

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

HEADQUARTERS 307TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
Office of the Intelligence Officer

JBS/gm

APO # 324  
17 May 1944.

138/B

CONSOLIDATED MISSION REPORT NO. 307-261

**DATE OF MISSION** : 17 May 1944.

**MISSION** : This Gp with four (4) Sqdns of six (6) airplanes each will strike medium AA positions at Mandon medium and heavy AA positions at Bosnek and the Soriori supply area (Biak Island).

**PLAN OF ATTACK** : A loss of 500 ft of altitude will be accomplished just prior to the IP. The IP for the 424th, 371st and 372nd Sqdns is  $01^{\circ}10'S - 136^{\circ}20'E$  and the 370th Sqdn is  $01^{\circ}03'S - 136^{\circ}20'E$ . Upon a "Yawing" of the Gp leaders airplane the Sqdns will assume a Gp formation of Sqdns javelin down in trail in the following order; 424th leading, 371st second, 372nd third with flights javelin down within the Sqdns for the bombing formation on a mag heading of  $266^{\circ}$ . The 370th Sqdn with flights javelin down will attack their target in trail of the others Sqdns on a mag heading of  $245^{\circ}$ . The lead bombardiers of each Sqdn will sight for range and deflection all other bombardiers will sight for range only. The bombing run will be made at an ind. airspeed of 165 mph. The bomb interval for each Sqdn will be as follows:

Sqdn	Bomb	15	20	30	40
424th	Frag	80'	60'	40'	30'
371st A	Frag	50'	40'	25'	20'
371st B	100# M50	50'	40'	25'	20'
372nd	100# M50	60'	40'	30'	20'
370th	100# M50	150'	120'	75'	60'

**ESCORT** : None scheduled.

**BOMB LOAD** : Each of 7 airplanes carried 30 x 100# GP bombs instantaneously fused.  
Each of 3 airplanes carried 20 x 100# GP bombs instantaneously fused.  
Each of 6 airplanes carried 30 x 100# frag clusters.  
Each of 2 " " 40 x 100# frag " "  
One airplane carried 9 x 500# GP bombs instantaneously fused.  
One " " 40 x 100# GP bombs " "  
One " " 25 x 100# GP bombs " "  
One " " 38 x 100# GP bombs " "  
Total 375 x 100# GP bombs  
280 x 100# frag clusters  
9 x 500# GP bombs.

**TARGET ATTACKED** : Medium AA positions at Mandon, medium and heavy AA positions at Bosnek Soriori Supply Area.

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**AIRPLANES EMPLOYED** : 21 of 22 scheduled Liberators:  
 6 from the 424th Squadron on Mandon AA positions.  
 6 " " 371st " " Bosnek AA "  
 2 " " 372nd " " " " "  
 5 " " 370th " " Sorori Supplu Area.

**TAKE OFF** : From Mokerang between 0634 - 0657/K 17 May 1944.

**ROUTE** : Koruniat Island to Mangosandi Island to the Ip to target. Base route altitude will be 8000 ft and airspeed will be 158 mph. ind. Climb to bombing altitude will begin opposite Cape D'Urville.

**WEATHER** : 3/10 to 5/10 cumulus, tops 7,000' with scattered towering cumulus tops 12,000' to 14,000' to and from target. Over target 6/10 low scattered cumulus, with large cumulus over target areas.

**FORMATION EMPLOYED**: Javelin down within squadrons.

**TIME, HEADINGS AND ALTITUDE OF ATTACK** : Mandon: At 1105K from 12,000 - 12,725' True on a mag heading 266°.  
 Bosnek: Between 1105 - 1108K from 11,500 - 12,000' True on mag headings of 266° to 270°.  
 Between 1113 - 1115K from 11,050 to 11,130' True on mag headings from 48° to 58°.

**BOMBS DROPPED** : Soriori:  
 70 x 100# GP bombs on target  
 50 x 100# " " in water

Bosnek:  
 90 x 100# frag clusters on target  
 100x 100# GP bombs just N of target  
 25 x 100# GP bombs on target  
 93 x 100# GP bombs in water

Mandon:  
 9 x 500# GP bombs on target  
 170 x 100# frag clusters on target

5 x 100# GP bombs salvaged  
 80x 100# returned to base (GPbombs)

Total carried 373 x 100# GP bombs  
 260 x 100# frag clusters  
 9 x 500 GP bombs

**BOMB RELEASE PROCEDURE** : Lead and flight bombardiers of each squadron sighted for range and deflection using the following aiming points:  
 At Soriori: Buildings at East end of target  
 At Bosnek: Junction of East jetty with shore, and N-S row of trees just West of East Jetty.  
 At Mandon: Row of trees at Eastern edge of target area.  
 Wing bombardiers sighted for range only. Bombing runs were made at an average ground speed of 205 mph.

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**BOMB HITS OBSERVED** : At location: 9 quarter tonners walked East to West through gun positions, 170 frag clusters throughout eastern half of target.

At Bosnek: One string of centuries started at East jetty and walked through target area, three other century strings observed to hit in and around AA positions, three strings of centuries hit just North of AA positions.

At Sorcari: 60 one hundred pounders in a pattern which began at center of target area near shoreline and walked northeast across buildings located at East end of target.

**RESULTS** : Cloud cover over all targets generally obscured observation of bombing results. One small fire was observed at Sorcari.

**AA FIRE** : Heavy, very slight, inaccurate AA was received from Sorcari. No AA fire was received by any other elements of this Group.

**ENEMY INTERCEPTION** : Nil.

**DAMAGE OR LOSS** : A/C #262 was holed by AA in the leading edge of the left horizontal stabilizer.

**OBSERVATIONS** :

1. West pier of Bosnek was afire.
2. 3 heavy AA guns observed firing from center of woods 800 ft N.N.W. of the East jetty. No AA fire was reported being received by this squadron or the other squadron of this Group assigned the same target. Other friendly planes reported in the area may have been the target of this fire.
3. No buildings appeared intact in Bosnek village.
4. Five possible personnel or supply areas, rectangular in form, were seen in center of Biak at 1°00'S - 136°00'E. Roads and buildings of undetermined size were observed.
5. A clearing with shacks in the process of being built was observed 2 miles East of Manerware village on the East coast of Biak at 1°05'S - 136°16'E.

**RADIO DISCIPLINE** : Maintained except for "in flight" reports.

**PHOTOGRAPHS** : Were taken.

**BOMB RATING** : Excellent, in accordance with 13th AAF Directive.

**LANDINGS** : At Mokerang between 1645 - 1650K, 17 May 1944.

**REMARKS**

1. A/C #372, pilot Lt. Coleman, turned back fifteen minutes after take off because of a failure in the aircraft's electrical system.
2. Cloud cover over Sorcari prevented the 370th hitting that target on its original run as briefed. A 180° turn was made West of Sorcari and, the target being found open from this angle, a second, successful, run was made.
3. 5 bombs were salvaged by A/C #212, 2000 ft West of West Bosnek pier due to a rack malfunction.

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Ass't. Intell. Officer.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

Group Commander  
All squadrons  
13th Air Task Force  
File.

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