

VMB 613

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174  
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Report # 38

HC(15)



# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

~~RESTRICTED~~  
(Reclassify when filled out)

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMS-613 (b) Based on or at Majuro Atoll (c) Report No. 38  
 (d) Take off: Date 31 May, 1945 Time (LZT) 2009 H (Zone); Lat. 07-05-35N Long. 171-22-40E  
1 June, 1945 Time (LZT) 0115 H (Zone); Lat. 07-05-35N Long. 171-22-40E  
 (e) Mission Hunter-Killer and Harassment of Tarao Island, Maloenan Atoll (f) Time of Return 2348 H (Zone)  
0510 H (Zone)

SECRET

## 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)		
<u>BT</u>	<u>VMS-613</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3x250 GP</u> <u>8x5 inch AB</u>	<u>Nose: Inst.</u> <u>Tail: None</u> <u>Wing: Inst.</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>None</u>							

## 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
<u>None</u>			<u>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) \*\*\*\*\*  
 Did Any Part of  
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? \*\*\*\*\* If so, Describe Clouds \*\*\*\*\*  
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)  
 Time of Day and Brilliance  
 (j) of Sun or Moon \*\*\*\*\* (k) Visibility \*\*\*\*\*  
(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			
<u>None</u>						



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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)
None				
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).

(a) NO.	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NAME, RANK OR RATING	(d) CAUSE	(e) CONDITION OR STATUS
	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	75 MM	
280	810	510	3.75	1197	870	0	400	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	<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

No enemy aircraft encountered.



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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) Area of Elbow Pier, Taroa Island, Maloelap Atoll. (b) Time Over Target(s) 2120 H (Zone) 0255 H
- (c) Clouds Over Target 1500, cumulus 6/10 (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Hazy (e) Visibility 5/10 mile (MILES)  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Level Bomb Sight Used \_\_\_\_\_ (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run One (1) Spacing \_\_\_\_\_ Altitude of Bomb Release 3000 (NUMBER) (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 Area of Elbow Pier, Taroa Is.	1400' x 800'	2 VMF-613	5x250 GP 16x5 inch AR 8 - 75mm 450 rounds .50 cal	5 12 8	Unobserved
2 Maloelap Atoll				450	
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).

Definite results were unobserved due to the fact that the action conducted by both planes took place at night and at altitudes in excess of 3000 feet.

(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
- 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

Two PBV's of VAB-613 performed harassing actions at different times during the night of 31 May-1 June, against Jap held Taroa Island. After making a search of Mille, Jaluit and Motje Atolls, each plane proceeded to the Elbow Pier Area, Taroa Island, Maloelap Atoll.

Eight runs from east to west were made by the first plane over the target area, and nineteen runs from all directions by the last plane. Bombs were dropped, rockets were fired or strafing attacks were made on each run. A total of 3 bombs, 15 rockets, 8 - 75mm and 450 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition was expended, the great majority of which struck the target area.

Light, meager, inaccurate AA was experienced by both planes from the dock area.

Due to darkness and the altitude flown, results of the action were unobserved.

The following pilots participated in the action:

SIBLET, J.R.  
BENNETT, R.E.

1stLt.  
1stLt.

UNICR  
UNICR



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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 functioned satisfactorily.**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

*W. O. Carlton*  
SIGNATURE **W. O. CARLTON**

APPROVED BY:

*G. L. P. Allen*, 1st Lt., USNOR  
SIGNATURE **G. L. P. ALLEN, Lt. Col. USNOR**  
RANK AND DUTY **Intell. S. Commanding**

**SECRET**  
DATE **1 June 1945**