

UNITED STATES FLEET
 HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
 NAVY DEPARTMENT
 WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



SRH-080
 9 February 1945.

My dear Captain Laird:

With reference to your request of 23 January concerning Japanese submarine order of battle, losses, employment, and bases, the following information is provided:

1. A list of Japanese submarines sunk since 7 December 1941, giving date, place, and agent, is attached. Of these submarines only two, the I-1 and I-15, have appeared as the names of new submarines believed operational. In addition to those shown on the attached list, the following submarines are believed sunk, but the place and date are uncertain: I-57, I-152, I-179, I-184, I-185, I-186, RO-35 (new), RO-36, RO-42, RO-111, RO-114, RO-117, RO-501.

2. (i) Accurate information is not available concerning which Japanese submarines are specially fitted for supply duties. Two 2800-ton supply submarines were reported under construction in 1941 but nothing further has been learned of them. A policy of expediency apparently governs the choice of submarines for transport duties, and though the larger I-class, such as I-41 (2100 tons standard displacement), have frequently been used, so have the smaller classes as evidenced by the use of I-176 (1609 tons standard displacement) and RO-41 (950 tons standard displacement). Submarines which are designed to carry aircraft are well suited to carrying supplies as the hangar space can be used for stowage when the plane is not carried. (See 2 (iii) below.) Japanese submarines currently engaged in transportation of supplies and/or personnel include the RO-46, RO-112, RO-113, RO-115, and about four others whose identity is unknown.

(ii) The only Japanese submarines known to be fitted for minelaying are the I-121 and I-122, both completed in 1927. There is no intelligence to indicate that they are presently engaged in minelaying.

(iii) The following Japanese submarines are all believed constructed to carry aircraft but so far as is known none are carrying planes at the present time: I-1 (new), I-5, I-6, I-8, I-10, I-12, I-13, I-14, I-15 (new), I-26, I-36, I-37, I-38, I-41, I-44, I-45, I-46, I-400, I-401.

3. Japanese submarines operate from bases at Kure, Yokosuka, Sasebo, Singapore, and Penang. Other bases exist but are of no practical significance. Use of Penang and Singapore may be given up shortly. SubRon 8 (4 SS) is based at Singapore; SubRon 11, comprising SubDiv 6 (4 SS), SubDiv 19 (8 SS), SubDiv 33 (5 SS), and 8 additional SS whose SubDiv is unknown, is based at Kure.

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SubRon 11 is the training and guard organization; some of its units have been assigned to Sasebo and Maizuru. There are about 15 submarines whose organizational status is entirely unknown; some of these probably operate from Yokosuka and the balance from Kure. SubRon 7, comprising SubDiv 15 (9 SS), SubDiv 34 (5 SS), and 5 SS whose SubDiv is unknown, is believed based at Kure.

4. No current information is available concerning the location of submarine base force units. Presumably, they are currently operational only at the submarine bases mentioned above.

5. (a) The administrative organization of the Japanese submarine fleet no longer shows submarines attached to Kure, Yokosuka and Sasebo Naval District so far as is known, but no formal dissolution of submarine forces previously attached has been noted. SubRon 11 is the only known organization engaged in submarine guard duties. It comprises SubDiv 6 (4 SS) stationed at Yokosuka, SubDiv 19 (8 SS) stationed at Kure, SubDiv 33 (5 SS) previously at Maizuru but recently unlocated, and 8 SS whose SubDiv is unknown, some of which may still be undergoing pre-operational training.

(b) Our latest 6th Fleet organization, to which all submarines are considered attached, is as follows:

SubRon 1 (Has been inactive so far as is known.)
 No SubDivs known. 2 SS recently attached.

SubRon 7 (Based in Empire, operates in Central Pacific)
 SubDiv 12 (?)
 SubDiv 15 (9 SS), SubDiv 34 (5 SS)
 5 SS - SubDiv unknown.

SubRon 8 (Based at Penang and Singapore, has operated in Malaya-Bay of Bengal area.)
 No SubDivs known. 4 SS attached.

SubRon 11 (Empire training and guard command.)
 SubDiv 6 (4 SS), SubDiv 19 (8 SS)
 SubDiv 33 (5 SS), 8 SS - SubDiv unknown.

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SubRon unknown
SubDiv 9 (1 SS).

Assignment unknown
15 SS

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