

VMF 122

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Report # 35

#C(20)

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# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

Confidential

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 35

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) AA POSITIONS AND WAREHOUSES - ARAKABESAN (b) Time Over Target(s) 1110 - 10 (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 2/10 SCATTERED CUMULUS BETWEEN 2500' - 4000'  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target CLEAR (e) Visibility 30 MILES  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

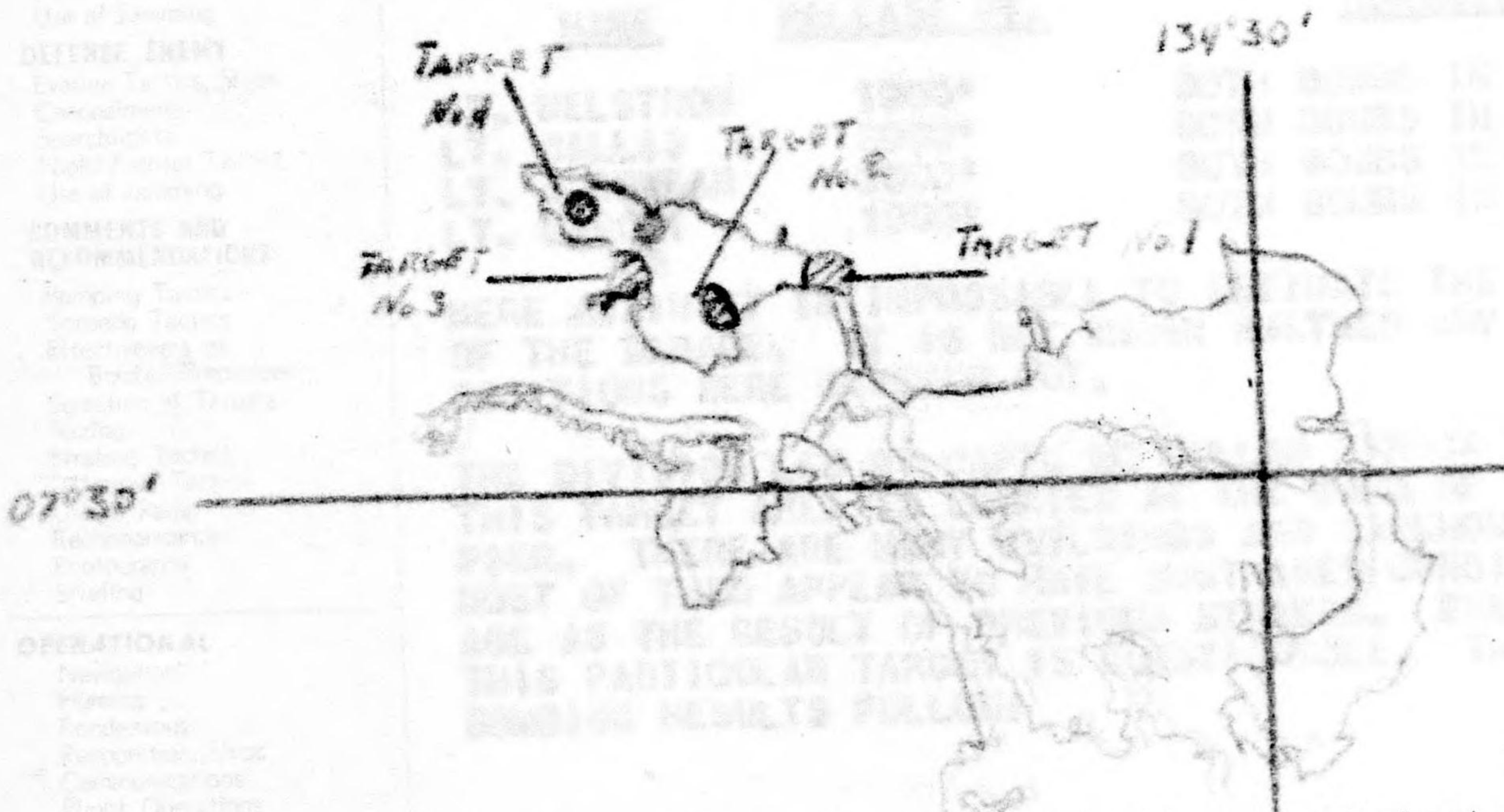
(f) Bombing Tactics: Type 45 DEG. GLIDE Bomb Sight Used NONE  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 2 Spacing      (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 2000' AV. (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 0 Probably Destroyed 0 Damaged 0

(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)
AA POSITIONS AT NE TIP OF ARAK.	400 YDS X 400 YDS.	4 VNF 122	6-500 LB. G.P.S.	6	UNDETERMINED
AA POSITIONS AROUND HILL-ARAK.	200 YDS. X 400 YDS.	4 VNF 122	8-500 LB. G.P.S.	8	UNDETERMINED
BUILDINGS-BASE OF SOUTH PIER-ARAK.	400 YDS X 400 YDS.	4 VNF 122	8-500 LB. G.P.S.	4	UNDETERMINED
AA-NW TIP OF ARAKABESAN	800 YDS X 300 YDS.	4 VNF 122	6-500 LB. G.P.S.	3	UNDETERMINED
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? YES Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.  
**PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY 28TH PHOTO-RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON AT THE REQUEST OF MAG-11. NOT AVAILABLE FOR ENCLOSURE.**

