

VMB-613

174
④

Report # 13

HC(15)

5

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

2054

RESTRICTED
SECRET

4702

6396

AIG-3/MAW
I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting **VMB 613** (b) Based on or at **KWAJALEIN IS. KWAJALEIN ATOLL** (c) Report No. **13**
 (d) Take off: Date **1 MARCH 1945*** Time (LZT) **1730 M** (Zone); Lat. **8-50' N** Long. **167-09' E**
 (e) Mission **SNOOP AND HARASS WOTJE ISLAND AND WOTJE ATOLL.** (f) Time of Return **0600** (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-1H	VMB 613	2	NONE	2	21 RND. 75MM. AMM.	-----

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 _____
(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). **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		
TWO PLANES PERFORMED THIS MISSION, ONE RELIEVING THE OTHER.					
1ST. PLANE TAKEOFF 1735, 1 MARCH, LAND 0030, 2 MARCH-MIKE.					
2ND. PLANE TAKEOFF 2355, 1 MARCH, LAND 0700, 2 MARCH-MIKE.					

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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	75MM	
PBJ-1H	507	507	7	1160	840				75	2
									7	

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

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

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

- SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes
- TURNES
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

NONE OBSERVED

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(Reclassification code filled out)

(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) INSTALLATIONS WOTJE ISLAND (b) Time Over Target(s) 1900-0700 (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 2500 FEET, 3/10 CUMULUS (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target CLEAR (e) Visibility GOOD (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type LEVEL Bomb Sight Used AN-APG 13 A
- Bombs Dropped per Run 2 AND 5 Spacing ---- Altitude of Bomb Release 2,000'
- (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 BLOCKHOUSES WOTJE IS.		2 PBJ-1H VMB 613	7 75 MM. SHELLS	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN
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.)

SEVEN SHELLS WERE FIRED BY TWO PLANES IN FLAT RUNS FROM 3,000 YDS. AT BLOCKHOUSES AND INSTALLATIONS ALONG THE LAGOON SIDE OF WOTJE ISLAND. THE SHELLS WERE FIRED FOR HARASSING EFFECT AND WERE SEEN TO HIT ON THE ISLAND. NO SPECIFIC DAMAGE ASSESSMENT WAS POSSIBLE DUE TO DARKNESS.

(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

THE FIRST PLANE TOOK OFF AT 1735 MIKE AND PROCEEDED TO TARGET SEARCHING FOR LOST PLANE ENROUTE. ARRIVING OVER THE TARGET A CIRCLING PATROL WAS TAKEN UP. AT APPROXIMATELY 2100 A FLASH OF LIGHT OF 2 OR 3 SECONDS DURATION WAS OBSERVED FROM A SMALL ISLAND NEAR CHRISTMAS HARBOR ON THE N.W. TIP OF THE ATOLL. THIS POSITION WAS CIRCLED FOR SOME TIME BUT THE LIGHT DID NOT REAPPEAR. DURING A LATER CIRCLING OF THE ATOLL TWO OR THREE FLASHES WERE OBSERVED ON A SMALL ISLAND MIDWAY BETWEEN WOTJE AND ORMED ISLANDS. AT THE SAME TIME THE PILOT THOUGHT HE OBSERVED A BURST SOME DISTANCE OFF HIS RIGHT WING BUT DUE TO THE DARKNESS THIS CANNOT BE ESTABLISHED WITH CERTAINTY. FOR THEIR HARASSING VALUE SEVEN 75 MM. SHELLS WERE FIRED AT BLOCKHOUSES ON THE WESTERN SHORE OF WOTJE ISLAND WITH UNOBSERVED RESULTS. NO OTHER ATTACK WAS MADE AND NO FURTHER ACTIVITY WAS OBSERVED. THE SECOND PLANE LANDED AT 0700 MIKE.

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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 MATERIEL FUNCTIONED SATISFACTORILY.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

SIGNATURE **C. R. MCGIBB**

RANK AND DUTY
CAPT. S-2

SIGNATURE **G.W. BEVILS**, LT. COL. C.O.

RANK AND DUTY

DATE