

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

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

18 September 1944.
A.P.O. # 719.

NARRATIVE COMBAT REPORT OF MISSION # 807-356

- A. MISSION NO. 356 : 18 September 1944, 372nd Bomb Sq (H) AAF, six of six scheduled B-24 bombed targets in the Ambon - Ceram area, individually.
- B. TARGET : Haroekoe personnel and supply area, Amahai personnel and supply area, Kairatoo airdrome. Two A/C salvaged their bombs safe in the water because complete cloud coverage hid all targets.
- C. TIME OF ATTACK : 1222I to 1350I
& ALTITUDE : 8,500 to 12,700 feet true.
- D. RESULTS OF BOMBING : Bombing cannot be rated due to lack of observation. At Kairatoo airdrome the 3x2,000 bombs dropped were seen to hit on the edge of the northeast corner of the runway. All other planes that bombed a target used fixed angle bombing through small holes in the cloud cover. There was no damage to our aircraft nor injury to personnel.
- E. INTERCEPTION : Nil.
- F. BRIEF DETAILS OF COMBAT : Nil.
- G. ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED : Haroekoe airdrome: 3 bursts of heavy A/A accurate as to altitude but trailing by a few hundred feet. One plane observed 4 bursts of inaccurate heavy A/A from an unknown location.
- H. PHOTOS : A/C 535, took 12 photos of Haroekoe supply area from 11,700 feet true at 1222I.
A/C 544, took 5 photos of Kairatoo airdrome from 12,700 feet true at 1341I.
- I. ROUTE AND SIGHTINGS : Route: Wakde to Wircenar to Cape Raja (05°30'S - 129°35'E) to IP (05°30'S - 128°33'E) to target. Route back was direct. No sightings.
- J. WEATHER ENROUTE : Field to Geelvink Bay--clear, visibility 5 miles due to cloud cover. .2 high cirrus at 20,000 feet, .7 low cumulus at 5,000 feet. Wind 120° at 12 knots.
Geelvink Bay--clear, visibility 80 miles. .5 high cirrus stratus at 20,000 feet, .1 low cumulus at 4,000 feet. Wind 60° at 11 knots.
New Guinea Peninsula-- .5 high stratus at 15,000 feet, .5 low cumulus at 5,000 feet. Visibility 20 miles, wind 60° at 11 knots.
New Guinea Coast to Ceram Coast--visibility 80 miles. .2 high cirrus at 20,000 feet, .4 low cumulus at 5,000 feet. Wind 60° at 12 knots.

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NARRATIVE REPORT OF MISSION # 307-336, 372ND BOMB SQ (H) CONT'D ----- 2

- J. WEATHER REPORTS : Coran and target area--clear, visibility "0". .9 low cumulus
CONT'D : at 7,000 feet.
McCluer Gulf--Clear, visibility 30 miles. .2 cirro-stratus at
20,000 feet, .3 low cumulus at 10,000 feet, wind 60° at 15 knots.
Geelvink Bay--visibility 20 miles, wind 60° at 10 knots. .3 strato-
cumulus at 15,000 feet, .2 cumulus at 5,000 feet.
Japan to Wakde--clear, visibility 60 miles. 10/10 high stratus
at 15,000 feet, .5 low cumulus at 5,000 feet. Wind 120° at 12 knots
- L. TYPE & NUMBER OF: Harlock--2 A/C each dropped 6x1,000^{lb} GP with inst nose and tail
BOMBS DROPPED : fusing.
OVER TARGET : Asahai--1 A/C dropped 6x1,000^{lb} GP with inst nose and tail fuses.
Zairatoo--1 A/C dropped 3x2,000^{lb} GP with inst nose and tail fuses.
2 A/C each jettisoned 6x1,000^{lb} GP with inst nose and tail fuses,
safe in water at 08°14'S - 150°47'E. Ammunition expended for test
firing only.
- K. GENERAL REMARKS : Nil.

WILFRED V. GILL,
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Asst. Intell. Officer.

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LOADING LIST

AP. 0593

P Lt. Mae Donald
CP Lt. Johnson
N Lt. Williams
B Lt. Black
R Sgt. Johnson
T Cpl. Casale
M Cpl. Adams
B Cpl. Gonzalez
H Cpl. Allen
L Cpl. Bunn
F Pvt. Davis

AP. 0544

P Lt. Dryer
CP Lt. Poggi
N Lt. Reed
B Lt. Wheeler
M T/Sgt. Davies
R T/Sgt. Wingate
L T/Sgt. Frazier
N S/Sgt. Hinchey
T S/Sgt. Melvagno
B S/Sgt. Danley
F Pvt. Gwaley

AP. 0535

P Lt. May
CP Et. Toon
N Lt. Melnick
B Lt. Budima
M T/Sgt. Houchin
R S/Sgt. Foley
B T/Sgt. Ottinger
H S/Sgt. Carson
T S/Sgt. Collins
L S/Sgt. Luy
F Sgt. Bura

AP. 0554

P Lt. Lewis
CP Lt. Kenyon
N Fo. Eldon
B Lt. Klein
M T/Sgt. Walter
N Sgt. Borneman
R S/Sgt. Van Oem
L Sgt. Breshears
T Sgt. Meckler
B Sgt. Massa
F Cpl. Avenius

AP. 0614

P Lt. Dorries
CP Capt. Beasley
N Lt. Lystad
B Lt. Steinbrenner
L T/Sgt. Schullen
M S/Sgt. Kaser
R T/Sgt. Mathis
T S/Sgt. Jenkinson
B S/Sgt. Jepsen
H S/Sgt. Houston
F Sgt. Boykin

AP. 0591

P Lt. Lindley
CP Lt. Haffner
N Lt. Coleman, A.D.
B Lt. Coleman, J.G.
M T/Sgt. Breitman
N S/Sgt. Shivers
B T/Sgt. MacDougal
B S/Sgt. Vallen
T S/Sgt. Roberts
L S/Sgt. Babcock
IB Lt. Hurley