

VMF 121

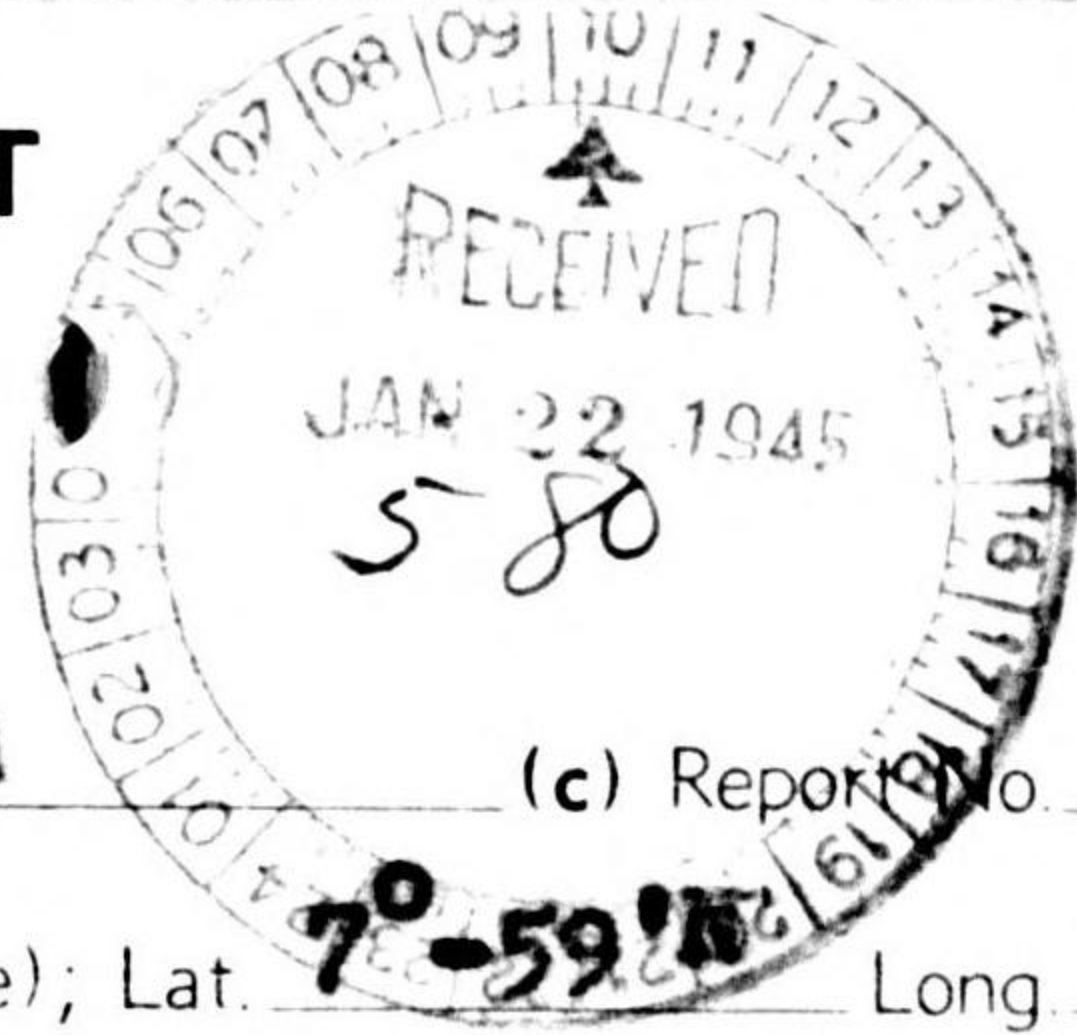
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Report # 33

II c (19)

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT



RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMF-121 (b) Based on 161 at Peleliu (c) Report No. 33
 (d) Take off: Date 14 January 1945 Time (LZT) 1130 'K' (Zone); Lat. 7°-59'N Long. 134°-14'W
 (e) Mission To bomb and strafe possible midget submarine hideout. - Yap (f) Time of Return 1705 'K' (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)		
FG-1A	VMF-121	7 FG-1A	- - - -	FG-1A	1 x 500 lb. G.P.	.1 nose - .025 tail
FG-1A	VMF-221	4 FG-1A	- - - -	FG-1A	(For Strafing)	

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
TBF	VMF-134	9	Peleliu				

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
NONE			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____
 Did Any Part of _____
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? _____ If so, Describe Clouds _____ (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) TYPE ENEMY A/C	(b) DESTROYED OR DAMAGED BY:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			
NONE						

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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

NARRATIVE:

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Lt. Thompson's flight of seven (7) planes (Lt. Faulkner failed to take off due to engine trouble), accompanied by Major Meyer's division as strafers, took off at 1530 today for a strike on Yap. The bombers each carried one 500 lb. G.P. bomb armed with .1 nose and .025 tail fuses.

The mission for this strike was to knock out a possible midget submarine hideout (see diagram) located on Gagil-Tomil Island at YU(01.9-42.5) - (Yap Air Target Map).

This was a coordinated strike with VMFB-134. The torpedo bombers were designated to hit a similar area at the west end of the bridge. Major Meyer's division strafed to cover the approach for both VMFB-134 and VMF-121 planes.

