

VMF 155

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Report # 157

HC(21)

6

CONFIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

19625

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

078369

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting Majuro Air Group (b) Based on or at Majuro Atoll (c) Report No. MP-155-157
 (d) Take off: Date 4 August, 1945 Time (LZT) 0945 H (Zone); Lat 07-09-35N Long 172-22-40E
 (e) Mission Strike food storage area, Taroo Island, Maloenan Atoll. (f) Time of Return 1245 H (Zone)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

TYPE (a)	SQUADRON (b)	NUMBER			BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE) (f)	FUZE, SETTING (g)
		TAKING OFF (c)	ENGAGING ENEMY A/C (d)	ATTACKING TARGET (e)		
<u>P-51-D</u>	<u>MP-155</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1x1400 (1750lb) Napalm</u>	<u>None: 1 Inst Gren. All: 2 Inst Gren.</u>
					<u>2x500; Incand. Clusters</u>	<u>All: Inst.</u>
<u>P-51-D</u>	<u>MP-155</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2x100; Incand. Clusters</u>	<u>All: Inst.</u>

III. OTHER U. S. OR ALLIED AIRCRAFT EMPLOYED IN THIS OPERATION.

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>P-51-D</u>	<u>MP-311</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>Majuro Atoll (Strike)</u>				
<u>P-51-D</u>	<u>MP-155</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Majuro Atoll (Air Controller and Photo)</u>				

IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

(a) TYPE	(b) NO. OBSERVED	(c) NO. ENGAGING OWN A/C	(d) TIME ENCOUNTERED	(e) LOCATION OF ENCOUNTER	(f) BOMBS, TORPEDOES CARRIED; GUNS OBSERVED	(g) CAMOUFLAGE AND MARKING
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____
 Did Any Part of _____
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? _____ If so, Describe Clouds _____
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance _____
 (j) of Sun or Moon _____ (k) Visibility _____
(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (MILES)

V. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

(a) TYPE ENEMY A/C	(b) DESTROYED OR DAMAGED BY:			(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER		

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VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those listed in II only)

(a) TYPE OWN A/C	(b) SQUADRON	(c) CAUSE: TYPE ENEMY A/C, TYPE GUN, OR OPERATIONAL CAUSE	(d) WHERE HIT, ANGLE (List armor, self-sealing tanks, equipment hit)	(e) EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE, (Give Bureau serial number of planes destroyed)
1 1000				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				

VII. PERSONNEL CASUALTIES (in aircraft listed in II only; identify with planes listed in VI by Nos. at left).

(a) NO.	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NAME, RANK OR RATING	(d) CAUSE	(e) CONDITION OR STATUS
1 1000				

VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA FOR PLANES RETURNING

(a) TYPE A/C	(b) MILES OUT	(c) MILES RETURN	(d) AV. HOURS IN AIR	(e) AV. FUEL LOADED	(f) AV. FUEL CONSUMED	(g) TOTAL AMMUNITION EXPENDED				(h) NO. OF PLANES RETURNING
						.30	.50	20MM	MM	
745-2D	70	90	2.25	240	240	0	2000	0	0	6

IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (use check list at left).

SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

- TURNS
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

No enemy aircraft encountered.

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Bomb Food Storage Building D Area, strafed Generator, Taroa Is. Maloelap Atoll. (b) Time Over Target(s) 1100 M (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 3000, cumulus 2/10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility Unlimited
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Level Bomb Sight Used -----
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 2 Clusters Spacing ----- Altitude of Bomb Release 75
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed ----- Probably Destroyed ----- Damaged -----

(h) AIMING POINT	(i) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(j) NO. A/C ATTACKING (k) SQUADRON	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO. HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
1 Food storage building, Taroa Is. Maloelap Atoll.	45'x90'	4 VMF-155	4x1400# (175 gal) Napalm	2	Numerous fires.
2 Is. Maloelap Atoll.			6x500# Incend C.	4	
3		1 HQ-13	1x100# Incend C.	1	To mark target area for bombers.
4					
5 Electric Generator, Taroa Is. Maloelap Atoll.	15'x30'	1 HQ-13	200 rounds 20 MM Ammunition	30%	Set afire.
6					
7 Generator, Taroa Island, Maloelap	15'x30'	4 VMF-155	2000 rounds 50 Caliber	20%	Set afire.
8					

(o) RESULTS: (For all hits claimed on ship targets and for land targets of special interest, draw diagram, top or side view or both, as appropriate, showing type and location of hits. For all targets give location and effect of hits, and identify by numbers above. Use additional sheets if necessary).

Accurate assessment of damage was impossible by reason of fire and smoke obscuring area.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes. Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

Photos and negatives delivered to Commander, Majuro Air Group for forwarding.

