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

AFG #714
24 November 1944

NARRATIVE COMBAT REPORT OF MISSION # 307-373B

- A. MISSION NO. : 307-373B, 24 November 1944, 372nd Bombardment Squadron (B) AAF, one scheduled B-24.
- B. TARGET : Armed shipping search of Route "D" (Morotai along north coast of Celebes to Cape Simstang, to east coast of Borneo, north to Eng Point, to Sanga Sanga Island to Morotai). This A/C attacked one 50-foot lugger type vessel at 01 54' N-124°58'E, one Sugar Charlie or Dog at 00°58'N-122°59'E and one 70-foot lugger at 01°25'N-118°37'E. Search was abandoned at 01°28'N-118°40'E because the plane's bomb release was inoperative; it was out of ammunition; and the remaining search route passed close to enemy airfields.
- C. TIME OF ATTACK: Search conducted 0820 I to 1530 I from 4,000 feet T.
AND ALTITUDE : 50-foot lugger type vessel attacked at 0842 I from 100 to 200 feet T.
Sugar Charlie or Dog attacked at 1015 I from 200 to 300 feet T.
75-foot lugger attacked at 1225 I from 100 to 200 feet T.
- D. RESULTS OF BOMBING : Excellent. One 50-foot lugger type vessel was strafed without visible result. One Sugar Charlie or Dog was sunk by a direct hit amidships which made the vessel disintegrate. One 75-foot lugger was severely damaged by strafing and was listing to port when the plane left.
Enemy losses: One Sugar Charlie or Dog definitely sunk, one lugger damaged.
Friendly losses: Nil.
- E. INTERCEPTION : Nil.
- F. BRIEF DETAILS OF COMBAT : Only one strafing pass was made at the first vessel because it appeared unworthy of further attack. Three runs were made on the Sugar Charlie or Dog because the plane's select, salvo, and emergency salvo bomb release was found to be inoperative on the first two runs. On the third run, one bomb was released manually which scored a direct hit. On all three runs the vessels was strafed and also a rowboat that pulled away from it. Three strafing runs were also made on the 75-foot lugger.
- G. ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED : Slight, light, and inaccurate. One 7.7 machine gun fired from the Sugar Charlie or Dog, which appeared to be its total armament. The 75-foot lugger had two 7.7 machine guns in the corners of the aft deckhouse and a 20mm gun in the bow, but none was fired.

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BASIC: Narrative Combat Report of Mission # 307-3738, 24 November 1944, 372nd Bomb Sq (M)

- H. PHOTO : 4 photos were taken of the Sugar Charlie or Dog at 00°55'N-122°59'E from about 250 feet at 1015 L.
- I. ROUTE AND ALTITUDE : Route--Base to Manado Point. Followed north coast of Celebes to Cape Simatang (01°00'N-120°19'E) to east coast of Borneo (01°00'N-119°00'E) to 01°28'N-116°40'E, to 12°15'N-121°25'E to Base.
Nil sightings.
- J. WEATHER : Base to 01°19'N-122°52'E-Cumulus activity with haze at 2000 feet, restricting visibility-cumulus varied from .2 to .5 with tops of 8000 feet. High clouds as-.3 coverage with base of 20,000 feet. Beyond that point to Cape Simatang a CAUV condition.
Winds 248° @ 3 kts.
Cape Simatang to E. coast Borneo-Belt of cumulus clouds with tops of 8000 feet and coverage of .3 to .5. Overcast of cirro-stratus with coverage varying from .5 to .7, also a layer of alto-stratus with base at 12,000 feet and varying from .4 to .6 encountered over Borneo and extending 50 miles over sea.
Borneo to Morotai-Generally CAUV with some towering cumulus extending 75 miles beyond Borneo, but then clearing. Cumulus varied from .3 to .5 with tops of 7000 feet and some cirro-stratus with base of 20,000 feet, approximately .3 coverage. Winds 255° @ 3 kts. Haze restricted visibility to 25 miles.
- K. GENERAL REMARKS : The bombing of the Sugar Charlie or Dog by Lt. Harris' crew was an unique and commendable exploit. Determined not to give up, although all bomb release mechanism was inoperative, they decided to release manually by a system of visual signals. As they dove on the vessel, the co-pilot, Lt. York, looking out of the co-pilot's blister window signaled with his arm when he figured they were almost to the bomb release point and W/O Burns the navigator, standing in the well, passed the signal on to Lt. Rodabaugh, the bombardier, who "kicked out" one bomb, using a screwdriver. It is almost a "Believe it or Not" that this bomb made a direct hit and blew the vessel to bits.
- L. TYPE AND NUMBER OF BOMBS DROPPED OVER TARGET : One 250# GP bomb, fused 4-5 seconds delay tail, was dropped over the target. 5 X 250# GP bombs were jettisoned manually and seen to explode in the water at 00°55'N-120°E. 2500 rounds of .50 cal. ammo were expended.
- M. BOMBING DATA : Formation: Single ship.
Bomb run: 90° to beam of vessel
Bomb train: One bomb
Sighting: None
AFCS: Not used.
Aiming point: Amidships
Target: Sugar Charlie or Dog.

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372ND BOMBARDMENT SQ. ADRON (H) A F
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AGO #719
24 November 1944

NARRATIVE COMBAT REPORT OF MISSION #307-373B

LOADING LIST

AP. 1417

P Lt. Harris
CP Lt. York
N F/O Burns
B Lt. Rodabaugh
M T/Sgt. McHally
R S/Sgt. Westlund
L T/Sgt. Kendall
B S/Sgt. Gillum
N S/Sgt. Simmons
T S/Sgt. Bissell