

VMF-155

93
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Report # 114

IC(21)

6

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

SECRET

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VFP-155 (b) Based on or at Majuro Atoll (c) Report No. 114
 (d) Take off: Date 16 March 1945 Time (LZT) 1330 M. (Zone); Lat. 07-05-35N Long 171-22-40E
 (e) Mission Search Motje and Maloelap Atolls. (f) Time of Return 1725M. (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>F4U-1D</u>	<u>VFP-155</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Two planes: 2-325# Depth Bombs</u>	<u>Nose: Inst. Mid-ships: 25 foot hydrostatic Tail: None</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>None</u>							

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
	<u>None</u>		<u>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			

(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 _____ (k) Visibility _____
(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (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		
<u>None</u>						

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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) Power launch, center lagoon beach, Niibunku Is., Wotje Atoll. (b) Time Over Target(s) 1630 H. (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 1500. Cumulus 1/10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

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

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type - Bomb Sight Used -
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run - Spacing - Altitude of Bomb Release -
(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 Power launch, center lagoon beach,		2 F4U-1D VMF-155	Two planes 2400 rds .50 cal. ammunition.	None observed	Believed Serious
2 Niibunku Is., Wotje Atoll.	40' x 5'				
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

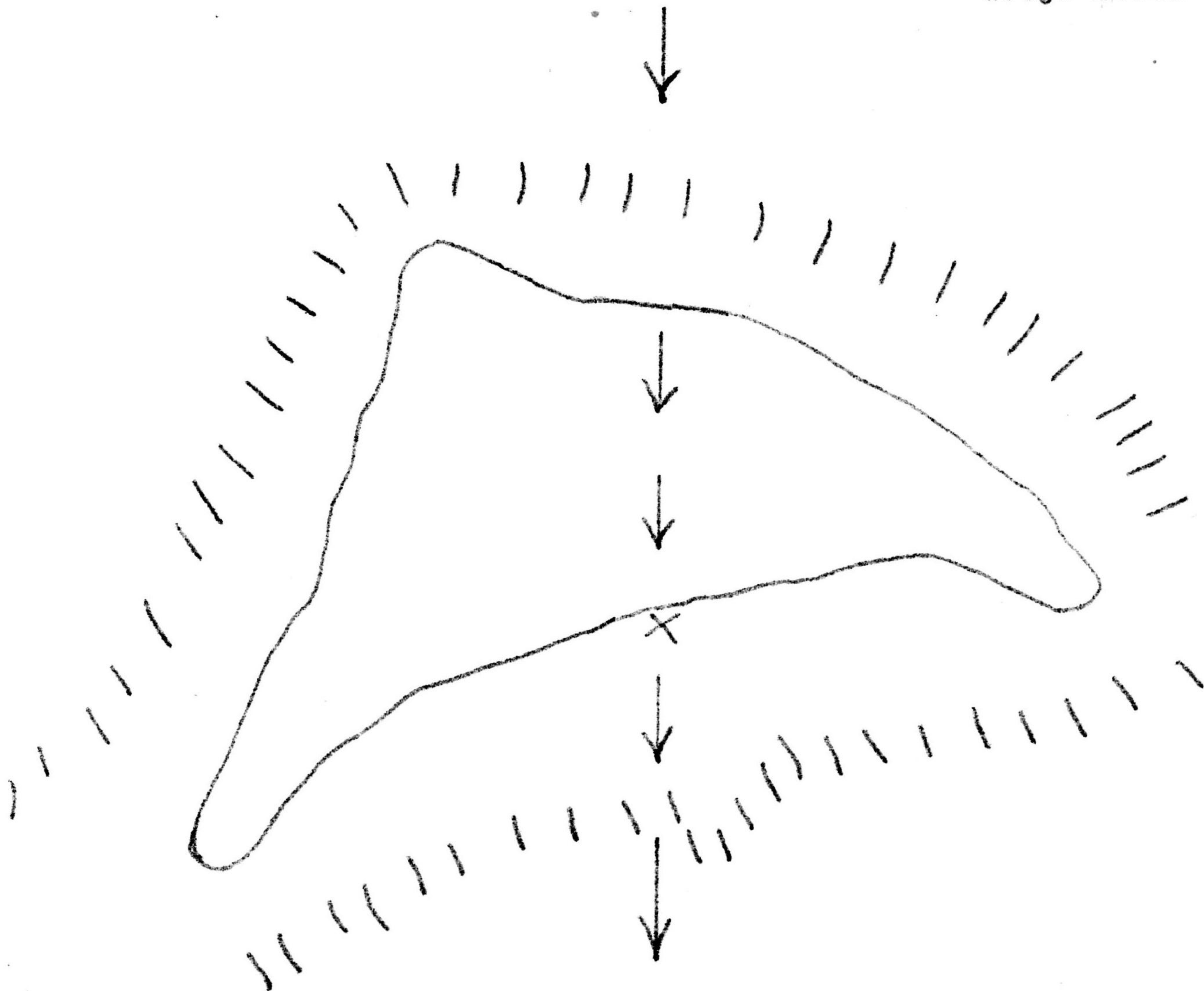
(o) RESULTS: (For all hits claimed on ship targets and for land targets of special interest, draw diagram, top or side view or both, as appropriate, showing type and location of hits. For all targets give location and effect of hits, and identify by numbers above. Use additional sheets if necessary).

1. Evening search planes (21 and 24 V311) strafed a 40 foot power launch which was observed near the center of the lagoon beach of Niibunku Island, Wotje Atoll. 1200 rounds of ammunition were expended in 10 strafing runs but the boat was so well camouflaged that the results could not be observed.

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

SECRET

Niibunku Island
Wotje Atoll



X Indicates where boat was strafed.
Damaged unobserved.
Arrows indicate direction of strafing runs.

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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
Use of Radar
Reconnaissance
Photography
Briefing

OPERATIONAL

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

Evening search planes (21 and 24 V311) while engaged in a perimeter search of Motje Atoll observed a 40 foot power launch under the trees near the center of the lagoon beach of Niibunku Island. The boat was well camouflaged, however in ten strafing runs the pilots were able to observe that it was set on props and had been freshly painted white. The launch was of the inboard motor type. The strafing runs were made from south to north. Although the results were unobserved, damage must have been inflicted because tracers were seen to enter the camouflaged position.

Pilots participating in the search were:

DUTKIN, A., 1stLt., USMC
DUNLOP, J.D., 2ndLt., USMC

