MISSION #43--KOBE "MIDDLEMAN 2"
15 March, 1945.

5-5240-114

TOP SECRET

MISSION #43--KOBE "MIDDLEMAN 2"
15 March, 1945

SECRET 5-8-46 By authority of

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

SPECIFIC SUBJECT	TYPE OF MESSAGE	MESSAGE NO.	DATE AND TIME SENT	DATE AND TIME REC'D.	INITIALS

3-5-40-114

PRIOR PLANNING

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

SPECIFIC SUBJECT	TYPE OF MESSAGE	MESSAGE NO.	DATE AND TIME SENT	DATE AND TIME REC'D.	INITIALS

MISSION
DIRECTIVE

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

SPECIFIC SUBJECT	TYPE OF MESSAGE	MESSAGE NO.	DATE AND TIME SENT	DATE AND TIME REC'D.	INITIALS
Change of Date	Telecon	FN-14-12		141622Z	EK.
Brief of FO	"	FN-16-4		160856Z	BGR
Change of TO Time	"	FN-16-1		160140Z	BGR

MISSION
PLAN

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

WCR V YAF

SECRET

QUOTE

TELECON MESSAGE FN-16-1 OPERATIONAL PRTY SECRET 160036Z
FROM BOMCOM XXI
TO COMAF 20

INFO: DEPCOM AF 20- PASS TO COMAF 20
SUBJECT: CHANGES TO DAILY OPERATIONS SCHEDULED FOR 16 MARCH 45 (LOCAL

TIME)
REFERENCE OUR FN- 15- 8 DTG 150931Z
1. CHANGE PARAGRAPH 1 TO READ MIDDLEMAN TWO TAKES OFF 160940Z TARGET

KOBE.

2. CHANGE PARAGRAPH 2 TO READ 3 PRM 83 TAKESOFF 152000Z FOR OSAKA

AREA.

END

TOD 0105Z/ H

END

TOD:-0120Z RH

ROGER 01220Z WB

UNQUOTE

END

SECRET

TOD:160124Z JK

ROGER 160124Z WCR

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

WAR V YAF

QUOTE

RELAY FROM BOMCOM 21

PASS TO WAR

TELECON MSG FN-16-4 TOP-SECRET-OP-OP-OP MARCH 16. '45

TOP SECRET

FROM: BOMCOM XXI 160715Z

TO : COMAF 20

INFO: DEPCOMAF 20 (POA)

SUBJECT: BRIEF OF FIELD ORDER NO 46 MIDDLEMAN NO 2

MAXIMUM EFFORT (APPROX. 325 B-29) SCHEDULED TO ATTACK MIDDLEMAN NO 2 URBAN AREA ON NIGHT OF 16/17. COURSE BASES IN SAIPAN, TINIAN AND GUAM TO 2500N - 14300E TO 2715N - 14053E TO 3353N - 13503E 3419N - 1350630E TO TARGET TO 3444N - 13455E 3300N - 13445E TO BASE - BOMB LOAD: 18 A/C INCENDIARY BOMBS; REMAINDER OF A/C IB'S CONTAINING M-69 BOMBS - ALTITUDE ENROUTE: 3000TO 5000 FEET. ALTITUDE OF ATTACK: 5000 TO 7,800 FEET. MEAN AXIS OF ATTACK: 08 DEGREES TRUE. ZERO HOUR (TAKE OFF) 161030Z, OVERTARGET 161800Z, RETURN TO BASE 170040Z. INTERVALOMETER SETTING: M-76 MINIMUM, ALL CLUSTERS 50 FEET. METHOD OF ATTACK: BY INDIVIDUAL A/C ATTACKING WITH MINIMUM INTERVAL BETWEEN A/C. AIR SEA RESCUE FACILITIES REQUESTED. LEMAY CG

THIS MESSAGE DISPATCHED 21 BOMCOM CONTROL ROOM 160715Z

CCN: 6TH LINE 3RD GR 3000 RPT 3000, ALSO LAST GR SAME LINE 7,800 RPT 7,800

TOD: 160802Z JF

UNQUOTE
ED
END
TOD 0852Z HS
ROGER 0852Z WCR
THAT I IS ALL

TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

WAR V YAF

QUOTE

TELECON MSG
FN-14-12 OP OP OP SECRET 141532Z

FROM: XXI BOM COM

TO : COMAF 20
INFO: DEP COMAF 20 (POA)
GR15
SUBJECT: CORRECTION TO DAILY OPERATIONS SCHEDULED FOR 15 MARCH 45 (LOCAL TIME) REFERENCE OUR FN-14-8 DTG 141000Z

CHANGE PAR ONE TO READ NO MAJOR STRIKE SCHEDULED. MIDDLEMAN TWO POST
PONED DUE TO WEATHER. to 15/16 or 16/17 March

SECRET

END

TOD141622ZRT
R UNQUOTE

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

SPECIFIC SUBJECT	TYPE OF MESSAGE	MESSAGE NO.	DATE AND TIME SENT	DATE AND TIME REC'D.	INITIALS
1st Mtg	Telecon	FN-16-8		16 1112Z	BSK
To Kpk	"	FN-16-9		16 1335Z	BSK

TAKE OFF
REPORTS

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

CONFERENCE Ø3161331Z

PRESENT HERE: LT. STEVENS ~~:)5 5[illegible];3,~~
SUBJECT: SPECIAL COFFERENCE

B SECRET JPP B S

TE ECON MESSAGE FN-16-9 S E C R E T (OPERATION ~~IDXY~~ PRIORITY) 161305Z

FROM BOM COM XXI

TO COMAF 2Ø INFO: DEPCOMAF HJL2Ø

GR64

SUBJECT: TAKE OFF REPORT FOR MIDDLEMAN TWO, STRIKE 43, 16 MARCH 1945.

XXI BOMBER COMMAND

1. WING:	73RD	313TH	314TH	TOTAL
2. A/C SCHEDULED:	157	136	52	344
3. A/C AIRBORNE:	157	128	52	337
4. FIRST A/C:	161Ø11Z	161ØØ9Z	16Ø939Z	16Ø939Z
5. LAST A/C	161205Z	161135Z	161117Z	161205Z
6. EARLY RETURNS:	Ø	3	13 8	4

7. SUPERDUMBOS: 3 AIRBORNE FROM 161136Z TO 161159Z.

END

CB

TOD: Ø31335Z CB

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

SECRET

TELECON MESSAGE FN-16-8 (SECRET) 161009Z (OPERATIONAL-PRIORITY

FROM: COMGENBOMCOM21 TO: COMAF20

INFO: DEPCOMAF20(POA)
(GR111)

SUBJECT: FIRST TAKEOFF REPORT, MIDDLEMAN TWO

FIRST AIRCRAFT AIRBORNE AT 160939Z ON MIDDLEMAN TWO. GUAM BASE AT TAKE OFF /10 MIDDLE CLOUD 4/10 LOW CLOUD WITH PASSING LIGHT TO MODERATE SHOWERS. SAIPAN BASE 5/10 LOW CLOUD NO, SHOWERS. ROUTE TO TARGET: 4 TO 6/10 LOW CLOUD TO 25DEG N WHERE INCREASE IN FRONT TO OVERCAST. BASE 1000 FT TOPS 8-12000 FT WITH MODERATE SHOWERS IN ZONE 100 MILES WIDE. 8/10 LOW CLOUD BASE 1800, TOPS 6-8000 CONTINUING TO COAST WITH FEW SHOWERS.

TARGET: 5/10 LOW CLOUD BASE 3000 FT TOP 6-7000 FT.

GUAM BASE TO HAVE INTERMITTENT LIGHT TO MODERATE SHOWERS ON RETURN.

ONLY LIGHT SCATTERED SHOWERS AT SAIPAN AND TINIAN.

END

FER

TOD: 161051Z FER

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

SPECIFIC SUBJECT	TYPE OF MESSAGE	MESSAGE NO.	DATE AND TIME SENT	DATE AND TIME REC'D.	INITIALS
1st Bombs Away Report	Telecon	FN-16-10		162053Z	[illegible]
Preliminary Bombs Away	"	FN-16-11		162104Z	[illegible]
Additional Bombs Away	"	FN-16-12		162242Z	[illegible]
Additional Bombs Away	"	FN-16-13		162359Z	[illegible]
Briefers Report	Telecon	Delta-	171000Z		[illegible]

BOMB STRIKE REPORTS

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

SECRET

SECRET
By Authority of
CG Twentieth AF

16 Mar 45
Date Initials

Copy for _____
Officer Section

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH AIR FORCE
Washington, D. C.

Information for Briefing on XXI Bomber Command
Mission No. 43 15 March 1945
Date

Mission Code Name " MIDDLEMAN 2 " (As of 1000Z - 17 Mar 45)
Date

Targets: Primary - Kobe Urban Area, Honshu, Japan

Secondary - None

Last Resort - None

Take-off Times: 160939Z-161205Z
160539-160805 Washington Time
161839-162105 Theatre Time

Time Over Primary Target: 161742Z
161342 Washington Time
170242 Theatre Time

Tactics: Night individual bombing, minimum interval between a/c, altitude from 5,000' to 7800'.

Aircraft Bombing: Approximately 300 visually And by radar.

Primary Target - Approximately 300
Secondary Target -
Other Targets -

Bomb Load: First 18 a/c M-47 IBs. Remaining a/c have IB clusters containing M/69s

Losses: Not reported

Target Weather: 5/10-10/10 low clouds base 3000', top 6-7000'.

Fighter Opposition: Slight

Anti-Aircraft Encountered: Meager to Moderate

Claims: Not reported

Results of Bombing: Crews reported scattered fires to general conflageration.

Remarks: This information is fragmentary and is subject to change so should not be used or presented as final.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

TELETYPE CONFERENCE

_____ 19____

WASHINGTON PARTIES

KHARAGPUR - HONOLULU - GUAM PARTIES

TELECON MSG FN-16-13 OP OP OP SECRET 162250Z

FROM BOMCOM XXI
TO COMAF 20
INFO: DEPCOMAF 20 (POA)

SECRET

GP-75
SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL BOMBS AWAY, MIDDLEMAN TWO, STRIKE 43, 16 MARCH 1945.

1. 5 ADDITIONAL A/C REPORTED BOMBS AWAY.

2. 1 BOMBED PRIMARY VISUALLY THROUGH 5/10 CLOUD. RESULTS GENERAL CONFLAGRATION. FIGHTER OPPOSITION SLIGHT. MEAGER FLAK.

3. 4 BOMBED PRIMARY BY RADAR THROUGH 1 - 5/10 CLOUD WITH FOLLOWING RESULTS: 2 A/C GENERAL CONFLAGRATION, 2 A/C MANY FIRES. FIGHTER OPPOSITION SLIGHT. MEAGER FLAK.

4. EARLY RETURNS: 18 A/C TOTAL.

THIS REPORT IS FRAGMENTARY AND NOT TO BE USED FOR OFFICIAL RECORDS.

