

VMF-113

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Report #75

IC(14)

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

4532  
**SECRET** 8396  
743

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMF-113 *116-3/MAR* (b) Based on or at Engebi, Eniwetok Atoll (c) Report No. 75  
(Majuro Atoll)  
(d) Take off: Date 19 March, 1945 Time (LZT) 1420 M (Zone); Lat 07-05-35N Long 171-22-40E  
(e) Mission Dive Bomb Heavy A/A Position, Taroa Island, (f) Time of Return 1530 M (Zone)  
Maloelap

## 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	VMF-113	6	0	6	2x500/ GP	Nose: None Tail: .1 Sec Delay

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
F4U-1D	VMF-155	6	Kwajalein Atoll				
SBD-5	HQ-13	2	Majuro (Observers)				
PBY-5A	VPB-24	1	Majuro (Dumbo)				

## 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			(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).

(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						



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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).

Maloenap Atoll.

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) C. D. Gun, E. Taroa Isl. (b) Time Over Target(s) 1450 M (Zone)

(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 2000 Cumulus 9/10  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Hazy (e) Visibility 10  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used MK8, Mod. 5, Reflector  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 2 Spacing --- Altitude of Bomb Release 1000  
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 0 Probably Destroyed 0 Damaged 0

(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 South CD Gun A-4 on CTG 96	26 ft in 1 diameter	6 VF-113	11x500 GP	0	None
2 weekly target analysis #27					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

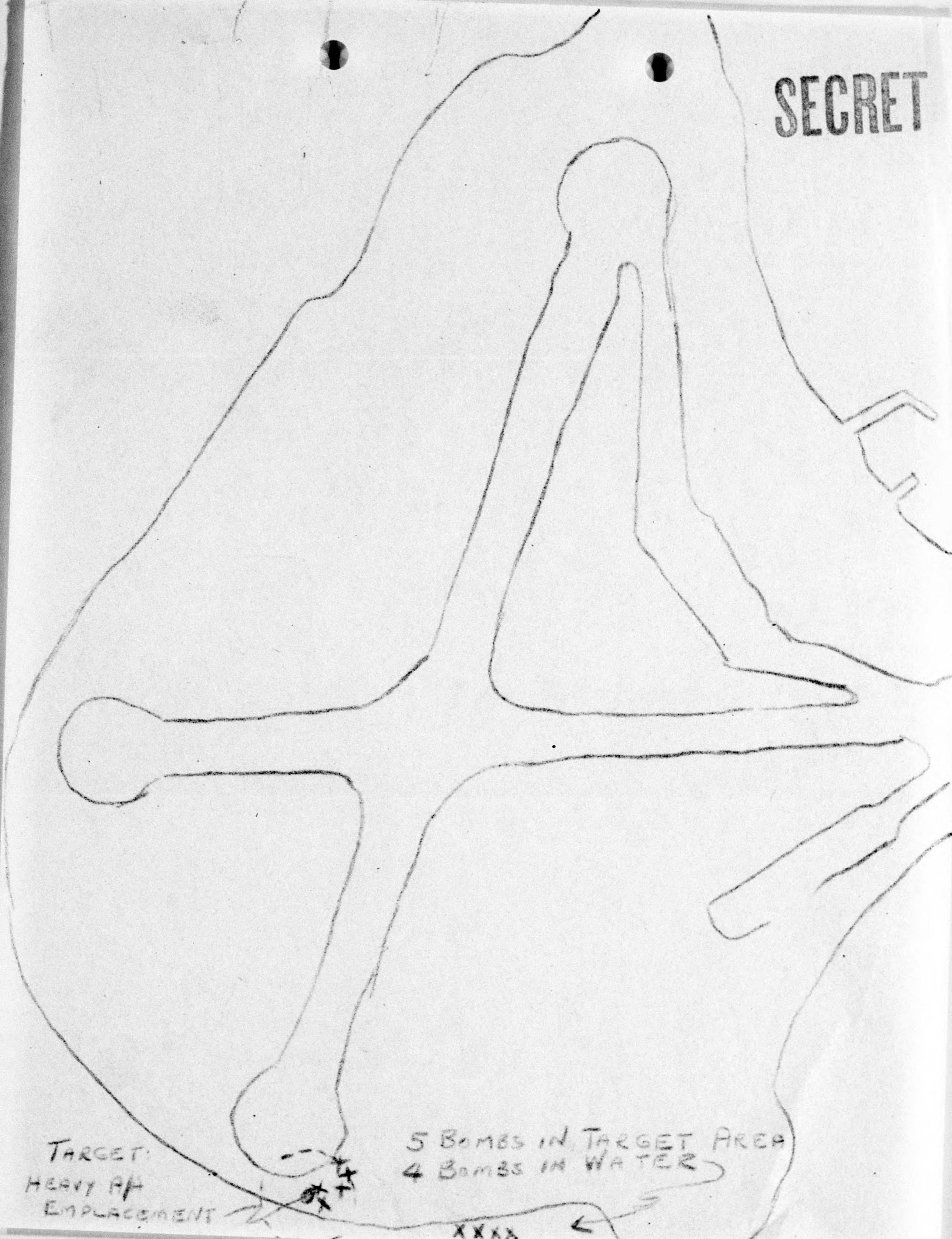
(o) RESULTS: (For all hits claimed on ship targets and for land targets of special interest, draw diagram, top or side view or both, as appropriate, showing type and location of hits. For all targets give location and effect of hits, and identify by numbers above. Use additional sheets if necessary.)

Five of eleven bombs dropped in the target area. Two of eleven hung on racks and dropped in ocean. One bomb dropped off rack of plane on runway before take off. Four bombs missed target area.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

Delivered to Com Majuro Air Group for forwarding.

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TARGET:  
HEAVY AA  
EMPLACEMENT

5 BOMBS IN TARGET AREA  
4 BOMBS IN WATER

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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

At 1420 on this date (19 March 1945) six (6) F4U-1D 's of VMF-113 took off from Majuro airfield as part of a combined strike on Taroa Island, Maloelap Atoll, Marshall. The other element of the attack consisted of six (6) F4U-1D's from VMF-155 based at Kwajalein.

The target assigned to VMF-113 was a heavy A/A emplacement just off the eastern end of the NE-SW runway on the island.

Weather enroute to the target was average, a low lying haze making visibility very poor.

Over the target a 9/10 coverage of cumulus clouds from 2000' to 8000'. Frequent rain squalls obscured the target.

The planes approached the target on a course slightly east of and paralleling the Airik—Taroa leg of the atoll just under the cloud cover at 2000 feet. When opposite Taroa they turned in at 90° from course and went into a shallow glide, releasing at 1000 feet. After recovering and joining up over the lagoon they made a wide circle to the left until they reached the starting position of the first run and went in again to allow one of the planes which did not drop on the first run to release his bombs. The return trip to Majuro airfield was made without incident, the planes setting down at 1530 H.

No direct hits were obtained. Five bombs landed within 200 ft of the target. Three bombs were abortive and the remaining four were out of the target area. No damage to the gun installation was observed.

The following pilots of VMF-113 participated in the strike:

Capt Baldwin, leader	Lt Maulin
Capt Dailey	Lt Hallquist
Lt Smith, H. F.	Lt Flynn

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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:

APPROVED BY:

*W. H. Jordan*  
SIGNATURE **W. H. JORDAN**

**Capt., Intello**  
RANK AND DUTY

*W. J. Sims*  
SIGNATURE **HENLEY WILLIAMS**

**Major, CO**  
RANK AND DUTY

**19 March, 1945**  
DATE