REPORT ON CONVOY

Pilot: Captain Chudoba.

Rear Gunner: T/Sgt. P. H. Larronde.

      1.   Attached hereto is sketch-map of convoy, as seen by pilot from 6,000 feet.

      2.   Date: March 3, 1943.   0710S-14750E, as approximate convoy location. Time: 100/L,

      3.   AK approximate 5-7,000 tons, following course of approximately 215° attacked, travelling at a speed of 4-7 knots. Light anti-aircraft observed on approach, firing had ceased at time of attack. A/A - lt, lt, inaccurate. No particular evasive action taken by pilot from A/A.

      4.   Captain Chudoba was one of a flight of 6 A-20A aircraft, composed of three two-ship elements. Our plan was that attack should be made by two-ship elements. This flight approached the convoy at a 6,000 foot altitude. Approach to the attacked ship was made about 200 feet above water level, lowering to mast height at approximately 1000 yards from ship to be attacked. Strafing of the ships decks was begun at this point and at approximately 300 yards from the AK, the aircraft released both bombs simultaneously. Captain Chudoba attacked AK at approximately 345-347°, travelling at an air-speed of 265 miles per hour. After the attack no particular evasive action followed other than jinking and avoiding the passing directly over other ships in the convoy.

      5.   No enemy aircraft was observed.

      6.   No enemy aircraft tactics observed.

      7.   300 x .50 - 800 x .30 calibre ammunition expended in strafing the AK attacked. 2 x 500 #, bombs (1 4-5 sec. delay tail fused, nil nose-fused, 1 8-11 sec. delay tail-fused, nil nose-fused demos.)

      8.   Observations: DD observed to move away from U/I vessel No. 1 in a cloud of smoke, believed U/I vessel had been hit by high level bombers. DD apparently undamaged, as it emerged firing its A/A guns.
B-25 seen attacking ship No. 2 by bombing and strafing runs.
Nil results observed.
Beaufighters observed making strafing attack on DD No. 3

      9.   Nil

      10.   Captain Chudoba was of the opinion that the tactics employed, method of approach, etc. could again be successfully employed in a similar attack.

N

DD or CL
#3   ← AK

AK #2
7000 Tons

AP
3-5000 Tons

AK 5000-
7000 Tons

U/I   AP
3-5000 Tons

DD   AK
or LC   3-7000 Tons   U/I

DD or LC   AK
5-7000   U/I
AK   Tons
3-7000 Tons   Ship Attacked   DD
#1

DD or LC