

VMB-613

174  
①②

Report #7

#c (15)

5

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
SECRET

2698

6911

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB 613 (b) Based on or at Kwajalein Is. & Atoll, forward echelon, Eniwetok Is. & Atoll (c) Report No. 7  
 (d) Take off: Date 2 February, 1945 Time (LZT) 0500 (Zone); Lat. 11°-20' N Long. 162°-21' E  
 (e) Mission Reconnoitre Ponape Island (f) Time of Return 1200 (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)		
PBJ-1H	VMB 613	1	None	1	None 21 rnds. 75mm. shells.	---

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



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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) Boats in Ponape Lagoon (b) Time Over Target(s) 0700-1000 (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 2500' Cumulus, 5/10 (HEIGHT IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility 15 (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type \_\_\_\_\_ Bomb Sight Used \_\_\_\_\_ (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run \_\_\_\_\_ Spacing \_\_\_\_\_ Altitude of Bomb Release \_\_\_\_\_ (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)
<sup>1</sup> 3 Outrigger Canoes	15-20' L.O.A.	1 PBJ-1H VMB 613	50 rnds. 50 cal. ammunition	50/ea.	Destroyed.
2					
3					
4					
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).

**Strafing runs were made on three outrigger canoes sighted in Ponape lagoon. Runs were begun at 1500'-2,000' and about 1,000 yds. range. Approximately 50 rnds. were expended on each canoe and all were seen to be destroyed. Occupants dove overboard and escaped.**

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No. Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

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Availability when  
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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

One plane of this squadron took off at 0500 for a regularly scheduled reconnaissance of Ponape Island. Arriving on station a few minutes before daylight the plane took up acircling patrol. The patrol continued and as visibility improved three canoes were found in Ponape lagoon and destroyed, the occupants escaping. While making a run on what turned out to be a derelict ship at Kiti Point several rounds of 40 mm. A/A were observed which appeared to come from the high ground at the point. Later in the morning a photo run was attempted over the new and old airfields. Intense, light A/A was encountered, but no hits sustained. Pulling out of this run the plane came within range of Langar Island and observed several bursts of 75 mm. or larger A/A. Making use of cloud cover the plane escaped without being hit. At 1000, pursuant to orders, the plane left Ponape and returned to Eniwetok, landing at 1200.

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(Reclassify when filled out)

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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 materiel functioned satisfactorily.**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

SIGNATURE **C.R. MOCINE, CAPT., 942** RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE **G.W. NEVILS, LT.COL., C.O.** RANK AND DUTY

**6 March, 1945.** DATE