

VMF 122

167
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Report # 32

HC(10)

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Confidential

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No 32

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) BRIDGES-BABELTHUAP (b) Time Over Target(s) 0915 -10 (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target SCATTERED CUMULUS WITH 4/10 COVER BETWEEN 2000'-3000'
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target CLEAR (e) Visibility 25 MILES
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type 45 DEG. GLIDE Bomb Sight Used NONE
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 1 Spacing - Altitude of Bomb Release 837' AV.
(NUMBER) (FEET) (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 BRIDGE #3	30' X 18'	2 VMF 122	2-500 LB. G.P.S.	1	DESTROYED
2 BRIDGE #4	37' X 18'	3 VMF 122	3-500 LB. G.P.S.	0	SLIGHT
3 BRIDGE AT TW 711-064	32' X 18'	2 VMF 122	2-500 LB. G.P.S.	0	CRATERED ROAD.
4 BRIDGE AT TW 685-036	34' X 18'	1 VMF 122	1-500 LB. G.P.	1	DESTROYED
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? 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

FOLLOWING A SYSTEMATIC BOMBING PROGRAM DESIGNED TO ELIMINATE ALL THE BRIDGES ALONG THE PRINCIPLE NORTH-SOUTH THOROUGHFARE ON BABELTHUAP, THIS FOUR PLANE STRIKE HAD AS ITS PRIMARY TARGET THE BRIDGE DESIGNATED AS NUMBER 3. POSSIBLE SECONDARY TARGETS WERE BRIDGE NUMBER 4 AND THOSE IN THE NORTH CENTRAL PART OF THE ISLAND AT TW(695-036) AND TW(711-064). TWO OF THE FOUR BRIDGES WERE COMPLETELY DEMOLISHED, A THIRD IS BELIEVED TO HAVE SUSTAINED A DAMAGING HIT, WHILE THE FOURTH WAS UNTOUCHED. IN EACH OF THE LATTER CASES HOWEVER THE ROAD WAS CRATERED AT THE BRIDGE APPROACH AND WILL REQUIRE REPAIRS BEFORE THE BRIDGE CAN BE USED. BELOW ARE THE RESULTS IN TABULATED FORM:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RELEASE PT.</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>CONTACT PT.</u>
LT. BAUMAN	800'	#4 BRIDGE	SLIGHTLY OVERSHOT BRIDGE-HIT AND CRATERED THE ROAD.
	800'	#4 BRIDGE	NEAR MISS IN WATER-DAMAGING.
LT. MC LELLAN	800'	#3 BRIDGE	IN WATER TO RIGHT OF BRIDGE.
	800'	BRIDGE AT TW(695-036)	DIRECT HIT-BRIDGE DEMOLISHED.
LT. HAUSER	900'	#3 BRIDGE	DIRECT HIT-BRIDGE DEMOLISHED.
	1000'	BRIDGE AT TW(711-064)	OFF TO RIGHT-NO DAMAGE.
LT. AVERY	800'	#4 BRIDGE	OVERSHOT-NO DAMAGE.
	800'	BRIDGE AT TW(711-064)	HIT AND CRATERED ROAD AT SOUTH END OF BRIDGE

LTS. HAUSER AND MC LELLAN REPORT STRAFING A GROUP OF FOUR BUILDINGS LOCATED NEAR BRIDGE #3. THERE WERE NO RESULTING FIRES. SLIT TRENCHES ALONG THE WEST COAST WERE ALSO STRAFED WITH UNDETERMINED RESULTS.

LT. BAUMAN REPORTS STRAFING AND KILLING A PERSON WHO WAS RUNNING ACROSS BRIDGE #4 AT THE TIME HE WAS MAKING A RUN ON THIS TARGET. A POSSIBLE GUN POSITION AT NGARDMAU WAS STRAFED AND CAUSED TO SMOKE.

ONLY A MEAGER AMOUNT OF LIGHT AA WAS NOTED ON THIS DATE. THIS APPEARED TO ORIGINATE FROM TX POSITION (659-992).

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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:

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SIGNATURE **AG10, VAF 122**
RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

F. E. PIERCE JR. **MAJOR, USMC**
SIGNATURE **COMD'G, VAF 122** **2 MARCH 45**
RANK AND DUTY DATE

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