

V MF 155

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Report # 130

HIC(21)

6

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

10333

## SECRET

### I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VNF-155 (b) Based on or at Majuro Atoll (c) Report No. 130  
 (d) Take off: Date 12 April, 1945 Time (LZT) 0740 M (Zone); Lat. 07-05-35N Long. 171-22-40E  
 (e) Mission Bomb Bivouac Area Mille Island, Mille Atoll (f) Time of Return 0910 M (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)		
F4U-1D	VNF-155	5	0	5	Five Planes: 1 - 1400# Napalm Bomb	Midships: Grenade, inst. Nose: none. Tail: none.

### III. OTHER U. S. OR ALLIED AIRCRAFT EMPLOYED IN THIS OPERATION.

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
SB2C-4	VMSB-231	6	Majuro Atoll	PBY-5A	VPB-24	1	Majuro Atoll (Dumbo)
SB2C-4	VMSB-231	1	Majuro Atoll (Observer)				
F4U-1D	HQ-MAG-13	1	Majuro Atoll (Photo)	SBD-5	HQ-MAG-13	1	Majuro Atoll (Photo)

### 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
	None		(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		
None					

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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	None			
2				
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
		None		

## 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	
F4U-1D	65	65	1.5	237	100	0	0	0	0	5

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

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

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

- SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes
- TURNES
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

**No enemy aircraft encountered.**

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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) Bivouac Area SE Lagoon Coast (b) Time Over Target(s) 0815 H (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 1200, Cumulo-Nimbus 10/10  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Obscured by clouds (e) Visibility Under 10 Miles  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used AN-MK-8  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 5 Planes/1 bomb spacing ---- Altitude of Bomb Release 150  
(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 Bivouac Area, C2, SE Lagoon Coast	375'x150'	5-F4U-1D VMF-155	Five Planes: 5-1400#1. Napalm bomb	4	Serious
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.)

1. Bivouac Area, C2: Four bombs hit squarely in the target area. The first three were duds, however the fourth bomb exploded and observers believed that from the size of the fire it may have ignited the first three bombs. The fifth bomb was released in a separate run, but the pilot did not get properly oriented and dropped along the south ocean beach. This bomb exploded and started a sizeable fire.

Diagrams are attached.

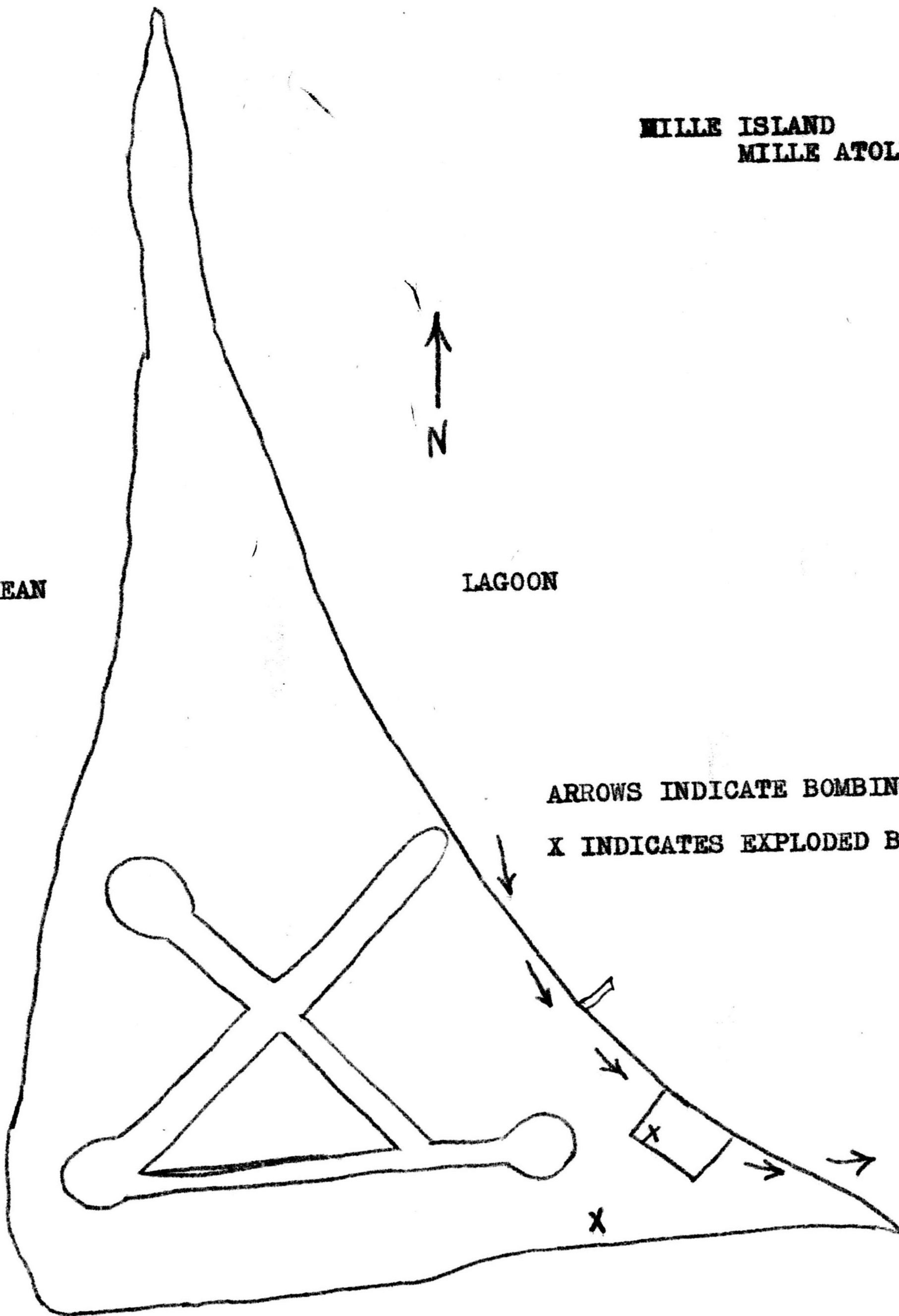
(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.  
Delivered to Air-Com, Majuro Air Group for forwarding.

