

VNF 121

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Report # 54

#C(19)

7

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. **54**

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) **AA installations on Battery Hill - Koror.** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1400 (K)** (Zone) FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK
- (c) Clouds Over Target **CAVU** (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target **Clear** (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS ETC.) (e) Visibility **Unlimited** (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Dive** (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used **Mark 8** (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run **1** (NUMBER) Spacing (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release **3500** (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed (NUMBER) Probably Destroyed (NUMBER) Damaged (NUMBER)

| (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, light, serious, destroyed, or sunk) |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 Battery Hill Koror | 300 yds. x 300 yds. | 16 FG-1A VIF-121 | 16 x 1000 lb. GP | 10 | Serious |
| 2 | | | | | |
| 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.)

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.
None Available

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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

At 1340 (K zone) the third strike against Koror became airborne. It was made up of sixteen planes from this squadron, sixteen planes from VMF-114 and sixteen VMF-122 planes. The Corsairs from VMF-114 each carried one 1000 lb. bomb. These were dropped on the bridge and causeway which connects Koror and Malakal. Two 500 lb. GP bombs were carried by each VMF-122 plane and were dropped on buildings and various installations on Malakal, Arakabesan and Koror. Planes from VMF-121 carried one 1000 lb. GP bomb apiece. Their target again, was Battery Hill. All 1000 lb. bombs carried on this strike were armed with .1 nose and .025 tail fuses. The 500 pounders contained .1 nose and .01 tail fuses.

Approaching to the south of the target from the northwest, VMF-121 pilots pushed over to the north from 8000 feet, making 50° glide runs on the target. Bombs were released from 3000 feet with pullouts accomplished by 2000 feet.

There were six confirmed hits in the target area with six additional probable hits. Lts. McVay and Cooley saw one heavy AA gun blown into the air above a position which had received a direct hit. There were four misses observed.

Anti-aircraft fire was particularly intense and accurate, showing an increase in volume and accuracy over the two previous strikes. Heavy and medium bursts appeared before the first plane had gone into its dive and followed the planes throughout the runs. Intense strafing did not seem to reduce the AA fire.

First Lt. W.F. Brown, leader of the second division to go into the target, received a direct hit. The projectile, probably a 40mm., exploded in the bottom of the cockpit during the bombing run before the bomb had been released. Fragments injured the pilot in both legs and broke the fuel lines. The escaping gasoline immediately caught fire. Lt. Carmena, the second section leader of the division, noticed Lt. Brown's plane lag behind as he pulled out of the dive. Smoke and flames were streaming from the stricken plane. Lt. Carmena saw the canopy jettisoned and saw large flames blown from the open cockpit just before the pilot bailed out. Lt. Brown retained control of his plane until he had passed over and beyond Koror. Looking down immediately after he was hit, he saw Battery Hill and realized the necessity of staying with the plane until the bay was reached. He headed his plane for the nearest water. When the flames became too hot, he jettisoned the canopy and, shielding his face from the flames with his right hand, he bailed out.

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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

thigh. During the rescue he swallowed plenty of sea water but examination upon hospitalization proved his condition "Good".

CONFIDENTIAL

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XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.
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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:

EDWARD P. WOOD

SIGNATURE

1st Lt. WHELER
Intelligence O.

RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

Major, USMC
W.J. MEYER Commanding

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

412R45

DATE