

VNF 102

167

20

Report #40

Itc(20)

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# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

## I. GENERAL

Confidential

(a) Unit Reporting VMF 122 (b) Based on or at PELELIU ISLAND (c) Report No. 40  
 (d) Take off: Date 10 MARCH 1945 Time (LZT) 0930 -10 (Zone); Lat. 7 DEG. N. Long. 134 DEG. E.  
 (e) Mission BOMB CAUSEWAY--GASIL TOMIL (f) Time of Return 1250 -10 (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)		
F4U-1D	VMF 122	8	0	8	2-250 LB. G.P.'S.	.1 NOSE .01 TAIL

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
PBY5A	VP-23	1	PELELIU ISLAND				

## 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
			(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 \_\_\_\_\_ (k) Visibility \_\_\_\_\_  
(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (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	GUNS USED		

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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				
2		NONE		
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-10	70	270	3.3	402	200			5000		8

## 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
  - URNS
  - DIVES
  - CEILINGS
  - RANGE
  - PROTECTION
  - ARMAMENT

**NOTE:** THE BELLY TANKS WERE JETTISONED ON ARRIVING AT YAP. THE FIGURE UNDER VIII (F) ABOVE, INCLUDES WHAT GASOLINE WAS JETTISONED WITH THE TANKS.

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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).

**CAUSEWAYS AND BUILDINGS**  
**GAGIL-TOMIL AND MAP** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1100 -10** (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target **7/10 CUMULUS BETWEEN 2000'-7000'**  
(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)

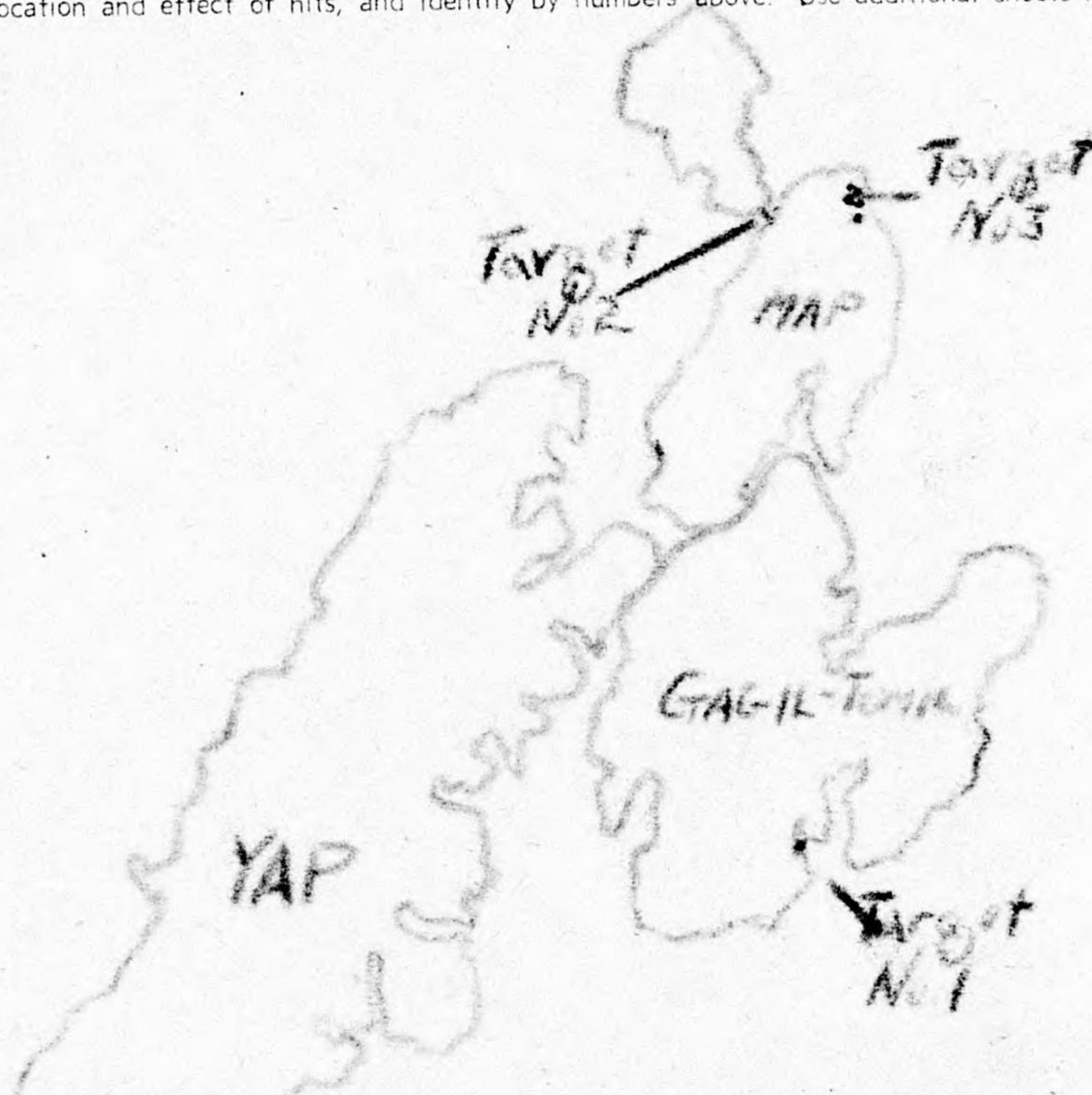
(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **GLIDE** Bomb Sight Used **NONE**  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run **1** Spacing **-** Altitude of Bomb Release **850' AV.**  
(NUMBER) (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)
1 CAUSEWAY *T.A. 20' WIDE 174 ABLE*	100 YDS LONG	4 VNF 122	8-250 LB. G.P.S.	1	SEVERED.
2 CAUSEWAY *T.A. 20' WIDE 273 SUGA R*	250 YDS LONG	2 VNF 122	4-250 LB. G.P.S.	2	CRATERED
3 BUILDINGS *T.A. 280 QUEEN* 20' X 40'	50' X 30'	2 VNF 122	4-250 LB. G.P.S.	0	BURNED BY STRAFING.
4					
5					
6	NOTE: THE TARGET AREA DESIGNATIONS USED ABOVE ARE FROM THE AIR INDEX MAP OF THE YAP ISLANDS PREPARED BY THE 64TH ENGR. TOP BN. USAFICPA NO. 741				
7					
8					

