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

RVC/cek

AF 8718

27 December 1964

NARRATIVE COMBAT REPORT OF MISSION #307-4048

- A. MISSION : 307-4048; 27 December 1964, 372nd Bombardment Squadron (H) AAF, One scheduled B-24.
- B. TARGET : Armed shipping reconnaissance of the East and West coasts of northern Borneo. Strafing one Sugar Dog in the Sandakan Harbor and bombed and strafed a camouflaged Victor Baker in Brunei Bay. Bombed refinery and tanks at Seria, Borneo.
- C. TIME OF ATTACK AND ALTITUDE : Sugar Dog- 1013 I from 180 feet T.
Victor Baker- 1242 I from 500 feet T.
Seria- 1324 I from 8400 feet T.
- D. RESULTS OF BOMBING : Sugar Dog- Hits were observed from the strafing but no other results.
Victor Baker- The bombing is rated excellent. Two bombs were dropped which bracketed the bow of the ship, one 20 feet and the other 50 feet from the sides. The VB was hit also by strafing fire but no visible damage was caused.
The bombing of Seria cannot be rated because it was not an assigned target, however, the damage caused was extensive. One bomb struck the corner of a large, rectangular refinery building, which was the aiming point, and the remaining six bombs trained across a very large oil storage tank which burst into flames 200-300 feet high. Black smoke rose to 3500 feet and was still visible 75 miles from the target.
Enemy losses : One large oil tank destroyed and one SD, one VB and a large refinery building damaged.
Friendly losses : Pilot's windshield hit by machine gun fire.
- E. INTERCEPTION : Nil.
- F. BRIEF DETAILS OF COMBAT : Nil.
- G. ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED : Sandakan- 3 gun flashes were seen at the east end of #1 R/W at Sandakan A/D, but the flak bursts were unobserved.
Brunei Bay- A/C was hit in pilot's windshield by machine gun fire on the break-away from the bombing of a VB. The vessel was near the east side of an unnamed island east of the SE corner of Labuan Island. It is believed that the fire came from the small island.
- H. PHOTOS : Photos were taken of Sandakan Harbor at 1013 I from 400 feet.

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- H. **MISSION RESULTS** : of Jesselton town and 1/2 at 1242 from 1200 feet, of shipping in Brunel Bay at 1242 and from 500 feet, and of Seria refinery at 1304 from 4000 feet 1.
- I. **ROUTE AND ALTITUDE** : Route--from base by individual planes to Neg Point, north along east coast of Borneo to Salembangan Island, south along west coast of Borneo to Seria and return direct to base.
Sightings: 1. At 0513 1 while flying west at 9000 feet, 2 1/2 812 were sighted heading SE at 8,000 feet over the SE tip of Tawi Tawi Island. The P-54 turned into a cloud and was not detected by the enemy 4/1.
2. At 1013 1, 2 Sugar Bugs, one birding, Hercules, were sighted in a cove on the south shore of Senehan Harbor.
3. One F4U and 2 1/2 1/2 aircraft, all serviceable, were sighted on Jesselton 4/1 at 1242 from 1200' T.
4. 15 Sugar Bugs were sighted in Labuan Harbor near the Fox hole milk at 1340 from 1,000 feet T.
- J. **WEATHER** : Base by Borneo-- .10 stratuscumulus at 5000 feet, .15 altostratus at 12,000 feet.
East coast of Borneo-- Ceiling 700 feet, visibility one mile, heavy rain, moderate turbulence, winds from 300° at 8 knots.
West coast and over Borneo-- .2 cumulus at 5000-6000 feet, .15 to .10 altostratus at 18,000 feet, visibility 20-25 miles.
Borneo to base-- .10 altostratus at 12000 all the way; heavy rain and visibility one mile. Winds from 250° at 20 knots.
- K. **GENERAL REMARKS** : Although Labang Refinery was assigned as the last resort target on this mission, Seria Refinery was bombed as a target of opportunity. Propaganda leaflets were dropped over West Senehan Island, Borneo from 8,000 feet.
- L. **BOMBS DROPPED** : 2 x 250# Gp bombs, fused 4-5 seconds delay tail were dropped on the V² at Brunel Bay. 7 x 250# Gp bombs, fused .1 second and .025 second delay tail were dropped on Seria. 1500 rounds of .50 calibre ammunition were expended in strafing.
- M. **BOMBING DATA** :
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| Formation | : Individual Plane. |
| Bomb run | : V2- 225° mag. heading, Seria- 274° mag. heading. |
| Scab trains | : V2- 100 feet, Seria- 330 feet. |
| Sighting | : Bombardier sighted for range and deflection on both targets, but used AFCE only at Seria. |
| Aiming Point | : V2- Aisidships, Seria- large rectangular refinery building 1500 feet E of the shore line in main refinery area. |
| Target | : Victor Baker and refinery building and oil tanks, Seria Refinery, Borneo. |

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372ND BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) A.F.
Office of the Intelligence Officer

A.F.O. # 719
27 December 1944

NARRATIVE COMBAT REPORT OF MISSION # 307-404B

LOADING LIST

AP. 1290

Lt. Franklin
Lt. Darrin
Lt. Gray
Lt. Durst
S/Sgt. Hostetler
Sgt. Haag
S/Sgt. Skidas
Sgt. McCurry
Sgt. Kehayias
Sgt. Brena
Cpl. Waskowsky