

VMB-612

13
⑬

Report # 3913

IC(14)

5

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

54964

I. GENERAL

SECRET

(a) Unit Reporting VMB 612 (b) Based on or at South Field, Iwo Jima (c) Report No. 393
GCT
 (d) Take off: Date 7 May 1945 Time ~~(Zone)~~ 070921 Z (Zone); Lat. 24°-46' N Long. 141°-21' E
Night low altitude anti-shipping and harassment of Bonin Islands. GCT
 (e) Mission Location of targets and firing of rockets by radar. (f) Time of Return 071943 Z (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)		
<u>PBJ-1D</u>	<u>VMB 612</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Mk 7 Motor 8 Rockets Mk 1 Body</u>	<u>Mk 146 Base, non delay</u>
					<u>2 Photo flash bombs Mk 16 2 Para-flares Mk 6 Modific. 3</u>	<u>N 111A2 Set to go off 300 feet below aircraft</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
							<u>NONE</u>

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
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			

(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 _____

(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON, DAY, OVERCAST, ETC.)

(k) Visibility _____

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

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

~~SECRET~~
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~~SECRET~~

REPORT No. 393

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	
F4U-7D	717	717	10.1	1100	997		0			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). ~~NONE~~

SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

TURNS
 DIVES
 CEILINGS
 RANGE
 PROTECTION
 ARMAMENT

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

SECRET

REPORT No 393

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

GCT

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Okimura Town, Haha Jima (TA 331) (b) Time Over Target(s) 071845 Z (~~1300~~)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 6/10 alto stratus, 5000 foot base, 7000 foot top
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 3 to 4
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) ~~Bombing~~ Tactics: Type Rocket Bomb Sight Used APQ-5
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

~~Rockets fired~~ Rockets fired ~~Bombs Dropped~~ per Run 8 Spacing 0 Altitude of ~~Bomb~~ Release Rocket 4500
(NUMBER) (FEET) (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 <u>Okimura Town</u>	<u>400 by 100 yards</u>	(j) <u>1</u> (k) <u>VMB 612</u>	<u>8 Rockets</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>Unobserved</u>
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).

Three rockets observed to explode in approximate center of town. Remaining rockets unobserved.

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

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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SECRET

REPORT No 393

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 Fighting 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

FBI was assigned shipping search of sector A. This sector includes a course from Iwo Jima to 27°-00' N, 141°-00' E, search of coast line including Sagami Nada to 34°-32' N, 139°-05' E, and return to base via Miyake, Hachijo Jima and the Bonin Islands. The normal sector was altered to include a thorough search of Haha Jima and Chichi Jima on both outgoing and return leg of sector for a reported enemy submarine. The search was negative.

Eight rockets were fired on Okimura Town, Haha Jima from a range of 2 1/2 miles, speed 180 knots, and course 090°. Three rockets were observed to hit and explode in approximate center of town.

Several lights were seen along east coast of Hachijo Jima.

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RESTRICTED
~~CIRCULATION~~
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SECRET

REPORT No. 393

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

No comments.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

CLIFF W. PERRY
SIGNATURE

1st Lt. USMC
RANK AND DUTY

LAWRENCE F. FOX
SIGNATURE

MAJOR USMC
RANK AND DUTY

7 May 1945

ASSISTANT INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

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COMMANDING OFFICER