

DECLASSIFIED
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ACTION REPORT

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AND 968133
By DC NARA Date 7/17/00

CARRIER AIR GROUP 12

SERIAL - NONE

24 MARCH 1945

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT, FORWARDING OF.

**REPORT COVERS STRIKES ON YAP AND
GAGIL-TOMIL ISLANDS, YAP ISLANDS,
21 MARCH 1945.**

113348

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CONFIDENTIAL

24 March 1945.

From: Acting Commander, Air Group Twelve.
To: Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet, Navy Department,
Washington, D.C.
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group-45.
(2) Air Defense Commander, Western Carolines.
(3) Commander Forward Area, Central Pacific.
(4) Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet.
Subject: Aircraft Action Report, forwarding of.
Reference: (a) United States Pacific Fleet Forward Area, Central
Pacific Serial 0567, dated 1 March 1945.

Enclosure
DECLASSIFIED
Authority MOD 948133
By DD NARA Date 7/17/01
Aircraft Action Report No. 4, 21 March 1945,
Group Twelve (U.S.S. RANDOLPH - CV-15)
In accordance with instructions contained in reference (a),
as herewith submitted.

Ralph A. Embree
RALPH A. EMBREE.

113348

K945/A4-3/RC26-20

Serial: 095-45

1st Endorsement

27 March 1945

Hq., MAG-45, WEAW, NHP, c/o Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, Calif.

From: Commanding Officer.
To: Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, Navy Department,
Washington, D. C.
Via: (1) Air Defense Commander, Western Carolines.
(2) Commander Forward Area, Central Pacific.
(3) Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet.

1. Forwarded.

R. C. Mangrum
R. C. MANGRUM.

10 0244

(d) Date of Action: 21 March 1945. (e) Take off time: 0900 (19:30) (f) Date of action: 21 March 1945.

(f) Mission Bomb Yap Airstrip and Installations Attack Pier and Buildings Pelak Entrance Gagil-Tomil. 1145 (K) 16 SEP 64

(a) DATE	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NO. OF SORTIES	(d) NO. ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	(e) NO. ATTACK- ING TARGET	(f) BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE)	(g) FUZE SETTING
SB2C-4B	VB-12	3		3	1 - 1000 G.P. Bomb.	Nose .1 Tail .025
F6F-5	VF-12	13		13	6 - MK-7 HE Rockets.	Instantaneous
TBM-3	VT-12	7		7	2 - 500 G.P. Bombs.	Nose .1 Tail .025

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
F6F-5	Casw 51	1	Marine Air Base, Ulithi.				
TBM-3	Casw 51	1	Marine Air Base, Ulithi.				
FBY-5A	VFR-23	1	Marine Air Base, Ulithi.				

(a) Type	(b) NO OBSERVED	(c) NO ENGAS NO OWN A/C	(d) TIME ENCOUNTERED	(e) LOCATION OF ENCOUNTER	(f) BOMBS TORPEDGES CARRIED; GUNS OBSERVED	(g) CAMOUFLAGE AND MARKING
None			(GCT)			
			(GCT)			
			(GCT)			
			(GCT)			

(i) Weather and Clouds at Location of Encounter(s) _____

V. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

[illegible]

~~10 0244~~

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	VF-5	VF-12	Unknown - Did not pull out of dive	Wing	crash								
2													
3	VF-5	VF-12	Fragments, probably from explosion of rockets fired by previous plane in dive.										
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	Wms. D. L. Martin	Unknown	Killed in Combat.

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. FULL GALLON	(f) AV. FUEL CONSUMED	(g) TOTAL AMMUNITION EXPENDED				(h) NO. OF PLANES RETURNING
						30	50	20MM	MM	
SB2C-4E	108	108	2 3/4	320	185	300		125		3
F6F-5	108	108	2 3/4	400	206		3700			12
TEM-3	108	108	2 3/4	330	190					7

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

CALIBER	NONE	WEAKER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY - Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	X			
MEDIUM - Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm		X		
LGIT - Machine gun bullets, 5.5mm-12.2mm		X		

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

A. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY	
SPEED, C. IMb, at various altitudes	No opportunity for Comparison.
URNS	
DIVES	
CEILINGS	
RANGE	
PROTECTION	
ARMAMENT	

Yap Airstrip and Installation

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Yap Airstrip and Installation

(c) Clouds Over Target 2000 Cumulus 2/10

(d) Visibility of Target Clear

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type VB (Dive) VF and VT (Glide) Bomb Sight Used Mark 8

Bombs Dropped per Run VT-2 Spacing 25 Altitude of Bomb Release VT-1800

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed None Probably Destroyed None Damaged None

