

V.M.F. - 111

129
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Report #235

Itc(15)

6

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

8965

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

SECRET

13051

(a) Unit Reporting VMF-111 (b) Based on or at Majuro Atoll (c) Report No. 235
 (d) Take off: Date 3 May, 1945 Time (LZT) 1050 M (Zone); Lat. 07-05-35N Long. 171-22-40E
 (e) Mission Bomb CD gun position (E-1) Wotje Island (f) Time of Return 1315 M (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>F4U-1D</u>	<u>VMF-111</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4 Planes: 1x175 gallon special incendiary bomb</u>	<u>Nose: 1 Inst Gren. Midships: None Tail: 2 Inst Gren.</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>SB2C-4</u>	<u>VMSB-231</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>Majuro Atoll (Strike)</u>	<u>F4U-1D</u>	<u>Hq-13</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Majuro Atoll (Photo)</u>
<u>SB2C-4</u>	<u>VMSB-231</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Majuro Atoll (Observ)</u>	<u>PBM-3R</u>	<u>VH-5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Majuro Atoll (Dumbo)</u>
<u>SB2C-4</u>	<u>VMSB-231</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Majuro Atoll (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
<u>None</u>			(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) TYPE ENEMY A/C	(b) DESTROYED OR DAMAGED BY:			(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER		
<u>None</u>					

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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 None				
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
		None		

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	
F4U-1D	157	157	2.45	232	142	0	0	0	0	4

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

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

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

SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

URNS
DIVES
CEILINGS
RANGE
PROTECTION
ARMAMENT

No enemy aircraft encountered.

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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) **Center CD gun at E-1 Wotje, Island, Wotje Atoll** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1207 M** (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target **2000 Cumulus, 1/10**
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
(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 **Glide** Bomb Sight Used **MK 8**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run **One (1)** Spacing **0** Altitude of Bomb Release **50**
(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)
Center CD gun at E-1 Wotje Island, Wotje Atoll.	50'x100'	4 VMF-111	4x175 gallon Special Incendiary Bombs.	4	Not observed.
3					
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).

Four F4U-1D planes of VMF-111, each armed with one 175 gallon Special Incendiary Napalm bomb struck the center coast defense gun at the E-1 position on Wotje Island with excellent results, all the bombs dropping within a radius of 100 feet. Large fires burned for approximately 40 seconds in the immediate vicinity of the target.

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

Four F4U-1D aircraft of VMF-111 took off from the Majuro Airbase at 1050 M for a coordinated strike on Wotje Island with 14 SB2C-4 aircraft of VMSB-231. After takeoff the planes rendezvoused at 3000 feet over the Majuro Lagoon with the four aircraft of VMF-111 below and behind the VMSB-231 aircraft in a boxed division formation. Direct course to the target island was flown with the Corsairs making 2000 RPM's and showing 27 inches of mercury.

Upon reaching the target, the center Coast Defense Gun in the E-1 position at Wotje Island, Wotje Atoll, nine Helldivers of VMSB-231 made strafing runs over the target. The Corsairs immediately followed, breaking into their glides at 1207 M. Approach to the target, located on the eastern or ocean beach about one mile north of the southern point of the island, was along the line of the beach from south to north with a sharp pullout to the left immediately after the drop. The four planes were at intervals of 1500 feet indicating approximately 300 Knots and at an altitude of 50 feet when the bombs were dropped on target.

Rendezvous was affected at 3000 feet over the lagoon about 5 miles west of Wotje Island. The Corsairs returned home on course with the Helldivers that had bombed, in the meantime, the A-3 and A-4 targets at Wotje Island. On the return trip the VMF-111 aircraft flew in a boxed division at 3000 feet indicating 2100 RPM's and 31 inches. Safe landing was made at base on return at 1315 M.

Observation of the target following the strike indicated two possible direct hits. Positive damage assessment cannot be made until photos are developed.

