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

JS/ejl

APO 717 Unit 1,  
27 April 1944.

CONSOLIDATED MISSION REPORT NO. 307-249

DATE : 27 April 1944.

MISSION : This Group with two Squadrons of B-24 airplanes will stage from Ocean Field, Green Island to attack Eten Island installations and Dublon Town from 0300L to 0403L, 27 April 1944.

PLAN OF ATTACK: Airplanes will attack singly at three minute intervals. Each airplane will lose 500 feet in altitude prior to the bomb run. The IP of the first, third, fifth, seventh, ninth and eleventh airplane of each sqdn is the East shore of UMAN ISLAND. The IP of the second, fourth, sixth, eighth, tenth and twelfth airplane of each sqdn is the West shore of UMAN ISLAND. The bomb interval will be 200 feet for Magnesium clusters and 250 feet for the 500 lb Demolition bombs. The bombing run will be made at an ind. air speed of 165 mph.

ESCORTE : None scheduled.

BOMB LOAD : Each of 7 airplanes carried 6 x 500 lb Magnesium clusters.  
Each of 12 airplanes carried 6 x 500 lb GP bombs instantaneously fused.  
Total carried: 42 x 500 Magnesium clusters.  
72 x 500 GP bombs.

TARGETS ATTACKED: 6 airplanes attacked Dublon Town.  
4 airplanes attacked Eten Island.  
3 airplanes attacked unidentified Islands in the Truk Atoll.  
1 airplane destroyed over target.  
3 airplanes turned back.

19 aircraft - Total.

AIRPLANES EMPLOYED: 19 scheduled Liberators, 10 from the 372nd Squadron and 9 from the 424th Squadron.

TAKE OFF : All airplanes took off from Ocean Field, Green Island between 2220L and 2341L, 26 April 1944.

ROUTE : From Green Island on a course of 349° True to Truk Atoll. Return direct to Munda.

WEATHER : Solid front with heavy rain and turbulence encountered from 2°S to the equator. 9/10 low cover with towering cumulus from the equator to 2°N. Front with heavy turbulence

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and lighter rain from 2°N to 4°20'N. 4/10 coverage with some towering cumulus to target. 3/10 coverage over target. 4/10 coverage on way back to 4°30'N then a front with heavy rain and severe turbulence to 1°30'S. 8/10 cumulus with high stratus and about 7/10 cover from 1°30'S to base.

FORMATION EMPLOYED: Each aircraft attacked singly.

TIME, ALTITUDE & HEADINGS OF ATTACK : From 9,700 to 14,900 feet True between 0310J and 0443L on Dublin Town with magnetic headings from 200° to 40°. From 11,500 to 15,000 feet True between 0322L and 0345L on Eten Island with magnetic headings from 200° to 250°. The times, altitudes and headings of the three attacks on unidentified points in the Truk Atoll vary considerably.

BOMBS DROPPED : On Dublin Town: 24 x 500# Magnesium clusters.  
24 x 500 GP bombs instantaneously fuzed.

On Eten Island: 6 x 500# Magnesium clusters.  
16 x 500# GP bombs instantaneously fuzed.

On Unidentified: 16 x 500# GP bombs instantaneously fuzed.  
Targets

Returned to base: 6 x 500# Magnesium clusters.  
12 x 500# GP bombs instantaneously fuzed.

6 x 500# Magnesium clusters in aircraft destroyed over target.

Total carried: 42 x 500# Magnesium clusters.  
72 x 500# GP bombs instantaneously fuzed.

BOMB RELEASE PROCEDURE : Each bombardier sighted for range and deflection. Specific aiming points for release on Dublin Town were the Island shoreline and fires in the town and seaplane base; on Eten Island, the shoreline was used as an aiming point. Bomb interval was 200 feet for magnesium clusters and 250 feet for 500 lb demolition bombs. Bomb run was made at an average speed of 187 mph.

