

VMF-122

167  
20

Report # 6

IC(20)

2

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
"CONFIDENTIAL"  
(Reclassify when filled in)

Sheet 1 of 3

(Short Form for routine actions only)

I. GENERAL

Read Instructions before filling out

(a) Unit Reporting VMP 122 (b) Ship or base Peleliu Island (c) Report No. 6  
 (b) Take off: Date 5 Aug 45 Time (LZT) 1100 -10 (Zone). (e) Time of Return 1315 -10 (Zone)  
 (f) Target Targets of Opportunity (g) Round-Trip Distance Flown 150 (Miles)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT

(a) TYPE	(b) SQUADRON	(c) TAKING OFF	(d) NUMBER ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	(e) ATTACKING TARGET	(f) BOMBS, ROCKETS, CLUSTERS, TORPEDOES, NAPALM & DROP FUEL TANKS CARRIED PER PLANE (Specify type & size exactly)	(g) FUZE DELAYS, TORPEDO DEPTH SETTING (Give mk. of cluster & bomb fuzes, & setting used if more than one is possible)
F4U-1D	VMP 122	4	0	4	2-500 lb. G.P.'s	Nose Plug 4-5 Sec. Delay

III. ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENGAGED

IV. ENEMY PLANES DAMAGED IN AIR (Give details in narrative)

(a) TYPE	(b) NUMBER ENGAGED	(c) TIME/ZONE	(d) LOCATION	(a) TYPE ENEMY A/C	(b) DESTROYED OR DAMAGED BY TYPE A/C SQUADRON PILOT OR GUNNER	(c) DAMAGE CLAIMED

V. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT

(a) TYPE OWN A/C	(b) SQUADRON	(c) CAUSE: Type ENEMY A/C, AA, TYPE GUN OR OPERATIONAL CAUSE	(d) WHERE HIT & ANGLE (List armor, self-sealing tanks, equipment hit)	(e) EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE (Give Bureau No. of plane destroyed)
F4U-1D	122	Undetermined		Plane failed to return to base-Bureau #57395

VI. PERSONNEL CASUALTIES (Identify with planes listed in V by nos. at left)

(a) No.	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NAME, RANK, OR RATING	(d) CAUSE	(e) CONDITION OR STATUS
1	122	Enlt. William L. ARNETT	Undetermined	MIA

VII. ATTACK ON TARGET

(a) Location Malakal-Bahelthwap (b) Time over target 1130 -10 (Zone)  
 (c) Weather, clouds, visibility 3/10 cumulus at 2500' scattered showers  
 (d) Bombing tactics Level (e) Bomb Sight used None  
 (Level, Glide, Dive, by type of plane) (Type for each type of plane)

(f) AA present: Yes. No

(g) AIMING POINT	(h) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(i) No. A/C Attacking (j) Squadron	(k) BOMBS, ROCKETS, AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT (Give fuzing used if selectively armed)	(l) NO. HITS ON AIMING POINT	(m) Altitude of Release (Ft.) (n) Dive Angle	(o) Spacing of Bombs (Ft.) (p) Indicated Air Speed (Kts)	(q) Range of Release of Rockets
House & Shed	30'X 30'	1			50'		
1 <sup>st</sup> TX (670-992)	15'X 30'	122	1-500 lb. G.P.	1	Level	240 kts	
Building		1			50'		
2 <sup>nd</sup> TX (716-979)	30'X 20'	122	1-500 lb. G.P.	?	Level	240 kts	
House		1			50'		
3 <sup>rd</sup> (Yanato)	-	122	2-500 lb. G.P.	1	Level	240 kts	
Storage Tanks		2			50'		
4 <sup>th</sup> TX (547-789)	-	122	4-500 lb. G.P.	0	Level	230 kts	

Give results and narrative on separate sheet, follow outline.

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VII (R) RESULTS:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TARGET #</u>	<u>CONTACT PT.</u>
CAPT. BRANAGAN	1	HIT IN AREA CAUSING LARGE FIRE. UNOBSERVED.
LT. BARNUM	2	HITS-TWO DWELLINGS DESTROYED.
LT. KINSEY	3	SLIGHTLY OVERSHOT TARGET-DAMAGE UNDETERMINED.
LT. ARNETT	4	IN GENERAL TARGET AREA-NO APPARENT DAMAGE.