SECRET

~~CCN 4.PARA 1ST LINE 6TH WD SHOLD BE THROUGH RPT THROUGH~~
TOD.....162355Z WW
ROGER FN-16-13 WCR INITALS PLS K JLB
HR OUT LOWED PLS

ORIGINATOR OF MESSAGE _____

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION	C/S	DC/S Opr	DC/S Adm	A-1	A-2	A-3 Tng	A-3 OC&R	A-4	A-5 Plans
	A.G.	Surg	Air Insp	PRO	Comm Op Anal		Stat Con		
INFORMATION	C/S	DC/S Opr	DC/S Adm	A-1	A-2	A-3 Tng	A-3 OC&R	A-4	A-5 Plans
	A.G.	Surg	Air Insp	PRO	Comm. Op Anal		Stat Con		

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

TELETYPE CONFERENCE

_____ 19 _____

WASHINGTON PARTIES

KHARAGPUR - HONOLULU - GUAM PARTIES

TELECON MESSAGE FN-16-12 OPERATIONAL PRIORITY-SECRET 162130Z

FROM: BOMCOM XXI

TO : COMAF 20

INFO: DEPCOMAF 20 (POA)

SECRET

GR65

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL BOMBS AWAY REPORT, MIDDLEMAN TWO, STRIKE 43, 16 MARCH 1945.

1. 12 ADDITIONAL LEAD A/C REPORTED BOMBS AWAY.

2. 4 BOMBED PRIMARY BY VISUAL MEANS THROUGH 2/10-7/10 CLOUD WITH OBSERVED RESULTS OF: UNOBSERVED TO GENERAL CONFLAGRATION. FIGHTER OPPOSITION SLIGHT. FLAK MEAGER.

3. 8 BOMBED PRIMARY BY RADAR THROUGH 3-10/10 CLOUD WITH OBSERVED RESULTS OF: 4 A/C GENERAL CONFLAGRATION; 2 A/C SEVERAL LARGE FIRES: 2 A/C MANY FIRES. FIGHTER OPPOSITION SLIGHT. FLAK MEAGER.

4. EARLY RETURNS: 16 A/C.

NOTE: BOMBS AWAY REPORT FROM ONLY ONE A/C PER SQUADRON. THIS REPORT IS FRAGMENTARY AND SUBJECT TO CORRECTION.

SECRET

END..

TOD: 162242Z TAS...

ORIGINATOR OF MESSAGE _____

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION	C/S	DC/S Opr	DC/S Adm	A-1	A-2	A-3 Tng	A-3 OC&R	A-4	A-5 Plans
	A.G.	Surg	Air Insp	PRO	Comm Op Anal		Stat Con		
INFORMATION	C/S	DC/S Opr	DC/S Adm	A-1	A-2	A-3 Tng	A-3 OC&R	A-4	A-5 Plans
	A.G.	Surg	Air Insp	PRO	Comm. Op Anal		Stat Con		

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

SECRET

Cc
B

FN-16-11 OP OP SECRET 162015Z
FROM: BOM COM XXI
TO : COMAF 20
INFO: DEPCOMAF 20 POA)
BT
SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY BOMBS AWAY REPORT FOR MIDDLEMAN TWO, STRIKE 43, 16 MARCH 1945.

1. 13 A/C REPORTED BOMBS AWAY. (SEE NOTE)

2. 11 A/C REPORTED BOMBING PRIMARY BY RADAR MEANS. THROUGH 0/10 - 8/10 CLOUD WITH OBSERVED RESULTS: 1 A/C FEW SCATTERED FIRES, 2 A/C MANY FIRES, 2 A/C SEVERAL LARGE FIRES, 6 A/C GENERAL CONFLAGRATION. E/A OPPOSITION: MODERATE. FLAD

//// FLAK : MEAGER TO MODERATE.

3. 2 A/C REPORTED BOMBING PRIMARY VISUALLY THROUGH 5/10 TO 8/10 CLOUD WITH GENERAL CONFLAGRATION OBSERVED. E/A OPPOSITION: SLIGHT. FLAK: MODERATE.

SECRET

4. EARLY RETURNS: 14 A/C.

NOTE: BOMBS AWAYS REPORT FROM ONLY 1 A/C PER SQUADREN. THIS REPORT IS FRAGMENTARY AND SUBJECT TO CORRECTION. FURTHER INFORMATION WILL FOLLOW AS SOON AS RECEIVED.

5. TOTAL BOMBS AWAY REPORTS RECEIVED AT THIS TIME.

BT 162015Z
TOD...162101Z IK
ROGER

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

SECRET

CONFE E Ø3.62047Z
PRESENT HERE LT. WICKHAM
SUBJECT: SPECIAL CONFERENCE
TELECON MESSAGE F 16-1Ø OPERATIONAL-PRIORITY SECRET 161800Z

R-1

FROM: XXI BOMCOM M

TO : COM AF 2Ø

INFO: DEP COM AF 2Ø (POA)

SECRET

GR16

B

SUBJECT: FIRST BOMBS AWAY REPORT MIDDLEMAN TWO.

FIRST AIRCRAFT BOMBED PRIMARY TARGET BY RADAR WITH 6/1Ø CLOUDS AT 161742Z. FEW SCATTERED FIRES OBSERVED.

END.

TOD:162050Z IK

~~WE HAVE ANOTHER MSG FOR YOU IN FEW MINUTES K~~

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

SPECIFIC SUBJECT	TYPE OF MESSAGE	MESSAGE NO.	DATE AND TIME SENT	DATE AND TIME REC'D.	INITIALS
Prelim Return Report	Telecon	FN-17-1		170429Z	
Return Report	"	FN-17-4		170725Z	
Prelim Mission Rpt	Telecon	FN-17-7		171142Z	
Prelim Mission Rpt	Ditto	—	171130Z		

PRELIMINARY
MISSION RPT

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

SECRET

SECRET
By authority of
CG Twentieth AF
17 Mar 45 [illegible]
Date Initials

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH AIR FORCE

Washington, D. C.

PRELIMINARY MISSION REPORT OF XXI BOMBER COMMAND

OPERATION NO. 43 - 17 MARCH 1945

"MIDDLEMAN 2"

Targets:	Primary - Urban area, Kobe, Japan
Take-off:	160539 - 160805 Washington; 161839 - 162105 Theatre; (160939Z - 161205Z)
Time Over Target:	161529 - 161552 Washington; 170229 - 170452 Theatre; (161729Z - 161952Z)
Aircraft:	Total Bombing 309 Primary 308 Other Targets 1
A/C Lost or Missing:	3 Aircraft missing
Casualties:	0 killed; 3 wounded ; 32 missing
Bomb Loads	Average of 7.4 tons per a/c - First 18 a/c carried M-76 Incendiary bombs, remainder of force carried M-69's, fused to open 3000 feet above target.
Tactics:	Individual a/c attacking at night from altitudes of 5000 to 9500 feet. Bombing accomplished by both Radar and visually.
Weather:	0/10 to 10/10 strato-cumulus, tops 5000, winds 290 deg, 30 knots general turbulence.
Fighter Opposition:	Nil to moderate. 46 E/A observed - 34 attacks. 1 unidentified a/c trailed an estimated 1500 feet of cable across B-29 course, heavily weighted with several cylinders.
Flak:	Meagre to intense and inaccurate to accurate - barrage and continuously pointed. 2 flak ships at 32 deg 0 min N - 136 deg 10 min E firing inaccurately.
Claims:	None
Results:	Good to Excellent - Extensive fires in target area, smoke rising vertically to 10,000 feet, number of heavy explosions reported.
Observations:	Large explosion on ground with blinding white flash in target area west part of city. Fires in target area visible 150 miles out to sea. 30 ships picked up by radar in inland sea.
Remarks:	This information is fragmentary and is subject to change, therefore should not be used for official records

As of 1130, 17 March 1945

[signature]
LAURIS NORSTAD
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Chief of Staff

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

WAR V YAF

QUOTE

SECRET

RELAY FROM BOMCOM 21

TELECON MESSAGE FN-17-7 OPERATIONAL PRIORITY SECRET 17 MARCH45

(PASS TO WAR)

FROM BOMCOM XXI 171002Z

TO COMAF 20

INFO DEPCOMAF 20 (POA)

73 WG

313 WG

314 WGQ

GR-275

Missing 43 XXI 73 C

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY MISSION REPORT MIDDLEMAN TWO STRIKE 43, 16 MARCH 45.

1. NAME OF PRIMARY:1 74?-, -XXX URBAN AREA KOBE

2. NAME OF SECONDARY: NONE

2. NAME OF LAST RESORT: NONE

4. TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY: 1 A/C BOMBED SHINGU FROM 8,000 FT AT 161900Z DROPPING 37 X 500 LB IB M17A1 WITH UNOBSERVED RESULTS

5. NO. A/C ATTACKING PRIMARYWC 305 A/C BOMBED PRIMARY BY VISUAL AND RADAR MEANS THRU 0 TO 10/10 CLOUD ALTITUDE 5000 FT TO 9500 FT FROM 161729Z TO 161952Z DROPPING THE FOLLOWING BOMBS:

NUMBER	SIZE	TYPE	FUSE
483	500 LB IB	M76	INST NOSE NON DELAY TALEQ
450 304	500 LB IB	M18	E28 (FUSED TO OPEN 200 FT ABOVE TARGETWL
1554	500 LB IB	"	E36 (FUSED TO OPEN 2000 FT AZOVE TARGET)
1518	500 LB IB	"	E46 (FUSED TO OPEN 2500 FT ABOVE TARGET)
5414	500 LZ IB	M17A1	(FUSED TT OPEN 2000 FT AQBOVE TARGETWL
93	500 LB GP	T4E4	(FUSED TO OPEN 3000 FT BELOW A/C)
	500 LB GP	T4E5	
3	56 LB	PHOTO FLASH	

SECRET

310

6. A/C ATTACKINR SECONDARY: NONE

7. A/C ATTACKING LAST RESORT: NTNE

8. A/C ATTACKINLATARGET OF OPPORTUNITYWCQ SEE PARAGRAPH 4

91 ,9. A/C: 5-(8,& 9!!: 3EQ KFTT INCLUDING 3 SUPER DUMBOSWL)

10 NOWM A/C EARLY RETURNS: 21 A/C OF WHICH NTNE BOMBED TARGETS

11. NOWM AWXC MISSINL: 3 A/C REASONS UNKNOWN, UNREPORTED

12. BOMBING RESULTS: PRIMARYQ: CREWS REPORT GOOD TO EXCELLENT, EYTENSIVE FIRES IN TARGET AREAWM SHOKE RISING VERTICALLY TO 10,000 FT, NUMBR OF HEAVY EXPLOSIONS REPORTED. 73 WG STRIKE PHOTOS SHOW SEVERAL LARGE AND NUMEROUS SMALLER FIRES.1 DEFINITE LOCATION OF FI $3!8,853)9:-589, 9! !8RES WITHIN CITY NOT KNOWN AT PRESENTWH

13. PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: KILLED: NONE; WTUNDED 3; MISSINL: 32.

14. ENEMY AIR OPPOSITION: NIL TO MODERATE 46 E/A OBSERVED, 34 ATTACKS INEFFECTIVE. ONE UNIDENTIFIED A/C TRAILED AN ESTIMATED 4500 FT CABLE ACROSS B-29 COURSE, HEAVILY WEIGHTED WITH SEVERAL CYLINDERS

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

INFO DEPCOMAF 20 (POA)

73 WG

313 WG

314 WGQ

GR-275

Mission 43 XXI 73 C

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY MISSION REPORT MIDDLEMAN TWO STRIKE 43, 16 MARCH 45.

