

REPORT ON CONVOY

Pilot: Lieutenant Montagano.

Rear Gunner: Pvt. D. J. Setterstedt.

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

2. Date: March 3, 1943.

Time: 1000/L

Location: Approximately 0710S-14750E.

3. Strafing attack made on AK No. 1, 4 to 6,000 tons, travelling at a course of 210°. AK No. 2 strafed and bombed, 4 to 6,000 tons, following course of 240°, speed undetermined. No particular evasive plan followed by either ship attacked. Sighted A/A for AK No. 1 on strafing run. This A/A was medium, heavy and accurate. Firing stopped after first strafing attack.

4. Convoy sighted from approximately 6,000 foot altitude. Our A/C reduced altitude to approximately 3,000 foot level, travelling at an air-speed of 250 miles per hour. Strafing run on AK No. 1 begun about 2,000 yards, following course of about 320°, and continued until passing over ship. No bombs released. AK No. 2 attacked from midway between mast-height and deck-level on bomb run, when both bombs were dropped simultaneously from about 300 yards from ship. Our A/C were following a course of about 175°. No particular evasive action was taken by Lt. Montagano after either attack.

5. Lt. Montagano observed single-seater-fighter attack Lt. Neel. No particular enemy A/C tactics observed. After enemy SSF fired several bursts at Lt. Neel it was seen to disappear to the upper strata.

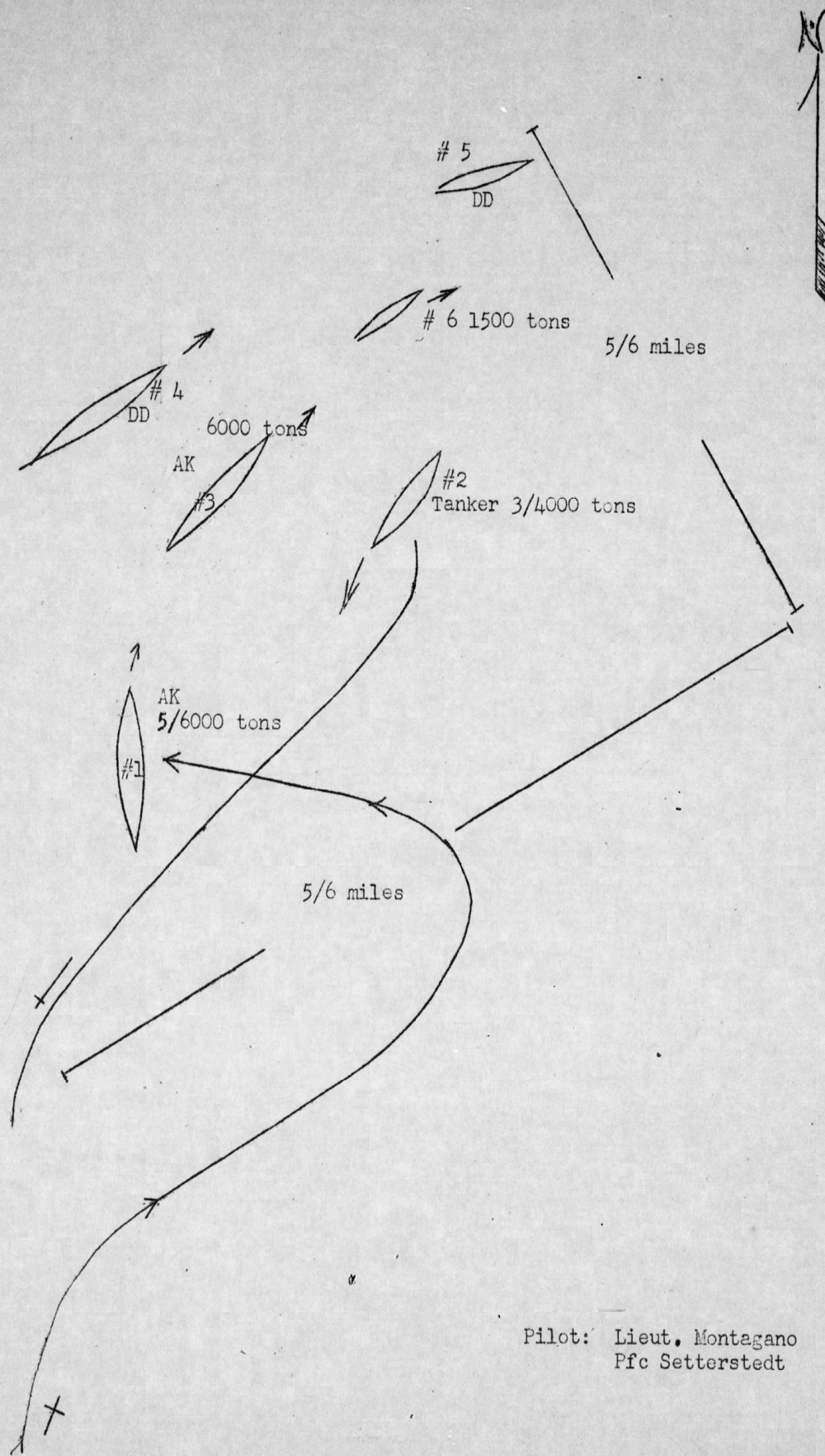
6. 550 x .50 and 1100 x .30 calibre ammunition expended in two strafing runs. 2 x 500 lb bombs (1 - 4 to 5 sec. delay tail-fused, nil nose-fused, and 1 - 8 to 11 sec. delay tail-fused, nil nose-fused demos.) dropped.

7. Observations: AK No. 1 seen to receive one hit, one near miss.
AK No. 2 observed to receive one hit, and one near miss.

AK-No. 3 seen being attacked by skip-bombing and strafing by B-25's. Explosion seen on ship.

DD No. 5 observed burning amidship.

8. No comment on tactics used in attack, nor suggestions of tactics to be employed on attacks of similar targets.



Pilot: Lieut. Montagano
Pfc Setterstedt