

CONFIDENTIAL

The following search plans, designed to meet particular tactical situations, have been taken from captured documents:

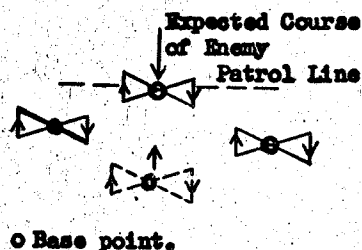


Figure 1. (from notebook)

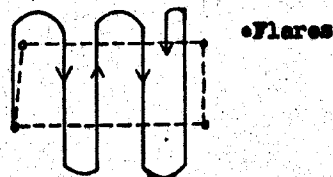


Figure 2. (from notebook)

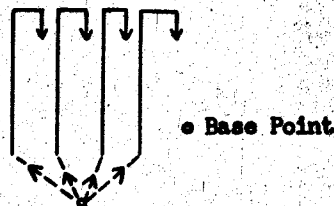


Figure 3. (from notebook)

This is designated as the "patrol search method", and is recommended for night searches.

Each plane flies in an angular figure eight, dropping a flare each time it crosses its base point. After a given patrol line has been covered the planes advance to a new patrol line in the direction of the enemy force.

This is designated the "search sector method". It is specified for use when the course of the enemy is not known and when it is necessary to carry out an abbreviated search with a small number of planes.

In this method target lights are dropped at the four corners of a square and the aircraft flies back and forth in parallel lines within the marked area.

This is designated as the "sweep search method". This method is used on moonlit nights when the visibility is particularly good, or when the object of the search is a large force.

In this method a number of planes fly out from a common base and advance in parallel lines.

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This is a method for tracking without the use of radar. It employs target markers.

HOMING THE ATTACK UNIT

Action reports from the early days of the war report the activities of Japanese snoopers planes. Their function is not only to locate and track the target, but to get the attack unit over the target in a position for an attack. In some cases the guide plane may be simply a bellwether, equipped with superior communications and navigational equipment and manned by competent personnel. More frequently, however, the guide plane is the snoopers, i.e.; a plane in actual contact with the target.

It is clear from documents that the attack unit, or a relief tracking plane, may be brought in on the radar of the snoopers or by the use of RDF equipment. The tracking plane is advised to keep the radar and communication transmission at a minimum during the tracking operation. However, when the time comes to bring in the attack unit (or the relief plane), a considerable volume of communication passes back and forth between the tracking plane and the unit coming in for the attack. A sudden increase in communications, or the commencement of the transmission of RDF, is a reasonable indication that an attack group or a relief plane is being homed in to the target. The following table, which was an annex to an official order (source and date unknown), gives the communication between the attack unit and the tracking plane. The general authenticity of the pattern set forth is corroborated by fragmentary references found in other documents.

(Note: Those marked * to be used only when necessary.)

Attack Unit

Tracking Unit

Notes

Discovery of enemy:
Strength, positions,
base course, speed.

For dive bombing report accurately the wind direction and velocity at 1600 feet. For low altitude bombing (TN: below 3300 feet) report the wind direction and velocity at 650 feet.