1. NAME OF PRIMARY:1 74?-, -XXX URBAN AREA KOBE

2. NAME OF SECONDARY: NONE

2. NAME OF LAST RESORT: NONE

4. TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY: 1 A/C BOMBED SHINGU FROM 8,000 FT AT 161900Z DROPPING 37 X 500 LB IB M17A1 WITH UNOBSERVED RESULTS

5. NO. A/C ATTACKING PRIMARYWC 305 A/C BOMBED PRIMARY BY VISUAL AND RADAR MEANS THRU 0 TO 10/10 CLOUD ALTITUDE 5000 FT TO 9500 FT FROM 161729Z TO 161952Z DROPPING THE FOLLOWING BOMBS:

NUMBER	SIZE	TYPE	FUSE
483 1403	500 LB IB	M76	INST NOSE NON DELAY TALEQ
450 304	500 LB IB M18	E28	(FUSED TO OPEN 200 FT ABOVE TARGETWL
1554	500 LB IB "	E36	(FUSED TO OPEN 2000 FT AZOVE TARGET)
1518	500 LB IB "	E46	(FUSED TO OPEN 2500 FT ABOVE TARGET)
5414	500 LZ IB	M17A1	(FUSED TT OPEN 2000 FT AQBOVE TARGETWL
93	500 LB GP	T4E4	(FUSED TO OPEN 3000 FT BELOW A/C)
46	500 LB GP	T4E5	
3	56 LB	PHOTO FLASH	

SECRET

310

6. A/C ATTACKINR SECONDARY: NONE

7. A/C ATTACKING LAST RESORT: NTNE

8. A/C ATTACKINLATARGET OF OPPORTUNITYWCQ SEE PARAGRAPH 4

9. A/C: 5-(8,& 9!!: 3EQ KFIT INCLUDING 3 SUPER DUMBOSWL (NO TAKING OFF 331)

10 NOWM A/C EARLY RETURNS: 21 A/C OF WHICH NTNE BOMBED TARGETS

11. NOWM AWXC MISSINL: 3 A/C REASONS UNKNOWN, UNREPORTED

12. BOMBING RESULTS: PRIMARYQ: CREWS REPORT GOOD TO EXCELLENT, EXTENSIVE EYTENW FIRES IN TARGET AREAWM SMOKE RISING VERTICALLY TO 10,000 FT, NUMBR OF HEAVY EXPLOSIONS REPORTED. 73 WG STRIKE PHOTOS SHOW SEVERAL LARGE AND NUMEROUS SMALLER FIRES.1 DEFINITE LOCATION OF FI $3!8,853)9:-589, 9! !8RES WITHIN CITY NOT KNOWN AT PRESENTWH

13. PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: KILLED: NONE; WTUNDED 3; MISSINL: 32.

L 14. ENEMY AIR OPPOSITION: NIL TO MODERATE 46 E/A OBSERVED, 34 ATTACKS INEFFECTIVE. ONE UNIDENTIFIED A/C TRAILED an ESTIMATED 6500 FT CABLE ACROSS B-29 COURSE, HEAVILY WEIGHTED WITH SEVERAL CYLINDERS

15. AA FIRE: MEAGER TO MODERATE TO INTENSE INACCURATE TO ACCURATE BARRAGE AND CONTINUOUSLY POINTED. S/L REPORTED MEAGER AND INEFFECTIVE 2 FLAK SHIPS AT 32/00N , - 136/10E FIRING INACCURATELY

16. FIGHTER SUPPORT: NONE.

17 WEATHER OVER TARGET: 0/10 - 10/10 STRATOCULUMUS TOPS 5000, WINDS 290 DEG, 30 KNOTS GENERAL TURBULENCE

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

Q
8

18.OBSERVATIONS: LARGE EXPLOSION ON GROUND WITH BLINDING WHITE FLASH IN TARGET AREA, ~~235~~ WEST PART OF CITY FIRES TARGET AREA VISIBLE 150 ~~813~~ MILE OUT TO SEA 30 SHIPS PICKED UP BY RADAR IN INLAND SEA

19. ESTIMATE CLAIMS: NONE

20 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: 1 A/C CARRIED NO BOMBS, PURPOSE OBSERVATION (SUPER DUMBOS LANDED SAFELY)

THIS REPORT IS FRAGMENTARY AND SUBJECT TO CORRECTION, NOT FOR RECORD PURPOSES.

END

T
CC
TOD 171124Z PA

YESBETTER ASK

1 A/C

305 RPT 305

1403 RPT 1403

304 RPT 304

1554 RPT 1554

1518 RPT 1518

5414 RPT 5414

93 RPT 93

1 RPT 1

3 RPT 3

PARA 9

NO. A/C TAKING OFF: 331 (FOT INCLUDING 3 SUPER DUMBOS)

LAST WORD PARA 12 RPT PARA 12 IS PRESENT RPT PRESENT

LAST TWO NRS IN PARA 15 RPT 15 ARE 32/00N - 136/10 Z RPT 32/00 N - 136/10 Z

1ST NR IN PARA 18 IS 150 RPT 150

SECRET

TOD:171205Z TB

ROGER :171205Z WCR

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

TELETYPE CONFERENCE

19

WASHINGTON PARTIES — KHARAGPUR - HONOLULU - GUAM PARTIES

TELECON FN-17-4 OP OP SECRET 170601Z

SECRET

FROM BOMCOM XXI
TO COMAF 20 , COMGENBOMWG73, COMGENBOMWG313, COMGENBOMWG314

INFO: DEPCOMAF 20 (POA)
(GR146)

SUBJECT: RETURN REPORT FOR MIDDLEMAN TWO, STRIKE 43, 16 MARCH 1945.

	73RD	313TH	314TH	TOTAL
1. WING:				
2. AIRBORNE:	151 (SEE NOTE)	128	52	331
3. LANDED HOME BASE:	147	113	50	310
4. LANDED AWAY FROM BASE:	3	13	2	18
5. A/C MISSING:	1	2	0	3
6. TIME OF LANDING:				
FIRST A/C:	162339Z	170007Z	170031Z	
LAST A/C:	170256Z	170349Z	170252Z	

7. EARLY RETURNS: 21 A/C INCLUDED IN ABOVE TOTALS.

8. SUPERDUMBOS: 3 A/C LANDED SAFELY AT BASE. (NOT INCLUDED IN TOTALS)

9. 3 A/C MISSING DUE TO REASONS UNKNOWN, UNREPORTED.

10. 16 A/C LANDED AT IWO JIMA ON RETURN FOR VARIOUS MECHANICAL REASON, 6 A/C HAVE ALREADY RETURNED TO BASE (NOT INCLUDED IN TOTALS) ; OTHERS ENROUTE.

NOTE: 151 A/C WERE AIRBORNE FROM 73RD WING AND NOT 157 RPT 157 AS SHOW ON TAKE OFF REPORT. TOTAL A/C AIRBORNE WAS 331 INSTEAD OF 337.

21
310

END

TOD: 170722Z WCW/FER

SECRET

	C/S	DC/S Opr	DC/S Adm	A-1	A-2	A-3 Tng	A-3 OC&R	A-4	A-5Plans
INFORMATION	A.G.	Surg	Air Insp	PRC	Comm.	Op Anal	Stat Con		

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

TELETYPE CONFERENCE

19

WASHINGTON PARTIES

KHARAGPUR - HONOLULU - GUAM PARTIES

B

~~E~~ECON MSG FN-17-1 OP OP SECRET 172457Z

FROM BOMCOM XXI
TO COMAF 20
INFO DEPCOMAF 20 (POA)

GP-90

SECRET

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY RETURN REPORT FOR MIDDLEMAN TWO, STRIKE 43, 16 MARCH 1945.

1. 337 A/C AIRBORNE
2. 268 A/C SAFELY LANDED HOME BASES AS OF 170245Z
3. 14 A/C LANDED AWAY FROM HOME BASE
4. 21 A/C WERE EARLY RETURNS
5. NO KNOWN LOSSES, DITCHINGS OR A/C IN DISTRESS AT THIS TIME 170245Z
6. REMAINDER OF A/C STILL IN AIR

CONSOLIDATED LANDING REPORT WILL FOLLOW AS SOON AS AVAILABLE.

THIS REPORT IS FRAGMENTARY AND NOT FOR RECORD PURPOSES.

CCN DTG 170245Z RPT DTG 170245Z
TOD...170424Z WW
ROGER V WCR
CONFERENCT 031704217
PRESENT : LT: LAUGHREY

SECRET

SPECIAL CONFERENCE:
DO U HAVE ANYTHIG FOR US AT THIS TIME

ORIGINATOR OF MESSAGE _____

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION	C/S	DC/S Opr	DC/S Adm	A-1	A-2	A-3 Tng	A-3 OC&R	A-4	A-5 Plans	
	A.G.	Surg	Air Insp	PRO	Comm Op Anal		Stat Con			
INFORMATION	C/S	DC/S Opr	DC/S Adm	A-1	A-2	A-3 Tng	A-3 OC&R	A-4	A-5 Plans	
	A.G.	Surg	Air Insp	PRO	Comm. Op Anal		Stat Con			

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By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

SPECIFIC SUBJECT	TYPE OF MESSAGE	MESSAGE NO.	DATE AND TIME SENT	DATE AND TIME REC'D.	INITIALS
Mission Report	Teleon	FN-1810		1815382	M
Mission Report	Delta		19/1400Z		SR
Relay of Mission Rpt	Teleon	K-20-2	2102092		NH

MISSION REPORT

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

SECRET

SECRET
By Authority of
CG Twentieth AF
19 Mar 45 AFP
Date Initials

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH AIR FORCE

Washington, D. C.

MISSION REPORT OF XXI BOMBER COMMAND

OPERATION NO. 43 - 17 MARCH 1945

"MIDDLEMAN 2"

Targets: Primary - Urban area, Kobe, Japan

Take-Off: 160539 - 160805 Washington; 161839 - 162105 Theater; (160939Z - 161205Z)

Time Over Target: 161329 - 161552 Washington; 170229 - 170452 Theater; (161729Z - 161952Z)

Aircraft: Total Bombing 308
Primary 307
Other Targets 1

A/C Lost or Missing: 3 aircraft missing

Casualties: 0 killed; 4 wounded; 32 missing

Bomb Load: Average of 7.5 tons per a/c - First 18 a/c carried M-76 IB, remainder of force carried M-69's, fused to open 2000 feet above target.

Tactics: Individual a/c attacking at night from altitudes of 5000 to 9500 feet. Bombing accomplished both by radar and visually.

Weather: At Takeoff: 3/10 cumulus, base 1500 ft, top 6,000 ft. visibility 12 miles
At Target: 3/10 strato-cumulus, base 3,000 ft, tops 5,000 ft, winds at 7,000 ft.
On Return: 4/10 cumulus, base 1600 ft, top 5,000 ft. visibility 15 miles.

Fighter Opposition: Approximately 280 E/A were sighted from which approximately 150 unaggressive attacks resulted from IP to target area. Majority of E/A were Irvings, Zekes, Nicks, Tonys, Tojos and Oscars. Attacks appeared to be poorly coordinated and were ineffective. Several phosphorous bombs and air to air rockets were observed. One E/A carried suspended cable 500 ft long with several cylinders attached.

