

VME-111

129
⑮

Report # 255

Itc(1s)

6

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

14254
17986

I. GENERAL

S E C R E T

(a) Unit Reporting VMF-111 (b) Based on or at Majuro (c) Report No. 265
 (d) Take off: Date 18 June, 1946 Time (LZT) 1155 M (Zone); Lat. 07-05-35N Long 171-22-40E
 (e) Mission Bomb A-3 - Command Post, Emidj Island, Jaluit Atoll. (f) Time of Return 1410 M (Zone)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

(a) TYPE	(b) SQUADRON	NUMBER			(f) BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE)	(g) FUZE, SETTING
		(c) TAKING OFF	(d) ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	(e) ATTACKING TARGET		
F4U-1D	VMF-111	5	0	5	1x1400#(175gal)Napalm 2x100# Incend. Clusters	Nose - Inst. Gren. Midship - None Tail - 2 Inst. Gren. Tail - Inst.

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
F4U-1D	VMF-155	5	Kwajalein	SB2C	HQ80-13	3	Majuro (Air Coordin-ator and Escort)
SB2C	VMGB-231	18	Majuro	300-3	- - -	2	USS Nevada (Spotter)
SB2C	VMGB-331	18	Majuro	F4U	HQ90-4	1	Kwajalein (Stand-by Spotter)
PBM	VH-5	2	Majuro (Dumbo)				None

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
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____
 Did Any Part of _____
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? _____ If so, Describe Clouds _____ (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		

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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	F4U-1D VMP-111	Enemy AA - probably 7.7mm	Wing	Minor
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-1D	120	120	2.5	230	140	X	0	X	X	5

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

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

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)

REPORT No **285**

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) **Target A-3 - Command Post, Enidj Island, Jaluit Atoll.** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1250-1320W** (one)
- (c) Clouds Over Target **1000-8000 Cumulus and Stratus .7**
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target **Partially obscured by clouds.** (e) Visibility **20** (MILES)
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Level** Bomb Sight Used **None**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run **3** Spacing **None** Altitude of Bomb Release **50**
(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 Target A-3 Command Post		5 VWF-111	5x1400#(175gal)Napalm. 10x100#Inc. Clusters. 13		One large explosion-several fires.
2 Enidj Island, Jaluit Atoll.					
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 layout of hits. For all targets give location and effect of hits, and identify by numbers above. Use additional sheets if necessary.)

(p) Were Photographs Taken? **Yes** Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.
Photographs and negatives delivered to Commander, Majuro Air Group, for forwarding.

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REPORT No. 055

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

Six Corsairs from this squadron took off on 18 June for Jaluit Atoll on a dive bombing attack against the Command Post, target A-3 on Emdj Island. This was a part of an all day air-surface attack on this command post and other targets on Emdj.

POW interrogation had shown this Command Post to be very strongly built being covered with from fifteen to twenty feet of concrete and twenty to thirty feet of coconut logs and earth. This shelter is occupied during raids by the ranking Naval officer, the ranking Army officer, and the chief governmental official of the Marshall Islands area as well as by about one hundred other officers. Numerous bombing attacks have been made in the past on this shelter, without too much damage. It was believed that bombardment by a battleship combined with an aerial attack might bring results.

The USS Nevada, and the DD's Murray and D.W. Taylor carried out a bombardment from some four miles off shore in coordination with an air attack by aircraft of the Majuro Air Group. Dive bombing attacks were made by Corsairs of VMF-155, and by Helldivers of VMGB-331 and 331 at intervals throughout the day when the warships' fire was lifted. Several fires and explosions were observed, one of which continued to explode and burn for fully an hour. This was target A-8. Target B-1, a magazine was also set on fire and burned for over two hours. A large explosion also occurred at target B-4, a magazine.

The final attack was delivered by the Helldivers of VMGB-331, carrying rockets as cover for the low level Napalm and incendiary attack of the VMF-111 Corsairs. The Corsairs came in from 6000 feet, leveling out at 50 feet, with drops from that altitude. Their dives brought the speed at release up to about 320 knots. One Napalm hit the beach on the lagoon side and spread out over the water. The trajectory of the incendiary clusters from this plane caused them to fall within the target area. One other Napalm was also too long, though not in the water. The others formed a good pattern in the target area and a good coverage was obtained, due to the low altitude and speed at which dropped.

Lt. Myers' plane was hit by light AA and minor damage resulted.

Pilots and statistical data are given below.

PILOTS

Major Thomas A. Todd
 Lt. C. D. Dawkins
 Capt. F. L. Holberg
 Lt. A. H. Myers
 Lt. F. J. Schwetje

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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
- Fuzing
- Strafing Tactics
- Defensive Tactics
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OPERATIONAL

- Navigation
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- Communications
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- Search and Tracking
- Base Operations
- Maintenance

WEATHER AND FLIGHT DATA

Weather

<u>To Target</u>	Poor - Average	2000-8000	.8
<u>At Target</u>	Poor	1000-8000	.7
<u>Return</u>	Average	1000-8000	.7

Flight Data

<u>To Target</u>	<u>Altitude</u>	<u>IAS</u>	<u>MFD-Press.</u>	<u>RPW</u>
	8000	180	30 in.	2100
<u>Return</u>	4000	170	33 in.	1750

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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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

Capt. USMCR
Intelligence Off.

APPROVED BY:

Major, USMCR
Commanding Off.

SIGNATURE **GEORGE J. FUGH** RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE **R. D. KELLEY** RANK AND DUTY

DATE