

VMF-113

9
16

Report #66

HC(10)

5

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

5560

SECRET

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting **VFP-113** (b) Based on or at **Engibi Is., Eniwetok Atoll** (c) Report No. **66**
 (d) Take off: Date **22 February 1945** Time (LZT) **0900M** (Zone); Lat. **11°40'N** Long **162°15'E**
 (e) Mission **Photographic, Penape Island.** (f) Time of Return **1410M** (Zone)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

(a) TYPE	(b) SQUADRON	NUMBER			(f) BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE)	(g) FUZE, SETTING
		(c) TAKING OFF	(d) ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	(e) ATTACKING TARGET		
F4U-1D	VFP-113	1			Photo plane	
F4U-1D	VFP-113	1		1	6 Rockets	Contact
F4U-1D	VFP-113	1		1	8 x 5" HVAR, Body MK 3.25" Meter MK 7. Rockets	Contact

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
F4U-1D	VFP-422	5	Engibi				
PBJ	VMB-613	1	Eniwetok				

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
None						
(ZONE)						
(ZONE)						
(ZONE)						

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) **None**
 Did Any Part of
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? **No** If so, Describe Clouds **None**
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance
 (j) of Sun or Moon **None** (k) Visibility **None**
(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:			(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER		
None					

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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)
1	None			
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	MM	
F4U-1D	371	371	5.2	395	326			230		3

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

URNS
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) Old Airstrip, Ponape Is., Caroline Is. Time Over Target(s) 1130H (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 9/10 cap over island - 1500 to 10,000 cumulus.
- (d) Visibility of Target partially obscured by clouds. (e) Visibility 2 miles
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type None. Bomb Sight Used None
- Bombs Dropped per Run None Spacing None Altitude of Bomb Release None
- (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 Langer Island	5" rockets	J. 1	4	2	Not observed
2 Japutik Island	5" rockets	J. 1	2	2	Not observed
3 Takatik Island	5" rockets	J. 1	2	2	Not observed
4 Airfield	5" rockets	J. 1	6	6	Not observed.
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.)

The two strafing planes were equipped with a total of fourteen (14) rockets which were fired on targets of opportunity on Langer, Japutik and Takatik Islands and the vicinity of the airfield without observed results.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes 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

At 0900H this date, (22 February 1945), units from VMF-113, VMF-422 and VMB-613 took off on a combined mission to photograph airstrips on Ponape Island, Carolines. The mission was divided into two divisions. One of these assigned to photograph the old airfield at Ponape was composed of one (1) F4U-1D photographic plane from VMF-422, one (1) F4U-1D photographic plane from VMF-113 and two (2) F4U-1D strafing planes from VMF-113. These last two planes were equipped with rockets and were assigned the task of flying cover on the photographic planes and creating a diversion during the time the photographic planes were making their runs. This division came in over Ponape from the north and slipped in under the cloud cover at about 1500 feet, the two (2) strafing planes going in ahead of the photographic planes, and firing at targets of opportunity on Langan, Japutik and Takatik Islands and the vicinity of the airstrip without observed results. The photographic planes followed about five (5) seconds behind. All four (4) planes retired west of Jekij island and made a rendezvous over Ponape Harbor. The second unit was composed of four (4) F4U-1D's from VMF-422. Two (2) of these acting as photographic planes and two (2) as cover and strafing planes.

The assigned target was the new airfield. One (1) PBJ from VMB-613 based at Eniwetok acted as navigation plane. Upon rejoining, all planes returned to base without incident, landing safely at 1410H. The following is a list of pilots of this organization who participated in this mission:

Major Hensley Williams.
Captain G. B. Heeliky.
2ndLt. A. D. Anton

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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

**One rocket was abortive due to faulty construction.
One camera failed to function due to improper briefing on its operation by the Photo section. All other material performed in a satisfactory manner.**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

W. H. Jordan

SIGNATURE

W. H. JORDAN
Captain RETO
USMC

APPROVED BY:

W. Hensly Williams
HENSLY WILLIAMS
Major, CO, VAF-113
USMC

SIGNATURE

23 February 1945

DATE