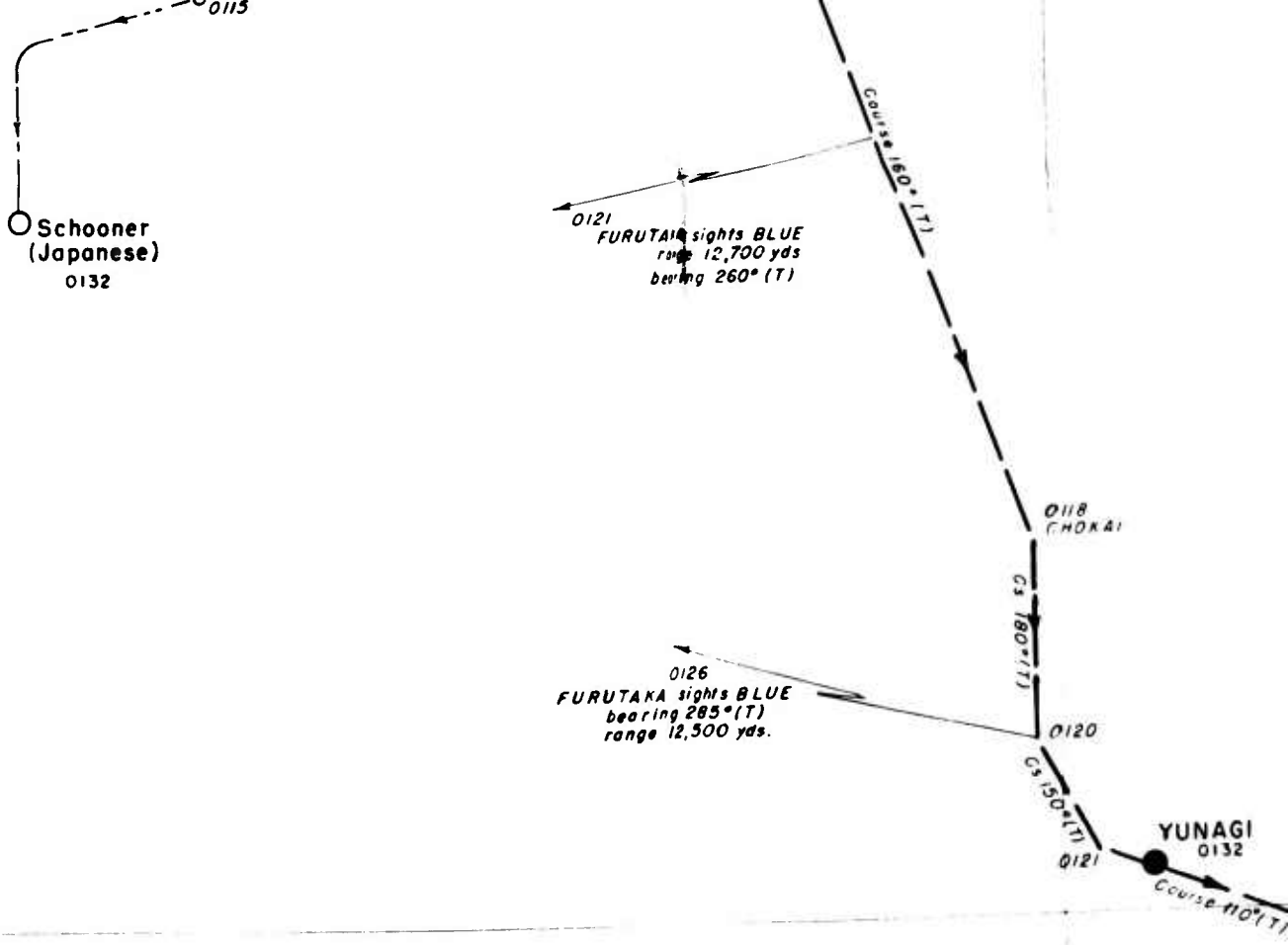
SAVO I.

08'

09'



BATTLE OF SAVO ISLAND
JAPANESE APPROACH PAST RADAR PICKETS
0045, 9 AUGUST TO 0132, 9 AUGUST



SAVO ISLAND
PAST RADAR PICKETS
TO 0132, 9 AUGUST

A

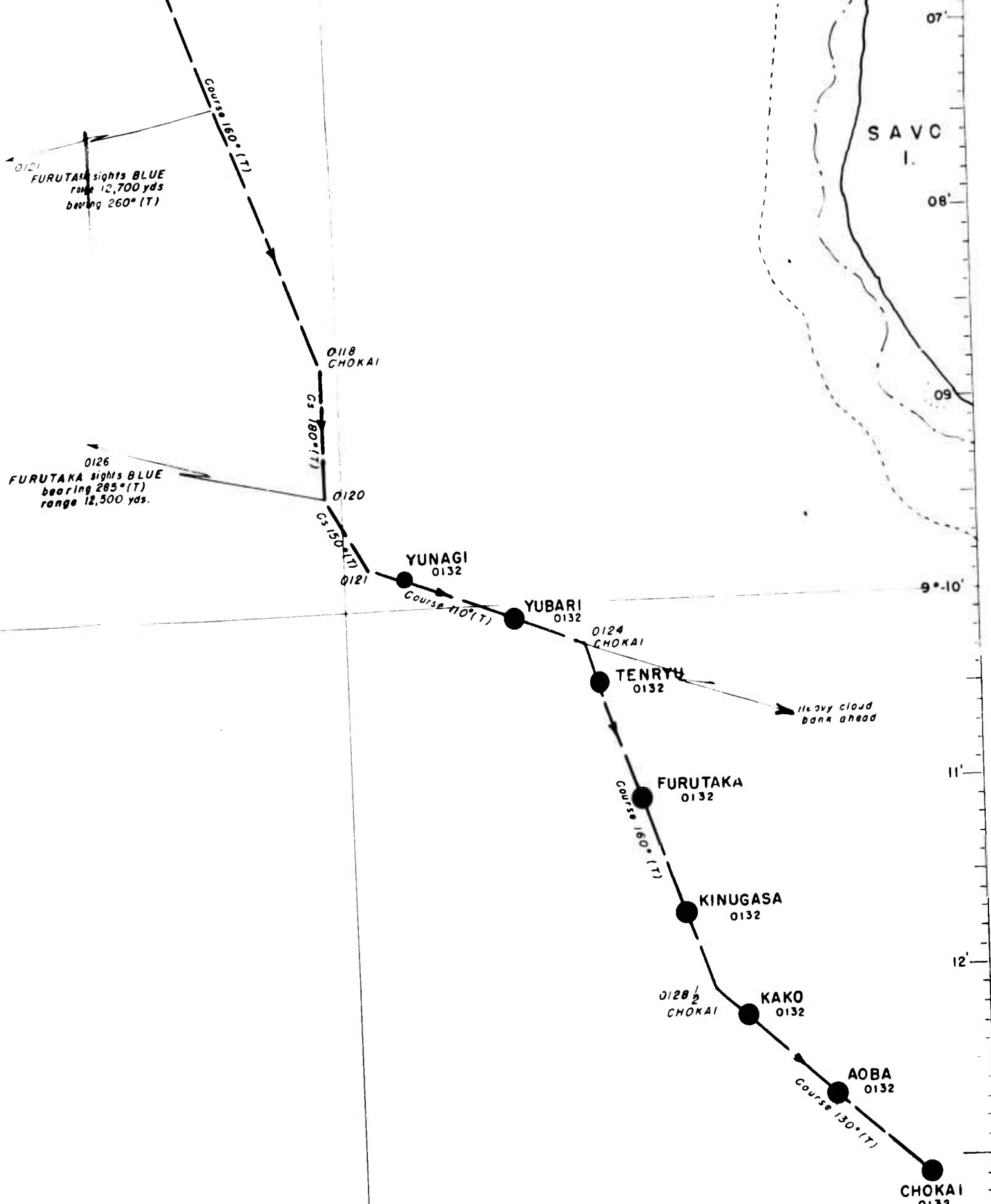


DIAGRAM "E"

91-903 O - 50 (Rev. 1-1957) N

385-B

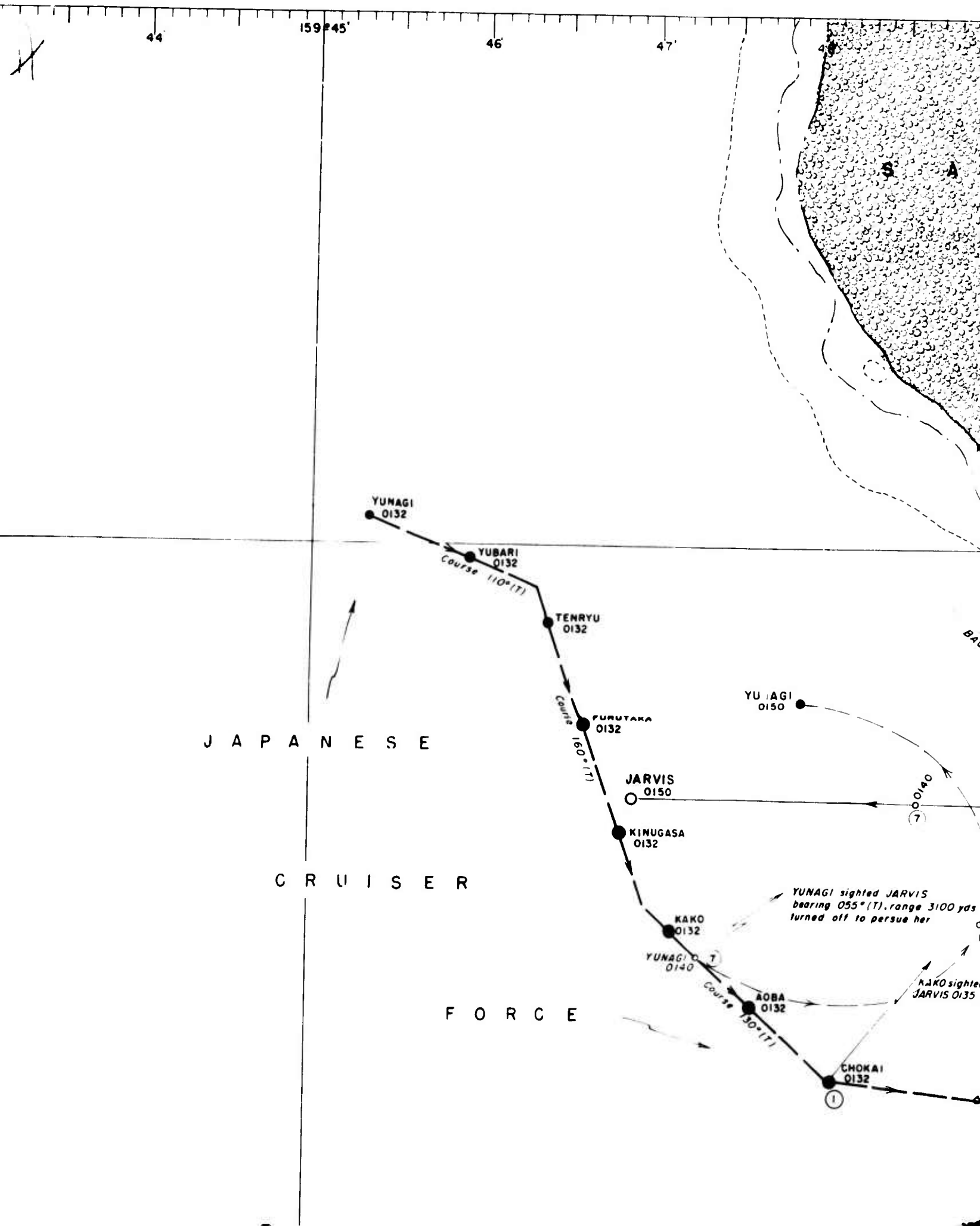
EVENTS PICTURED ON DIAGRAM "F"

- (1) 0132 Commander Cruiser Force commenced his "rush in" on course 95°(T). One minute later (at 0133) he signalled: "All ships attack."
- (2) 0135 JARVIS was sighted by the CHOKAI on bearing 019°(T) range 8000 yards, moving slowly (2 knots) to the westward. At 0135, both the AOBA and KAKO sighted the JARVIS. The Japanese trained their guns on the JARVIS but withheld fire.
- (3) 0136 CANBERRA and CHICAGO sighted by CHOKAI bearing 120°(T), range 12,500 yards. CHOKAI c/o to 120°(T) to close the range.
- (4) 0137 VINCENNES sighted by CHOKAI on bearing 060°(T) range 18,000 yards.
- (5) 0139 BAGLEY sighted by AOBA at range 9500 yards, bearing 115°(T). COMCRUDIV SIX changed course from 095°(T) to 110°(T).
- (6) 0140 CHOKAI changed course to 090°(T) after having fired four torpedoes at 0138.
- (7) 0140 JARVIS was sighted on the port bow of the YUNAGI. YUNAGI commenced reversal of course by a long wide turn to pursue the JARVIS and attack her.
- (8) 0140 VINCENNES Group c/o from 225°(T) to 315°(T).
- (9) 0140½ PATTERSON was sighted by the CHOKAI bearing 130°(T) range 5500 yards.
- (10) 0143 CANBERRA detected CHOKAI's torpedoes passing, two to starboard, two to port. None hit. CANBERRA then observed CHOKAI and AOBA and went to battle stations.
- (11) 0143 FURUTAKA experienced steering casualty when she opened fire on the CHICAGO Group. She fell out of column steering to the right of CRUDIV SIX.
- (12) 0144 BAGLEY sighted CHOKAI dead ahead at range 2600 yards, commenced a left turn with full rudder to fire starboard torpedoes, but swung past firing bearing before primers could be inserted. She continued the turn to unmask her port torpedo tubes.
- (13) 0144 COMCRUDIV EIGHTEEN c/o to 040°(T) to avoid action with heavy cruisers of CHICAGO Group.

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- (14) 0145 YUNAGI sighted by CHOKAI on bearing 220°(T), leaving the Japanese formation.
- (15) 0145 QUINCY fixed her position by tangents on what she thought was Savo Island. Her left tangent of 240°(T) defined the southern tip of the heavy cloud bank south of Savo Island. Her right tangent of 273°(T) defined its N limit. Savo Island was obscured by mist and haze.
- (16) 0145 CANBERRA in left turn hit heavily by shells of AOBA. AOBA's torpedoes missed one minute later.
- (17) 0146 TENRYU sighted five ships of VINCENNES Group bearing 060°(T), range 14,800 yards. COMCRUDIV EIGHTEEN c/o to 070°(T) to close range.
- (18) 0146 FURUTAKA sighted by PATTERSON which broadcasted: "Warning, Warning! Strange ship entering harbor!"
- (19) 0147 PATTERSON increased speed to maximum, changed course to left to unmask starboard torpedoes. Commanding Officers order to "fire torpedoes" was not heard.
- (20) 0147½ FURUTAKA was observed (both by the TENRYU and the PATTERSON) to change course to north. FURUTAKA's Commanding Officer did not trust his steering controls and feared collision with CANBERRA.
- (21) 0148 COMCRUDIV EIGHTEEN, having c/o to 110°(T) at 0147½ engaged the PATTERSON.
- (22) 0148 CHOKAI fired four right torpedoes at the VINCENNES.
- (23) 0149 CHOKAI changed course to 069°(T).

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



44

159°45'

46

47

J A P A N E S E

C R U I S E R

F O R C E

YUNAGI
0132

YUBARI
0132

TENRYU
0132

FURUTAKA
0132

JARVIS
0150

KINUGASA
0132

KAKO
0132

YUNAGI
0150

YUNAGI
0140

Aoba
0132

CHOKAI
0132

Course 110°(T)

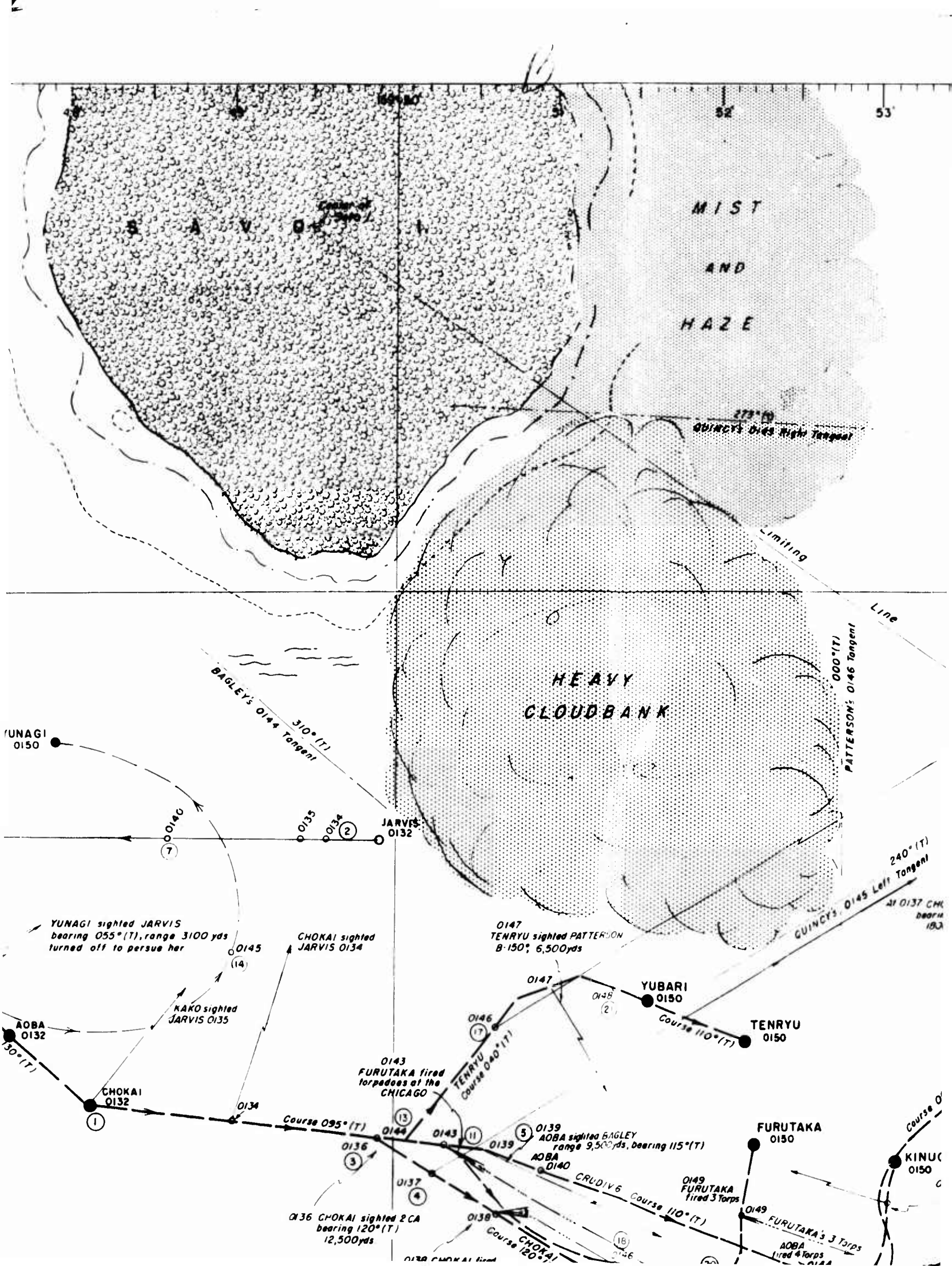
Course 160°(T)

Course 150°(T)

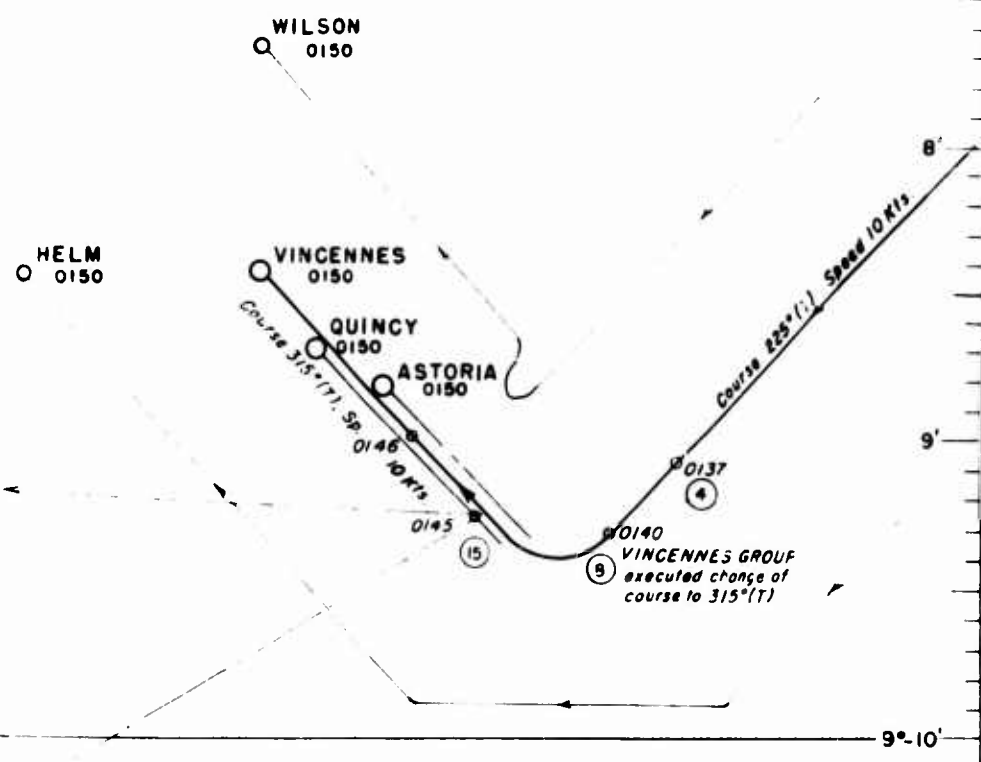
YUNAGI sighted JARVIS
bearing 055°(T), range 3100 yds
turned off to pursue her

