

VMB 613

174
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Report #62

110(15)

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AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

18506

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

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(a) Unit Reporting VMSB 613 (b) Based on or at Kunjalain Island, Kunjalain Atoll
Forward echelon at Majuro (c) Report No 62
(d) Take off: Date 31 July, 1945 Time (LZT) 1235H (Zone); Lat. 07°05'N. Long 171°21'E.
(e) Mission Harras Islands, Notje Atoll as part of a coordinated/ (f) Time of Return 1505H (Zone)
strike.

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	VMSB 613	4	-	4	4x250G.P. (in three planes) 2x5"AR.	None-Instantaneous. Tail-non-delay. None-Instantaneous.

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
S2C	VMSB 231	9	Majuro	P4U	VMSB 155	9	Kunjalain, forward echelon at Majuro.
S2C	VMSB 331	9	Majuro				
S2C	VMSB 13	2	Majuro	PBJ	VMSB 5	2	Majuro-Dumbo.

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 _____ (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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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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	MM	
F4U-7E	206	168	2.5	1160	300	-	4800	-	-	4

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		X		
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	X			

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

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

None observed.

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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) Various Islands, Naha Atoll. (b) Time Over Target(s) 1335-1430H (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 500-2000 feet 5 to 10/10 cumulus with rain squalls.
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Obscured by clouds (e) Visibility 3-10
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used None
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 1 to 4 Spacing - Altitude of Bomb Release 1000
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- (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 Pump Is.	Undetermined	1 P4L-1H WVB 613	2X5"AR.	2	Slight.
2 Ukon Is.	"	2 P4L-1H WVB 613	9X5"AR. 1X2500G.P.	9	Serious.
3 Crest Is.	"	1 P4L-1H WVB 613	1X5"AR.	4	Serious.
4 Egmodio Is.	"	1 P4L-1H WVB 613	3X2500G.P. 1X5"AR.	3	Serious, bivouac area destroyed.
5 Walk off Egmodio Island.	30' x 100'	1 P4L-1H WVB 613	1X2500G.P. 1X5"AR.	0	None.
6 Cherutaku Is.	Undetermined	1 P4L-1H WVB 613	2X5"AR.	2	Serious.
7 Toton Is.	"	1 P4L-1H WVB 613	1X2500G.P.	1	Slight.
8 Naha Is.	"	1 P4L-1H WVB 613	1X2500G.P. 2X5"AR.	1	Serious.

(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.)

9 Ukon Is.	Undetermined	1 P4L-1H WVB 613	1X2500G.P. 2X5"AR.	1	Serious.
10 Motoverakim Is.	"	1 P4L-1H WVB 613	1X2500G.P. 1X5"AR.	1	Serious.

4,800 rounds of .50 caliber strafed on all above islands.

RESULTS:

Targets on all islands were Jap bivouac areas and gardens known to exist through POW interrogation. Nature of targets and poor weather made accurate damage assessment impossible, however serious damage is assumed to have resulted when bombs, rockets, and .50 caliber strafing were in target area.

(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 four PB1's took off from Majuro ahead of the other planes in the strike and proceeded to Motje where they harassed assigned targets while the main attack on Motje Island was being pressed home by the fighters and dive bombers. The four Mitchells released twelve 250# G.P. bombs and fired thirty 5" rockets at nine islands in Motje Atoll. Runs were made from all directions, bombs being dropped from 1000' elevation and rockets from 700 to 800 feet both at an I.A.S. of 200 knots. Weather was very poor with continuous rain squalls interfering with runs but all bombs and rockets were in target areas with the exception of one bomb and one rocket which missed a haul off Aganetic Island at which they were directed. Meager medium inaccurate AA was observed from Motje Island. Following the harassment three planes joined up and flew to home base at Kwajalein, landing at 1505H. The fourth plane was to escort the fighters back to Kwajalein but poor weather prevented a joinup and the bomber and fighters returned to base separately, all landing safely.

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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:

APPROVED BY:

SIGNATURE C. E. BACON, CAPT., USN RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE C. W. N. VILL, LTJG., USN RANK AND DUTY

DATE 1 August, 45

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