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XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA. (Narrative and comment. Describe action fully and comment freely following applicable items in check list at left. Use additional sheets if necessary.)

ENGAGEMENT WITH ENEMY

OWN AIRCRAFT

- Disposition
- Altitudes
- Speeds
- Approach Tactics
- Use of Cover, Deception
- Angles of Attack and Their Effectiveness
- Distance of Opening Fire
- Defense Tactics and Their Effectiveness

ENEMY AIRCRAFT

- Method of Locating, Distance
- Disposition
- Altitudes
- Speeds
- Approach Tactics
- Use of Cover, Deception
- Angles of Attack
- Distance of Opening Fire
- Defensive Tactics

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Own Weaknesses
- Enemy Weaknesses
- Offensive Tactics, Own
- " " , Enemy
- Defensive Tactics, Own
- " " , Enemy
- Flexible Gunnery, Own
- Escort Tactics
- Fighter Direction
- Use of Radar
- Night Fighting
- Recognition, Aircraft

ATTACK

OWN TACTICS

- Method of Locating Target
- Approach to Target
- Altitudes, Speeds
- Approach Dive
- Pull-Out
- Dive Angle
- Strafing
- Retirement
- Defensive Tactics
- Use of Jamming

DEFENSE, ENEMY

- Evasive Tactics, Ships
- Concealment
- Searchlights
- Night Fighter Tactics
- Use of Jamming

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Bombing Tactics
- Torpedo Tactics
- Effectiveness of Bombs, Torpedoes
- Selection of Targets
- Fuzing
- Strafing Tactics
- Defensive Tactics
- Use of Radar
- Reconnaissance
- Photography
- Briefing

OPERATIONAL

- Navigation
- Homing
- Rendezvous
- Recognition, Ships
- Communications
- Flight Operations
- Search and Tracking
- Base Operations
- Maintenance

The Corsairs of VMSB-155 took off from base at 0945 H and rendezvoused over the field at 1000 feet. In fighter formation of 2 two-plane sections, stepped down, they flew a direct course to the target climbing to 6000 foot enroute with engine settings at 2050 rpm's and 32 inches of mercury.

Upon arrival at the target island they circled in column over the ocean to the east of the target area until all the dive bombers had completed their runs at which time they made their napalm runs in an east to west direction. Bombs and clusters were dropped from 75 feet at a speed in excess of 300 knots. After the run, recovery was to the left and making a circle in a counter-clockwise direction a strafing run was then made over the area following which all planes rendezvoused over the lagoon and returned to base at 2000 foot altitude with engine settings at 1950 rpm's and 25 inches of mercury.

The S2C-43 of HQ-13 flown by Lt. Col. E. J. Moore, USMC, as Air Coordinator, made one run on the target area ahead of the Helldivers and dropped one 100% incendiary cluster on the target area to spot out the target for the dive bombers. Following the bombing attack he joined with one Helldiver of VMSB-331 and the four F4U's of VMSB-155 in a strafing run made from east to west on the electric generator. 200 rounds of 20mm ammunition were expended by Lt. Col. Moore.

