

25th May.

A.C.I assumed tactical command at 0510.

The unfavourable dawn weather cleared earlier to-day so that the first strike was able to be flown off at 0600 in position 23° 40' N 126° 52' E.

3 strikes were sent to Miyako, flying off at 0600, 1115, and 1400. Results of the last strike could not be observed owing to low cloud. 26 hits were observed on Nobara runways which were left unserviceable, and 14 hits were made on Hirara runways. The Amphibious Tank Bases, a barracks, and barges at Osaki were attacked. A fire was started at Sukama town, and the suicide boat base was rocketted.

At Ishigaki 8 bomb hits were made on each of the main Ishigaki and Miyara airfields runways.

It was observed that progress was being made in levelling a new airstrip near Hegina airfield.

The returning strike from Ishigaki made contact with U.S.S. BLUEFISH, who reported that during the previous night lights had been observed on Ishigaki airfield. This enterprising submarine commander had therefore bombarded the airfield.

At about 1700 a Corsair returning to the Fleet ditched near her carrier. The pilot was picked up unhurt by the attendant destroyer. There was no enemy air activity in the vicinity all day. All aircraft were flown on by 1910 and the Fleet withdrew.

CTF 57 in H.M.S. KING GEORGE V with H.M. Ships TROUBRIDGE, TENACIOUS and TERMAGENT detached at 2200 and set course for Guam.

The remainder of the Fleet, under the command of A.C.I, set course for area Cootie to top off ships with fuel as necessary for them to reach Manus, and thence to disperse to their rear bases for major storing.

The following signals were subsequently exchanged between C IN C PAC and CTF 57:—

CTF 57 Info C-in-C., B.P.F. C IN C PAC ADV 5th Fleet

From COM 5th Fleet

I would express to you, to your officers and to your men, after two months operations as a Fifth Fleet Task Force, my appreciation of your fine work and co-operative spirit. Task Force 57 has mirrored the great traditions of the Royal Navy to the American Task Forces.—Spruance.

COM 5th Fleet Info C IN C PAC ADV C-in-C., B.P.F.

From CTF 57

We are proud to have been in a position to lend a hand in this crucial operation and hope we may continue so doing until Victory. Will pass your generous message with great personal pleasure to all of the British Pacific Fleet who have been honoured by serving under you. Regret my Flagship and I were not able to greet you on your return to Guam.

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