The 20 dive bombers, flying in 4-plane divisions headed for the port of Bodo, Norway. Fourteen of these planes were loaded with 1000 pound, general purpose bombs and 6 were loaded with 500 pounders armed with 5-second-delay fuses. The group made landfall to Mayken Light at dawn and continued northward along the shipping lanes toward Bodo. One division of SBD peeled off to attack the 8000-ton freighter, La Plata. The remainder continued up the coast and at 0730 rolled over and bombed a small German Convoy, severely damaging a 10,000-ton tanker and a 4300-ton transport. In the Bodo harbor they sank two of four small German merchantmen. The anticipated German fighter interception did not materialize. The attack was a complete surprise. However, the German's were able to man their anti-aircraft batteries. One of these gun emplacements have not been identified by the Norwegians who provided briefings before the strike. This AA battery was responsible for at least one of the SBD losses. The USS RANGER logbook shows the following persons from Bombing Four ``Missing-in-Action'' after OPERATION LEADER. Both dive bombers were shot down by German anti-aircraft fire: Lt. (jg) S.R. Davis with his turret gunner, D.W. McCarley, Arm 2/c (SBD #5); Lt. (jg) C.A. Tucker, Jr. with his turret gunner, S.D. Bakran, ARM 2/c (SBD #19). Returning pilots reported that they saw Davis and McCarley launch a liferaft after their splash down. Both were picked up by the enemy and taken to prison. Davis was in Stalag Luft One for 19\1/2\ months but he does not know what happened to his gunner (to date, I have been unable to locate McCarley). The other dive bomber, SBD #19 with Tucker and Bakran failed to pull out of the dive after it was hit. There were no survivors.

Two of the attached photos, taken at the time of the strike, show Four Baker Nineteen, the SBD flown by Lt. (jg) Tucker, over the fjirods by Bodo, Norway just before the dive bombing attack on one of the German ships. One other photo shows the plane as it struck the water after being hit by AA fire. Neither occupant was able to bail out.

The Norwegian Navy has located the Tucker/Bakran plane and launched a salvage operation, (see attached news release). Families of both C.A. Tucker and Steve Bakran have been notified of the salvage operation.

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