Flak: Meager to intense and inaccurate - continuously pointed and predicted type. Attacks appeared to be coordinated with S/L's. Ground to air rockets and phosphorous bursts were noted. One barrage balloon at 7,000 ft. observed.

Claims: Destroyed - 1; probably destroyed - 0; damaged - 1

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By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

Results: Damage to Kobe totals 64,548,000 sq. ft. (2.4 sq miles) of destroyed area. Damage visible to industrial targets is obscured by smoke and/or clouds with exception of minor damage to Kawasaki Locomotive and Car Company.

Observations: Fires on Awaji Island, Akashi, Tokushima, Kada. Several dummy fires noted in target area. 8-gun battery heavy AA noted at 33-51 N - 135-05 E. Explosions in dock areas and western part of city.

As of 1400, 19 March 1945

for LAURIS NORSTAD
Brigadier General, U. S. Army
Chief of Staff

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

TELETYPE CONFERENCE

19

WASHINGTON PARTIES

TELECON MSG NO K-20-2 (S E C R E T) 202208Z

SUBJECT: MISSION REPORT OF XXI BOMBER COMMAND OPERATION NO.43 - 17 MARCH 1945

TO: COMGENBOMCOM20 FROM COMAF 20

DECLAS OPR

TARGETS: PRIMARY - URBAN AREA, KOBE, JAPAN

TAKE-OFF: 160539 - 160805 WASHINGTON: 161839 - 162105 THEATER: (160939Z - 161205Z)

TIME OVER TARGET: 161329 -161552 WASHINGTON: 170229 - 170452 THEATER: (161729Z - 161952Z)

AIRCRAFT: TOTAL BOMBING 308

PRIMARY 307

OTHER TARGETS 1

A/C LOST OR MISSING: 3 AIRCRAFT MISSING

CASUALTIES: 0 KILLED: 4 WOUNDED: 32 MISSING

BOMB LOADS: AVERAGE OF 7.5 TONS PER A/C - FIRST 18 A/C CARRIED M-76 IB, REMAINDER OF FORCE CARRIED M-69'S, FUSED TO OPEN 2000 FEET ABOVE TARGET.

TACTICS: INDIVIDUAL A/C ATTACKING AT NGIGHT FROM ALTITUDES OF 5000 TO 9500 FEET. BOMBING ACCOMPLISHED BOTH BY RADAR AND FISUALLY.

WEATHER: AT TAKEOFF: 3/10 CUMULUS, BASE 1500 FT, TOP 6,000 FT. VISIBILITY 12 MILES

AT TARGET: 3/10 STRATO- CUMULUS, BASE 3,000 FT, TOPS 5,000 FT, WINDS AT 7,000 FT.

AT RETURN: 4/10 CUMULUS, BASE 1600 FT, TOP 5,000 FT. VISIBILITY 15 MILES.

FIGHTER OPPOSITION: APPROXIMATELY 280 E/A WERE SIGHTER FROM WHICH APPROXIMATELY 150 UNAGGRESSIVE ATTACKS RESULTED FROM IP TO TARGET AREA. MAJORITY OF E/A WERE IRVINGS, ZEKES, NICKS, TONYS, TOJOS, AND OSCARS. ATTACKS APPEARED TO BE POORLY COORDINATED AND WERE INEFFECTIVE. SEVERAL PHOSPHOROUS BOMBS AND AIR TO AIR ROCKETS WERE OBSERVED. ONE

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By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

BOMB LOADS: AVERAGE OF 7.5 TONS PER A/C - FIRST 18 A/C C
M-76 IB, REMAINDER OF FORCE CARRIED M-69'S, FUSED TO OPEN
ABOVE TARGET.

TACTICS: INDIVIDUAL A/C ATTACKING AT NGIGHT FROM ALTITUDES OF 5000 TO 9500 FEET. BOMBING ACCOMPLISHED BOTH BY RADAR AND FISUALLY.

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SEVERAL PHOSPHOROUS BOMBS AND AIR TO AIR ROCKETS WERE OBSERVED. ONE E/A CARRIED SUSPENDED CABLE 500 FT LONG WITH SEVERAL CYLINDERS ATTACHED.

FLAK: MEAGER TO INTENSE AND INACCURATE - CONTINUOUSLY POINTED AND PREDICTED TYPE. ATTACKS APPEARED TO BE COORDINATED WITH S/L'S. GROUND TO AIR ROCKETS AND PHOSPHOROUS BURSTS WERE NOTED. ONE BARRAGE BALLOON AT 7,000 FT. OBSERVED.

CLAIMS: DESTROYED - 1; PROBABLY DESTROYED - 1? DAMAGED -1

RESULTS: DAMAGE TO KOBE TOTALS 64,548,000 SQ FT (2.4 SG MILES) OF DESTROYED AREA. DAMGAE VISIBLE TO INDUSTRIAL TARGETS IS OBSCURED BY SMOKE AND/OR COULDS RPT CLOUDS WITH EXCEPTION OF MINOR DAMAGE TO KAWASAKI LOCOMOTIVE AND CAR COMPANY.

OBSERVATIONS: FIRES ON AWAJI ISLAND, AKASHI, TAKUSHIMA, KADA, SEVERAL DUMMY FIRST NOTED IN TARGET AREA. 8-GUN BATTERY HEAVY AA NOTED AT 33-51 N - 135-05 E. EXPLOSIONS IN DOCK AREAS AND WESTERN PART OF CITY.

CCNS: IN PARA TITLED CLAIMS: SHDRD PROBABLY DESTROYED -0 RPT 0
IN PRA RPT PARA TITLED RESULTS SIGIRE IN RPT FIGURE IN PARENS IS 2.4 SQ MILES UNQUOTE
IN TITLED OBSERVATIONS WORD IS TOKUSHIMA UNQUOTE

...END...

TOD 210209Z WCR

RECALL

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

SECRET R-3

TELECON MSG FN-18-10 OP OP SECRET 101342Z

XROM: BOMCOM XXI

LTO ; COMAF 20

INFO; DEPCOMAF 20 (POA)

BOMWG 73

BOMWG 313

BOMWG 314

GR623BT

SUB3;5: MISSION REPOGT FOR MIDDLEMAN TWO, STRIKE 43, 16 MARCH 1945.

1. DESIGNATION OF UNIT: XXI BOMBER COMMAND

2. TIME OF TAKE OFF: 160939Z TO 161205Z

3. TIME OF RZTORM: 162339Z TO 170335Z (return)

4. NO. A/C AIRBORNE: 331

5. NO. A/C ATTACKING PRIMARY: 307

6. HNO. A/C ATTACKING SECONDARY: NONE

7. NO. A/C ATTACKING LAST RESORT TARGETS: NONE

8. NO. A/C ATTACKING TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY: 1

TARGET	NO. A/C	METHOD	TIME	ALTITUDE	BOMBS DROPPED
SHINGU	1	RADAR	161900Z	8,000 FT	37 X 465 LB M17A1

9. NO. A/C WHICH FAILED TO BOMB DESIGNATEB TARGETS: 22

REASONS: MEVHWNPCAL: (mechanical) 20. PERSONNEL: 1. OBSERVATION A/C: 1

10. NO. A/C LOST TO FLAK: NONE (FLAK)

11. NO. A/C LOST TO E/A: NONE

12. NO. A/C LOST BY ACCIDENT: NONE

13. NO. A/C LOST BY REASONS UNKNOWN. 3

14. TIME OF ATTACK: PRIMARY TARGET: 161729Z 161952Z

H H TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY: SEE PAR. 8

15. ALTITUDE OF ATTACK: PRIMARY: 5,000 FTHTO 9,000 FT (9,500)

TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY: SEE PAR. 8

16. BOMBS ON EACH TARGET:

PRIMARY:

1535 X 490 LB M-76 IB 376.58 Tons

1522 X 425 LB E-46 IB 323.42 "

5285 X ~~465~~ 465 LB M-17A1 IC 1228.76 "

1610 X 360 LB E-36 IB 239.80

301 X ~~GETP~~ 350 LB E-28 IB 52.68

99 X 425 LB T4E4 IC 21.04

2242.28 on PT + 8,60Tons on T/O or total of 2250.88 Tons

TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY: SEE PAR. 8

A. BOMB LOADINGD:

✓ 1572 X 490 LB M-76 IB INSTANTANEOUS NOSE, ON DELAY TAIL

✓ 1693 X 425 LB E-46 IB FUSED TO OPEN 2,500 FT ABOVE TARGET

✓ 5739 X 465 LB M-17A1 IC FUSED TO OPEN 2,000 FT ABOVE TARGET

✓ 1749 X 360 LB E-36 IB FUSED TO OPEN 2,000 FT ABOVE TARGET

385 X 350 LB E-28 IB FUSED TO OPEN 2,000 FT ABOVE TARGET

✓ 102 X 425HLB T4E4 IC FUSED TO OPEN 3,000 FT BELOW A/C

Total 2483.85 Tons for Bomb load of 7.5 Tons average on 331 A/C

B. BOMBS UNACCOUNTED FOR:

SECRET

SECRET

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By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

7. NO. A/C ATTACKING LAST RESORT TARGETS: NONE

8. NO. A/C ATTACKING TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY: 1

TARGET	NO. A/C	METHOD	TIME	ALTITUDE	BOMBS DROPPED
SHINGU	1	RADAR	161900Z	8,000 FT	37 X 465 LB M17A1

9. NO. A/C WHICH FAILED TO BOMB DESIGNATEB TARGETS: 22

REASONS: ~~MEVHWNPCAL~~ mechanical: 20. PERSONNEL: 1. OBSERVATION A/C: 1

10. NO. A/C LOST TO FLAK: NONE

11. NO. A/C LOST TO E/A: NONE

12. NO. A/C LOST BY ACCIDENT: NONE

SECRET

13. NO. A/C LOST BY REASONS UNKNOWN. 3

14. TIME OF ATTACK: PRIMARY TARGET: 161729Z 161952Z

TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY: SEE PAR. 8

15. ALTITUDE OF ATTACK: PRIMARY: 5,000 FTHTO 9,000 FT

9,500

TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY: SEE PAR. 8

16. BOMBS ON EACH TARGET:

PRIMARY:

1535 X 490 LB M-76 IB — 376.58 Tons

1522 X 425 LB E-46 IB — 323.42 "

5285 X ~~465~~ 465 LB M-17A1 IC — 1228.76 "

1610 X 360 LB E-36 IB — 239.80

301 X ~~GETP~~ 350 LB E-28 IB — 52.68

99 X 425 LB T4E4 IC — 21.04

2242.28 on PT + 8,60 Tons on T/O or total of 2250.88 Tons

TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY: SEE PAR. 8

A. BOMB LOADINGD:

✓ 1572 X 490 LB M-76 IB INSTANTANEOUS NOSE, ON DELAY TAIL

✓ 1693 X 425 LB E-46 IB FUSED TO OPEN 2,500 FT ABOVE TARGET

✓ 5739 X 465 LB M-17A1 IC FUSED TO OPEN 2,000 FT ABOVE TARGET

✓ 1749 X 360 LB E-36 IB FUSED TO OPEN 2,000 FT ABOVE TARGET

385 X 350 LB E-28 IB FUSED TO OPEN 2,000 FT ABOVE TARGET

✓ 102 X 425HLB T4E4 IC FUSED TO OPEN 3,000 FT BELOW A/C

Total 2483.85 Tons or Bomb load of 7.5 Tons average on 331 A/C airborne

B. BOMBS UNACCOUNTED FOR:

24 X 425 E-46 IB

17. NO. A/C JETTISONING BOMBS: 46

30 X 490 LB M-76 IB — 139 X 360 LB E-36 IB

147 X 425 LB E-46 ~~80~~ IB — 81 X 350 LB E-28 IB

379 X 465 LB M-17A1 IC — 2 X 425 LB T4E4 IC

18. NO. A/C BRINGING BOMBS BACK: 4

7 X 490 LB M-76 IB — 3 X 350 LB E-28 IB

38 X 465 LB M-17A1 IC — 1 X 425 LB T4E4 IC

19. PERSONMEL CASUALTIES: KILLED: NONE

SECRET

SERIOUSLY WOUNDED: 2

SLIGHTLY WOUNBED: 2

SECRET

MISSING: 32

20. NO. E/A DESTROYED: 1

PROBABLY DESTROYED: NONE

DAMAGED: 1

21. REMARKS:

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By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

CORRECTION NO. 15. SHOULD READ 5,000 FT TO 9,500 FT
END
TOD 181538Z IK

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

LTO ; COMAF 20

INFO; DEPCOMAF 20 (POA)

BOMWG 73

21.

