

VMF-111

129
⑮

Report #250

#C(15)

7

SECRET

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

13147

16983

VMP-111
290

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMP-111 (b) Based on or at Majuro, Atoll. (c) Report No. 290
 (d) Take off: Date 8 June 1945 Time (LZT) 1015 H. (Zone); Lat. 07-05-35N Long. 171-22-40E
Bomb and strafe Bivouac Area, Caru Is.,
and Enosette, Is., Mille Atoll. (e) Mission and Enosette, Is., Mille Atoll. (f) Time of Return 1150H (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) | | |
| P4U-10 | VMP-111 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 1x1400 (175 gal.) Napalm. | (Nose: 1 inst. green (Midships: none. (Tail: 2 inst. green. |
| | | | | | 2x1000 Incendiary clusters. Tail: inst. | |

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

| TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE | TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE |
|------|----------|--------|--------------------------|------|----------|--------|------|
| SB2C | H-13 | 1 | Majuro (Air Coordinator) | | | | |
| SB2C | H-13 | 1 | Majuro (Photo) | | | | |
| BM | VE-5 | 1 | Majuro (Dumbo) | | | | |

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 |
|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| <u>None.</u> | | | (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 | | |
| <u>None.</u> | | | | | |
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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. | | | | |
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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 | 56 | 56 | 1.7 | 230 | 152 | 0 | 3200 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |

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) 1. Bivouac Area, Garu Is., Mille Atoll 2. Bivouac Area, Enesotto Is., Mille (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) 1. 1035K 2. 1100K (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target 2000 Cumulus 1/10 (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility 10 (MILES)

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

Bombs Dropped per Run 3 (NUMBER) Spacing None (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 50 (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed None Probably Destroyed None Damaged None

| (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 Bivouac Area, Garu Is., Mille. | 1000'x400' | 4 VMP-111 | 4x1400 (175 gal) Napalm 8x1000 Inc. clusters. 12 | | 10 huts destroyed |
| 2 Bivouac Area, Enesotto Is., Mille | 800'x500' | 2 VMP-111 | 2x1400 (175 gal) Napalm 4x1000 Inc. clusters. 6 | | Not observed. |
| 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).

1. Bomb pattern shown on attached overlay.

Strike coordinator observed at least ten huts burning. These were destroyed. There were two large explosions. Both were believed to be the results of powder explosions.

2. Due to heavy vegetation, results were not observed.

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

Photographs and negatives delivered to Commander, Majuro Air Group for forwarding.

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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
- 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

Six Corsairs from this squadron taxied to the end of the runway to take off for Mille at about 1010 Mike. On reaching the end of the runway, two of the Corsairs had flat tail wheels, and one of these caught fire, due to friction. The other four Corsairs together with the Helldiver photo plane and the Air Coordinator's Helldiver, took off at 1015 Mike. The fire was extinguished, and the two tail wheels were replaced and the two remaining Corsairs took off at 1038 Mike.

The trip to target was made at 4000 feet, indicating 150 knots, drawing 30 inches at 2100 RPM. Weather enroute was good, with .4 cloud cover from 2000 feet.

POW interrogation had established the fact that the Japanese were going into fogholes all over Mille Atoll the moment planes appeared in the vicinity. In consequence, Dumbo stayed well out of sight and the Corsairs got right down on the deck while still out of sight of the target. The attack on Garu was made by the four Corsairs that had taken off at 1010 Mike, the run being made from north to south, with drops at just above the tree top level. At least ten huts were observed by the Air Coordinator to burn to the ground. Two large explosions also occurred. No AA was observed from Garu Island. The four Corsairs then strafed the Garu Island bivouac area from south to north, with results unobserved.

The two Corsairs that had taken off at 1038 Mike were directed by the Air Coordinator to drop on the bivouac area of Insetto Island. Drops were from 50 feet, well within the target area but results could not be observed due to the heavy vegetation. Runs were made from east to west. Both the photographic plane and the Air Coordinator reported light, meager and inaccurate AA from Insetto Island. The six Corsairs then strafed with unobserved results.

The Corsairs returned to base, indicating 180 knots, at 1500 feet, drawing 30 inches at 2050 RPM. Weather was good, with .4 cover from 2000 feet. Landing was at 1150 Mike.

Pilots.

