

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

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

WBD/gm/geo

APO# 719  
13 July 1944CONSOLIDATED MISSION REPORT NO. 307-302

**DATE OF MISSION** : 13 July 1944.

**MISSION** : This Group with four (4) six (6) plane squadrons, will attack  
IP Town, YAP ISLAND, at 1150/K, 13 July 1944.

**PLAN OF ATTACK** : Prior to reaching the IP a loss of 500 ft in altitude will be ac-  
complished. The Squadrons will bomb in trail with flights jave-  
lin down within Squadrons. The 372nd Squadron will proceed over  
the target first with 424th, 370th and 371st Squadrons follow-  
ing in trail in that order. Lead bombardiers of each Squadron will  
sight for range and deflection; all other bombardiers for range  
only. The bombing airspeed will be 160 MPH (I). The bomb inter-  
val will be: 6 stations - 240 ft; 7 stations - 200 ft; for all  
Squadrons.

**Attack Altitudes:** 372nd Squadron - 13,900 ft.  
424th Squadron - 13,600 ft.  
370th Squadron - 13,300 ft.  
371st Squadron - 13,000 ft.

**Bomb Aiming Points:** For all Squadrons! Deflection - A line run-  
ning slightly W of fork in first road S of E causeway and run-  
ning along E shore road 750 ft S of E causeway.  
Range - A line running  
on and parallel to the second road S of E causeway.

**Withdrawal:** A right turn will be made off the target at 170 MPH.  
The normal box formation will be resumed after bombs away.

**Alternate Target:** Secondary - Best available on YAP ISLAND.  
Tertiary - Enemy installations on SOROL ISL

**SCORT** : None scheduled.

**BOMB LOAD** : Each of 15 planes carried 7 x 500# GP bombs.  
Each of 8 planes carried 6 x 500# GP bombs.  
One plane carried 10 x 250# GP bombs.  
All bombs were instantaneously fused.  
Total Carried: 153 x 500# bombs.  
10 x 250# bombs.

**TARGETS ATTACKED** : South YAP Town, YAP ISLAND and SOROL ISLAND.

**AIRPLANES EMPLOYED** : Collaborators six each from the 370th, 371st, 372nd and 424th  
Squadrons. 20 planes bombed the primary target and 4 planes  
bombed SOROL ISLAND Radio Station area.

**TAKE OFF** : MOKERANG, at 0550 - 0700/K, 13 July 1944.

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

- 1 -

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

ROUTE : MOKERANG to SOROL ISLAND to IP (09°25'N - 138°11'E) to target. The route altitude was 8,000 ft base. The route airspeed was 157 MPH. Return route was direct to base.

WEATHER : From base to target, .3 - .4 scattered cumulus undercast with 2000 - 5000 ft tops and .1 - .3 cirrus overcast based at 11,000'. Over target, .4 scattered cumulus with tops at 4000 - 12,000 ft, and high cirrus overcast at 20,000 ft; From target to 1°15'N, .3 - .4 scattered cumulus with 5000 ft tops. Frontal conditions, with turbulence and rain, lay between 01°15'N - 00°55'S to base. .3 - .4 towering cumulus with 10,000 ft tops.

FORMATION EMPLOYED : Squadrons in trail, and javelin down within Squadrons.

TIME, ALTITUDE & AIMING OF : Primary target was bombed at 1225 - 1229/K from a true altitude of 13,700 - 14,800 ft, on a magnetic heading of 330 - 345°. Radio Station area, SOROL ISLAND, was bombed at 1122 - 1209/K, from a true altitude of 4,200 - 7,600 ft, on magnetic heading varying from 30° to 259°.

BOMBS DROPPED : 125 x 500# bombs were dropped over primary target.  
10 x 250# bombs were dropped over primary target.  
27 x 500# bombs were dropped over SOROL ISLAND.  
1 x 500# bombs was jettisoned.  
(125 x 500# bombs)  
(10 x 250# bombs) Total Carried.

BOMB RELEASE PROCEDURE : All lead Squadron bombardiers sighted for range and deflection; All other bombardiers sighted for range only.

