At 1546 set course 220°(T), speed 16 knots. At 1626 increased speed to 17 knots. At 2026 changed course to 215°(T). At about 2300 made radar contact on Task Group 58.3, bearing 180°(T), distant 26 miles.

(5) SUMMARY OF ORDERS RECEIVED

Received by destroyer courier ComFastCar Task For Pac (ComTaskFor 58), Operation Plan No. 8-44 containing plans for carrier air strikes by Task Groups 58.1, 58.2, and 58.3 against PALAU, YAP, and ULITHI ISLANDS of the CAROLINE ISLAND'S group. YOKE DAY is tentatively set for 26 July and is the day for initial strikes against the objectives. This plan to be placed in effect by dispatch. Received secret dispatch from Com 5th Fleet to Com Task For 58 designating YOKE DAY as 26 July and directing him to proceed when ready.

24 July (3) POSITIONS

Lat. 10° 06' 00" N 09° 19' 30" N 07° 42' 00" N Long. 144° 07' 45" E 143° 25' 00" E 141° 59' 00" E

(4) NARRATIVE

At 0318 changed course to 230°(T). Beginning at dawn and throughout the day maneuvered on various courses at various speeds, heading in a general southwesterly direction while carriers launched and recovered routine patrols. At 0735 changed course to 220°(T). At 0947 rotated fleet axis to 230°(T). At 2100 changed fleet course to 255°(T).

(5) SUMMARY OF ORDERS RECEIVED

Received ComTaskGroup 58.1 Operation Plan No. 8-44 directing the operations of this task group against WOLEAI, YAP and ULITHI ISLANDS in accordance with ComFastCar Task For Pac Operation Plan No. 8-44. Received ComTaskGroup 58.1 visual dispatch 240513 directing heavy ships of this group to top off destroyers of the screen in Cruising Disposition "5-R", commencing at 0600, 25 July. Received ComTaskUnit 58.1.3 visual dispatch 240550 assigning HELM and BURNS to be topped off from BILOXI.

25 July (2) OPERATION ORDER

Com Task Group 58.1 Operation Plan No. 8-44. Com Task Group 58.1 visual dispatch 240513 directing the topping off of destroyers.

(3) POSITIONS

 0800
 1200
 2000

 Lat. 06° 36' 10" N
 06° 58' 00" N
 08° 48' 20" N

 Long. 139° 13' 30" E
 138° 57' 30" E
 139° 25' 00" E

(4) NARRATIVE

Beginning at dawn and throughout the day maneuvered on various courses at various speeds heading in a general southwesterly and

westerly direction, while carriers launched and recovered routine patrols. Beginning at 0630 large ships topped off destroyers; BILOXI fueled HELM (DD388) and BURNS (DD588). At 1000 fueling operations were completed. At 1012 rotated fleet axis to 270°(T). Test fired automatic weapons during forenoon.

At 1123 DEWEY reported bogey bearing 162°(T), distant 87 miles, designated Raid "1". At 1130 DENVER reported second bogey bearing 055°(T), distant 80 miles, designated Raid "2". At 1140 YORKTOWN launched fighters. Three minutes later Raid "1" was reported friendly. At 1150 went to General Quarters as CAP identified Raid "2" as an enemy fighter, type "Tony". At 1153 sighted smoke of burning enemy aircraft on horizon bearing 080°(T). At 1202 HORNET reported Raid "2" bearing 355°(T) range 80 miles opening. At 1400 carriers of this task group launched strike against YAP. At 1503 OTC reported Raid "1" bearing 260°(T), range 70 miles closing and being chased by LEXINGTON's fighters. At 1510 one plane from Raid "1" was reported shot down by fighters. Went to General Quarters. At 1515 OTC reported Raid "2" bearing 228°(T), distant 38 miles. At 1630 all raids having disappeared from radar screen, secured from General Quarters and set condition of readiness "3". At 1735 formed Cruising Disposition "5R". At 1916 set course 090°(T), speed 18 knots.

## 26 July (3) POSITIONS

Lat. 8° 50' 00" N 8° 29' 30" N 8° 48' 00" N Long. 139° 31' 30" E 139° 12' 00" E 138° 49' 20" E

### (4) NARRATIVE

At 0200 changed base course to 270°(T). At 0330 YORKTOWN launched 3 nightfighters. Beginning at dawn and throughout the day maneuvered on various courses at various speeds southeastward of YAP ISLAND while carriers launched and recovered routine patrols and strikes. At 0620 HORNET and YORKTOWN launched fighter sweep and strike against YAP. Twenty minutes later YORKTOWN recovered her 3 nightfighters. At 0915 carriers launched second strike against YAP. At 0930 recovered first strike. At 1115 carriers launched third strike against YAP and at 1140 recovered second strike. At 1310 carriers launched fourth strike against YAP and at 1340 recovered third strike. At 1520 carriers launched fifth strike against YAP and at 1528 recovered fourth strike. At 1720 carriers recovered fifth strike. At 1930 set course 185°(T), speed 16 knots.

