

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

5

0617

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

5

0617

(a) Unit Reporting VMP-251 (b) Based on or at SAVANNAH, GEORGIA (c) Report No. 109
 (d) Take off: Date 8 April, 1945 Time (LZT) 2010 (Zone); Lat. 31° 2' N Long. 81° 00' W
 (e) Mission Ground Support for Army on OCSB (f) Time of Return 2100 (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>40-10</u>	<u>VMP 251</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>2 x 500 lb. GP</u>	<u>Inst.</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 I 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 _____
 (j) of Sun or Moon _____ (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		

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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	VF-12	operational	entire fuselage	total loss.
2		see para. III	blown off at the	(Bu. No. 57328)
3			cockpit.	(Squadron No. 22)
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
1	VF-12	1st Lt. James J. Smith, 2nd Lt. W. W. W. W.	see VI above.	Capt. Pilot suffered only superficial injuries, scratches about the face and a flesh wound in shoulder.

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	
since mid distances flown varied too widely for accurate estimation of this data.						13000				

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

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

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

- SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes
- URNS
- 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) _____ (b) Time Over Target(s) Varied. (Zone) _____
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target HI: 1000
PK: 1000 _____
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target _____ (e) Visibility HI: 8 miles
PK: 8 miles _____
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type _____ Bomb Sight Used _____
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run _____ Spacing _____ Altitude of Bomb Release _____
(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. Troop concentration and supplies 3 mi. NW LAND AIRFIELD.		2 VMF-251	4 x 500 lb. GP strafed.		None observed.
2. Gun positions on ridge 10 mi. SW LAND AIRFIELD.		2 VMF-251	4 x 500 lb. GP strafed.		" "
3. Troop concentration No. of TUNNERS CAMP.		2 VMF-251	4 x 500 lb. GP strafed.		" "
4. Gun 2 mi. NW LAND AIRFIELD.		2 VMF-251	4 x 500 lb. GP strafed.		" "
5. Ammo dump at point 4 mi. SW LAND AIRFIELD.		2 VMF-251	4 x 500 lb. GP strafed.	2	" "
6. Two buildings 2 miles SW of SAC SAC, CAMP.		2 VMF-251	4 x 500 lb. GP strafed.	4	Good coverage. Destroyed by fire
7. Troop concentration 2 mi. SW of EAST-WEST ROAD, CAMP.		2 VMF-251	4 x 500 lb. GP strafed.	1 (Direct)	2 buildings. Missed a 7.7 gun.

(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. Airborne fighter director stated our planes did a very good job, that one bomb hit and seriously damaged three enemy trucks.
2. Strafing exploded a small gasoline or oil tank.
3. Strafing set fire to ammo dump, fire followed by a series of explosions.
4. FIVE's direct hit destroyed by fire two buildings.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? _____ Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

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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

The plane lost in this operation was returning to base with a hung bomb. The pilot had previously attempted to drop it on the target and when it did not drop after two attempts he tried to shake it off over the water. This too failed so he called the tower for a straight-in approach and landed. The pilot felt the bomb hit twice against the plane, then it exploded, blowing off the entire fuselage aft the cockpit.

The Ordnance department of this squadron as well as the Bomb Disposal Technician of MAG-14 believed the cause of the explosion is that the arming vane and nose of the bomb's nose fuse were sheared away, leaving the bomb in an armed condition.



THOMAS W. FURLON, Major,
Executive Officer.

For :

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

H. B. WELCH, 1st Lt., A.C.T.O.

W. L. BACHELER, Major,
Commanding Officer.

8 April, 1945.

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

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DATE