

VMB-613

174
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Report #8

HC (15)

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

SECRET
(filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No **8**

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Installations and boats Ponape Is. (b) Time Over Target(s) 0730-1000 (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target 1200' cumulus, 8/10 lifting to 5/10 at 3,500'

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 15 (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type level Bomb Sight Used AN-APG 13

Bombs Dropped per Run — Spacing — Altitude of Bomb Release —

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

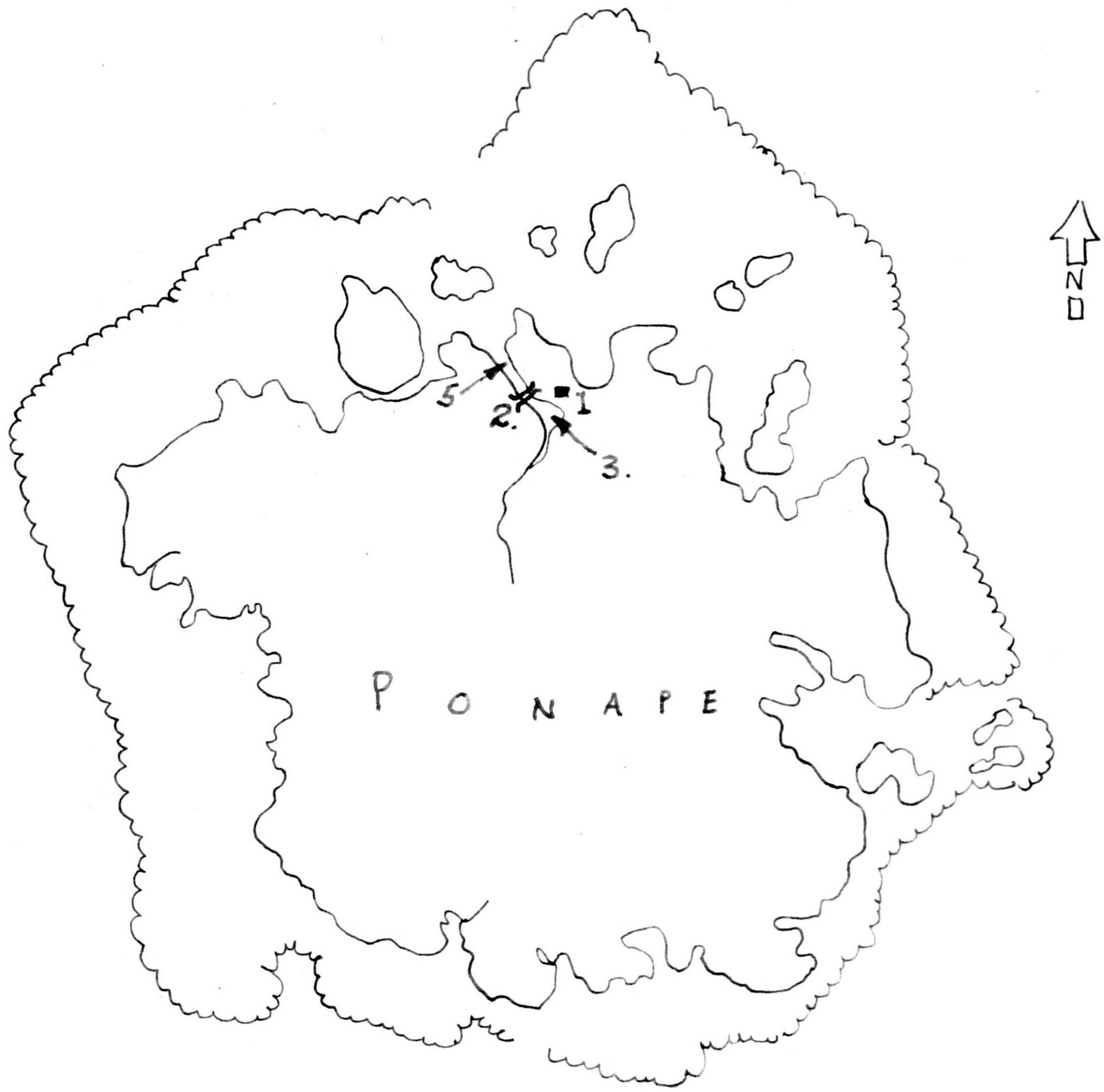
(h) AIMING POINT	(i) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(j) NO A/C ATTACKING (k) SQUADRON	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
1 Building, probably warehouse.	30 x 100'	VMB 613 1 PBJ-1H	1 75mm. shell 100 rnds. 50 cal.	All	Destroyed
2 Bridge over inlet Penape Town.	300' long	1 PBJ-1H VMB 613	1 75 mm. shell.	1	Destroyed
3 Motor boat patrol craft.	60' LOA	1 PBJ-1H VMB 613	2 75 mm. shells. 100 rnds..50 cal.	All	Sunk
4 6 outrigger canoes.	15'-20' LOA	1 PBJ-1H VMB 613	200 rnds..50 cal.	All	Destroyed
5 3 boats.	30' LOA	1 PBJ-1H VMB 613.	150 rnds..50 cal.	All	Sunk
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.)

1. A large building located in headquarters area was attacked from 300' altitude. Was seen to explode and burn.
2. The bridge connecting installations on east and west banks of inlet was attacked from 200' altitude and point blank range and was destroyed.
3. A 60' navy craft, probably a patrol boat, was sunk in the inlet at its mooring.
4. Six outrigger canoes encountered at different locations in Ponape lagoon were strafed and destroyed. Some occupants escaped by diving overboard. The balance were killed.
5. Three boats, probably lighters, moored together in the inlet were attacked and sunk.

See diagram next page.

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



Figures indicate aiming points described on page 3

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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
- Defense Tactics

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Own Weaknesses
- Enemy Weaknesses
- Offensive Tactics, Own
- " " , Enemy
- Defensive Tactics, Own
- " " , Enemy
- Flexible Gunnery, Own
- Escort Tactics
- Flight 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

Two planes from this squadron took off on a regularly scheduled reconnaissance mission over Ponape Island with orders to attack targets of opportunity. Upon arriving over the target a circling patrol was taken up until weather had lifted sufficiently to allow flying over the island itself. When visibility was sufficient, the two planes made coordinated runs over Ponape Town and the adjoining inlet, the old and new airfields, and the various small islands around the shore of Ponape Island proper. While one plane was performing low level reconnaissance the other maintained cover over it at approximately 3,000 feet. During these runs photos were taken and attacks were made on boats moored in the inlet and on other installations enumerated on page three. Light A/A was intense in Ponape Town and appeared to originate in the town site and on the ridge opposite Jokaj Island and also from south of the old airstrip. Heavy, heavy, inaccurate A/A from Iangan Island was also encountered. Light, moderate A/A came from a position on the south side of Metalanin Harbor. While circling the island at various times during the morning a total of six native canoes were discovered in the lagoon and destroyed. It is known that some of the personnel in the boats were killed although an accurate count could not be obtained. The pilots estimated ~~three occupants per canoe~~ approximately half of whom escaped. At 1000 the planes left Ponape according to orders returning to Eniwetok and landing at 1240 Mike.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

SECRET
RECLASSIFIED
When
Needed

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 functioned satisfactorily

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

SIGNATURE

C.R. MOGENSE, CAPT., S-2

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

G.W. NEVILLS, LT.COL., C.O.

RANK AND DUTY

7 March, 1945.

DATE