

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

16068

055560
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
15 JUL 1945

RESTRICTED
Reclassify when
filled out

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting MAQ-22 (b) Based on or at Charlie Strip, Ie Shima, Okinawa (c) Report No. 130
 (d) Take off: Date 2 July 1945 Time (LZT) 0650-0620 I (Zone), Lat 26° 43' N Long 127° 43' E
 (e) Mission Strike against Nobara A/F, Miyako Shima, (f) Time of Return 0920-1030 (I) (Zone)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

TYPE (a)	SQUADRON (b)	NUMBER			BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE) (f)	FUZE SETTING	
		TAKING OFF (c)	ENGAGING ENEMY A/C (d)	ATTACKING TARGET (e)		Nose (g)	Tail
F4U-1D	VMF-113	10	0	7	2x500G.P.	Nose	Tail
FG-1D	113	6	0	5		Inst.	.025
TBM-3	VMTB-131	9	0	9	6A/C-12M1A1-Frag Clusters 2A/C-12x100G.P. 1A/C 12x100G.P.	Inst.	None .025
F4U-1C	VMF-314	25	0	25	12A/C-2x500 G.P. 13A/C-8AR5" HE Head	None 4-1hr. 4-22hr. Inst.	None 4-12 hr. .025 N.D.

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
TBM	VMTB-232	9	Kadena A/F				
PBM (Dumbo)	Not known	1	Kerama Retto				

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) - - - -
 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).

(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			
None	None	None	None	None	None	None

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

RESTRICTED
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CONFIDENTIAL
VMF-113 #93
VMTB-131 #24
REPORT No. VMF-314 #24

XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Nodara A/F, Miyako Jima, Nansei Shoto (b) Time Over Target(s) 0745-0810 (Zone) (I)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 2000' Cumulus 2
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 20
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Corsairs-Dive, TBMs-Glide Bomb Sight Used TBMs - None
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
Bombs Dropped per Run TBMs - 12 Spacing 0 Altitude of Bomb Release TBMs-2000-3000
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
Rockets 3000-4000

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 0 Probably Destroyed 0 Damaged 0

(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. Runways and dispersal areas.	1 mile square.	9 VMTB-131	72 X100 lb. Frag clusters.	72	Serious
2.			24x100 lb. G.P.	24	Serious
			11x100 lb. G.P.	11	Serious
2. Gun emplacement	Unknown	12 VMF-113	24-500#G.P.	24	undetermined.
3. East-NE/West-SW Runway.	5200'X175'	2 VMF-314	4 x 500 G.P.	4	Graters.
4. Blockhouses along NW-SE taxiway.	Unknown	2 VMF-314	4 x 500 G.P.	4	Serious
6. North-NE/South SW runway.	4600X175'	6 VMF-314	12 x 500G.P.		Graters. The other 8-4 bombs hit revetment
6. on ridge NE of AW/AA Positions	unknown	5 VMF-314	42 Rockets.	Undeter.	Area was wooded.
8 A/F and town.		5			
7. Taxiways, S/L & A/C revetments.	Unknown	5 VMF-314	38 Rockets.	Unknown	Serious damage.

(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.)

8. Boats and installations on Ikema Jima. Unknown 12 VMF-113 6400 rds. .50 Cal. Many Undetermined.

(o) RESULTS: Continued on Sheet 3B of 5.