The flight approached the target at 1530 at 1000 feet. The attack was planned to have the bombing planes (both PG-1A's and TB's) attack simultaneously from the North, while the four (4) strafing planes came in from the south, making their runs under the bombers.

The actual attack was carried out as planned. The strafers timed their attack so as to effectively silence the AA positions throughout the period required to make the bombing runs.

The Corsair bombers pushed over at 10,000 feet, released at 2000 feet, and pulled out at 1000 feet. They rallied about five (5) miles southeast of the target.

All of the bombs from VMF-121 planes hit in the target area.

All planes returned safely at 1705 (K Zone).

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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) **Possible submarine hideout at YU(01.9-42.5) - Yap.** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1530 (K)** (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target **.4 cover, 4000 ft. base, 11000 ft. top.** (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target **Clear** (e) Visibility **15** (MILES)

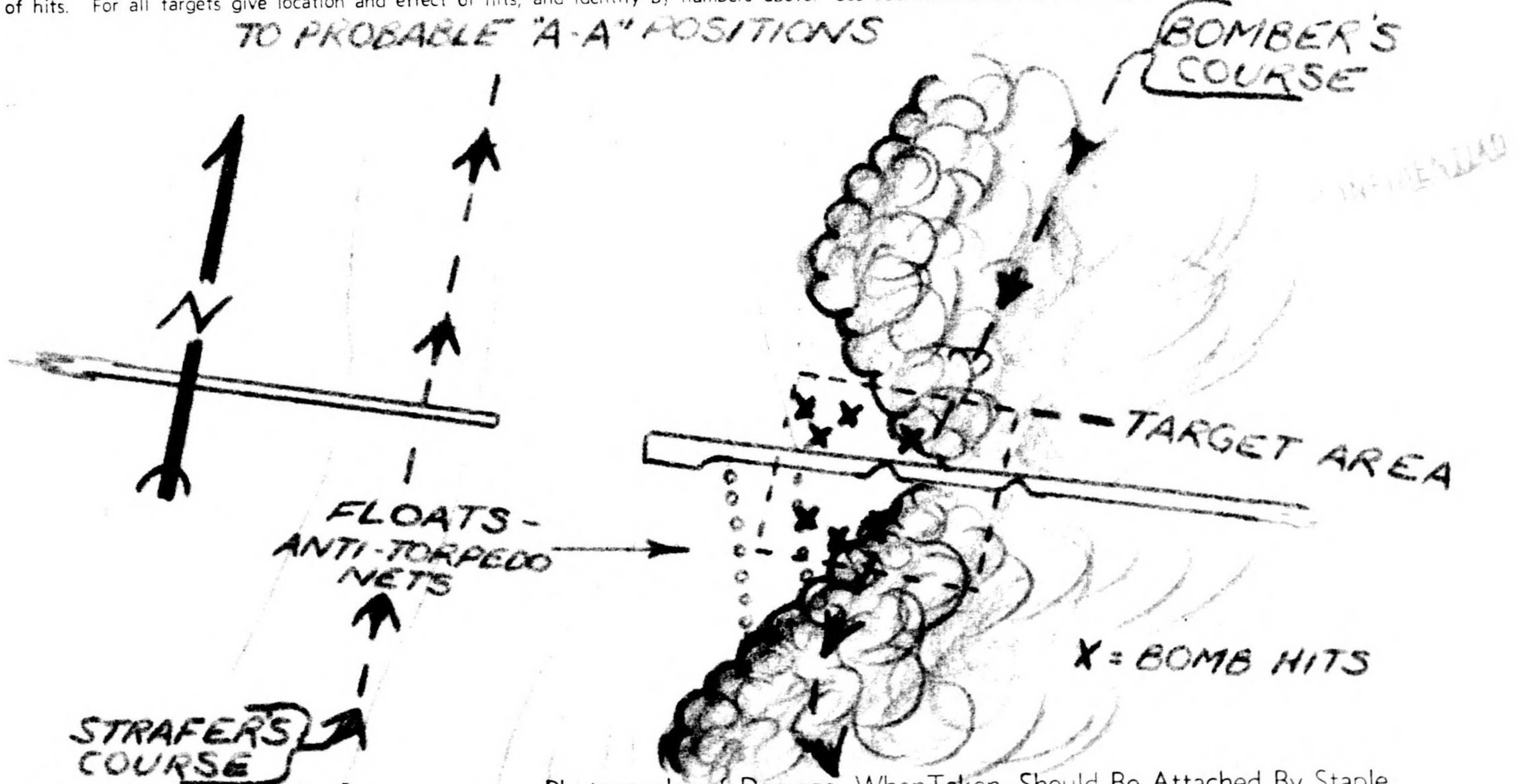
(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Dive** Bomb Sight Used **Mark 8** (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run **7** (NUMBER) Spacing _____ (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release **2000** (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)
YU(01.9-42.5) Yap Air Target	200' x 200'	7 FG-1A VF-121	7 x 500 lb. G.P.	7	Unobserved.
Yap		4 FG-1A VF-121	1600 Caliber 50		Unobserved.
3 AA positions.					
4					
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? _____ Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple. **None Available.**

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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

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14 Jan 45

DATE