

~~TOP SECRET~~

CHAPTER I

COMMENDATIONS OF OP-20-G FOR COMMUNICATION INTELLIGENCE
ACTIVITIES IN THE PACIFIC

The following is a collection of comments on the work of the U.S. Naval C.I. organization received from important American and Allied naval authorities and from collaborating technical organizations.

Part A. Commendations by American Authorities

a. Battle of Midway

In June 1942 after the striking victory won by the forces of the U.S. Navy in the Battle of Midway, Admiral King commended Op-20-G for its important contributions to the success of the fleet with his not easily won "Well done". The message follows:

No. 1

23 June 1942

1. Advise all personnel that the Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet, Admiral King, has this date transmitted to all U.S. Naval radio intelligence activities the words, "Well done".
2. Admiral Horne, the Vice Chief of Naval Operations, expressing his concurrence, passes this on via the Director of Naval Communications.
3. This is a source of pleasure, but issue the reminder that this fact also must be kept secure.

Op-20-G

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On 30 October 1942 Admiral King issued an official commendation for the part Op-20-G had already played in the war. It read as follows:

No. 2

30 October 1942

From: Chief of Naval Operations.
To : Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
Subject: Special Commendation for Radio Intelligence Unit.

1. The Chief of Naval Operations commends the Radio Intelligence Unit under your direction for the very excellent work which it individually and in cooperation with other units has accomplished in the war to date. The results achieved have been of great and lasting benefit to the war effort.

E. J. KING

Admiral Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, forwarded a copy of Admiral King's official commendation to the Commandant, Fourteenth Naval District, with the following endorsement:

No. 3

8 November 1942

From: Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet
To : Commandant, Fourteenth Naval District
Subject: Special Commendation for Radio Intelligence Units.

Ref: (a) OpNav Conf. Ltr. FFL/P15 Serial
02665 of October 30, 1942.

...The Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, takes pleasure in forwarding these very deserving

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No. 3 (Cont.)

words of praise from the Chief of Naval Operations and desires that a copy of this letter be appended to the fitness reports of officers and that a suitable brief entry be made in the records of the enlisted men concerned.

C. W. NIMITZ

b. Battle of Guadalcanal

On 17 November 1942, a few days after the very important Battle of Guadalcanal in which the U.S. Navy won a decisive victory, Admiral Nimitz released the following dispatch:

No. 4

17 November 1942

From: CINCPAC
For Action: COMSOPAC
COMSOWESPAC
COMINCH
OPNAV
BELCONNEN COM 14 170139 CETYH

Once again radio intelligence has enabled the fighting force of the Pacific and Southwest Pacific to know where and when to hit the enemy. My only regret is that our appreciation, which is unlimited, can only be extended to those who read this system.

To this commendation from CINCPAC was added:

No. 5

"Well done."

E. J. KING

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c. Commendations by CINCPAC

It was announced on 13 May 1944 that the following communication had been received from Admiral Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet:

No. 6

An invaluable contribution to the prosecution of the war in the Pacific has been made by the consistent and unfailing service of the personnel of the Communications Intelligence Organization. It is with profound regret, that for reasons of security, this expression of my appreciation can not be proclaimed to all, but must be confined to members of this organization.

In a letter to the Chief of Naval Operations dated 27 August 1945, CinCPac stated:

No. 7

During this war, CinCPac has been in a position to observe the tremendous contributions of communication intelligence to the success of Pacific operations. Communication intelligence has repeatedly provided timely and accurate information upon which to base tactical and strategic decisions. A vast amount of important information affecting matters of broad scope has also been forthcoming from the same source. An outstanding example of the contribution of communication intelligence is the part it played in making possible the victory at Midway. Without communication intelligence the war would have been greatly prolonged and the cost in men and material far heavier. Those who have labored to produce vital information have performed an invaluable service which, unfortunately, cannot be publicized.

