

VMF 122

167  
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Report # 58

HC(20)

5



**AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT**

6720

RESTRICTED  
(Classify when filled out)

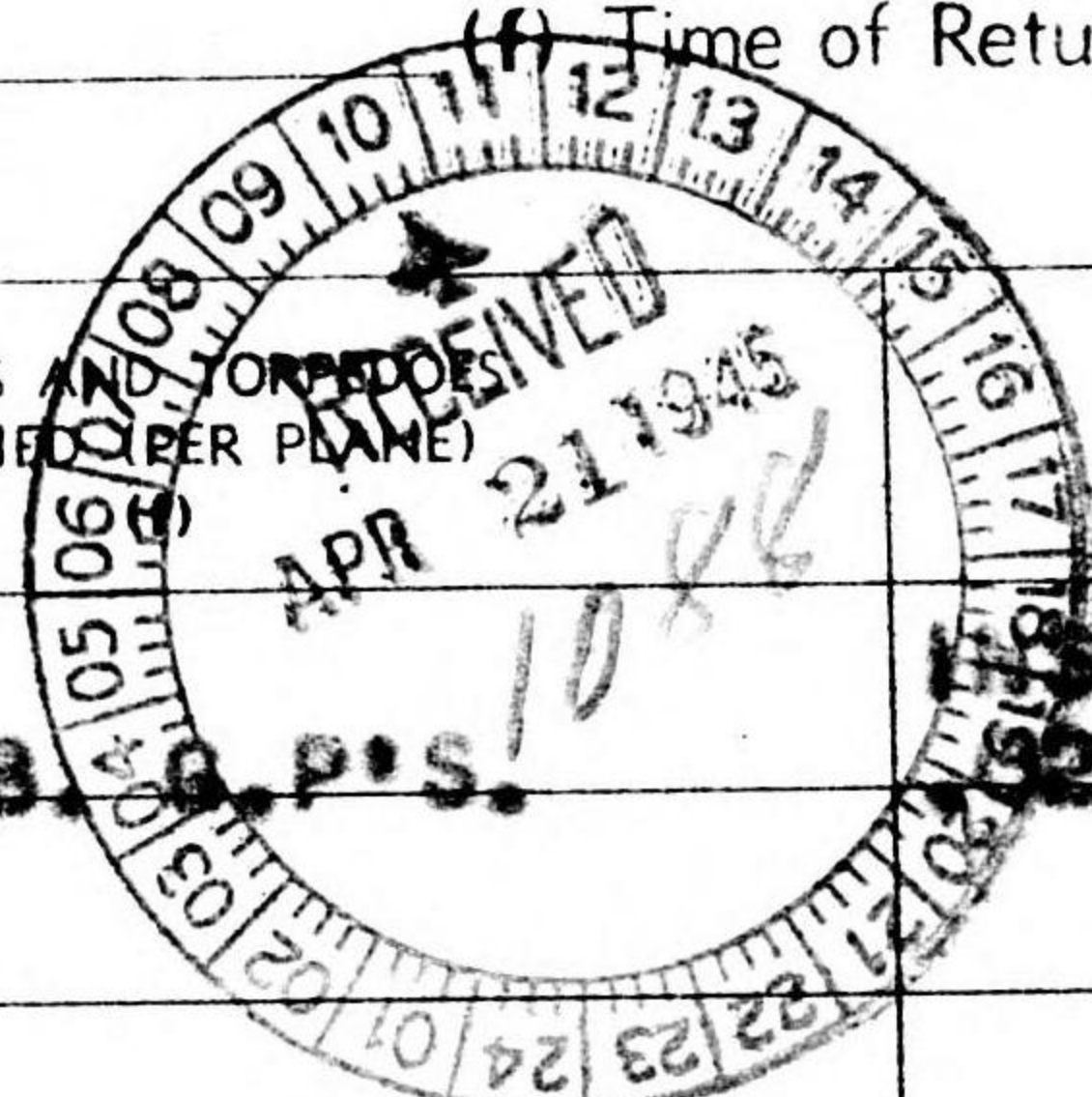
**I. GENERAL**

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(a) Unit Reporting VMF 122 (b) Based on or at PELELIU ISLAND (c) Report No. 58  
 (d) Take off: Date 18 APRIL 1945 Time (LZT) 0930 -10 (Zone); Lat. 7 DEG. N. Long 134 DEG. E.  
 (e) Mission BOMB HARBOR INSTALLATIONS-YAP (f) Time of Return 1245 -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>VMF 122</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2-500 LB. G. P'S.</u>	<u>INSTANTANEOUS NOSE 25 TAIL</u>



