

VMF-122

167
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Report # 71

ITC (20)

5

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 71

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) RADIO TOWERS AND BUILDINGS- (b) Time Over Target(s) 1600 -10 (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER BABELTOWER)

(c) Clouds Over Target 8/10 COVER AT 9000'
(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 SHALLOW GLIDE Bomb Sight Used NONE
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 2 Spacing - Altitude of Bomb Release 300' 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 RADIO TOWERS BASE (5)	20' X 20'	4 VMF 122	8-500 LB. G.P.'S.	2	SLIGHT
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

THIS FOUR PLANE STRIKE ARMED WITH BOTH ROCKETS AND BOMBS WAS DIRECTED AGAINST THE RADIO TOWERS SOUTH OF THE AIRSTRIP IN THE AIRAI DISTRICT OF BABELTHUAP. FIVE TOWERS WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT BE OPERATIONAL ARE LOCATED 150 YARDS SOUTH OF AND PARALLEL TO THE AIRSTRIP. A REINFORCED CONCRETE BUILDING IS LOCATED AT THE BASE OF THE EASTERMOST TOWER.

USING DELAYED FUSES IT WAS PLANNED TO RELEASE THE BOMBS AND TWO OF THE ROCKETS IN THE INITIAL RUN. THIS WAS FOUND TO BE IMPRACTICAL HOWEVER SO IN EACH INSTANCE THE BOMBS WERE RELEASED FIRST WITH THE BELOW LISTED RESULTS:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RELEASE PT.</u>	<u>CONTACT PT.</u>
MAJOR SAPP	1000'	CLOSE TO BASE OF TOWER BUT TOWER REMAINED STANDING.
LT. MC NAY	2000'	SHORT OF TOWER-NO APPARENT DAMAGE.
LT. HOWARD	100'	AT BASE OF TOWER BUT NO APPARENT RESULTS.
LT. WART	100'	ALSO CLOSE TO BASE WITH NO APPARENT RESULTS.

THE ROCKETS WERE RELEASED IN PAIRS, ONE FROM EITHER WING, FOR THE MOST PART. BELOW ARE THE TABULATED RESULTS:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ANGLE OF DIVE</u>	<u>NO. RE-LEASED</u>	<u>SLANT RANGE</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>CONTACT PT.</u>
MAJ. SAPP	40 DEG.	4	1000 YDS.	TOWERS	OFF TARGET 25'-- NO DAMAGE.
	30 DEG.	2	1500 YDS	TOWERS	BETWEEN TOWERS-- OVERSHOT
	30 DEG.	2	1500 YDS	TOWERS	BETWEEN TOWERS-- UNDERSHOT.

LT. MC NAY	20 DEG.	4	900 YDS	TOWERS	ROCKETS FELL SHORT OF TARGET
	10 DEG.	4	1000 YDS	TOWERS	SHORT OF TARGET.

LT. HOWARD	30 DEG	2	1000 YDS	BLDGS. AT TW (611-021)	BOTH SHORT OF TARGET

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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

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ANGLE OF DIVE</u>	<u>NO. RE-LEASED</u>	<u>SLANT RANGE</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>CONTACT PT.</u>
LT. HOWARD	20 DEG.	2	1000 YDS	BLDGS. HIT	BLDGS.- (2) NGAT-NO DAMAGE. PANG.
	60 DEG.	4	1000 YDS	TOWERS	OVERSHOT BY 100 FEET.

LT. HART	20 DEG.	2	500 FT.	TOWERS	SEVERAL BETWEEN GIRDERS
	20 DEG.	2	500 FT.	TOWERS	BUT NO DIRECT HITS. EVENTUAL DAMAGE UNDETERMINED.
	20 DEG.	2	500 FT.	BLDG.	DIRECT HIT- AT BASE STARTED OF TOW-FIRE ER

IT SHOULD BE NOTED HERE THAT THIS MARKS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE SQUADRON OR PILOTS HAVE USED ROCKETS ALTHOUGH ALL HAVE HAD TRAINING IN THE MAKING OF DUMMY RUNS, AND SOME IN THE FIRING OF SUB-CALIBRE ROCKETS. THE INITIAL DROP WHEN IN A GLIDE OF 10 DEG. ~~10~~ DEG. WAS GREATER THAN EXPECTED WHICH FACTOR THAT PILOTS WILL ALLOW FOR IN THE FUTURE.

THE RUNS WERE STARTED FROM 6000 FEET AND THE IAS AT THE TIME OF FIRING WAS BETWEEN 300-320 KNOTS.

THE FIRE IN THE ABOVE MENTIONED CONCRETE BUILDINGS LASTED FOR TEN MINUTES AND SMOKED CONSIDERABLY. THERE WERE NO OTHER OBSERVED RESULTS.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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SIGNATURE

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RANK AND DUTY

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5 JULY 45
DATE