

REPORT OF CONVOY

Pilot: Capt. Beck.

Rear Gunner: S/Sgt. J. Fox.

1. Attached hereto is sketch-map of convoy, as seen by pilot at time of attack.

2. Date: March 3, 1943.

Location: Approximately 0710S-14750E.

Time: 1000/L.

3. Attack made on AK No. 1 approximately 3-5,000 tons, while ship was travelling at 3-7 knots, following a course of 235°. Attack was made broadside amidship. Strafing was begun at maximum gun range and continued until A/C has passed over ship. Approach to the AK made at mast height, and the A/C was never at any time over 200 feet above the water. The bombs failed to release while in the bombing run over the AK. Due to this bomb-release failure, Captain Beck sought another ship in order that he might make another bomb run. His second attack was made on DD No. 2, this DD on sighting the attacking A/C, began a series of maneuvers to bring the ship in such a position to force a broadside attack. Captain Beck, likewise, maneuvered his plane to avoid this, and was successful in making the attack along the DD from stem to stern, attacking just above mast height. The DD was strafed during the entire attack. Again the bombs failed to release.

4. We have included under paragraph 3 the approach tactics of our A/C in making his attack.

During these attacks our A/C travelled at a speed of 230 miles per hour.

Captain Beck did a series of zomes and dives as evasive action, and was not at any time over 200 feet above the water level.

5. No enemy A/C were observed.

6. No enemy A/C tactics were observed.

7. 200 x .50 - 800 x .30 calibre ammunition expended in strafing runs on AK No. 1 and DD No. 2. Bombs failed to release.

8. Observations: Explosion seen on strafed DD No. 2 about 15 seconds after strafing attack, believed to have been result of strafing.

AK No. 3 - fire observed coming from forward hold.

AK No. 4 - appeared to be standing perfectly still.

U/I ship No. 5 - observed to be sinking

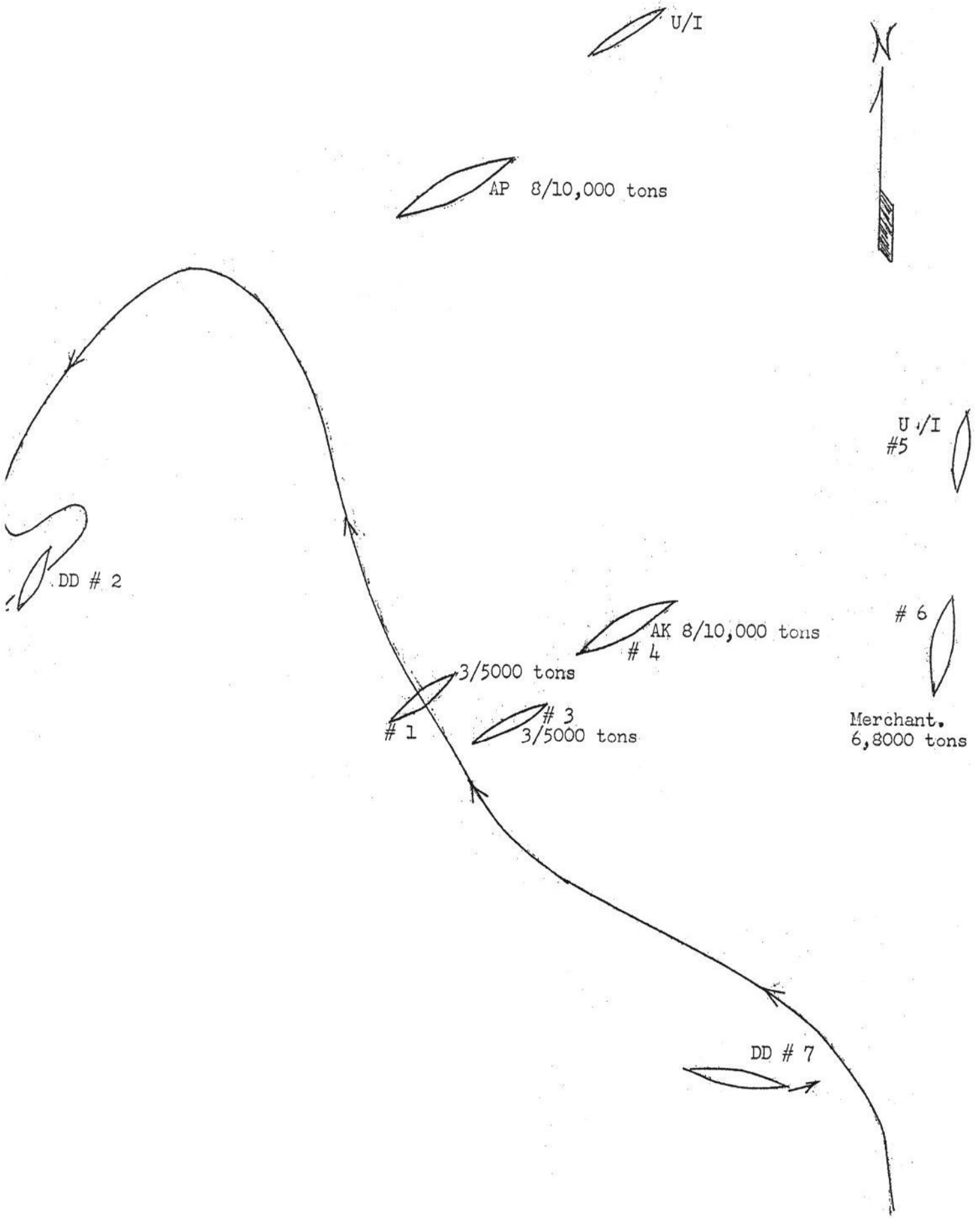
Merchantman No. 6 - observed to be attacked by

B-25, skip-bombing and strafing. One hit by each observed.

Hit observed on DD No. 7, believed made by high level bombers.

9. Nil enemy A/C observed.

10. No expressed opinion as to tactics employed in the attack or recommendations for future operations.



Pilot: Capt Beck

R/G : S/Sgt J. Fox