

U.S.S. HOWORTH (DD592)
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

24 November 1944

From: The Commanding Officer.
To : The Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.

Via : (1) The Commander, Destroyer Squadron 2.
(2) The Commander, Transport Division 32.
(3) The Commander, Seventh Amphibious Force.
(4) The Commander, Seventh Fleet.

Subject: Special Action Report (Anti-Aircraft Action by Surface Ships), submission of.

Reference: (a) Pacific Fleet Confidential Letter 2CL-44.

Enclosures: (A) Anti-Aircraft Action by Surface Ships form, p.3.
(B) Ship and Formation Track Chart, showing relative positions of ships and indicating movement during progress of raids one and two, Missing.
(C) Air Plot Sheet, showing plot of raids one and two and reported position of raid three, Missing.

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (A), (B) and (C) are submitted.

2. The USS HOWORTH was proceeding in company with TransDiv 20, 26 and 32 plus USS ELECTRA, USS ARNEB and USS JUPITER, OTC, ComTransDiv 32, in USS LEONARD WOOD and acting as A/S screening unit in conjunction with USS MORRIS, HALE, ABBOT, FLETCHER, LAVALLETTE and NORMAN SCOTT. Screen Commander, ComDesRon 2 in USS MORRIS. The formation was enroute Manus Island, Admiralty Islands, to Leyte Gulf, Philippine Islands. Several bogies, believed to be snoopers, had been reported from time to time during the afternoon and early evening. About 1854, 22 November 1944, when in a position about 60 miles southeast of the entrance to Leyte Gulf, a single bogie bearing 200 (t), distant 17 miles, (see enclosures) was picked up and tracked in. A good solution had been obtained, but raid 1 was coming in over the convoy formation and the range was not clear. The target was lost by the fire control radar as it passed over the ships of the formation. At 1901 the target was sighted by the 20MM gunners on the port quarter and identified as a "Kate" coming in from about 200 relative. Fire was opened by three 20MM guns at a range of about 800 yards. At 1902 ceased firing as the plane passed overhead flying at a low altitude and slow speed. It is believed that no damage was inflicted upon this target by this vessel. At 1902, raid 2, consisting of three planes, bearing 267 (t), distant 16 miles, was picked up on the SC-3 radar and tracked in to about 7000 yards on that bearing. Again the range was fouled for this vessel by ships of the formation. It is believed that raid 2 consisted of torpedo planes also, due to the low altitude and

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slow speed of the raid. This was reported as a torpedo plane raid by another ship of the formation and the ABBOT reported a torpedo passing astern at 1906. Raid 2 was observed to be taken under fire by several ships on the port side of the formation and it turned away without crossing over the formation. No planes were observed to be shot down or damaged. Raid 3, as indicated in enclosure (C), was reported by USS O'HARA at 1944 bearing 260, distant 19 miles, but was never observed by this vessel and did not attack the formation.

3. No special comment is indicated by the enclosed action report; it was a weak and not particularly well coordinated raid which neither delivered nor received any damage. However, it was beneficial training for ship's personnel and as such, was duly appreciated.

E. S. BURNS

cc: Advance to CominCh (Enc. (A))
ComDesRon 2 (Enc. (A))
ComTransDiv 32 (Enc. (A))
ComPhibFor7thFlt (Enc. (A))
Com7thFlt (Enc. (A))
ComDesRon 21 (Enc. (A))
ComDesPac (Enc. (A), (B) and (C))