

VMB-613

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174
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Report # 18

#d(1s)

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(RELEASABILITY WHEN
APPROVED)

I. GENERAL

**Kwajalein Is. & Atoll,
forward echelon Eniwetok
Island & Atoll.**

(a) Unit Reporting **VMB 613** (b) Based on or at **Island & Atoll.** (c) Report No. **18**
 (d) Take off: Date **1 March, 1945** Time (LZT) **0600** (Zone); Lat. **11° - 20' N** Long **162° - 21' E**
 (e) Mission **Reconnoitre Ponape Island** (f) Time of Return **1215** (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)		
PEJ-1H	VMB 613	1	None	1	None 21 rnds. 75 mm. 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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			

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SECRET
Do not classify when filled out

(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, west side Ponape Island. (b) Time Over Target(s) 0800-1000 (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 2,500' cumulus, 6-7/10ths. (BASE 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 Level (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) ~~Sight~~ Sight Used AN-APC-13 (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run (NUMBER) Spacing (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release (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)
<u>Deck installations and four boats.</u> 2	<u>100 yds.sq.</u>	<u>1 PRJ-1H VMB 613</u>	<u>9 75 mm. shells 1500 rnds. 50 cal.</u>	<u>6 1500</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>
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).

This target, consisting of two docks, two bathhouses for fuel storage etc., three 20' boats and a 12' rowboat, was discovered at the end of a winding inlet on the west side of Ponape Island. Five runs were made starting from 1500 yds. range and 2,500' altitude. Two shells were fired on all but one run and the target was strafed with nose and waist and all guns. All four boats were sunk at their moorings and the two buildings were left burning fiercely.

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

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(Reclassify when filled out)

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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 for a routine search of Ponape Island with orders to attack targets of opportunity. Arriving on station at 0800 the plane took up a circling patrol of the island. At approximately 0930, while turning in from the west shore of the island to observe the new airfield, a dock installation and four boats were discovered at the head of a winding inlet. Five runs were made, totally destroying the installation and the boats. The reconnaissance was continued until 1000 as ordered but no further activity or targets were observed. The plane returned to base, landing at 1215.

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marked 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., S-2 RANK AND DUTY

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

7 March, 1945