

VMB 012

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Report # 415

HC(14)

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RECLASSIFIED
(Reclassify when
filled out)
SECRET

551341

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB 612 (b) Based on or at South Field, Iwo Jima (c) Report No. 415
 (d) Take off: Date 3 June 1945 Time (~~031~~) 031206 Z (~~Zone~~); Lat. 24-46N Long 141-16E
 (e) Mission Night low altitude anti-shipping search. Target location and firing of rockets by radar. (f) Time of Return 032232Z (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)		
PBJ-1D	VMB 612	2	0	2	5" Head (GP) MK 6 8 rockets 5" motor Mk 1	Mk 149, nose, instantaneous Mk 159, base, 0.015 sec delay
					2 Photo flash bombs Mk 46	AN M11A2 5 sec. delay

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 (ZONE)	(e) LOCATION OF ENCOUNTER	(f) BOMBS, TORPEDOES CARRIED, GUNS OBSERVED	(g) CAMOUFLAGE AND MARKING
Not determined	2	None	031728Z (ZONE)	Approximately 24-57N, 139-20E	Not determined	Not determined
"	1	"	031735Z (ZONE)	35-08N, 139-40E	" "	" "
"	2	"	031754Z (ZONE)	" "	" "	" "

All of above aircraft observations were on radar screen only, no visual contacts made.

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Not determined
 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, slight haze (k) Visibility 2 1/2
 (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:				(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER	GUNS USED		

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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) 2 Fishing boats 35-08N, 139-40E 200 ft. ship 34-57N, 139-20E (b) Time Over Target(s) 031749 Z 031754Z
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (Zone) 031735 Z

(c) Clouds Over Target 2/10 cumulus 1500 foot base
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

