

372ND BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF  
Office of the Intelligence Officer  
A.P.O. # 719

28 August 1944.

STANDARD MISSION REPORT NO. 63  
(Group Mission 307-319)

1. AIRPLANES EMPLOYED: Six of six scheduled B-24's bombed the primary target.  
& TARGET ATTACKED :
2. ESCORT : Nil.
3. BOMB LOAD : 5 A/C each carried 40x100# ANM30 bombs with inst tail & nose fuses  
1 A/C carried 30x100# ANM30 bombs with inst tail and nose fuses
4. ROUTE : As briefed except short of target broke out of weather at 13,000 feet ten miles east of Peleliu and made two 360° circles to the right to assemble. On return someone led a good part of the formation right down through the Palau Group so that they received A/A fire from several islands including Peleliu. \* Auburn 2 Able.
5. WEATHER : Base to Equator--Clear, visibility 50 miles, .1 high cirrus at 15,000 feet, .2 cumulus at 1,500 to 4,000 feet.  
0° to 2°N-- Light haze, 25 miles visibility. .5 to .7 high cirrus and altostratus, .1 cumulus at 3,000 feet.  
2°N to 4°N--Haze heavy, visibility 10 miles, 10/10 altostratus at 10,000 feet.  
4°N to Target--Heavy haze and overcast--180 miles from target hit a front, terrific turbulence and steady rain. Entire climb from 8,000 feet to attack altitude threw this stuff, worst at 10,000 feet to 11,500 feet. Broke out of it 30 miles south of Koror. Target--10/10 overcast with some altostratus at 13,500 feet. .5 to .6 cumulus undercast building up to 9,000 feet.  
Target to 5°N--Same conditions as on way up to Koror. Much milder at lower altitude of 8,000 feet.  
5°N to Base-- .1 to .3 scattered cumulus at 2,000 feet, .2 to .4 cirrus and altostratus at 14,000 feet. Visibility 50 miles, clear
6. TIME & ALTITUDE OVER TARGET : 1151/K  
: 12,100 to 12,700 feet true.
7. BOMBS DROPPED : 190x100# GP bombs dropped over the target.  
40x100# GP bombs salvaged by A/C 603 lead ship over target after being hit by A/A.
8. HITS OBSERVED : 90% of our bombs fell in the target area starting at the south-east end and walking through to the northwest end. The pattern covered the eastern half of the target area, with one string at the northwest end covering the north corner. The bombs of A/C 603 Capt. Dixon, fell off shore just east of the power plant.

9. RESULTS : (a) No results.  
(b) A column of black smoke approximately 300 feet high was observed coming from a small unidentified island just southwest of Bil Malk Island.
10. SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Weather made rendezvous of group formation as planned impossible.  
AFFECTING RESULTS : After assembly our sq had to go over the target as #2 Sq. rather than #1 because of weather they could not bomb at briefed altitude due to clouds and icing conditions.
11. A/A FIRE : (a) Heavy, intense and accurate, 100 to 250 bursts of a barrage type. At least one third of these bursts were phosphorous shells.  
(b) A string of 5 heavy guns were noted on the edge or in the wooded area on the west side of our assigned target. Four or five heavy guns were seen in the road loop southeast of our assigned target. Previously noted heavy guns were seen firing in road loop on east end of Keror Island. Several heavy guns were seen firing about 400 feet east of the middle of the east of our target. Four heavy guns were seen firing between the runway and the south shore of Peleliu Island.
12. INTERCEPTION : Nil.
13. OWN DAMAGE OR LOSS: A/E 603, Capt. Dixon, was hit just before bombs away by heavy A/A, in main fuel cell near #3 engine. A/C immediately burst into flames and went into a shallow dive for about 200 feet, then leveled off and salvoed his bombs. Immediately after the salvo the right wing broke off in flames and the rest of the ship fell straight down flaming. One body was seen, thrown clear as the wing broke off, no parachute was seen to open.
14. OBSERVATIONS : Nil.
15. RADIO DISCIPLINE : (1) Ten or fifteen minutes before breaking out of weather on approach to target, Capt. Dixon called A-1-B, and A-1-C for their ETA at target. This was given.  
(2) On second circle of assembly after breaking out of weather, someone called Capt. Dixon on VHF and asked "how far below base altitude are you going to bomb" Capt. Dixon replied that they were going in at 11,500 feet and gave his air speed as 150 MPH. Someone else out in on VHF and said he hoped the Japs didn't hear that.
16. PHOTOGRAPHS : A/C 455 A-2 position of the 2nd Sq over the target took 20 photos from 12,300 feet true on bomb run. This was 31st Sq spare ship. A/C 599 A-3 position in the same formation took ten photos also on the bomb run from 12,500 feet true.
17. REMARKS : Nil.

GILES O. MORRILL,  
2nd Lt., Air Corps,  
Asst. Intell. Officer.

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26 August 1944.

STANDARD MISSION REPORT NO. 65  
(Group Mission 807-819)

LOADING LIST

AP. 0605

P Capt. Dixon  
CP Lt. Wilson  
N Lt. Duncan  
B Capt. Tenton  
M T/Sgt. Feeney  
L S/Sgt. Farnam  
R T/Sgt. Elliott  
B S/Sgt. Mansell  
T S/Sgt. Holt  
N S/Sgt. Biggerstaff  
O Lt. Sarles

AP. 0599

P Lt. Dryer  
CP Lt. Foggi  
N Lt. Reed  
B Lt. Wheeler  
M T/Sgt. Davies  
R S/Sgt. Fallow  
L T/Sgt. Frasier  
N S/Sgt. Hinchey  
T S/Sgt. Malvagno  
B S/Sgt. Danley  
F Sgt. Mason

AP. 0354

P Lt. Steffy  
CP Lt. Morgan  
N Lt. Galliett  
B Lt. Antower  
M T/Sgt. Kaisted  
L S/Sgt. Babina  
N T/Sgt. Wintringham  
T S/Sgt. Bredensteiner  
B S/Sgt. Murphy  
R S/Sgt. Wikel  
X Lt. Gill

AP. 0567

P Lt. Mc Kense  
CP Lt. Liljedahl  
N Lt. Hessler  
B Lt. Zeller  
M T/Sgt. Smith, A.  
R S/Sgt. Fields  
B T/Sgt. Harfos  
L S/Sgt. Cummings  
T S/Sgt. Dulock  
N S/Sgt. Pomraning

AP. 3277

P Lt. May  
CP Lt. Teon  
N Lt. Melnick  
B Lt. Buchna  
M T/Sgt. Houchin  
R S/Sgt. Foley  
B T/Sgt. Ottinger  
N S/Sgt. Carson  
T S/Sgt. Collins  
L S/Sgt. Lay  
F Sgt. Mc Guaghey

AP. 0614

P Lt. Blaauvelt  
CP Lt. Scott  
N Lt. Williams  
B Lt. Smitherman  
M S/Sgt. Smith, W.B.  
R Sgt. Brown  
L S/Sgt. Ammons  
B S/Sgt. Connolly, J.J.  
T Sgt. Hanson  
N Sgt. Buchholz