

VMF-114

5

165
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Report # 27-45

#c(17)

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

RESTRICTED
Reclassify when
filled out

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REPORT No. 27-45

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Babelthuap Airstrip. (b) Time Over Target(s) 1450-1452 King (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target 2000' ceiling, .5 cloud cover. (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND PERCENTS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 10 miles (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Dive Bomb Sight Used _____ (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 1 Spacing _____ Altitude of Bomb Release 1250 (NUMBER) (FEET)

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

(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 Babelthuap Airstrip.		16 VMF 114	16 x 1 x 1000 G. P. bomb	16	Serious
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.)

Sixteen hits on the strip were obtained from sixteen bombs dropped. The strip was rendered unserviceable.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes. Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple

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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

Major Robert TUCKER led a sixteen-plane strike of VMF-114 against the Babelthuap airstrip, Babelthuap Island, which had been reported serviceable following enemy repairs. The planes were airborne at 1425 and proceeded directly to the target area in columns of sections formation. The pilots pushed over into their dives at approximately 6000 feet and ran the target from west to east, altitude of releases averaging 1250 feet; and retirement was made to the east and south. All bombs hit the strip, rendering it completely unserviceable. Accurate and intense light A/A fire and meager but accurate heavy A/A were encountered from known enemy positions near the target. Pulling out of his bombing run First Lieutenant R. S. RASH was hit in the right oil cooler by a burst of heavy enemy A/A. Faced with a loss of oil pressure and rise in temperature, Lieutenant RASH bailed out from about 3500 feet over the sea 6000 yards east southeast of target. He was in the water approximately ten minutes before being picked up by one of our surface craft, the PGM-10 which retruned him to base later that evening. Lieutenant RASH suffered no injuries. His was the only plane to be hit.

The remaining aircraft returned safely to base at 1525, with the exception of one division which assumed combat air patrol until 1600, following the bombing.

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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

Aarmor; 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:

C. J. DRESCHER, Captain, ACIO.

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

R. TUCKER, Major, (C. O.)

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

8 Mar 45

DATE

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