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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, THE SECOND OF FOUR CONTEMPLATED STRIKES AGAINST THE KOROR-MALAKAL-ARAKABESAN AREA ON THIS DATE, WAS DIRECTED PRIMARILY AGAINST KNOWN AA POSITIONS ON ARAKABESAN. VMF 114 AGAIN CARRYING NAPALM AND VMF 121 EQUIPPED WITH 1000 LB. G.P.'S. BOTH STRUCK ARTILLERY HILL ON KOROR. THE ATTACKS WERE TIMED SO AS TO COINCIDE.**

**GLIDE BOMBING TACTICS WERE AGAIN EMPLOYED BUT IN THIS INSTANCE ALL RUNS WERE MADE FROM NORTH TO SOUTH. THE TARGET DESIGNATED AS #1 WAS STRUCK BY MAJOR NELSON'S DIVISION WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULTS:**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RELEASE PT.</u>	<u>CONTACT PT.</u>
MAJOR NELSON	2300'	BOTH IN WEST END OF AREA WHERE FOUR 20MM GUNS ARE ALLEGEDLY LOCATED.
LT. DILKS	2000'	BOTH IN GENERAL AREA.
LT. GOODSON	2000'	BOTH IN NORTH SIDE OF ROAD IN 40MM GUN AREA.
LT. MC GEE	-----	BOMB RELEASE MECHANISM FAILED TO WORK, BOTH BOMBS RETURNED TO BASE.

**INADVISABLE TO MAKE SECOND RUNS ACROSS THIS TARGET AREA, THE EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE MUST OF NECESSITY REMAIN UNDETERMINED.**

**THE SECOND TARGET LISTED, AN AREA OF TERRACED LAND HARBORING NUMEROUS AA POSITIONS IN THE CENTRAL SECTION OF THE ISLAND, WAS STRUCK BY LT. HELSTROM'S DIVISION WITH THE BELOW LISTED RESULTS:**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RELEASE PT.</u>	<u>CONTACT PT.</u>
LT. HELSTROM	1900'	BOTH BOMBS IN AREA.
LT. CALLIS	2000'	BOTH BOMBS IN AREA.
LT. GOODYEAR	2000'	BOTH BOMBS IN AREA.
LT. LAGONI	1900'	BOTH BOMBS IN AREA.

**HERE AGAIN IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ESTIMATE THE EXACT EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE. IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER ANY OF THE AA POSITIONS WERE KNOCKED OUT.**

**THE DIVISION LED BY CAPT. MC CULLAN STRUCK TARGET #3. THIS TARGET AREA IS LOCATED AT THE BASE OF THE SOUTH PIER. THERE ARE MANY BUILDINGS AND WAREHOUSES HERE BUT MOST OF THEM APPEAR TO HAVE SUSTAINED CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE AS THE RESULT OF PREVIOUS STRIKES. THE VALUE OF THIS PARTICULAR TARGET IS QUESTIONABLE. THE TABULATED BOMBING RESULTS FOLLOW:**

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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, VAF 122**  
RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

**F. E. PIERCE JR.**  
SIGNATURE

**MAJOR, USMC**  
**COLDA, VAF 122**  
RANK AND DUTY

**4 MARCH 45**  
DATE

NAME

RELEASE PT.

CONTACT PT.

**CAPT. MC CULLAH 1800°**

**LT. MISLEY 1900°**

**LT. BRUCE 1800°**

**LT. GILMOUR 2000°**

ONE BOMB EXPLODED IN DESIGNATED AREA. ONE DUD BOMB. (ARMING WIRE RETURNED) BOTH BOMBS IN GENERAL TARGET AREA. SHORT OF TARGET AREA. OVERSHOT AA POSITION AT WHICH HE WAS AIMING. PROBABLY NO DAMAGE.

THE FOURTH TARGET WAS BELIEVED TO CONTAIN SEVERAL HEAVY AA POSITIONS BUT LT. MELIN REPORTS THAT NO ONE IN HIS DIVISION NOTED ANY FIRE FROM THIS AREA NOR DID THEY SPOT ANY PROBABLE POSITIONS.

NAME

RELEASE PT.

CONTACT PT.

**LT. MELIN 2000°**

**LT. SMITH 2000°**

**LT. TORBETT 3000°**

**LT. BROADUS -----**

FAULTY BOMB RELEASE. ONE BOMB OVERSHOT TARGET. ONE JETTISONED IN WATER. BOTH BOMBS ON RIDGE IN TARGET AREA. NO DAMAGE OBSERVED. BOTH BOMBS ON RIDGE ALSO. NO DAMAGE NOTED. BOTH BOMBS RETURNED TO BASE. RELEASE FAILED TO FUNCTION.

WARRANT OFFICER CADENHEAD IN CHARGE OF SQUADRON ORDNANCE FEELS THAT THE BOMBS MAY HAVE BEEN SET TOO "TIGHT" ON THIS STRIKE CAUSING THE UNSATISFACTORY RESULTS IN THE ABOVE CITED INSTANCES.

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