

C-C-A-F-I-D-N-R-T-I-A-L

371st BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
307th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)

A/C #719
10 October 1944.

NARRATIVE COMBAT REPORT OF MISSION # 307 - 339

- A. MISSION NUMBER : 307-339 / 10 October 1944 / 371st Bomb. Sq. (H).
Six of seven scheduled B-24's bombed secondary targets. One B-24 bombed tertiary target.
- B. TARGET : Gasoline Cracking Plant and Benzine Refinery, Balikpapan, Borneo. One plane bombed Chiditidi A/D.
- C. TIME AND ALTI- : 1108 - 1110/I; 19,800' to 20,000' true.
TIME OF ATTACK : The A/D was bombed at 1106/I from 20,000' true.
- D. RESULTS : This mission is rated as excellent. The primary target, Pandansari Refinery, could not be bombed because of dense black and gray smoke completely obscuring it and also the paraffin plant. This smoke rose to 20,000 feet. One of our planes bombed the northern tip of the Gasoline Cracking plant starting small fires. All other planes bombed the benzine Refinery and a very large fire sprang up. 3 to 4 bombs hit water in the vicinity of pier.
- In addition, there were at least four large fires in the tank area south of Pandansari Refinery, a large fire at a point in the vicinity of 1,000 feet East Northeast of pier #4 and many smaller fires from the benzine Refinery up the shore to Pandansari.
- After turnaway, the entire area along the bay was covered by a pall of billowing smoke and it is believed that considerable major damage was inflicted.
- Five bombs hit 2,000 feet west of the west end of Chiditidi A/D. No results were noted.
- Enemy Losses: (One Zeke damaged. In addition, P-38's were observed to shoot down 2 B/A from medium altitude, both of which hit water.
- Our Damage: Three of our A/C were hit - one by flak with minor damage, another by a phosphorous bomb with minor damage and the third, (A/C #330), by flak which punctured the left tire. This plane cracked up on landing but no one was hurt.
- E. INTERCEPTS : Six planes engaged our formation starting 3 minutes after bombs away and lasting about

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- J. WEATHER : Broken overcast with occasional thunderstorms and turbulence to the Halmaheras -- 6/10 broken cumulus with tops at 8,000 feet to rendezvous point-- high stratus at 20,000 feet and 5/10 low cumulus to target-- 5/10 scattered cumulus with tops at 15,000 feet at target.
Weather on return was fairly good although several storms off the Vogelkop had to be circled.
- L. BOMB LOAD : Seven planes each dropped 5 x 500 pound G1 bombs fused .1 second delay nose and .025 second delay tail.
Approximately 15,000 rounds of ammunition were expended.
- K. REMARKS : Due to a mechanical failure five bombs were salvaged over Chiditidi A/D, the bombs hitting 2,000 feet west of the west end of the runway. The bombs released when the handle was placed in "Select" position.

PHILIP D. THOMPSON,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

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