A. ENEMY OPPOSITION: APPROXIMATELY 280 E/A WERE SIGHTED FROM WHICH AP APPROXIMATELY 140 - 150 UNAGGRESSIVE ATTACKS RESULTED FROM IP TO TARGET AREA. MAJORITY OF E/A WERE IRVINGS, ZEKES, NICKS, TONYS, TOJOS, AND OSCARS. ATTACKS APPEARED TO BE POORLY COORDINATED AND MOSTLY INEFFECTIVE. SEVERAL PHOSPHOROUS BOMBS AND AIR TO AIR ROCKETS WERE OBSERVED. ONE E/A CARRIED SUSPENDED CABLE 500 FT LONG WITH SEVERAL CYLINDERS ATTACHED.

SECRET

B. FLAK: ENCOUNTERED FROM IP WITH GREATEST CONCENTRATION OVER TARGET AREA. GENERALLY MEDIUM TO HEAVY, MEAGER TO INTENSE AND INACCURATE. MOSTLY CONTINUOUSLY POINTED AND PREDICTED TYPE. ATTACKS APPEARED TO BE COORDINATED WITH S/L'S. GROUND TO AIR ROCKETS AND PHOSPHOROUS BURSTS WERE NOTED. ONE BARRAGE BALLOON AT 7,000 FT.

C. A/C LOST OR IN DESTRESS: 3 A/C UNHEARD FROM AFTER TAKE OFF.

D. A/C SERIOUSLY DAMAGED OR CRASHED ON RETURN: ONE A/C WITH 4 HOLES IN FUSELAGE, WITH EXTENSIVE DAMAGEHTO BULKHEABS AND EQUIPMENT.

E. A/C BATTLE DAMAGE: 7 A/C

4 A/C READY WITHIN 2 DAYS

SECRET

2 A/C READY WITHIN 10 DAYS

1 A/C READY WITHIN 21 DAYS

F. OBSERVATIONS:

(1) FIRES ON AWAJI ISLAND, AKASHI, TOKUSHIMA, KADA. SEVERAL DUMMY FIRES NOTED IN TARGET AREA.

(2) 8 GUN BATTERY HEAVY AA 33/51 N - 135/05 E.

(3) EXPLOSIONS IN DOCK AREAS AND WESTERN PART OF CITY.

G. PHOTO INTERPRETATION: SEE OUR MESSAGE FN-18-1, 180030Z.

H. CREW COMMENTS: NONE

I. WEATHER: BASES AT TAKE OFF: 3/10 CUMULUS, BASE 1500 FT, TOP 6,000 FT. VISIBILITY 12 MILES. ROUTE OUTGOING: TO 25 DEG N: 4 - 5/10 CUMULUS, BASE 1800 FT, TOP 6,000 FT; 3/10 ALTOSTRATUS, BASE 8,000 FT, TOP 9,000 FT; 3/10 CIRRUS, BASE 28,000 FT. 25 DEG N TO 27 DEG N: 8/10 VUMULUS, BASE 1000 FT, TOPS 6,000 FT, OCCASSIONALLY GOING TO 8,000 FT; 5/P ALTOSTRATUS, BASE 8,000 FT, TOP 11,000 FT; SCATTERED LIGHT SHOWERS. VISIBILITY TEN MILES LOWERING TO 5 MILES PN RAIN.

27 DEG N TO 30 DEG N: 2/10 STRATOCUMULUS BECOMING 10/10, BASES 2,000 FT LOWERING TO 1,000 FT, TOP 4,000 FT INCREASING TO 7,000 FT. 3/10 ALTOSTRATUS BASE AT 9,000 FT, TOP 11,000 FT BECOMING 10/10, BASE 9,000 FT, TOP 16,000 FT. 30 DEG N TO 32 DEG N: 10/10 STRATOCUMULUS, BASE 1000 FT, TOP 7,000 FT; 10/10 ALTOSTRATUS IN LAYER , BASE 9,000 FT, TOP 16,000 FT; MODERATE ICING BETWEEN 11,000 FT AND 15,000 FT. 32 DEG N TO EMPIRE: 10/10 STRATOCUMULUS, BASE 1000 FT, TOP 7,000 FT BECOMING 3/10, BASE 3,000 FT, TOP 5,000 FT; 10/10 ALTOSTRATUS, BASE 9,000 FT, TOP 16,000 FT, BECOMING 3/10, BASE 11,000 FT, TOP 13,000 FT. TARGET: 3/10 STRATOCUMULUS. BASE 3,000 FT, TOP 5,000 FT; 3/10 ALTO-STRATUS, BASE 11,000 XT, TOP 13,000 FT; WINDS AT 7,000 FT: 280 DEG AT 30 KNOTS. ROUTE RETURNING: SAME AS THE ROUTE OUTGOING. BASES ON RETURN: 4/71 CUMULUS, BASE 1600 FT, TOP 5,000 FT. VISIBILITY 15 MILES.

NOTE: ONE A/C LANDED AT IWO JIMA ON RETURN ROUTE DUE TO MECHANICAL

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Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

OBSERVED. ONE E/A CARRIED SUSPENDED CABLE 500 FT LONG W[illegible]
CYLINDERS ATTACHED.

SECRET

B. FLAK: ENCOUNTERED FROM IP WITH GREATEST CONCENTRATION OVER TARGET AREA. GENERALLY MEDIUM TO HEAVY, MEAGER TO INTENSE AND INACCURATE. MOSTLY CONTINUOUSLY POINTED AND PREDICTED TYPE. ATTACKS APPEARED TO BE COORDINATED WITH S/L'S. GROUND TO AIR ROCKETS AND PHOSPHOROUS BURSTS WERE NOTED. ONE BARRAGE BALLOON AT 7,000 FT.

C. A/C LOST OR IN DESTRESS: 3 A/C UNHEARD FROM AFTER TAKE OFF.

D. A/C SERIOUSLY DAMAGED OR CRASHED ON RETURN: ONE A/C WITH 4 HOLES IN FUSELAGE, WITH EXTENSIVE DAMAGEHTO BULKHEABS AND EQUIPMENT.

E. A/C BATTLE DAMAGE: 7 A/C

4 A/C READY WITHIN 2 DAYS

2 A/C READY WITHIN 10 DAYS

1 A/C READY WITHIN 21 DAYS

SECRET

F. OBSERVATIONS:

(1) FIRES ON AWAJI ISLAND, AKASHI, TOKUSHIMA, KADA. SEVERAL DUMMY FIRES NOTED IN TARGET AREA.

(2) 8 GUN BATTERY HEAVY AA 33/51 N - 135/05 E.

(3) EXPLOSIONS IN DOCK AREAS AND WESTERN PART OF CITY.

G. PHOTO INTERPRETATION: SEE OUR MESSAGE FN-18-1, 180030Z.

H. CREW COMMENTS: NONE

I. WEATHER: BASES AT TAKE OFF: 3/10 CUMULUS, BASE 1500 FT, TOP 6,000 FT. VISIBILITY 12 MILES. ROUTE OUTGOING: TO 25 DEG N: 4 - 5/10 CUMULUS, BASE 1800 FT, TOP 6,000 FT; 3/10 ALTOSTRATUS, BASE 8,000 FT, TOP 9,000 FT; 3/10 CIRRUS, BASE 28,000 FT. 25 DEG N TO 27 DEG N: 8/10 VUMULUS, BASE 1000 FT, TOPS 6,000 FT, OCCASSIONALLY GOING TO 8,000 FT; 5/P ALTOSTRATUS, BASE 8,000 FT, TOP 11,000 FT; SCATTERED LIGHT SHOWERS. VISIBILITY TEN MILES LOWERING TO 5 MILES PN RAIN.O
27 DEG N
TO 30 DEG N: 2/10 STRATOCUMULUS BECOMING 10/10, BASES 2,000 FT LOWERING TO 1,000 FT, TOP 4,000 FT INCREASING TO 7,000 FT. 3/10 ALTOSTRATUS BASE AT 9,000 FT, TOP 11,000 FT BECOMING 10/10, BASE 9,000 FT, TOP 16,000 FT. 30 DEG N TO 32 DEG N: 10/10 STRATOCUMULUS, BASE 1000 FT, TOP 7,000 FT; 10/10 ALTOSTRATUS IN LAYER , BASE 9,000 FT, TOP 16,000 FT; MODERATE ICING BETWEEN 11,000 FT AND 15,000 FT. 32 DEG N TO EMPIRE: 10/10 STRATOCUMULUS, BASE 1000 FT, TOP 7,000 FT BECOMING 3/10, BASE 3,000 FT, TOP 5,000 FT; 10/10 ALTOSTRATUS, BASE 9,000 FT, TOP 16,000 FT, BECOMING 3/10, BASE 11,000 FT, TOP 13,000 FT. TARGET: 3/10 STRATOCUMULUS. BASE 3,000 FT, TOP 5,000 FT; 3/10 ALTO-STRATUS, BASE 11,000 XT, TOP 13,000 FT; WINDS AT 7,000 FT: 280 DEG AT 30 KNOTS. ROUTE RETURNING: SAME AS THE ROUTE OUTGOING. BASES ON RETURN: 4/71 CUMULUS, BASE 1600 FT, TOP 5,000 XT. VISIBILITY 15 ~~MILES~~.

NOTE: ONE A/C LANDED AT IWO JIMA ON RETURN ROUTE DUE TO MECHANICAL DIFFICULTIES. BOMBS LISTED AS UNACCOUNTED FOR. RESULTY OF INTERRO-GATION WILL BE FORWARDED IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT.

