

VMF-113

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Report # 84

IIc(16)

5

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when  
filled out)

14258

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMP-113 (b) Based on or at Charlie Airstrip, Ie Shima Report No. 55701  
(d) Take off: Date 16 June, 1945 Time (LZT) 0530 (I) (Zone); Lat. 26° 43' N Long. 127° 47' E  
(e) Mission Ground Support Mission, Southern Okinawa (f) Time of Return 0840 (I) (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)		
F4U-1D	VMP-113	7	0	7	1 - 1000# GP 4 - AR 5" HB Head, Inst.-HD	Nose: Inst. Tail: Cont.
P-1D	VMP-113	4	0	4	1 - 1000# GP 4 - AR 5" HB Head, Inst.-HD	Nose: Inst. Tail: Cont.

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
F4U-1D	VMP-422	7	Charlie Airstrip, Ie Shima				
P-1D	VMP-422	5	Charlie Airstrip, Ie Shima				

## 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	(ZONE)	None	None	None
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) None  
Did Any Part of  
(i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? No If so, Describe Clouds \_\_\_\_\_ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)  
(YES OR NO)  
Time of Day and Brilliance  
(j) of Sun or Moon None (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON, DAY, OVERCAST, ETC.) (k) Visibility None (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		
None	None	None	None	None	None	None

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## VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those listed in II only).

(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 <b>None</b>		<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>
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).

(a) NO.	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NAME, RANK OR RATING	(d) CAUSE	(e) CONDITION OR STATUS
	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>

## 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	
<b>F4U-1D</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>F3-1D</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2850</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

## IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	<b>0</b>			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	<b>0</b>			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	<b>0</b>			

## X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (use check list at left).

SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes

- TURNS
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

**No enemy aircraft encountered.**

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No gl

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Enemy concentration on Ridge, Southern Okinawa (b) Time Over Target(s) 0630 (1) (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 3/10 Cumulus - 2000 Feet (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility Unlimited (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used AR MKS Mod. 6 (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run One (NUMBER) Spacing \_\_\_\_\_ (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 1000 (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)
1	Enemy held ridge Target Squares 7356-7456 (Air Support Chart No. 57 Okinawa)	11 VME-113	11 - 1000# GP	11	Undetermined
2			14 - AR 5" HE Head, Inst.-HD	14	Undetermined
3			7850 - rounds .50 Cal.	-	Undetermined
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).

One bomb struck the center of a small village, causing a large explosion which indicated a hit direct on a fuel or ammunition dump. All bombs and rockets were seen to strike in the target area but extent of damage undetermined.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No 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  
Fuzeing  
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

(16 June, 1945) Three divisions of VME-113 planes took off at 0530 Item this date as part of a combined ground support mission to southern Okinawa led by Major Elkin S. DEW of VME-422. The objective assigned was enemy concentrations on a ridge passing through target squares 7356-7456 (Air Support Chart No. 57 Okinawa).

Each VME-113 plane was equipped with one 1000# GP bomb and four 5" rockets. The VME-422 planes carried Napalm and rockets.

When airborne, the flight was passed from Handyman to Maggie controls. Target assignment and briefing were handled by Maggie.

The target area was located after several dummy runs and Major DEW went in and dropped one Napalm tank to insure proper orientation of the flight.

The VME-113 planes made their approach along the western coast line in a N-S direction at 8000 feet, then made a 180° left turn into the target, releasing from a 45° glide at 3000 feet and pulling out at 1500 to recover after a long run with a right turn and rendezvous off the west coast. This maneuver was repeated in the rocket and strafing runs which followed the bombing run.

All bombs were seen to strike in the target area along the ridge. One bomb struck the center of a small village at 7456 X-ray, causing a large explosion. Observer opinion indicates a direct hit on fuel or ammunition dump.

All rockets, some of which were fired in salvo and some in pairs, struck along the ridge. There were no concentration of either bomb or rocket hits observed. Spacing was good and good coverage of the entire ridge attained.

The ridge was heavily strafed with .50 caliber by all planes participating.

Small arms fire against the planes and ten small black puffs of A/A at 2000 feet well ahead of the flight were observed.

The following VME-113 pilots participated:

Maj. W.J. SIMS - Division leader  
2nd Lt. H.E. WENDT - Wingman  
1st Lt. Russell HUNCHAR - Section leader  
1st Lt. B.J. KELLEHER - Wingman  
Capt. W.A. BALWIN - Division leader  
2nd Lt. D.C. HALLQUIST - Wingman  
1st Lt. B.N. FUTILLER - Section leader  
2nd Lt. L.E. NOLAN - Wingman  
1st Lt. C.P. WOODBURY - Division leader  
2nd Lt. L.R. WEATHERSBEE - Wingman  
2nd Lt. P.J. MILLER - Section leader

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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

**One plane failed to take-off due to brake trouble. Brakes were found to be frozen. All other material and equipment performed in a satisfactory manner.**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

*A.H. Jordan*  
SIGNATURE **A.H. JORDAN**

**Capt., ACIO**  
RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY  
*Hensley Williams*  
SIGNATURE **HENSLEY WILLIAMS**

**Major, CO**  
RANK AND DUTY

**16 June, 1945**  
DATE

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