

VMF 155

9B

(21)

Report # 129

HC (21)

6

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

6658

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

10333

SECRET

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMF-155 (b) Based on or at Majuro Atoll (c) Report No. 129
 (d) Take off: Date 11 April, 1945 Time (LZT) 0730 M (Zone); Lat. 07-05-35N Long. 171-22-40E
 (e) Mission Bomb and Strafe AN Positions, Enidj Is., Jaluit Atoll (f) Time of Return 0945 M (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)		
F4U-1D	VMF-155	6	0	6	<u>Six Planes: 3 - 125# Frag. Clusters</u>	Nose: none. Midships: inst. Tail: none.

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
SB2C-4	VMSB-331	11	<u>Majuro Atoll</u>	PBY-5	AVPB-24	1	<u>Majuro Atoll (Dumbo)</u>
SB2C-4	VMSB-331	1	<u>Majuro Atoll (Air Co-ordinator)</u>				
SB2C-4	VMSB-331	1	<u>Majuro Atoll (Photo)</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>		(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 _____ (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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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)
F4U-1D 2	VMF-155	Enemy 20MM AA Gun	Port Wing, Mid Board Gun Port.	Wing Change.
F4U-1D 4	VMF-155	Bomb Fragments	Eight Small Holes Underside of Fuselage, and both wings	Minor Damage.
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).

(a) NO.	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NAME, RANK OR RATING	(d) CAUSE	(e) CONDITION OR STATUS
		None		

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	2.2	237	147	0	6000	0	0	6

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (use check list at left).

- SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes
- TURNING
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

No enemy aircraft encountered.

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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) AW Positions, Central Part, Midj Is., Jaluit Atoll. (b) Time Over Target(s) 0830 H (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 1500, Cumulus .1 - high overcast from 10000 to unknown
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility Over 30 Miles
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used AN-MK-8
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run Six Planes/ Three Spacing None Altitude of Bomb Release 800
(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 AW Positions Back of N. Hangar, Midj Is.,	60'x100'	4-F4U-1D VMF-155	Four Planes: 12 - 125# Frag Clusters 1500 Rds. of 50 Cal. Ammunition	Numerous	Not Observed
32 AW Positions at base of Elbow Pier, Midj Is.	40'x20'	4-F4U-1D VMF-155	Four Planes: 2500 Rounds of .50 Cal. Ammunition	Numerous	Not Observed
53 AW Positions on NE Coast, Near Old Gun Position, Midj Is.	60'x30'	2-F4U-1D VMF-155	Two Planes: 6 - 125# Frag Clusters 500 Rounds of .50 Cal. Ammunition	Numerous	Not Observed
74 AW Positions N. of Service Apron, Lagoon Coast, Midj Is.	60'x20'	2-F4U-1D VMF-155	Two Planes: 1500 Rounds of .50 Cal. Ammunition	Numerous	Not Observed

(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. AW Positions back of N. Hangar: Four planes expended twelve clusters on this target with 90% of the individual bombs hitting squarely in the target area. These planes strafed the target with 1500 rounds during the bombing run. Damage was not observed but it is believed that personnel casualties must have been inflicted.

2. AW Positions at base of elbow pier: Same four planes which attacked target 1, strafed this target with 2500 rounds scoring numerous hits in the area.

