

THE IMPERIAL JAPANESE NAVY IN WORLD WAR II

A Graphic Presentation of the Japanese Naval Organization and List of Combatant and Non-Combatant Vessels Lost or Damaged in the War

(Digitized by Joseph Ed Low September 2005)

Through instructions from the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers to the Japanese Government, 12 October 1945, subject to the provisions of the Potsdam Declaration, steps were initiated to exploit military historical records and official reports of the Japanese War Ministry and Japanese General Staff. Upon dissolution of the War Ministry and the Japanese General Staff, and the transfer of their former functions to the Demobilization Bureau, research and compilation continued and developed into a series of historical monographs. The paucity of original orders, plans and unit journals, which are normally essential in the preparation of this type of record, but which were largely lost or destroyed during field operations or bombing raids, rendered the task of compilation most difficult; particularly distressing has been the complete lack of official strength reports, normal in AG or G3 records. However, while many of the important orders, plans, and estimates have been reconstructed from memory and therefore are not textually identical with the originals, they are believed to be generally accurate and reliable.

Prepared by
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February 1952

FOREWORD

Through instructions from the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers to the Japanese Government, 12 October 1945, subject: Institution for War Records Investigation, steps were initiated to exploit military historical records and official reports of the Japanese War Ministry and Japanese General Staff. Upon dissolution of the War Ministry and the Japanese General Staff, and the transfer of their former functions to the Demobilization Bureau, research and compilation continued and developed into a series of historical monographs.

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PREFACE

Monograph No. 116, *The Imperial Japanese Navy in World War II*, one of the Japanese Operational Monograph Series covering operations of the Japanese Army and Navy during the period 1941-1945, is intended primarily as a reference for research and analysis, specifically in connection with other volumes in the series, and does not purport to be complete in itself.

Initially prepared in Japanese by former officers of the Japanese Navy under the supervision of the 2d Demobilization Bureau (Navy), the material was translated into English by the Allied Translator and Interpreter Service, General Headquarters, Far East Command, and edited for clarity, coherence, and accuracy by the Japanese Research Division, Military History Section, General Headquarters, Far East Command.

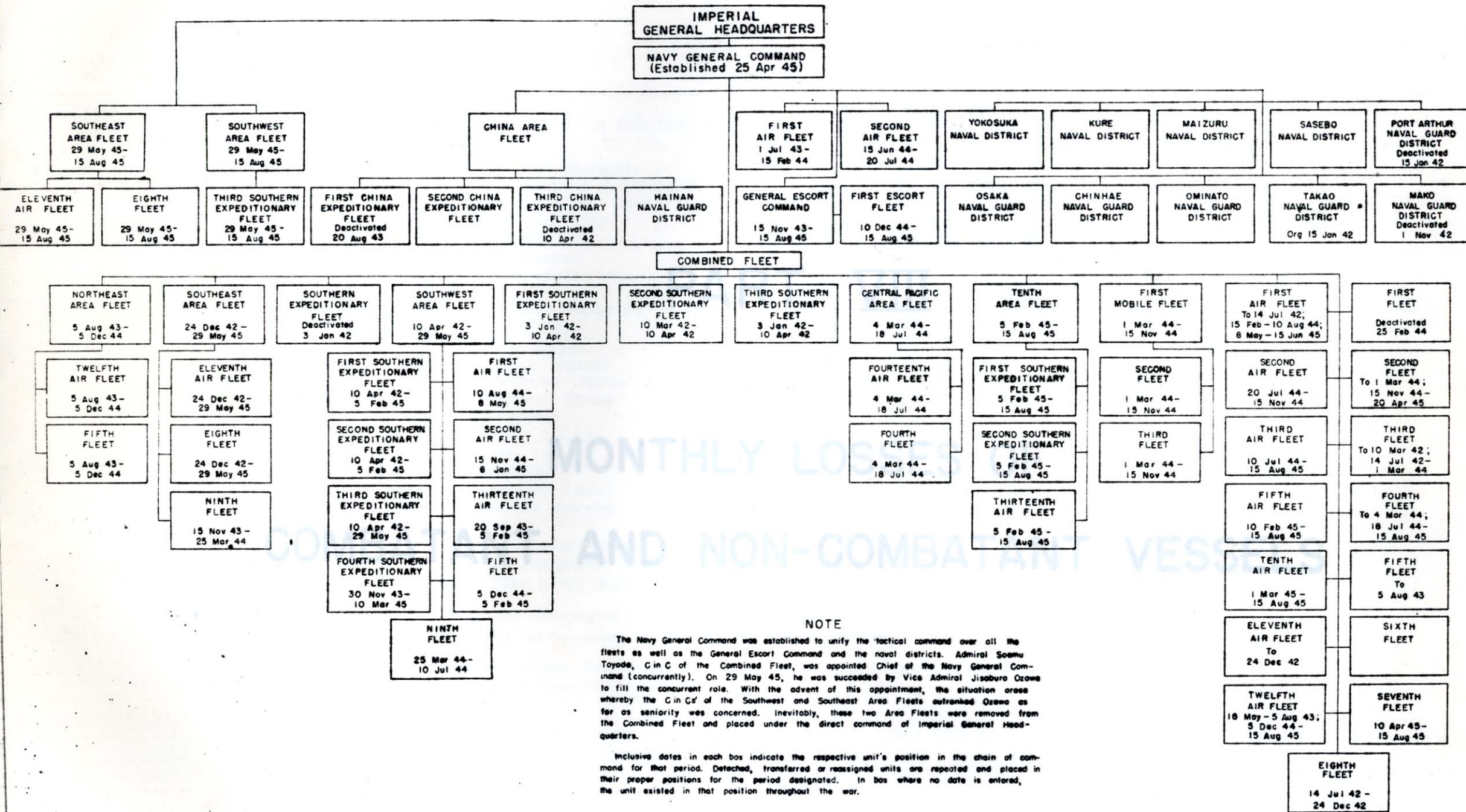
The chief sources used in compilation of this document included: *Greater East Asia Imperial Japanese Navy Wartime Organization*, original and revisions, issued by the Chief of the Navy General Staff, 1 June 1945; *Battle Lessons*, compiled by the Yokosuka Air Group; wartime diaries, battle reports, and *Summaries of Merit* of various units and ships, as submitted to the Navy Ministry and Navy General Staff; documents and reports of the Civil Merchant Marine Committee and individual ship owners; wartime documents and radio messages available at the 2d Demobilization Bureau Liquidation Office; and interrogations, statements, and private records of personnel concerned. In many instances material was either lacking altogether or consisted of mere scraps, resulting in a certain amount of inaccuracy and incompleteness in some portions of the report. The report has been checked against all available Japanese sources, but has not been compared with documents or material from other sources. To accomplish the latter would have involved a considerable amount of time, delaying publication of the monograph still further.