SQUADRON	GROUND SPEED	INTERVAL	AIMING POINTS
372nd	195 - 215 MPH	3 x 200' 2 x 240' 1 slavo	R&D: Building on E-W road just N of bend in coast road, in primary target.
424th	182 - 196 MPH	2 x 240' 1 x 200' 1 x 210' 2 x 50'	R&D: Same as 372nd Squadron primary target. R&D: Radio Station and building N of Radio Station, SOROL ISLAND.
370th	195-210 MPH	4 x 200' 1 x 240' 1 x indiv-R&D	R&D: 200' S of bend in coast road S end of primary target. R&D: Radio Station SOROL ISLAND. individual runs
371st	202-217 MPH	3 x 200' 2 x 240' 1 x 50'	R&D: Same as 370th Squadron, primary target. R&D: Pier W of Radio Station, SOROL ISLAND.

BOMB HITS OBSERVED : An excellent pattern blanketed the primary target. All bombs hit within the assigned target, except for approximately six in the water and four bombs which hit in the central portion of N Y&P Town. At SOROL ISLAND, bombs were observed to hit near the pier and near the buildings NW of the Radio Station.

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

- 2 -

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

## RESULTS

: One large fire was observed in the S end and a large explosion and fire was seen near the road junction at the N end of the primary target. The B.O.P. was believed to have received a direct hit. Heavy smoke covered the entire area. A fire was also observed in the central portion of N YAP Town. One of the buildings located NW of the Radio Station at SOROL SOROL ISLAND was hit, followed by an explosion and black smoke.

SPECIAL  
CONDITION  
EFFECTING  
RESULTS

: None.

## AA FIRE

: Heavy and medium, slight, inaccurate AA fire was received. The heavy AA fire was high and the medium AA fire was low.

ENEMY  
INTERCEPTION

: 15 - 15 enemy fighters closed with our formation about five minutes before the bomb run and attacked for 40 minutes. They consisted of 1 Tony (dirty silver in color), 1 possible Raidon or Tojo (reddish brown in color), 6-7 Hamps, and the remainder were Zekes.

Frontal attacks, both level and high, predominated, with several high 6 o'clock passes noted by the rear planes of the formation. Tagger attacks were pressed to 100 - 200 ft in some cases, while the others were broken off at 200 - 500 yards. Only a few beam attacks were noted.

Approximately 30 phosphorous bombs were dropped with accuracy on the Group formation. Several planes flew through the streamers of these bombs. A few were reported as having black bursts. Five E/A were destroyed.

A/C #549, Capt. Dixon, pilot (A-1, 372nd Squadron)

S/Sgt Biggerstaff, nose gunner, scored a kill on a Zeke attacking from 11 o'clock and high, closing to about 200 yards. The Zeke rolled over and the pilot bailed out. Confirmed by S/Sgt Holt, tail gunner.

A/C #542, Lt. Dryer, pilot (A-2, 372nd Squadron):

Sgt. M.L. Hinohey, nose gunner, caught a Zeke in his gunfire as it attacked from 12 o'clock and level. It closed to 100 yards, where part of the engine cowling flew off, an explosion occurred in the cockpit, and the plane fell off in a dive and crashed in the water. Sgt. Dunley, ball gunner, witnessed the crash.

A/C #455, Lt. Katos, pilot (A-1, 371st Squadron):

Sgt. Ginter, top turret gunner, knocked down a Zeke attacking from 12 o'clock and level. This E/A closed to 150 - 200 yards where it parted company with its wing section. Both the wing and the plane was seen to crash in the water off the South tip of YAP ISLAND by Lt. Clark, bombardier, on the same crew.

A/C # 075, Lt. Dufur, pilot (A-3, 370th Squadron):

S/Sgt. Illingworth, top-turret gunner, laced a Zeke as it closed to 250 yards from 3 o'clock and high. The E/A fell off and exploded in the air, as witnessed by S/Sgt Wiatrowski, right waist gunner, on the same crew.