KAKO sighted
JARVIS 0135

S A

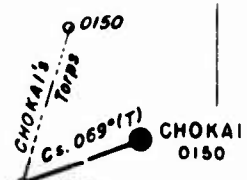


54' 159°55' 56' 57' 58'



0146 TENRYU sighted VINCENNES GROUP bearing 060°(T), range 14,800 yds.

CHOKAI sighted VINCENNES Group 060°(T) 8,000 yds



Bearing 125°(T) from

Sava Island

NUGASA 50

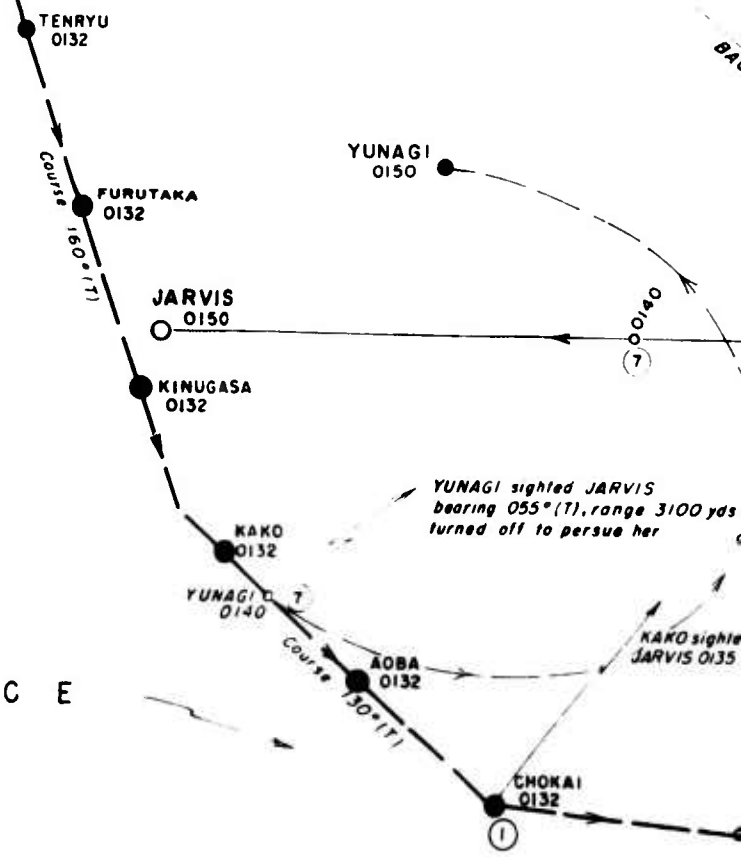
0145-CHOKAI sighted YUNAGI Bearing 290°(T)

11' 12' 13' 14'

J A P A N E S E

C R U I S E R

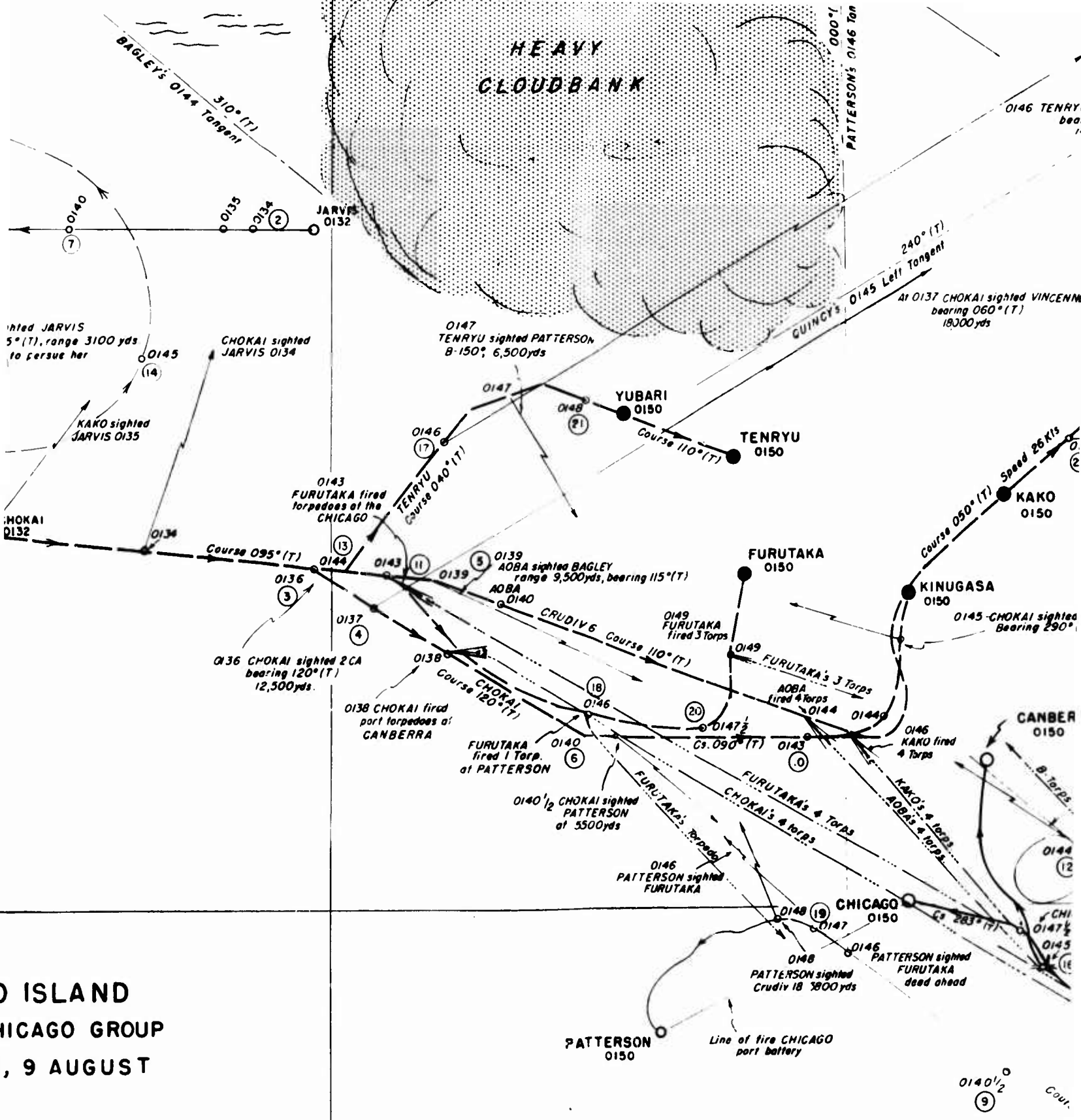
F O R C E



Cape Esperance

BATTLE OF SAVO ISLAND
ACTION WITH THE CHICAGO GROUP
0132, 9 AUGUST TO 0150, 9 AUGUST

U A O R I C A N A L

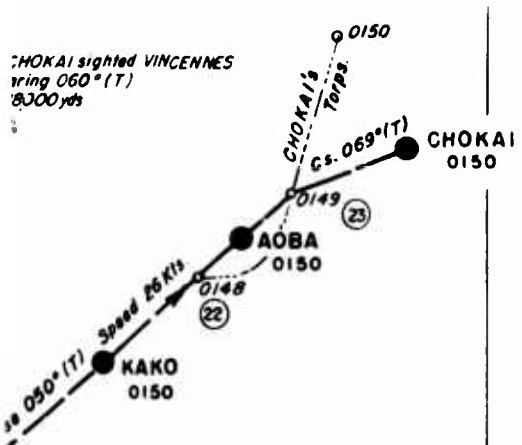


CHICAGO GROUP
ISLAND
), 9 AUGUST

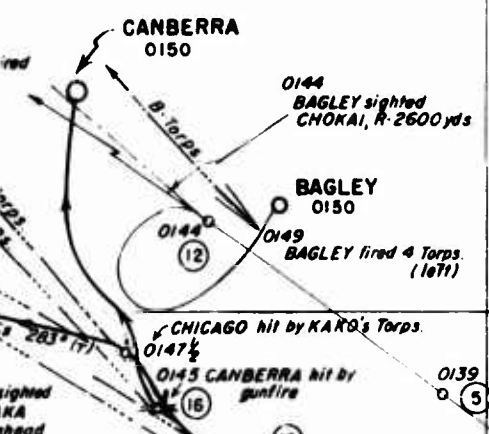
0140 1/2
9
COURT

0146 TENRYU sighted VINCENNES GROUP
bearing 060° (T), range
14,800 yds.

CHOKAI sighted VINCENNES
Group 060° (T)
18,300 yds

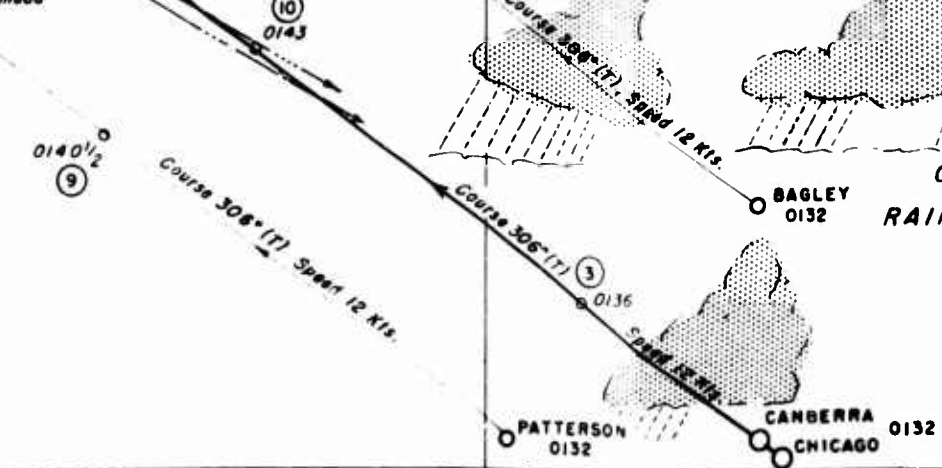


IUGASA
0145 CHOKAI sighted YUNAGI
Bearing 290° (T).



CHICAGO hit by KARO's Torps.
0147 1/2

0145 CANBERRA hit by
gunfire



OCCASIONAL
RAIN SQUALLS

DIAGRAM "F"

387-A

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

EVENTS DEPICTED ON DIAGRAM "G"

- (1) 0150 TENRYU c/c from 110°(T) to 032°(T), incident to FURUTAKA's position and northerly course.
- (2) 0150 FURUTAKA experiencing steering difficulties, was withdrawing from CRUDIV SIX on northerly course, and thereafter joined in column behind TENRYU.
- (3) 0150 YUBARI c/c to 032°(T), simultaneously with the TENRYU and proceeded thereafter in line of bearing on TENRYU.
- (4) 0150 CHOKAI illuminated ASTORIA, followed in a matter of seconds by the AOBA illuminating the QUINCY, and the KAKO illuminating the VINCENNES. The gunfire engagement with the VINCENNES Group was then commenced using searchlights briefly and intermittently.
- (5) 0150 KINUGASA continued to engage the burning CANBERRA at 3000 yards range.
- (6) 0151 BAGLEY sighted by the CHICAGO on bearing 067°(T), range 2800 yards.
- (7) 0151½ CHOKAI sighted by ASTORIA, silhouetted against star shells fired by VINCENNES.
- (8) 0152 BAGLEY sighted by TENRYU on bearing 120°(T) at range 5500 yards.
- (9) 0152 COMCRUDIV EIGHTEEN c/c to 050°(T) so TENRYU could fire (reverse action) on the BAGLEY bearing 120°(T), range 5500 yards.
- (10) 0152 WILSON c/c to 270°(T) to unmask guns to port.
- (11) 0152 HELM received Commander VINCENNES Group order for destroyers to attack. Continued on course 315°(T), increased speed to fifteen knots.
- (12) KINUGASA fired torpedoes at CANBERRA. No hits.
- (13) 0153½ COMCRUDIV EIGHTEEN, having been paralleling the Japanese heavy cruisers on course 050°(T), changed course to 000°(T) to clear the action between Japanese Eastern Group and Allied heavy cruisers of VINCENNES Group. At this juncture, the Western Group became a tactically separated unit.
- (14) 0153½ Commander VINCENNES Group c/c to 275°(T) to unmask his main battery guns to port.

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- (15) 0154 WILSON was sighted by CHOKAI and was taken under fire with her 5-inch guns. No hits. WILSON continued to fire at the KAKO as the latter's searchlight beam gave her a point of aim.
- (16) 0155 Commanding Officer ASTORIA observed that the cruisers of the VINCENNES Group were in a line of bearing of about 305°(T) and heading about 275°(T). He changed course to the left to unmask his main battery guns and increased speed to twenty knots.
- (17) 0155 COMCRUDIV EIGHTEEN changed course to 020°(T) to close the range on the VINCENNES Group.
- (18) 0156 HELM completed course change to 180°(T) and proceeded at fifteen knots to attempt to locate enemy and attack with torpedoes. Visibility was low in the vicinity of the HELM.
- (19) 0158 CHOKAI o/a to 028°(T).
- (20) 0158 COMCRUDIV EIGHTEEN sighted QUINCY through the haze bearing 050°(T), range 5600 yards. He noted also the VINCENNES turning to 340°(T), and the ASTORIA following the QUINCY. He decided to fire torpedoes at the QUINCY.
- (21) 0159 CHOKAI o/c to 015°(T).
- (22) 0159 TENRYU opened gunfire on the QUINCY bearing 040°(T), range 4000 yards. Then commenced maneuvering to reach torpedo firing points.

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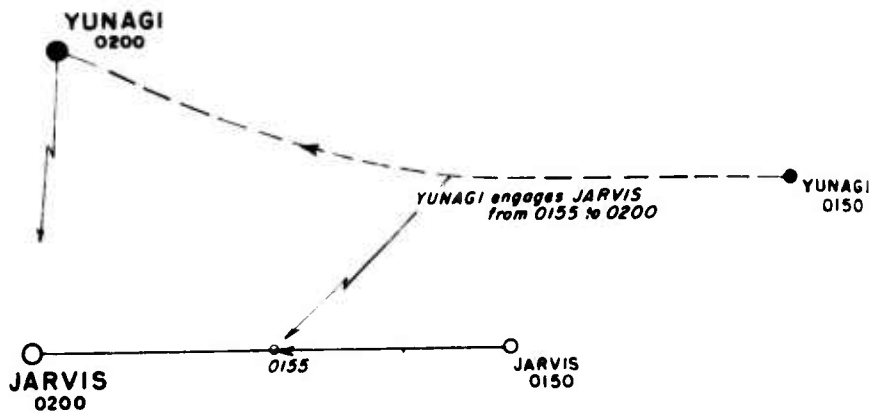
159° 45'

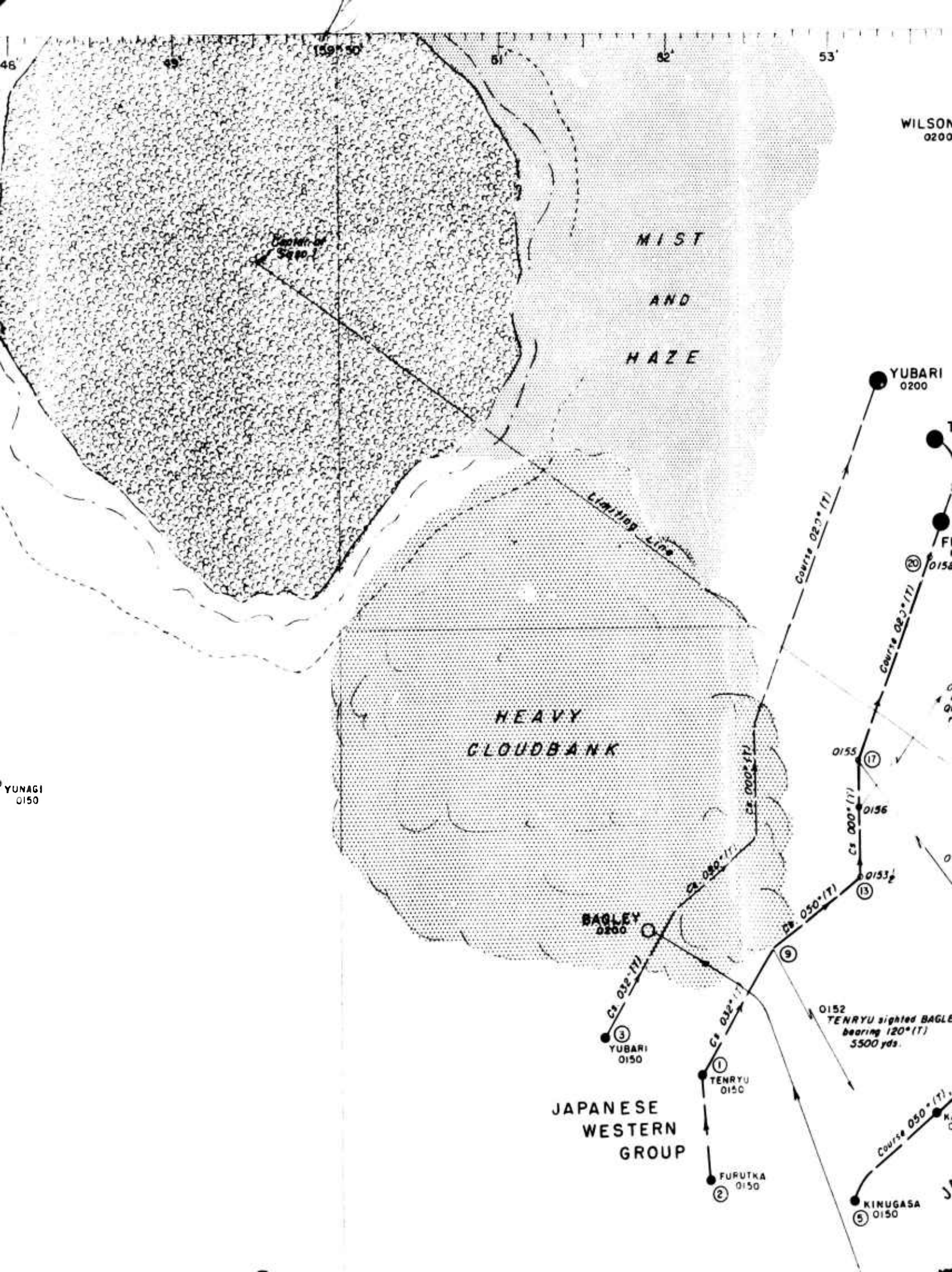
46'