MILLE ISLAND  
MILLE ATOLL

OCEAN

LAGOON

ARROWS INDICATE BOMBING RUNS.  
X INDICATES EXPLODED BOMBS.



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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

Five fighters of this squadron took off at 0740 M for a fire bomb strike on an area on Mille Island, Mille Atoll which was reported by POWs to contain the living quarters of the Japanese Officers. SB2Cs of VMSB-231, loaded with four 125# fragmentation clusters per plane, preceded our fighters off the deck. The plan of the attack was to have the Hell-divers drop the anti-personnel bombs on known machine-gun positions just before our planes made their bombing run.

A running rendezvous was quickly effected and the planes headed on direct course for the target atoll, taking position just above the dive bomber formation at 6000 feet. The run to the target was made with power settings of 2000 RPMs and 32 inches to maintain an average IAS of 145 knots. The weather enroute was poor and the flight went through light frontal areas.

The target itself was completely covered with a base at 1200 feet, however this did not cause serious inconvenience as the fighters planned to make a low flat run at reduced speed. The planes came down through the clouds from the north and made their run parallel to the beach. The run started at the base of the clouds, 1200 feet, with releases at 150 feet. Recoveries were in a right hand turn over the ocean. The planes had less than 200 knots at the point of release. No AA fire was observed by any plane taking part in the operation. This was predictable due to recent sorties over the island, hence it was considered safe to make the type run which was used.

The planes effected a rendezvous five miles south of the atoll at the base of the clouds and orbited at that point until the F4U photo plane completed its mission and then joined up. A reconnaissance of the southern half of the atoll was conducted with negative results before returning to the base.

A destroyer escort was observed shelling Garu Island, Mille Atoll before the aerial attack on Mille Atoll itself. An LCI was standing by.

Pilots participating in the strike were:

CARGILL, W. E., Major, USMC  
SMITH, E. F., 2dLt., USMCR  
STALWATER, K. S., 2dLt., USMCR  
HEAD, 2dLt., USMCR  
WARD, C. 2dLt., USMCR

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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:

*R. L. Mohrman* Capt. S-2  
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

R. L. MOHRMANN

APPROVED BY:

*W. M. Gargill* Major, CG  
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

W. M. GARGILL

12 April, 1945  
DATE