The graphic presentation originally used in compiling the document in Japanese was carried over into its translated form as the simplest and most accurate method of depicting the information.

That portion of Monograph 116 pertaining to Japanese shipping losses (Parts VIII and IX) is not intended as a duplication of information in *Japanese Naval and Merchant Shipping Losses During World War II by All Causes*, prepared by the Joint Army-Navy Assessment Committee and published by the United States Department of the Navy in February 1947. The latter volume lists only those vessels of 500 or more gross tons, while this document lists all vessels, regardless of size. In comparing the two studies, information in this document pertaining to the names of the ships and tonnage should be accepted, while information in the U.S. Navy publication as to damage or sinking and the location of the strike probably will be more accurate, since, although the ship owners were conversant with the names and sizes of their ships, their information covering the exact location and time of loss was not complete. Thus, many ships listed as missing in this report no doubt will be indicated as sunk in the U. S. Navy volume.

This document supplements others in the Japanese Operational Monograph Series, particularly those pertaining to operations of the Japanese Navy, of which the following are only a few: Monographs No. 79 through 102, covering naval operations in Pearl Harbor, the Philippines, Okinawa, New Guinea, the Aleutians, Midway, Iwo Jima, the Netherlands East Indies, and other areas; Monographs No. 105 through 125, covering naval operations against Soviet Russia, Malaya, Borneo, and the defense of the Japanese homeland, as well as naval communications and submarine activities. Certain number of these documents are already on file in the Office of the Chief of Military History, Department of the Army; the remainder, as yet unfinished, will be forwarded there upon completion. The majority of the monographs are typewritten; difficulties inherent in reproducing the charts in this monograph in any quantity necessitated that it be printed.

CHAIN OF COMMAND OF THE IMPERIAL JAPANESE NAVY (From 8 December 1941 to 15 August 1945)



NOTE

The Navy General Command was established to unify the tactical command over all the fleets as well as the General Escort Command and the naval districts. Admiral Soemu Toyoda, C in C of the Combined Fleet, was appointed Chief of the Navy General Command (concurrently). On 29 May 45, he was succeeded by Vice Admiral Jisaburo Ozawa to fill the concurrent role. With the advent of this appointment, the situation arose whereby the C in C of the Southwest and Southeast Area Fleets outranked Ozawa as far as seniority was concerned. Inevitably, these two Area Fleets were removed from the Combined Fleet and placed under the direct command of Imperial General Headquarters.

Inclusive dates in each box indicate the respective unit's position in the chain of command for that period. Detached, transferred or reassigned units are repeated and placed in their proper positions for the period designated. In box where no date is entered, the unit existed in that position throughout the war.