

VMF 122

167  
20

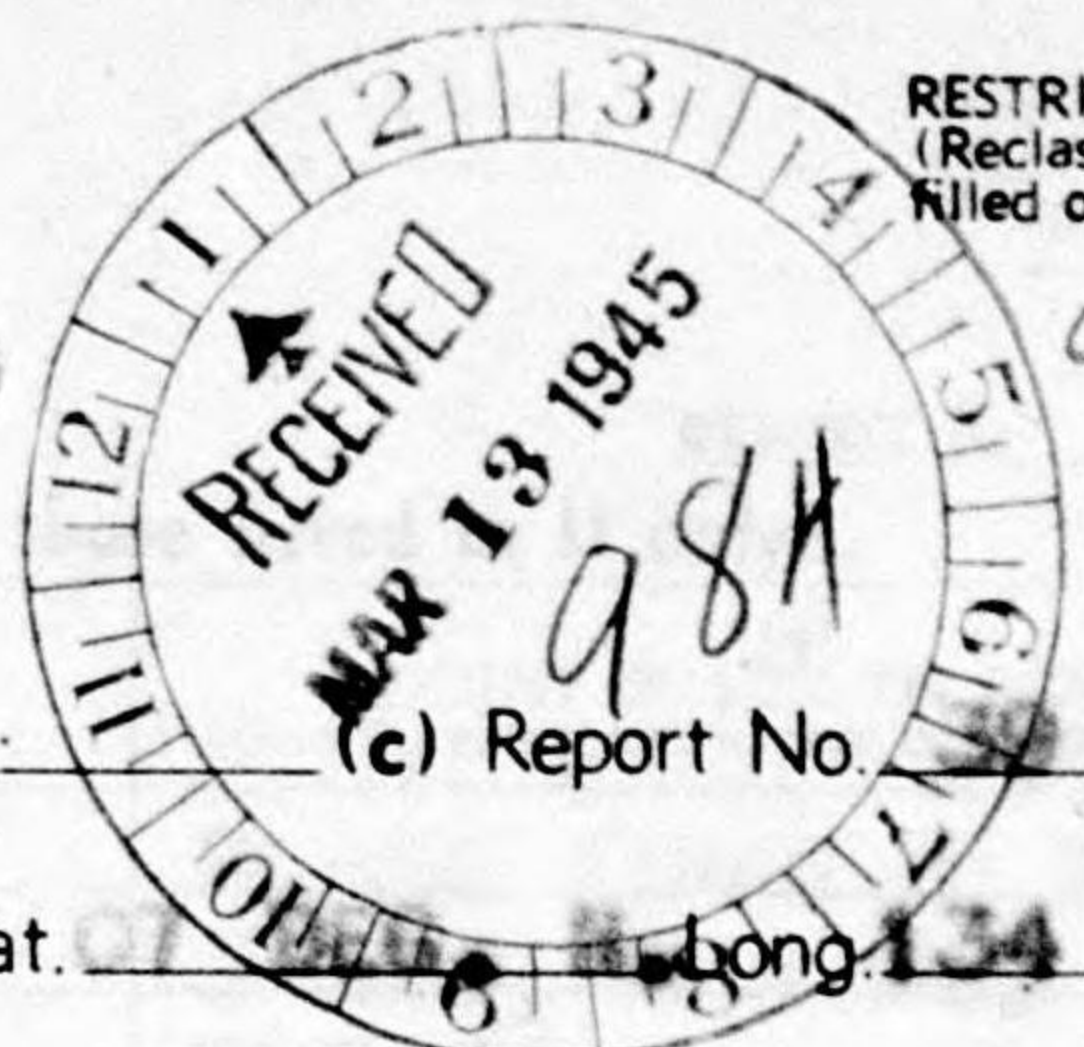
Report # 39

IC (20)

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**AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT**

RESTRICTED (Reclassify when Filled out) 3201  
051037



**I. GENERAL**

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(a) Unit Reporting VMF-122 (b) Based on or at PELELIU ISLAND  
 (c) Report No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 (d) Take off: Date 10 MARCH 1945 Time (LZT) 0930-10 (Zone); Lat. 01 16 N Long 154 DEG. E.  
 (e) Mission BOMB TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY - NORTHERN PALAUS (f) Time of Return 1040-10 (Zone)

**II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.**

| TYPE<br>(a) | SQUADRON<br>(b) | NUMBER               |                              |                            | BOMBS AND TORPEDOES<br>CARRIED (PER PLANE)<br>(f) | FUZE, SETTING<br>(g)                 |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
|             |                 | TAKING<br>OFF<br>(c) | ENGAGING<br>ENEMY A/C<br>(d) | ATTACKING<br>TARGET<br>(e) |   |                                      |
| F4U-1D      | VMF-122         | 4                    | 0                            | 4                          | 2-100 LB. G.P.'S                                  | INSTANTANEOUS NOSE<br>NON DELAY TAIL |
|             |                 |                      |                              |                            |   |                                      |
|             |                 |                      |                              |                            |   |                                      |

