

VMB-612

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⑬

Report # 459

LTC(14)

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

**SECRET**  
RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

59484

0085-45

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB 612 (b) Based on or at Chimu Field, Okinawa (c) Report No. 457  
 (d) Take off: Date 7 August 1945 Time (GST) 071009Z (Zone); Lat. 26-28N Long. 127-56E  
Night low altitude anti-shipping strike. Target location and firing of rockets by radar.  
 (e) Mission location and firing of rockets by radar. (f) Time of Return 072111Z (Zone)

## II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

| TYPE<br>(a) | SQUADRON<br>(b) | NUMBER               |                              |                            | BOMBS AND TORPEDOES<br>CARRIED (PER PLANE)<br>(f) | FUZE SETTING<br>(g)                                       |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|
|             |                 | TAKING<br>OFF<br>(c) | ENGAGING<br>ENEMY A/C<br>(d) | ATTACKING<br>TARGET<br>(e) |   |   |
| FBJ-LJ      | VMB 612         | 2                    | 0                            | 1                          | 8 rockets, 5" head (GP) MK 1<br>3 1/2" motor MK 7 | MK 157 base, .02 sec delay<br>MK 149 nose, instantaneous* |
| FBJ-LD      | VMB 612         | 1                    | 0                            | 1                          | 2 Photo flash M 46<br>Same                        | AN-M1112A, 5 sec. delay<br>Same                           |

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

**NONE**

| TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE | TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE |
|------|----------|--------|------|------|----------|--------|------|
|      |          |        |      |      |          |        |      |
|      |          |        |      |      |          |        |      |

## IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

**NONE**

| (a)<br>TYPE | (b)<br>NO<br>OBSERVED | (c)<br>NO. ENGAGING<br>OWN A/C | (d)<br>TIME<br>ENCOUNTERED | (e)<br>LOCATION OF<br>ENCOUNTER | (f)<br>BOMBS, TORPEDOES CARRIED,<br>GUNS OBSERVED | (g)<br>CAMOUFLAGE AND<br>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).

**NONE**

| (a)<br>TYPE<br>ENEMY A/C | (b) DESTROYED OR DAMAGED BY: |          |                 | GUNS USED | (c)<br>WHERE HIT, ANGLE | (d)<br>DAMAGE<br>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)<br>TYPE OWN A/C | (b)<br>SQUADRON | (c)<br>CAUSE: TYPE ENEMY A/C,<br>TYPE GUN, OR OPERATIONAL CAUSE | (d)<br>WHERE HIT, ANGLE (List armor,<br>self-sealing tanks, equipment hit) | (e)<br>EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE<br>(Give Bureau serial number of planes destroyed) |
|---------------------|-----------------|---|--|--|
| 1                   |                 |   |  |  |
| 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).** **NONE**

| (a)<br>NO. | (b)<br>SQUADRON | (c)<br>NAME, RANK OR RATING | (d)<br>CAUSE | (e)<br>CONDITION OR STATUS |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |

**VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA FOR PLANES RETURNING**

| (a)<br>TYPE<br>A/C | (b)<br>MILES<br>OUT | (c)<br>MILES<br>RETURN | (d)<br>AV. HOURS<br>IN AIR | (e)<br>AV. FUEL<br>LOADED | (f)<br>AV. FUEL<br>CONSUMED | (g) TOTAL AMMUNITION EXPENDED |    |      |    | (h)<br>NO. OF PLANES<br>RETURNING |
|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----|------|----|-----------------------------------|
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             | 30                            | 50 | 20MM | MM |                                   |
| <del>FBJ-1J</del>  | 900                 | 900                    | 12.0                       | 1400                      |                             |                               |    |      |    | 1                                 |
| <del>FBJ-1B</del>  | 793                 | 793                    | 10.8                       | 1400                      |                             |                               |    |      |    | 2                                 |

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

| CALIBER                                   | NONE | MEAGER                              | MODERATE | INTENSE |
|---|------|-------------------------------------|----------|---------|
| HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over  |      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |          |         |
| MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm   |      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |          |         |
| LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm |      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |          |         |

