

VNF-114

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Report # 28-45

ITC (17)

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

051052 3017
RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)
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I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting **VMF-114** (b) Based on or at **Peleliu, Palau Islands** Report No. **28-45**
 (d) Take off: Date **10 March 1945** Time (LZT) **1330** (Zone) **King** Lat **7° N.** Long **134° E.**
 (e) Mission **Barge Sweep** (f) Time of Return **1450** (Zone) **King**

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-1	VMF-114	3		3	1 plane carried a Napalm Bomb and two carried 100 pound (g.p.) bombs.	Napalm - Inst. Bombs - Inst. nose, non-delay tail
F4U-1	VMF-114	1		1	100 pound bomb	Inst nose - non delay tail fuze.

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
PBY	VP-23	one	Peleliu				

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 _____ (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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			

Confidential

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

Confidential RESTRICTED
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REPORT No **28-45**

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-1	VMF114	40 mm AA fire	Hit in the guns and center inboard panel of the left wing.	Total Loss. Bureau No. 49920.
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
1.	VMF114	William P. ELZEY, Jr., First Lieutenant, USMCR	Bruised and out right leg on bailing out of aircraft.	Minor injuries.

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-1	30	30	1.4	233	110					3
F4U-1	30	30	.5	233	--					none

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

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AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

Confidential RESTRICTED

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. **28-45**

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

King

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) **Targets of opportunity** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1400-1415 Zone**
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target **2,000 feet base, .4 coverage.**
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target **Hazy** (e) Visibility **10 miles**
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Glide** Bomb Sight Used _____
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run **One** Spacing _____ Altitude of Bomb Release **900**
(NUMBER) (FEET) (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 (If possible, list serious, destroyed, or sunk)
1 Cultivated area		1			
S. Babelthuap		VNF-114	1 Napalm Bomb	1	Serious
2 AA positions		3		0	
E. Babelthuap		VNF-114	2 X 1 X 100 lb (g.p.)		None
3 (TX 70.7-85.0)					
"Special Air and					
4 Gunnery Map of					
Palau islands"					
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.)

- I. Cultivated area burned off.**
- II. None or slight damage to gun positions.**

(p) Were Photographs Taken? _____ Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

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AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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REPORT No. 19-45.

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

Captain W. W. WEBER led four planes of VMF-114 on a routine barge sweep of the northern Palaus, taking off at about 1330 on the 10th of March 1945. Lt. T. M. SULLIVAN's plane carried a Napalm filled belly tank and the others, 100 pound, general purpose bombs. Lt. T. M. SULLIVAN dropped his Napalm Bomb on a cultivated area on a small unnamed island just south of Babelthuap (TX498 Y). A good fire resulted. The division then strafed an active AA position in eastern Babelthuap. Lt. W. P. ELZEY, Jr., flying plane Bu. No. 49920, was hit in the left wing by a burst of 40 mm fire. With his ammunition exploding and his wing on fire, Lt. ELZEY, jettisoned his bomb and bailed out east of Eil Malk, several miles at sea, at an altitude of about 3,000 feet. Lt. ELZEY's leg was bruised and out in bailing out. He used routine procedure in the water, inflating his raft, and putting out "Dye Marker" and a sea anchor to compensate for drift. The rest of his flight circled his position until the arrival of a PBY, which was unable to land, due to the rough water. Dumbo then circled until a surface craft (LCI 732) made the rescue, after Lt. ELZEY had been in the water about an hour and ten minutes. Lt. ELZEY was returned to base that night.

The remaining planes bombed and strafed the AA position where Lt. ELZEY had been hit (TX 70.7 - 85.0) and (TX 70.8-84.4). The results were not apparent.

Confidential

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

Confidential

REPORT No. **28-45**

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. DRESCHER, Capt., ACIO

ROBERT TUCKER, Major, C. O.

10 March 1945.

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