...END...
TOD 181538Z 1K

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

MIN PLS WISH TO AS[illegible]R SOME CORRECTIONS

SECRET

S-2

PLEASE GIVE THE FOLLOWING CORRECTIONS:

ITEM 3, THIRD WORD

ITEM 9, WORDER AFTER "REASONS"

ITEM 16, WORD AFTER "5285 X"

ITEM 16, WORD AFTER "301 X"

ITEM 17, WORD AFTER "147 X 425 LB E-46"

ALSO A REREAT OF 21 A RPT 21 A

WORD AFTER "REASONS"

SECRET

R-61

(answer to corrections asked on S-2)

ITEM 3. THIRD WORD IS "RETURN"

WHAT IS THAT U WANT ON ITEM 9. K
AFTER REASONS IS MECHANICAL

WHAT IS THE ON E ON 16. K
ITEM 16. 5285 X 465 LB M-17A1 IC
301 X 350 LB E-28 IB
ITEM 17. 81 X 350 LB E-28 IB
RPT ITEM 17.
147 X 425 LB E-46 IB 81 X

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

MIN PLS WISH TO AS[illegible]R SOME CORRECTIONS

SECRET

S-2

PLEASE GIVE THE FOLLOWING CORRECTIONS:

ITEM 3, THIRD WORD

ITEM 9, WORDER AFTER "REASONS"

ITEM 16, WORD AFTER "5285 X"

ITEM 16, WORD AFTER "301 X"

ITEM 17, WORD AFTER "147 X 425 LB E-46"

ALSO A REBEAT OF 21 A RPT 21 A

WORD AFTER "REASONS"

AFTER 5285 X PLS

SECRET

NOW TWO ITEMS DOWN WORD AFTER "3[illegible] X

NOW ITEM 17 AFTER "147 X 425 LB E-46" GIVE AFTER THAT PLS

SHOULD BE THE ONE TO THE LEFT AND JUST PRECEDING THAT ONE PLS

IS IT LB E-46 IB OR IC PLS

PLS RPT FOR US

OK TNX

NOW ALL OF PARA A ITME 21 RPT ITEM 21 PLS

SECRET

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Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

SPECIFIC SUBJECT	TYPE OF MESSAGE	MESSAGE NO.	DATE AND TIME SENT	DATE AND TIME REC'D.	INITIALS

MISSING & LOST A/C

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By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

SPECIFIC SUBJECT	TYPE OF MESSAGE	MESSAGE NO.	DATE AND TIME SENT	DATE AND TIME REC'D.	INITIALS
Reasons for airborne a/c failing to Bomb -	Telecon	AN-221		22 Mar	[illegible]

ABORTIVE
REPORTS

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By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

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EXTRACT OF TELETYPE CONFERENCE BETWEEN
WASHINGTON AND GUAM

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INCOMING MESSAGE

INITIALS	
CHIEF OF STAFF	
DC/S ADM.	
DC/S OPR.	
AG	

TELECON MSG NO.	SUBJECT	DATE
FN-22-1	REASONS FOR AIRBORNE AIRCRAFT FAILING TO BOMB PRIMARY TARGET	22 Mar 45

Aborting Mission 43
III BC

(To: COMAF 20 From: BOMCOM 21)

Mission 43 flown on 1 March 1945.

73rd Bomb Wing.

498th Bomb Group

42-24610 A. No. 10 cylinder hold down screw stripped. Oil leaking from base of cylinder. Cylinder newly installed prior to this flight. Sparks caused by oil leaking on exhaust collector ring.
B. Screw replaced.
C. None.

42-63444 A. Carbon vanes in fuel transfer pumps sheared and pieces of carbon stuck in transfer valve.
B. Pumps replaced and screws installed over inlet and outlet ports.
C. 4-310.

499th Bomb Group

42-65353 A. No. 16 cylinder blown on No. 4 engine. Throttle kicking back. Sparks coming from under cowling.
B. Engine changed.
C. 45-395.

500th Bomb Group

42-24700 A. Exhaust valve failure on No. 3 engine. Metal particles found in pump.
B. Replaced engine.
C. 45-368.

313th Bomb Wing.

6th Bomb Group

42-93901 A. No. 18 cylinder head blown on No. 3 engine.
B. Engine changed.
C. Not available.

DISTRIBUTION	ACTION	SECRET
	INFORMATION	C/S -1-

5-33, AF (REV 1 JAN 45)

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DC/S OPR.	
AG	

TELECON MSG NO.	SUBJECT	DATE
FN-22-1	REASONS FOR AIRBORNE AIRCRAFT FAILING TO BOMB PRIMARY TARGET (Cont'd)	22 Mar 45

9th Bomb Group

42-24820 A. Hole in No. 1 piston No. 2 engine.
B. Engine changed.
C. Not available.

306th Bomb Group

42-65253 A. Swallowed valve No. 6 cylinder on No. 4 engine.
B. Engine changed.
C. Not available.

42-24809 A. No.1 engine cutting out and backfiring after takeoff, believed to be bad leads. Several leads found to be oil soaked. Changed leads on left mag which cleared up mag drop altogether. Oil soaked leads also on right magneto.
B. New harness being installed.
C. Not available.

314th Bomb Wing.

29th Bomb Group

42-63568 A. Internal engine failure resulting in loss of oil so that prop could not be feathered in flight, thus causing a continuous windmilling which without proper lubrication, caused the prop to burn itself out.
B. Engine, oil cooler, propeller, ring cowling being replaced. Oil tank being flushed out.
C. Not available.

42-95928 A. Fuel pump inoperative due to disintegration of fuel transfer pump vanes.
B. Plane grounded. Awaiting new fuel transfer pumps, screens and fuel selector valves.
C. Not available.

19th Bomb Group

42-24093 A. Fuel pump inoperative due to disintegration of fuel transfer pump vanes.
B. Fuel transfer system check and repair.
C. Not available.

DISTRIBUTION		
	ACTION	Stat Con (2) - 2 -
	INFORMATION	C/S DC/S Opr; DC/S T&E; A-4 (4); FSO (2)

SECRET

5-33, AF (REV 1 JAN 45)

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By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

SPECIFIC SUBJECT	TYPE OF MESSAGE	MESSAGE NO.	DATE AND TIME SENT	DATE AND TIME REC'D.	INITIALS
Communique #72	Telecon	Kg-17-3	1716062		SR
Communique #72 (Relay)	Telecon	KG-17-3	171832Z		SR

PRESS
RELEASES

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By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

TELECON MESSAGE NO KG-17-3-H RESTRICTED 17 MARCH 1945

RESTRICTED

SUBJECT COMMUNIQUE NO 72

TO COMGENBOMCOM 21 COMGENBOMCOM 20 INFO DEPCOMAF 20 POA FROM COMAF 20

Mission 43
XXI BC
Communique

FOLLOWING COMMUNIQUE FOR RELEASE AT 031717ØØZ

KOBE, JAPAN'S PRINCIPAL SEAPORT, WAS HEAVILY BOMBED WITH INCENDIARIES FRIDAY BY B-29'S BASED IN THE MARIANAS. THE ATTACK WAS MADE IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF 17 MARCH (JAPANESE TIME) BY SUPERFORTRESSES OF THE XXI BOMBER COMMAND UNDER MAJOR GENERAL CURTIS EASY LEMAY.

LARGE FIRES WERE REPORTED, WITH THEIR GLOW VISIBLE 15Ø MILES SEAWARD. CREW MEMBERS OF THE MORE THAT 3ØØ PLANES PARTICIPATING IN THE STRIKE SAID THAT SMOKE ROSE TO 1Ø,ØØØ FEET AND THAT A NUMBER OF HEAVY EXPLOSIONS WERE SEEN IN THE TARGET AREA, WHICH INCLUDED INDUSTRIAL PLANTS AND DOCK AND SHIPPING FACILITIES VITAL TO JAPANESE TRANSPORTATION. DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS BY INDIVIDUAL CREWS RANGED FROM GOOD TO EXCELLENT.

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS OF THE 21ST BOMBER COMMAND ADVISE THAT THE JAPANESE SENT ALOFT SOME 4Ø FIGHTER PLANES BUT MANY OF THEM DID NOT PRESS HOME AN ATTACK. SOME OF THE SUPERFORTRESSES SAW NO FIGHTER OPPOSITION. FLAK WAS INTENSE IN SOME TARGET AREAS AND MEAGER IN OTHERS.

(ATTENTION: REES INFO WIPPOLD FROM HADDOCK)

CCN: FOR THE LAST TWO MSGS THE LAST LINES SHOULD BE

(ATTENTION GLASS FROM HADOCK RT RPT HADDOCK) OK?

INSTEAD OF (REES INFO WIPPOLD FROM HADDOCK)

END

TOD 1832Z WCR JLB 171832Z

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By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

TELECON MESSAGE NO KG-[redacted]-3-H RE BUST

TOD : LAT LASTMSG 031715532

RESTRICTED Mission

Mission 4 3
XXI BC - Press

TELECON MESSAGE NO KG-17-3-H RESTRICTED 17 MARCH 1945

SUBJECT COMMUNIQUE NO 72

TO COMGENBOMCOM 21 COMGENBOMCOM 20 INFO DEPCOMAF 20 POA FROM COMAF 20

FOLLOWING COMMUNIQUE FOR RELEASE AT 031717002

KOBE, JAPAN'S PRINCIPAL SEAPORT, WAS HEAVILY BOMBED WITH INCENDIARIES FRIDAY BY B-29'S BASED IN THE MARIANAS. THE ATTACK WAS MADE IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF 17 MARCH (JAPANESE TIME) BY SUPERFORTRESSES OF THE XXI BOMBER COMMAND UNDER MAJOR GENERAL CURTIS EASY LEMAY.

LARGE FIRES WERE REPORTED, WITH THEIR GLOW VISIBLE 150 MILES SEAWARD. CREW MEMBERS OF THE MORE THAT 300 PLANES PARTICIPATING IN THE STRIKE SAID THAT SMOKE ROSE TO 10,000 FEET AND THAT A NUMBER OF HEAVY EXPLOSIONS WERE SEEN IN THE TARGET AREA, WHICH INCLUDED INDUSTRIAL PLANTS AND DOCK AND SHIPPING FACILITIES VITAL TO JAPANESE TRANSPORTATION. DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS BY INDIVIDUAL CREWS RANGED FROM GOOD TO EXCELLENT.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE 21ST BOMBER COMMAND ADVISE THAT THE JAPANESE SENT ALOFT SOME 40 FIGHTER PLANES BUT MANY OF THEM DID NOT PRESS HOME AN ATTACK. SOME OF THE SUPERFORTRESSES SAW NO FIGHTER OPPOSITION. FLAK WAS INTENSE IN SOME TARGET AREAS AND MEAGER IN OTHERS.