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

SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes

TURNS

DIVES

CEILINGS

RANGE

PROTECTION

ARMAMENT

**NONE**

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No **457**

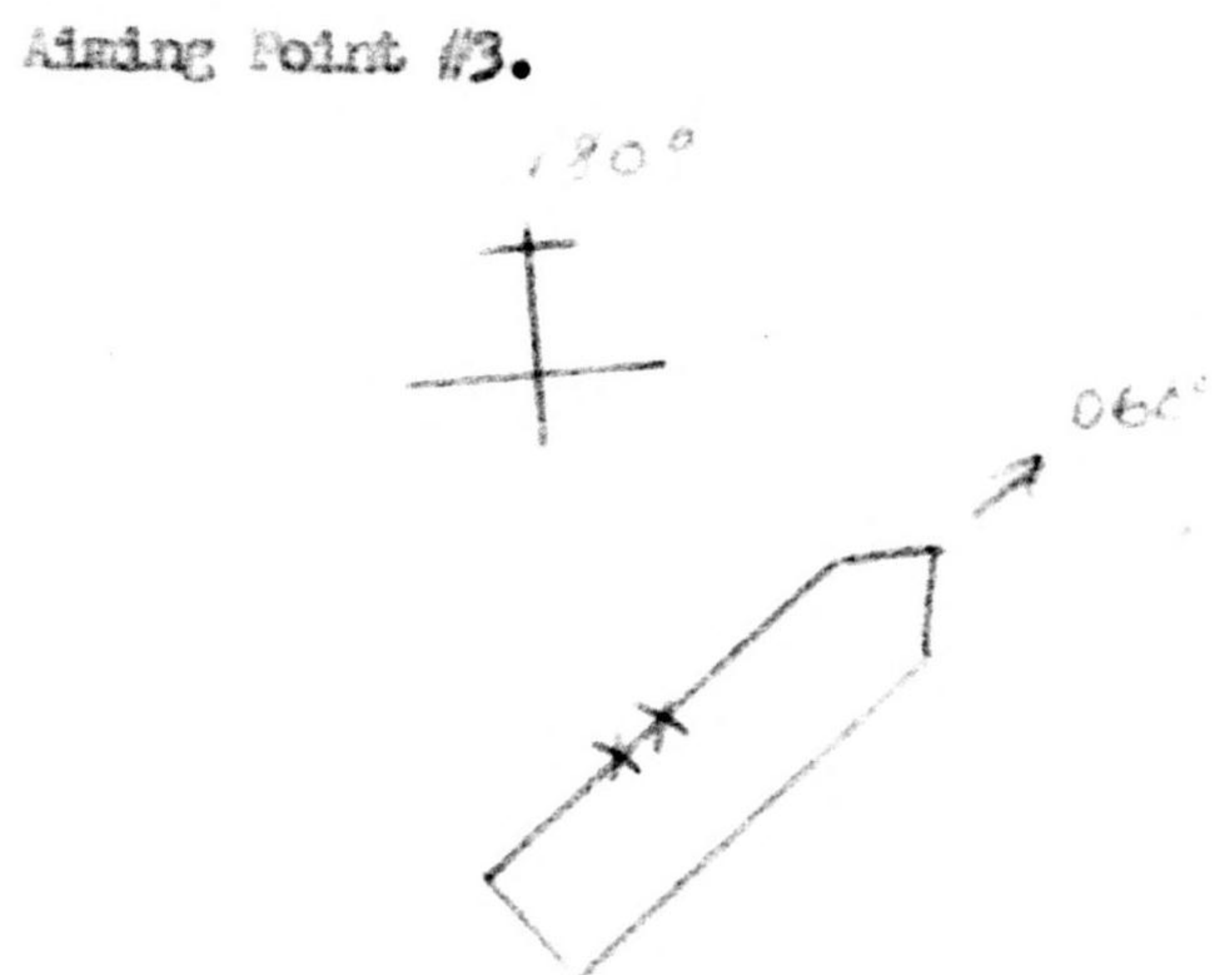
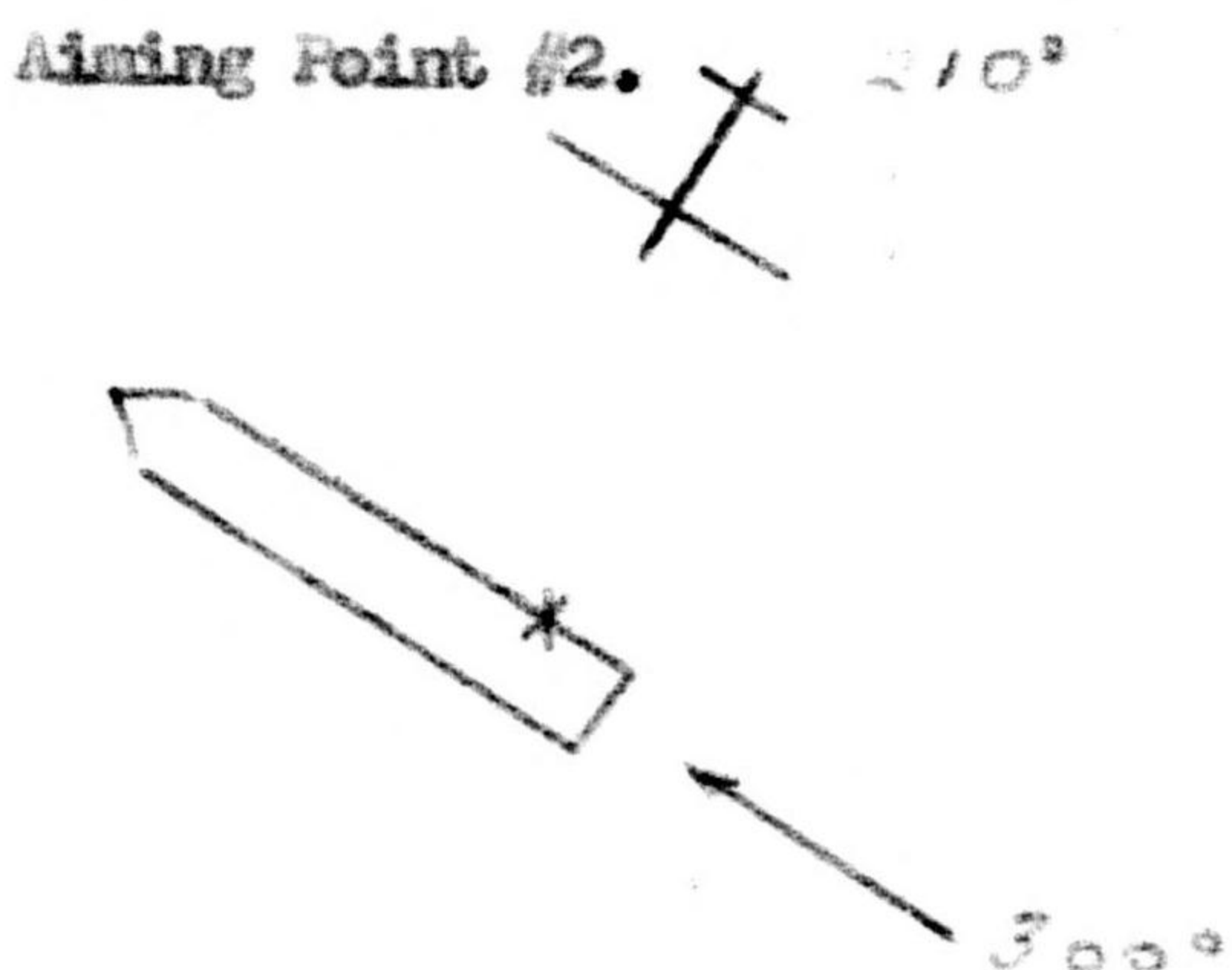
## XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Ship, 34-55N, 122-12E  
Ship, 34-30N, 130-30E  
Ship, 35-10N, 132-10E (FOR SHIPS, INCLUDE GRID AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) 071425Z  
071432Z  
071510Z (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target No clouds (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility 10 to 15 (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Level (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used APQ-5 (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 6, 7, and 8 (NUMBER) Spacing 25 (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 300 (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed - Probably Destroyed - Damaged -

