

T A C T I C A L S T U D Y  
O F  
A T T A C K

B Y  
F I R S T L I E U T E N A N T  
J O H N E . S B I S A

NINETIETH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (D), AAF  
THIRD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (D)  
Office of the Intelligence Officer

10 March, 1943.

TACTICAL STUDY OF ATTACK

- A. Sketch attached.
- B. March 3, 1943, 1015/L., 60 miles east of Salamaua.
- C. Attack vessel - 5,000 ton cargo vessel, two masted and one stack. Course generally west, speed 5 knots; evasive action, slight turn toward attack.
- D. Own tactics - Started attack from 800 ft. altitude down to 10 ft. Speed: 190 MPH to 230 MPH; direction: Northwest.
- E. Actual attack - Speed: 230 MPH; altitude: 20 ft. Strafed on way in, employing moderate jinking, came in directly broadside, going between mast. Bombing tactics: Selected all three bombs to be dropped; gunner reported bombs dropped and direct hit scored. Rear gunner strafed as we went away. On return to base it was found that there was a bomb release failure and bombs failed to drop.
- F. Withdrawal - Stayed low for short while, then climbed to 1,000 ft. and made way toward coast.
- G. 8 00 times .50 cal.
- H. 1. None observed.  
2. One A-20 seen to score direct hit on cargo vessel from minimum altitude.
- I. Enemy aircraft observed: None.
- J. 1. Malfunctioning of own equipment - Complete bomb release failure; jamming on about half the forward firing guns. Aircraft rather slow.  
2. Attack evaluated - Successful if surprise and great number of aircraft in coordinated attack be employed as was effected in this mission.  
3. Other comments - It is our opinion that hereafter the enemy will fit their surface vessels likely to be attacked with considerable more protection against low flying aircraft.

F/S: R. H. Guthrie (CP) RAAF  
Sgt. R. W. Harrell (G)  
Sgt. A. McDonald RAAF (RG)

s/ JOHN E. SBISA,  
t/ JOHN E. SBISA,  
1st Lt. Air Corps,  
Pilot.



Surface Vessels Observed  
March 3, 1943 1015/L

Pilot - John E. Sbisà, 1st Lt., AC  
Co-pilot - Robert H. Guthrie, F/Sgt RAAF  
Gunner - R. V. Harrel, Sgt  
Radio Gunner - Alister L. McDonald, F/Sgt, RAAF