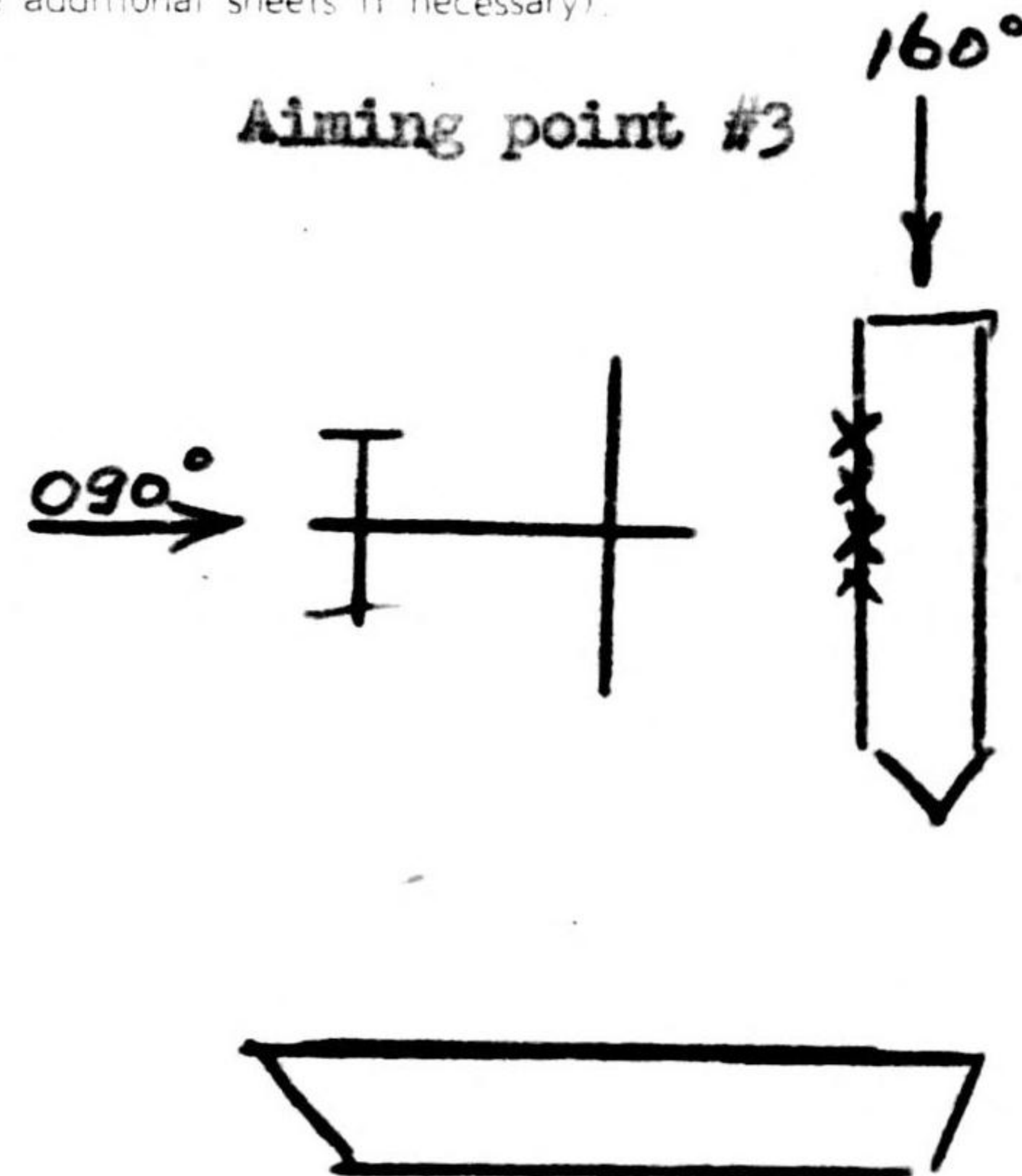
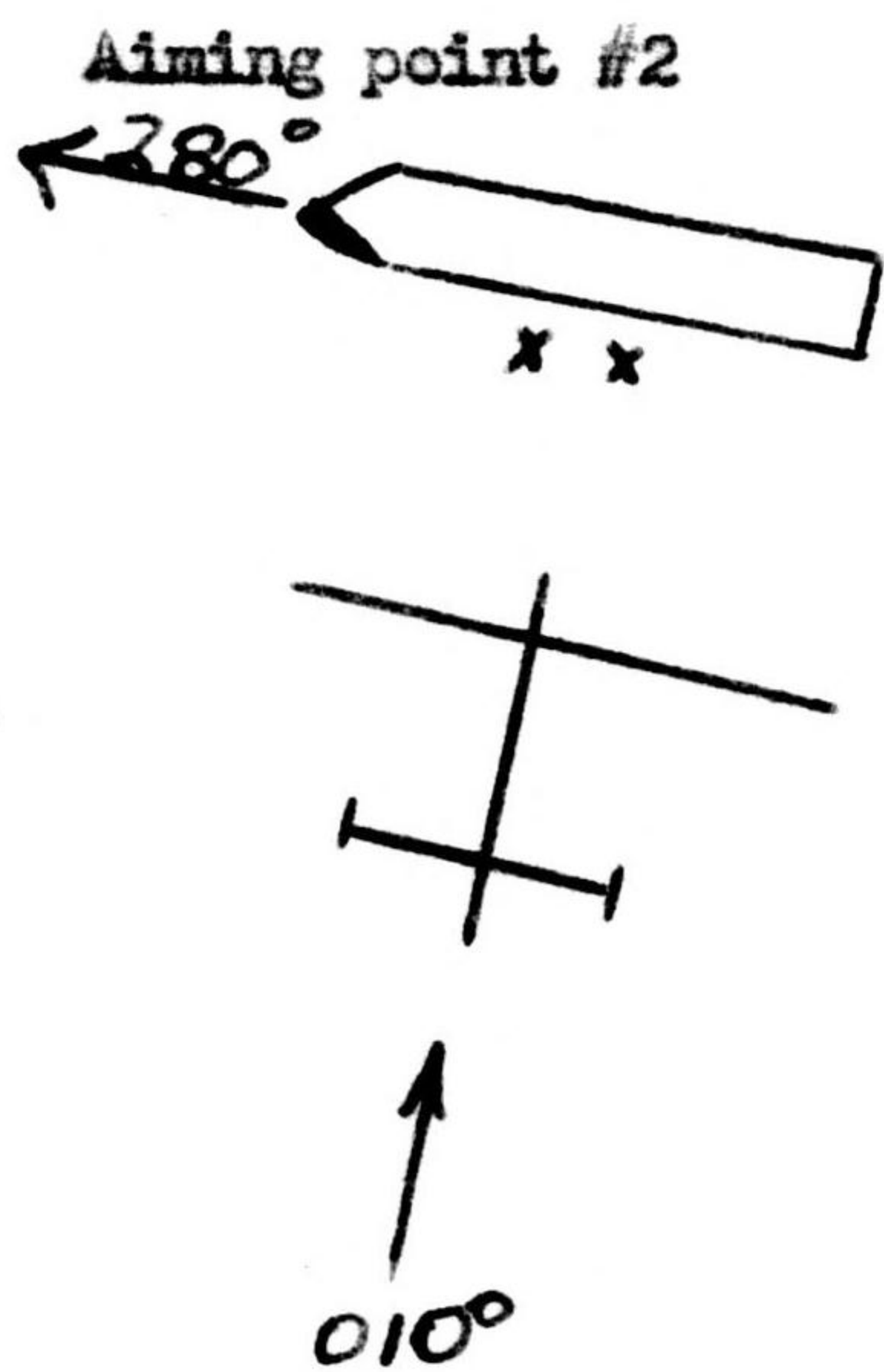
(d) Visibility of Target Slight haze (e) Visibility 2 1/2
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBTSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Rocket Level Bomb Sight Used APQ-5
~~Rocket~~ Rockets fired 2 and 2 25 and 25
~~Bombs dropped~~ Bombs dropped 8 25 200 and 200
(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 Fishing boat #1	75'	(j) 1 (k) VMB 612	2 5" rockets	None	None
2 " " #2	75'	(j) 1 (k) VMB 612	2 " "	2 Probable	Unobserved
3 Ship	200'	(j) 1 (k) VMB 612	8 " "	4	Serious
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
Defensive 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
Fuzeing
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

