

M'ARTHUR FLIERS AID SAIPAN FIGHT

Liberators Pound Yap, Truk and Palau to Pin Down Japanese Planes on Bases

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NEW GUINEA, Monday, June 26 (AP) — Maintaining their intense pressure against Japanese flank airbases which might menace the Saipan invasion, Gen. Douglas MacArthur's bombers smashed again at Yap Island, 650 miles southwest of the Marilanas, and hit fourteen other objectives in widespread raids, headquarters announced today.

Forty-five tons of bombs were rained on the Yap airdrome during the assaults Friday which blanketed the major Japanese airfields between New Guinea and flaming Saipan. The bombers also lashed at Truk, Woleai and Palau in the Caroline Islands, and airstrips on New Guinea, Timor and New Britain.

Several parked planes were destroyed during the midday attack on Yap. Ten Japanese planes were intercepted, and one of the assaulting Liberators was missing. It was the second consecutive strike at Yap by land-based planes. Liberators the previous day destroyed twelve and damaged ten grounded Japanese aircraft.

A spokesman for General MacArthur said the operations were designed to pin down planes that the Japanese might attempt to use for interfering with the Saipan battle.

A number of aircraft also were destroyed during a strike at Sorong, at the northwestern extremity of Netherland New Guinea, described as the last effective Japanese air base on that land mass. The communiqué added "there was no interception" when Liberators bombed Jefman Field. Fires and explosions were observed.

One American plane was lost over New Britain.

Mitchell bombers again ranged far westward of New Guinea over the Banda Sea, damaging a 1,500-ton freighter in the Watu Bela Islands. Bostons damaged a 1,000-ton ship and a coastal craft in MacCluer Gulf, northwestern Netherland New Guinea.

Headquarters announced 345 Japanese were killed during mopping up operations on American-invaded Biak Island, off north Netherland New Guinea, June 22 and 23. They are included in the total of 2,333 Japanese dead and captured, which a spokesman announced Sunday for the period between May 27 and June 23.