(ATTENTION: REES INFO WIPPOLD FROM HADDOCK)

--- END---

RESTRICTED

TOD: 031715; RPT 031715562

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Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

SPECIFIC SUBJECT	TYPE OF MESSAGE	MESSAGE NO.	DATE AND TIME SENT	DATE AND TIME REC'D.	INITIALS
Fighter Opposition Request for Info on Night	Telecon	G-21-3	21 Mar		DK
Night Opposition Request for Info on Night	Telecon	FN-22-4		22 Mar	DK
Ftr Opposition	"	FN-01-10		1 Apr	BGR

INT REPORTS
ENEMY ATTKS

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INITIALS	
CHIEF OF STAFF	
DC/S ADM.	
DC/S OPR.	BGR
AG	

TELECON MSG NO.	SUBJECT	DATE
FN-01-10	YOUR TELECON WAR 57238 Enemy Opposition	1 Apr 45

TO:	INFO:	FROM:
COMAF 20 XXIBC	DEPCOMAF 20 FOA	BOMCOM 21

This is data for Mission No. 43, Kove, 16 March 1945. Night Mission. Air opposition was weak. No B-29 was lost to enemy aircraft. Two were damaged by enemy aircraft and three were damaged by enemy aircraft and ack ack. We destroyed one E/A and damaged one. Ninety-six enemy fighters made 104 attacks, 62 of which were at the tail. Two hundred eighty enemy fighters were reported as sighted. However, previous experience at this target, intelligence on operational fighters based in the area and the difficulty of screening sightings on Night Missions lead to the belief that sightings did not exceed 150. The attacking fighters are typed as follows: Irving 11, Tony 8, Zeke 7, Tojo 2, Zeke Thirty Two 1, Nick 1, Oscar 1, Single Engine Unidentified 24, Twin Engine Unidentified 11, wholly unidentified 30. A Dinah Three was sighted but did not attack. The number of attacks is more than twice as many as on any previous Night Mission. Attacks were pressed in more, with the enemy using landing lights to pick us up. The illumination from the fires was also utilized by the enemy fighters. Searchlights played only a minor part. One enemy aircraft dragged a cable about 500 feet long with heavy cylinders. Fifteen enemy aircraft trailed a B-29 for 380 miles on the withdrawal. Seven enemy aircraft trailed another B-29 for 200 miles. Throughout the mission conventional evasive tactics were effective. The Jap has not yet improved its night interception tactics. That he must improve them is manifest. That he is making every effort to do so must be assumed. It is something more than surmise to predict that the enemy's effort will initially be to increase the number of his interceptions and to improve his fighter searchlight coordination. Skilled night fighter planes, effective ground control, and first line night fighter planes with proper equipment are for the comparatively distant future.

This message dispatched from XXI BomCom control room at 010728Z.

NO ACTION ~~COPY~~

COPY TO CHIEF OF STAFF

SECRET

DISTRIBUTION		
	ACTION	DC/S Opr
	INFORMATION	C/S D C/S Adm; A-2 (12); A-3 CC&R (6); Op Anal; SCO (2) AA ; 5 File

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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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INCOMING MESSAGE

INITIALS	
CHIEF OF STAFF	
DC/S ADM.	
DC/S OPR.	
AG	

TELECON MSG NO.	SUBJECT	DATE
FN-22-4	REQUEST FOR INFO ON LIGHT FIGHTER OPPOSITION	22 March 45

Mission 43
~~XXIBC~~

(From: COMGENBOMCOM 21 * To: COMAF 20 * Info: DEPCOMAF 20 POA)

Your telecon G-21-5 info on fighter opposition. Light from all sources is believed sufficient to have enabled crews to identify enemy aircraft to the extent reported. Wings and groups screen sightings before reporting and endeavor to eliminate duplications. However, there are no doubt many duplications of sightings, particularly on night missions with each B-29 operating alone. Therefore the figure of 280 sightings reported on Middleman #2 is believed in excess of fighter interception. Difference between fighters airborne in the target area and those attacking, and in general comparative ineffectiveness of night interception is believed due to deficiency in night fighter aircraft, lack of trained fighter-searchlight teams, lack of effective ground control of interceptors, and lack of pilots trained in night fighting. Detailed data for evaluation as usually presented in tactical mission reports is not yet available. Do you desire that this data be sent telecon when received?

End.

SECRET

DISTRIBUTION		
	ACTION	A-2 (2)
	INFORMATION	C/S 1 DC/S Opr

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

INITIALS	
CHIEF OF STAFF	
DC/S ADM.	
DC/S OPR.	
AC	

TELECON MSG NO.	SUBJECT	DATE
G-2148	REQUEST FOR INFO ON NIGHT FIGHTER OPPOSITION Mission 43	21 March 1945

(To: COMGENBOMCOM 21 From: COMGENAF 20)

Would appreciate further analysis and evaluation of night fighter opposition to Middleman 2 and Microscope 3. How were so many enemy aircraft sighted in the darkness and how do you explain difference between numbers sighted and numbers making attacks. How was it possible to make such positive identification of types of enemy aircraft. Was the light from fires or moonlight sufficient to reveal these details. Are we to interpret the report of 280 enemy aircraft sighted in Middleman 2 as meaning that you estimate this number of aircraft actually airborne or does this represent the total number of aircraft sightings reported by individual crews without attempt to eliminate possible multiple sightings of same enemy aircraft by a number of planes. Please send us by telecon your full evaluation of these night fighter reactions.

SECRET

DISTRIBUTION →	ORIGINATOR	SECTION	NAME & GRADE: Col. Van Slyck	PHONE 5988
	INFORMATION	C/S DC/S Opr: A-2		

S-33, AF (REV 1 JAN 45)

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SPECIFIC SUBJECT	TYPE OF MESSAGE	MESSAGE NO.	DATE AND TIME SENT	DATE AND TIME REC'D.	INITIALS
Flash Photo Int. Rpt.	Telecon	FN-18-1		18 Mar	EK
Flash Photo Int Rpt.	Telecon	FN-18-1		18 Mar	EK
Relay of Damage	"	K-20-5	210045Z		HA
Dammage Assessment	Cable	Cm In 21181		200254Z	EK
RCM Information	Report			8 May	HA

MADE BY CHAS C
DMGE ASSES
PHOTO STRIKE

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XXI BOMBER COMMAND 8 May 1945

Mission No. 43 - 16 March 1945

Target: Kobe, Japan

RCM INFORMATION

1. General

Four RCM observers searched for enemy transmissions in the frequency bands of 4-10 mcs, 25-100 mcs, and 100-300 mcs. While over the target, the search was concentrated on logging radar signals with high PRF and short pulse length characteristics. After 54 intercepts were filtered, 15 different signals were determined usable for analysis.

2. Results

a. Possible fire control radars were believed to have been operating over Osaka Wan and in the target area, since intense to meager but inaccurate flak was observed through 2/10 to 9/10 clouds coincident with the signals 195/2000/3 and 79/2000-25000/5-7 respectively.

b. A-I was suspected because four or six twin-engine E/A were observed following Allied bombers coincident with the signal 150/1200/--- although no attacks were made.

c. Three signals intercepted near Muroto Zaki, believed to have emanated from a Mark II Fixed Air Search radar. They were 94/800/20; 97/800/20; 110/800/20 respectively.

d. Seven early warning type radars were intercepted enroute to Japan from Nishino Shima to Smith Island. One signal, 310/600/10, at Nishino Shima is a little different from the usual Japanese early warning radar characteristics. These radars appeared to cover ranges exceeding 100 miles.

AC/AS, INTELLIGENCE COMMENT: The few instances of meager to intense flak appearing coincident with short pulse length signals did not afford enough evidence to determine definitely that gun laying or searchlight control radars were being used.

The suspected AI signals are appearing again. In a previous mission to the same target a signal with 1300/---/2 characteristics was intercepted but no definite coordination with fighters was made to associate the signal with AI. The XXI RCM people stated that further search is being carried on in an effort to obtain more evidence to support these signals as well as attempting to intercept more definite signals with AI characteristics.

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The fact that fighters have trailed Allied aircraft through clouds and storms indicates that the enemy may have some type of equipment to aid in interception. They may merely operate receivers that pick up Allied radar signals on which they can home.

These instances seem to be occurring more frequently; therefore, it is possible that RCM personnel will be able to obtain some concrete evidence in the near future.

CC: ACO, Major Mallis
AFIAN-T&T, Flak Analysis Section

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Deputy C. of S. P & A
Deputy C. of S. Opr.
Deputy C. of S. Admin
A-2
AAF
INFO
MSC
AEP
RDB
RER
DAO
CST
ABI

SECRET IVI
PRIORITY

Mission #3
IV BC
Damage Assessment

From; CG US Army Forces, Pacific Ocean Areas, Ft Shafter TH

To: War Department
General Headquarters, Southwest Pacific Area,
Leyte, Philippines
CG US Army Forces, India Burma Theater, New Delhi India
CG US Army Forces, China Theater, Chungking China
CG 20th Bomber Command, Kharagpur, India
CG South Pacific Base Command, Noumea, New Caledonia

No: RJ 56669 20 March 1945

Through CINCPOA comes POACS daily SITSUM nbr 45-74. RJ 56669 action WDWLA info CINCSWPA, CG SOPACBACOM, CG India Burma Theater, CG 20th BOMCOM and CG USF China Theater with all dates east longitude time. Signed Richardson.

Operations March 17 follow:

Kobe urban area received approximately 2500 tons of incendiaries and 20 tons of frags dropped by 307 B-29's during predawn hours. Good to excellent results reported with heavy explosions and large fires emitting smoke 10,000 feet skyward. 280 enemy interceptors made approximately 150 non effective attacks. Reported was 1 Nip plane which carried 500 foot suspended cable with several cylinders attached. Meager to intense medium and heavy antiair was inaccurate. Meager ineffective searchlight activity reported. One B-29 bombed Shingu as target of opportunity. Missing from unknown causes are 3 Superforts. 7 planes suffered battle damage.

Off NW tip Awaji Island in inland sea two cruisers seen anchored. Inaccurate AA received from two flak ships

CM-IN-21181 (20 Mar 45)

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SECRET IVI
PRIORITY

From: CG US Army Forces, Pacific Ocean Areas, Ft Shafter TH

No: RJ 56669 20 March 1945

100 miles SSE of Shionomisaki, southermost tip of Honshu. After raid 4 single Superfort photo rcn missions flown over Kobe-Osaka area. Meager to intense inaccurate heavy flak met. One plane received single ineffective attack by a Tony. Another aircraft met by a ineffective pass by lone twin engine fighter.

At least 7 large fires observed in Kobe area with smoke rising to 15,000 feet; fires also seen at Osaka. 30 reflectors observed in Kofa area, others in northern end Awaji Island. At airport at Kochi 50 planes seen; on field at Toyohashi airport were 55 aircraft.

End

ACTION: OPD

INFO : CG AAF; ASF; G-2; Adm. King; Log

CM-IN-21181 (20 Mar 45) DTG: 200254Z ejc

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TELETYPE CONFERENCE

19

WASHINGTON PARTIES

KHARAGPUR - HONOLULU - GUAM PARTIES

TELECON MSG NO K-20-5 (S E C R E T) SECRET 202208Z

SUBJECT: DAMAGE TO KOBE CITY FROM XXI BOMCOM MISSION NO.43 - 16/17 MARCH.

TO: COMGENBOMCOM 20 FROM: COMAF 20

DAMAGE TO KOBE CITY:

1. DAMAGE TO KOBE CITY FROM XXI BOMCOM MISSION 43, 16-17 MAR 45 TOTALS 57,548,000 SQ FT. (1300 ACRES, 2.1 SQ MILES) OF DESTROUED AREAS. DAMAGE VISIBLE TO INDUSTRIAL TARGETS IS OBSCURED BY SMOKE AND/OR RPT AND/OR CLOUDS WITH EXCEPTION OF MANOR DAMAGE TO TARGET 11-KAWASK RPT 11-KAWASAKI LOCOMOTIVE AND CAR COMPANY.

