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572ND BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF
Office of the Intelligence Officer

7 October 1944.
A.P.O. # 719.

NARRATIVE COMBAT REPORT OF PRACTICE MISSION

- A. MISSION NO. : Practice Mission, 7 October 1944, 572nd Bomb Sq. (H) AAF, four of four B-24's engaged in practice bombing mission.
- B. TARGET : Kamiri Airstrip.
- C. TIME OF ATTACK AND ALTITUDE : 1530 I
: 10,600 feet true.
- D. RESULTS OF BOMBING : Nil. No damage to our planes or personnel.
- E. INTERCEPTION : 15 to 20 P47's intercepted at 1525 I and stayed with our formation until 1545 I.
- F. BRIEF DETAILS ENCOUNTERED : The first attacks came from 12 o'clock high. The majority of all attacks started from the right flank. Attacking fighters stayed well within range preparatory to attacking. Most attacks were coordinated, by 2's, 3's and 4's. In one instance seven A/C attacked in trail at 12 o'clock coming in high. The majority of attacks again were between 11 and 2 o'clock high, but a number were level attacks from these same positions.
- G. ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED : Nil.
- H. PHOTOS : Nil.
- I. ROUTE AND SIGHTINGS : Route: Hoonfear to 01°45'S - 156°55'E (East tip Japan Is.) to Roni Is. (01°00'S - 155°50'E) to IP to target.
Sightings Nil.
- J. WEATHER ENROUTE : Route assembly-- .3 cumulus, base 5,000 feet, tops 7,000 feet.
.4 cirrus stratus with base of 18,000 feet.
Kamiri-- .3 cumulus with tops of 8,000 feet, .3 alto stratus with base of 12,000 feet, slight turbulence.
- L. TYPE & NUMBER OF BOMBS DROPPED OVER TARGET : No bomb load.

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NARRATIVE COMBAT REPORT OF PRACTICE MISSION, 372ND BOMB SQ. (H) AAF, CONT'D ---- 2

K. GENERAL REMARKS : The general reaction of our pilots was much more favorable to today's formation, because it was looser and therefore more flexible.

Our men liked the 100 foot spread between the A/C within the squadrons, but thought the 300 foot spread between the squadrons was too great.

Fields of fire for our gunners were much clearer on this mission, particularly those A/C that increased and decreased altitude in order to uncover their guns enabling them to fire over A-1 on attacks from right and left.

Again no difficulty was experienced by our squadron in making left turns.

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