

VNMB-012

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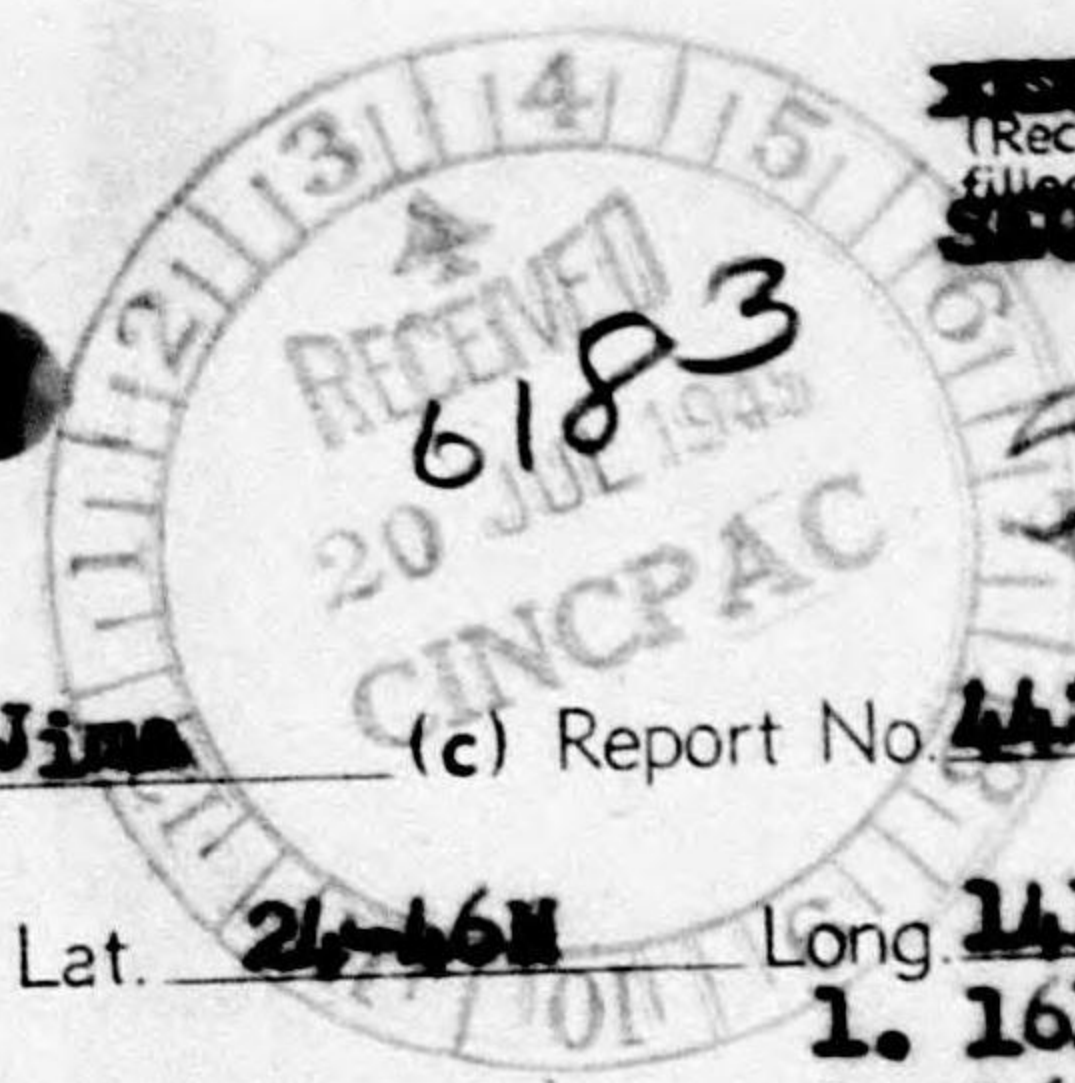
Report # 442

#C(14)

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AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

16636



Reclassify when filled out

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB 612 (b) Based on or at South Field, Iwo Jima (c) Report No 442
 (d) Take off: Date 16 July 1945 Time (GGT) 2. 160653Z (Zone); Lat. 24-46N Long. 141-16E
 (e) Mission Night low altitude rocket mission. Location of targets and firing of rockets by radar. (f) Time of Return 2. 162043Z (one)

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-10	VMB 612	1	0	1	8 HVAR 3.25 motors MK 7 5.0 head(GP) MK 1 8 HVAR 3.25 Motors MK 7 5.0 head(GP) MK 1 2 Photo flash, MK 46	MK 146 base, non delay MK 149 nose, instantaneous MK 146 base, non delay MK 149 nose, instantaneous AN-M111A2, 5 sec delay

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? (YES OR NO) _____ If so, Describe Clouds _____ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance _____ (k) Visibility _____ (MILES)
 (j) of Sun or Moon _____ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON, DAY, OVERCAST, ETC.)

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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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	
PBJ-1D	777	777	9.9	1404	1140		8			1
PBJ-1J	914	914	11.8	1404	1223					1

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

SPEED, CLIMB, at various altitudes
 TURNS
 DIVES
 CEILINGS
 RANGE
 PROTECTION
 ARMAMENT

NONE

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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
Defense 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

1. One PBJ searched sector G. This sector includes a flight from Iwo Jima to 31-20N, 131-27E, a search of the coastal area including Ariake Wan, to 30-25N, 129-50E, from there return to base. A radar indication was picked up in Kagoshima Kaiwan and PBJ investigated, sighting a well lighted 200 foot vessel. The ship appeared to be some type of repair craft. Vessel was at 31-27N, 130-42E, and was not underway. PBJ attacked on a true course of 355° at an indicated air speed of 185 knots and an altitude of 300'. 8 rockets were away at 161405Z. Crew observed 2 hits in vessel's superstructure. The ships lights remained on during attack, were turned out immediately after rockets hit target. No other sightings were reported.

2. One PBJ searched sector F. This sector includes a search from Iwo Jima to 32-40N, 133-05E, a search of Bungo Suido and Hyuga Nada to 31-20N, 131-27E, then return to base. The PBJ reached Bungo Suido then proceeded into the Inland Sea. A target was picked up on radar scope at 33-50N, 131-43E, as this was a blind bombing zone, PBJ attacked without further investigation. Attack was made on true course of 315° at an indicated air speed of 170 knots and an altitude of 300'. 8 rockets were fired at 161500Z. 2 rockets were seen hitting side of target, which was identified as a 175 foot vessel of undetermined type, on course of 270° making approximately 12 knots. Extent of damage was not determined. Immediately after the attack, six small vessels ranging in size from 75 feet to 150 feet were sighted as follows: 3 vessels at 33-37N, 132-11E, 2 vessels at 33-44N, 131-55E and 1 vessel at 33-53N, 131-51E. PBJ then left the attack area to continue the assigned search. A vessel three to four hundred feet in length was sighted at 33-22N, 131-52E, at 161515Z. Ship was on course of 245° making approximately 11 knots. PBJ contacted 52V225, also received roger from Airdale 598, who in turn transmitted to Playmate (unknown number).

No other sightings were reported.

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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

No comment.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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COMMANDING OFFICER

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16 July 1945
DATE