TACTICAL STUDY OF ATTACK

BY

FIRST LIEUTENANT

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10 March, 1943.

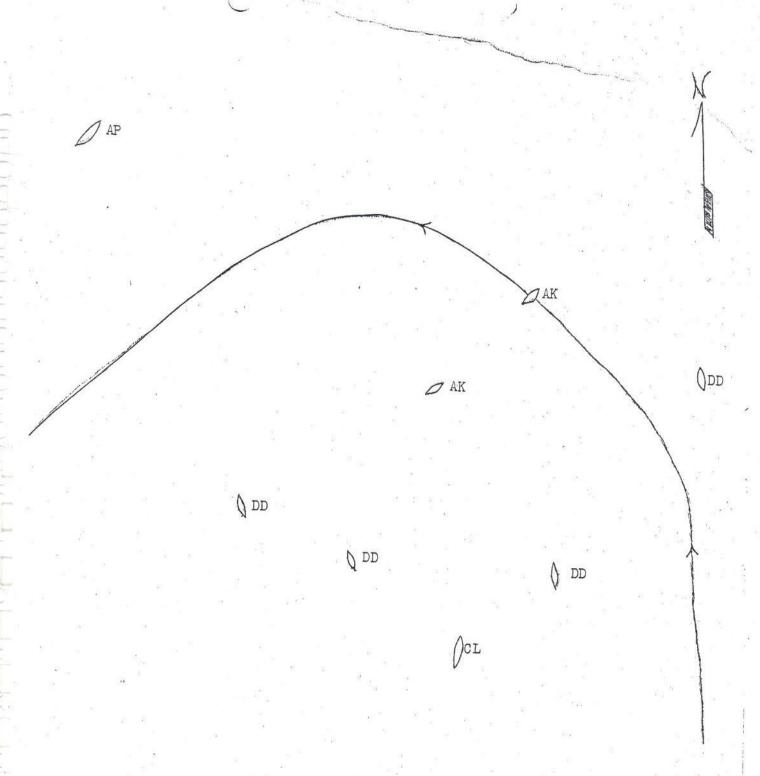
TACTICAL STUDY OF ATTACK

- A. Sketch attached.
- 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 mest. 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.
- 8 00 times .50 cal. G.
- H. 1: None observed.
 - One A-20 seen to score direct hit on cargo vessel from minimum altitude.
- Enemy aircraft observed: None.
- 1. Malfunctioning of own equipment Complete bomb release failure; jamming on about half the forward firing guns. Aircraft rather slow.
 - 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)



Surface Vessels Observed
March 3, 1943 1015/L

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