Major Thomas A. Todd
Capt. F. F. Rotter
Lt. F. B. Wheel
Lt. A. J. Bibee
Lt. E. R. Bryant
Lt. F. J. Schwetje
Lt. J. P. Flynn

Planes

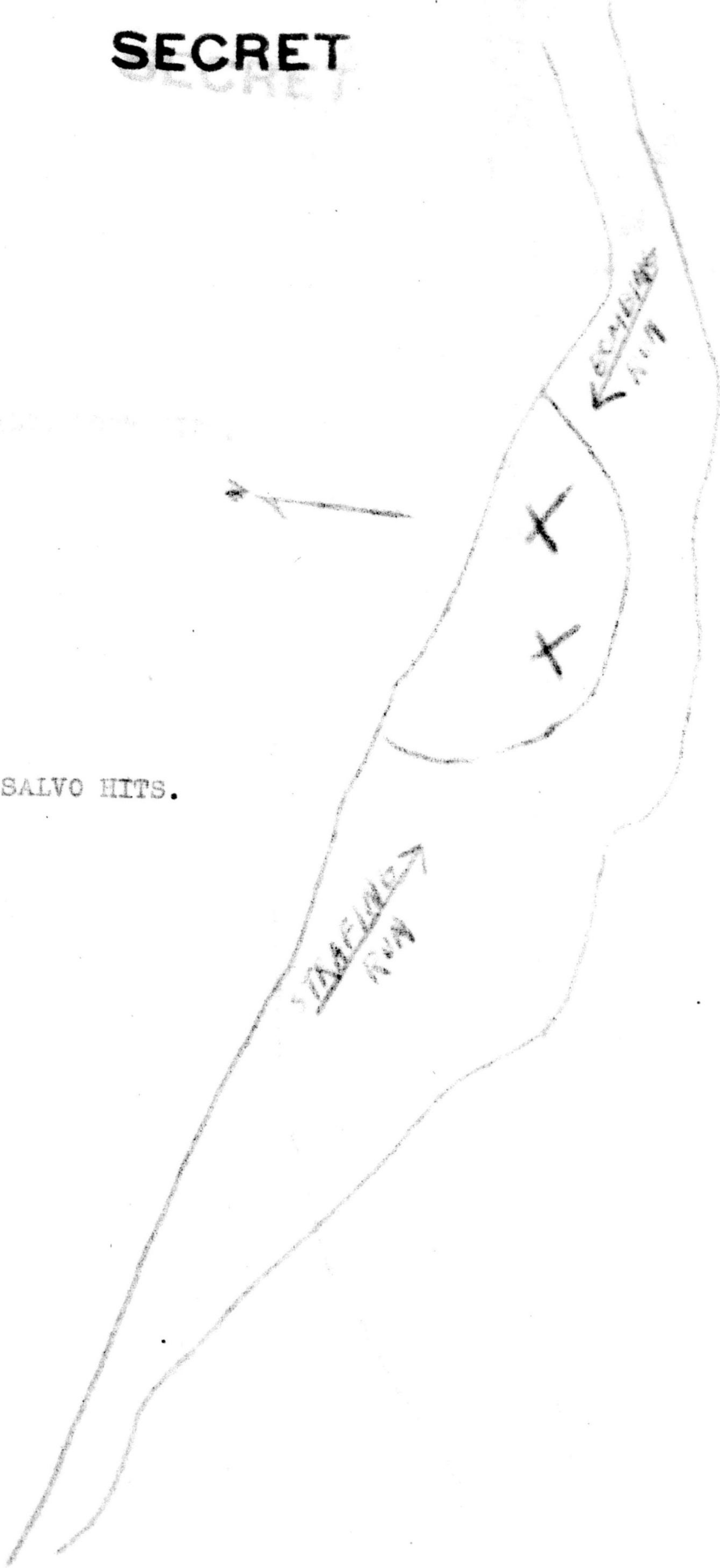
5B20 Air Coordinator
107 strike leader
118
113
119
115
108

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SECRET

ENESETTO ISLAND
MILLE ATOLL

X SALVO HITS.



SECRET

SECRET

BOMBING RUN →

SEARCHING RUN →

GARU ISLAND
MILLE ATOLL

X SALVO BOMB HITS.



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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

All material functioned satisfactorily.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

George J. Pugh

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

George Pugh

Capt. Intell.

APPROVED BY:

Thomas A. Todd

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

Thomas A. Todd, Major,

6 June 1945. DATE

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