

VMB-612

13
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Report # 428

HIC(14)

5

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

~~RESTRICTED~~
(Reclassify when filled out)

SECRET

55915

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB 612 (b) Based on or at South Field, Iwo Jima (c) Report No. 438
 (d) Take off: Date 23 June 1945 Time (LZT) 230948 Z (Zone); Lat. 21-46N Long 141-16E
Flight low altitude anti shipping search. Target
 (e) Mission location and firing of rockets by radar (f) Time of Return 232040Z (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>FBJ-10</u>	<u>VMB 612</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>8 rockets, 5" head MK 6 5" motor MK 1</u>	<u>MK 146, base, non delay MK 149 nose, instantaneous</u>
					<u>2 Photo flash MK 46*</u>	<u>MK-111A2-5 sec. delay</u>

*One plane did not carry photo flash bombs.

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

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 _____
(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). NONE

(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		

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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	
P-51-D	804	804	10.50	1400			0			3

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over				
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

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(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) Convoy of 6 ships 35-104, 141-054 **231435 Z**
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(b) Time Over Target(s) Ship 35-104, 141-054 **231445 Z** (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target 1500 feet, base, strato cu 9/10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.)

(e) Visibility Target #1, 15 miles
Target #2, 4 miles
(MILES)

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

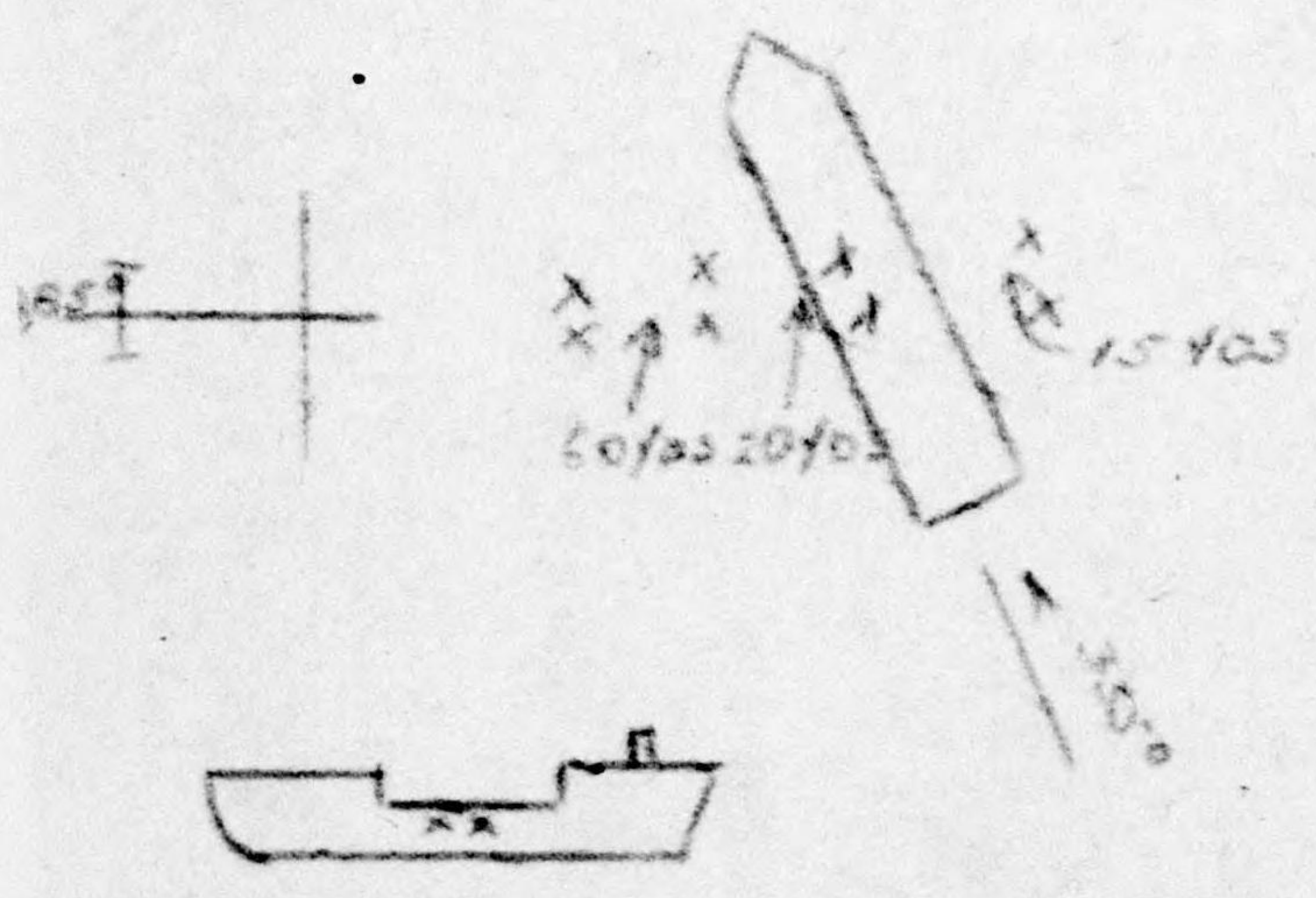
Bombs Dropped per Run 8 Spacing 25 Altitude of Bomb Release 200
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