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

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

VMF-113 #93
 VMTB-131 #24
 Report No. VMF-314 #24

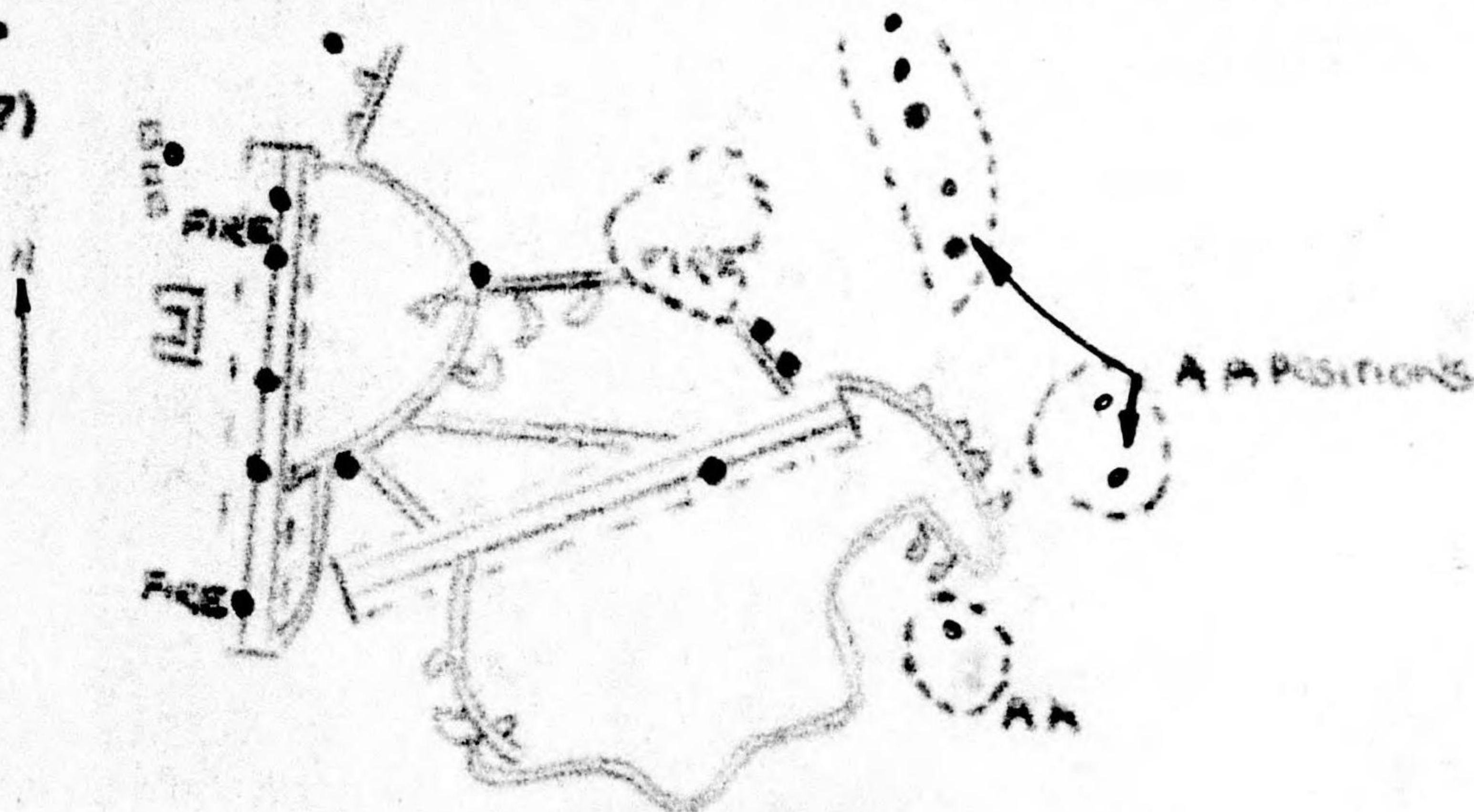
XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES.

RESULTS:

(1) Excellent coverage of dispersal areas and the east runway was obtained from 107 hits, with 72 x 100 lb. fragmentation clusters, 24 x 100 lb. G.P. bombs, and 11 x 100 lb. G.P. bombs with 1-hour, 12-hour and 72-hour delayed action fuse settings. Eleven delayed action bombs hit on the east runway. Remaining hits were scored over the dispersal area, starting four observed fires, one huge blaze apparently originating from a fuel dump. A large amount of debris was observed in the air from explosions. None of the planes strafed.

(2&3) Visibility of targets assigned was good. All bombs were seen to hit within target but damage was not observed. Strafing was very effective.

(3,4,5,6,7)



Each red circle indicates 2 bomb hits.
 Each blue circle indicates 6 or 8 rocket hits.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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VMTB-131#24
REPORT NO. VMF-314#24

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

VMF-113: Three divisions of VMF-113 planes each carrying 2x500# G.P. bombs, took off from Charlie Strip at 0610 I as part of a combined dive bombing and strafing mission to Nobara A/F, Miyako Shima, Nansei Shoto. These planes were scheduled to make the first attack, directed against AA positions and designed to reduce enemy fire against the following planes in the strike.

