

VMB-612

13  
⑬

Report # 439

JTC(14)

5

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

5647 ~~SECRET~~  
Reclassify when filled out

## I. GENERAL

*AI 10-3 July*  
(a) Unit Reporting VMB 612 (b) Based on or at South Field, Iwo Jima (c) Report No. 439  
(d) Take off: Date 8 July 1945 Time (LST) 080924Z (Zone); Lat. 24-46N Long 141-16E  
**Night low altitude rocket mission. Location of target and firing of rockets by radar.**  
(e) Mission of target and firing of rockets by radar. (f) Time of Return 081947Z (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)		
PBJ-1D	VMB 612	1	0	1	8 rockets (5" motor MK 1 5" head MK 5) 2 Photo flash bombs MK-46	MK 157 base, .02 sec delay M 111A2

## 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) 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
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Did Any Part of \_\_\_\_\_  
(i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, Describe Clouds \_\_\_\_\_  
(Time of Day and Brilliance) \_\_\_\_\_ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)  
(j) of Sun or Moon \_\_\_\_\_ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON, DAY, OVERCAST, ETC.) (k) Visibility \_\_\_\_\_ (MILES)

## V. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only). NONE

(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		

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**VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those listed in II only).** **NONE**

(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				
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) NO	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NAME, RANK OR RATING	(d) CAUSE	(e) CONDITION OR STATUS

**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	
<b>FBJ-1D</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>1404</b>	<b>1120</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

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

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

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

- SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes
- TURN
- DIVE
- CEILING
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

**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).

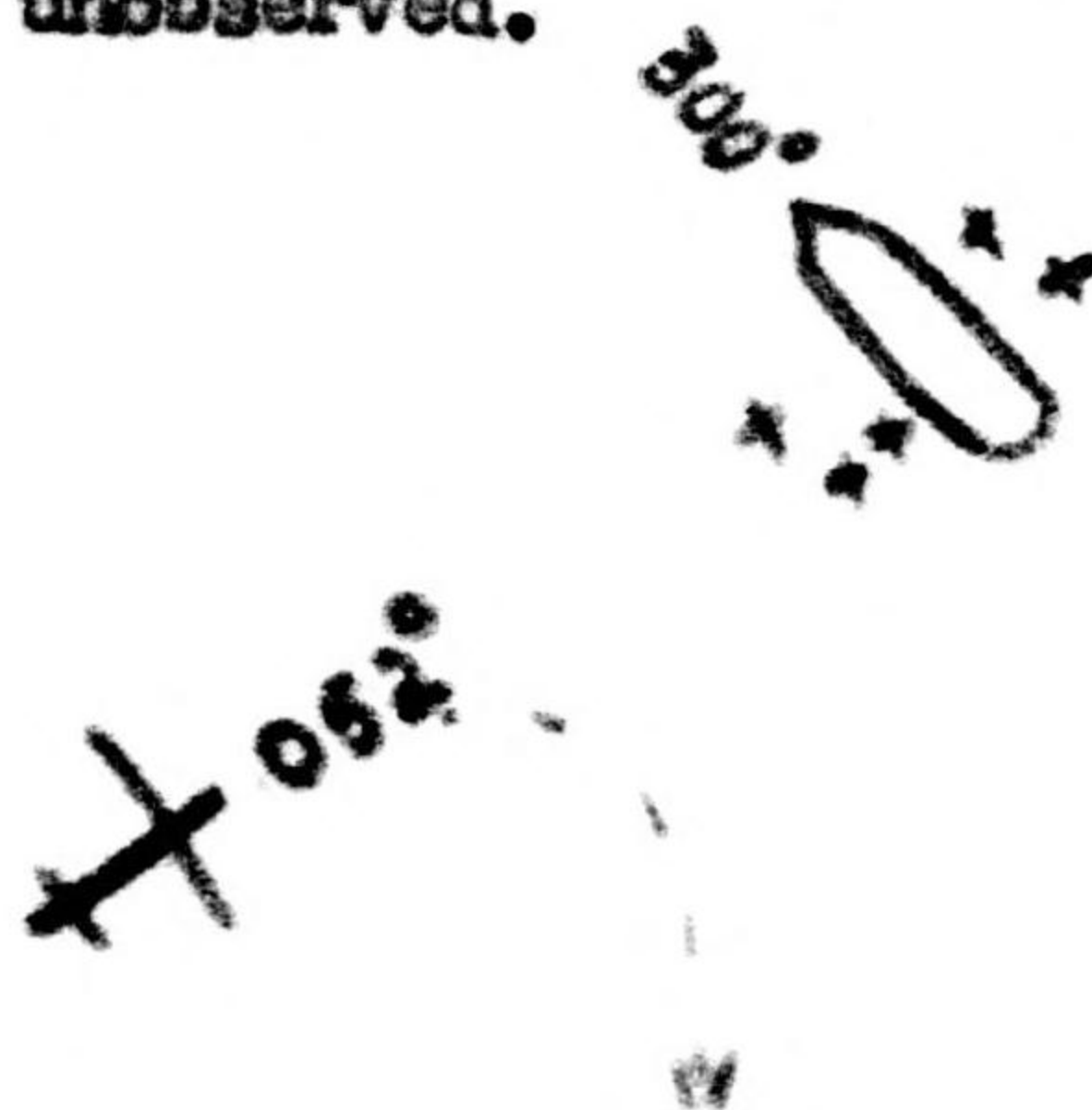
- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) 34-53N, 139-50E  
250' vessel undetermined type (b) Time Over Target(s) 081525Z (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target CAVU  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Level (e) Visibility 10  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Level Bomb Sight Used APQ-5  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 7 Spacing 0 Altitude of Bomb Release 200'  
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed - Probably Destroyed - Damaged -

(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 <b>vessel of undetermined type</b>	<b>250'</b>	(j) <b>1</b> (k) <b>VMB 612</b>	<b>7- HVAR 5"</b>	<b>Unobserved</b>	<b>Unobserved</b>
2					
3					
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).

**Three rockets were seen hitting water short of port side of vessel and two rockets hit water on starboard side.**

**Five of the seven rockets fired were seen hitting water on both sides of vessel. Results of two rockets, unobserved.**



(p) Were Photographs Taken? No. 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  
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

PBJ was assigned and searched sector B. This sector includes a flight from Iwo Jima to 27-00N, 142-20E, a left turn to 34-45N, 140-00E, a search of Sagami Nada and Suruga wan as far as 34-30N, then return to base via Miyake Jima, Hachijo Jima and the Bonins. A radar indication was picked up at 34-53N, 139-50E. This being a blind bombing zone no investigation run was necessary and PBJ attacked. During attack run target was identified as a 250' vessel of undetermined type, appeared very low in water. Ship was on course of 300° making approximately 10 knots. Aircraft attacked on course of 052° at 179 knots indicated, and an altitude of 200'. Rockets were fired 1940 yards from target at 081525Z. Although eight rockets were fired, only seven discharged (See comments). Thirty seconds after rockets away, crew members saw a white flare fired from the shore directly in from target vessel. Crew also reported radar indications of aircraft in the vicinity of target, however no attempt was made to intercept PBJ and aircraft were never sighted visually. Two small indications were picked up at 34-48N, 139-10E but were too small to register adequate radar indication. This sighting was made at 081420. PBJ searched remainder of sector without further sightings.

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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 comments.**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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RANK AND DUTY

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**8 July 1945**  
DATE