

VMF 155

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Report # 141

HC(21)

6

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

12437
16278

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VFP-155 (b) Based on or at Kwajalein Island, (c) Report No. 141

(d) Take off: Date 5 June 1945 Time (LZT) 1600 H. (Zone); Lat. 8° 43' N. Long. 167° 44' E.
Bomb Army Officers Bivouac Area Wotje Is., Wotje Atoll

(e) Mission Straffed other Islands in Wotje Atoll. (f) Time of Return 1845 H. (Zone)

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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	VFP-155	10	0	10	Ten planes: 2x1000 lb. GP Bombs	Nose: AN-M103 .10 sec. delay. Midship: None. Tail: AN-M102-A2 .10 sec. delay.

III. OTHER U. S. OR ALLIED AIRCRAFT EMPLOYED IN THIS OPERATION.

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
F4U-1D	Hq Sq.						
	4th Wing	1	Kwajalein Island				
P-51	VII-5	1	Fbeye Island				

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
	None		(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 _____ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (k) Visibility _____ (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		
None					

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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	168	168	2.8	237	180		10,973			10

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

TURNES

DIVES

CEILINGS

RANGE

PROTECTION

ARMAMENT

No enemy aircraft encountered.

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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) Army Officers Bivouac Area
Wotje Island, Wotje Atoll (b) Time Over Target(s) 1701 W. (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 2,000' Cumulus 3/10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility Unlimited
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBTSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Dive Wheels down Bomb Sight Used AN-MK 8
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 2 Spacing Salvo Altitude of Bomb Release 2,800
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed --- Probably Destroyed --- Damaged ---

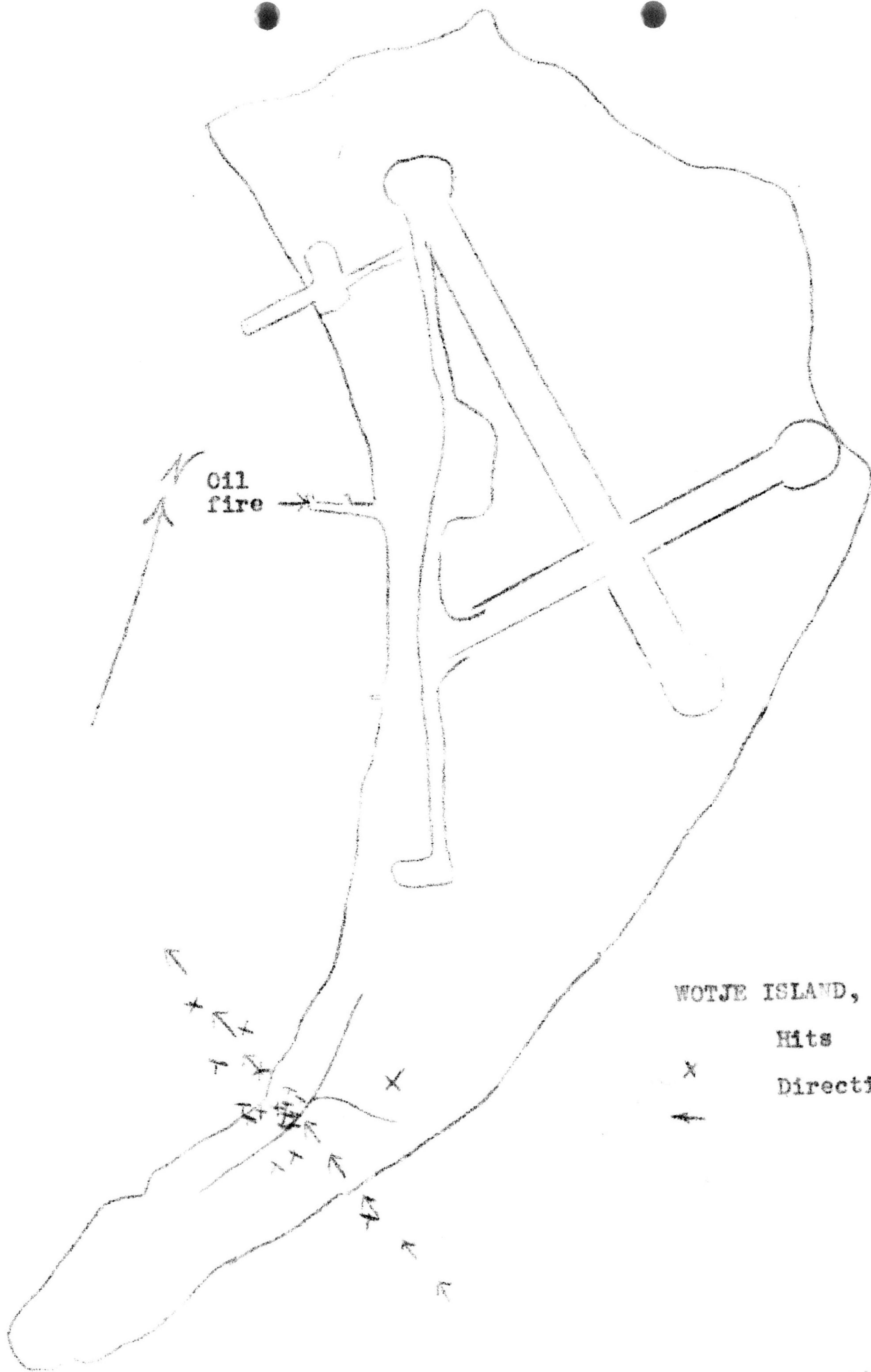
(h) AIMING POINT	(i) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(j) NO A/C ATTACKING (k) SQUADRON	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED. EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
1 Army Officer Area Wotje Island	500'x200'	10 VMF-155	10 Planes: 19x1000 lb. G2 bombs 10,973 rounds of .50 cal. ammunition	8	Not observed.
2 Other Islands on Wotje Atoll					Numerous
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).

