

VMP-122

167  
20

Report #68

HC(20)

5

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

055140

## I. GENERAL

"CONFIDENTIAL"

(a) Unit Reporting VMF 122 (b) Based on or at PELELIU ISLAND (c) Report No. 68  
 (d) Take off: Date 28 JUNE 1945 Time (LZT) 1000 -10 (Zone); Lat 7 DEG. N. Long 134 DEG. E.  
 (e) Mission BOMB BIVOUAC AREA-BABELTHUAP (f) Time of Return 1115 -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>12</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>1-1000 LB. G.P.</u>	<u>VT NOSE (T50E4) NON DELAY TAIL</u>

## 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	(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 \_\_\_\_\_  
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

Time of Day and Brilliance \_\_\_\_\_ (k) Visibility \_\_\_\_\_  
(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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## 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		<b>NONE</b>		
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
		<b>NONE</b>		

## 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	
<b>F4U-1D</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>110</b>		<b>0</b>			<b>12</b>

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

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

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

- SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes

TURNES

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) BIVOAC AREA-NGATPANG (b) Time Over Target(s) 1025 -10 (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 8/10 AT 4500' - SOLID COVER AT 11,500' RAIN  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target HAZY (e) Visibility 1 MILE  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type 50 DEG. -60 DEG. DIVE Bomb Sight Used NONE  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 1 Spacing - Altitude of Bomb Release 5200' 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 WOODED BIVOAC AREA	600 YDS X 200 YDS	12 VMF 122	12-1000 LB. G.P.'S.	12	UNDETERMINED
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

CONTINUING WITH THE PRESENT POLICY OF CONCENTRATING ON KNOWN BIVOUAC AREAS THIS TWELVE PLANE STRIKE WAS DIRECTED AGAINST A LARGE WOODED AREA ON EITHER SIDE OF A STRAIGHT STRETCH OF ROAD BETWEEN NGATPANG AND WEST NGATPANG ON BABELTHUAP. THE PRINCIPLE TROOP UNITS OF THE NORTHERN PALAUS ARE REPORTED TO BE LOCATED IN THE NGATPANG DISTRICT. POW REPORTS COMBINED WITH PHOTOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE INDICATE THAT THE AREA IN QUESTION IS DENSELY POPULATED.

APPROACHING THE TARGET FROM EAST TO WEST AT 10,000 FEET A LOOSE ECHELON WAS FORMED PRIOR TO THE DIVE. DESPITE RAIN SQUALLS AND POOR VISIBILITY 10 OF THE 12 BOMBS RELEASED ARE REPORTED TO HAVE DETONATED OVER THE DESIGNATED TARGET AREA. THE REMAINING TWO DETONATED OVER NGATPANG AND WEST NGATPANG RESPECTIVELY. BELOW ARE THE TABULATED RESULTS:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RELEASE</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
CAPT. BRANAGAN	6500'	IN AREA-SOUTH OF ROAD
LT. BARNUM	6000'	IN AREA-SOUTH OF ROAD
LT. ARNETT	6000'	IN AREA-SOUTH OF ROAD
LT. KINSEY	6000'	TOWN OF NGATPANG-TA 639 FOX.
CAPT. SAVINSKE	4000'	NORTH OF ROAD-TA 656 VICTOR.
LT. BOYD	4000'	IN AREA-SOUTH OF ROAD
LT. WASHBURN	4800'	IN AREA-SOUTH OF ROAD
LT. HENKE	4000'	IN AREA-SOUTH OF ROAD
LT. WETZEL	5500'	WEST NGATPANG-TA 653 WILLIAM.
LT. MC NAY	5000'	IN AREA-SOUTH OF ROAD
LT. HALL	5500'	IN AREA-SOUTH OF ROAD
LT. NICE	5000'	IN AREA-SOUTH OF ROAD

WITH ONE EXCEPTION THE BOMBS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE EXPLODED AT TREE TOP LEVEL GIVING OFF A LARGE DISTINCTIVE FLASH. THE REMAINING ONE EXPLODED ON IMPACT.

A MODERATE AMOUNT OF MEDIUM CALIBRE AA WAS NOTED. THE PROJECTILES WERE FUSED FROM 10,000' TO 6000'.

AS STATED IN REPORT NUMBER 67 IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO ACCURATELY ASSESS THE EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE UNTIL A POW FROM THE LOCALITY IS TAKEN.

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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**  
SIGNATURE

**CAPT., USMCR**  
**AC10, VMF 122**  
RANK AND DUTY

**D. H. SAPP**  
SIGNATURE

**MAJOR, USMC**  
**COMD'G, VMF 122**  
RANK AND DUTY

**27 JUNE 45**  
DATE

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