

VMF-122

167
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Report # 29

HC(20)

5

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

Confidential

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMF 122 (b) Based on or at PELELIU ISLAND (c) Report No. 29
 (d) Take off: Date 26 FEBRUARY 1945 Time (LZT) 1400 -10 (Zone); Lat 7 DEG. N. Long 134 DEG. E.
 (e) Mission BOMB BRIDGE AND TRUCK POOL-KOROR (f) Time of Return 1445 -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)		
F4U-1D	VMF 122	8	0	8	1-1000 LB. G.P.	.1 NOSE .01 TAIL

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 _____
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance _____
 (j) of Sun or Moon _____ (k) Visibility _____
(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON, DAY, OVERCAST, ETC.) (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	GUNS USED		

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

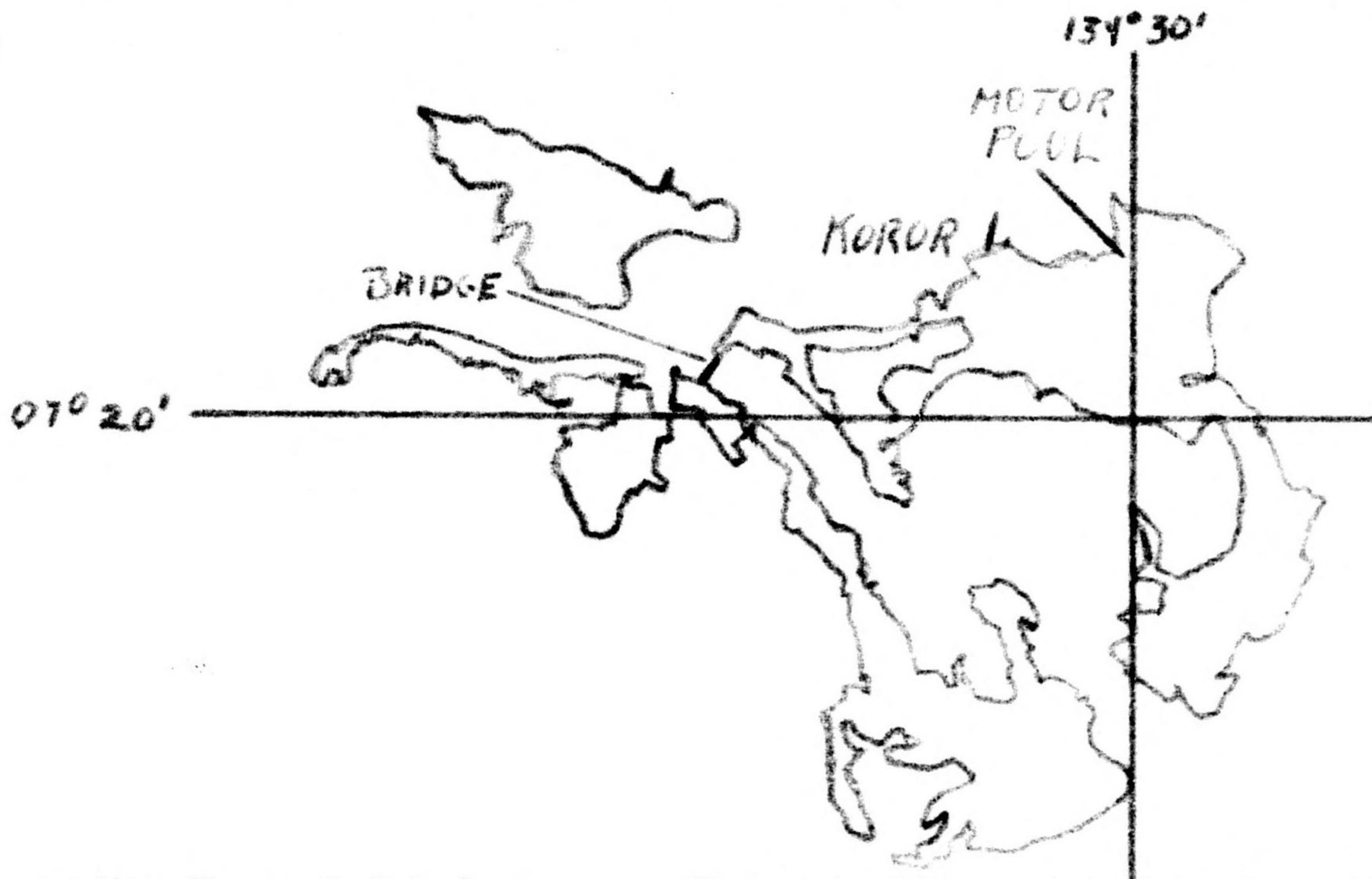
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XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) TRUCK POOL-KOROR -- BRIDGE BETWEEN KOROR AND AURAPUSHEKARU (b) Time Over Target(s) 1415 -10 (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target C A V U
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target CLEAR (e) Visibility 30 MILES
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type GLIDE Bomb Sight Used NONE
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 1 Spacing 0 Altitude of Bomb Release 1300 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	42' WIDE 100' LONG	5	5-1000 LB. G.P.'S.	0	DAMAGED LOADING PLATFORM-NO. END
2		VMF 122			
3	?	3 VMF 122	3-1000 LB. G.P.'S.	3	SERIOUS
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 location 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