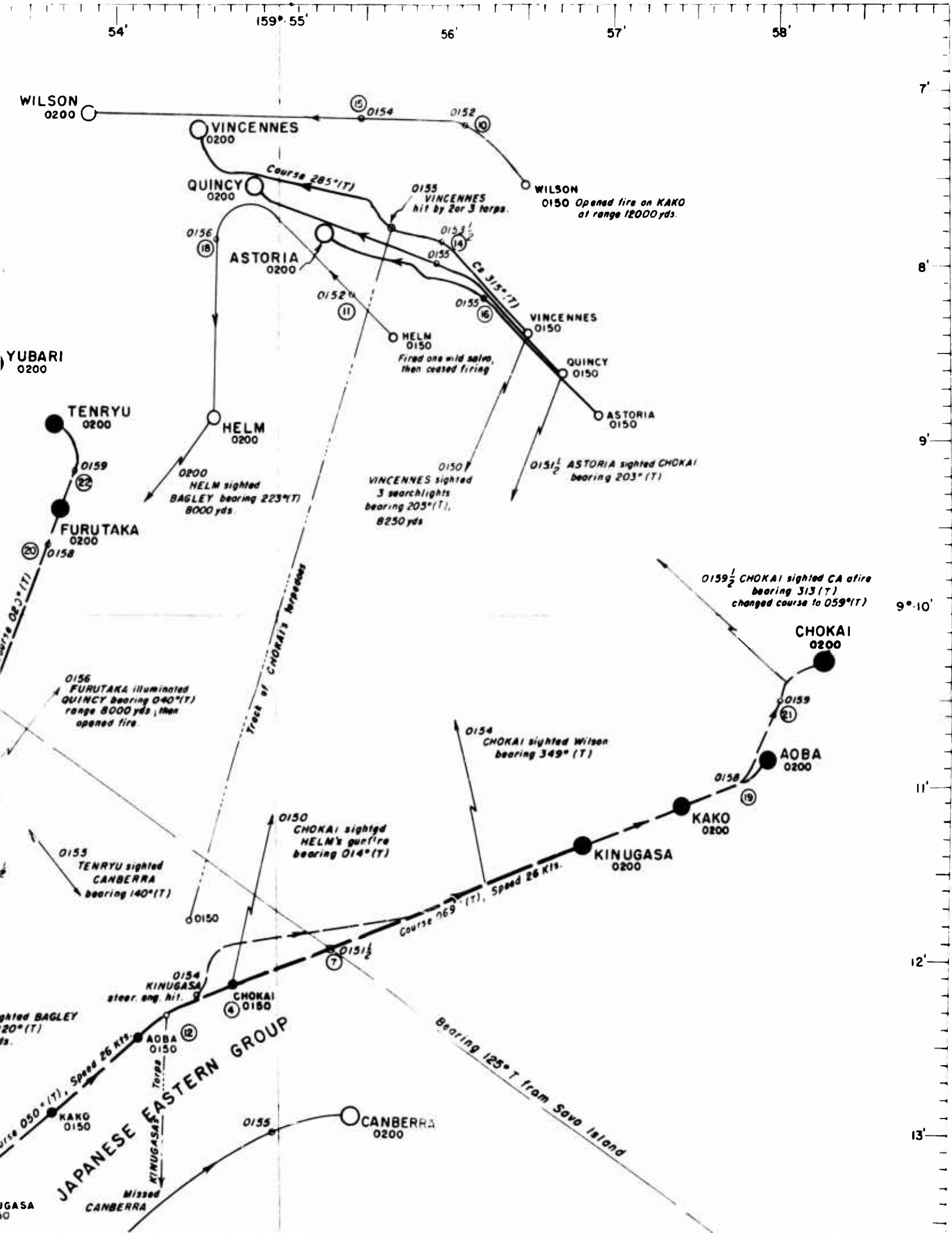
47'

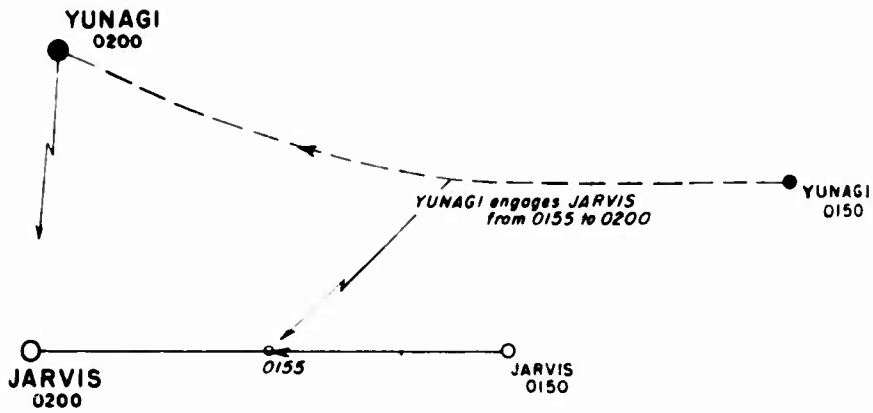
48'

49'





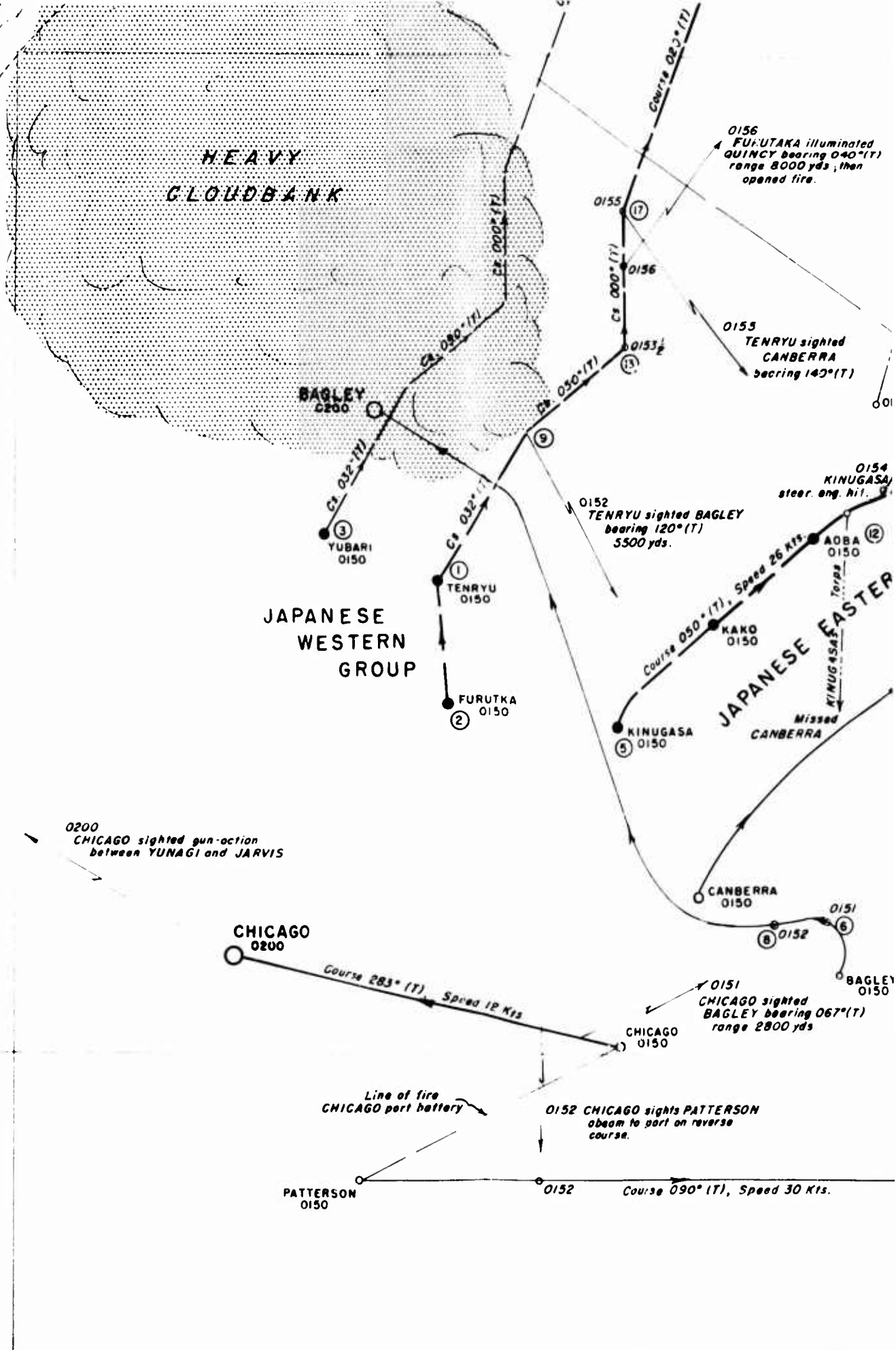




Cape Esperance

BATTLE OF SAVO ISLAND
OPENING PHASE OF
ACTION WITH THE VINCENNES GROUP
0150, 9 AUGUST TO 0200, 9 AUGUST

BUAAL
 CARAL



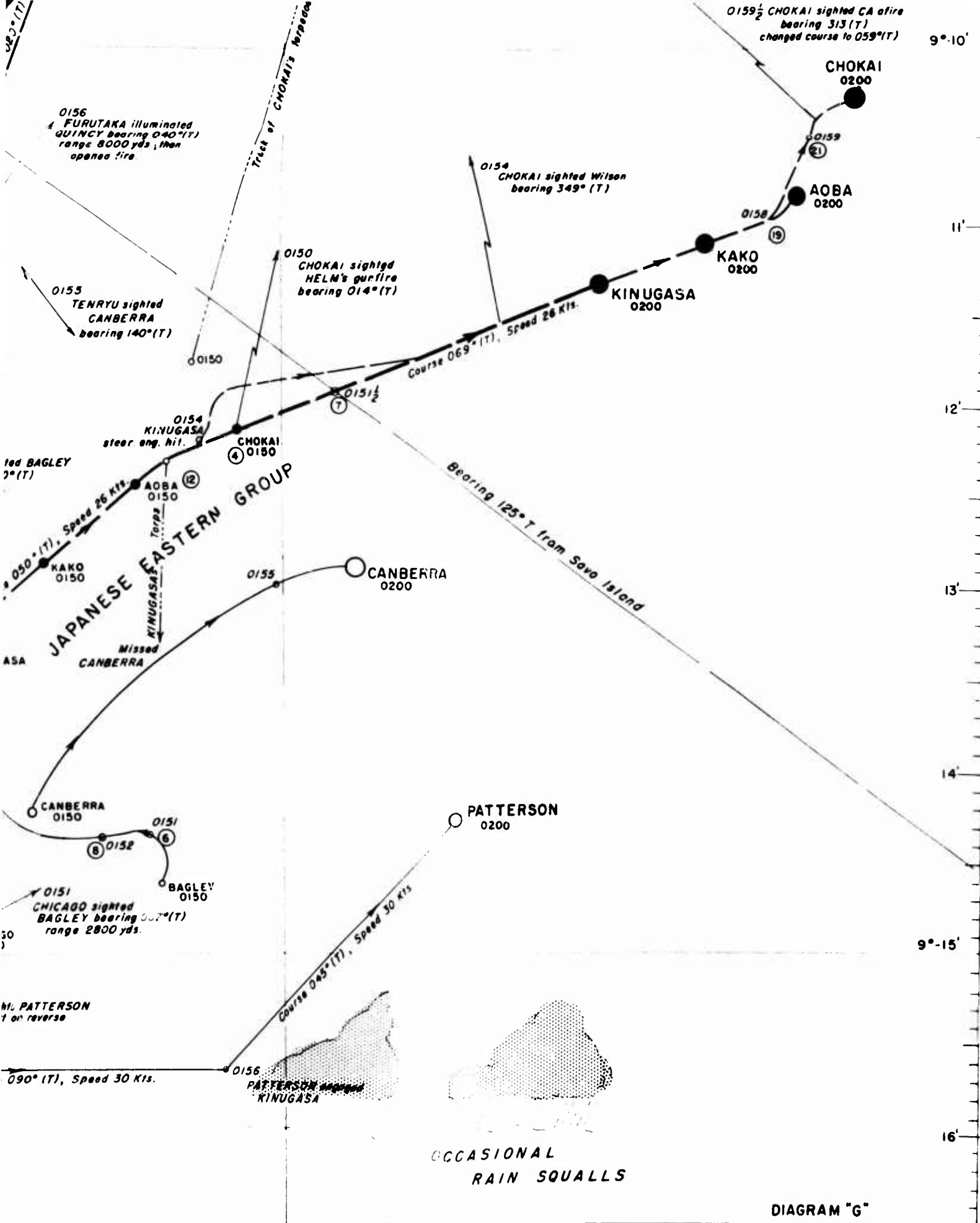


DIAGRAM "G"

CONFIDENTIAL

151933 O 50 (Fore p 389)

389-A

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EVENTS DEPICTED ON DIAGRAM "H"

FINAL PHASE OF ACTION

0200 to 0220

- (1) 0200 CHOKAI separated from CRUDIV SIX. Her actual movements at this time are not known. The track shown on this Diagram consists merely of her minimum turning circle to the left to the 0204 bearing line she obtained on the ASTORIA.
- (2) 0200 AOBA changed course from 069°(T) to 000°(T), leading CRUDIV SIX to continue action against VINCENNES Group. All three ships of CRUDIV SIX concentrated their fire on the ASTORIA at 0200.
- (3) 0200 KINUGASA fired torpedoes toward Transport Area XRAY, distant 26,000 yards. All torpedoes missed.
- (4) 0200 ASTORIA turned right to clear QUINCY's line of fire to the southeastward.
- (5) 0200 HELM, on course 180°(T), sighted unidentified ship (BAGLEY) on bearing 225°(T), distance 8000 yards. Changed course to SW to investigate and attack it, if enemy.
- (6) 0200 TENRYU was maneuvering for position to fire torpedoes.
- (7) 0200 YUBARI, placed ahead of the TENRYU by the latter's maneuvering, commenced her approach and also maneuvered to fire torpedoes.
- (8) 0200 WILSON changed course to the right to maintain her relative position on port bow of the VINCENNES.
- (9) 0200 RALPH TALBOT was proceeding along her assigned patrol line toward the SW at twelve knots, observing the action on her port beam between the Japanese Eastern Group and the three Allied cruisers of the VINCENNES Group. The Japanese Western Group was not visible to her.
- (10) 0201 KAKO fired four torpedoes at the ASTORIA. All torpedoes missed.
- (11) 0201 ASTORIA fired her ninth salvo at AOBA bearing 136°(T), range 7900 yards. ASTORIA hit by shells of AOBA.
- (12) 0201 HELM identified BAGLEY as a "friendly destroyer", reversed course, and increased speed to twenty-five knots.

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- (13) 0201 FURUTAKA engaged VINCENNES with gunfire on course North.
- (14) 0202 AOBA shifted fire from ASTORIA to QUINCY on bearing 310°(T), range 8600 yards. CRUDIV SIX again employed searchlights.
- (15) 0202 ASTORIA's bridge hit by salvo from KAKO, causing great damage and killing the steersman.
- (16) 0202 TENRYU and YUBARI fired four torpedoes each abeam to starboard at the QUINCY and VINCENNES, respectively, then steadied on course 340°(T).
- (17) 0202 QUINCY fired three salvos of star shells to starboard, which burst short of the Japanese Eastern Group above the clouds and were ineffective.
- (18) 0203 QUINCY fired her second main battery salvo. QUINCY's starboard 5-inch battery was knocked out by shells from the AOBA.
- (19) 0203 ASTORIA fired her tenth main battery salvo. She was hit by an 8-inch salvo from the KINUGUSA on bearing 150°(T) (approx.) range 9100 yards, suffering extensive damage topside and below decks in the vicinity of the well deck.
- (20) 0203 FURUTAKA c/o to 340° to parallel movement of TENRYU and YUBARI. Japanese Western Group then overhauled the VINCENNES and QUINCY, and fired a heavy volume of shells into them from ranges of 2700 yards to 2000 yards.
- (21) 0204 KINUGASA experienced more difficulty with her port steering engine (hit by VINCENNES at 0154).
- (22) 0204 CHOKAI's position as plotted on the Diagram was derived from her bearing of 318°(T) taken on the ASTORIA, and the statements of QUINCY officers who noted a cruiser farther east of three ships of CRUDIV SIX. CHOKAI re-entered the engagement and turned her searchlights on the ASTORIA and opened fire.
- (23) 0204 ASTORIA under concentrated fire of three ships was hit aft by salvo from KINUGASA. Her engineering department was damaged, her speed was reduced, and her gunnery stations (except for turrets I and II) were practically out of action. She commenced a slow left turn.
- (24) 0204 QUINCY was hit on port side by torpedoes from TENRYU, and a half-minute earlier VINCENNES was hit on port side by YUBARI's torpedoes.

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- (25) 0204 WILSON resumed fire on Japanese Eastern Group. Her plotted position on the Diagram was derived from TENRYU's bearing of 0200(T), at this time taken together with the WILSON's own track chart. WILSON came under a few rounds of fire from the TENRYU in the next minute, but was not hit.
- (26) 0205 TENRYU o/c from 340°(T) to 320°(T), ceased firing at the WILSON.
- (27) 0205 YUBARI, noting TENRYU's change in course, o/c to the westward also. The track of 307°(T) of the YUBARI shown on this Diagram is a maneuvering board solution (War College evaluation) which would enable the YUBARI to have passed 800 yards ahead of the TENRYU at 0208 to assume the offset position in which she was later reported to be (by the TENRYU and by the RALPH TALBOT).
- (28) 0205 HELM changed course to 350°(T) to pass between the QUINCY and the VINCENNES, the latter she observed was turning westward.
- (29) 0205 KAKO fired two additional torpedoes at ASTORIA (torpedoes missed).
- (30) 0205 CHOKAI hit in bridge structure, thirty men were killed and Flag Plot burned out. CHOKAI scored hits on ASTORIA at this time.
- (31) 0206 FURUTAKA changed course to left to parallel course of 320°(T) steered by TENRYU. At this point FURUTAKA and YUBARI continued to engage the VINCENNES from the latter's starboard quarter. They were believed to be two "friendly destroyers" by Commanding Officer, VINCENNES.
- (32) 0207 The ASTORIA fired her eleventh salvo from turret III at the KINUGASA on bearing approximately 140°(T), range 7000 yards.
- (33) 0207 KINUGASA commenced returning to the column of CRUDIV SIX.
- (34) 0208 AOBA changed course from 000°(T) to 328°(T) to close range on QUINCY, in particular, and VINCENNES Group as a whole.
- (35) 0208 ASTORIA sighted QUINCY, burning and in right turn, on a collision course. ASTORIA commenced sharp left turn.
- (36) 0208 WILSON and HELM near collision. WILSON reversed course at thirty knots to avoid the HELM.
- (37) 0208 FURUTAKA, having ceased firing at VINCENNES, closed TENRYU to take position approximately in column.

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- (38) 0209 YUBARI, having ceased firing at the VINCENNES at 0208, crossed ahead of the TENRYU and subsequently assumed a position 1000 yards on her port beam.
- (39) 0210 KINUGASA changed course to 328°(T) to follow ships of CRUDIV SIX in column.
- (40) 0210 CHOKAI c/c to 328°(T) to parallel CHUDIV SIX.
- (41) 0210 FURUTAKA c/c to 320°(T) to follow TENRYU at 1300 yards distance.
- (42) 0210 TENRYU sighted RALPH TALBOT, bearing 350°(T), range 9500 yards.
- (43) 0210 RALPH TALBOT was momentarily illuminated by YUNAGI's searchlight at range 15,000 yards on her port bow.
- (44) 0210 HELM changed course to 315°(T) to proceed to point of rendezvous five miles NW of Savo Island.
- (45) 0211½ FURUTAKA observed QUINCY ablaze on bearing 100°(T), range 6000 yards.
- (46) 0212 FURUTAKA sighted HELM bearing 065°(T), range 4200 yards.
- (47) 0213 CHOKAI re-entered engagement, turned on her searchlight, swept past the WILSON to locate the VINCENNES, and opened fire.
- (48) 0214 AOBA reopened fire on QUINCY. Also fired one torpedo at QUINCY.
- (49) 0214 KINUGASA illuminated the ASTORIA on bearing 270°(T) and fired her main battery at her. A minute later she directed her dual purpose guns on the QUINCY.
- (50) 0214 TENRYU illuminated the RALPH TALBOT on bearing 334°(T), range 6200 yards, and opened fire on her. FURUTAKA also opened fire on RALPH TALBOT, range 7500 yards.
- (51) 0215½ FURUTAKA ceased fire on the RALPH TALBOT, probably because the TENRYU was in her line of fire because of TALBOT's change in bearing.
- (52) 0216 QUINCY hit by AOBA's torpedo.
- (53) 0216 CHOKAI sustained hit in turret I from shell fired by ASTORIA.
- (54) 0217 TENRYU ceased firing at RALPH TALBOT but continued to illuminate her.

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- (55) 0218 RALPH TALBOT sighted YUBARI, bearing 120°(T), range 3300 yards.
- (56) 0218½ YUBARI illuminated and commenced firing at RALPH TALBOT.
- (57) 0219 FURUTAKA resumed fire on RALPH TALBOT on port bow range 4700 yards.
- (58) 0219½ RALPH TALBOT had received five hits from YUBARI and fired at three torpedoes from her Number Three torpedo tube mount at the YUBARI. She immediately thereafter changed course to the left to unmask her port torpedoes.
- (59) 0220 CHOKAI attains thirty knots, closing the AOEA.