(o) RESULTS: (For all hits claimed on ship targets and for land targets of special interest, draw diagram, top or side view of 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 STRIKE WAS BRIEFED TO STRIKE THE 140° CAUSEWAY AND PIER ON GAGIL-TOMIL AT "YAP SHEET 4, T.A. 175 K NG." ALTHOUGH SEVERAL HITS HAD BEEN OBTAINED ON THIS TARGET DURING A STRIKE ON 6 JANUARY 1945, THERE HAD BEEN NO RECENT PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE AND IT WAS THOUGHT PROBABLE THAT REPAIRS HAD BEEN MADE. ON REACHING THE TARGET IT DEVELOPED THAT THE CAUSEWAY WAS DEFINITELY INOPERATIONAL. TWO LARGE CRATERS REMAIN ON EITHER END. AT THE SAME TIME IT WAS OBSERVED THAT REPAIRS HAD BEEN STARTED ON THE SMALLER CAUSEWAY AT "YAP SHEET 4, T.A. 174 ABLE AND BAKER" WHICH WAS STRUCK BY THIS SQUADRON ON 8 MARCH 1945. THE DIVISION LED BY CAPT. MC CULLAN AGAIN STRUCK THIS LATTER CAUSEWAY WITH THE BELOW LISTED RESULTS:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RELEASE PT.</u>	<u>CONTACT PT.</u>
CAPT. MC CULLAN	700° 700°	1ST BOMB MISSED TARGET. 2ND BOMB HUNG UP-FELL OFF OVER COAST LINE. ONE ON EDGE OF LAND; ONE IN WATER NEXT TO CAUSEWAY. BOTH MISSED TARGET BY ABOUT 15°.
MAJOR BONISKE	1000° 1000°	1ST BOMB MISSED; 2ND BOMB A DIRECT HIT BLOWING BIG HOLE IN CENTER OF CAUSEWAY.
LT. BRUCE	1000°	
LT. GILBOUR	1200° 800°	

THE SECOND DIVISION LED BY CAPT. FISHER CHOSE TWO TARGETS ALONG THE NORTH SHORE OF MAP ISLAND. THE CAUSEWAY AT "YAP SHEET 5, T.A. 273 SUGAR" WAS BOMBED WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULTS:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RELEASE PT.</u>	<u>CONTACT PT.</u>
CAPT. FISHER	1000°	BOMBS RELEASED SIMULTANEOUSLY STRUCK END OF CAUSEWAY NEAR LAND RENDERING IT IMPOSSIBLE. MISSED TARGET ON EACH TRY.
LT. MC GEE	800° 800°	

THE THIRD TARGET, A GROUP OF FIVE BUILDINGS AT "YAP SHEET 5, T.A. 280 QUEEN", WAS STRUCK WITH THE FOLLOWING NEGATIVE RESULTS:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RELEASE PT.</u>	<u>CONTACT PT.</u>
LT. HELSTROM	250° 300°	ONE DUD BOMB (ARMING B RE RETURNED), OVERSHOT ON SECOND TRY.
LT. GOODYEAR	500° 500°	MISSED TARGET ON EACH TRY.

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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

THE LARGEST OF THE BUILDINGS IN QUESTION, REPORTED TO BE  
A FRAME STRUCTURE WITH A CORRUGATED METAL ROOF, WAS LATER  
SET ON FIRE STRAFING. A SECOND BUILDING AT "YAP SHEET  
S, T.A. 278" WAS ALSO STRAFED AND BURNED BY MEMBERS  
OF THIS DIVISION.

NO AA WAS OBSERVED NOR WERE ANY SIGNS OF LIFE NOTED.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

J. R. FLETCHER

SIGNATURE

CAPT., USMC  
ACIO, VAF 122

RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

F. E. PIERCE JR.

SIGNATURE

MAJOR, USMC  
COMD'G, VAF 122

RANK AND DUTY

10 MARCH 45

DATE

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