VIII

THIS FOUR PLANE STRIKE WAS INSTRUCTED TO MAKE A SWEEP OF THE NORTHERN PALAUS STRIKING ANY TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY WHICH MIGHT BE ENCOUNTERED. IT SHOULD BE REITERATED HERE THAT ALL OBVIOUS WORTHWHILE TARGETS HAVE LONG SINCE BEEN REDUCED TO RUBBLE. FEW, IF ANY, SUITABLE BOMBING AND STRAFING TARGETS REMAIN INTACT. THE TARGETS SELECTED WITH THE RESULTS ARE LISTED ABOVE.

ONE OF OUR AIRCRAFT FAILED TO RETURN FROM THIS STRIKE. THE SELF-EXPLANATORY STATEMENT OF THE SECTION LEADER, SECOND LIEUTENANT GORDON D. KINSEY, FOLLOWS:

"OUR DIVISION LED BY CAPT. BRANAGAN TOOK OFF AT 1115 ON A ROUTINE BARGE SWEEP OF THE NORTHERN PALAUS. LT. ARNETT THE NUMBER 4 MAN IN THE DIVISION WAS FLYING ON MY WING. AS WE APPROACHED ENEMY HELD TERRITORY THE DIVISION SPLIT INTO SECTIONS TO MORE EFFECTIVELY COVER THE ISLANDS. LT. ARNETT AND I EXPENDED OUR BOMBS ON A GROUP OF SIX METAL STORAGE TANKS LOCATED ON THE SOUTHERN TIP OF MALAKAL ISLAND. WE HAD NOTED SOME SMOKE AND APPARENT ENEMY ACTIVITY IN THIS DISTRICT EARLIER IN THE DAY AND DECIDED TO STRIKE IT AT THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY. WE CROSSED THE SOUTHERN TIP OF BABELTHUAP KEEPING ON THE ALERT FOR SMALL CRAFT AND SUITABLE STRAFING TARGETS. IN A COVE AT TX (629-823) WE DID LOCATE TWO 15' BOATS WHICH WE STRAFED AND LEFT IN A SINKING CONDITION. ENTERING THE ISLAND ON A STRAFING PASS SIX MILES NORTH OF THE AIRSTRIP WE LOOKED OVER THE YAMATO DISTRICT AND PROCEEDED NORTH TO NGARDMAU WHERE WE CIRCLED. THERE HAD BEEN NO AA FIRE THAT I WAS AWARE OF. THE TIME, I NOTED, WAS 1152 AND THE RENDEZVOUS TIME WAS SET FOR 1155 AT A POINT DIRECTLY EAST OF THE AIRSTRIP OFF THE EAST COAST. I DECIDED TO CROSS THE ISLAND AGAIN AND MAKE ANOTHER STRAFING PASS AT A PLACE NEAR YAMATO WHERE WE HAD SEEN JAPANESE WORKING IN THE FIELDS. RADIO COMMUNICATION BETWEEN OUR PLANES WAS EXCELLENT. WE HEADED SOUTH DOWN THE WEST COAST AND WHEN WE REACHED A POINT APPROXIMATELY ONE MILE NORTH OF NGAT-PANG BAY I HEADED INLAND TO CROSS THE ISLAND. OUR RADIO COMMUNICATION CONTINUED TO BE PERFECT. BABELTHUAP AT THIS POINT WAS APPROXIMATELY EIGHT MILES WIDE. MY I.A.S. WAS 220 KNOTS-ALTITUDE 50'. I SAW NO AA FIRE BUT STILL TOOK PLENTY OF EVASIVE

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ACTION. ON REACHING THE EAST COAST I WAS UNABLE TO LOCATE LT. ARNETT NOR COULD I ESTABLISH RADIO CONTACT WITH HIM. I HEADED SOUTH TOWARD THE RENDEZVOUS POINT AND AGAIN TRIED TO ESTABLISH CONTACT. FAILING THAT I INFORMED CAPT. BRANAGAN AND CHECKED WITH THE BASE. WE IMMEDIATELY STARTED THE SEARCH. I WENT BACK UP THE CENTER OF THE ISLAND WHILE CAPT. BRANAGAN AND LT. BARNUM MADE A THOROUGH SEARCH OF THE EASTERN HALF. NO TRACE OF THE PLANE WAS FOUND."

CONTINUOUS SEARCHES WERE MADE OF BABELTHUAP AND THE ENTIRE COAST LINE THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER OF THE DAY WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

ALL MAP REFERENCES USED IN THIS REPORT ARE FROM THE "SPECIAL AIR AND GUNNERY TARGET MAP" OF THE PALAUS, SCALE 1:20,000.

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