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A

159° 45' 46' 47' 48' 49'

YUNAGI
0220

HEAVY
MIST

RALPH TALBOT
0220

RALPH TALBOT'S
forward fire
of YUBARI

0215 1/2

0214

YUBARI
0220

TENRYU
0220

FURI
0220

0218
RALPH TALBOT sighted
YUBARI, bearing 120°T
range 3300 yds.

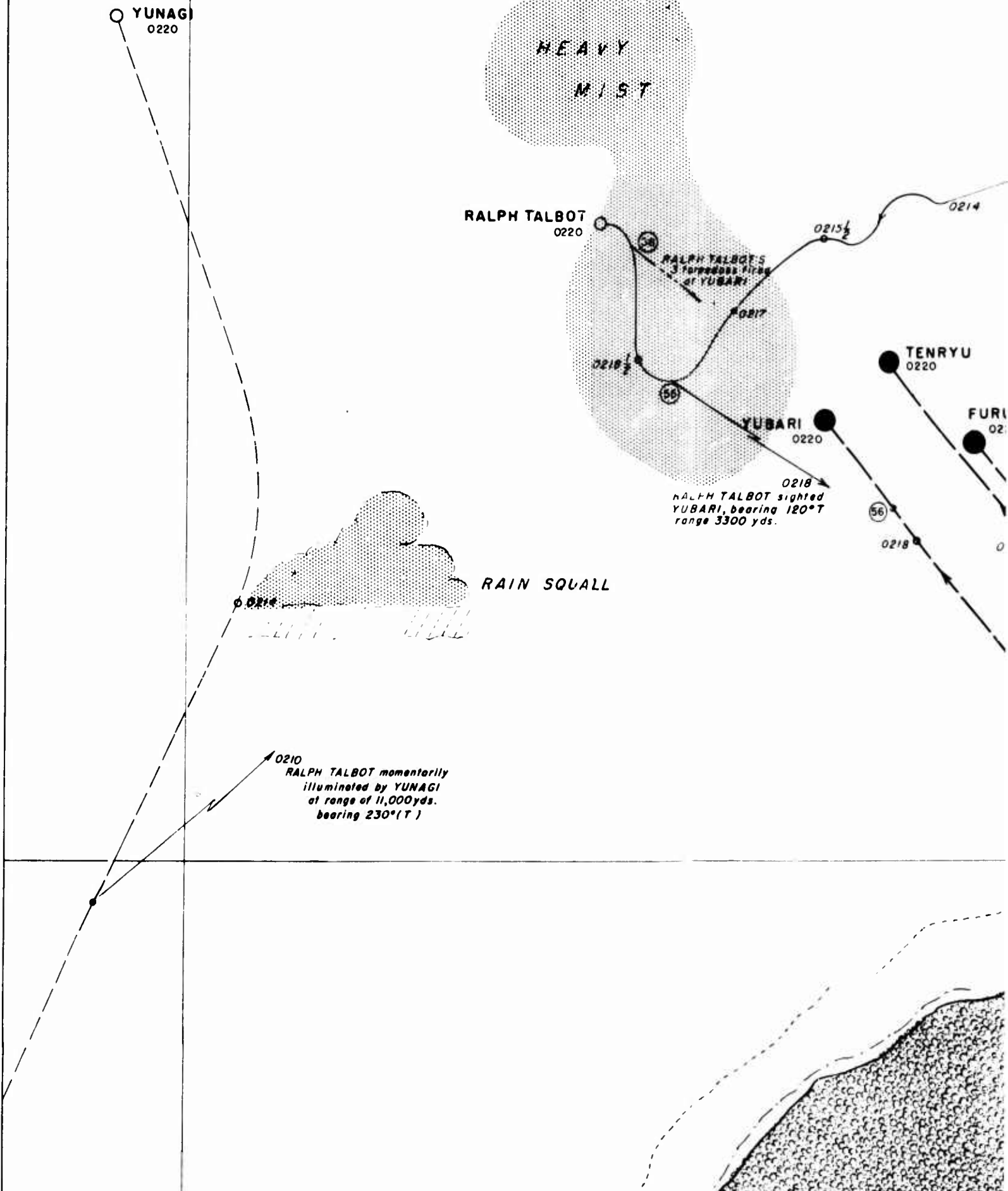
0214

RAIN SQUALL

0210
RALPH TALBOT momentarily
illuminated by YUNAGI
at range of 11,000 yds.
bearing 230°(T)

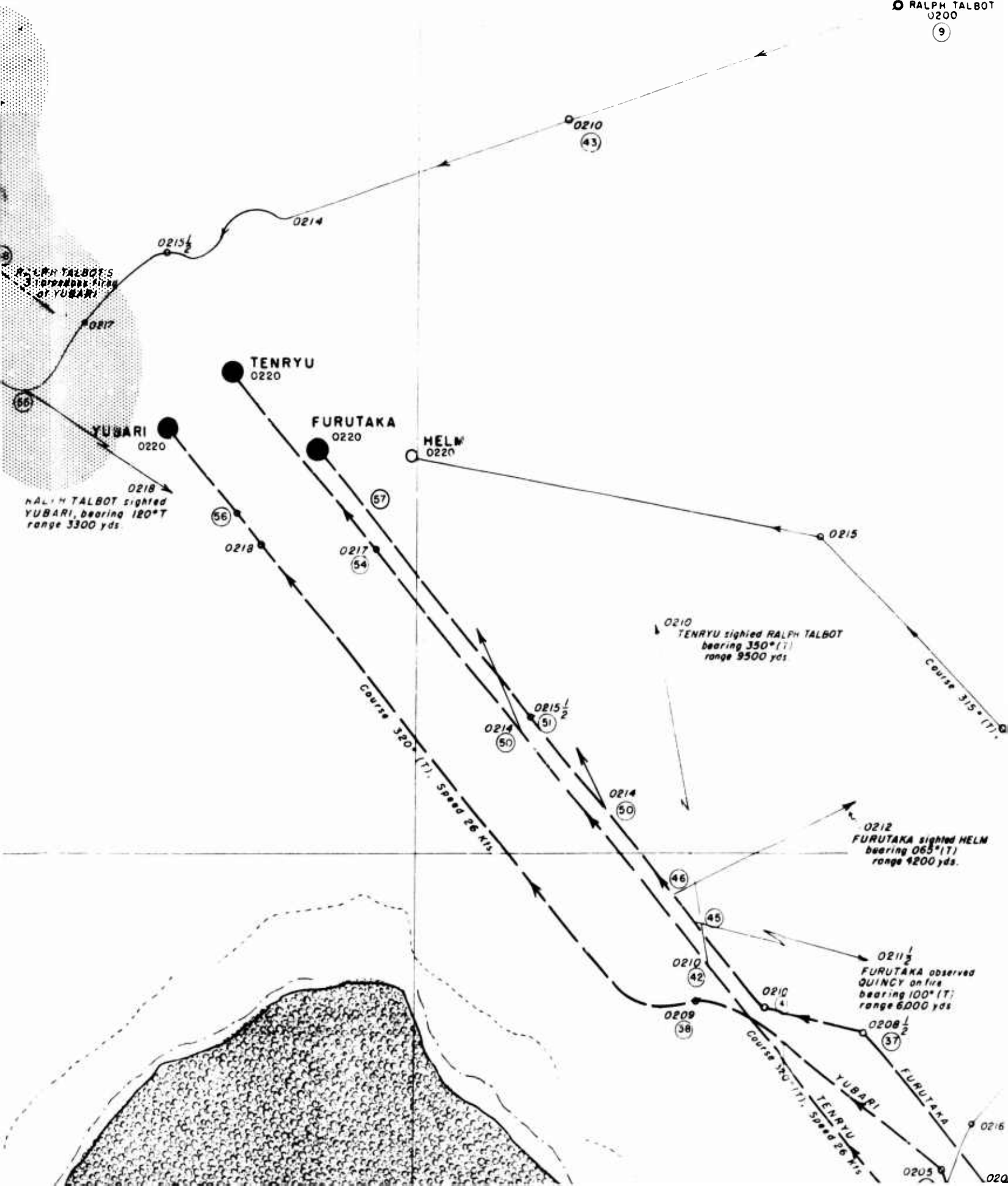
56

0218



48' 49' 159° 50' 51' 52' 53'

○ RALPH TALBOT
U200
9



RALPH TALBOT'S
3-TORPEDO FIRE
ON YUBARI

0218
RALPH TALBOT sighted
YUBARI, bearing 120° T
range 3300 yds

0210
TENRYU sighted RALPH TALBOT
bearing 350° (T)
range 9500 yds

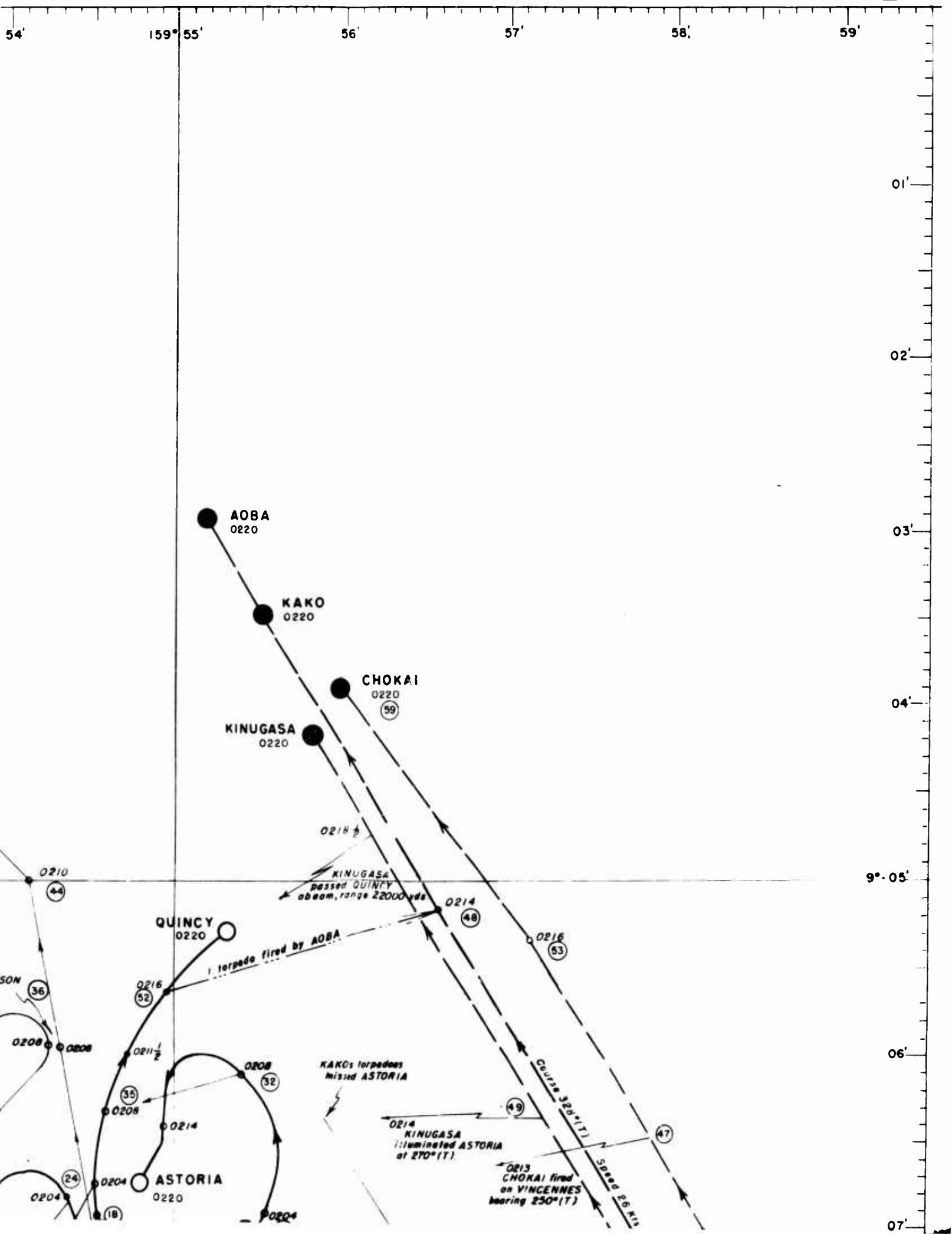
0212
FURUTAKA sighted HELM
bearing 065° (T)
range 4200 yds

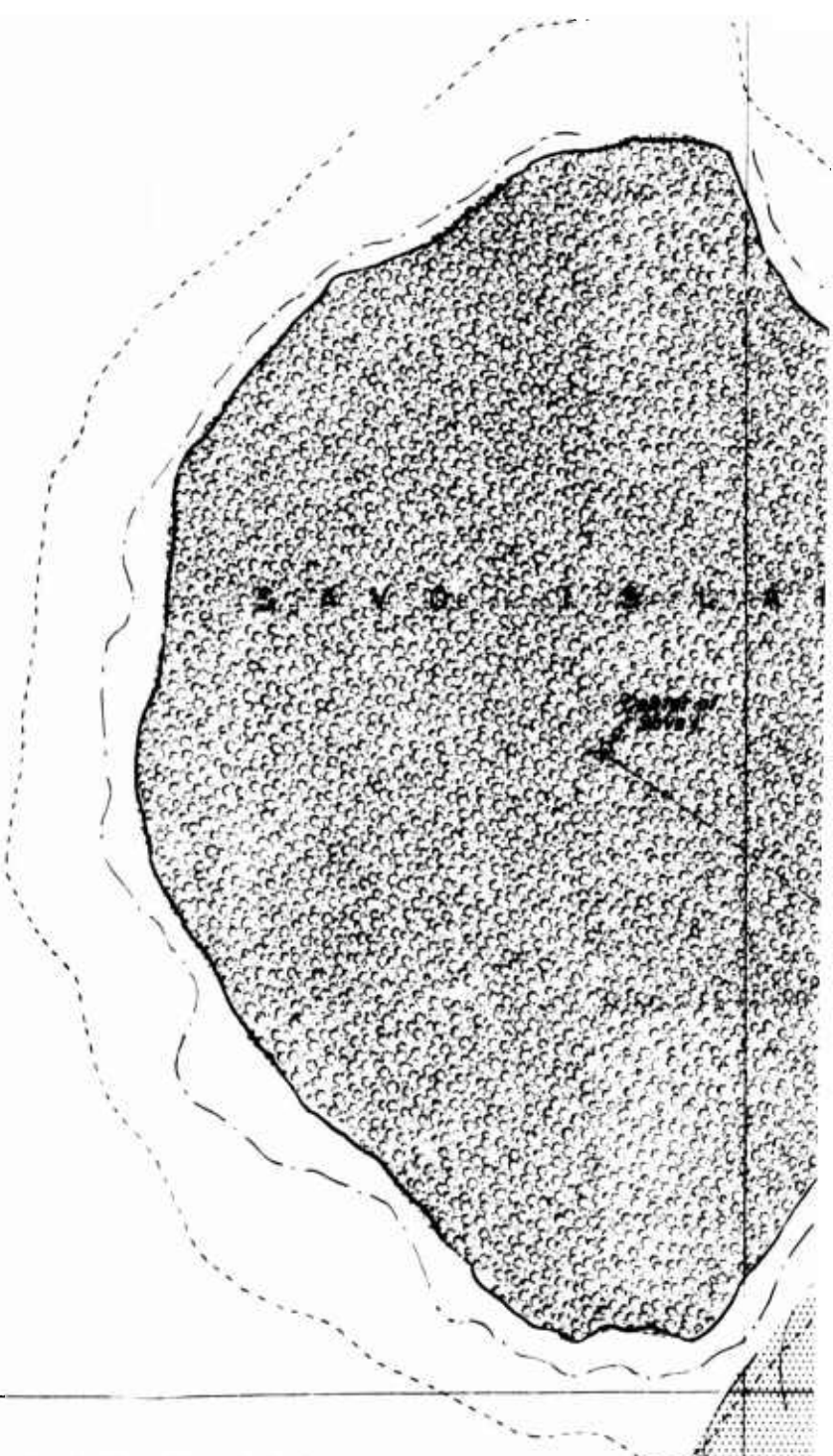
0211 1/2
FURUTAKA observed
QUINCY on fire
bearing 100° (T)
range 6000 yds

Course 320° (T), Speed 26 kts

Course 320° (T), Speed 26 kts

Course 315° (T)



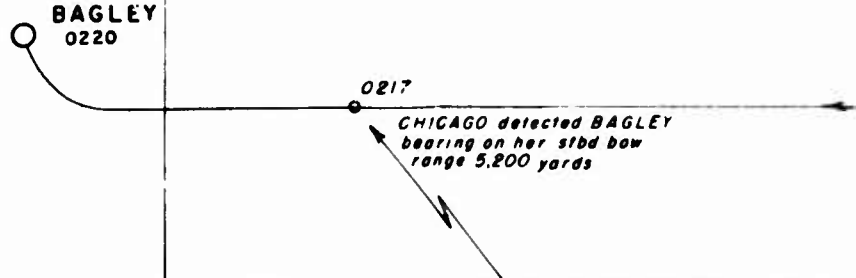


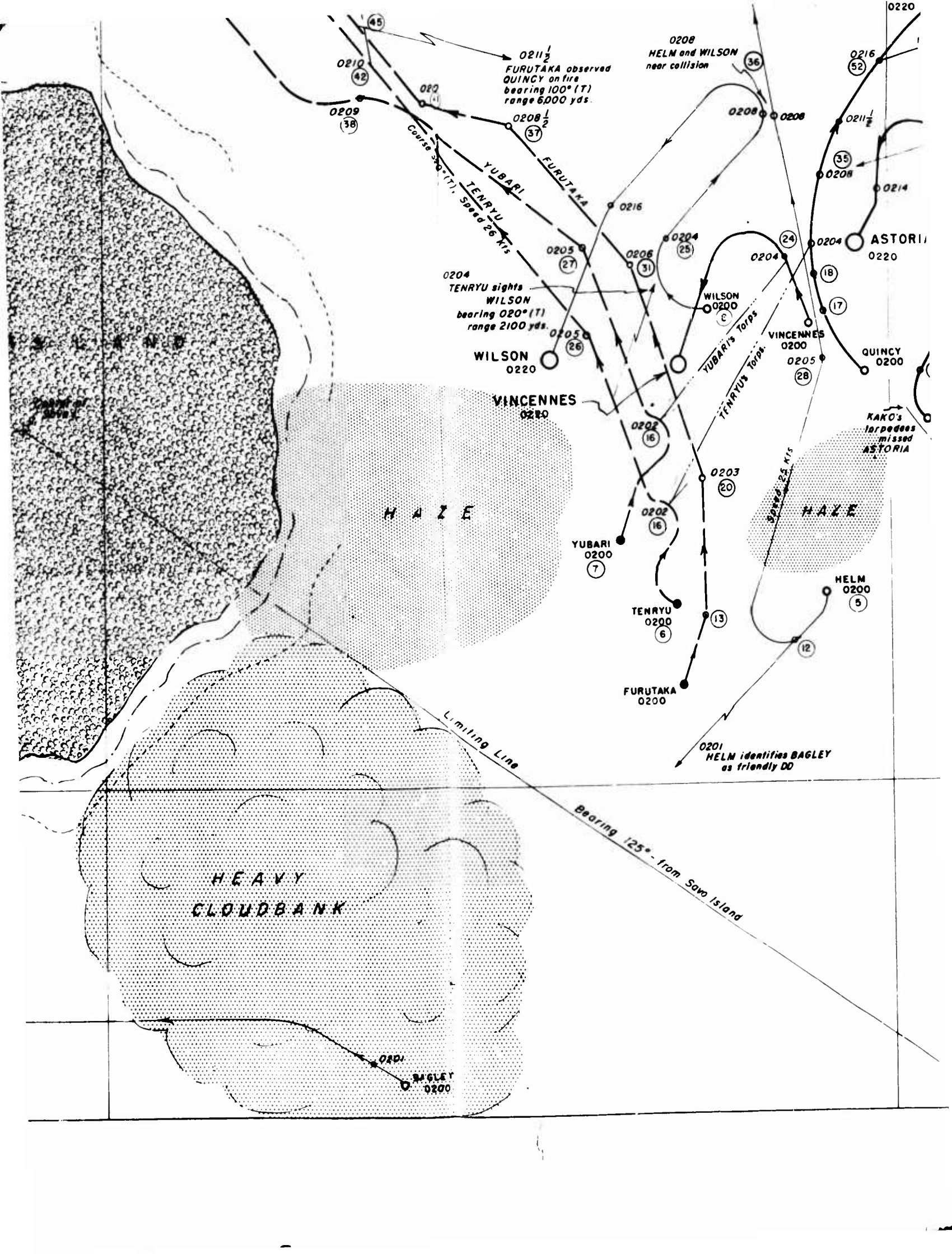
BATTLE OF SAVO ISLAND
FINAL PHASE OF
ACTION WITH THE VINCENNES GROUP
0200, 9 AUGUST TO 0220, 9 AUGUST

BAGLEY
0220

0217

CHICAGO detected BAGLEY
bearing on her stbd bow
range 5,200 yards





0220

0208
HELM and WILSON
near collision

0211 1/2
FURUTAKA observed
QUINCY on fire
bearing 100° (T)
range 6,000 yds.

