

VMF 155

93
21

Report # 133

IIc(21)

6

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

1572

11393

SECRET
I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting **VMF-155** (b) Based on or at **Majuro Atoll** (c) Report No. **133**
 (d) Take off: Date **20 April, 1945** Time (LZT) **1000 M** (Zone); Lat. **07-05-35N** Long. **171-22-40E**
 (e) Mission **Bomb Bivouac Area Mille Island, Mille Atoll** (f) Time of Return **1115 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)		
F4U-1D	VMF-155	6	0	6	Six Planes: 1-1400# Napalm Bomb 2-100# Oil Bomb Clusters	Nose: None Midships: One Inst Gren Tail: Two Inst. Gren and one Thermite Bomb with Inst Tail Fuze.

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
SB2C-4	VMSB-231	1	Majuro Atoll (Photo)				
SB2C-4	VMSB-231	1	Majuro Atoll (Observer)				
PBY-5A	VPB-24	1	Majuro Atoll (Dumbo)				

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 _____
 (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		
None					

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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 F4U-1D	VHF-155	Enemy AA-12.7 MM Machine Gun.	Leading Edge of Horizontal Stabilizer	Minor Patch.
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	65	65	1.3	237	94	0	0	0	0	6

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
-
- TURNS
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

No enemy aircraft encountered.

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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) Bivouac Area (C2), SE Lagoon (b) Time Over Target(s) 1045 M (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
Coast Mille Is., Mille Atoll.
- (c) Clouds Over Target 500, Cumulo-Nimbus 9/10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Partially obscured by clouds (e) Visibility Extremely limited
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used AN-MK-8
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 6 Planes/3 bombs Spacing None Altitude of Bomb Release 200
(NUMBER) (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)
<u>1 Bivouac Area, C2, SE Lagoon Coast Mille Is.</u>	<u>300'x100'</u>	<u>6-F4U-1D VMF-155</u>	<u>Six Planes: 6-1400# Napalm bombs 12-100# Oil Bomb Clusters</u>	<u>6 12</u>	<u>Serious Serious</u>
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).

1. C2, Mille Island: Six Napalm bombs and 12 incendiary clusters expended on this target hit well within the target area. In addition they were spaced according to plan so that approximately 90% of the target area was covered with flame. Damage must have been considerable but it is impossible to accurately assess the damage until photographs are taken after the fires stop burning.

See diagrams attached.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.
Delivered to Commander, Majuro Air Group for forwarding.