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

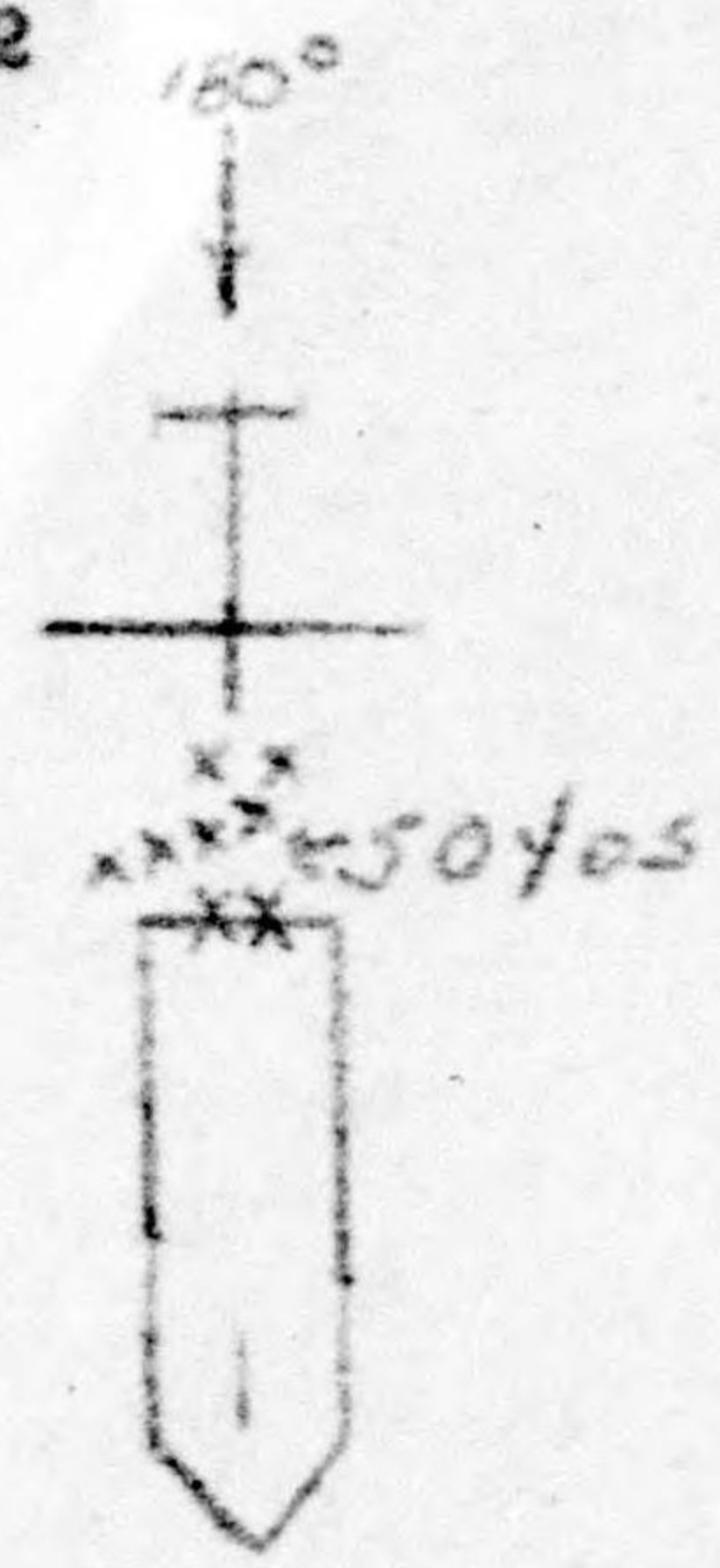
(h) AIMING POINT	(i) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(j) NO A/C ATTACKING (k) SQUADRON	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
1 Ship, SUS	175 ft.	(j) 1 (k) VMB 612	8 rockets, 5" HVAR	2	Unobserved
2 Ship, PTD	300 ft.	1 (k) VMB 612	8 rockets, 5" HVAR	2	Unobserved
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).