0210 (42)
0209 (38)
0208 1/2 (37)

0216 (52)
0211 1/2 (35)
0208 (33)

Course 300° (T), Speed 26 Kts
YUBARI
TENRYU
FURUTAKA

0214
0204
ASTORIA
0220

0204
TENRYU sights
WILSON
bearing 020° (T)
range 2100 yds.

WILSON
0200

WILSON
0220

VINCENNES
0200
0205 (28)
QUINCY
0200

KAKO's
torpedoes
missed
ASTORIA

H A Z E

H A Z E

YUBARI
0200
(7)

TENRYU
0200
(6)

FURUTAKA
0200

HELM
0200
(5)

0201
HELM identifies BAGLEY
as friendly DD

Limiting Line

Bearing 125° - from Savo Island

HEAVY
CLOUDBANK

0201
BAGLEY
0200

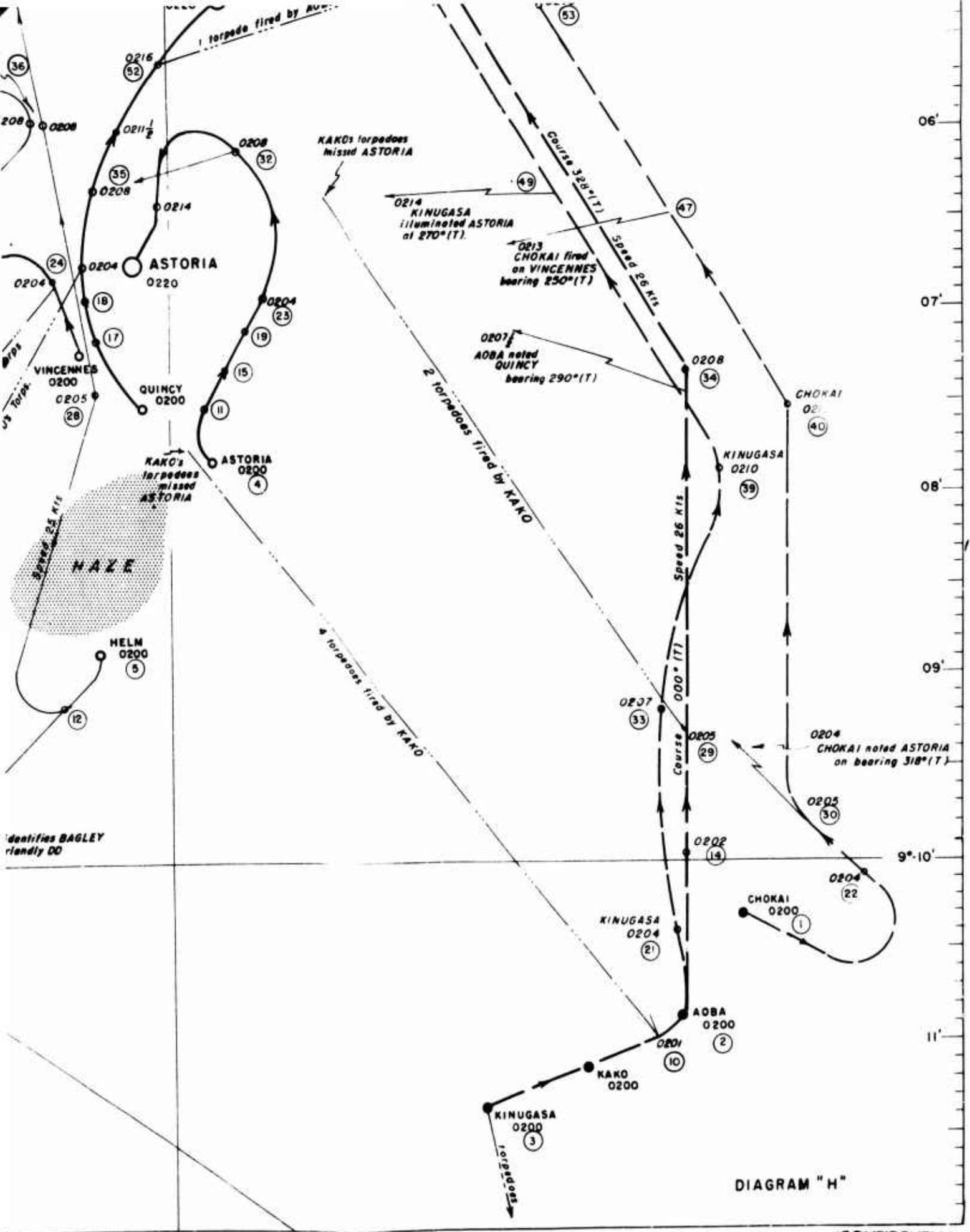
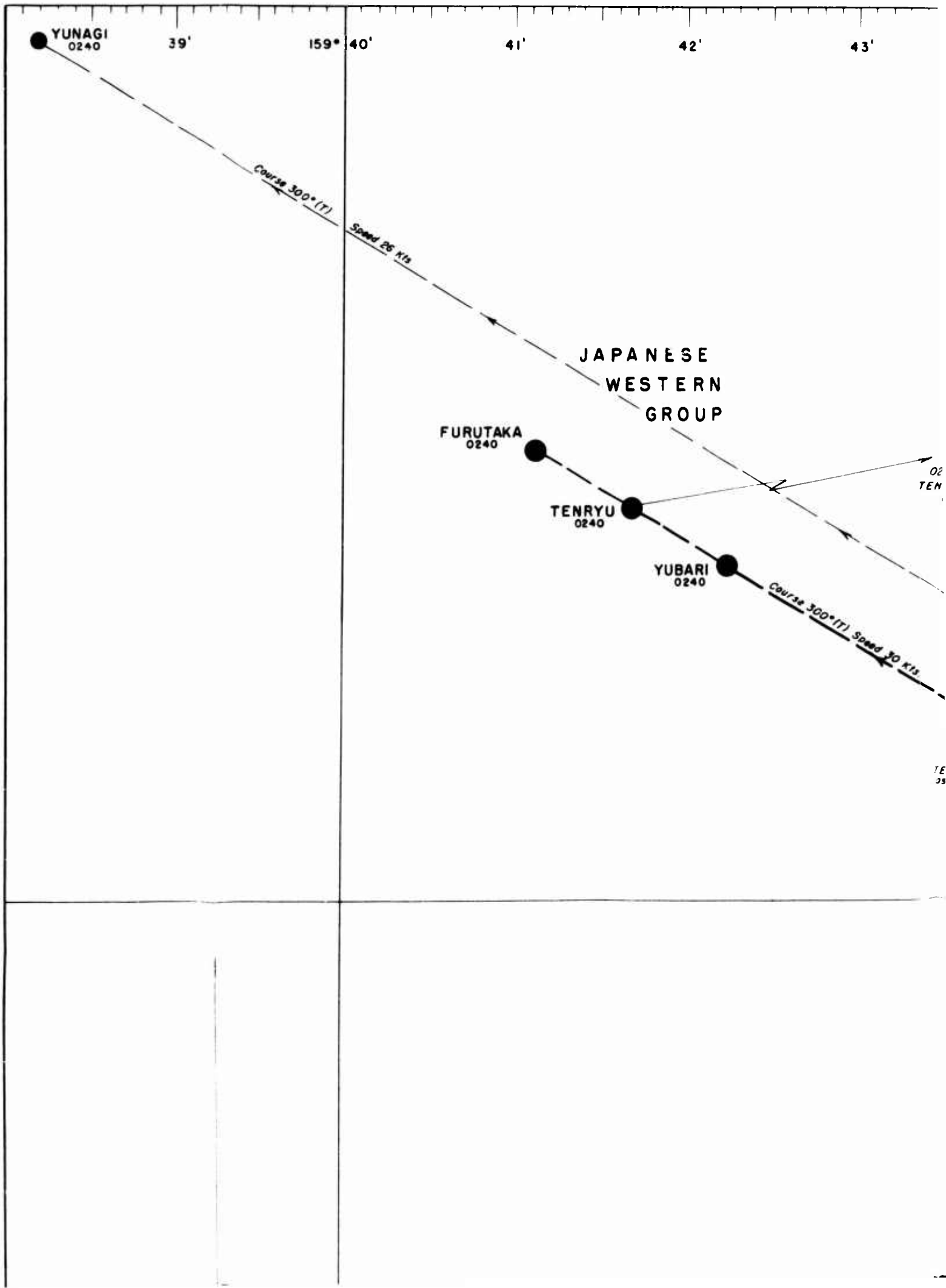


DIAGRAM "H"

CONFIDENTIAL

11



43' 44' 159° 45' 46' 47' 48'

CHOKAI 0240
AOBA 0240
KAKO 0240
JAPANESE EASTERN GROUP

0240
TENRYU sighted CHOKAI
bearing 080°(T)
range 9900 yds.

0225
300°(T) Speed 30 Kts.

TENRYU falls in
astern of FURUTAKA

YUBARI joins column

Course 340°(T)
Speed 28 Kts.

0230
COMCRUDIV 18
ordered: "Speed 30 Kts."

0230
TENRYU increased
speed to 29.2 Kts.

0228
TENRYU changed
speed to 25 kts.

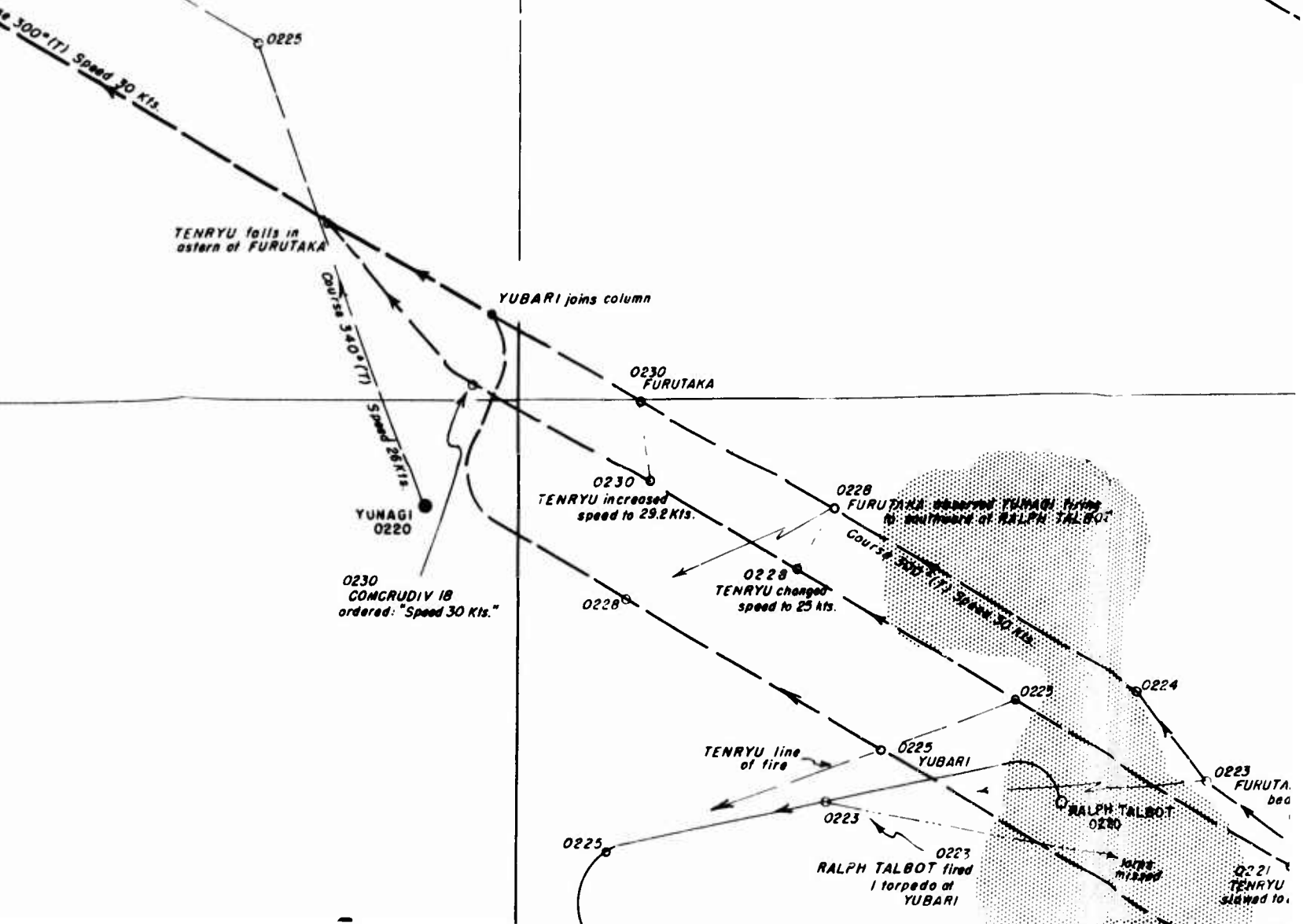
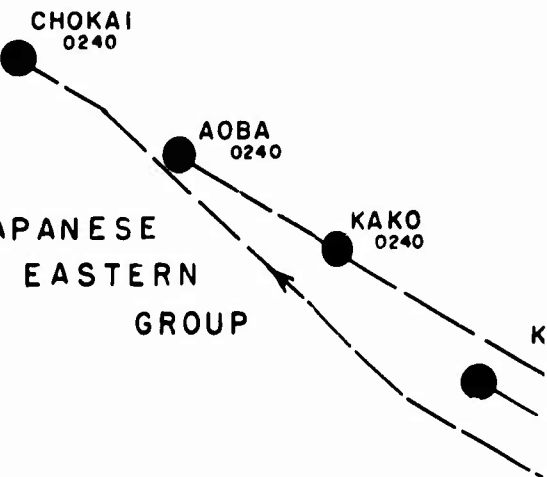
Course 300°(T)
Speed 30 Kts.

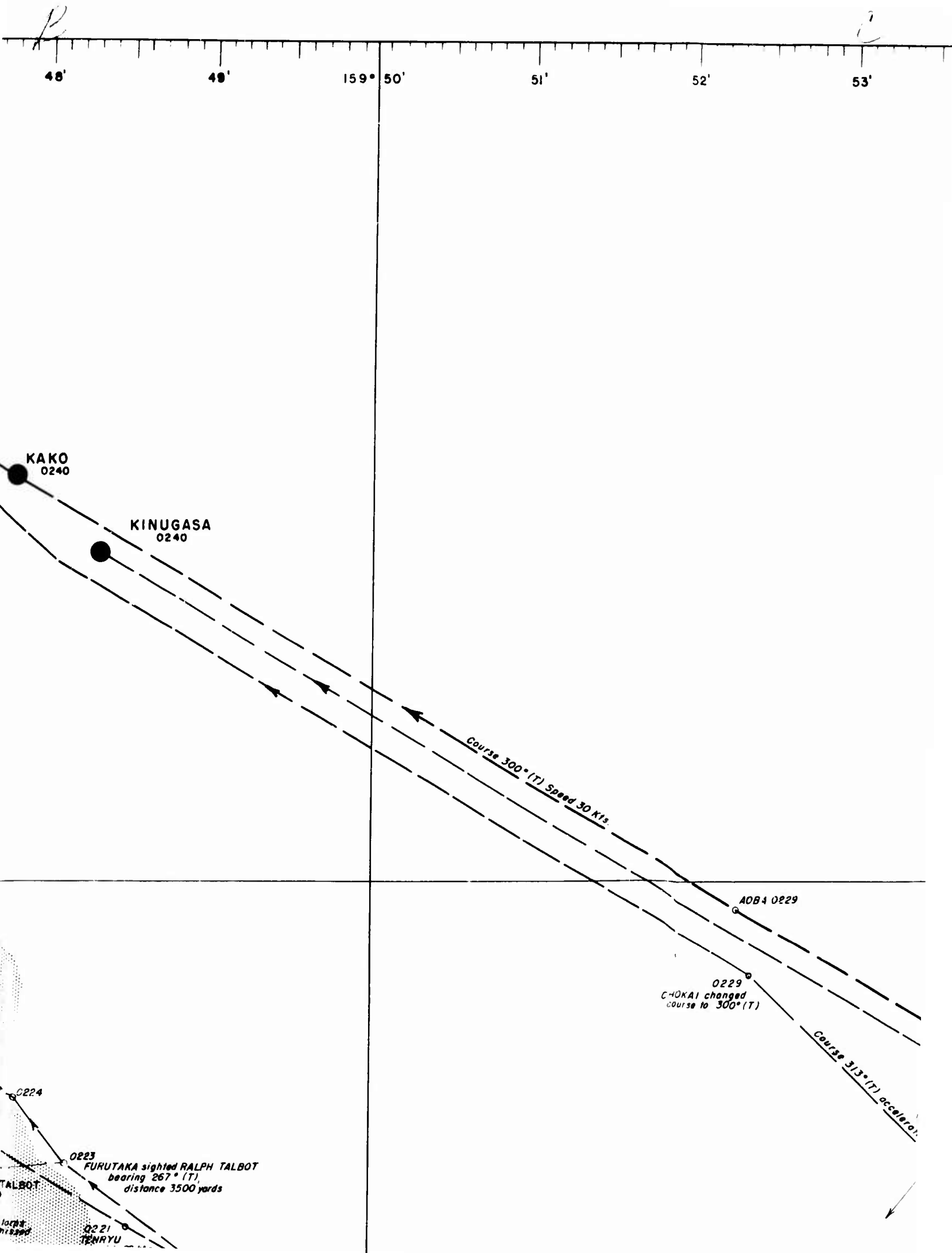
TENRYU line
of fire

0223
RALPH TALBOT fired
1 torpedo at
YUBARI

0220
RALPH TALBOT

0221
TENRYU
slowed to





53' 54' 159° 55' 56' 57'

8° 56'

57'

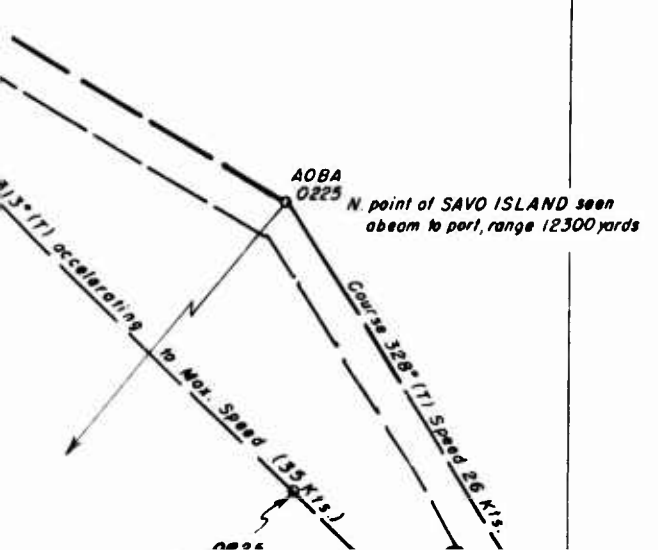
58'

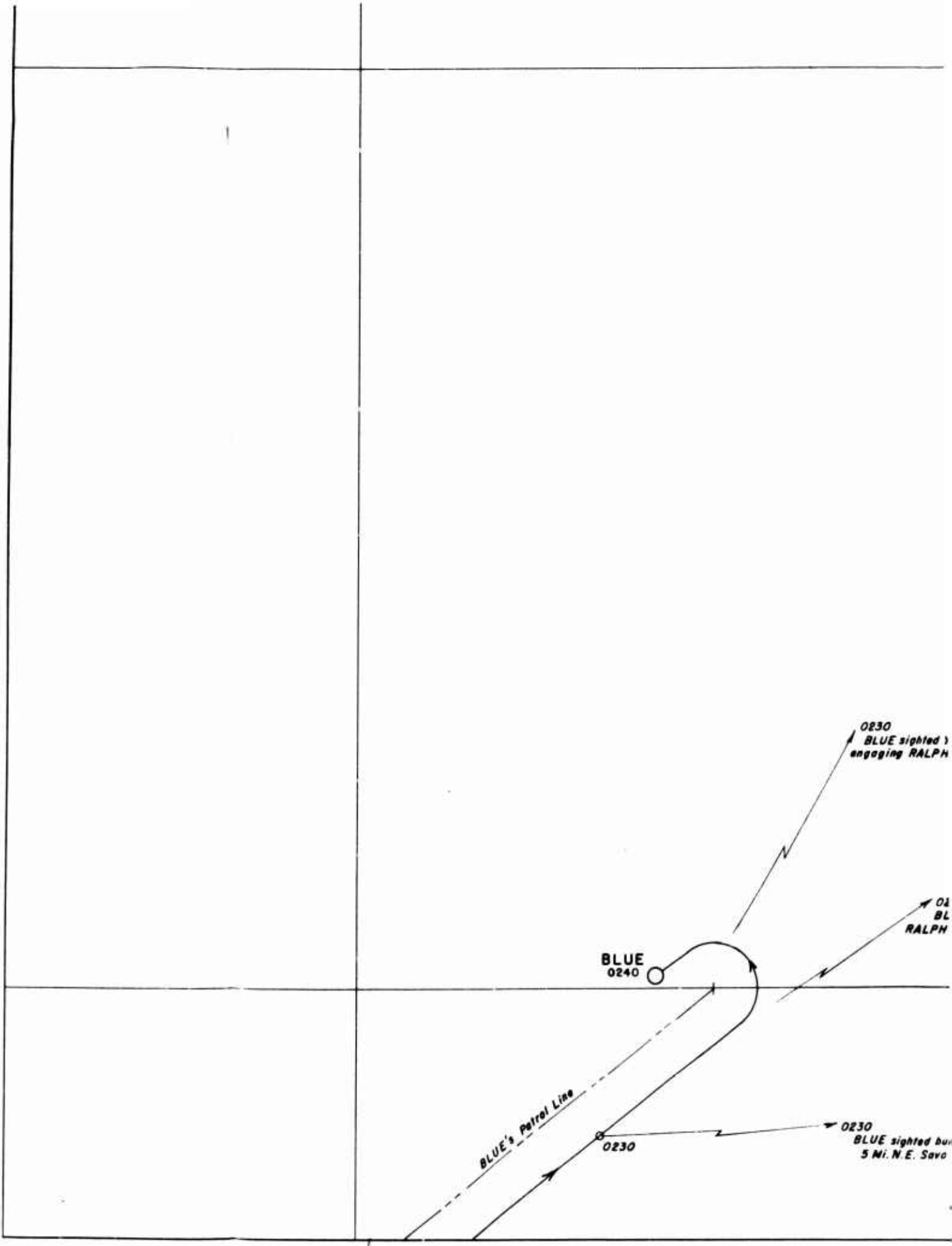
59'

