

Bombing Squadron 84 Worksheet

1. “Upon pulling out of our bombing and strafing run...”
What is strafing?

2. “I had to look no further than the starboard wing tank.”
What is starboard?

3. “Calling up Mr. Davis I told him we had been hit...”
What do you think he meant by “we had been hit”

4. “Swinging the guns to the side...”
What type of guns did the plane have?

5. “Meanwhile Mr. Davis had expended the ammo in the fixed guns”
Why do you think he fired all the bullets before landing?

6. “We had the raft on the port wing...”
What is port?

7. How did the two sailors end up in the water?

8. How did they realize they were only a short distance from the enemy

9. “It was gratifying to see our fighters and bombers circling above...”
Why do you think the American planes were circling above?

10. How were the two sailors rescued?

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The narrative is from a sailor who flew an SB2C Helldiver in Bombing Squadron 84 from the USS Bunker Hill. The Helldiver was flown by two people. The pilot sat in the front and flew the plane. The radioman sat in the back, worked the radio and fired machine guns.



1. The top of the plane was painted dark blue and the underneath was painted light blue. Why do you think it was painted that way?

2. The Helldiver had machine guns facing forward in the wings. Why do you think the radioman could fire machine guns that were facing towards the back of the plane?

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3. The sailors in the narrative flew from an aircraft carrier called the USS Bunker Hill.

A. What was the ship named after?

B. What happened to the ship on May 11, 1945?

C. How many sailors were killed, wounded or missing because of the attack?

D. For what duty did Bunker Hill leave for on September 27, 1945?

What was the nickname of the following WWII planes

F6F

V-173

P-38

B-17

P-40

B-24

P-47

B-29

P-51

AD-1

P-61

Douglas TBD