(a) AIMING POINT	(b) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(c) NO. A/C ATTACKING (BY SQUADRON)	(d) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	(e) NO. HITS ON Aiming Point	(f) DAMAGE (None, light, serious, destroyed or sunk)
1 Yap Airstrip	4600'-200'	3 VB-12	3 - 1000 G.P. Bombs	1	Extensive.
2 Yap Airstrip	4600'-200'	7 VT-12	14 - 500 G.P. Bombs	12	Extensive.
3 Pier and Building		13 VE-12	79 MK-7HE Rockets	70	Several hits on pier other damage not observed.
4 Gagil-Tomil.					
5					
6					
7					
8					

(g) 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 hit. For all targets give location and effect of hits, and identify by numbers above. Use additional sheets if necessary.)

Recent photo reconnaissance had indicated that 1000 feet of the airstrip was possibly operational so all 10 bombing planes concentrated on this area with good results. Thirteen direct hits were made that deeply cratered the strip and it was believed to be completely inoperational after the attack. This was later confirmed by visual reconnaissance made by VMFB-232. Damage done by rockets or the fighters was difficult to observe but most of the rockets hit in the target areas.

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

100-100000-100000

100-100000-100000

ARMAMENT	
Guns	
Bombs	
Torpedoes	
Missiles	
Rocket Motors	
COMMUNICATIONS	
Radio	
Radio-Devices	
Visual Signals	
Codes	
COPIERS	
RECOGNITION	
IFF	
Signals	
Battle Lights	
Procedures	
PROTECTION	
Armored Points and Angles	
of the Landing Platform	
Protection	
Lock Protection	
EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT	
Parachutes	
Life Belts	
Life Rafts	
Safety Belts	
Emergency Kits	
Rations	
First Aid	
NAVIGATIONAL EQUIPMENT	
Compass	
Dr. Lights	
Charts	
Automatic Pilot	
Charts	
Field Lighting	
INSTRUMENTS	
Fuel	
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 Power	
Lights	
FUEL SYSTEM	
FLIGHT CLOTHING	
MAINTENANCE	
BASE FACILITIES	
Plane Service Equipment	
Personnel Facilities	
REPORT PREPARED BY	

Units of VF-12 carried no bombs but were each loaded with 6 HE rockets. Their target was the pier and buildings near Pelak Entrance on Gagil-Tomil. Attack was started in a 30° glide from 8000 feet with the run being made from northwest to southeast. Rockets were observed to enter the pier and the buildings but damage was difficult to evaluate. Ens. Martin in the first division started the dive with his unit and never pulled out. It was not known whether he had been hit by AA, whether he had blacked out or whether the crash was caused by some structural failure of the plane.

The seven torpedo planes taking part started their high speed glide from 9000 feet and at a 35° angle. Their attack was made parallel to the runway and twelve bombs were dropped on the first run, all scoring hits on the strip. Lt. King and Lt. (j.g.) Lucas each made a second run on a steam roller near the end of the airstrip and had near misses with unobserved results.

After completing the rocket attack the fighters made strafing runs on buildings and gun positions in the area with unobserved results.

All units rendezvoused after the attack five miles west of Yap and returned together.

APPROVED BY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS OF THE AIR FORCE IS TO PROTECT THE COUNTRY FROM ENEMY ATTACK. THE AIR FORCE IS THE ONLY SERVICE WHICH CAN ATTACK THE ENEMY AT ANY TIME AND IN ANY PLACE. THE AIR FORCE IS THE ONLY SERVICE WHICH CAN PROTECT THE COUNTRY FROM ENEMY ATTACK AT ANY TIME AND IN ANY PLACE.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

COMMUNICATIONS

Radio, Radio
Wireless Devices
Visual Signals
Codes, Ciphers

RECOGNITION

Signals
Battle Positions
Procedures

PROTECTION

Armored Points and Angles
Fire Needing further
Protection
Local Protection

EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

Parachutes
Life Buoys, 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 Collectors

HYDRAULIC SYSTEM

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

Auxiliary Power
Lights

FUEL SYSTEM

FLIGHT CLOTHING

MAINTENANCE

BASE FACILITIES

Plane Servicing Equipment
Personnel Facilities

REPORT PREPARED BY

Howard M. Reedy

Howard M. Reedy Lt. (j.g.) USNR

SIGNATURE
ACI Officer

RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY

Ralph A. Embree

Ralph A. Embree, Comdr. USN

SIGNATURE
Commanding

RANK AND DUTY

21 March 1945

DATE