The flight arrived over the target at 0745 Item at an altitude of 13,000 feet, cloud cover was negligible. Approaching from the southeast, the 113 planes turned into the target and pushed over in a 65 degree dive. Each section had previously selected a gun position and each made its run on this previously selected position. Four bombs were observed striking within the circle of a five gun position at the SW tip of the NE-SW runway. Four struck in the circle of a 6 gun position on the North side and midway the E-W runway. A position on a ridge slightly east of the eastern end of the E-W runway was obscured by dust. No other bomb hits were observed, but the pilots reported no difficulty in picking up or getting on their targets and good accuracy should have resulted.

Bombs were released at 2000 feet and planes pulled out at 1000 feet. Speed was in the vicinity of 350 knots indicated.

After recovering over the water southwest of the field, all planes swung around west and north of Miyako Shima, strafing boats and installations on Ikema Jima in passing.

After rendezvousing about five miles off the west coast of Miyako Shima, the flight returned to base, arriving at 0940. No anti-aircraft fire was observed.

Major Williams made a successful crash landing at 1016 when his right landing gear failed to lower. All other planes landed safely.

Four VMF-113 planes acted as dumbo escort. They reported six large fires still burning in the target area at 0930. These planes participated in rescue operations in which the crew of a TBM was picked up by the Dumbo. All landed safely at base at 1025 Item.

VMTB-131: Nine TBM's from VMTB-131 took off at 0615 Item, 2 July 1945 from Charlie Strip, Ie Shima, in a joint operation with fighters, and bombers. Objective was Nobara A/F, Miyako Shima, Nansei Shoto. Rendezvousing at Point Victor, five miles south of Tokashiki, Kerama Retto, the flight took a course of 240° magnetic to Miyako Shima, approaching from the SE tip of the island in a right turn to the NW at 13,000 feet, making a high speed approach to 10,000 feet and pushing over in a left turn to the target on a SW course. Release point was 4500 feet, speed 305 knots, pull out at 3500 feet. Retirement was a partial left turn to S and rally point was five miles off shore.

Objectives were dispersal areas and runways and attack results are given in XI.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

VNF-113 #93
 VNTB-131 #24
 Report No. VNF-314 #24

XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA.

VNTB-131: (Cont).

One aircraft, piloted by 1stLt. Robert G. Stetler, with crew of Corporal Edward J. Sujko, radio gunner, and PFC Percy D. Cody, Jr., turret gunner, was struck by heavy AA bursts while in its dive at 6500 feet. The A/C was struck on the underside of the engine, destroying the fuel pump and the switch. He went on into the target at 320 knots, releasing all of his bombs in salvo, pulling out at 3500 feet, returning on a course of 190°. Lt. Stetler made his water landing about six miles off shore at 0815, having notified the flight leader for air sea rescue. Pilot and crewmen launched their life rafts and at 0845 Dumbo picked up all three, taking them to the Naval Seaplane base at Kerama Retto. None suffered any injuries and returned to base on 4 July 1945.

VNF-314:

The planes arrived over target at approximately 0800.

12 VFB's dove on the target after VTBs. Dive was from 13,000', 40°, 360 knots and NE to SW, release at 2000' to 3000'. Only 10 planes could release their bombs. One pilot had to jettison after his electrical release did not work. Another pilot had to hold his bomb because of planes between him and the target area. He thought he could release second attack but only one run was made. He jettisoned.

12 VF with rockets dove after the VTBs and fired a total of 60 rockets at the target area. Pushover was from 13,000, 50°, 330 knots, NE to SW and release at 3000' to 4000'. Eight rockets weren't fired on the target area because of pilot error. Six rockets were fired at a town during the beginning of a run because the lockheed tank which pilot was unable to jettison was buffeting. One rocket did not fire because of pig tail unloosening. One was defective. Eight rockets—two from each of four planes did not release in salvo with the other six rockets.

All pilots reported the A/F couldn't have been operational before the strike and certainly wasn't after the strike. Several fires were left burning along the retirement route due to the strafing. All but 2 pilots strafed during their bombing and rocket runs and on retirement over Sukuma A/F where they hit AW positions. The AA shot down a TBM which Major Steckelberg covered until the Dumbo landed and picked up the crew.

Pilots listed on Sheet 4C of 5.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

VMF-113 #93
 VMTB-131 #24
 Report No. VMF-314 #24

XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA.