9° 00' S

01'

02'





0230
BLUE sighted &
engaging RALPH

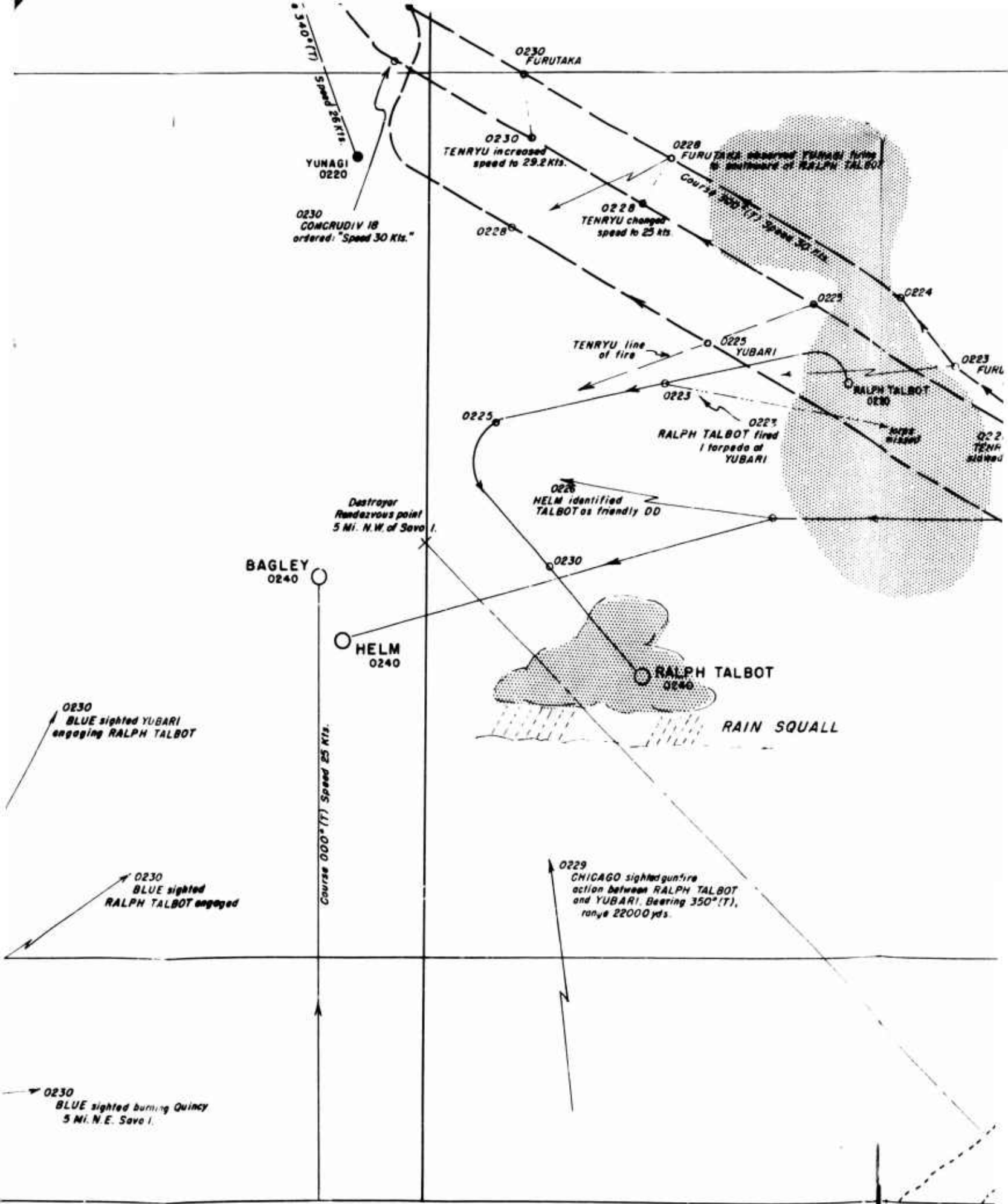
02
BL
RALPH

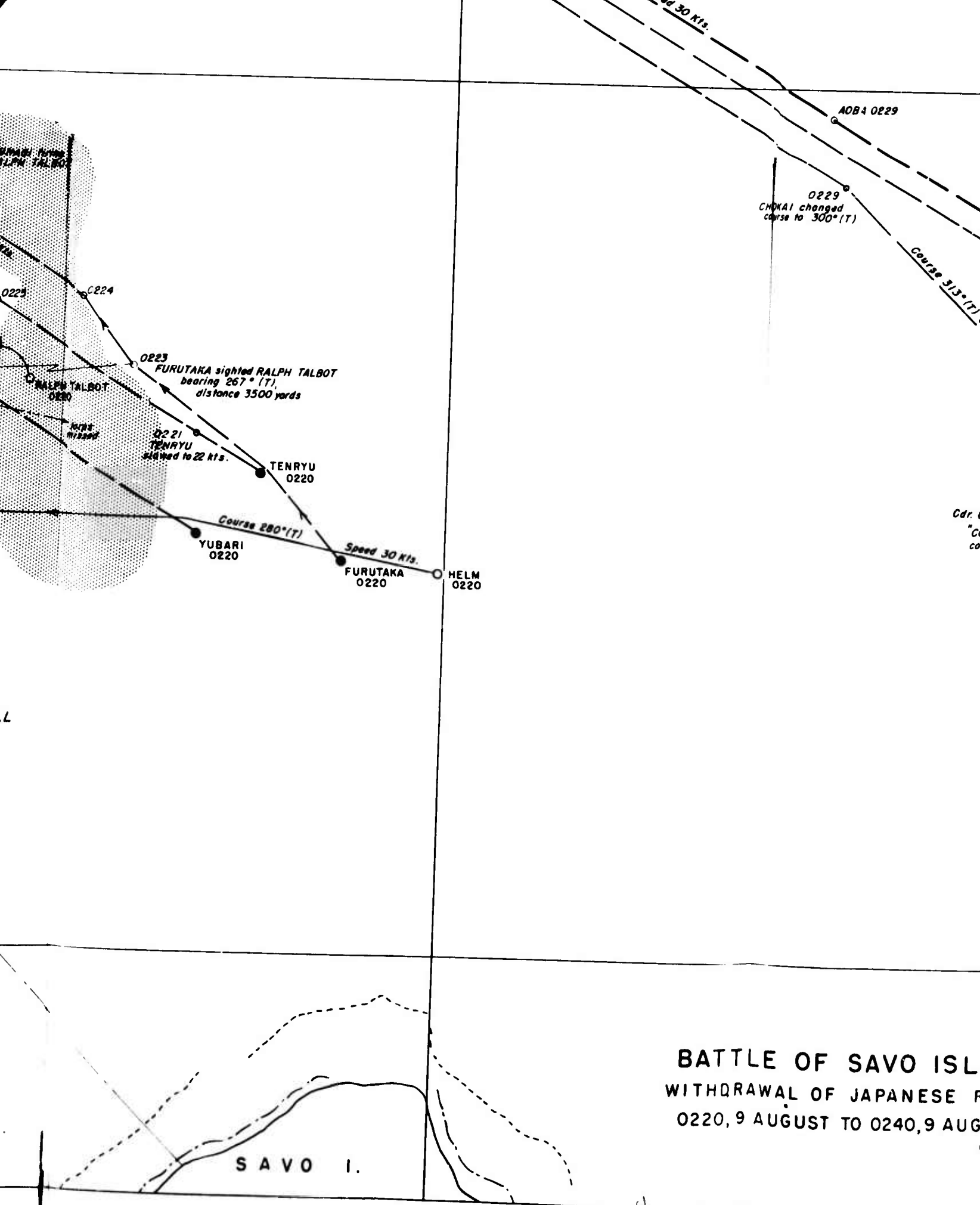
BLUE
0240

BLUE's Patrol Line

0230

0230
BLUE sighted bu
5 Mi. N.E. Savo

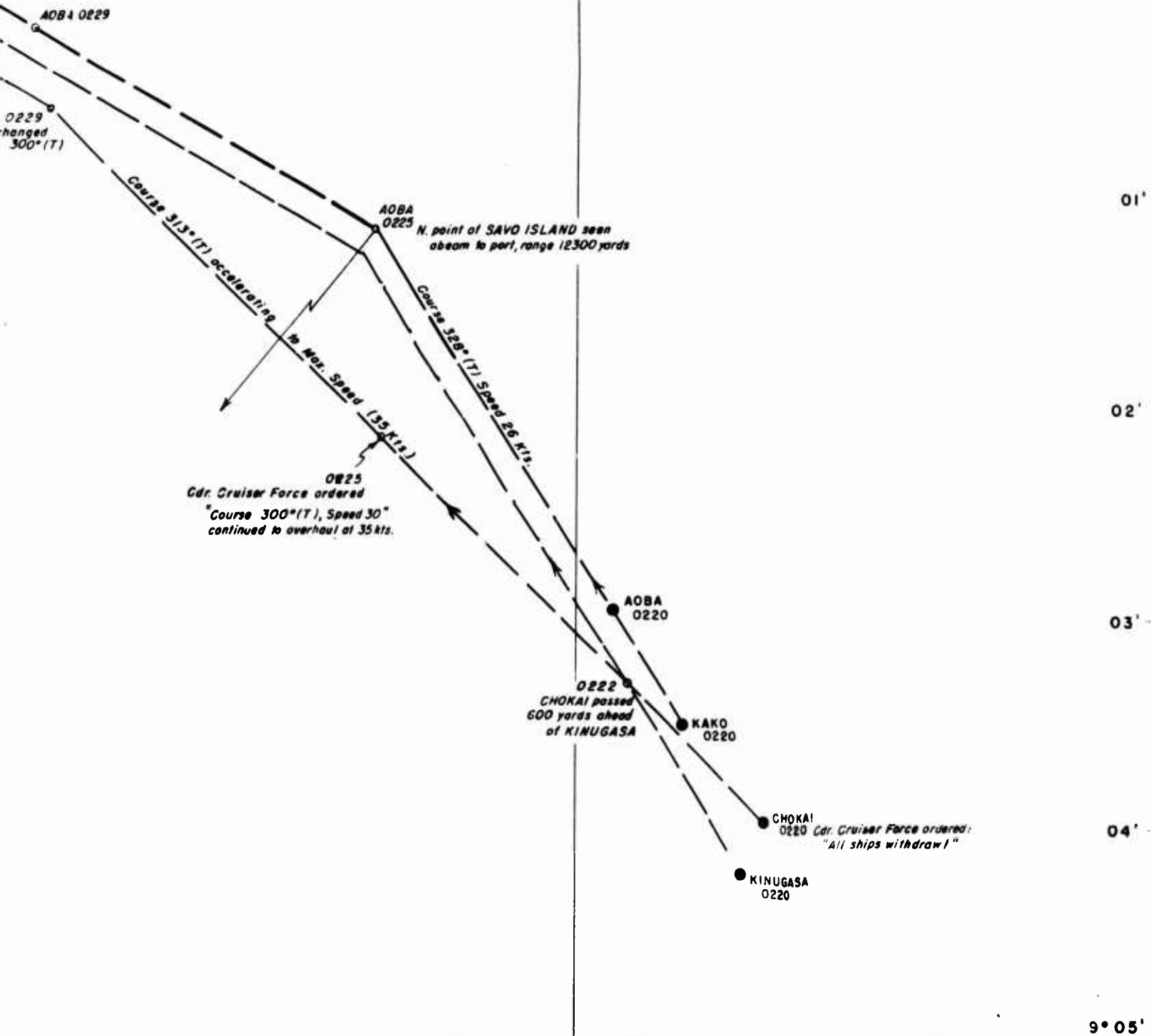




BATTLE OF SAVO ISLAND
 WITHDRAWAL OF JAPANESE FLEET
 0220, 9 AUGUST TO 0240, 9 AUGUST

SAVO I.

9° 00' S



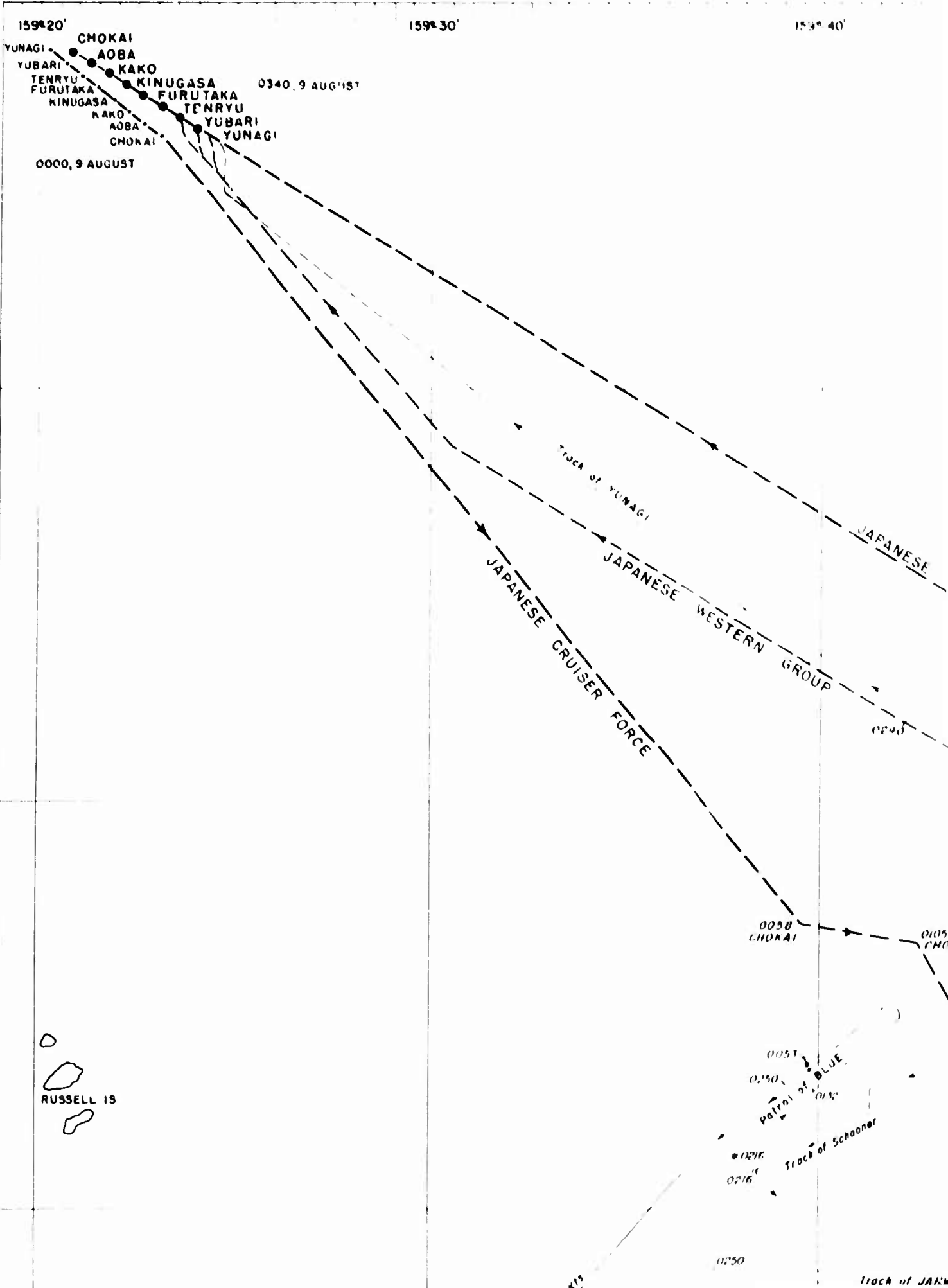
OF SAVO ISLAND
 AL OF JAPANESE FORCE
 GUST TO 0240, 9 AUGUST

0220 QUINCY sunk

DIAGRAM "I"

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

H



159°20'

159°30'

159°40'

YUNAGI
 YUBARI
 TENRYU
 FURUTAKA
 KINUGASA
 KAKO
 AOKA
 CHOKAI

0000, 9 AUGUST

0340, 9 AUGUST

RUSSELL IS

Track of YUNAGI

JAPANESE CRUISER FORCE

JAPANESE WESTERN GROUP

JAPANESE

0050 CHOKAI

0105 CHOKAI

0051

0150

0105

0216

0216

0250

0250

Patrol of BLUE

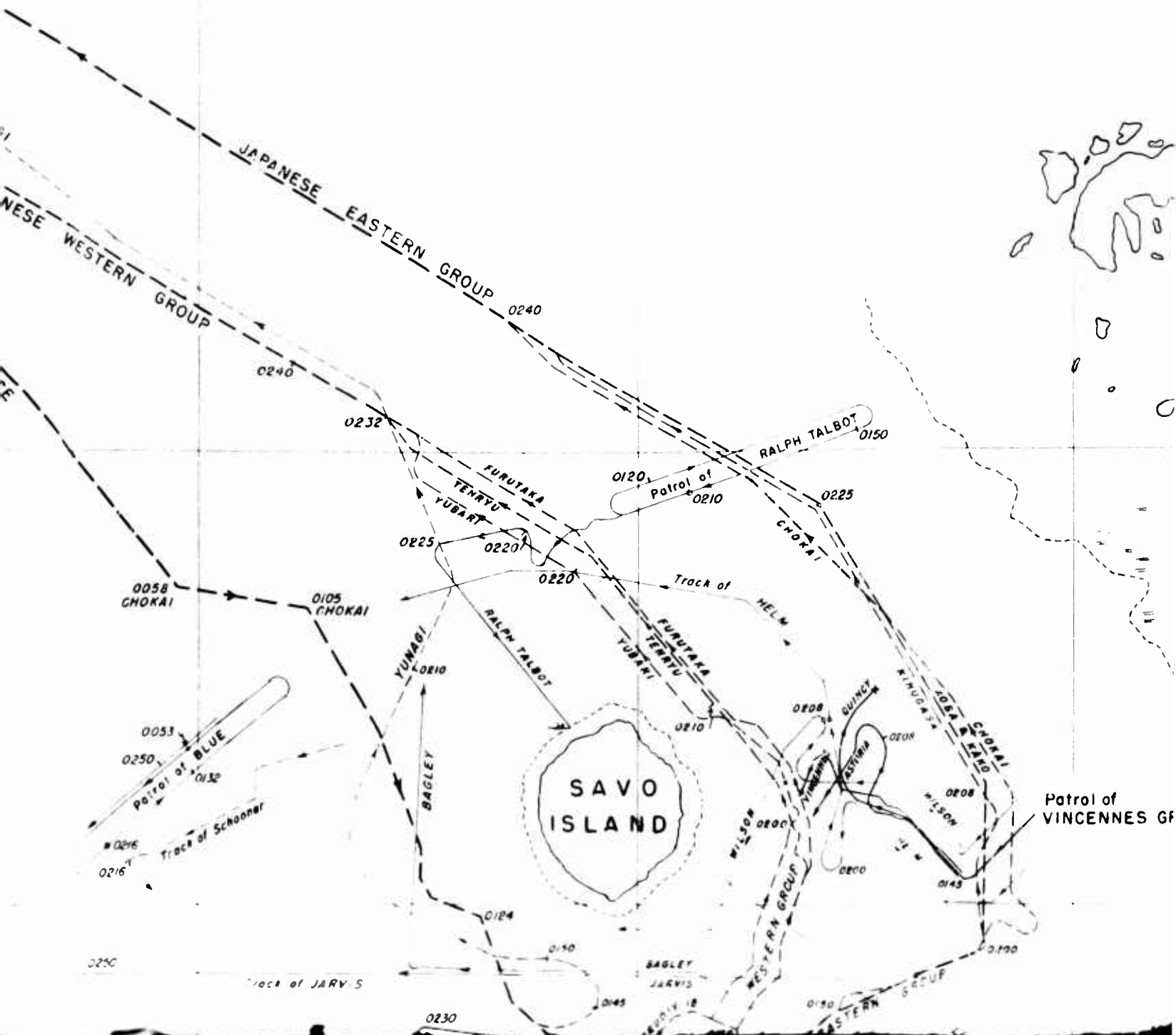
Track of Schooner

Track of JAKM

159°-40'

159°-50'

160°-00'



