

VNF 122

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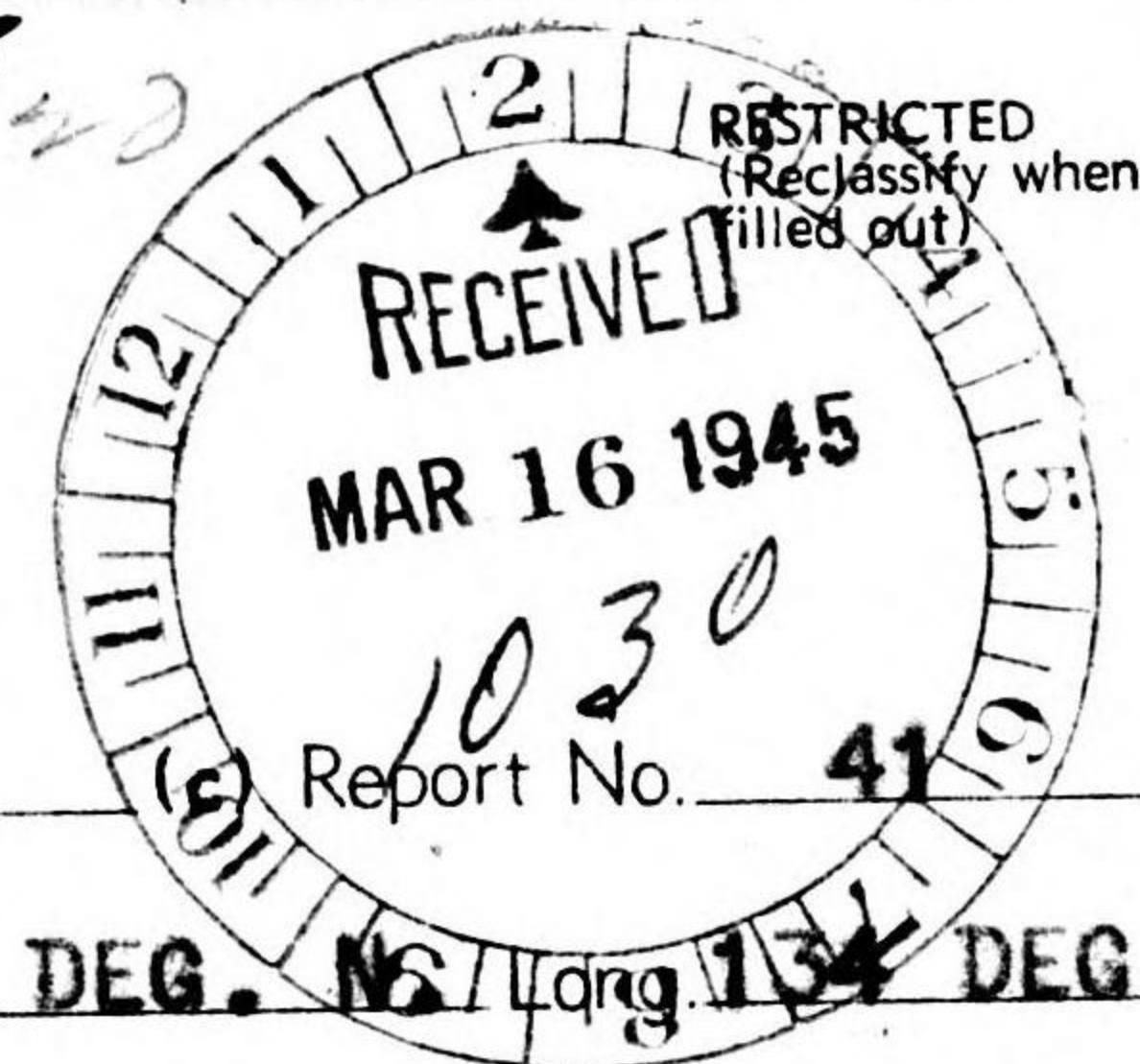
Report # 41

IIc(20)

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AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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051140



I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMF 122 (b) Based on or at PELELIU ISLAND
 (d) Take off: Date 13 MARCH 1945 Time (LZT) 0930 -10 (Zone); Lat. 7 DEG. N Long. 154 DEG. E.
 (e) Mission BOMB POSSIBLE SUB HAVEN-YAP (f) Time of Return 1250 -10 (Zone)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

