

VMF-113

9
16

Report #68

ITC (16)

5

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

2369
6544

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VFP-113 (b) Based on or at Eniwetok Atoll (c) Report No. 68
 (d) Take off: Date 28 February 1945 Time (LZT) 1215M (Zone); Lat. 11°40'N Long. 162°15'E
 (e) Mission Dive bomb & Strafe Ponape Island, Carolines (f) Time of Return 1655M (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)		
P4U-10	VFP-113	17	0	15	2 x 500 lb. G.P.	Nose 1/10 Tail .025
P4U-10	VFP-113	1	0	1	2 x 500lb. G.P. (Photo bomber)	Nose 1/10 Tail .025
FD-10	VFP-113	6	0	5	2 x 500 lb. G.P.	Nose 1/10 Tail .025
FD-10	Eq. Sq.	1	0	1	2 x 500 lb. G.P.	Nose 1/10 Tail .025

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
P4U	VFP-613	2	Eniwetok	P4U	VP-19	1	Eniwetok
P4U-10	VFP-422	15	Engebi	FD-10	VFP-422	6	Engebi
FD-10	Eq. Sq.	1	Engebi				

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	NONE	NONE	NONE (ZONE)	NONE	NONE	NONE
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) NONE
 Did Any Part of
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds NONE 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	GUNS USED		
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	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	NONE	NONE	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	NONE	NONE	NONE	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	
FW-1D	371	371	4.7	395	295		5856			16
FG-1D	371	371	4.7	410	280		200			1
FG-1D	371	371	4.7	395	295		1830			5

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

TURNES

DIVES

CEILINGS

RANGE

PROTECTION

ARMAMENT

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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) New Airfield, Ponape Is., Carolines. (b) Time Over Target(s) 1440H (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 3000 to 6000ft. base. Cumulus; 9/10 cover
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Partially obscured by clouds (e) Visibility 3 to 4 miles
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Dive Bomb Sight Used None
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 2 Spacing Salvo Altitude of Bomb Release 3000
(NUMBER) (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 New airfield Ponape Island,		21 VMF-113	37 - 500 lb. G. P.	14	Slight
2 Carolines.					
3 New airfield Ponape Island,		1 HqSq, MAG-22	2 - 500 lb. G. P.	Not observed	Not observed
4 Carolines.					
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).

Targets of opportunity were strafed after the planes recovered from bombing runs.

**One set of Photographs with original.
Other distribution through regular channels separately.**

- (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
- Defensive 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
- 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 1225M this date (28Feb45) eighteen (18) F4U-19's and six (6) FG-1D's from VME-113 and one (1) FG-1D from operations MAG-22, took off from Engebi field with the new airstrip, Ponape Island, Carolines, as an assigned dive bombing target. Two (2) of these planes developed hydraulic trouble and returned to base escorted by one (1) other plane, thereby rendering three (3) abortive. The remaining twenty-two (22) planes completed the run to Ponape without incident.

Weather between Engebi Island and Ponape Island was very good, with an average 4/10 cloud coverage from 6500 foot base. Ponape Island was found to be obscured (9/10) by Cumulus clouds with bases lowering from 6000 feet as the first division arrived to 3000 by the time the last division was over the target. In general, all the planes employed the same tactics. The approach was from the northeast and paralleling the runway North of the island. Making a 180° turn they again paralleled the runway and made their dives downwind from a split S from northeast to southwest, recovering to the South to strafe houses, personnel and boats. Dives were made through a hole over the target open to the first three divisions to attack. This hole gradually closed forcing the last three divisions to make their dives through the cloud cover. The dives uniformly started at 5000' and pull out altitudes varied from 1200' to 3000'. Photo reconnaissance shows seven craters (14 bombs) on the runway. However, these hits were very poorly placed, only two craters forming barriers to operation from the strip. The other hits were grouped near the ends of the runway and would not seriously hinder operations. Poor definition of target, which is so colored as to blend with the surrounding terrain, cloud cover and the fact that the pilots were, with one or two exceptions, making their first strike accounts for this poor placement of bombs. It is suggested that in view of the meager AA defenses of Ponape, better results would be obtained if divisions were allowed to make a second bombing run in cases where they were unable to get on the target, rather than follow the present practice of releasing on the first one regardless of the accuracy of the run. After releasing their bombs the planes strafed targets of opportunity which included A/W emplacements in the vicinity of the target, buildings, a small dock situated in a cove on the S.E. coast of the island and swimmers in that vicinity. One division included a plane equipped for taking aerial photographs. After making the bombing run this division followed the last division back over the target forming strafing coverage for the photographic plane which took pictures of the strip. Meager AA was observed. One pilot reported large black smoke bursts at 4000'. The gun appeared to be firing from Jokaj ridge. Flashes, either small arms or A/W, were seen coming from two positions along the edge of the woods west of the airstrip. An unidentified weapon, probably 20MM, was seen firing from a plane revetment located at the SW corner of the airstrip and a 20MM was observed on the photographic run firing from a round gun revetment about 100 yards from the eastern end and indirect line with the runway. This revetment was located on top of a small mesa which was higher than the surrounding terrain.

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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

Five bombs were abortive, three being jettisoned and two returned to base. Four of these bombs were not released due to faulty electrical system.

One failed to release because of a shackle that was too tight. All other materiel performed in a satisfactory manner.

The pilots who participated in this action are as follows:

- Major W. J. Sims
- Capt. E. Dailey
- 2ndLt. P. J. Miller
- 2ndLt. L. E. Nolan
- 1stLt. E. G. Dick
- 2ndLt. K. Flynn, Jr.
- 1stLt. W. F. Bland
- 2ndLt. C. E. Hurley
- 2ndLt. H. F. Smith
- 2ndLt. B. J. Kelleher
- 2ndLt. R. Huncher
- 2ndLt. N. J. Petersen
- 2ndLt. H. E. Wendt
- 1stLt. C. W. McCracken
- 2ndLt. H. L. Fausett
- 1stLt. W. M. Waskem
- 2ndLt. C. P. Woodbury
- 2ndLt. L. R. Weathersbee
- 2ndLt. J. D. Johnson
- 2ndLt. R. D. Allacraft
- 1stLt. P. M. Ruffner

REPORT PREPARED BY: **W. H. JORDAN,**
W. H. Jordan
 Capt. USMCR, ACIO
 1st Lt. USMCR,
 Adjutant

APPROVED BY:
O. H. Ranko
 SIGNATURE
 BY DIRECTION

H. WILLIAMS,
 Major, CO, VMF-113 28Feb45.
 Major, Exec. VMF-113

DATE