PBJ assigned night anti-shipping search of B sector (Iwo Jima to 27-00N, 142-20^W, thence to 34-45N, 140-00^W, search Sagami Nada and Suruga wan, return to base via Miyake Jima, Hachijo Jima and the Bonins searching each area in turn). In Sagami Nada several fishing craft were seen, two of the largest were attacked with two 5" rockets each as follows: #1 attack, course of PBJ 330°, speed 185 knots, altitude 200 feet, range 1940 yards, time 031749 Z. Course of boat 060°, speed 4 kts., both rockets missed approximately 20 feet astern. #2 attack course PBJ 010°, speed 185 kts, altitude 200 feet, range 1940 yards, time 031754 Z. Course of boat 280°, speed 4 kts, both rockets landed in water less than 20 feet from boat and in line amidships. Boat was covered from view by plume of water. Two probable underwater hits are assessed. Both attacks were made in the vicinity of 35-08N, 139-40^W.

Prior to initiating first attack a radar indication of single aircraft was made. During second attack radar indications of two aircraft at ½ mile was made. PBJ left Sagami Nada continuing search of sector without making further shipping contacts.

PBJ assigned night anti-shipping search of A sector (Iwo Jima to 27-00N, 142-20^W, thence to 35-40N, 141-00^W, search coast-line southward to Nojima Saki, Sagami Nada and return to base via Miyake Jima, Hachijo Jima and the Bonin Islands searching each in turn). In Sagami Nada PBJ made radar contact with 200 foot ship, type undetermined, and made rocket attack as follows: course of PBJ 090° speed 180 kts., altitude 200 feet, range 1960 yards, time 031735Z, fired eight (8) rockets scoring 4 hits on side of ship amidships, Course of ship 180°, speed undetermined. The rocket explosions were followed immediately by fire, 15 seconds later a long explosion was noted followed by a noticeable increase of fire; ship was last seen 30 seconds after attack, burning.

PBJ had picked up radar indication of two aircraft seven minutes prior to attack hence left Sagami Nada at once after completing attack. No other shipping was contacted.

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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

No comments.

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

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3 June 1945
DATE