THE DAYS PRINCIPLE TARGET WAS THE STEEL BRIDGE WHICH SPANS LEBUGOL CHANNEL BETWEEN KOROR AND AURAPUSHEKARU. THE BRIDGE IS JOINED BY A CAUSEWAY ON EITHER SIDE WHICH IS BUILT UP ACROSS THE BARRIER REEFS. MEASURING 160' LONG BY 42' WIDE AND SURROUNDED AS IT IS BY NUMEROUS AND ACTIVE AA POSITIONS, IT IS A DIFFICULT TARGET AT BEST. THE SECOND TARGET WAS THE TRUCK CONCENTRATION ALONG THE ROAD AT THE KOROR END OF THE BABELTHUAP-KOROR CAUSEWAY. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT SOME THIRTY TRUCKS ARE PARKED BUMPER TO BUMPER ALONG EITHER SIDE OF THE ROAD AT THIS LOCATION.

THE BOMBING RUNS WERE MADE PARALLEL WITH THE BRIDGE FROM NORTHEAST TO SOUTHWEST. THE RESULTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RELEASE PT.</u>	<u>CONTACT PT.</u>
MAJOR PIERCE	1300'	OVERSHOT TARGET-NO DAMAGE.
LT. MISLEY	1000'	OVERSHOT TARGET-NO DAMAGE.
LT. MORRISON	1500'	ALSO OVERSHOT TARGET.
LT. ASHE	1200'	CLOSE TO SOUTH END OF BRIDGE BUT NO DAMAGE CLAIMED.
LT. MELIN	1500'	DIRECT HIT ON LOADING PLATFORM AT NORTH END OF BRIDGE-BOMB MISSED BRIDGE BY 25'.

IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT HERE THAT A 25 KNOT WIND FROM APPROXIMATELY 80 DEGREES IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE UNSATISFACTORY BOMBING RESULTS IN CONNECTION WITH THIS TARGET, WHICH IS UNPROTECTED FROM THE WIND.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT EXTENSIVE DAMAGE RESULTED FROM THE BOMBING OF THE SECOND TARGET THE RESULTS OF WHICH ARE LISTED BELOW:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RELEASE PT.</u>	<u>CONTACT PT.</u>
LT. SMITH	1500'	NORTH SIDE OF ROAD IN TARGET AREA.
LT. TORBETT	1200'	ALSO ALONG NORTH SIDE OF ROAD IN TARGET AREA.
LT. BROADUS	1300'	ALONG EDGE OF ROAD.

LT. MELIN MADE A LOW LEVEL STRAFING PASS OVER THIS AREA FOLLOWING THE BOMBING. IT IS HIS OPINION THAT PROBABLY SIX OF THE TRUCKS ARE NO LONGER THERE.

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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:

APPROVED BY:

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

F. E. PIERCE JR. **MAJOR, USMC**
SIGNATURE **COMDTG, VNF 122**
RANK AND DUTY

26 FEB 45
DATE

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