

DECLASSIFIED

Authority *NND 730539*By *PI* NARA Date *7-18-05*

TWENTIETH AIR FORCE.

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TOP SECRET
INCOMING MESSAGE

CLASSIFICATION

TOP SECRET

SECTION	INITIALS	COPY NO.
CHIEF OF STAFF		5
DC/S OPRS		DIST. BY
DC/S P&A		FJB
DC/S TWE		6819
A.G.		TYPED BY
		emd

TELECON MSG NO.

SUBJECT

GMDW, 576

RETURN REPORT FOR CENTERBOARD OPERATION

DATE

9 August 1945

TO:

COMGENUSASTAF
For Kilpatrick

INFO:

FROM:

COMGENAAF 8
Who passes for Commander
Ashworth

090600Z 2345 EWT

This message for Farrell (Top Secret), Sweeney, Hopkins and Dock landing Okinawa 090345Z. Arrived rendezvous point at scheduled time waiting about forty minutes being joined by aircraft piloted by Bock only. Received weather reports and made decision to attack primary target. Arrived in target area 090055Z. Target about 3/10 cloud with some haze and heavy smoke. Made 3 runs on primary but each time target was obscured by haze and smoke. After fifty minutes decided to attack secondary. Attacked in accordance strike report already submitted. Approach made by radar with about last thirty seconds visual. Preliminary conference with observers with Hopkins and Bock places impact approximately on Mitsubishi Steel and Arms Works, target number 546. Consensus of opinion visual effect equal to or probably greater than at Hiroshima. Column of smoke and mushroom reached about 30,000 feet in 3 minutes and soon reached at least 40,000. Dust covered area at least two miles in diameter. Probably fair amount of blast on unprofitable areas. Gasoline consumption at high altitude, cruising, failure to rendezvous, and time over primary target forced decision to drop rather than attempt questionable chance of reaching Okinawa with unit.

END

TOD 0800Z

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DOD Dir. 5200.9, Sept. 27, 1958

NWD by *ms* date *22 May 59*

ACTION

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F
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C/S XDC OPRS C/S XDC P&A C/S XDC TWE

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5-33, AF (REV 1 APR 45)