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

| TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE | TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE |
|------|----------|--------|------|------|----------|--------|------|
|      |          |        |      |      |          |        |      |
|      |          |        |      |      |          |        |      |

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

| (a)<br>TYPE | (b)<br>NO.<br>OBSERVED | (c)<br>NO. ENGAGING<br>OWN A/C | (d)<br>TIME<br>ENCOUNTERED | (e)<br>LOCATION OF<br>ENCOUNTER | (f)<br>BOMBS, TORPEDOES CARRIED;<br>GUNS OBSERVED | (g)<br>CAMOUFLAGE AND<br>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 \_\_\_\_\_ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (k) Visibility \_\_\_\_\_ (MILES)

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

| (a)<br>TYPE<br>ENEMY A/C | (b) DESTROYED OR DAMAGED BY: |          |                 | (c)<br>WHERE HIT, ANGLE | (d)<br>DAMAGE<br>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)<br>TYPE OWN A/C | (b)<br>SQUADRON | (c)<br>CAUSE: TYPE ENEMY A/C<br>TYPE GUN, OR OPERATIONAL CAUSE | (d)<br>WHERE HIT, ANGLE (List armor,<br>self-sealing tanks, equipment hit) | (e)<br>EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE<br>(Give Bureau serial number of planes destroyed) |
|---------------------|-----------------|--|--|--|
| 1 F4U-1D            | 122             | A/A-CALIBRE UNOBSERVED   | UND. TERMINED  | PLANE (BUREAU NUMBER 51807) CRASHED AND BURNED.                                    |
| 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)<br>NO | (b)<br>SQUADRON | (c)<br>NAME, RANK OR RATING        | (d)<br>CAUSE                       | (e)<br>CONDITION OR STATUS |
|-----------|-----------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1         | 122             | JAMES R. HISLEY,<br>2ND LT., USNR. | PROBABLY KILLED IN<br>PLANE CRASH. | DEAD                       |
|           |                 |                                    |                                    |                            |
|           |                 |                                    |                                    |                            |
|           |                 |                                    |                                    |                            |
|           |                 |                                    |                                    |                            |
|           |                 |                                    |                                    |                            |
|           |                 |                                    |                                    |                            |
|           |                 |                                    |                                    |                            |
|           |                 |                                    |                                    |                            |
|           |                 |                                    |                                    |                            |
|           |                 |                                    |                                    |                            |

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

| (a)<br>TYPE<br>A/C | (b)<br>MILES<br>OUT | (c)<br>MILES<br>RETURN | (d)<br>AV. HOURS<br>IN AIR | (e)<br>AV. FUEL<br>LOADED | (f)<br>AV. FUEL<br>CONSUMED | (g) TOTAL AMMUNITION EXPENDED |     |      |    | (h)<br>NO. OF PLANES<br>RETURNING |
|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----|------|----|-----------------------------------|
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             | 30                            | 50  | 20MM | MM |                                   |
| F4U-1D             | 65                  | 65                     | 1.2                        | 230                       | 125                         |                               | 800 |      |    | 3                                 |
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             |                               |     |      |    |                                   |
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             |                               |     |      |    |                                   |
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             |                               |     |      |    |                                   |
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             |                               |     |      |    |                                   |

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

| CALIBER                                   | NONE | MEAGER | MODERATE | INTENSE |
|---|------|--------|----------|---------|
| HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over  |      | X      |          |         |
| MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm   |      | X      |          |         |
| LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm | X    |        |          |         |

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

- SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes

TURNS

DIVES

CEILINGS

RANGE

PROTECTION

ARMAMENT

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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) TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY (b) Time Over Target(s) 0950 -10 (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 8/10 CUMULUS COVER BETWEEN 2000'-6000'  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target CLEAR (e) Visibility 20 MILES  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type GLIDE Bomb Sight Used NONE  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 2 Spacing - Altitude of Bomb Release 500' AV.  
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 0 Probably Destroyed 0 Damaged 0