2. DAMAGE TO KOBE CITY: THIS COVERAGE INDICATED 9,320,000 SQ FT ADDITIONAL DAMAGE TO KOBE CITY RESULTING FROM XXI B. C. STRIKE MISSION 16-17 MARCH 1945.-

SECRET

END.

TOD 210045Z WCR

ORIGINATOR OF MESSAGE _____

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION	C/S	DC/S Opr	DC/S Adm	A-1	A-2	A-3 Tng	A-3 OC&R	A-4	A-5 Plans
	A.G.	Surg	Air Insp	PRO	Comm Op Anal	Stat Con			
INFORMATION	C/S	DC/S Opr	DC/S Adm	A-1	A-2	A-3 Tng	A-3 OC&R	A-4	A-5 Plans
	A.G.	Surg	Air Insp	PRO	Comm. Op Anal	Stat Con			

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DC/S OPR.	
AG	

TELECON MSG NO.	SUBJECT	DATE
FH-18-14	FLASH PHOTO INTERPRETATION REPORT, 3 PRSM 88. 18 March 1945	18 March 1945

(To: COMAF 20 From: BOMCON 21 Info: DEPCOMAF 20 (FOA) CTF 94 CTF 93 CTG 93.2 CINCPOA ADV HQ COMAF 7 COMCPOA REAR COMAIRPAC INTERPROM 2 BOMWG 73 BOMWG 313 BOMWG 314)

Mean time of photography: 0122Z -quality: good except for portions that are cloud covered. Damage to Osaka city: new coverage indicated 6,240,000 sq ft of additional damage to Osaka city from XXI B. C. Mission no. 42, 13-14 March 1945. Damage is located on map M-7 AAF objective folder 90.25, June 1944 as shown below: 1 area of 2,300,000 sq ft destroyed at (V5.5-H10.8). 2. Area of 2,300,000 sq ft destroyed at (6.0-11.2). 3. Area of 690,000 sq ft destroyed at (6.4-11.7). 4. Area of 370,000 sq ft destroyed at (6.6-8.7) (no damage visible to target 1765 on 6 inch coverage). 5. Area of 580,000 sq ft destroyed at (6.9-8.3). Complete coverage of city not available as clouds obscure portion of the city which has not been photographed since strike. Damage to Kobe city: This coverage indicated 9,320,000 sq ft additional damage to Kobe city resulting from XXI B. C. strike mission 16-17 March 1945. Damage is located on map M-9 AAF objective folder 90.25, June 1944 as shown below: 1. Target 169 Mitsubishi heavy industries 100,000 sq ft of ground area around slipways destroyed (V2.9-H.7.9). 2. area of 1,000,000 sq ft destroyed at (6.9-7.4) (6.8-7.7)(6.1-7.4) (6.1-7.6). 3. area of 400,000 sq ft destroyed at (5.7-7.5). 4. Area of 800,000 sq ft destroyed at (4.9-7.5) (4.9-7.7) (4.6-7.3)(4.5-7.5). 5. Area of 6,900,000 sq ft destroyed at (5.2-7.1)(3.8-6.1)(3.4-6.4)(3.9-7.0). 6. Target 171, Kawasaki heavy industries a total of 120,000 sq ft of minor damage. Areas near waterfront are obscured by clouds and have not been photographed since strike mission. Kobe harbor 34/40 N-135: /10 E (60% coverage) 8 naval vessels, 1 CV in final stages of construction, 1 CVE under construction-final stages, 1 CVE 1 SS large, 1 SS medium, 2 SS small, and 1 unidentified vessel in dry dock-orobably DD. 19 MV's over 200 ft in length. Osaka Harbor 34/41 N-135/27E (40% coverage) 24 MV's over 200 ft in length. Akashi airfield 34/40 N-135/57 E. aircraft visible: 21. 15 T/E, 5 S/E, 1 unidentified. Approximately 10 additional A/C in a scrap pile which are inoperative. Tambaichi airfiled 34/34 N 135/49 E. Aircraft visible: 32 which can not be identified because of small scale of photography.

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DISTRIBUTION		
	ACTION	DC/S Opr;
	INFORMATION	C/S; A-2 (14 cys) A-5 (2 cys) A-3 OC&R (6 cys) SCO (2 cys) AA; Op Anal.

5-33, AF (REV 1 JAN 45)

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By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

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HQ TWENTIETH AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
EXTRACT OF TELETYPE CONFERENCE BETWEEN
WASHINGTON AND GUAM

INCOMING MESSAGE

INITIALS	
CHIEF OF STAFF	
DC/S ADM.	
DC/S OPR.	
AG	

TELECON MSG NO.	SUBJECT	DATE
FM-18-1	FLASH PHOTO INTERPRETATION PRM'S 84, 85, 86, 87	18 Mar 45

Damage to Kobe City: Damage to Kobe City from XXI BomCom Mission 43, 16-17 Mar 45 totals 57,548,000 sq ft. (1300 acres, 2.1 sq miles) of destroyed area. Damage visible to industrial targets is obscured by smoke and/or clouds with exception of minor damage to target 11-Kawasaki Locomotive & Car Company. Damage is located on Map 1-9, AAF Objective Folder 90.25, 1944 as follows:

1. Area 1,930,000 sq ft destroyed: (V10.6 - H11.0) (V10.6 - H12.1) (V9.8 - H11.3)

2. Area 6,960,000 sq ft destroyed: (V9.3 - H9.5) (8.8 - 9.1) (7.6 - 9.5) (8.5 - 10.1)

3. Area 4,300,000 sq ft destroyed: (V8.5 - H8.2) (7.9 - 7.6) (7.0 - 7.4) (7.4 - 8.2)

4. Area 640,000 sq ft destroyed: (6.0 - H7.5)

5. Area 36,740,000 sq ft destroyed: (V7.3 - H6.9) (7.2 - 5.8) (5.5 - 4.8) (4.4 - 6.4) (5.7 - 7.3)

6. Area 480,000 sq ft destroyed: (V3.8 - H6.0) (3.5 - 6.2) (3.4 - 5.6)

7. Area 1,980,000 sq ft destroyed: (V5.8 - H3.6) (5.4 - 4.1) (V4.7 - H4.0)

8. Area 3,000,000 sq ft destroyed: (V5.0 - H4.6) (4.5 - 4.0) (3.5 - 4.4)

9. Area 218,000 sq ft destroyed: (V3.1 - H4.8)

10. Five areas totalling 550,000 sq ft destroyed: HAHV3.4 - H3.1), B(V4.2 - H3.6), C(V3.1 - H3.3), D (V3.0 - H3.1), E(V2.5 - H2.9)

11. Four areas totalling 750,000 sq ft destroyed: A (V4.0 - H2.6), B (V3.9 - H2.3), C (V3.5 - H2.0), D (V4.4 - H2.5)

Assessment was limited by clouds and smoke from fires still burning.

Akashi A/F: (34/40N - 135/57E). Field partially cloud - covered. A/C visible: 29.

DISTRIBUTION		
	ACTION	
	INFORMATION	C/S -3-

5-33, AF (REV 1 JAN 45)

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HQ TWENTIETH AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

EXTRACT OF TELETYPE CONFERENCE BETWEEN
WASHINGTON AND GUAM

INCOMING MESSAGE

INITIALS	
CHIEF OF STAFF	
DC/S ADM.	
DC/S OPR.	
AG	

TELECON MSG NO.	SUBJECT	DATE
FN-16-1	FLASH PHOTO INTERPRETATION PRM'S 84, 85, 86, 87	16 Mar 45

34 S/E, 15 T/E.

Toyohashi A/F: (34/43N - 137/19E). A/C visible: 41. 3 S/E, 36 T/E, 2 possible unidentified.

Nishinomiya A/F: (34/43N - 135/22E). A/C visible: 60. 55 S/E, 5 T/E.

Osaka East A/F: (34/41N - 135/36E). A/C visible: 6. 6 S/E trainers.

Target 1702: Kawanishi A/V Co. (34/43N - 135/17E) A/C visible: 6. 2 S/E 2 T/E, 2 H/E.

Osaka Harbor: (34/41N - 135/27E). Only 20% covered. 26 H/V over 200 ft.

Kobe Harbor: (34/41N - 135/10E). Only 10% covered. 4 H/V over 200 ft.

End.

SECRET

DISTRIBUTION		
	ACTION	DC/S Opr (2)
	INFORMATION	C/S; A-2 (14), A-5 Plans (2) A-3 OC&R (6); SCO (2) A.A. (1) O.A (1)

5-33, AF (REV 1 JAN 45)

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By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

SPECIFIC SUBJECT	TYPE OF MESSAGE	MESSAGE NO.	DATE AND TIME SENT	DATE AND TIME REC'D.	INITIALS

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

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SPECIFIC SUBJECT	TYPE OF MESSAGE	MESSAGE NO.	DATE AND TIME SENT	DATE AND TIME REC'D.	INITIALS
Map	Photostat	none		19 Mar	SK

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XXIBC M. 43

Kobe

Single ship attacks.
Min. time between A/C
Weather at target

MIDDLEMAN 2

First 18 A/C, M47
Remainder, M69

BOMB LOAD	Mox
GAS	
GROSS WT.	
AIRBORNE	331
EARLY RET.	21
TOTAL BOMBING	
PRIMARY	307
OTHERS (SECONDARY LR/TO)	0
UNREPORTED	1
LOSSES	
ENEMY ACTION	
OPERATIONAL	
MISSING	3
CLAIMS	
DESTROYED	1
PROBABLE DEST.	0
DAMAGED	1

Photo - 19 Mar.

	Greenwich	Wash.	Theatre
First A/C off	160939 Z	160539	161839
Last "	~~161205 Z~~	~~160805~~	~~162105~~
1st over target	161742 Z	161342	170242
Last over			
1st Return	162339 Z	161923	170839
Last "	170349 Z	162349	171249

TARGET IMFORMATION SECTION
SEPTEMBER 1944
NEAR BASE MAP

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SPECIFIC SUBJECT	TYPE OF MESSAGE	MESSAGE NO.	DATE AND TIME SENT	DATE AND TIME REC'D.	INITIALS
Reporters Dimes on Mission	Typed	none		20 Mar	DR

MISC.

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SAVE
U.S. ARMY CONSERVATION POSTER

HEADQUARTERS, TWENTIETH AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

VLRCO

FOR VICTORY
BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

Mission 43
XXI BC Misc

20 March 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR C/S, TWENTIETH AIR FORCE

Subject: Times on Mission Reporting

The following is a report on transmission times for Mission No. 43, XXI Bomber Command:

	Staff Preparation	Guam-Washington Transmission Time	Total Elapsed Time
Take Off Message	1:00	:30	1:30
First Bombs Away	:18	2:50	3:08
Consolidated Bombs Away	2:33	:46	3:19
Return Report	2:12	1:21	3:33
Preliminary Report	9:53	1:56	11:49

S. S. LAMB
Colonel, Air Corps
Asst Communications Officer

HEADQUARTERS
TWENTIETH AIR FORCE
ADJUTANT GENERAL

SECRET