

VMF-122

169
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Report # 74

JIC(20)

5

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. 76
 (d) Take off: Date 14 JULY 1945 Time (LZT) 0930 -10 (Zone); Lat. 7DEG. N. Long. 134 DEG. E.
 (e) Mission BOMB HEADQUARTERS AND SUPPLY AREA (f) Time of Return 1030 -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)		
<u>F4U-1D</u>	<u>VMF 122</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>2-500 LB. G.P.'S.</u>	<u>.1 NOSE .025 TAIL</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE

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 _____ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance _____ (j) of Sun or Moon _____ (k) Visibility _____ (MILES)
 (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON, DAY, OVERCAST, ETC.)

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		

"CONFIDENTIAL"

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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76

REPORT No. _____

"CONFIDENTIAL"

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		NONE		
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	55	55	1	230	78		500			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

TURNS
DIVES
CEILINGS
RANGE
PROTECTION
ARMAMENT

"CONFIDENTIAL"

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
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"CONFIDENTIAL"

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 76

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) BIVOUAC AND SUPPLY AREA-BABELTHUAP (b) Time Over Target(s) 0950 -10 (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 3/10 CUMULUS AT 6000'
(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 DIVE Bomb Sight Used NONE
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 2 Spacing - Altitude of Bomb Release 2000' 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 HEADQUARTERS AREA-TA 710 O	300' X 300'	4 VMF 122	8-500 LB. G.P.'S.	7	UNDETERMINED
2 AMMO & SUPPLY AREA-TA 710 X&W	900' X 400'	2 VMF 122	4-500 LB. G.P.'S.	4	UNDETERMINED
3 BIVOUAC AREA-TA 710 T	500' X 250'	2 VMF 122	4-500 LB. G.P.'S.	4	UNDETERMINED
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? NO Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

"CONFIDENTIAL"

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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REPORT No. 76

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

THE REPORTED HEADQUARTERS AND ADJACENT SUPPLY AREA OF THE 14TH DIVISION WAS THE TARGET OF THIS EIGHT PLANE STRIKE. LOCATED IN THE CENTRAL SECTION OF BABELTHUAP, THE AREA WAS LOCALIZED BY KOREAN POW'S WITH THE AID OF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS. THE REGION ABOUND WITH TRACK ACTIVITY WHICH TERMINATES IN SMALL WOODED AREAS. MEMBERS OF THE STRIKE WERE BRIEFED TO RELEASE OVER THE POINTS WHERE THE TRACKS ENTERED THE WOODS.

APPROACHING THE TARGET AREA FROM THE SOUTHEAST AT 5500', DIVE BOMBING TACTICS WERE EMPLOYED. BOTH BOMBS WERE RELEASED IN THE INITIAL DIVE BUT A SLIGHT INTERVAL SEPARATED THE RELEASE POINTS. BELOW ARE THE TABULATED RESULTS. ALL MAP REFERENCES USED ARE FROM THE "SPECIAL AIR AND GUNNERY TARGET MAP" OF THE PALAUS, SCALE 1:20,000.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RELEASE</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
MAJOR SAPP	2000'	ONE IN TA 710 OBUE; ONE IN TA 710 X-RAY.
LT. HABISH	1500'	ONE IN TA 710 X-RAY; ONE OUT OF AREA IN TA 710 LOVE.
LT. HOWARD	4000'	BOTH IN TA 710 TARE.
LT. HART	2000'	BOTH IN TA 710 OBUE.
LT. WETZEL	3000'	BOTH IN TA 710 OBUE.
LT. FARLING	2500'	BOTH IN TA 710 OBUE.
LT. FISHER	2000'	BOTH IN TA 710 X-RAY.
LT. JEROMINSKI	1500'	BOTH IN TA 710 OBUE.
	2000'	BOTH IN TA 710 TARE.
	1500'	

NO AA FIRE WAS ENCOUNTERED ON THIS STRIKE. THERE WERE NO SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS INDICATING THAT STORED AMMUNITION HAD BEEN SET OFF NOR DID ANY FIRES DEVELOP. THE EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE IS NOT KNOWN.

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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:

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RANK AND DUTY

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14 JULY 45
DATE

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