

T A C T I C A L S T U D Y

O F

A T T A C K S O N C O N V O Y

S U B M I T T E D B Y

C A P T A I N

J E R O M E B . W I S S

THIRD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (D) AAF
APO 929

March 11, 1943.

SUBJECT: Outline of tactical study of convoy 2-4 March as submitted in inclosed basic communication.

TO: Intelligence Officer, Headquarters, V Bomber Command, APO 929.

1. Attached sketched map of target and/or targets.
 - a. Attached are sketches of convoy with targets of B25s and vessels seen to have been targets of other aircraft in attack.
2. Date, time, place of action.
 - a. The attack took place at approximately 1515/L3 at 0645S, 14820E. The attacking aircraft were 5 B25s led by Flight Leader Joseph R. McWhirt accompanied by Lt. Christiansen, Lt. Cline, Lt. Bromage, and Lt. Payne. Attached is an outline exactly as submitted by Asst. A-2, 3rd Bomb Group (D).
3. Description of attached vessels.
 - a. Position in relation to other vessels.
Most Northerly vessel in convoy.
 - b. Type.
Large DD or CL
 - c. Approx. tonnage.
2500-4000 tons.
 - d. Speed, course.
30 knots, North.
 - e. Anti-aircraft -- accuracy, intensity, caliber, source.
Heavy, moderate, inaccurate from DD No. 1, DD No. 2, and DD No. 3
 - f. Evasive Action.
Circling at high speed.
4. Detailed account of approach tactics of attacking aircraft.
 - a. Altitude.
5500 ft
 - b. Speed (I.A.S.) enroute to target
190 mph.
 - c. Line of Flight
North.
 - d. Evasive action employed.
Made complete 360° turn over DD No. 3 just prior to run on DD No. 2.
5. Detailed account of attack tactics of attacking aircraft.
 - a. Altitude
5500 ft
 - b. Speed (I.A.S.).
200 mph.
 - c. Strafing technique
None
 - d. Bombing technique
Medium altitude V formation, minimum interval. Just prior to bombing run, split into 2 elements. 2 aircraft proceeded directly to target, 3 aircraft flew slightly to East and both elements bombed simultaneously.

- e. Results observed.
At least 4 direct hits (photos taken), many near misses.
 - f. Evasive action.
None.
6. Detailed account of withdrawal tactics of attacking aircraft.
- a. Speed (I.A.S.) and course.
240 mph West South West
 - b. Altitude.
5500 to 4000 ft.
 - c. Evasive tactics.
Diving turns.
7. Armament employed.
- a. Number, weight, type, fusing of bombs dropped.
25 x 500 inst. demo.
 - b. Type and number of rounds of ammunition expended.
Nil.
8. Observations.
- a. In target area.
5 unidentified vessels stationary burning fiercely with large clouds of smoke rising to 3000 ft (photos taken). Observed 1 group of 3 or 4 Zekes being engaged by P-38s several thousand feet above and to the East of target and another group of what appeared to be Oscar's in the same general location.
 - b. Results of attacks by other allied aircraft.
While making run observed 1 element of 3 B-17s above and in front of B25s heading North drop bombs 7 to 10 seconds before B25s bombed same DD or CL. Bombs all were short of target by 50 to 100 yds or more. Almost simultaneously with above observed another element of 3 B17s make several direct hits on CL or DD No. 2 to East and South of target. On withdrawing from target observed stationary DD or CL No. 3 receiving several direct hits on bow from B25s of 38th Bomb Group followed by 1 direct hit by a B 25 from 90th Squadron skip-bombing and finally same vessel being strafed by A20s of the 22nd Squadron RAAF.
9. Enemy Aircraft (by types) observed.
- a. Enemy tactics employed.
None
 - b. If attacked, own evasive or counter-tactics.
None
10. Generalizations and opinions of pilot
- a. Malfunctioning of own equipment, Armament, Control flight equipment, etc.
None
 - b. Principles of approach, attack, or withdrawal evolved.
Described above in paragraphs 4, 5, and 6.
 - c. Recommendations for future operations.
Tactics used were successful, but there seemed to be too many of our Aircraft over target at same time.
 - d. Unusual occurrences observed and experienced.
Nil.

For the Squadron Commander:

/s/ JEROME B. WISS;
/t/ JEROME B. WISS,
Intelligence Officer.

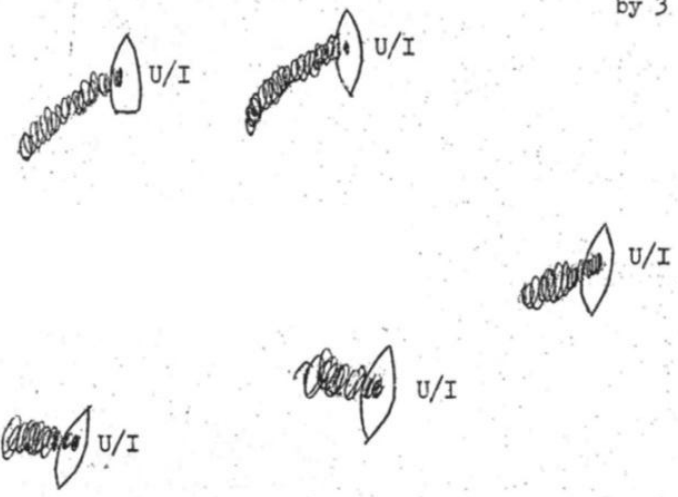


12 to 15 miles

Hit by 90th Sq }
skip bombing }
Stationary }
{ 1 string of bombs
on bow }
{ B-25's of 38th GP }
Strafed by A-20's }
of }
{ 12 to 22nd Australian Sq }
15 miles

Missed by
3 B-17's
DD
or # 1
CL
4 direct hits.
Several near misses
by 5 B-25's, 13 Sq

Stopped here
DD
or # 2
CL
3 or 4 direct hits
by 3 B-17's



12 to 15 miles

