

424TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF
307TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF

A. O. # 719
14 June 1945

NARRATIVE COMBAT REPORT OF MISSION # 307 - 571-a

A. MISSION NUMBER : 307 - 571-a; 13 June 1945; 424th Bombardment Squadron (H); (n- (1) scheduled B-24 performed air cover for west bound convoy.

B. MISSION : air cover for west bound convoy, "WALRUS # 1", consisting of one (1) cruiser.

C. TIME & ALTITUDE : 0712/I to 1515/I at 1500 feet true altitude.

D. RESULTS : The cruiser was successfully escorted to SANGA-SANGA HARBOR.

E. INFANTRY : Nil.

F. COMBAT TACTICS : Nil.

G. AA FIRE : Nil.

H. PHOTOGRAPHS : Nil.

I. ROUTE AND OBSERVATIONS : Route: Base to 3°48'N - 122°18'E, where convoy was located. The convoy was covered as briefed until it reached harbor at Sanga Sanga.

J. WEATHER : Convoy route: A .3 cumulus base at 2500 feet, visibility unlimited.

K. REMARKS : At 1400/I an emergency call was intercepted on "B" Channel from Leopard 1 B who was calling "Boyhood" on Tarakan Island for Leopard 1 D. Leopard 1 D had been seriously damaged by AA fire during the main strike on Balikpapan and was attempting to reach Sanga-Sanga. Our plane, A/C # 550 (Lt. Reeves, pilot) immediately relayed the message to "Wrecker" at Sanga-Sanga who ordered a Navy PB₄M to the location of bail out at 02°33'N - 118°44'E. The convoy escort having been successfully completed, Lt. Reeves jettisoned his 6 x 325# depth charges outside the harbor at Sanga-Sanga and landed for gas at 1530/I. He realized that Leopard 1 B would not be able to orbit bail out area until the PB₄M (also two PT boats and one crash boat were

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

REMARKS (Contd)

- ordered to the area from Tarakan by Sanga-Sanga control) because of the shortage of gas. Taking off at 1600/I Lt. Reeves arrived near the bail out area and was vectored by Sanga-Sanga to 02°38'N - 118°44'E where, at 1712/I two dye marker slicks were seen. At 1742/I the PBM arrived on the scene and proceeded to pick up a total of seven (7) men, (four in two rafts, two in another and one man in a raft alone). At this time the PT and crash boats arrived on the scene and the PBM took off for Sanga-Sanga. Lt. Reeves remained to assist the surface craft in their search for the remaining two men until 1740/I when darkness made searching impractical. He then returned to base at Morotai.

It was necessary for Lt. Reeves to clear all messages between distressed aircraft, Sanga-Sanga and PBM. His immediate grasp of the situation and subsequent action played a large part in the picking up of the seven crew men.

L. BOMB LOAD

- 6 x 325# depth charges jettisoned outside harbor at Sanga-Sanga.

EDMUND G. GINSANS
Captain, Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer

A/C # 550

Lt. Reeves
Lt. Willis
Lt. Kelly
Lt. Smith, W.T.
Sgt. Dingott
Sgt. Lindquist
Sgt. Melvin
Sgt. Talley