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d. Commendation by COMSOPAC

When Admiral Halsey left his post as COMSOPAC on 15 June 1944, he expressed himself as follows:

No. 8

15 June 1944

From: ComSOPac
Action: Comb

COPEK

150620

With my departure from the South Pacific I wish to express my appreciation for the invaluable service of the R.I. organization in prosecuting our campaign against the enemy and particularly for the alert and tireless work of the unit assigned to my command. It is regretted that security requirements permit only readers of this system to be informed of my appreciation.

HALSEY

e. Commendation by Army Air Forces

On 25 September 1944 Brigadier General Clinton D. Vincent, 68th Composite Wing, 14th Air Force, said of the Naval Radio Unit 68th Composite Wing:

No. 9

During this time this Unit has rendered valuable intelligence service to Headquarters 68th Composite Wing by furnishing timely information and reports on enemy shipping positions, exact times at which enemy cities and areas were alerted by American Planes, general intelligence trends, prediction and evaluation relative to intelligence matters. On many occasions combat

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No. 9 (Cont.)

intelligence information has been received from this Unit in advance of that from other sources. The operational value of much of this information is reflected in the successful operations of our combat units against enemy shipping and installations.

f. Commendation by COMSUEPAC

On 14 April 1945 the Commander, Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet, advised the Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet, as follows:

No. 10

14 April 1945

From: ComSubPac
To : CincPac Adv Hdq
Info: ComSubPacAdComD
ComTaskFor 71 131237 NCR 1231

...High percentage of submarine sinkings is based on Ultra information...

The Commander, Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet, further expressed his appreciation on 3 July 1945 as follows:

No. 11

3 July 1945

From: FRUPAC
To : Op-20-G 030119
Guam

Knowing that the credit belongs to all officers and enlisted in the Comintorg FruPac is pleased and proud to pass on to you as Top Secret

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No. 11 (Cont.)

the following "Commander Submarine Force desires to express his admiration and appreciation to the officers of FruPac for the splendid support and coverage given by you to the recent submarine operation in the Japan Sea. May the great success of this expedition repay you somewhat for your tireless efforts to strike this blow at the heart of the enemy's empire. It could not have been done without your help."

g. The Okinawa Campaign

As a result of communication intelligence supplied prior to and during an all-out attack by the Japanese on 6-7 April 1945 against American forces engaged in the occupation of Okinawa, the U.S. Navy was able to beat off concerted air attacks and sink most of the enemy's striking force, including the battleship Yamato. Subsequently, both Fleet Admiral King and Admiral Horne transmitted "Well done". (No. 12)

The comments of Admiral Turner on the value of the communication intelligence supplied to U.S. Naval forces at Okinawa were transmitted on 23 May 1945 as follows:

No. 13

23 May 1945

From: FruPac
Action: Guam
Info: Op-20-G 222123 PAES

Admiral Turner has indicated that the despatches

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No. 13 (Cont.)

in 358 were of immense value and that the analysis of impending Jap operations, particularly air, were of highest quality and "Perfectly fine in every respect". A well done to station A and the joint activities under your supervision.

Admiral Spruance, Commander FIFTH Fleet, stated in his report on the Okinawa campaign:

No. 14

The Fifth Fleet Radio Intelligence Unit has been of very great assistance to this command during the ICEBERG (Okinawa) operation. (Ref: Ltr. dated 23 May 1945 from Comdr. 5th Fleet to Oinc, FruPac, Ser. 000128.)

In June 1945 HMS Trenchant sank the Ashigara, a Japanese cruiser, as a result of information made available by U.S. Naval Communication Intelligence.

No. 15

10 June 1945

From: Com7thFleet, Tolosa
Action: COMINCH
Info: Com7thFleet (Adm. Barbey) 100213 NCR 4748

Connection Trenchant-Ashigara case 2 important factors involved.

- (a) Success unlikely except for magnificent intelligence information made available.
- (b) Impossible for large US type submarine to have conducted daytime operation similar to Trenchant. They had tried and failed south of Banka.