- Underground shelters and living quarters of Army Officers on Wotje Island, Wotje Atoll. 19x1000 lb. G2 bombs expended of which 45% were in the target area. Results were not observed. (See overlay for location of target).
- Targets of opportunity strafed on other islands of Wotje Atoll with 10,973 rounds of .50 cal. ammunition, several fires were started. Oil fire and middle pier Wotje Island, Hit row boat base middle pier on Wotje Island. 4 fires on Goat Island, and one oil fire on Ormed Island.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

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WOTJE ISLAND, Wetje Atoll

Hits

X

Direction of run.

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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

10 Corsair type aircraft from VMF-155 took off at 1600 H. zone, 5 June 1945 from Kwajalein carrying 20, 1000 lb. GP bombs with .10 second delay nose and tail fuzes for the purpose of bombing the Army Officer's living quarters on Wotje Island

The flight led by Major BARNUM climbed to 10,000 feet altitude, arriving over target at 1701 H. The target was attacked by each aircraft individually on a heading of approximately 300° from the ocean side to the lagoon side by making a 75° wheels down, dive from 10,500 feet releasing the bombs in salvo at 2,800 feet. One bomb failed to release at all and was brought back to base. Difficulty was experienced in releasing one bomb on 3 of the aircraft. Due to this mechanical difficulty, 3 bombs were dropped outside of the target area. It was observed that 8 bombs landed in the target area, however, results were not observed. (see overlay)

Following the bombing runs Wotje Island was strafed generally by the 1st division in support of the photo plane piloted by Capt. LYNCH who made two photographic runs over Wotje Island. A fire was started at the end of the middle pier (see overlay) which was believed to be an oil fire due to the black smoke. 2dLt. SVOBODA saw a row boat on the beach near the middle pier and strafed it inflicting severe damage.

The second division, after its bombing run joined with the first division in strafing Wotje Island. They then strafed Ormed Island starting an oil fire.

The third division led by 1stLt. FOUST made 2 strafing runs on Ormed Island, then proceeded to Goat Island where it made 10 or 12 strafing runs hitting buildings and thatched huts. 4 thatched huts were set on fire on Goat Island.

Light meager inaccurate AA was seen coming from the northwest tip of Wotje Island.

The 10 aircraft spent 50 minutes over Wotje Atoll. Rendezvous was made at 1751 H. at 4,000 feet over Goat Island. The flight proceeded back at 8,000 feet altitude landing at Kwajalein Island at 1845 H.

The guns on the aircraft had been beresighted for 1,000 yards and better results were obtained from strafing by reason of this.

The pilots from this squadron participating in the Strike were:

BARNUM, A.T.	Major	USMC.
LYNCH, J.P.	Capt.	USMCR.
COOPER, J.V.	Capt.	USMCR.
FOUST, H.L.	1stLt.	USMCR.
CHAMBERLAIN, J.F.	2dLt.	USMCR.
DAUGHERTY, F.W.	2dLt.	USMCR.
HARRISON, J.L.	2dLt.	USMCR.
LAWLESS, N.H.	2dLt.	USMCR.
LUCAS, W.R.	2dLt.	USMCR.
SVOBODA, F.R.	2dLt.	USMCR.

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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

1x1000 lb. GP bomb would not release and was brought back to base. Difficulty was experienced on 3 other aircraft with one bomb each in getting it released. The 3 bombs were finally released, but pilots were unable to get them in the target area because of their failure to release properly.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Coder B. Aronow
CODER B. ARONOW

1st Lt., Intello

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

A. F. Barnum
A. F. BARNUM Major, CO
Acting

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

5 Jun 45

DATE