

VNF-111

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Report # 234

LIC (15)

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# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

REPRODUCTION  
(When filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

**SECRET**

REPORT No 234

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Langer Island and #2 Airfield  
Ponape Island, Caroline Islands. Time Over Target(s) 1410 Mike (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target None over Langer Island. 8/10 6000' base over #2 Airfield.  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Langer Island clear, #2 Airfield  
partially obscured by clouds. (e) Visibility 10 miles  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Dive Bomb Sight Used None  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run Two Spacing None Altitude of Bomb Release 2000'-2500'  
(NUMBER) (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 Langer Island Ponape Island	1/2 mile 1/2 x mile	13 F4U-1D VMF-111	25-500# GP	21	Not observed.
2 Runway #2 Airfield.	3800' x 340'	2 F4U-1D VMF-111	4-500# GP	2	Not observed.
3 Jokaj Ridge AA Area.	600' x 200'	2 F4U-1D VMF-111	4-500# GP	4	Not observed.
4			(Targets were strafed with 4600 rounds .50 caliber).		Not observed.
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.)

- Specific targets were the oil tanks and barracks in the southwestern portion of Langer Island and the two heavy AA positions on the ridge of Langer. Twenty five bombs were dropped. One hung up and was jet-tisoned. Four fell in the water. There were twenty one hits in the target area. One was a direct hit on barracks building nearest the oil tanks.
- Two planes dropped with two hits on the runway and two misses.
- Since the runway was inoperational, two planes did not bomb this target but acting under instructions, bombed AA area of Jokaj Ridge, with unobserved results.

(p) No  
Two planes carried cameras but these failed to function. 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  
Defensive 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

Eighteen F4U-1D's from this squadron and one PBJ escort from VMB-613 took off from Eniwetok at 1145 Mike on 11 April 1945, to strike Ponape Island, in the Carolines. Targets were Langar Island, in the northern portion of the Ponape lagoon and the runway of the number two airfield on Ponape. Shortly after take-off, the pilot of one plane found that his instruments were not operating and returned to base. The remainder of the F4U's followed the PBJ at 150 knots IAS down to Ponape. The trip was uneventful. Numerous scattered showers were observed with cloud coverage ranging from two-tenths to eight-tenths with bases from fifteen hundred to eight thousand feet.

On reaching the target, the PBJ turned off to the west of the northern portion of Ponape reef and circled in the rendezvous area, observing the action. Divisions one, three and four, led respectively by Major Kelley, flight and division leader, Lt. Beswick and Lt. Browning, attacked Langar Island installations. Division two, led by Captain Rickert, attacked the runway of number two airfield. Major Kelley's division dive bombed the two oil tanks and two barracks buildings in the southwestern portion of the island. Lt. Beswick's division dive bombed the anti-aircraft positions on the ridge of Langar Island. Lt. Browning's division followed with an attack on the oil tanks and barracks buildings. Lt. Corr of this division, scored a direct hit on one of the barracks buildings. One of Lt. Stevenson's bombs failed to release and was jettisoned. Two planes had to release manually, and the four bombs fell in the lagoon, very close to Langar Island.

Light meager and inaccurate anti-aircraft fire was encountered, both from Jokaj Ridge and Langar Island.

Captain Rickert's division found the runway inoperational. Two planes nevertheless dive bombed the runway scoring two hits and two misses. Captain Rickert and Lt. Schwetje struck the anti-aircraft area of Jokaj Ridge northwest of the number two airfield scoring four hits in the area with unobserved results.

A PB4Y-2 of VPB-121, based at Eniwetok made a single plane strike on the southern portion of Ponape in the Katalanis Bay area just prior to the arrival of the planes from this squadron. This was prearranged, in an effort to divert the Nip radar located on Jokaj Ridge. The PB4Y-2 was tracked constantly by the radar until the planes of this squadron were about to attack and it is believed possible that this introduced the element of surprise which accounted for the lack of heavy and medium anti-aircraft fire from Langar Island.

The number one airfield was observed to be inoperational.

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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 F4U-1D was abortive. This plane turned back shortly after take-off, since its electrical system was not functioning. This was found to be the result of the generator cut-out not functioning.

All other equipment operated satisfactorily.

PILOTS AND PLANES ON FLIGHT

<u>Pilot</u>	<u>Plane</u>
Maj. Kelley	119
2ndLt. Davis	121
2ndLt. Mixson	114
1stLt. Temple	103
Capt. Rickert	120
2ndLt. Wood	106
2ndLt. Schwetje	118
2ndLt. Fahrion	124
1stLt. Beewick	113
2ndLt. Church	112
2ndLt. Waller	123
2ndLt. Flynn	122
1stLt. Browning	117
2ndLt. Clay	119
1stLt. Crawford	107
2ndLt. Brown	108 - Abortive
1stLt. Stevenson	105
2ndLt. Corr	102

REPORT PREPARED BY:

Capt. USMCR  
Intell. Off.

APPROVED BY:

Major, USMCR  
Commanding  
Officer.

13 April 1946

SIGNATURE GEORGE J. PUGH

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE R. D. KELLEY

RANK AND DUTY

DATE