

VMB-61a

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Report # 4158

IIc(14)

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Classify when
filled out)
SECRET

59484

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB 612 (b) Based on or at China Field, Okinawa (c) Report No. 458
(d) Take off: Date 8 August 1945 Time (GZT) 081108z (Zone); Lat. 26-20N Long 127-56E
(e) Mission Night low altitude anti shipping strike. Target location and firing of rockets by radar. (f) Time of Return 082100Z (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-1B	VMB 612	1	0	1	6 rockets 5" head(GP) MK 1 2" motor MK 7	MK 157 base, .02 sec delay MK 149 nose, instantaneous
PBJ-1J	VMB 612	2	0	2	2 Photo flash M 46 SAME	M-111-2, 5 sec delay SAME

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE

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
			(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)
Time of Day and Brilliance _____
(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).

(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). **1000**

(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). **NOTE**

(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	
F2U-10	783	783	10.8	1400						1
F2U-10	648	648	8.8	1400						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

SPEED
 CLIMB
 TURNS
 DIVES
 CEILINGS
 RANGE
 PROTECTION
 ARMAMENT

NOTE

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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) 1. Ship 34-48N, 129-49E
2. Ship 34-48N, 130-34E
3. Ship 34-48N, 130-34E
4. Ship 34-06N, 130-30E (b) Time Over Target(s) 081515Z
081630Z (Zone)
081515Z
081730Z

(c) Clouds Over Target CATU
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND PERCENT OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target CATU
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.)

(e) Visibility CATU
(MILES)

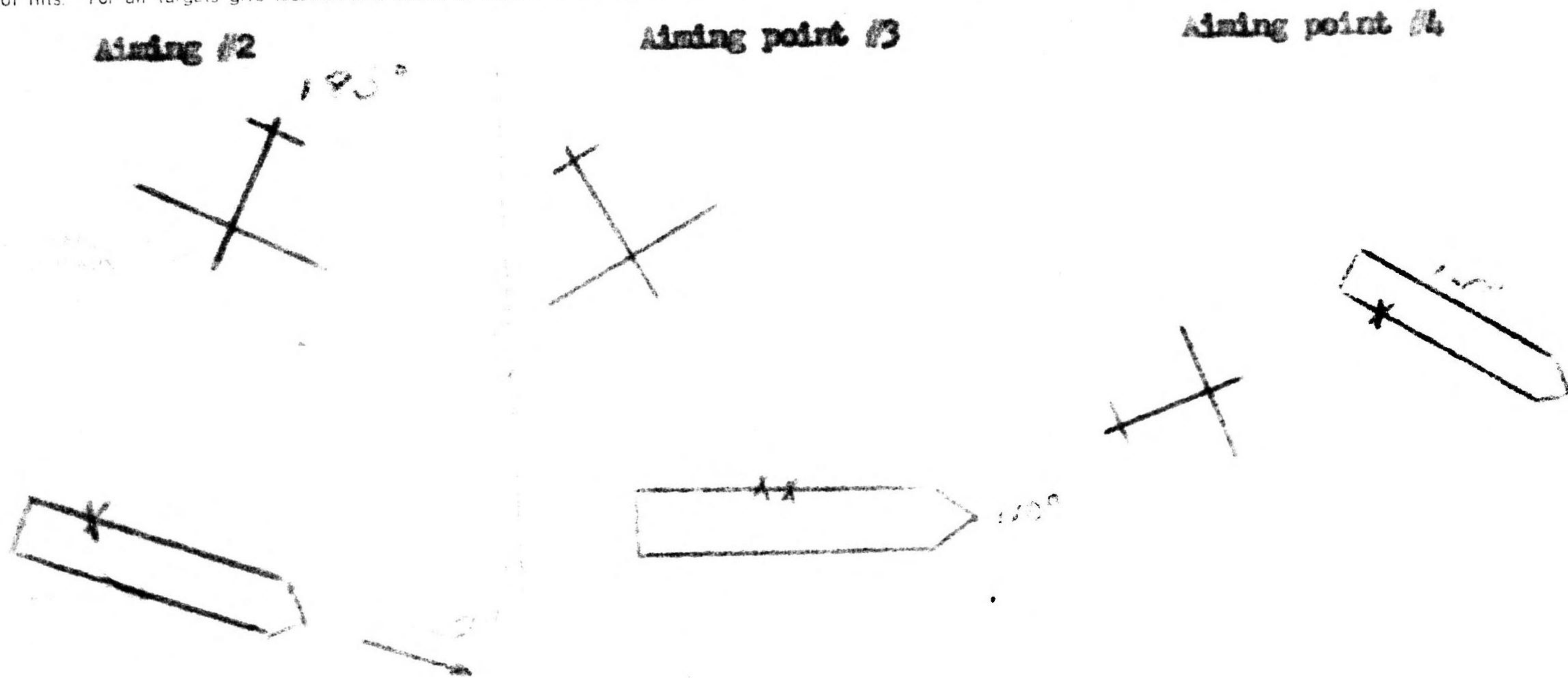
(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Level Bomb Sight Used AP-5
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 1. 4, 2. 4,
3. 8 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 Ship, Unidentified	250'	(j) 1 (k) VMB 612	4-5" rockets	None	None
2 Ship, Fox Tare Dog	200'	(j) 1 (k) VMB 612	4-5" rockets	1	Unobserved
3 Ship, Fox Tare Dog	250'	(j) 1 (k) VMB 612	4-5" rockets	2	Unobserved
4 Ship, Unidentified	200'	(j) 1 (k) VMB 612	4-5" rockets	1	Unobserved
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.)



(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
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

2 FBJ's made anti-shipping search of straits between Tsushima Islands, Kyushu and Honshu.

One FBJ attacked, with eight 5" rockets, a 250 foot Fox Taro Charlie, 34-38N, 130-58E at 081545Z, on course of 110° speed 5 kts; two hits were observed amidship on side of ship. Extent of damage unobserved. Course of aircraft during attack 155°, speed 180 kts, altitude 300 feet and range 1400 yards.

Second FBJ attacked, with eight 5" rockets, a 200 foot ship, type unidentified, 34-06N, 130-50E, at 081730Z, on course 120°, speed 5 kts; one hit was observed on side of vessel aft of amidships. Extent of damage unobserved. Course of aircraft during attack 085°, speed 180 kts., altitude 300' and range 1340 feet.

All planes completed assigned searches and returned to base.

Additional sightings:

22101, 34-10N, 126-15E, 1 DD or DE and 1 LC. No apparent course.
23251, 34-33N, 128-05E, same
00081, 34-35N, 131-14E, 1 medium size ship.
01371, 33-56N, 128-42E, 1 ship, radar contact.

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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 comment.

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:

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8 August 1945
DATE