

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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

(a) Location of Target(s) Pekel Island and Gagil-Tomil Is., Yap Is. (b) Time Over Target(s) 0410 GCT(c) Weather and Clouds Over Target 9/10 overcast at 2500'(d) Sun ~~in view~~ From 114° (e) Visibility 8 miles

XI. TARGETS, RESULTS OF ATTACK.

(a) DESCRIPTION OF TARGET (List All Ships in Group Whether or Not Individually Attacked)	(b) A/C ATTACKING	(d) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED EACH TARGET	(e) ALTITUDE OF RELEASE	(f) HITS
	(c) SQUADRON			
1 <u>Pekel Isl., site of probable enemy installations</u>	<u>3 SB2C-1C VB-2</u>	<u>3-1000# GP</u>	<u>2500'</u>	<u>2 hits on Pekel Is.</u>
2 <u>Lighthouse on south shore of Gagil-Tomil Island</u>	<u>4 SB2C-1C VB-2</u>	<u>4-1000# GP</u>	<u>2000 to 3000'</u>	<u>1 near miss.</u>
3				
4				
5		<u>450 rds. of 20 m/m & 1250 rds of .30</u>		
6		<u>cal. ammunition were expended on the targets.</u>		
7				
8				

(g) RESULTS: (FOR SHIP TARGETS 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, WITH DIAGRAMS OR CHARTS WHERE DESIRABLE. DESCRIBE TARGETS FULLY IN (a), AND IN REPORTING DAMAGE OR DESTRUCTION, IDENTIFY BY NUMBERS AT LEFT. USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY).

As in the preceding strike, heavy cloud cover over the target area interfered with location of targets, and with observation of results of the attack. However, it is believed that the bombs of Ens. Smith and Ens. Anderson hit Pekel Island, while Lt(jg) Bush scored a hit on Tarang Island.

Lt(jg) LaMoyne scored a near miss on the lighthouse on Gagil-Tomil Island, and Lt(jg) Schaber made a hit on a dock and small buildings on the same island.

See attached map for location of targets.

(h) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached.

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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
Release
Pull-Out
Dive Angle
Strafing
Retirement
Defensive Tactics

DEFENSE, ENEMY

Evasive Tactics, Ships
Concealment
Anti-aircraft
Searchlights
Night Fighter Tactics

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

Lt(jg) LaMoyne led a flight of seven SB2C-1Cs* against Pekel Island, site of probable enemy storage area, and against the lighthouse on the southern shore of Gagil-Tomil Island. After the join up with VF and VT planes of the USS HORNET, the VB planes proceeded on a course of 330° for a distance of 70 miles to the target, making contact visually, and circled around the north tip of Yap Islands to attack the assigned target areas from the NW, in order to retire out over the water.

Lt(jg) Bush broke off with his section to attack Pekel Island, but cloud cover made identification of the small islands very difficult, and he made his dive on Tarang Island, as indicated on the map attached under XI (g), scoring an observed hit. Ens. Smith and Ens. Anderson made hits on Pekel Island.

Lt(jg) LaMoyne led four planes in an attack on the lighthouse, scoring a near miss on the target. Ens. Callahan's bomb dropped short, on a group of scattered buildings north of the lighthouse, while Lt(jg) Schaber was unable to identify the target on his first dive, due to cloud interference, and climbed to 4500' to make a glide bombing attack on a small pier and shed on the eastern shore of Gagil-Tomil Island, scoring an observed hit on his target.

Ens. Armbruster followed Lt(jg) LaMoyne in his attack on the lighthouse, and was seen by Donelan, who was riding with Lt(jg) LaMoyne, to start a glide bombing approach at 8500'. At approximately 2500' Ens. Armbruster was noticed to nose up and then his left wing was seen to drop and the plane crashed to earth on its back. As there was no AA observed at the time of the accident, it appeared that aileron failure was the cause of the crash, although no definite assignment of failure can be made. Neither Ens. Armbruster nor Billings, ARM2c, were seen to bail out of the plane, and were presumably killed in the crash.

AA fire at these targets was meagre and was confined to light calibre fire.

The SB2C-1Cs rendezvoused with other HORNET planes and returned to base.

*Lt(jg) LAMOYNE	-	Donelan ARM2c
Lt(jg) SCHABER	-	Durako ARM2c
**Ens. ARMBRUSTER	-	Billings ARM3c
Lt(jg) BUSH	-	Secrest ARM2c
Ens. SMITH	0	Ingersoll ARM2c
Ens. ANDERSON	-	Neff ARM2c
Ens. CALLAHAN	-	Safford ARM3c

** Lost in plane crash.

