

REPORT OF CONVOY

PILOT: Captain Clark.

REAR GUNNER: Sgt. W. M. Sherman.

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, approx. 5-7,000 tons, traveling course 215°, when attacked, speed of travel undetermined. Light A/A observed on approach. Firing had ceased at time of attack. A/A, lt, lt, and inaccurate. No particular evasive action taken by pilot from A/A.

4. Captain Clark was flight leader of six (6) A-20A aircraft, composed of three (3) two-ship elements. The plan was to attack in two-ship elements. However, due to excitement the attack on the AK was made by four (4) A/C. The other pilots were Capt. Chudoba, Lt. Richardson, and Lt. Mayo, due to the smallness of the ship Lt. Mayo was unable to complete his attack. He, consequently, left the flight and chose an AP on which to make his attack. Separate report is submitted on this attack.

The approach to the AK attacked was made about 200 feet above water level, lowering to mast height at approximately 1000 yard distance from the ship, strafing of the ships decks was begun. Both bombs were released simultaneously at approximately 300 yards from the AK. The attack made following 345-347° course at an air-speed of approximately 260 miles per hour. After the attack a series of zomes and dives were made and the avoiding of flying over other ships in the convoy, was the only evasive action taken.

5. No enemy A/C were observed.

6. No enemy A/C tactics were observed.

7. 200 x .50 -500 x .30 calibre expended in strafing the AK attacked. Two (2) 500 # demo bombs (14-5 sec. delay tail-fused, nil nose-fused, and 1 8-11 sec. delay tail-fused, nil nose-fused).

8. Observations: One hit and one near miss observed of bombs dropped. AK No. 2 observed to have been hit, believed by high level bombers. U/I No. 3 was being attacked by the Beaufighters and skip-bombed by B-25's. Small AK No. 4 was in flames and smoking after it had been bombed and strafed by 2 A-20A's. DD No. 5 seen to come from under a cloud of smoke near an U/I ship, apparently undamaged., as its A/A's were in action at time of sighting. DD's No. 6, 7, and 8 were seen to be traveling at a high rate of speed, apparently attempting to encircle the convoy, thus bringing them at broadside to our attacking A/C, in order that they might employ their maximum A/A fire in defence of the convoy. DD No. 9 observed well to the East and away from the general area of the convoy.

9. Nil.

10. In generalizing, we give credit to Capt. Clark for the tactics employed in the attack made by the A-20A's of the 89th Squadron. We have covered and discussed these tactics in the summary of this Squadrons participation of the attack.