8th rocket hung in launcher.

| (h) AIMING POINT         | (i) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE | (j) NO A/C ATTACKING<br>(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 Ship, Unidentified     | 200'                      | (j) 1<br>(k) VMB 612                 | 8-5" rockets  | None                        | None  |
| 2 Ship, Sugar Charlie S. | 150 to 200'               | (j) 1<br>(k) VMB 612                 | 7-5" rockets  | 1                           | Unobserved.   |
| 3 Ship, Fox Tare Charlie | 250-300'                  | (j) 1<br>(k) VMB 612                 | 8-5" rockets  | 2                           | Unobserved.   |
| 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.)



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

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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  
Defensive 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  
Fuzeing  
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

Two FBJ's searched straits between Tsushima Islands, Kyushu and Honshu, and coast line of North West Kyushu.

One FBJ attacked 250 to 300 foot FTC, 071510Z, 35-10N, 132-10E, course 060°, speed 8 kts, two 5" rocket hits observed amidships near water line. Extent of damage unobserved. Course of a/c during attack 210°, speed 180 kts, altitude 300 feet, range 1327 yds, 7 rockets fired.

One FBJ attacked 250 to 300 foot FTC, 071501Z, 35-10N, 132-10E, course 060°, speed 8 kts, two 5" rocket hits observed amidships near water line. Extent of damage unobserved. Course of a/c during attack 180°, speed 180 kts, altitude 300 feet, range 1375 yds, 8 rockets fired. During attack no AA fire was observed; on returning 5 minutes after attack for observation of damage, meager inaccurate, medium and light AA fire was received from the ship which had stopped. Accurate heavy AA fire was received from nearby shore batteries.

A third FBJ searched the southern tip of Korea to 36-05N, making an attack on 200 foot ship, type unidentified at 34-55N, 129-19E, time 071425Z. No hits were observed.

All planes completed search of assigned areas and returned to base.

### Additional sightings:

21201, 32-55N, 122-25E, 1 medium sized ship.  
22301, 35-02N, 129-03E, 1 sugar type, large.  
23001, 33-45N, 131-15E, fleet of small fishing craft.  
23301, 34-48N, 131-12E, 2 medium sized ships.  
00011, 34-22N, 131-00E, 7 search lights.  
00081, 34-10N, 130-50E, 3 medium ships at anchor.  
00151, 33-50N, 130-10E, 2 medium ships, westerly course.  
01001, 34-40N, 129-50E, 1 ship small, westerly course.  
01301, 33-55N, 129-30E, 4 ships, westerly course.  
02151, 36-05N, 129-30E, approximately 10 ships at anchor in harbor.

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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

**No comment.**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

**JACK C. McDERMOTT, CAPTAIN, USMC**  
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY  
**INTELLIGENCE OFFICER**

**JACK R. CRAM, LTJG., USMC**  
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY  
**COMMANDING OFFICER**

**7 August 1945**  
DATE