

VMF 1212

167
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Report #73

HC(20)

5

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. **73**

"CONFIDENTIAL"

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) **BIVOAC & SUPPLY AREA-YAMATO** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1500 -10** (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target **5/10 CUMULUS AT 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 **DIVE** Bomb Sight Used **NONE**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run **2** Spacing **-** Altitude of Bomb Release **2250' 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 BIVOAC AREA	75 YDS X 150 YDS	15 VMF 122	30-500 LB. G.P'S.	30	UNDETERMINED
2					
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.)

(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

RECENTLY OBTAINED POW'S HAVE REPORTED A LARGE BIVOUAC AREA IN THE YAMATO DISTRICT OF BABELTHUAP AS WELL AS A SALVAGE DEPOT CONTAINING LARGE STOCKS OF BUILDING MATERIALS. TODAY'S FIFTEEN PLANE STRIKE WAS DIRECTED AGAINST THIS TARGET LOCATED ALONG THE WEST SIDE OF THE NORTH-SOUTH ROAD AT YAMATO JUNCTION. ALTHOUGH NO PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE DESIGNATED TARGET WERE AVAILABLE, THERE WERE PHOTOGRAPHS OF A NEARBY ROAD CROSSING WHICH WERE USED FOR ORIENTATION PURPOSES. NO DIFFICULTY WAS EXPERIENCED IN LOCATING THE TARGET AREA.

APPROACHING FROM EAST TO WEST AT 11,000', THE STAGGERED COLUMN FORMATION WAS EMPLOYED PRIOR TO THE ACTUAL DIVE BOMBING RUNS. BELOW ARE THE TABULATED RESULTS:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RELEASE</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
CAPT. MC PHAIL	1000'	IN AREA-731 NON-DAMAGE NOT OBSERVED.
LT. RUNSAM	2000'	1 IN FORK OF ROAD AT 731 CHARLIE--1 IN 731 DOG-DAMAGE UNDETERMINED.
LT. WAGE	1800'	IN TARGET AREA-DAMAGE UNDETERMINED.
LT. WOODROW	3500'	IN AREA-731 DOG-DAMAGE NOT OBSERVED.
CAPT. BLACKMUN	2000'	BOTH NEAR ROAD JUNCTION AT 731 CHARLIE.
LT. PENDLTON	2500'	BOTH ON NORTH SIDE OF ROAD IN TA 749 WILLIAM.
LT. HACKETT	3000'	IN AREA-731 DOG-DAMAGE NOT OBSERVED.
LT. KNUDSON	2500'	IN GENERAL AREA-DAMAGE NOT OBSERVED.
LT. FLAVELLE	2000'	IN GENERAL AREA-DAMAGE NOT OBSERVED.
LT. DORRELL	2500'	IN GENERAL AREA-DAMAGE NOT OBSERVED.
LT. BARRETT	1500'	IN AREA-731 DOG-DAMAGE NOT OBSERVED.
LT. FELITON	2700'	BOTH BOMBS IN 731 CHARLIE NEAR ROAD INTERSECTION.
LT. WEITZEL	2500'	IN AREA 731 NON-DAMAGE NOT OBSERVED.
LT. THACKER	2500'	IN AREA 731 CHARLIE-NO DAMAGE OBSERVED.
LT. MILLER	2000'	IN AREA 731 DOG-BOMBS DEMOLISHED TWO SMALL BUILDINGS.

SEVERAL SMALL, POSSIBLY INCONSEQUENTIAL, BUILDINGS WERE DESTROYED. THE AIR WAS FILLED WITH SMOKE AND FLYING DEBRIS FOR 10-20 MINUTES FOLLOWING THE BOMBING. NO

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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

**FIRES OR SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS RESULTED. THERE WAS NO
VISIBLE ACTIVITY. THE AREA WAS WELL COVERED AND THE
EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE, IT IS BELIEVED, IS IN DIRECT
RATIO TO THE RELIABILITY OF THE POW REPORT.**

NO AA FIRE WAS OBSERVED ON THIS DATE.

**MAP REFERENCES USED IN THIS REPORT ARE FROM THE "SPEC-
IAL AIR AND GUNNERY TARGET MAP" OF THE PALAUS, SCALE
1:20,000.**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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SIGNATURE COMD'G, VF 122

8 JULY 1945
DATE

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