

VMP 102

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Report #47

ITC(20)

5

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. **47**

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) **CAUSEWAY--KOROR-BABELTHUAP** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1205 -10** (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target **4/10 CUMULUS BETWEEN 2500'-4000'**
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target **CLEAR** (e) Visibility **25 MILES**
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

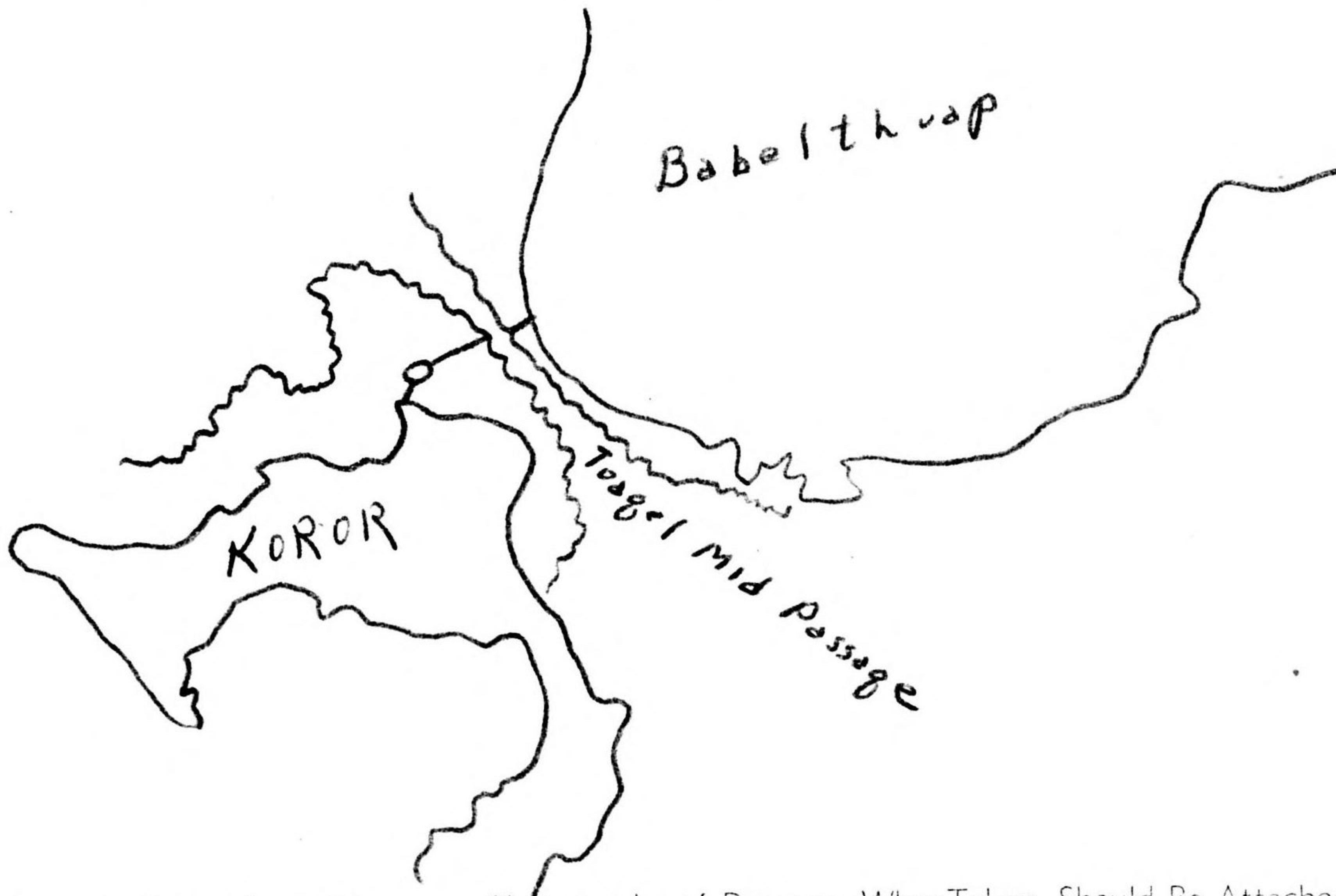
(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **35-40 DEGREE GLIDE** Bomb Sight Used **NONE**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run **2** Spacing **-** Altitude of Bomb Release **275' 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 BABELTHUAP SIDE OF CAUSEWAY	16' WIDE 400 YDS LONG	1 VMF 122	2-1000 LB. G.P.'S.	2	SUBSTANTIAL
2 KOROR SIDE OF CAUSEWAY.	16' WIDE 500 YDS LONG	2 VMF 122	4-1000 LB. G.P.'S.	1	UNDETERMINED
3					
4					
5	NOTE: ONE PLANE RETURNED TO BASE WITH UNEXPENDED BOMBS. SEE NARRATIVE FOR DETAILS.				
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

SEE ACA-1 REPORT NUMBER 45 FOR A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THIS TARGET. AS PREVIOUSLY STATED, THE CAUSEWAY FURNISHES THE PRINCIPAL MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN KOROR AND BABELTHUAP. RECONNAISSANCE SUBSEQUENT TO THE STRIKE ON 17 MARCH 1945 INDICATED THAT THE BOMB RELEASED BY MAJOR NELSON PARTIALLY DEMOLISHED THE BASIN AND PIER ON THE BABELTHUAP SIDE. TODAY'S STRIKE WAS AGAIN TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH THE PERIOD OF LOW TIDE.

THE RUNS WERE MADE AT RIGHT ANGLES TO THE TARGET IN A NORTHWEST TO SOUTHEAST DIRECTION. REASONABLY STEEP GLIDE BOMBING TACTICS WERE EMPLOYED IN AN ATTEMPT TO PREVENT THE BOMBS FROM SKIPPING CLEAR OF THE TARGET. THE BOMBS WERE RELEASED SIMULTANEOUSLY. THE TABULATED RESULTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RELEASE PT.</u>	<u>CONTACT PT.</u>
MAJOR NELSON	150'	BOTH BOMBS STRUCK BABELTHUAP END OF CAUSEWAY BLOWING OFF 30' TO 40'.
MAJOR BONISKE	400'	BOTH BOMBS SLIGHTLY OVER TARGET. PROBABLY NO DAMAGE.
LT. MC GEE	200'	ONE BOMB IN WATER; OTHER BELIEVED TO HAVE STRUCK KOROR SIDE OF CAUSEWAY DAMAGING SAME.

THE FOURTH MEMBER OF THIS DIVISION, LT. DILKS, WAS NOT "ON THE TARGET" DURING HIS FIRST RUN AND DID NOT RELEASE. ACTIVE AA POSITIONS MADE A SECOND RUN INADVISABLE. BOTH BOMBS WERE RETURNED TO BASE.

MEDIUM AND HEAVY AA WAS NOTED TO ORIGINATE FROM THE ARTILLERY HILL SECTION OF KOROR. THE RANGE AND ALTITUDE OF THE EXPLODING SHELLS WAS FAIRLY ACCURATE BUT THE GUNNERS WERE UNDERLEADING THE PLANES.

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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

Aarmor; 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 **CAPT., USMCR**
SIGNATURE **ACIO, VMF 122**
RANK AND DUTY

Q. "B" NELSON **MAJOR, USMC**
SIGNATURE **COMD'G, VMF 122**
RANK AND DUTY

25 MARCH 45
DATE

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