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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>PBY-5A</u>	<u>RESCRON 4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>PELELIU ISLAND</u>				

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

**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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## 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				
2		NONE		
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	270	270	3.3	402	322		3200			4

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	X			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	X			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	X			

## X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (use check list at left).

SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes

URNS  
DIVES  
CEILINGS  
RANGE  
PROTECTION  
ARMAMENT

**NOTE: THE BELLY TANKS WERE JETTISONED ON ARRIVING AT YAP. THE FIGURE UNDER VIII (F) ABOVE, INCLUDES WHAT GASOLINE WAS JETTISONED WITH THE TANKS.**

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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) INSTALLATIONS-PEKEL ISLAND (b) Time Over Target(s) 1055 -10 (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 3/10 CUMULUS AT 2000'  
(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 DIVE Bomb Sight Used NONE  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 2 Spacing - Altitude of Bomb Release 1200' 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 <b>BUILDINGS PEKEL ISLAND</b>	<b>400 YDS. X 150 YDS.</b>	<b>4 VMF 122</b>	<b>8-500 LB. G.P'S.</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>TWO LONG BUILD- INGS DESTROYED.</b>
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

PEKEL ISLAND, STRATEGICALLY LOCATED IN TOMIL HARBOR, WAS THE TARGET OF TODAY'S FOUR PLANE YAP STRIKE. A SMALL ISLAND (400 YDS. LONG X 150 YDS. WIDE) IT ORIGINALLY CONTAINED SOME SIX WAREHOUSES AND POSSIBLE DOCKING FACILITIES FOR MIDGET SUBMARINES. MEMBERS OF THIS FLIGHT WERE BRIEFED TO STRIKE THE TWO REMAINING WAREHOUSES WHICH SURVIVED THE FEBRUARY BOMBINGS.

DIVE BOMBING TACTICS WERE EMPLOYED WITH THE PLANES APPROACHING FROM THE EAST AND RETIRING TO THE WEST. THE TABULATED BOMBING RESULTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RELEASE PT.</u>	<u>CONTACT PT.</u>
CAPT. COOK	1200'	FIRST BOMB ON SHORE LINE. NO DAMAGE.
	1200'	SECOND BOMB ON TARGET. THREW UP CONSIDERABLE DEBRIS.
LT. BURNS	1500'	BOTH BOMBS OVERSHOT AND LANDED IN WATER.
LT. CALLIS	1500'	BOTH ON WAREHOUSES WHICH WERE DESTROYED.
LT. BERG	1000'	BOTH BOMBS ON ISLAND-- STARTED SMALL FIRE.

THE BOMBS WERE RELEASED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE EXCEPTION OF CAPT. COOK WHO MADE TWO RUNS. NO ENEMY ACTIVITY WAS NOTED ON THIS ISLAND. NO AA FIRE WAS OBSERVED.

DURING THE COURSE OF A BARGE SLEEP AROUND THE ISLANDS FOLLOWING THE BOMBING SEVERAL SMALL CRAFT WERE STRAFED AND SUNK. ONE WAS A 20' BOAT WITH AN ANTENNA LOCATED AT "YAP, SHEET 1, T.A. 113 FOX." TWO WERE BAMBOO RAFTS AT "YAP, SHEET 3, T.A. 205 NAN" AND TWO WERE DUGOUTS LOCATED AT "YAP, SHEET 3, T.A. 177 KING."



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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., USMC**  
SIGNATURE **ACIO, VMF 122**  
RANK AND DUTY

**I. E. BONISKE** **MAJOR, USMC**  
SIGNATURE **COMD'G, VMF 122** **18 APRIL 45**  
RANK AND DUTY DATE

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