

VMF-122

167  
20

Report # 72

HC(20)

5



# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VF 122 (b) Based on or at PELELIU ISLAND (c) Report No. 72  
 (d) Take off: Date 5 JULY 1945 Time (LZT) 0800 -10 (Zone); Lat. 7 DEG. N. Long. 134 DEG. E.  
 (e) Mission BOMB REPORTED CAMOUFLAGED CANAL (f) Time of Return 0835 -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>VF 122</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>2-500 LB. G.P.'S.</u>	<u>.1 NOSE .035 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)  
 Time of Day and Brilliance \_\_\_\_\_ (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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			



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### 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	30	30	.5	230	30		0			12

### IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

### 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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(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) CAMOUFLAGED CANAL-BABELTHUAP (b) Time Over Target(s) 0815 -10 (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target CAVU  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target CLEAR (e) Visibility 35 MILES  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type STEEP GLIDE Bomb Sight Used NONE  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 2 Spacing - Altitude of Bomb Release 2200' 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 <u>NARROW TIP OF COASTLINE</u>	<u>50 YDS X 50 YDS</u>	<u>12 VAF 122</u>	<u>24-500 LB. G.P.'S.</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>UNDETERMINED</u>
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

**ACTING ON INFORMATION RECENTLY OBTAINED FROM TWO POW'S FAMILIAR WITH THE AIRAI DISTRICT OF BABELTHUAP, THIS TWELVE PLANE STRIKE WAS DIRECTED AGAINST A RELATIVELY SMALL TIP OF THE COASTLINE THROUGH WHICH A CANAL IS ALLEGED TO PASS. WELL CAMOUFLAGED THIS CANAL IS REPORTED TO PROVIDE ANCHORAGE AND CONCEALMENT FOR AT LEAST THREE BARGES USED IN THE KOROR-BABELTHUAP FERRY RUN. ITS APPROXIMATE LOCATION IS INDICATED ON THE DIAGRAM UNDER XI.**

**THE BOMBING RESULTS ARE LISTED BELOW IN TABULATED FORM:**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RELEASE</u>	<u>CONTACT PT.</u>
CAPT. SCHNER	2000'	BOTH IN TARGET AREA.
LT. BESTRICK	2000'	BOTH IN TARGET AREA.
LT. SHARP	2000'	BOTH IN TARGET AREA.
LT. KRUDSON	1500'	NORTH OF TARGET-30 YDS INLAND.
LT. GALBRAITH	1500'	ON SHORE LINE-NO VISIBLE DAMAGE.
LT. SACON	2500'	ON SHORE LINE-ONE IN WATER.
LT. DURRELL	2500'	ON SHORE LINE-ONE IN WATER.
LT. BARRETT	2000'	OVERSHOT TARGET-IN WATER.
LT. FELTON	1800'	BOTH ON TARGET.
LT. WEITZEL	2000'	ONE ON SHORE LINE-ONE IN WATER.
LT. THACKER	2200'	BOTH ON LAND BUT SOUTH OF TARGET.
LT. MILLER	2500'	OVERSHOT TARGET-NO VISIBLE DAMAGE.

**ALTHOUGH EIGHT OF THE TWENTY-FOUR BOMBS RELEASED ARE REPORTED TO HAVE STRUCK THE AREA IN QUESTION THERE WERE NO REALLY TANGIBLE RESULTS. A GREAT DEAL OF SMOKE AND DEBRIS BLANKETED THE AREA BUT THERE WERE NO SECONDARY FIRES SUCH AS ONE WOULD EXPECT HAD GASOLINE STORES OR BARGES BEEN HIT. IT IS BELIEVED LIKELY THAT A CANAL DOES SEVER THE AREA BUT IT REMAINED INVISIBLE EVEN AFTER THE BOMBING.**

**A FEW, POSSIBLY FIVE, BURSTS OF MEDIUM CALIBRE AA WERE NOTED TO ORIGINATE FROM THE VICINITY OF THE AIRSTRIP. IT WAS INACCURATE AND WITHOUT PATTERN.**



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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**

Aarmor; 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:

**J. R. FLETCHER**

SIGNATURE

**CAPT., USMC  
ACIO, VAF 122**

RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

**D. H. SAPP**

SIGNATURE

**MAJOR, USMC  
COMD'G, VAF 122**

RANK AND DUTY

**5 JULY 45**

DATE