Pilots participating in this attack were:

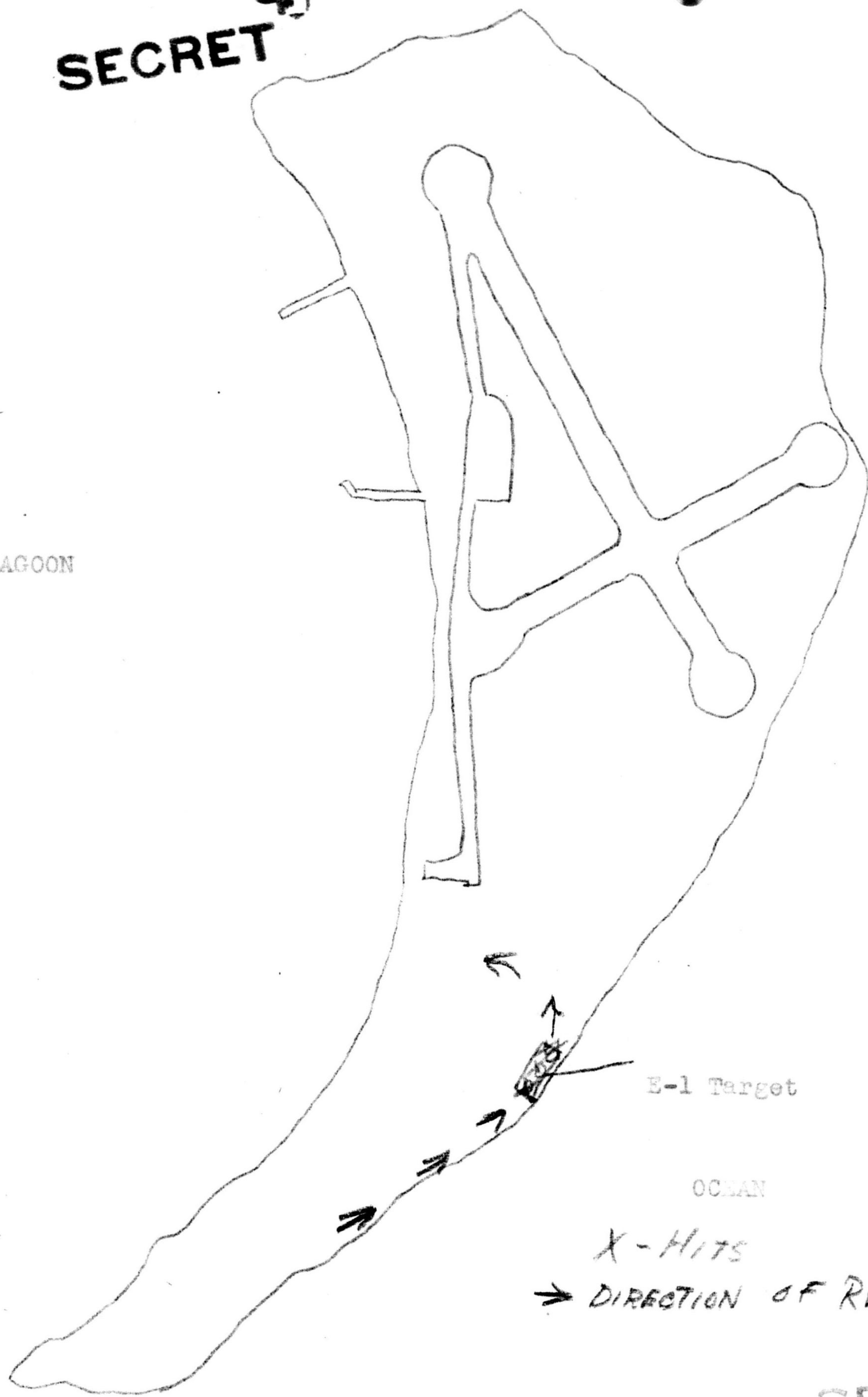
MILES, V.	Capt.	USMCR
BROWN, D.M.	Lt.	USMCR
ELLIOTT, C.P.	Capt.	USMCR
CORREA, J.C.	Lt.	USMCR

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LAGOON



E-1 Target

OCEAN

X - HITS

➔ DIRECTION OF RWN

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XIII **CONFIDENTIAL 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

All material functioned satisfactorily.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

W. O. Carlton Capt., C-2
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
W. O. CARLTON

APPROVED BY:

V. Miles
SIGNATURE
V. MILES

Capt., SNAP 4 May, 1945
RANK AND DUTY DATE

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