

VMB-612

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Report #424

#C(14)

5

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)
SECRET

05374

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB 612 (b) Based on or at South Field, Lao Jima (c) Report No. 424
(d) Take off: Date 15 June 1945 Time 150957Z (Zone); Lat. 21-16N Long. 111-16E
(e) Mission Night low level anti shipping search. Target location and firing of rockets by radar. (f) Time of Return 152018Z (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 | 34" motor MK 7 8 rockets 5" head MK 1 | Mk 146 base, non delay Mk 149 nose, instantaneous |
| | | | | | 1 Photo Flash MK 46 | AN-M111A2, 5 sec delay |

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 |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
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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-7D | 775 | 775 | 10.35 | 140 | 1049 | | 0 | | | 1 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |

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)

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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) Convoy of 6 to 8 ships, 35-38N, 140-53W Time Over Target(s) 151425Z (Zone)
- (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 10/10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Obscured by rain (e) Visibility zero
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) ~~Bombing Tactics~~ Type Level Bomb Sight Used AP-5
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- ~~Rockets fired~~
Bombs Dropped per Run 7 Spacing 25 Altitude of Bomb Release 300
(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 <u>Ship</u> | <u>Undetermined</u> | <u>(j) 1 (k) VMB 612</u> | <u>7 rockets 5" HV-4</u> | <u>Unobserved</u> | <u>Unobserved</u> |
| 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.)

Visual contact with target could not be established account of poor conditions of visibility, hence no hits nor damage were observed. However, ship stopped dead on radar screen after attack, while remainder of convoy proceeded on course. Last radar observation of target ship 35 minutes after attack showed same still dead in water.

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

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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
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

PBJ assigned search of a sector (also to 27-00H, 142-20H, thence to 35-40H, 141-50H, search coast line of Honshu southward to Nojima Saki, search Sagami Nada, Suruga wan and return to base via Miyake Jima, Hachidjo Jima and the Bonin Islands searching each in turn.)

A radar contact was observed at 35-25H, 141-10H from 8 miles distance but prior to investigation a stronger indication was made in vicinity of 35-38H, 140-53H from 35 miles distance. PBJ closed on second contact which developed into 6 to 8 ship convoy. Moderate, inaccurate automatic weapons fire was encountered during investigation. A rocket attack was made on last ship of convoy as follows: course of $4/8$ 150° , speed 180 kts, altitude 300', range 1245 yards, time 151425Z, 7 rockets were fired (as 3th hung in launcher). No hits were observed account of heavy rain and zero visibility. From radar indication target ship stopped dead in water and remainder of convoy proceeded on original course of approximately 025° , speed 8 to 10 kts. PBJ followed convoy around Inuboga Saki and returned to scene of attack, last observing target ship still dead in water thirty five minutes after attack.

PBJ proceeded on search, making additional radar contact, apparently ship, at 35-20H, 140-40H, time 151505Z, course undetermined.

Radar counter measure gear in PBJ indicated that PBJ was under surveillance of enemy shore based radar while off coast of Honshu and also that at least one ship in convoy had radar coverage of PBJ.

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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

No comments.

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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

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SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

15 June 1945
DATE