| (h)<br>AIMING POINT       | (i)<br>DIMENSIONS OR<br>TONNAGE | (j) NO. A/C ATTACKING<br>(k) SQUADRON | (l)<br>BOMBS AND AMMUNITION<br>EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT | (m)<br>NO HITS On<br>Aiming Point | (n)<br>DAMAGE (None, slight,<br>serious, destroyed or sunk) |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1 BRIDGE<br>TW(703-087)   | 30' X 18'                       | 2<br>VMF 122                          | 3-100 LB. G.P.S.   | 0                                 | SUPPORTS KNOCKED<br>OUT.                                    |
| 2 BRIDGE<br>TW(711-085)   | 32' X 18'                       | 1<br>VMF 122                          | 1-100 LB. G.P.   | 0                                 | NONE  |
| 3 BUILDING<br>TX(801-819) | 30' X 30'                       | 1<br>VMF 122                          | 2-100 LB. G.P.S.   | 2                                 | DEMOLISHED  |
| 4 BUILDING<br>TX(889-832) | ABOUT<br>20' X 40'              | 1<br>VMF 122                          | 2-100 LB. G.P.S.   | 0                                 | ONE WALL KNOCKED<br>DOWN.                                   |
| 5                         |                                 |                                       |  |                                   |   |
| 6                         |                                 |                                       |  |                                   |   |
| 7                         |                                 |                                       |  |                                   |   |
| 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).

(p) Were Photographs Taken? NO Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

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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

**THIS ROUTINE BARGE SWEEP, ONE OF MANY DESIGNED TO GIVE DAILY AND CONSTANT COVERAGE TO THE ISLANDS IN THE NORTH-ERN PALAUS, WAS EQUIPPED WITH 100 POUND G.P.'S. AND IN-STRUCTED TO STRIKE AT ANY WORTHWHILE TARGETS OF OPPOR-TUNITY. THE TARGETS SELECTED, THOSE LISTED ON THE PRE-CEDED PAGE, WERE STRUCK WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULTS:**

**TARGET #1**

| <u>NAME</u>  | <u>RELEASE PT.</u> | <u>CONTACT PT.</u>  |
|--------------|--------------------|---|
| MAJOR PIERCE | 800° (1)           | NEAR MISS-NO DAMAGE.                                      |
| LT. MISLEY   | 800° (2)           | NEAR MISS-SEVERAL BRIDGE SUPPORTS AND BRACES KNOCKED OUT. |

**TARGET #2**

| <u>NAME</u>  | <u>RELEASE PT.</u> | <u>CONTACT PT.</u> |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| MAJOR PIERCE | 400° (1)           | MISSED-NO DAMAGE.  |

**TARGET #3**

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>RELEASE PT.</u> | <u>CONTACT PT.</u>                         |
|-------------|--------------------|--|
| LT. ASHE    | 500° (2)           | DIRECT HIT-TWO STORY BUILD-ING DEMOLISHED. |

**TARGET #4**

| <u>NAME</u>  | <u>RELEASE PT.</u> | <u>CONTACT PT.</u>                        |
|--------------|--------------------|---|
| LT. MORRISON | 900° (2)           | NEAR MISS-ONE WALL OF BUILD-ING CAVED IN. |

THE NUMBERS IN PARENTHESES ABOVE INDICATE THE NUMBER OF BOMBS DROPPED PER INDIVIDUAL RUN. GLIDE BOMBING TACTICS WERE EMPLOYED IN ALL CASES. THE RUNS WERE MADE IN VAR-IOUS DIRECTIONS, EACH PILOT HAVING IN MIND THE KNOWN AA POSITIONS AND THE FACT THAT A WATER LANDING WOULD BE DE-SIRABLE IN THE EVENT OF TROUBLE.

WHILE SEARCHING THE ISLAND OF BABELTHUAP FOR SUITABLE STRAFING TARGETS FOLLOWING THE BOMBING, THE PLANE PILOTED BY LT. MISLEY WAS APPARENTLY STRUCK BY AA FIRE. HIS AL-TITUDE WAS APPROXIMATELY 400° AT THE TIME. THE PLANE WAS SEEN TO EMIT A LOT OF BLACK SMOKE. ABOUT 100° AD-DITIONAL FEET OF ALTITUDE WAS GAINED BEFORE THE PLANE WENT INTO A SPIRAL AND CRASHED AT A POINT 2 MILES EAST OF NGATPANG BAY IN THE CENTRAL PART OF BABELTHUAP. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE PILOT WAS STRUCK PERSONALLY AS NO RADIO TRANSMISSION WAS MADE. THE PLANE CRASHED IN A WOODED AREA AND WAS SEEN TO BURN. THE TIME WAS 1020.

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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  
Heating 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:

**J. R. FLETCHER**

SIGNATURE

**CAPT., USMC**

**AC10, VNF 122**

RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

**F. E. PIERCE JR.**

SIGNATURE

**MAJOR, USMC**

**COMD'G, VNF 122 10 MARCH 45**

RANK AND DUTY

DATE