(a) TYPE	(b) SQUADRON	NUMBER			(f) BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE)	(g) FUZE, SETTING
		(c) TAKING OFF	(d) ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	(e) ATTACKING TARGET		
F4U-1D	VMF 122	4	0	4	2-500 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
PBY-5A	VP-23	1	PELELIU ISLAND				
F5-B	28TH PHOTO-RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON-						
			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? (YES OR NO) _____ If so, Describe Clouds _____ (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		

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AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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REPORT No. **41**

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-1D	270	270	3.3	402	302		1700			4

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
- TURNING
- 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)

REPORT No. **41**

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) **1- FRANCES TYPE AIRCRAFT-RUMUNG**
2- POSSIBLE SUB DOCKING AREAS (b) Time Over Target(s) **1100 -10** (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target **5/10 CUMULUS BETWEEN 2000'-5000'**
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target **CLEAR** (e) Visibility **15 MILES**
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

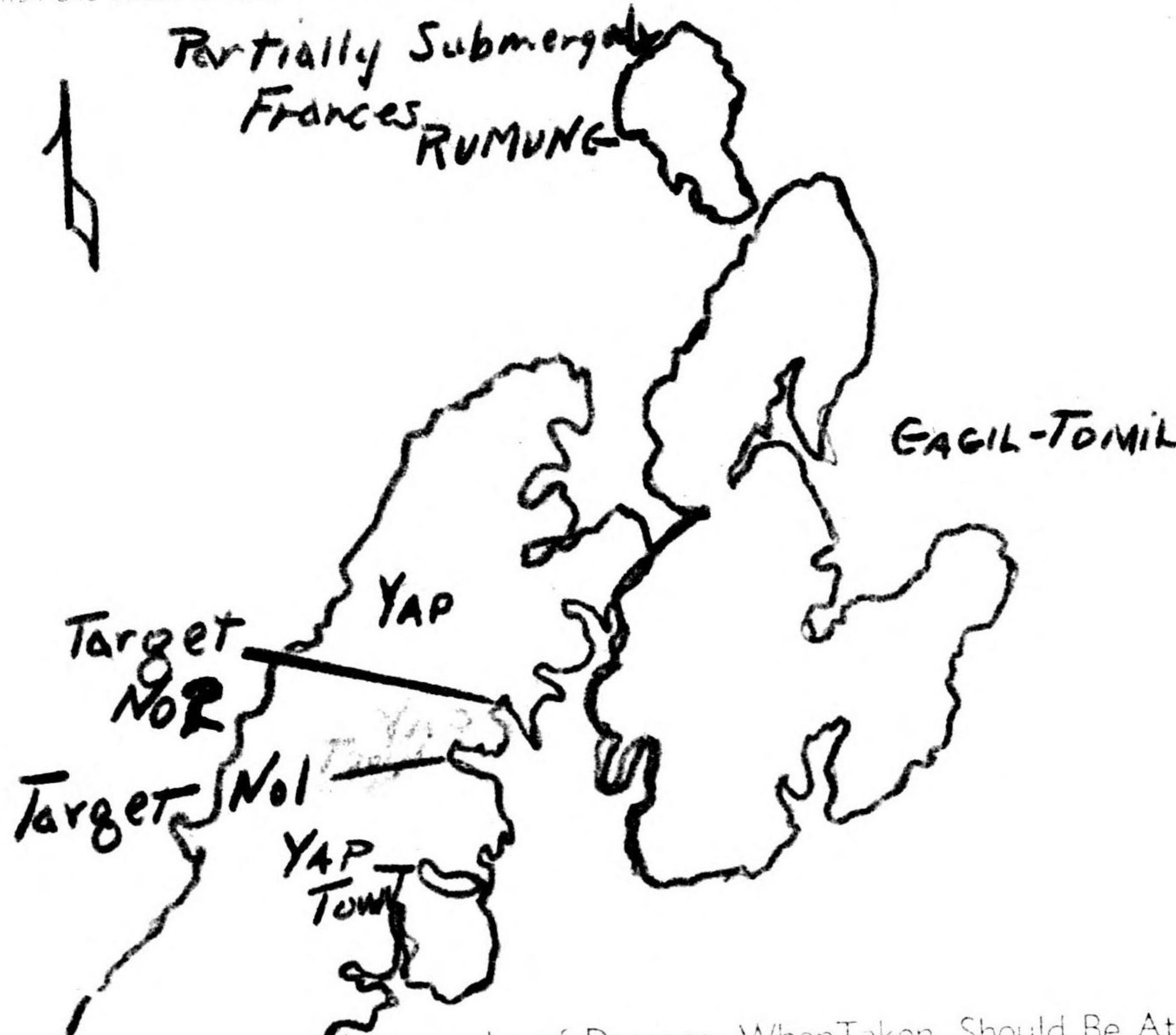
(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **45 DEG. GLIDE** Bomb Sight Used **NONE**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run **1** Spacing **-** Altitude of Bomb Release **760' AV.**
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed **1** Probably Destroyed **0** Damaged **0**

