

VMF 122

167
②0

Report # 1

JIC (20)

3

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

1928
"CONFIDENTIAL" RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled in)

Sheet 1 of 3
I. GENERAL

(Short Form for routine actions only)

Read instructions before filling out

(a) Unit Reporting VMF 122 (b) Ship or base PELELIU ISLAND (c) Report No. 1
 (b) Take off: Date 3 AUG 45 Time (LZT) 1500 -10 (Zone). (e) Time of Return 1615 -10 (Zone)
 (f) Target SUGAR DOG-SEA TRUCK (g) Round-Trip Distance Flown 80 (Miles)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT

(a) TYPE	(b) SQUADRON	(c) TAKING OFF	(d) NUMBER ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	(e) ATTACKING TARGET	(f) BOMBS, ROCKETS, CLUSTERS, TORPEDOES, NAPALM & DROP FUEL TANKS CARRIED PER PLANE (Specify type & size exactly)	(g) FUZE DELAYS, TORPEDO DEPTH SETTING (Give mk. of cluster & bomb fuzes, & setting used if more than one is possible)
F4U-17	VMF 122	8	0	2	(4) 2-500 LB. G.P.'S. (2) 1-500 LB. G.P.	VT NOSE NON DELAY TAIL NOSE PLUG 4-5 SEC DELAY TAIL MK 148 NOSE 8-5" AR ROCKETS MK 146 BASE

III. ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENGAGED

IV. ENEMY PLANES DAMAGED IN AIR (Give details in narrative)

(a) TYPE	(b) NUMBER ENGAGED	(c) TIME/ZONE	(d) LOCATION	(a) TYPE ENEMY A/C	(b) DESTROYED OR DAMAGED BY	(c) DAMAGE CLAIMED



V. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT

(a) TYPE OWN A/C	(b) SQUADRON	(c) CAUSE: Type ENEMY A/C, AA, TYPE GUN OR OPERATIONAL CAUSE	(d) WHERE HIT & ANGLE (List armor, self-sealing tanks, equipment hit)	(e) EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE (Give Bureau No. of plane destroyed)
1				
2		NONE		
3				
4				
5				

VI. PERSONNEL CASUALTIES (Identify with planes listed in V by nos. at left)

(a) No.	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NAME, RANK, OR RATING	(d) CAUSE	(e) CONDITION OR STATUS
		NONE		

VII. ATTACK ON TARGET

(a) Location NOARGOL ISLAND (b) Time over target 1530 -10 (Zone)
 (c) Weather, clouds, visibility 2/10 CUMULUS AT 3500' VISIBILITY 15 MILES
 (d) Bombing tactics (4) DIVE (2) GLIDE (e) Bomb Sight used NONE
 (Level, Glide, Dive, by type of plane) (Type for each type of plane)

(f) AA present: Yes No

(g) AIMING POINT	(h) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(i) No. A/C Attacking	(j) Squadron	(k) BOMBS, ROCKETS, AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT (Give fuzing used if selectively armed)	(l) NO. HIT ON AIMING POINT	(m) Altitude of Release (Ft.)	(n) Dive Angle	(o) Spacing of Bombs (Ft.)	(p) Indicated Air Speed (Kts)	(q) Range of Release of Rockets
1 AA POSITIONS ARAKABESAN	-	4	122	8-500 LB. G.P.'S.	2	4500'	60 DEG.	340 KTS		
2 SEA TRUCK	80'	2	122	2-500 LB. G.P.'S.	0	800'	30 DEG.	300 KTS		
3 AA POSITION	-	1	122	2-5" AR ROCKETS			30 DEG.	300 KTS		2000 YDS
4 SEA TRUCK	80'	2	122	14-5" AR ROCKETS	4		30 DEG.	300 KTS		1000 YDS

Give results and narrative on separate sheet, follow outline.

VII (R) RESULTS:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TARGET NO.</u>	<u>CONTACT PT.</u>
LT. SHARP	1	HIT IN GENERAL AREA OF AA POSITION.
LT. KNUDSON	1	SOUTHERN TIP OF ARAKABESAN, PROBABLY INEFFECTUAL.
LT. THACKER	1	SOUTHERN TIP OF ARAKABESAN, PROBABLY INEFFECTUAL.
LT. MILLER	1	UNOBSERVED.

NOTE:	EACH OF THE ABOVE LISTED PILOTS RELEASED TWO 500 POUND G.P.'S. WITH VT NOSE FUSING FROM AN ALTITUDE OF 4500'. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE BURSTS WERE SLIGHTLY SOUTH OF THE KNOWN AA POSITIONS. NO DECREASE IN THE USUAL AMOUNT OF AA FIRE WAS NOTED.	

LT. MELIN	2	NEAR MISS ON VESSEL'S STERN. DAMAGING.
LT. HABISH	2	MISSED BOW OF VESSEL BY 75'-NO DAMAGE.
LT. MELIN	3 (ROCKETS) (2)	FIRE TWO ROCKETS AT LONG RANGE AT AA POSITIONS WHILE IN RUN-CONTACT POINT NOT OBSERVED.
LT. MELIN	4 (ROCKETS) (6)	TWO HITS AT WATER LINE--TWO IN WATER NEAR VESSEL, BELIEVED DAMAGING--TWO MISSED.
LT. HABISH	4 (ROCKETS) (8)	SEVERAL OF THESE ROCKETS WERE SEEN TO KNOCK CAMOUFLAGE OFF THE VESSEL BUT EXACT LOCATION OF HITS AND EXTENT OF DAMAGE IS UNDETERMINED.

VIII

WHILE ON A ROUTINE BARGE SWEEP OF THE NORTHERN PALAUS EARLIER IN THE DAY LT. MELIN SPOTTED A CAMOUFLAGED VESSEL IN A COVE ALONG THE SOUTHERN SHORE OF NGARGOL. WELL CAMOUFLAGED IT WAS DETECTED DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE FOLIAGE WAS BEGINNING TO TURN. THIS STRIKE WAS ARRANGED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NEXT SCHEDULED BARGE SWEEP. THE FUSING ON THE 500 POUND G.P.'S. WAS CHANGED AS INDICATED FROM THE ORIGINAL FUSING OF NOSE PLUG AND 4-5 SECOND DELAY TAIL AND THE DIVISION WAS BRIEFED TO RELEASE OVER THE KNOWN MEDIUM CALIBRE AA POSITIONS ON THE SOUTHERN PART OF ARAKABESAN. IT WAS HOPED TO SILENCE THESE POSITIONS LONG ENOUGH TO PERMIT LT. MELIN AND HIS WINGMAN TO MAKE EFFECTIVE RUNS AGAINST THE TARGET. AS NOTED ABOVE THERE WAS NO NOTABLE DECREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE.

AFTER THE CAMOUFLAGE WAS BLOWN OFF AND BURNED AWAY THE VESSEL WAS READILY RECOGNISED AS A SUGAR DOG SEA TRUCK ESTIMATED TO BE APPROXIMATELY 80' IN LENGTH. A LARGE FIRE WAS STARTED IN THE SUPERSTRUCTURE AFT AND THE VESSEL APPEARED TO SETTLE IN THE WATER. THE EVENING CAP REPORTED THAT IT WAS STILL BURNING BRISKLY AT 1900.

THE AA OF MEDIUM CALIBRE WAS REPORTED AS MODERATE AND ACCURATE WITH SEVERAL BURSTS SUFFICIENTLY CLOSE TO ROCK THE WINGS.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

J. R. FLETCHER
CAPT., USMCR
ACIO

D. H. SAPP
MAJOR, USMC
COMMANDING