The following VMF-113, VMTB-131, and VMF-314 pilots participated:

VMF-113:

DUMBO ESCORT

1stLt. W.M. Waskom - Div.Ldr.
 2ndLt. H.S. Jungi
 1stLt. G.K. O'Malley
 2ndLt. H.E. Wendt

FIGHTER BOMBERS

Major H. Williams - Div.Ldr.
 2ndLt. A.J. Ivy
 2ndLt. H.S. Mixson
 2ndLt. C.E. Hurley

 1stLt. C.P. Woodbury, Jr. - Div.Ldr.
 2ndLt. L.R. Weathersbee
 2ndLt. R. Huncher
 2ndLt. P.J. Miller, Jr.

 1stLt. W.F. Bland - Div.Ldr.
 2ndLt. H.F. Smith
 2ndLt. W.J. Petersen
 2ndLt. E.E. Zandt

VMTB-131:

Pilots

Capt. C.R. Ryan
 2ndLt. W.J. Boone
 1stLt. J.W. Russell
 2ndLt. R.J. Stetler
 1stLt. J.H. Ennen
 2ndLt. W. Fletcher
 1stLt. B.A. Johnson
 1stLt. M. Edick
 1stLt. W.H. Downing

Radio Gunners

T/Sgt. E. Karafa
 PFC. H.J. Rowe
 Corp. T.R. Kniffin
 Corp. E.J. Sugko
 Corp. J.M. Byrne
 Corp. E.T. Abernethy
 Corp. A.L. Laird
 Sgt. W.C. Smith
 Sgt. E.C. Marshall

Turret Gunners

MTSgt. M.G. Perez
 Corp. J.C. Robinson
 S/Sgt. M.E. Figdore
 PFC. P.D. Cody
 S/Sgt. C.R. Cowles
 S/Sgt. W.L. Coullahan
 PFC. H.S. Huffman
 S/Sgt. A.F. Cary
 PFC. R.N. Osbourne

Continued on Sheet 4D of 5.

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AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

VMF-113 #93
VMTB-131 #24
Report No. VMF-314 #24

XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA.

The following VMF-314 pilots participated:

VMF-314:

FIGHTER BOMBERS

Major F.G. Steckelberg
2ndLt. W.L. Milne
1stLt. G.P. Scott
1stLt. H.G. Hinkel

1stLt. H.B. Kreer
1stLt. L.J. Ewing
1stLt. L.B. Dochterman, Jr.
1stLt. L.R. Miller

1stLt. J.A. Klein, Jr.
1stLt. R.S. Crannell
1stLt. B.J. Thomas
2ndLt. G.W. Gardner

FIGHTER ESCORT

Capt. J.D. Constantine, Jr.
1stLt. J.B. Brown
1stLt. C.W. Budd
2ndLt. G.W. Clunk

1stLt. W.B. Caldwell
2ndLt. R.F. Webb
2ndLt. C.W. Egan
2ndLt. S.A. Ledbetter

1stLt. G.B. Carroll, Jr.
2ndLt. E.F. Wall
1stLt. G.F. Whitney
1stLt. J.O.L. Stonelake
1stLt. G.R. Katzenbach

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
CONFIDENTIAL
VNF-113/93
VNTB-131/24
REPORT No. VNF-314/24

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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

H.H. RIDDER,
USNOR

SIGNATURE

Capt.
Gr. ASIO

RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

N.T. POST, JR.

SIGNATURE **USMC**

LtCol.
GrOp. Of.

RANK AND DUTY

7 July 1945

DATE

VNF-113:

One plane was forced to make a crash landing at home base due to failure of right landing gear. This plane was only slightly damaged.

All other material and equipment operative in a satisfactory manner.

VNTB-131:

One bomb hung up in the bomb bay of one aircraft, and was jettisoned.

All other material and equipment operative in a satisfactory manner.

VNF-314:

For the first time since arriving in this combat area the 20mm guns did not function with their usual high efficiency. One failure due to mechanism screws on front plate causing a feed failure. One failure due to feed mechanism not rewinding properly. One failure, Breechblock failed to pick up a round. Two failures due to faulty ammunition. One failure due to Sear cover became loose resulting in a failure to eject and put a new round in position in the chamber. One failure, round did not line up with chamber properly. One failure, Broken feed mechanism, appeared to be wound too tightly. One Rocket did not fire because the pigtail pulled out. It may not have feed socketed securely. One Rocket did not fire because it was defective. Eight Rockets did not release because of faulty circuit. Four planes released in salvo but only 6 rockets fired.