N

MILLE ISLAND
MILLE ATOLL

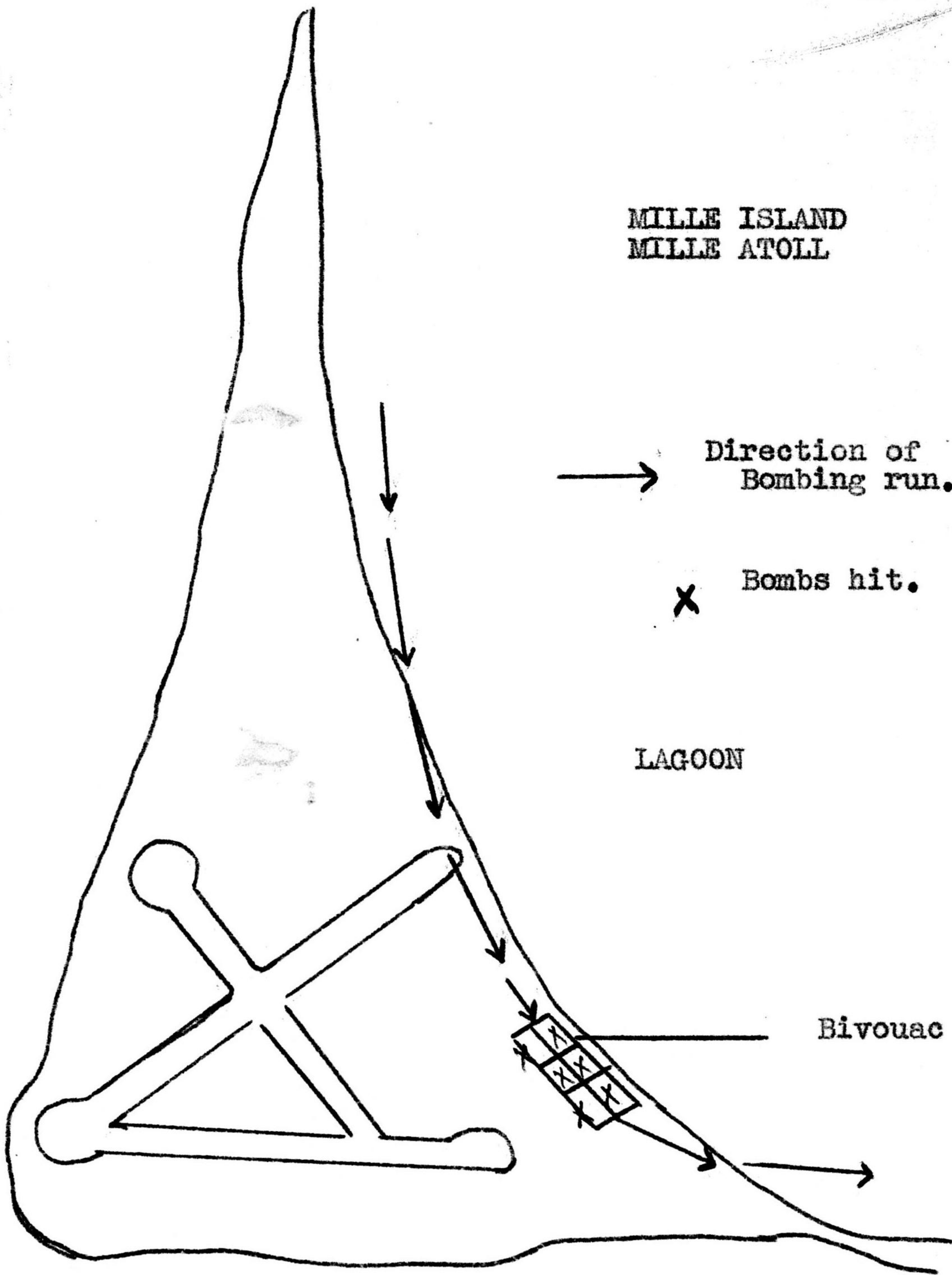
OCEAN

→ Direction of
Bombing run.

X Bombs hit.

LAGOON

Bivouac area.



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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

Six fighters of this command took off at 1000 M for a fire-bomb strike on a bivouac area located on the SE lagoon coast of Mille Island, Mille Atoll. The strike had suffered five postponements due to bad weather conditions at the target, and the pilots were glad to be on their way. The planes joined up quickly and immediately set course to Mille using power settings of 2100 RPMs and 30 inches. It was known that there was a low ceiling at the target island and since our attack was to be a glide bombing attack from 3000 feet, the planes only gained this much altitude while enroute. Flying conditions were average to good to the target.

Over Mille Island the ceiling was 500 feet and luckily the clearest spot was right over the target. The planes started their glide at 3000 feet at the north tip of the island and made their run parallel to the lagoon beach. The attack was delivered from column formation with slightly more interval between sections than between the section leader and his wingman. Releases were at approximately 200 feet and recoveries in a sharp left bank just over the lagoon. It had been planned to pull out over the ocean and rendezvous near Arbar Island, but weather conditions forced a change in plans.

None of our pilots observed any AA fire, however the observer plane saw machine gun fire from the area south of target area. One plane was hit in the tail assembly causing minor damage.

The planes joined up after the attack in a running rendezvous and returned directly to the base staying just above the water. The DE was observed on station about five miles west of Mille Island.

Pilots participating in the strike were:

LYNCH, J. P.,	Capt.,	USMCR
SVOBODA, F. R.,	2dLt.,	USMCR
STALNAKER, K. S.,	2dLt.,	USMCR
READ, J. E.,	2dLt.,	USMCR
CHAMBERLAIN, J. F.	2dLt.,	USMCR
CRAIN, L. H.,	2dLt.,	USMCR

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XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.
Use additional sheets if necessary).

In all respects all material functioned satisfactorily.

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:

R. L. Mohrmann Capt., S-2
SIGNATURE **R. L. MOHRMANN** RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

J. P. Lynch Capt., SNAP
SIGNATURE **J. P. LYNCH** RANK AND DUTY

21Apr45

DATE