## 27 July (3) POSITIONS

Lat. 08° 17' 00" N 08° 32' 20" N 08° 53' 00" N Long. 138° 17' 00" E 138° 18' 40" E 139° 26' 30" E

#### (4) NARRATIVE

Beginning at dawn and throughout the day maneuvered on various

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courses at various speeds southeast of YAP while carriers launched and recovered routine patrols and strikes. At 0630 carriers launched strike against YAP. As soon as strike was launched, HORNET and YORK-TOWN began fueling destroyers. At 0800 BOYD (DD544) and BRADFORD (DD545) left formation to rendezvous with lifeguard submarine off YAP. Zigzagged independently within screen during fueling operations.

At 0828 catapulted two planes to rescue pilot of YORKTOWN plane reported in the water, bearing 045°(T), distant about four miles from the southwest tip of YAP. Planes made rendezvous with four fighters over formation and headed for YAP. At about 0846 YORKTOWN fighters were relieved by four HORNET fighters. At about 0900 Lieut. DANA sighted two friendly fighters circling area of downed pilot, bearing about 060 (T), distant about two miles from southwest tip of YAP. Under these fighters, about 150 yards inside the reef and about 3000 yards from the shore line, a man on a raft was sighted. Plane no. 7, piloted by Lieut. (jg) DANA, A-V(N), USNR, circled and landed just outside of the reef. The man on the raft paddled toward the plane and almost immediately an enemy heavy anti-aircraft gun began firing at the rescue plane and those circling the area. The fighters then made strafing runs on this battery and silenced the fire. The downed pilot, paddling vigorously, finally managed to get across the reef, and through the swells. The rescue plane taxied in to meet him and almost capsized in the surf. With the help of a line the downed pilot was able to climb onto the plane. At about 0940 Plane no. 7 took off and reached the ship at about 1030. Rescued pilot proved to be Lieut. (jg) John J. BELING, file no. 105702, A-V(N), USNR, pilot of plane no. 63, Squadron VB1 of YORKTOWN. He was treated for second degree burns and was retained on board.

At 0915 carriers launched second strike against YAP and recovered first strike at about 0930. At 1115 carriers launched third strike against YAP, and recovered second strike at 1135. At 1300 carriers launched fourth strike against YAP and twenty minutes later recovered third strike. At 1530 carriers recovered fourth strike. Large carriers topped off destroyers intermittently during the day. At about 2200 BOYD (DD544) and BRADFORD (DD545) returned from rescue duty off YAP and rejoined.

# 28 July (3) POSITIONS

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#### (L) NARRATIVE

Beginning at dawn and throughout the day maneuvered on various courses at various speeds southeast of YAP, while carriers launched and recovered routine patrols and strikes. At 1000 carriers launched strike against YAP. At 1235 strike returned and was recovered. At

1536 BURNS (DD588) sank an object in the water with gunfire; object was reported as possible mine. Experienced heavy rainsqualls throughout the afternoon and evening.

SUMMARY OF ORDERS RECEIVED

Received Com 5th Fleet secret dispatch directing FRANKLIN to replace YORKTOWN in Task Group 58.1 upon return to SAIPAN. After fueling and replenishing bombs, task groups 58.1 and 58.3 proceed to strike IWO JIMA and CHICHI JIMA for two days thence retire to ENIWETOK. Also received Com 5th Fleet secret dispatch directing Com Task Group 50.17 rendezvous with and refuel Task Group 58.1 on 31 July near SAIPAN.

29 July TASK ORGANIZATION

YORKTOWN detached from and FRANKLIN joined Task Group 58.1.

POSITIONS

10° 39° 40" N 142° 30° 30" E 12° 38' 00" N 142° 53' 00" E Lat. 9° 37' 20" N Long. 142° 39' 00" E

NARRATIVE

Beginning at dawn and throughout the day maneuvered on various courses at various speeds enroute YAP area to SAIPAN while carriers launched and recovered routine patrols. Headed in general north and northeasterly direction throughout the day. At 0624 rotated formation axis to 090°(T). At about 1020 BELL (DD587) came alongside to receive personnel for further transfer to YORKTOWN. At 1103 BELL (DD 587) cast off and stood toward YORKTOWN.

At 1536 IZARD (DD589) reported sound contact bearing 2350(T), distant 1000 yards. Two minutes later OTC executed emergency turn away. BILOXI turned right instead of left, in order to avoid embarrassing depth charge attack being made by IZARD (DD589). At 1545 having passed IZARD (DD589) well clear, changed course to left and rejoined disposition in assigned station. IZARD (DD 589) remained at scene of contact. Received no report of results of attack. At 1610 set course Olo (T) speed 18 knots. At 1624 slowed to 17 knots

At 1700 YORKTOWN escorted by BOYD (DD 544) and McCALL (DD 400) was detached and proceeded to join Task Group 58.2 bearing 190°(T), distant about 19 miles. At 2000 FRANKLIN escorted by BOYD (DD544) and McCALL (DD400) joined and took YORKTOWN station, 2.5300.

30 July

14° 53° 20" N 144° 24° 15" E 23 1 45" N 44 30" E