A/C #609, Lt. Ball, pilot (370th Squadron):

Sgt. Adair, pilot, and Sgt. Marshall, ball gunner, in A/C #857

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

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

(371st Squadron) reported that S/Sgt Zeltmann, top-turret gunner of A/C# 609, knocked down a Zeke as it attacked from 8 o'clock and high. They observed S/Sgt Zeltmann to fire at the E/A, and the Zeke to crash into the ocean. A/C# 609 later crashed (see Damage, Injury or Loss).

## DAMAGE OR LOSS

A/C# 609, Lt. Ball, pilot, crashed into the ocean at 08°48'N - 138°50'E between 1250 and 1255/K as result of E/A fire. Normal crew compliment of ten men were aboard. This plane lost #1 engine just after making the turn off the bomb run. The plane slowed its speed and it was immediately attacked by 5 - 6 E/A. #2 engine then began to smoke and began losing altitude rapidly, and finally crashed. Two men were observed in the water, one trying to get into a partially inflated life raft, and the other within a few feet of the raft. The plane floated for 3 - 4 minutes, but broke up, and much debris (bomb bay tank, oxygen bottles, etc) was in the area. Four planes were holed by E/A fire, one plane was slightly damaged by a phosphorous bomb, and two planes received small holes from AA fire.

## OBSERVATIONS

1. One small AK was seen in the cove North of North YAP Town. Two barges at pier in South YAP Town.
2. A possible SS was observed in the vicinity of, and heading for the place where A/C# 609 crashed. This was observed as the formation made a 360° turn to cover the wrecked plane.
4. Several crews reported seeing two E/A release silver colored objects resembling auxiliary gasoline tanks during the interception. Further identification or description could not be made.

RADIO DISCIPLINE : Maintained.

## PHOTOGRAPHS

Were taken and preliminary interpretation shows:

1. Excellent photos show 91 bursts in the target area out of 125 x 500# and 10 x 250# bombs dropped.
2. The largest concentration of bombs fell along the East coast starting at a point 1000 yards South of the inlet and walking to the South edge of the inlet.
3. Three large explosions are observed along the coast road scattering debris far out into the water. At least four buildings in the vicinity of the officers barracks area received direct hits. Smoke obscures further damage assessment.
4. One string of bombs fell in a North-South train 500 yards West of the East shore starting at a point 1000 yards South of the inlet and walking to the South edge of the inlet.
5. 11 bursts are observed in the water, 8 along the East shore and 3 in the inlet.
6. 4 bombs fell on the hill in the center of YAP Town causing one explosion.
7. 4 bursts are observed along the wharf on the South shore of the inlet.

## SOROL ISLAND.

Incomplete photo coverage of bombs dropped show 8 splashes in the water off the East shore of SOROL ISLAND.

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

## CONFIDENTIAL

3043 MATING : Excellent in accordance with 13 AAF Directive, dated 27 August 1943

LEADING : At HOKURANG, at 1834 - 1900/- 13 July 1944.

A/c #273 (F/O Toaguo, pilot) bombed SOROL ISLAND because an excessive gasoline consumption enroute to rendezvous made doubtful the probability of hitting primary target and returning safely to base.

A/c #264, (Lt. Wheeler, pilot) was one hour late in taking off (caused by change of planes just prior to scheduled take-off) and was unable to catch the formation. He bombed SOROL ISLAND.

A/c #545, (Lt. Zimmerle, pilot) took off one hour late because originally scheduled plane failed to check out, necessitating a change of planes. He was unable to catch the formation and bombed SOROL ISLAND.

A/c #610, Lt. Covington, pilot) had a short circuit in the inter-  
phone system and an inoperative nose turret enroute to target,  
and bombed SOROL ISLAND.

A/c #101, (Lt. Guild, pilot) jettisoned 1 x 300# bomb enroute to target in order to keep up with formation.

WORTH B. DUFFELI  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
Asst. Intell. Officer.

## DISTRIBUTION:

Group Commander	1 copy
Squadrons	1 copy each
XIII Bomber Command	22 copies
Statistical Officer	1 copy
Ops	5 copies
Operations	1 copy