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372ND BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF
Office of the Intelligence Officer

LES/j

AFD # 719,
17 December 1944.

NARRATIVE COMBAT REPORT OF MISSION # 307-396A

- A. MISSION NO. : 307-396A, 17 December 1944, 372nd Bombardment Squadron (H) AAF, five of five scheduled B-24's were over the primary target.
- B. TARGET : Jesselton Runway, Borneo.
- C. TIME OF ATTACK AND ALTITUDE : 1137/I from 7,400 to 7,800 feet True.
- D. RESULTS OF BOMBING : EXCELLENT. Four of our strings started about 150' short of the West edge of the North-South Runway at the intersection and walked across the runway. The fifth string, due to a malfunction, fell 1,800' East of North-South Runway.
- E. INTERCEPTION : Nil.
- F. BRIEF DETAILS OF COMBAT : Nil.
- G. ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED : Nil.
- H. PHOTOS : A/C 567 took 12 photos over target.
- I. ROUTE AND SIGHTINGS : Route -- Base to Hog Point (05°15'N - 116°15'E), to Turning Point (05°25'N - 116°25'E), to IP (05°05'N - 116°05'E), to Target. Route back, Target to 05°00'N - 115°45'E, to 04°55'N - 116°25'E, to Base.
Sightings:
1. A total of 8 aircraft was sighted on Jesselton A/D. Six were twin engine with only one parked just east of the runway intersection. * Two B2F on SE edge of A/D could not appraise their condition. (* - being serviceable)
2. Near the IP, at 1131/I from 7,500', eight Sugar Dogs were seen lined up close to the shore in the cove NW of Telipok.
3. Five barges were anchored near the jetty at Jesselton.
4. At 0957/I from 7,750', a fire with white smoke rising to a thousand feet was seen on the shore at 05°06'N - 116°00'E.
5. At 1050/I from 8,000', one Sugar Dog was sighted in the Bay off Samarang Town on the East coast of Borneo.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

BASIC: Narrative Combat Report of Mission # 307-596A, 17 December 1944, 372nd Bomb Sq

- I. SIGHTINGS : 6. At 0745/I from 7,500', two barges were seen in a bay on the SW coast of Sangihi Island.
(CONTINUED)
- J. WEATHER : Base to Borneo - CAVU all the way--cumulus .3 to .6 with tops of 7,000 feet and few towering cumulus with tops of 12,000 feet. As East coast of Borneo was approached a thin overcast of cirrus was encountered. Winds--300° - 10K.
Borneo - .5 to .10 cumulus with tops of 7,000 feet encountered over land areas. Also, a heavy layer of alto-stratus had to be penetrated before reaching TP. Alto-stratus layer varied from .4 to .6 with base of 7,000 feet. Winds--210° - 8K.
Target - CAVU, .3 cumulus with tops of 4,000 feet.
Return weather was reciprocal.
- K. GENERAL REMARKS : Lt. McLaughlin, flying A/C 964, lost power in his #1 Engine on take off. When pilot reduced his RPM to 2,500 #1 stuck and continued on to full low RPM. With persistence Lt. McLaughlin nursed this engine along and although he could at no time bring this engine up to more than cruising power, he hit the target. A/C 175, flown by Capt. Kimmerly, escorted A/C 276, of the 424th Squadron, back to base from target when the 424th plane caught fire in it's #4 engine.
- L. TYPE AND NUMBER OF BOMBS DROPPED OVER TARGET : Five aircraft each dropped 12 I 500# GP bombs over the target.
58 I 300# GP bombs had 1/10 nose, 1/100 tail fusing.
2 I 500# GP bombs had 24-hour delay fusing.
.80 cal. ammo was used for test firing only.
- M. BOMBING DATA : Formation : Squadrons bombed in trail. Our squadron was fourth over the target in javelin down formation.
Bomb Run : Bomb run was made on a mag heading of 180°.
Bomb Trains : Bomb trains were 900' long.
Sighting : Lead aircraft sighted for both range and deflection. All others sighted for range.
APCE : APCE was used by lead aircraft.
Aiming Point : Lead bombardier killed for range and deflection on the intersection of the runways.
Target Area : Main runway at Jesselton A/D.

LEX E. GOSTER,
Capt., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

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17 December 1944.

NARRATIVE COMBAT REPORT OF MISSION # 307-308A

LOADING LIST

AP. 1370 A-1

Lt. Harris
F/O Nichols
Lt. Redabaugh
F/O Burns
T/Sgt. McHally
S/Sgt. Windfelder
T/Sgt. Kendall
S/Sgt. Tabor
S/Sgt. Gillum
S/Sgt. Bissell
Sgt. Rock

AP. 0964 A-2

Lt. McLaughlin
Lt. Nickerson
Lt. Morrison
Lt. Fay
T/Sgt. Cochran
S/Sgt. Farmer
T/Sgt. Bradford
S/Sgt. Weider
S/Sgt. Main
S/Sgt. Lewis

AP. 1382 A-3

Lt. Connell
Lt. Russell
Lt. Hart
Lt. Drollinger
S/Sgt. Van Gorder
Sgt. Wingert
S/Sgt. Rodrigues
Sgt. Morrison
Sgt. Blake
Sgt. Smith

AP. 0567 B-1

Lt. Bloemer
Lt. Harmon
Lt. Cohen
Lt. Dickinson
T/Sgt. Timney
S/Sgt. Smelcer
T/Sgt. Bachman
S/Sgt. Crowe
S/Sgt. Wilson
S/Sgt. Boddicker
S/Sgt. Davis

AP. 1175 B-2

Capt. Kinnerly
Lt. Apple
F/O Martinez
F/O Holt
Cpl. Schuyler
Cpl. Etheredge
Cpl. Quigley
Cpl. Sindlesperger
Cpl. Berry
Cpl. McDaniel
Cpl. Isler