(h) AIMING POINT	(i) DIMENSION 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 AIRCRAFT-FRANCES	65' SPAN 49' LENGTH	4 VMF 122	4-500 LB. G.P.'S.	1	DESTROYED
2 1ST INLET NORTH OF YAP TOWN.	450' LONG 200' WIDE	3 VMF 122	3-500 LB. G.P.'S.	2	UNDETERMINED. CRATERED PIER AT POINT WHERE IT JOINS LAND.
3 2ND INLET NORTH OF YAP TOWN	PIER 75' X 20'	1 VMF 122	1-500 LB. G.P.	1	
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? **YES** Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY THE 28TH PHOTO-RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON AT THE REQUEST MAG-11. NOT AVAILABLE FOR ENCLOSURE.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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REPORT No. 41

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

THERE BEING A DEARTH OF SUITABLE BOMBING TARGETS IN THE YAP GROUP OF ISLANDS AT THE PRESENT TIME THIS FOUR PLANE STRIKE WAS BRIEFED TO FIRST MAKE A RECONNAISSANCE FOR TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY AND THEN TO STRIKE ANY REMAINING INSTALLATIONS IN THE FIRST HARBOR NORTH OF YAP TOWN.

ARRIVING OVER THE TARGET AT 1100 LT. BAUMAN SIGHTED THE PARTIALLY SUBMERGED FRANCES OFF THE NORTHWEST COAST OF RUMUNG AT "YAP, SHEET 5, T.A. 285 KING." THE AIRCRAFT WAS ON THE REEF APPROXIMATELY 50°-75° OUT FROM THE SHORE LINE. IT APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD CONDITION. IT WAS A LITTLE OVER HALF WAY SUBMERGED. THIS TARGET WAS BOMBED WITH THE BELOW LISTED RESULTS:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RELEASE PT.</u>	<u>CONTACT PT.</u>
LT. BAUMAN	500'	BOMB HUNG UP AND FELL OFF OVER REEF AFTER INITIAL PASS OVERSHOT TARGET.
LT. MC LELLAN	500'	UNDERSHOT TARGET.
LT. BLANEY	500'	DIRECT HIT. LEFT WING TORN OFF-FUSELAGE BROKEN IN TWO.
LT. AVERY	800'	

THE BELLY TANKS WERE ALSO RELEASED OVER THIS TARGET AND MANY STRAFING PASSES WERE MADE. THE REMNANTS OF THE PLANE BURNED AND ITS AMMUNITION EXPLODED. PRESUMABLY THIS IS ONE OF THE PLANES WHICH RECENTLY ATTACKED OUR FORCES AT ULITHI. THE PILOT PROBABLY MADE A WATER LANDING AFTER ASCERTAINING THAT BOTH AIRSTRIPS AT YAP ARE INOPERATIONAL.

THE FIRST INLET NORTH OF YAP TOWN IS REPORTED TO PRESENT A "BEATEN UP" APPEARANCE. THREE OF THE REMAINING BOMBS WERE RELEASED OVER THIS TARGET WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULTS:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RELEASE PT.</u>	<u>CONTACT PT.</u>
LT. BAUMAN	1000'	PROBABLY A DUD-NO EXPLOSION NOTED.
LT. BLANEY	1000'	BOMB STRUCK GENERAL TARGET AREA.
LT. AVERY	800'	BOMB STRUCK GENERAL TARGET AREA.

THE EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE IN CONNECTION WITH THIS TARGET WAS NOT OBSERVED.

LT. MC LELLAN RELEASED HIS SECOND BOMB OVER THE PIER IN THE 2ND INLET NORTH OF YAP TOWN, OBTAINING A DIRECT HIT AT THE BASE OF THE PIER.

IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT NO AA FIRE WAS OBSERVED ON THIS DATE. NO SIGNS OF LIFE OR ACTIVITY WERE NOTED.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

XIII. MATERIAL 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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

J. R. FLETCHER **CAPT., USMCR**
SIGNATURE **ACIO, VMF 122**
RANK AND DUTY

F. E. PIERCE JR. **MAJOR, USMC**
SIGNATURE **COMD'G, VMF 122** **13 MARCH 45**
RANK AND DUTY DATE