BOMB HITS OBSERVED: Numerous hits with incendiaries on Eten Island - several GP bomb hits on Eten Island runway. On Dublin Island both magnesium and GP bomb hits were observed in the sea plane base area, tank farm area and in the central part of Dublin Town. No hits were observed by the 3 airplanes bombing unidentified islands.

BOMBING RESULTS : Several small and one large fire were noted on Eten Island. Large fires with orange and red flames and many explosions were observed in the tank farm on Dublin Island. Smaller fires were seen in the sea plane base and central part of Dublin Town. Fires were observed on both Fefan and Moen Is-

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lands by some of the last crews over the target - these may be the results of the planes that bombed unidentified islands.

AA FIRE AND  
SEARCHLIGHTS

: Heavy and medium AA moderate to meager and generally inaccurate was reported on both Eten and Dublon. However, aircraft #703, pilot, Lt. Peters was shot down in flames by reported AA fire at 10,000 feet while he was illuminated by searchlights. No crew members were observed to parachute. No other damage was sustained by aircraft or personnel from AA fire.

Up to 30 searchlights were reported in the general Truk area, 10-14 on Dublon, approximately 5 on Eten; they were generally accurate - in one instance holding an aircraft for 10 minutes and seemed to be operating in batteries of 3 or 4 lights.

## ENEMY INTERCEPTION:

: Eleven crews reported presence of twin and single engine night fighters. 3 were made by twin engine night fighters but no damage was sustained by the Liberators. When aircraft #134, Pilot, Lt. Baldwin, was caught by searchlights, 4 twin engine night fighters were in the vicinity. Only one pass was made, closing to within 50 yards from 7 o'clock below. The ball turret gunner Sgt. W.D. Miller fired one long burst and the enemy aircraft started to lose altitude with the right engine on fire. When at about 6,000 feet, the enemy aircraft seemed to be totally enveloped in flames. This was confirmed by members of aircraft #235 pilot, Lt. Fraker, who reported seeing tracers enter the enemy aircraft and the airplane go down in flames. The other three night fighters followed Lt. Baldwin's air lane out of the target signaling to each other with amber lights; they made no attempt to close.

## OBSERVATIONS

: One aircraft picked up Truk radio on 340 Kc and Satawan radio on 570 Kc. The Satawan radio was transmitting 3 long dashes.

## RADIO DISCIPLINE

: Maintained except for the following:  
1. 2027 to 0021 at 0545L: "First target bombed 0400L numerous fires and explosions seen. Unidentified aircraft seen to explode over target - weather over target fair to bad. EPA 1025L."

## PHOTOGRAPHS

: None taken.

## BOMB RATING

: Although no rating under the Thirteenth Air Force directive can be given this mission, it is considered to have achieved notable results.

## REMARKS

: 1. Lt. Shellenberger, AP# 212, landed at Green Island immediately after take off due to mechanical difficulties. This crew has not been interrogated as yet.

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2. Lt. Kouzie, AP# 119 returned to Green Island due to mechanical failure. This crew also has not been interrogated.
3. Lt. Swift, AP# 101 returned to Green Island when the pilot became ill.
4. Due to incomplete information at the time of transmitting the secondary flash report, the number of aircraft reported as taking off from Green Island was 18; it was later determined 19 aircraft took off, of which 15 bombed targets in the Truk Atoll and one was lost over the target.

LANDINGS

All aircraft landed at Munda between 0910L and 1210L, with the exception of the two aircraft noted under "Remarks 1 and 2."

JOSEPH G. SPANDART,  
Capt., Air Corps,  
Actg. Asst. Intell. Officer.

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372nd Squadron:

Link	770
Peters	703
Carson	792
Challenger	212
Grizzle	096
Corries	277
Sawyer	250
Rouze	119
Colman	863
Praker	235
Baldwin	134

42th Squadron:

Peopke	809
Scott	215
Vidmar	827
Lewis	264
Roblok	273
Hamilton	111
Kasstner	456
Binder	114
Spift	101