

APO # 718
14 June 1945

NARRATIVE COMBAT REPORT OF MISSION # 307 - 572-B

- A. MISSION NUMBER : 307 - 572-B; 14 June 1945; 424th Bombardment Squadron (H); Six (6) B-24's scheduled with elements of the 370th, 371st and 372nd Squadrons.
- B. TARGET : BALIKPAPAN AA position # 88 (primary target) was bombed by one (1) B-24. (A/C # 545 - Lt. Ansley, pilot)
- SIDATE personnel area (last resort target) was bombed by five (5) B-24's.
- C. TIME & ALTITUDE OF ATTACK : BALIKPAPAN: 1312/I from 15,770 feet true altitude.
- SIDATE: 1542/I to 1548/I from 1,500 to 4,200 feet true altitude.
- D. RESULTS : BALIKPAPAN: Excellent. An estimated 75% of bombs hit within precise target limits. Guns had ceased firing after breakaway.
- SIDATE: Unobserved, due to .9 cloud cover based lower than 500 feet.
- Enemy losses: Undetermined.
- Own damage or loss: A/C # 546 received seven (7) holes from AA fire over BALIKPAPAN.
- E. INTERCEPTION : Nil.
- F. COMBAT TACTICS : Nil.
- G. AA FIRE : Heavy, moderate and accurate, seven holes being received from gun positions in target area. No other gun positions were seen to be firing.
- H. PHOTOGRAPHS : A/C # 844 took eight (8) photographs of last resort target at 1543/I from 4,200 feet altitude.
- A/C # 377 took three (3) photographs of last resort target at 1543/I from 4,150 feet altitude.
- A/C # 180 took two (2) photographs of last resort target at 1545/I from 4,200 feet altitude.

I. ROUTE AND FORMATION

: Around tip of HALMAHERAS to turning point (00° 00' - 124° 00' E) to assembly at CAPE KARANG (00° 40' S - 119° 45' E) where Group Box was formed to turning point (01° 13' S - 117° 00' E) where Squadrons in Trail was formed to I.P. (01° 14½' S - 116° 54½' E) to target. Two (2) passes were made at the primary target which was closed (see WEATHER), only one (1) plane being able to bomb. The five (5) remaining aircraft proceeded to SEPINGGAN personnel area (secondary target) finding it, too, closed in by weather. The planes then proceeded to SIDATE (last resort target).
All aircraft returned direct to base.

OBSERVATIONS

: Nil.

J. WEATHER

: Base to Majoie Island: A 10/10 strato-cumulus at 8,000 feet with .4 cumulus at 2,000 feet with some rain showers.
Gulf of Tomini: A 10/10 strato-cumulus at 8,000 feet with .5 cumulus at 2,000 feet.
Makassar Strait: A 10/10 strato-cumulus at 10,000 feet with .6 cumulus at 3,000 feet.
Primary target: A stratus layer at 20,000 feet, strato-cumulus at 16,000 feet and .5 towering cumulus from 2,000 to 10,000 feet.
Secondary target: A 10/10 strato-cumulus at 16,000 feet with .8 towering cumulus to strato-cumulus formation.
Last resort target: A .9 cumulus formation from 500 feet to 4,000 feet.
Return flight: Essentially as outgoing flight.

K. REMARKS

: The weather thoroughly washed out this mission over all targets. Only one (1) aircraft (# 546 - Lt. Ansley, pilot) was able to drop below the undercast at BALIKPAPAN to hit his target after three (3) runs had been made at the briefed altitude. Both SEPINGGAN and SIDATE were also "socked in" tightly and the bomb hits at the latter went unobserved. Lt. Ansley (A/C # 546) lost # 1 engine due to loss of oil pressure just fifteen (15) minutes after bombs away but returned safely to base, without jettisoning any equipment

Psychological warfare leaflets were dropped over BALIKPAPAN and SIDATE areas.

This squadron was # 4 of the Group.

O-H-V-I-D-E-W-7-I-A-L

L. BOMB LOAD

: 1 X 30 X 100 # frag clusters were dropped over primary target.

5 X 30 X 100 # frag clusters were dropped over last resort target.

Ammunition (50 cal.) was expended in test firing only.

EDMUND G. GIEMANS
Captain, Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

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

APO # 719,
14 June 1945.

LOADING LIST FOR MISSION # 307 - 572: 14 June 1945

A/P # 372

Lt. Clark
Lt. Collins
Lt. Sherman
Lt. Wong
Cpl Clave
Cpl Hale
Cpl Budd
Cpl Coke

A/P # 383

Lt. Moody
Lt. Sunderman
Lt. Schumacher
Lt. Seddon
Sgt Blessin
Sgt Kreczko
Sgt Yuhass
Sgt Berner

A/P # 844

Lt. Newman
Lt. Belts
Lt. Gandolfi
Lt. Balestra
Sgt Luckett
Sgt Joleniewski
Sgt Chambliss
Sgt Gerry
Sgt Heilman

A/P # 377

Lt. Forke
Lt. Hrstka
Lt. Brannon
Lt. Lenser
Sgt Batten
Sgt Randle
Sgt Kalczynski
Sgt Carlisle
Sgt Benedetti

A/P # 180

Lt. Thrasher
Lt. Peacl
Lt. Stiglmair
Lt. Strasburg
Sgt Creasy
Sgt Kelly, J.
Sgt Echols
Sgt Visconti
Sgt Sheets

A/P # 546

Lt. Ansley
Lt. Colby
Lt. Stebbins
Lt. Shilling
Sgt Chaychis
Sgt Watson
Sgt Saparcw
Sgt Bernard