

VNF-111

129
⑮

Report # 257

HC(15)

6

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

17900

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I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMF-111 (b) Based on or at Engebi Is. Eniwetok Atoll Report No. 257
 (d) Take off: Date 24 July, 1945. Time (LZT) 0950 Mike (Zone); Lat. 11°42'N. Long. 162°14'E.
 (e) Mission (1) Bomb Langan Is., Inside Ponape Reef, Ponape Is., Caroline Is.
(2) Bomb Dock Area, Not Point, Ponape Is. (f) Time of Return 1353 Mike (Zone)
Caroline Is.

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	VMF-111	17	0	13	2X500# GP's	Nose - .1 sec. delay Tail - .1 sec. delay

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
PV-2	VPB-144	3	Eniwetok Is., Eniwetok Atoll.				Escort and Divert.
PBM	VPB-19	1	Ferry Is., Eniwetok Atoll.				Weather
PBM	VPB-5	1	Ferry Is., Eniwetok Atoll.				Dumbo

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
None			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____
 Did Any Part of _____
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? _____ If so, Describe Clouds _____ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 (YES OR NO)
 • Time of Day and Brilliance _____ (k) Visibility _____ (MILES)
 (j) of Sun or Moon _____ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON, DAY, OVERCAST, ETC.)

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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			
None						

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) **Langer Island, Ponape Island,
Not Point, Ponape Island.** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1155 Mike** Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target **2400 feet, Cumulus 9/10's**
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target **Clear below 2400 feet, obscured
above 2400 feet.** (e) Visibility **20** (MILES)
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Dive** Bomb Sight Used **None**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run **Two** Spacing **None** Altitude of Bomb Release **2000**
(NUMBER) (FEET)

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

(h) AIMING POINT	(i) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(j) NO. A/C ATTACKING (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 Langer Is. Ponape Is.		8 VMF-111	10	12	Large fires
2 Not Point Ponape Is.		5 VMF-111	10	2	Not observed
3				4	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 time and location of hits. For all targets give location and effect of hits, and identify by numbers above. Use additional sheets if necessary.)

See attached diagrams.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? **No** Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

Photographic plane was abortive.

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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

Seventeen Corsairs from this squadron, accompanied by three PV-2's from W-144, as escort and diversionary aircraft, took off for Fanning Island, Caroline Islands at 0930 Mike on 24 July, 1948. Their mission was to bomb Langer Island located inside the Fanning Reef, and the dock area of Hot Point, on Fanning.

The PV's took off at 0915 Mike from Eniwetok Island and rendezvoused with the Corsairs over Engebi. Corsair take-off was at 0930 Mike at twenty second intervals, using thirty degree flaps. Join up was without incident, but almost immediately one Corsair developed trouble with its hydraulic system and landed at Eniwetok and another was unable to obtain gas from its belly tank and returned to Engebi.

The flight was uneventful after that until reaching Ujelang Atoll, at which point another Corsair developed hydraulic trouble and returned to base, as evidenced by its wing plans.

The aircraft reached the target area at 1155 Mike. The weather PBN on station had reported at 0830 Mike that there was 1/10 cloud cover at two thousand. By the time the strike arrived, the targets were both almost completely obscured by clouds, cover being about 9/10ths, with base of twenty-four hundred and top slightly under nine thousand. There were a few holes in the cover at which were used for the dives, however the targets were almost entirely obscured until the cloud base was reached.

The first two divisions, under Major Ford, Flight and division leader, and Captain Haber respectively came in south of Fanning Island. They peeled off at nine thousand, with drops at two thousand and pulled out at fifteen hundred. The second and third divisions also peeled off over Hot Point at nine thousand with drops and pull outs at two thousand and fifteen hundred. One aircraft in the third division came out of the clouds directly over Langer instead of Hot Point and as a result dropped on Langer, scoring two hits.

Thus, eight planes dropped sixteen bombs on Langer with twelve hits and four in the water. Five aircraft dropped ten bombs on Hot Point. Two hits were observed and four bombs fell out of the target area. Cloud conditions made it impossible to observe the four bombs dropped by the last two planes on Hot Point. This gives a total of fourteen hits out of twenty-two observed for a percentage of sixty four, with four bombs unobserved.

Large fires were started on Langer Island with a column of black smoke rising over 1000 feet.

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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

Return to base was uneventful, with pancake at 1553 Mike. Flight and weather data are covered on the following table.

	<u>Weather</u>	<u>Cloud</u>	<u>Base</u>	<u>IAS</u>	<u>Alt.</u>	<u>MFD Press.</u>	<u>RPM</u>
To Target	Very Good	.2	3000	145	10,000	28	2000
At Target	Poor	.8	2400				
Return	Very Good	.0	2000-3000	160	10,000	30.3	2019

Pilots

Planes

Todd, Maj.	107
Myers, 2dLt.	114
Mufnagl, Capt.	116
Lenin, 2dLt.	111 (Abortive - hydraulics)
Raber, Capt.	101
Peterson, 2dLt.	117
Cressey, Capt.	106
Price, 2dLt.	115
Hughes, Capt.	102
Moore, 2dLt.	123
Holton, Capt.	124
Ryan, 1stLt.	112
Boniste, Maj.	103
Miller, R.E., 2dLt.	104
Holmberg, Capt.	113 (Abortive - escort)
Martin, 2dLt.	121 (Abortive - malfunctioning of center line tank)
Nelson, 2dLt.	109 (Abortive - actuating cylinder)

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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

- Aarmor; 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

Plane 121 - (Photographic plane) - This aircraft returned to base due to nonfunctioning of center line tank. Upon pancake, it was discovered that the center line tank was not properly connected.

Plane 111 - Flexible hydraulic connection at firewall blown out under pressure due to deterioration.

Plane 109 - Internal leakage of left main landing gear actuating cylinder.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

SIGNATURE

GEORGE J. FUGH

**Capt., USMCR,
Intell. Off.**

RANK AND DUTY

T. A. TODD

SIGNATURE

**Major, USMCR,
Commanding Off.**

RANK AND DUTY

25 July, 1945.

DATE

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