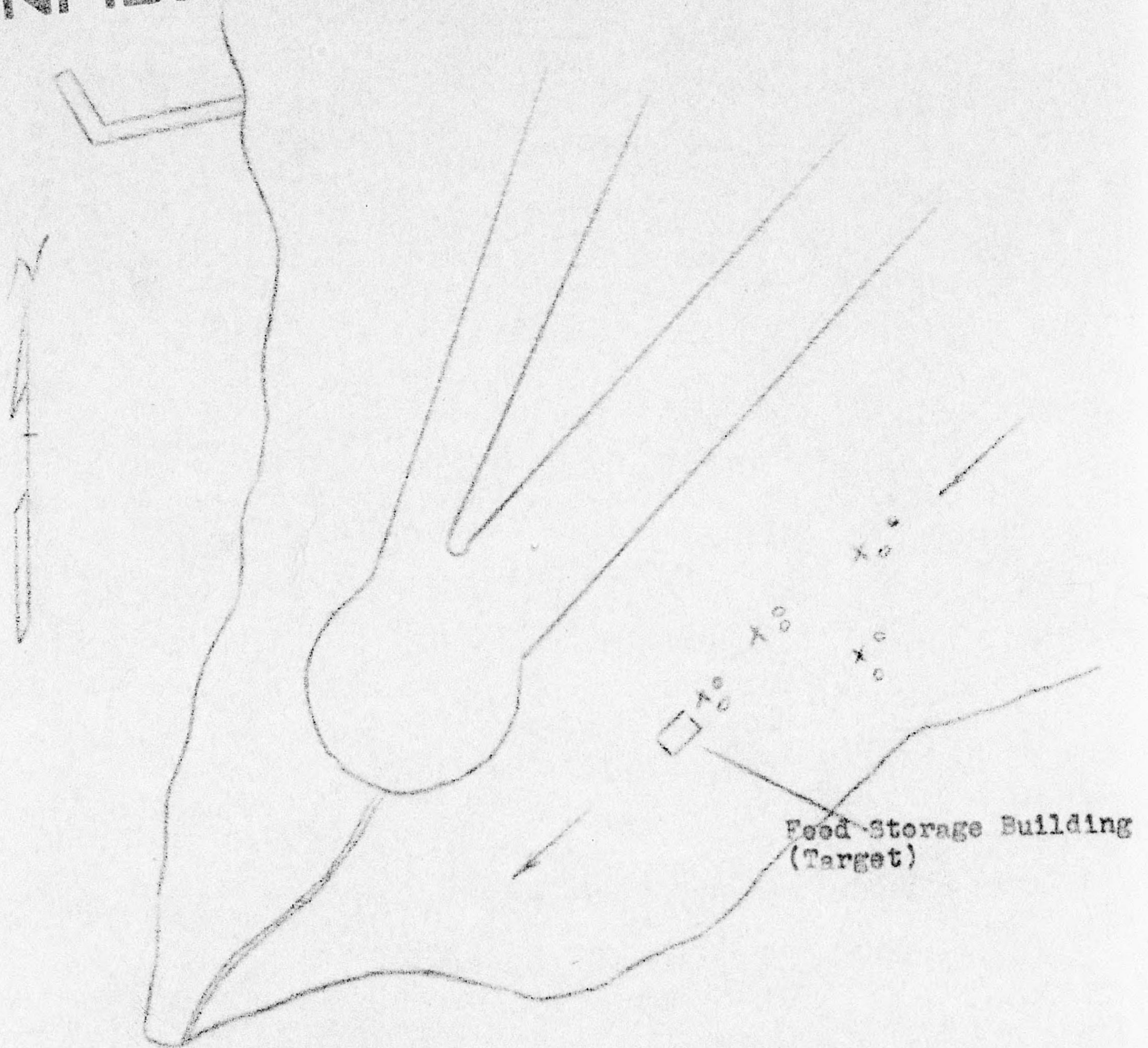
The other one 100% incendiary cluster on the S2C-43 of HQ-13 was jettisoned over the Chorutaku Island, not far from return to base.

The following pilots participated in this flight:

MOORE, E. J.	Lt. Col.	UNION
ROBERT, H. W.	Capt.	UNION
ALBERTO, R.	2ndLt.	UNION
SCHMIDT, W. H.	2ndLt.	UNION
SELWICK, G. H.	2ndLt.	UNION

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- = Direction of Runs
- X = Napalm Hits
- o = Incendiary Hits

TAROA ISLAND
Maleeap Atoll
5 August 45

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XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.
Use additional sheets if necessary).

ARMAMENT

- Guns, Gunsights
- Turrets
- Ammunition
- Bombs, Torpedoes
- Bomb Sights
- Bomb Releases

COMMUNICATIONS

- Radio, Radar
- Homing Devices
- Visual Signals
- Codes, Ciphers

RECOGNITION

- IFF
- Signals
- Battle Lights
- Procedures

PROTECTION

- Armor; Points and Angles
of Fire Needing Further
Protection
- Leak Proofing

EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

- Parachutes
- Life Belts, Life Rafts
- Safety Belts
- Emergency Kits
- Rations, First Aid

NAVIGATIONAL EQUIPMENT

- Compasses
- Driftsights
- Octants
- Automatic Pilots
- Charts
- Field Lighting

INSTRUMENTS

- Flight
- Power Plant

OXYGEN SYSTEM

**CAMOUFLAGE AND
DECEPTION DEVICES**

STRUCTURE

- Airframe
- Control Surfaces
- Control System
- Dive Flaps
- Landing Gear
- Hearing System
- Flight Characteristics
At Various Loadings

POWER PLANT

- Engines
- Engine Accessories
- Propellers
- Lubricating System
- Starters
- Exhaust Dampers

HYDRAULIC SYSTEM

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

- Auxiliary Plant
- Lights

FUEL SYSTEM

FLIGHT CLOTHING

MAINTENANCE

BASE FACILITIES

- Plane Servicing Equipment
- Personnel Facilities

REPORT PREPARED BY:

R. U. Heninger
SIGNATURE **R. U. HENINGER** 1st Lt. USNCR
RANK AND DUTY **Intell. O.**

APPROVED BY:

C. V. Burnett
SIGNATURE **C. V. BURNETT** Lt. Col., USNCR
RANK AND DUTY **Commander, Majuro Air Group.**
J. P. Rolfs
SIGNATURE **J. P. ROLFS** Capt. VMP-155
RANK AND DUTY **4 August, 1945**
SNAP

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All material functioned satisfactorily.