

VMB-613

174  
④

Report # 28

Itc(15)

4

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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SECRET  
(Reclassify when filled out)  
8839

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting **VMB-613** (b) Based on or at **Kwajalein Island and Atoll\*** (c) Report No. **28**  
 (d) Take off: Date **24 March, 1945** Time (LZT) **1845 M.** (Zone); Lat. **8°50'N.** Long. **167°09'E.**  
 (e) Mission **Hunter-Killer Mission near Mille Atoll.** (f) Time of Return **0130 M.** (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)		
<b>PBJ-1H</b>	<b>VMB-613</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>none</b>	<b>none</b>	<b>2 350# depth charges.</b>	<b>Nose Instantaneous. Transverse 25' hydro.</b>

## 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	GUNS USED		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

**\*Plane temporarily based at Majuro for this operation.**

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REPORT No. 28

## 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	
<b>PBJ-1H</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>6.75</b>	<b>1160</b>	<b>810</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>1</b>

## 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

**None observed.**

TURNS  
 DIVES  
 CEILINGS  
 RANGE  
 PROTECTION  
 ARMAMENT

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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REPORT No. 28

**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

One PBJ-1H of this squadron took off from Majuro at 1845 M., 24 March, 1945 on a hunter-killer mission. The submarine contact was made in the neighborhood of Mille Island and it was felt that the craft might be lurking somewhere in this enemy held atoll. The plane was therefore ordered to reconnoitre the atoll carefully both inside and outside the reef. Arriving on station the pilot found the weather to be very bad with high winds, rain squalls, and moderate turbulence, necessitating instrument flying for the majority of the time of the flight. While patrolling the island as ordered and flying under the overcast at about 500 feet, two to three bursts of .50 calibre shells were fired at the plane from a point near the junction of the runways on Mille Island. No hits were made. Proceeding around the Atoll the plane again drew fire, this time 20mm in meagre amount from an island near Tokowa Passage. Poor visibility prevented exact determination of the source of the fire. This medium AA was also inaccurate. The plane completed its run around the Atoll without encountering further opposition. A square search was executed without making any contact with the reported submarine and the plane returned to base at Majuro at 250130 Mike.

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**XIII. MATERIAL DATA.** (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left. Use additional sheets if necessary).

**All material functioned satisfactorily.**

**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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

SIGNATURE

**C. R. MOCINE, Capt., S-2.**

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

**G. W. NEVILS, LtCol., Commanding.**

RANK AND DUTY

**28 March, 1945.**

DATE