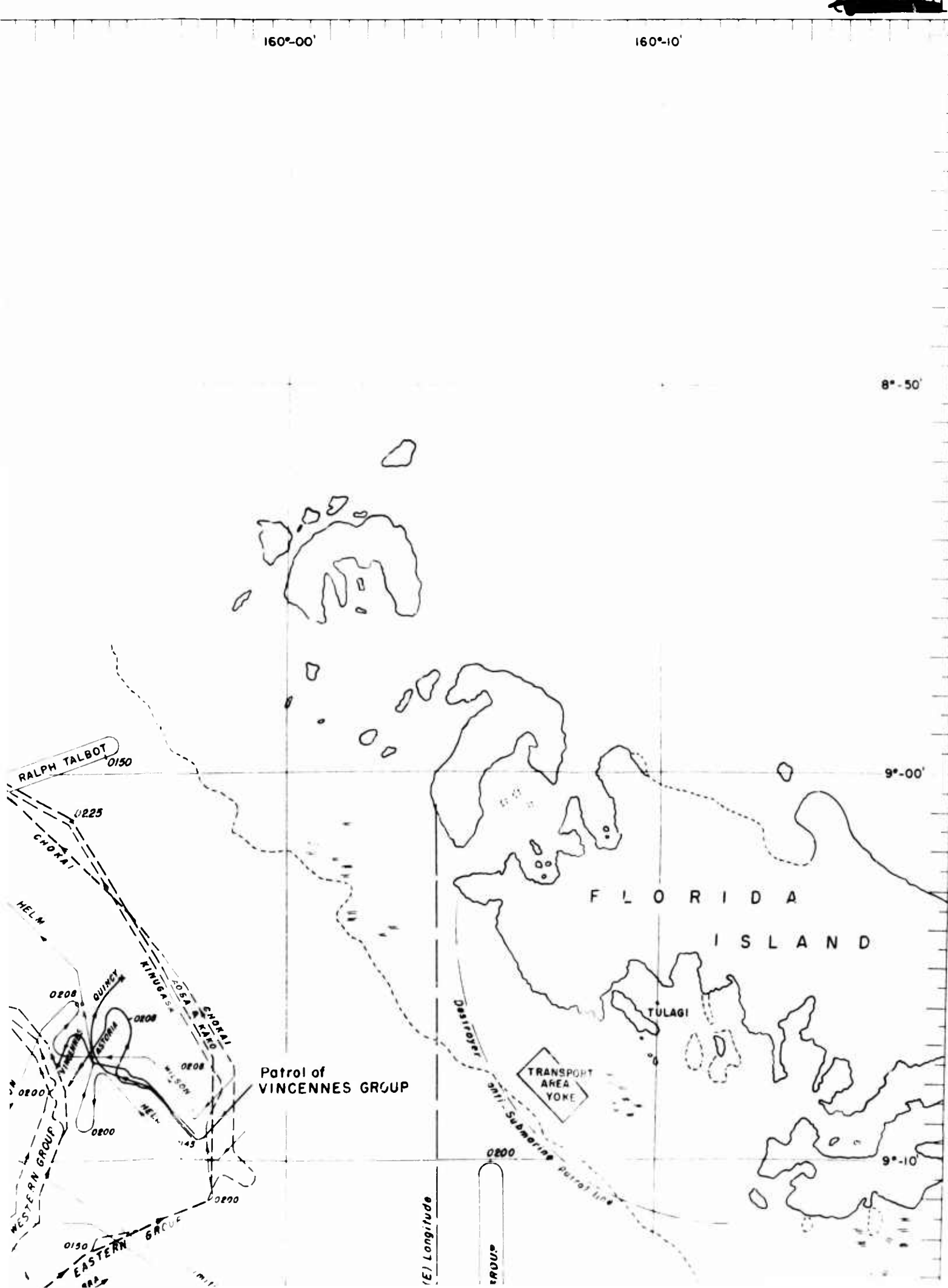
160°-00'

160°-10'

8°-50'

9°-00'

9°-10'



RALPH TALBOT 0150

0225

CHONA

HELM

0208

QUINBY

0208

ASTORIA

0208

WILSON

0208

HELM

0200

WESTERN GROUP

0150

EASTERN GROUP

0200

Patrol of VINCENNES GROUP

FLORIDA ISLAND

TULAGI

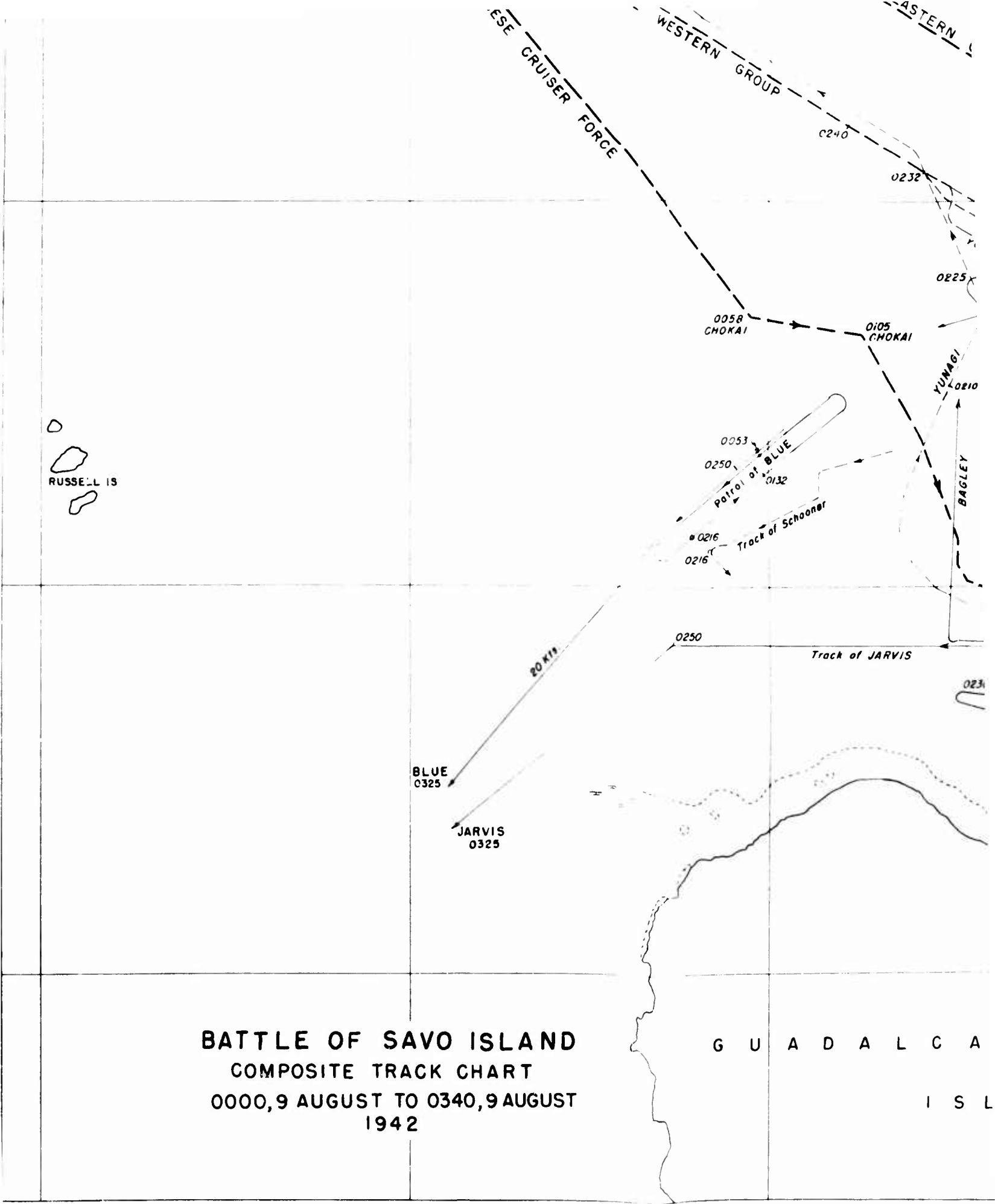
TRANSPORT AREA YOKE

Destroyer Submarine patrol line

0200

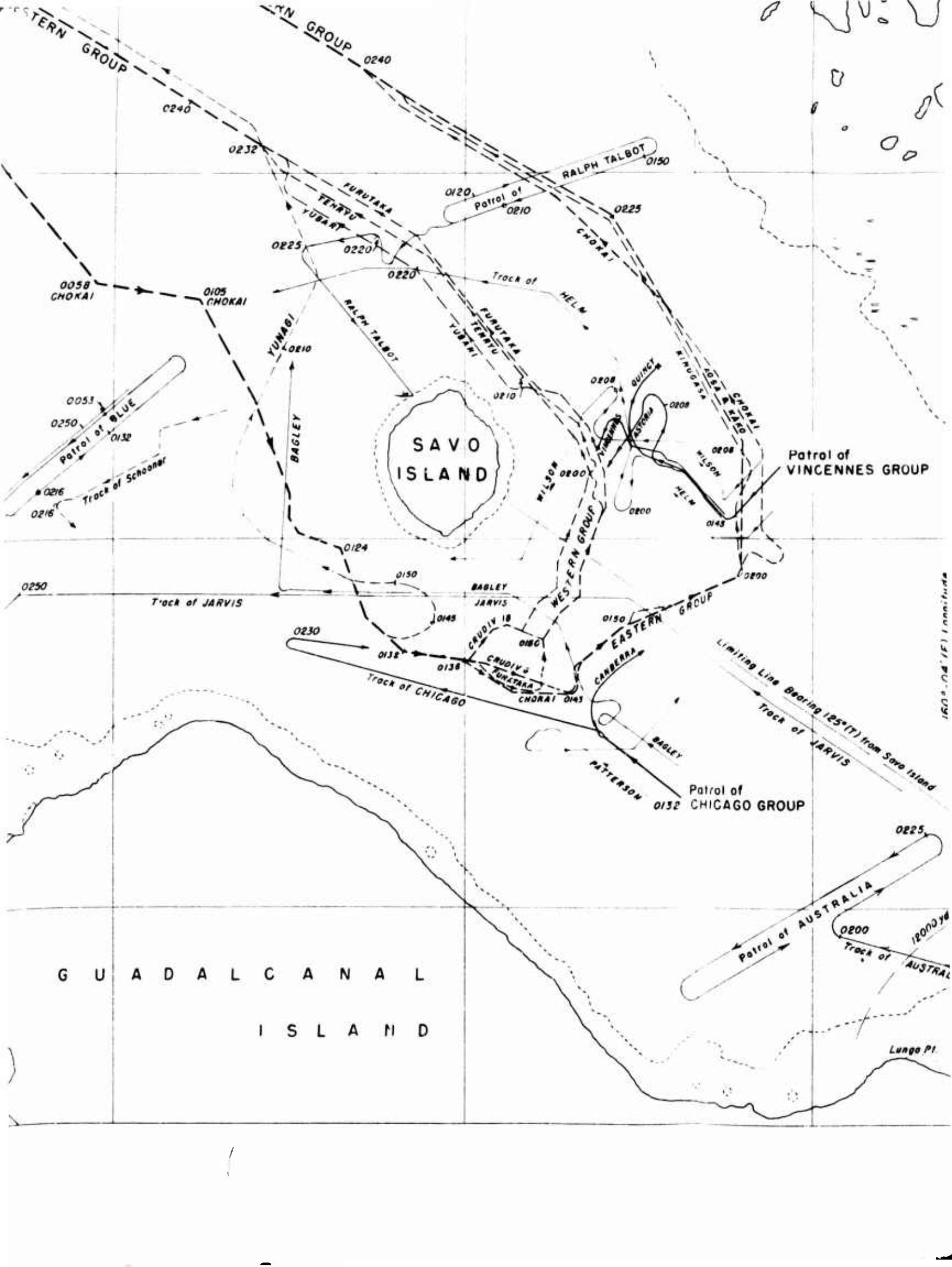
(E) Longitude

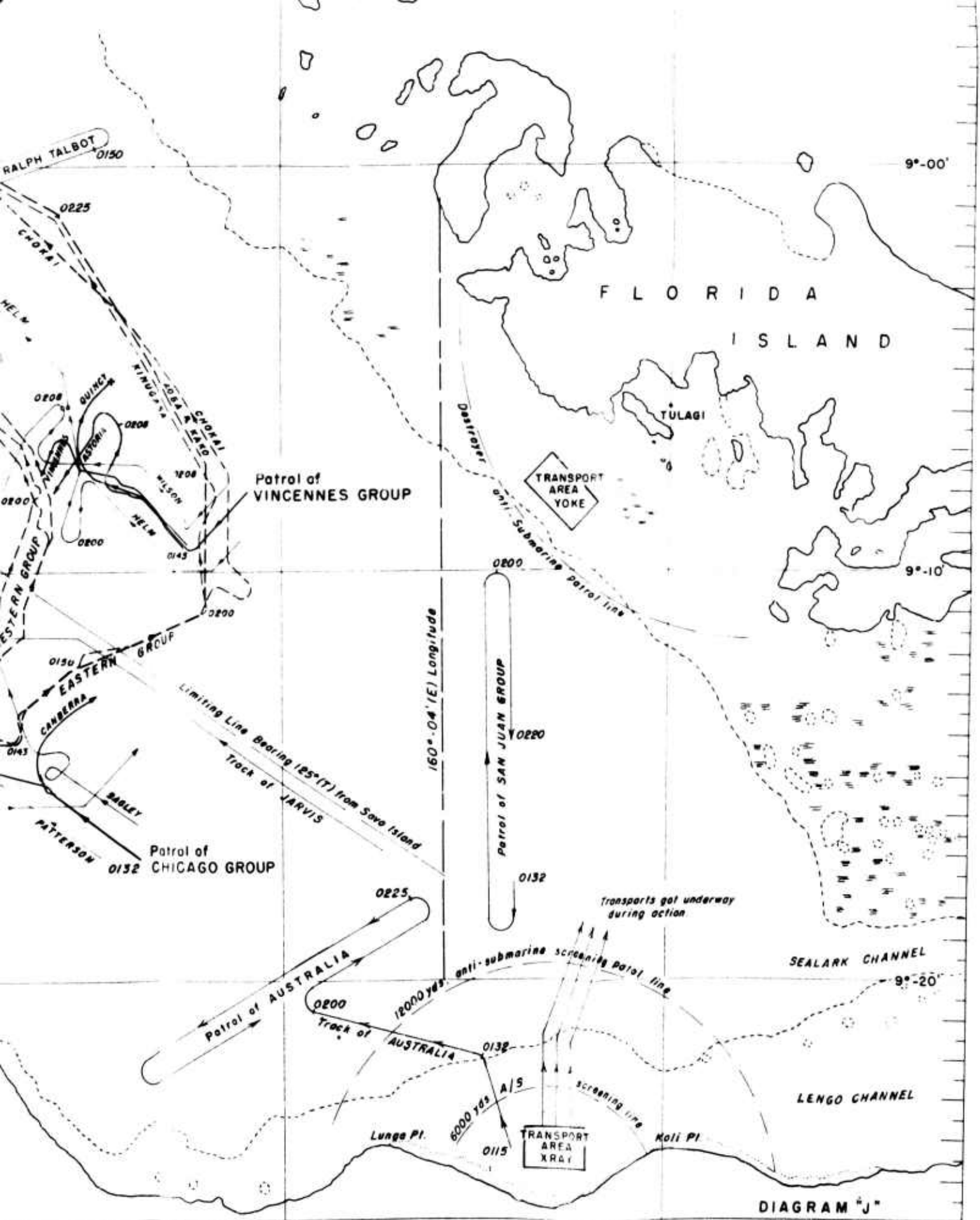
GROUP



**BATTLE OF SAVO ISLAND
COMPOSITE TRACK CHART
0000, 9 AUGUST TO 0340, 9 AUGUST
1942**

G U A D A L C A
I S L





374.0

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RECORD OF EVENTS DEPICTED ON DIAGRAM "K"

AUGUST 9th, 1942

0000 to 2400

- (1) 0000 JARVIS departed unescorted from Area XRAY via limiting line (125°(T) from Savo Island), thence westward, passing south of Savo Island.
- (2) 0000 CTG 61.1, on course 230°(T), since 2330, August 8th at fifteen knots, abreast of Cape Surville, San Cristobal Island.
- (3) 0000 Japanese submarine I-121 en route on E course to Tulagi.
- (4) 0000 Japanese submarine I-122 en route in Solomon Sea on SE course to Tulagi.
- (5) 0000 Allied submarine S-44 en route around west end of New Hanover Island to area in vicinity of Cape St. George.
- (6) 0024 Japanese transport MEIYO MARU was sunk by Allied submarine S-38 in St. George's Channel. Five other transports en route to Tulagi with reinforcements, reversed course and returned to Rabaul.
- (7) 0100 CTG 61.1 changed to 320°(T), speed fifteen knots, awaiting COMSOPACFOR's approval to retire the carrier groups.
- (8) 0225 Japanese Cruiser Force assumed course 300°(T), speed thirty knots, to withdraw from battle area.
- (9) 0250 BLUE detected unidentified ship (JARVIS) rounding Cape Esperance and proceeding to SW.
- (10) 0325 BLUE closed and identified JARVIS, establishing JARVIS' course and speed as SW at ten knots.
- (11) 0340 Two B-17s took off from Espiritu Santo to search Sector II.
- (12) 0400 CTG 61.1, having received COMSOPACFOR's approval, changed course to 050°(T), speed fifteen knots.
- (13) 0430 CTG 61.1 changed course to 140°(T), speed fifteen knots, to retire TG 61.1 from the area.
- (14) 0600 SARATOGA launched a morning search of eight scout bombers, point of origin Latitude 11°-14'(S), Longitude 161°-01'(E), to cover sector between 270°(T) and 330°(T) to radius of 175 miles (median line 300°(T)).

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- (15) 0616 One large patrol plane from YOKOHAMA Air Group departed Rabaul on Track 096°(T) to radius 700 miles.
- (16) 1616 One large patrol plane of FOURTEENTH Air Group departed Rabaul along Track 148°(T) to a radius of 700 miles.
- (17) 0630 One land attack plane of TAINAN Air Group took off from Rabaul, proceeding along Track 123°(T) to reconnoiter Tulagi-Guadalcanal Area, then extend search on 123°(T) to 700 mile radius from Rabaul.
- (18) 0700 Four land attack planes of FOURTH Air Group departed Rabaul to search: (1) Track 123°(T) from Mono Island to radius 420 miles (700 miles from Rabaul), (2) Track 120°(T) from Green Island to distance 580 miles (700 miles from Rabaul), (3) Track 138°(T) from Rabaul to radius 700 miles, and (4) Track 106°(T) from Rabaul to radius 700 miles.
- (19) 0700 Japanese Cruiser Force at thirty knots in AA defense disposition with all ships at General Quarters expecting an Allied carrier air attack, changed course from 300°(T) to 280°(T).
- (20) (sun-rise) TF 63 searches took off from Ndeni, Espiritu Santo, and Maramasike Estuary in Sectors III, IV, V, and VII.
- (21) (sun-rise) Three R.A.A.F. Hudsons took off from Fall River Field, Milne Bay, New Guinea, to search Reconnaissance Area "B" (the northern Solomons). An additional Hudson took off to search local Area SIREN.
- (22) 0736 Japanese search plane reached Green Island and took departure on Track 120°(T).
- (23) 0740 SARATOGA search plane sighted and identified JARVIS in Latitude 09°-42'(S), Longitude 158°-59'(E) on SW course at ten knots, leaving heavy oil slick and down by bow.
- (24) 0740 TG 61.1 changed course from his retirement course of 140°(T) to 210°(T) to gain Point Option position for recovery SARATOGA's search planes.
- (25) 0823 Japanese search plane reached Mono Island and took departure to search along Track 123°(T) from Mono Island.
- (26) 0825 Japanese reconnaissance plane passed Japanese Cruiser Force in "The Slot".
- (27) 0830 Japanese Cruiser Force changed course from 280°(T) to 300°(T).

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- (28) 0900 Japanese search plane from Rabaul (via Mono Island) sighted JARVIS about twelve miles away on the starboard hand.
 - (29) 0930 Two B-17 search planes in Sector II turned back to Espiritu Santo, having reached extremity of search 750 miles from Espiritu Santo at 0912. The B-17 in the western sub-sector was at this time forty-five miles from the Japanese Cruiser Force. Allowing fifteen or twenty mile radius of visibility, this B-17 missed sighting the Japanese cruisers by about twenty-five or thirty miles.
 - (30) 0935 TG 61.1 changed fleet course to 140°(T), the SARATOGA having recovered her morning search planes at 0930. Because of the repeated necessity of turning NE into the wind to launch and to recover planes, TG 61.1 made good a Track of 105°(T) between 0935 and 1200. This general movement line is shown on this Diagram.
 - (31) 0935 Commander Japanese Cruiser Force passed the 300 mile radius from where he presumably estimated the Allied carriers to be operating. Since no carrier-based air attack had reached his force by this time, he slowed from thirty to twenty knots, and assumed a secondary condition of AA defense.
 - (32) 0958 Japanese Cruiser Force separated into two groups - the Kavieng Group consisting of Cruiser Division SIX, and the Rabaul Group, consisting of the CHOKAI, CRUDIV EIGHTEEN, and the YUNAGI.
 - (33) 1010 Japanese search plane, which had reconnoitered Iron Bottom Sound from 0915 to 1000, turned back to Rabaul from proximity of Nura Island without completing the search down Indispensable Strait to the 700 mile radius from Rabaul. This plane crashed on landing at Rabaul at 1305.
 - (34) 1042 Rabaul Group set course 340°(T) to transit Bougainville Strait, zigzagging.
 - (35) 1100 Japanese search plane sighted JARVIS in position ninety-five miles SW of Savo Island. Reported her as ACHILLES Class cruiser, damaged and escaping to SW. This plane tracked JARVIS thereafter until 1300.
 - (36) 1130 Kavieng Group (CRUDIV SIX), on course 325°(T), speed twenty knots since 1000, commenced transit of Bougainville Strait.
 - (37) 1200 SARATOGA launched fighters to intercept "Bogey" bearing 335°(T), distance fifty-five miles. "Bogey" turned out to be Army B-17 search plane in Sector II on return leg to Espiritu Santo.

