

VMF-114

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165
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Report # 36-45

HC(17)

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

9694

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

Confidential

053750

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMP 114 (b) Based on or at Peleliu (c) Report No. 36-45
 (d) Take off: Date 8 May 1945 Time (LZT) 0820 K (Zone); Lat 7° N Long 134° E
 (e) Mission Napalm bombing of Abappaomogan, Basset and Terhune Islands. (f) Time of Return 0915 K (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) | | |
| <u>PG-1</u> | <u>VMP 114</u> | <u>16</u> | | <u>16</u> | <u>1 napalm fire bomb</u> | <u>Instantaneous phosphorous</u> |
| | | | | | | |

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

| TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE | TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE |
|-------------|----------|--------|------|------|----------|--------|------|
| <u>None</u> | | | | | | | |

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 |
|-------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| <u>None</u> | | | <u>(ZONE)</u> | | | |
| | | | <u>(ZONE)</u> | | | |
| | | | <u>(ZONE)</u> | | | |

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____
 (i) Did Any Part of Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? _____ If so, Describe Clouds _____
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 (j) Time of Day and Brilliance _____ (k) Visibility _____
(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: | | | GUNS USED | (c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE | (d) DAMAGE CLAIMED |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------|-----------------|-----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| | TYPE A/C | SQUADRON | PILOT OR GUNNER | | | |
| <u>None</u> | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
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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) North half of Abappaomogan Is., Basset and Terhune Is. (b) Time Over Target (s) 0850 (Zone) K
(c) Clouds Over Target Base--2000 feet, scattered stratocumulus, .3 cover
(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 10 (MILES)
(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Low level Bomb Sight Used None
Bombs Dropped per Run 1 Spacing _____ Altitude of Bomb Release 75
(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 Northern half of Abappaomogan Island, Squares 213 H and M, 225 W and X. | | 12 VMF-114 | 12 | 11 | Slight |
| 2 | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | |
| 4 Basset Island | | 1 VMF-114 | 1 | 1 | Slight |
| 5 Terhune Island | | 3 VMF-114 | 3 | 3 | Slight |
| 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.)

Twelve bombs were dropped in the northern half of Abappaomogan Island, Squares 213 H and M, 225 W and X, Air Target and Gunnery Map, Palau Islands. Eleven landed in the target area. Of these eleven three failed to ignite.

One bomb was dropped on Basset Island.

Three bombs were dropped on Terhune Island.

Three fires were started, one on each island, which burned for about ten minutes.

(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

A sixteen-plane strike, carrying sixteen napalm bombs with instantaneous phosphorous fuses, led by Captain MC LEAN took off from Peleliu Field at 0820 to bomb Abappaomogan, Basset and Terhune Islands. The planes joined up northeast of the base and proceeded to the target area. A circle was made west of the islands and the planes then attacked singly diving from 3500 feet and making a low level bombing run from southwest to northeast. Release was at an altitude of 75 feet, eleven bombs hit in the target area of the northern half of Abappaomogan Island, one bomb hit Basset Island and three hit Terhune Island. Of the eleven hitting Abappaomogan, three were duds, all the others ignited and fires were started of short duration. The bomb carried by Lieutenant DANIELS hung up on his first run but was successfully released on a second run. Retirement was made to the northwest and all planes landed safely at 0915. No A/A was encountered or observed. Because of many small boats no strafing was done.

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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

A 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:

APPROVED BY:

S.B.HIBBARD, 1st Lt., ACIO.

M.E.W. OELRICH, Major, C.O.

8 May 45

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

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