

VMB-612

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Report # 387

LC(14)

5





# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

~~RESTRICTED~~  
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

~~SECRET~~

REPORT No. 167

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Sugar Able Higashi Minato (b) Time Over Target(s) 020910 Z ~~None~~ <sup>GCT</sup>

(c) Clouds Over Target None (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

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

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Rocket Bomb Sight Used None  
Power Glide (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Rockets fired 0 Spacing 0 Altitude of Rocket Release 0  
~~Bombs Dropped~~ (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>Sugar Able</u>	<u>400 feet</u>	(j) <u>1</u> (k) <u>VMB 612</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>None</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).

**Aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft from shore batteries before run was completed.**

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

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REPORT No. 377

SECRET

**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

PBJ was assigned a night search attack mission against shipping in sector A. The aircraft passed Haha Jima during daylight and crew observed visually a large tanker at anchor in Higashi Minato. PBJ made a power glide attack on the vessel, from 3000 feet. Intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire was thrown up by shore batteries around the harbor and PBJ was hit by 75 and 90 mm fire. The port vertical stabilizer and part of the port horizontal stabilizer shot away. PBJ was between 700 and 1000 feet when hit. Pilot managed to pull up and veer away from heaviest concentration of fire. It was necessary to engage the auto-pilot and for both pilot and co-pilot to hold the controls to keep the plane in the air. PBJ was flown back to Iwo. Pilot contacted Agate Base on VHF, informed them of his condition and requested that all ships in the harbor be notified that the crew would parachute close to shore. The aircraft could be seen by Agate Base, as pilot had turned on his landing lights. The crew bailed out at 021019 Z and the plane was seen to spin in, five miles southwest of the island at 021020 Z. 1st Lt. H.F. Darling, co-pilot and Staff Sgt. I. Sutton, 1st radioman, were the only survivors picked up. They stated that all crew members were out of the plane except Lt. Jarrell, who was still at the controls when they left the aircraft.

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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 comments.**

**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:

**JOHN H. WHIPP**

SIGNATURE

**2ndLt., USMC**

RANK AND DUTY

**LAWRENCE P. FOX**

SIGNATURE

**MAJOR, USMC**

RANK AND DUTY

**2 May 1945**

DATE

**ASSISTANT INTELLIGENCE OFFICER**

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