

VMF-113

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Report # 88

HC (16)

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

14576 RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

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55918

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VNF-113 (b) Based on or at Charlie Airstrip, Ie Shima Report No. 88
 (d) Take off: Date 22 June, 1945 Time (LZT) 0530 (1) (Zone); Lat. 26° 43' N Long 127° 47' E
 (e) Mission Combat Air Patrol (f) Time of Return 0900 (1) (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)		
F4U-1D	VNF-113	2	2	0	None	None
FG-1D	VNF-113	2	2	0	None	None

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
None	None	None	None				

IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II 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
Betty 11	1	1	0830 (1) (ZONE)	Vicinity of Aguni Shima	1 x 7.7mm forward 1 x 7.7mm dorsal 2 x 7.7mm sides 1 x 20 mm tail	Light Blue w/ 3 White Rings
Zeke	1	1	0845 (1) (ZONE)	Vicinity of Aguni Shima	4 x 13.2mm 2 x 20mm	Olive Brown w/ Meat Balls

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Attack Shipping in vicinity of Okinawa
 Did Any Part of
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? No If so, Describe Clouds _____ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance
 (j) of Sun or Moon 0830 (1) - Clear (k) Visibility Unlimited (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	GUNS USED		
Betty 11	FG-1D	VNF-113	1st Lt. B.G. DICK	6 x .50"	Starboard engine & wing	Destroyed
Zeke	F4U-1D	VNF-113	1st Lt. S.H. CROWELL	6 x .50"	Both L & R wing root	Destroyed
			2nd Lt. H.W. HARRIS	6 x .50"	Both L & R wing root	Destroyed
					(Refer to narrative section 12, for further coverage)	

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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 None	None	None	None	None
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).

(a) NO.	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NAME, RANK OR RATING	(d) CAUSE	(e) CONDITION OR STATUS
	None	None	None	None

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	
F4U-1D	50	50	3.5	395	225	0	1600	0	0	2
P-1D	50	50	3.5	395	225	0	1050	0	0	2

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	0			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	0			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	0			

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

- SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes
- URNS
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

Conditions of encounters offered no fair basis for comparison.

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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
 - 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
- 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

(22 June, 1945) 1st Lt. E.G. DICK led his division on CAP over Point King. Takeoff was at 0530 Iten. At about 0800 Iten the division was directed by Delegate control to report to R.P.P. Cheyene, on a course of 290°.

While flying this course at 1,000 foot elevation, firing was heard over the radio, and the patrol climbed to 4,000 feet. They were still south of Cheyene when that control reported a bogie at 270°.

Holding altitude, the patrol circled toward the reported position of the bogie. They were flying between two cloud layers, one extending 800 to 3,000 feet and the top layer from 5,500 to 6,000 feet, when the bogie, chased by two (2) Corsairs, was spotted diving out of the top cloud layer and heading into the lower cloud layer.

Anticipating the evasive intention of the bogie, Lt. DICK led his division down through the clouds and was waiting when the Jap plane broke through. This plane, a Betty II was turning left into the 113 planes on a course that would have carried it to the R.P.P. boat. Lt. DICK attacked at full deflection, (70 to 80 miles) with a short burst which started smoke from the starboard engine, and gradually closed to close quarters where a long burst cut the starboard wing off just out-board of the starboard engine. There was a flash of flame as the wing came off, the Betty rolled over to the left and dove straight in. It exploded on contact with the water. During this run the Betty had been firing steadily with waist and turret guns.

The division joined up and, climbing to 6,000 feet, proceeded to visual of Cheyene, orbiting ten miles west of the picket boat. Enemy fighters were tallyhoed attacking from above and immediately a Zeke was seen being followed by a Corsair, out of range. The Zeke eluded the Corsair with a diving flipper turn to the right, in the direction of the 113 fighters and about 1,500 feet below. The division dove and closed, firing out of range. 1st Lt. S.R. CROWELL and 2nd Lt. M.W. HARKE pulled in, bracketing the Zeke from dead astern and firing as he continued to dive toward the water. The Jap plane started smoking at 1,500 feet. At 800 feet both pilots ceased firing and pulled off. The Zeke flattened out into a 20° glide, flamed at 200 feet and continued on in to explode on contact with the water.

The patrol was relieved without further incident and returned to base, landing safely at 0900 Iten

The following VNF-113 pilots participated:

- 1st Lt. E.G. DICK - Division leader
- 2nd Lt. John J. KISSELL - Wingman
- 1st Lt. S.R. CROWELL - Section leader
- 2nd Lt. M.W. HARKE - Wingman

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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

All material and equipment operated in a satisfactory manner.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

W. H. Jordan
SIGNATURE **W. H. JORDAN**

Center AGIO
RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

Hensley W Williams
SIGNATURE **HENSLEY WILLIAMS**

Major, Co
RANK AND DUTY

22 June, 1945
DATE

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