

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

Roll 3

Target 15

Summary of XXI Bomber Command Operations Since 24 November 1944

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

S E C R E T

3

HEADQUARTERS XXI BOMBER COMMAND
Office of the DC/S for Operations

9 January 1945

EA

MEMORANDUM TO: Chief of Staff

SUBJECT: Summary of XXI Bomber Command Operations since
24 November 1944.

On 6 January 1945, when our operational staff presented the plan for Enkindle #2, General Norstad requested that I submit in writing my comments concerning summary of operations. This memorandum is therefore submitted.

Since 24 November 1944, the XXI Bomber Command has conducted eleven (11) bombing missions, of which nine (9) were major efforts, and seven (7) of the eleven (11) were strikes against principal Japanese aircraft industry targets.

During the period in which the eleven (11) missions were conducted, we had an average of 131 aircraft on hand. The average number of aircraft scheduled on each of the major efforts was ninety-one (91), or an average of 70 per cent of the aircraft on hand were scheduled to become airborne on each of the nine (9) major efforts. The average number of aircraft that were actually airborne on each of these major missions was eighty-seven (87), or 96 per cent of the scheduled aircraft.

844 sorties were performed on these eleven (11) bombing missions, of which 471 aircraft bombed primary targets, or 56 per cent, and 1707 tons of bombs were dropped at such primary targets.

Of the seven (7) bombing missions which were directed against principal Japanese aircraft industries, 1550 tons of bombs became airborne, of which 1.8 per cent hit within 1,000 feet and 1 per cent hit within 500 feet. Three (3) primary aircraft industry targets have been attacked--numbers 357, 193, and 194--on these seven (7) maximum effort missions.

There were four (4) major strikes against Target No. 357, involving 350 sorties. Photo reconnaissance shows that there were thirty-four (34) hits against such targets. It appears

-1-

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

that the extent of destruction resulting from these strikes was not substantial.

There were two (2) major strikes against Target No. ¹⁹³~~357~~, involving 168 sorties. There were thirty-nine (39) hits, and photo reconnaissance shows that the target has been substantially destroyed since 15 December.

There was one (1) major strike against Target No. 194, involving 89 sorties. There were forty-two (42) hits and it may be conservatively estimated that from two (2) per cent to five (5) per cent of the floor space of the plant has been destroyed.

The losses on these eleven (11) bombing missions were as follows:

- (1) To E/A (Primarily fighters)9
- (2) No. known ditched (10 successful, 2 unsuccessful)..12
- (3) Other losses (land and sea)7
- (4) Total28

Approximately 24 crews were lost (killed, missing, seriously wounded) of the aircraft which were ditched, members of nine (9) crews, numbering about fifty-nine (59) crew members, were rescued. Also, two crews were rescued from ditched aircraft lost on Weather Strike Missions.

On these eleven (11) missions, the results of air-to-air combat show 70 enemy planes destroyed, 80 probably destroyed, and 79 damaged.

The XXI Bomber Command, during the period in which these eleven (11) bombing missions were run also conducted 68 weather strike missions on which 153 tons of bombs were released on the targets; approximately fifty per cent of such bombs against Tokyo, and fifty per cent against Nagoya. During the same period 40 photo reconnaissance missions were performed. As a result of such photo reconnaissance missions, we have obtained adequate coverage of all primary targets involving the Japanese aircraft industry except Target No. 1547.

J. B. Montgomery
J. B. MONTGOMERY
Colonel, GSC
DC/S Operations

S E C R E T

11 Bombing Missions from 24 Nov 44 - 3 Jan 45

<u>Mission Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Target Number</u>
7*	Nov 24	**San Antonio #1	Musashino A/C Plant	357
8*	Nov 27	**San Antonio #2	Musashino A/C Plant	357
9	Nov 29	Brooklyn #1	Tokyo Industrial and Dock Areas	
10*	Dec 3	**San Antonio #3	Musashino A/C Plant Tokyo	357
11*	Dec 8	Sledge Hammer #1	Iwo Jima Airfields	
12*	Dec 13	**Memphis #1	Mitsubishi A/C Eng. Factory Nagoya	193
13*	Dec 18	**Hesitation #1	Mitsubishi A/C Plant	194
14*	DEc 22	**Eradicate #2	Mitsubishi A/C Eng. Factory	193
15	Dec 24	Rock Crusher #1	Iwo Jima	
16*	Dec 27	**Enkindle #1	Musashino A/C Plant	357
17*	Jan 3	Microscope #1	Nagoya Urban Area	

* 9 Major Efforts.
** 7 Against Principal Jap A/C Industry Targets.

S E C R E T

SECRET

XXI BOMBER COMMAND AIR SEA RESCUE SUMMARY

<u>MISSION</u>	<u>TOTAL A/C LOST (NOT RETURNING TO BASE)</u>	<u>A/C KNOWN OR PRESUMED LOST ON LAND</u>	<u>A/C KNOWN OR PRESUMED DOWN AT SEA</u>	<u>A/C KNOWN ATTEMPTING TO DITCH</u>	<u>A/C KNOWN DITCHED SUCCESSFULLY</u>	<u>A/C KNOWN DITCH UN- SUCCESSFULLY</u>	<u>A/C MISSING NOT KNOWN TO HAVE ATTEMP- TED DITCHING</u>	<u>A/C PRESUMED LOST AT SEA</u>	<u>CREWS RESCUED</u>	<u>PERSONNEL RESCUED</u>
I STRIKE MISSIONS 73 RD WING										
14	1		1	1	1				1	2
5	-		-	5						
6	2		2	1	1			1	1	17 11
7	1		1	1				1		
8	1		1					1		
9	1		1					1		
10	5	1*	4	3	1			3	1	10
11	4		4	3	1			3	1	11
12	4	2 1s. Jan*	2	1	1			1	1	7
13	4		2	1	1			1	1	6
14	2		2							
15	-		-	2	2				2	7
16	3	1*	2	2	2				2	5
17	5	1*	4	2	2		2	2	1	
			23	15	10					
II WSM MISSIONS 73 RD WING										
37	1		1	1	1				1	10
69	1		1	1	1				1	12
III PRACTICE MISSION 313 TH WING										
5 JAN	1		1				1	1		
IV PHOTO RECON MISSIONS 3 RD PHOTO RECON SQUADRON										
21 NOV	1		1				1	1		
9 DEC	1		1	1	1			1		
TOTAL	33	5	28	18	13	2	10	19	11	87 (7 JANUARY 1945)
								16		81

SECRET

NOTE:
* ENEMY ACTION
** CRASH LANDING