Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

VF51/A16-3 Serial: 0076 FIGHTING SQUADRON FIFTY-ONE

% Fleet Post Office,

San Francisco, California.

SECRET

23 November 1944.

From:

Commanding Officer, Fighting Squadron Fifty-One.

(Commander, Carrier Air Group Fifty-One).

To:

Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet.

Subject:

Aircraft Action Report; 20 November through 22

November 1944.

References:

(a) Cominch Serial 7152 of 29 October 1943.
(b) Pacific Fleet Circular Letter 2 CL-44, dd. 1

January 1944.

(A) VF-51 Aircraft Action Report, 86-44, dd. 22

November 1944. - p.7

In accordance with references (a) and (b), enclosure

(A) is forwarded herewith.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF ENCLOSURES:

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OBNAV-16-V-#537 Form ACA-1 RESTRICTED AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT (Reclassify when filled out) EHCLOSUME (A) (OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE) REPORT No. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only). (a) Target(s) and Location(All Continues and Location (All (c) Clouds Over Target 10 cumilus nimbus at 800 feet. (e) Visibility Light (8) miles. (d) Visibility of Target CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (f) Bombing Tactics: Type shallow dive approximately 40° Bomb Sight Used W. CTYPE) (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bombs Dropped per Run (1) (1) Spacing Altitude of Bomb Release 75 to 300 cent (FEET) (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed Probably Destroyed Damaged 1000 DIMENSIONS OR NO. HITS On DAMAGE (None, slight, (i) NO. A/C ATTACKING (h) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION AIMING POINT EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT (k) SQUADRON Aiming Point serious, destroyed or sunk) TONNAGE 4 767-3 Aros # 204-A & Consider bldg. destroyed. four (4) tanks VF-51 Areas # 188-D & E 4 163-3 Area # 187-K & L 7 tordes (o) RESULTS: (For all hits claimed on ship targets and of hits. For all targets give location and effect of L. As indicated. 2. As indicated. As indicated. N. JAC 36)(22 NOV 44-0845-9)(K25-638"OBL-VAR)(YAPXCONF) (p) Were Photographs Taken?

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ENCLOSURE: (A)

SECRET

XII.

At 0800 (I), sixteen (16) carrier based fighters of VF-51 took off from the U.S.S. SAN JACINTO at Latitude 10-00 N Longitude 138-18 E, their mission being to burn bivouac areas on Gagil-Towil Island, Yap Group, more specifically referred to on "Air Target Map, prepared by 64th Engineers Topographical Battalion, USFPOA No. 741" as Areas # 187-K and L, # 188-D and E, # 202-X and Y, # 204-A. Of these sixteen (16) planes, fifteen (15) were armed with a one hundred and fifty (150) gallon belly tank, filled with Napalm, in accordance with "Preliminary Instructional Notes for Use of Incendiary Mixer, Mark I Mod O, No. 44108." The remaining plane, aVF-P, had the special mission of photographing the drops and assigned target areas, and carried K 17 12" vertical, K 17 12" oblique and K 25 6 3/8 cameras.

The weather over the target, at the time of the attack, was not well suited for the operation, as heavy cumulus nimbus clouds, at eight hundred (800) feet, prevented any comprehensive appraisal of the area prior to the actual bombing runs.

Of the fifteen (15) attacking planes, four (4) were assigned area # 204-A, four (4) were assigned # 188-D and E and # 202-X and Y, and seven (7) were assigned areas # 187 K and L. The aircraft, attacking area # 204-A, came in over the target on a course of 180°, altitude one hundred and fifty (150) feet, I.A.S. two hundred and fifty (250) knots. Of the four (4) pilots, two (2) released manually, and two (2) utilized both electric and manual release. All tanks fell in, or closely adjacent to, the assigned area, and all four (4) ignited. The area contained two (2) small thatched buildings, of apparent native construction, and one (1) tank, falling in the near vicinity of one (1) of these buildings, set it afire, resulting in a substantial and prolonged blaze. The other three (3) tanks burned out in from four (4) to six (6) minutes. The area was, for the most part wooded, with two (2) clearings.

The four (4) planes, assigned to areas # 188 D and E, and # 202 X and X, attacked on course 210°, altitude seventy-five (75) to one hundred (100) feet, I.A.S. three hundred and twenty-five (325) knots. Two (2) tanks fell in the area and ignited, but burned out in approximately five (5) minutes. One drop was "long", landing in the water (Grid location 188 F) and failed to burn. The fourth "hung up" in spite of the pilot's efforts to drop, using both manual and electric releases, on his first run. A second run was likewise unsuccessful, but on his third attempt, rocking his wings and using his manual release, the pilot effected a drop, the tank falling in the water (grid location 188 K). The Napalm ignited and smoked, but no apparent blaze resulted. Of the three (3) tanks, which released satisfactorily, two (2) were dropped manually and one (1) with both electric and manual releases.

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ERCLASTRE (A)

SECTION

TITE .

Seven (7) fighters attacked area # 187 K and L, the first four (4) making their runs on a course of 180°, altitude three hundred (300) feet, I.A.S. three hundred and thirty (330) knots. Two (2) tanks fell in the target area, and burned, setting two (2) thatched huts aftre, which flamed for more than ten (10) minutes. One (1) tank "hung up" momentarily and then released, but the result was a "long" drop, landing approximately one hundred and fifty (150) yards South of the southern boundary of the area (Grid location 187 R). The Napalm ignited, but burned out in five (5) minutes. One drop was not observed. The planes strafed the gun positions, South of the airstrip, (Grid location # 174 B and C and # 187 V and W), but these subsequently proved to be empty.

The remaining three (3) planes, which attacked the same area, followed the first division, but came in on course 315°, altitude one hundred (100) feet, I.A.S. three hundred (300) knots. One (1) tank fell on the northern boundary of the area and one (1) drop was not observed. The third failed to release, despite the pilot's using both manual and electric controls, however, when the pilot made a second run it dropped, falling "short" (Grid location # 201-K). Both observed drops resulted in small fires, which burned out in from four (4) to six (6) minutes.

No anti-aircraft fire was observed from any of the gun positions on Gagil-Tomil Island, nor was any air interception encountered.

REPORT PERPARED RE:

APPIOUD) BY

E. C. HREWSTER, Lieutement, USNR, ACI Officer, VF-51.

C. L. MOOFE, JR., Commander, USN, Commanding Officer, VF-51.