

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. 10

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) 1. Enemy excavations along ridge.
2. Ammunition dump, San Fernando. (b) Time Over Target(s) 1430-1520 I (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 5000 ft., cumulus, overcast
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

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

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

Bombs Dropped per Run 500: 2
100: 5 Spacing 60-80
20-30 Altitude of Bomb Release 2000-2500
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed None Probably Destroyed None Damaged None
R.F.: 2 40-45° glide, 1000-1500 yard slant range.

(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 <u>Enemy excavations along ridge.</u>	<u>1500 yards</u>	<u>6</u> <u>VC-94</u>	<u>All 100 lb. g.p. & 5000 rds. .50 cal.</u>	<u>70%</u>	<u>Not observable</u>
2 <u>Ammo dump</u>	<u>1-story bldg. 40x70 ft.</u>	<u>4</u> <u>VC-94</u>	<u>6x500 lb. g.p.</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>None</u>
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. 70% of the explosives dropped or fired were in the area of the excavations but the effect could not be determined due to the nature of the target.

(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

Engaged in direct support of our troops on the San Fabian beach-head, on 14 January at about 1400, 4 FM-2's and 4 FM-3's sighted enemy excavations on a ridge a few miles to the northwest of San Fabian. Under orders from the CAA, glide bombing, rocket and strafing runs were made along the ridge for a distance of about 1500 yards by 2 of the FM's, carrying 100 lb. g.p. bombs and rockets, and by all of the fighters. Bombing runs were made by single planes using conventional glide bombing tactics. Conventional rocket and strafing runs were made by both torpedo and fighter planes. Hits were well distributed along the ridge. Actual damage was not ascertainable.

Before departing for the ship, 2 FM's, each loaded with 4x500 lb. g.p. bombs, made 2 glide bombing attacks on a 2-story 40-70 foot brick building in San Fernando believed to be the jail and to house an ammunition dump. No hits were observed.

COMMENT BY SQUADRON COMMANDER

I was Air Coordinator on this flight and knowing of the acute shortage of 500 lb. bombs on board, I attempted to get permission to bring these not expended back aboard. CAA San Fabian expressly prohibited my doing so and directed that the bombs be either dropped in the water or on San Fernando, where the jail was thought to contain an ammo dump. The location of the jail was not known and could not be determined from the air. These 4x500 lb. bombs were in my opinion wasted. This is but one of many similar occurrences where bombs and rockets are uselessly expended on targets where no specific objective is given other than the possibility that some of the schools or churches might be possible ammunition dumps.

Comments such as appeared in Air Op Memo. No. 59 of 16 Dec. 1944, page 21, on the firing and loading of bombs with respect to their suitability against assigned targets are felt to be applicable to this operation as well as to those described. However, since support groups are usually not assigned missions until they are en station in the target area. The bombs are loaded and fused prior to take-off in accordance with the OTC's instructions and the possibility of properly fused bombs of the correct weight being used against targets requiring that particular combination is to a certain extent coincidental. Selective arming between instantaneous and 1.01 sec. delay is the only choice left to the air coordinator with the 500 lb. bombs. The only additional choice is whether to use 100 lb. or 500 lb. bombs against the assigned target.

In cases where the target is a small rural town, it is felt that the blast effect of 350 lb. depth bombs with instantaneous fuses would do more damage to light wooden frame buildings than either of the above bombs. Strafing with incendiary .50 cal. might also be useful, but numerous runs with API .50 cal. have been made against frame buildings without setting them afire.

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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 comment

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:

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J. F. PATTERSON, Lt.Cmdr.,(A1), USNR

1/16/45

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

AGI Officer.

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

Commanding Officer.

DATE