Target #1



Target #2



(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.
Photo of target #2 only, no image.

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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 Fighting Tactics
- Use of Jamming

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Bombing Tactics
- Torpedo Tactics
- Effectiveness of Bombs, Torpedoes
- Fuzing
- Strafing Tactics
- Defense Tactics
- Use of Radar
- Reconnaissance
- Photography
- Briefing

OPERATIONAL

- Navigation
- Homing
- Rendezvous
- Recognition, Ships
- Communications
- Flight Operations
- Search and Tracking
- Base Operations
- Maintenance

PBJ was assigned night anti shipping search of A sector (Iwo Jima to 27-00N, 142-20E, thence to 35-40N, 141-00E, search Honshu coast line southward to Nojima Zaki, Sagami Nada, to 34-32N, 139-05E and return to base via Miyake Jima, Hachijo and Bonin Islands searching each area).

Two submarines were sighted as follows: 31-10N, 141-10E, time 231318Z and 34-35N, 141-20E, time 231356Z. Both were in submarine patrol zone so were not investigated other than to identify as submarine.

Radar contact from 15 miles was made on a 6 ship convoy located at 35-40N, 141-05E, on course of 335°, speed approximately 7 kts. These ships were identified as SCB all about 175 feet long. When first sighted visually, all had running lights on and one flashed red blinker signals as PBJ came in on attack. A rocket attack was made on one of center ships in convoy as follows: course of A/C 085°, speed 180 kts, altitude 200', range 1950 yds, fired 8 rockets, time 231435Z. Two hits were scored amidships, on side of ship, the remaining 6 rockets were observed to hit short in water. Extent of damage was unobserved.

PBJ completed search of sector making following sightings: small craft, unidentified as to type at 35-05N, 139-39E, time 231517Z, and single stack, flush deck DD, anchored at 34-30N, 138-42E, time 231517Z.

PBJ was assigned search of B sector (Iwo Jima to 27-00N, 142-20E, thence to 34-45N, 140-00E search Sagami Nada and Suruga Wan to 34-30N, 138-20E and return to base via Miyake Jima, Hachijo Jima and the Bonin Islands, searching each area).

An SBG, approximately 200 feet long was sighted at 34-47N, 138-25E, time 231415Z on course 050°, speed 10 kts. While preparing to make attack the rockets fired prematurely, no attack was made.

PBJ completed search making additional contacts as follows: 2 vessels (radar contact only) 35-06N, 139-32E, 231443Z and friendly sub at 31-35N, 141-40E at 231655Z.

PBJ was assigned search of F sector (Iwo Jima to 31-20N, 131-27E, search west coast of Shikoku through Bungouido, east coast of Kyushu to 31-20N, 131-27E, and return to base.)

A 300 ft FTD was located at 33-14N, 132-18E, on course of 180°, speed 7 kts and attacked as follows: course of A/C 180°, speed 180 kts, altitude 200 ft, range 1990 yds, time 231445Z, 8 rockets fired. Two hits were observed on the stern of ship near water line. The remaining 6 rockets were observed to hit short of target in water. Extent of damage unobserved.

PBJ completed search making no additional contacts

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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

No comment.

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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

CLIFF H. PERRY 1st Lt., USMC
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
ASSISTANT INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

JACK R. GRAM Lt. Col., USMC
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
COMMANDING OFFICER

24 June 1945
DATE