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- (38) 1300 Kavieng Group changed to retirement course 320°(T), speed twenty knots, which it held through the rest of the day.
- (39) 1300 JARVIS sunk by air attack group - sixteen torpedo planes and fifteen zero fighters - in position 130 miles SW of Savo Island.
- (40) 1320 R.A.A.F. Hudson sighted one Kawasaki bomber thirty-five miles north of Tauu Island. This was the Japanese heavy patrol sea-plane which had gone out on 096°(T) and was now returning to Rabaul.
- (41) 1330 R.A.A.F. Hudson sighted Japanese ship anchored in western end of Buka Passage.
- (42) 1345 Japanese Rabaul Group c/o to 315°(T) to continue retirement on east side of Bougainville Island.
- (43) 1350 R.A.A.F. Hudson, in position twenty-three miles SW of Tauu Island, sighted a Mitsubishi heavy bomber to the westward. This was the Japanese search plane which had gone out on leg 106°(T) and was now returning to Rabaul.
- (44) 1435 R.A.A.F. Hudson located Japanese CRUDIV SIX. The Japanese detected this plane at 1412 and lost sight of it at 1455.
- (45) 1440 ENTERPRISE planes (twelve scout bombers) commenced afternoon search in forward semicircle to 150 mile radius. The five scout planes in western quadrant returned at 1615, because of bad weather encountered seventy-five miles west.
- (46) 1449 R.A.A.F. Hudson reconnoitered Kieta, sighted one large and three small junks in the harbor.
- (47) 1800 CTF 61 changed course of TG 61.1 to 180°(T)(after the afternoon search planes had been recovered at 1727 and the carrier task groups had rejoined).
- (48) 1905 FURUTAKA sighted what she thought was a submarine periscope, and attacked it with torpedoes.
- (49) 1945 CHOKAI sighted by coast watcher on N end of Buka Island, mistook it for an aircraft carrier.
- (50) 2000 Rabaul Group changed course to 260°(T) in position eight miles due N of Buka Island.
- (51) 2100 CTF 61 changed fleet course of TG 61.1 to 145°(T), continued at fifteen knots.

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150°

JAPANESE FOURTH FLEET AREA
JAPANESE EIGHTH FLEET AREA

JAPANESE COMBINED

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V
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R
F
L
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E
T
A
R
E
A

B I S M A R C K S E A

N E W B R I T A I N

S O L O M O N S

Mussou

NEA MANOEVA

North Cape

S-44
2400
9

Kavieng

Simberi I.

KAVIENG GROUP

2400
9

Course 320° T

Track of 5 Japanese AP's
returning to Rabaul after
the sinking of MEIYO
MARU by S-38

Rabaul

East Cape

Feni Is

Green Is.

0736

22

Course 250° T

C. St George

2400
9

BUKA I.

1945

Buka Passage

Cape Gloucester

Talasea

Wide Bay

George's Channel

C. Carman

RABAUL GROUP

Gasmata

VITIAZ STRAIT

Finshaven

Los

Salomua

Gona Buna

Reconnaissance Area "B"

S

E

155°

160°

Kapingamarangi Is.

CEN

COMBINED FLEET

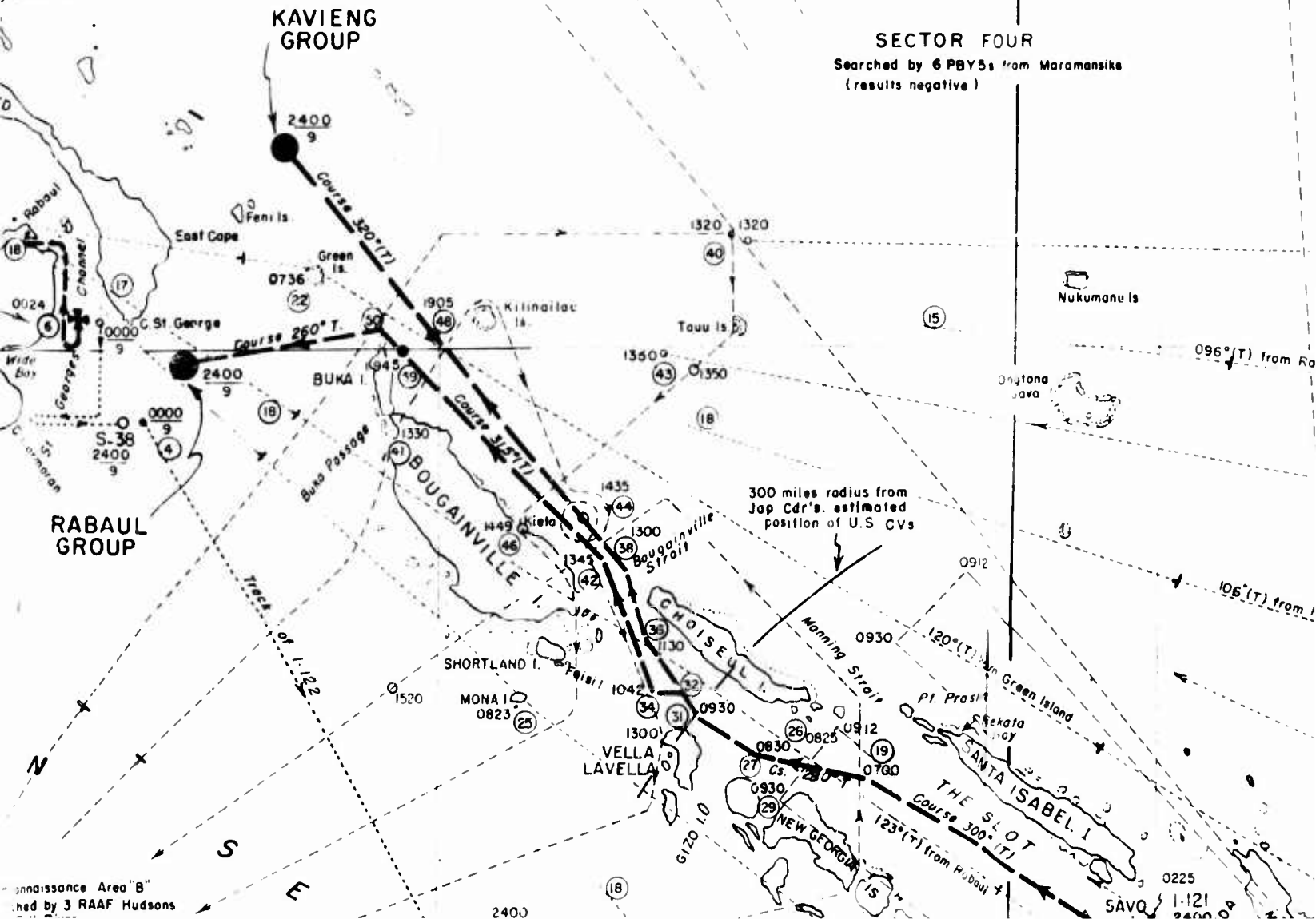
About 1130

KAVIENG GROUP

SECTOR FOUR

Searched by 6 PBYSs from Maramsike
(results negative)

Simberi I.



RABAUL GROUP

300 miles radius from Jap Cdr's. estimated position of U.S. CVs

Encompassing Area "B" searched by 3 RAAF Hudsons

N
S
E

2400

0225
1:121
2400

160°

165°

CENTRAL PACIFIC AREA

0°

About 1:45

SECTOR FIVE

Searched by 4 PBYS from Ndeni - unreported (results negative)

S O U T H
P A C I F I C
O C E A N

About 1200

5°

SECTOR SEVEN

1 PBYS from Espiritu negative (85% coverage)

096°(T) from Rabaul

About 1200

1026

1048

106°(T) from Rabaul

1030

Stewart Is

YOKE GROUP TRANSPORTS

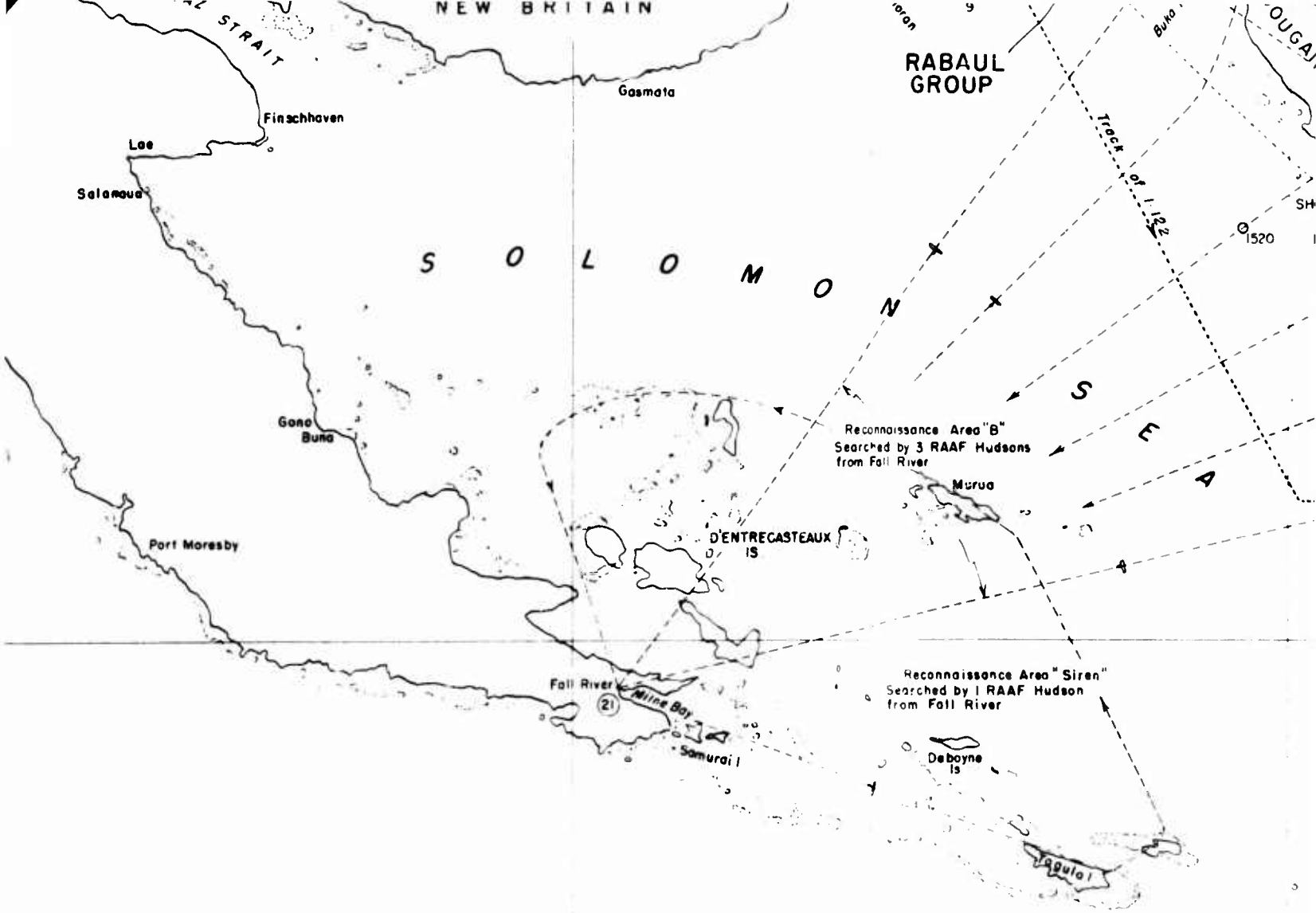
SECTOR THREE Searched by 2 PBYS

0225

1010 (33)

1048

SAVQ 1-121



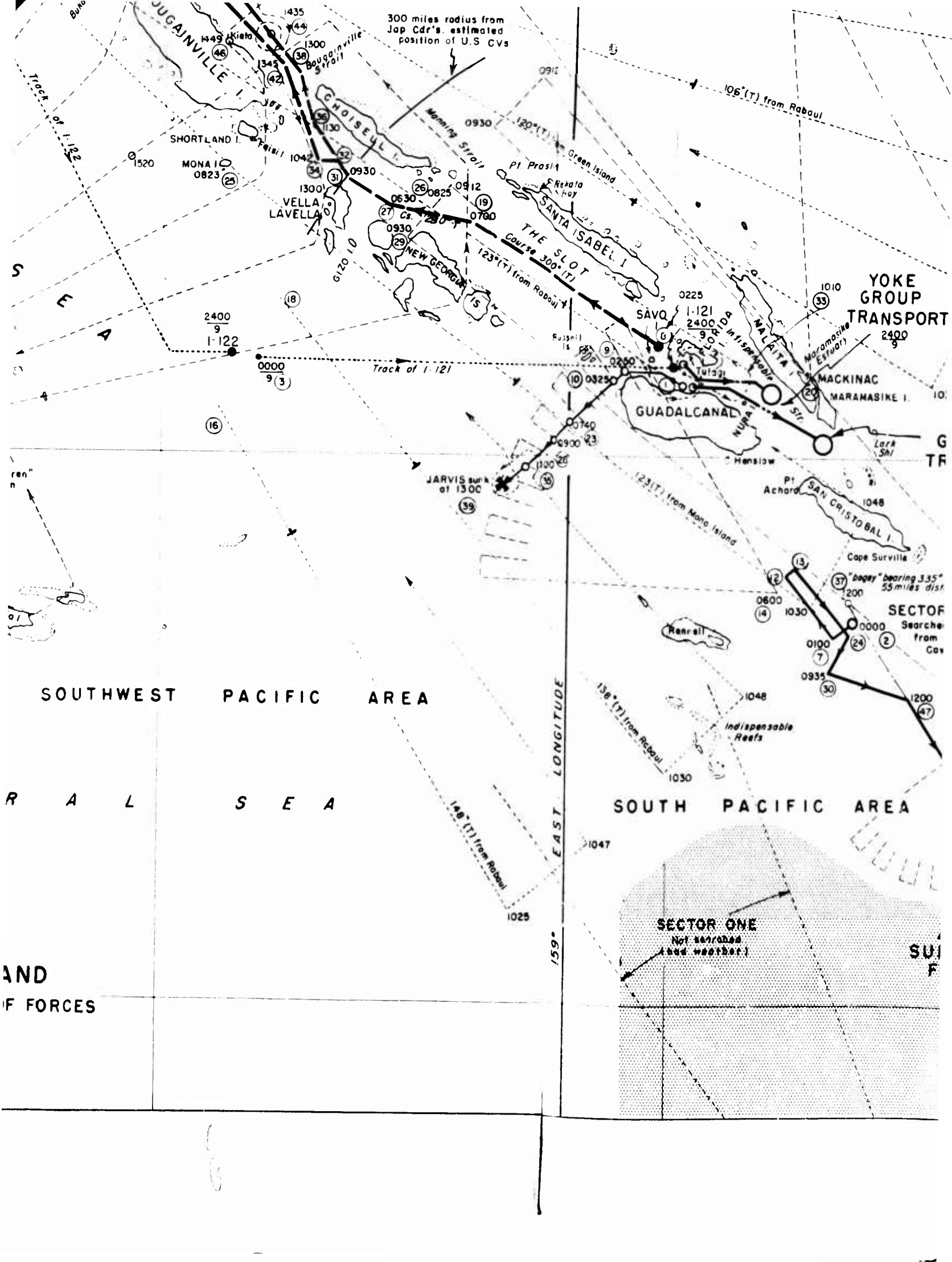
S O U T H W E S T

C O R A L

BATTLE OF SAVO ISLAND
AIR SEARCHES AND MOVEMENT OF FORCES
9 AUGUST, 1942

Zone Time (-)11

A



300 miles radius from Jap Cdr's. estimated position of U.S. CVs

Track of I-122

2400
9
1-122

0000
9
3

Track of I-121

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

R A L S E A

AND
IF FORCES

EAST LONGITUDE

SOUTH PACIFIC AREA

SECTOR ONE
Not searched
(bad weather)

YOKE GROUP
TRANSPORT

GUADALCANAL

THE SLOT

SANTA ISABEL I.

JUGAINVILLE

VELLA LAVELLA

NEW GEORGIA

SAVQ

MACKINAC

SAN CRISTOBAL I.

JARVIS sunk at 1300

"bogey" bearing 335°
55 miles dist

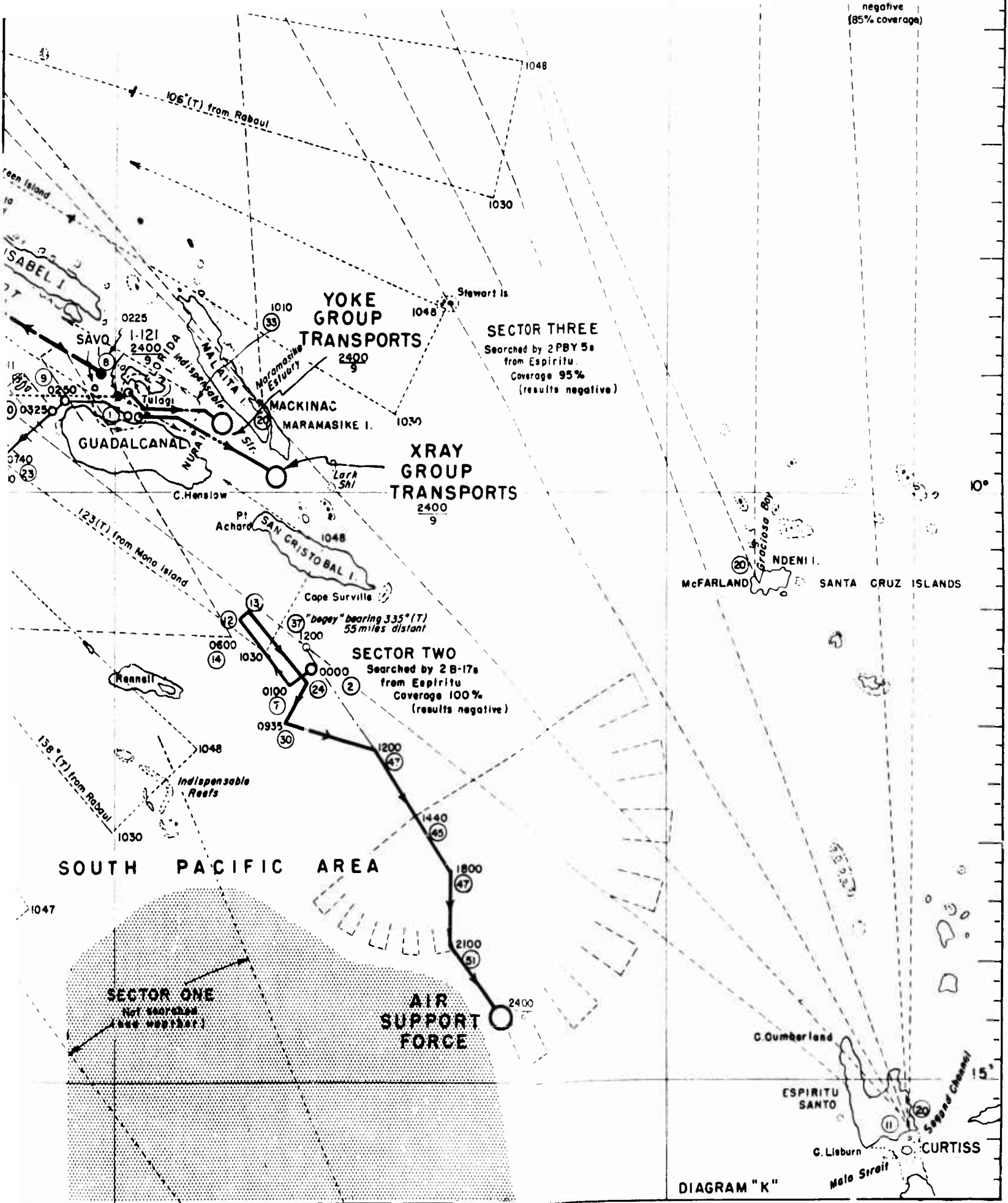
SECTOR
Searched
from
Cav

Indispensable
Reefs

Renail

SECTOR ONE
Not searched
(bad weather)

SUI
F



CONFIDENTIAL

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