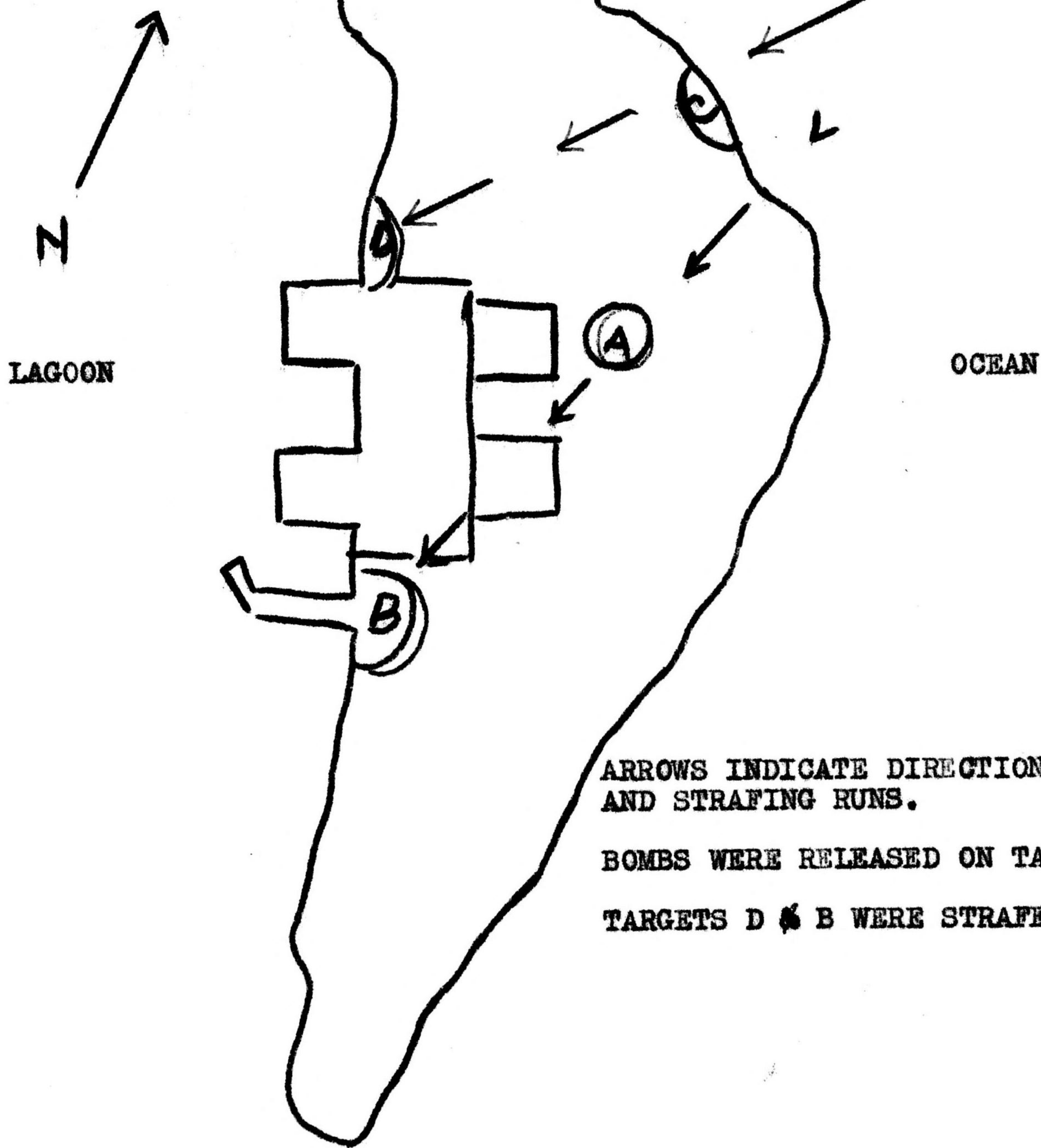
3. AW Positions on NE coastline: Six clusters were expended on this group of seven machine gun positions. All bombs were in the area. Damage could not be assessed, but is believed to have been considerable. All strafed with 500 rounds.

4. AW Positions N. of service apron: Same two planes which attacked target 3, strafed this target with 1500 rounds scoring numerous hits in the area.

See Diagrams attached.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.
Delivered to [redacted] Major Air Group 1st [redacted]

EMIDJ ISLAND
JALUIT ATOLL



ARROWS INDICATE DIRECTION OF BOMBING
AND STRAFING RUNS.

BOMBS WERE RELEASED ON TARGETS A & C.

TARGETS D & B WERE STRAFED.

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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
- Defense 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 fighters of this command took off at 0730 H, following the dive bombers of VMSB-331 from the deck. The fighter mission was to strafe and drop anti-personnel bombs on automatic weapon positions on Enidj Island, Jaluit Atoll, in advance of the fire-bomb attack to be delivered by the SB2Cs. Each squadron had a separate rendezvous, and then the fighters took their position 500 feet above the Helldivers and performed section weave over their formation while enroute to the target. Power settings of 1700 RPMs and 32 inches were used to maintain an IAS of 145 knots while climbing to 8000 feet.

The approach was made to the north of the target island with the fighters dropping back and staying wide of the SB2Cs in the last ten miles. Upon a radio signal from the air-coordinator two sections of fighters made parallel runs across the island from NE to SW. The first section dropped its load of fragmentation clusters on the AW positions located behind the north hangar. They strafed this position and continued strafing on their recovery using the position at the base of the elbow pier as an aiming point. The second section, making a simultaneous run, bombed and strafed the machine gun positions located on the NE coast and continued strafing on their pullout to cover the area north of the service apron. All runs started at 8000 feet, bombs were released between 600 and 1000 feet; pullouts were between 400 and 500 feet. All runs were timed so that the fighters would just precede the dive bombers across the target area.

The third section of fighters orbited north of the target island awaiting instructions from the air-coordinator. It was employed in a bombing and strafing run similar to that made by our first section, that is covering the area behind the north hangar and at the base of the pier. This section preceded one section of SB2Cs which had been ^{held} in reserve.

The AA fire was described by all pilots to be considerably greater than any encountered recently over enemy atolls in this area. It consisted of medium and light AA, rated as moderate in intensity. The bulk of the fire came from the center of the island, particularly from behind the hangar, and north of the service apron, however there were flashes observed on the ocean coastline also. The plane which was hit by a 20mm shell must have received it from the gun positions north of the service apron. The pilot had just leveled off after his bombing run when he felt the impact and his port guns quit firing. From the angle of the hit, which entered the leading edge of the wing and went out the trailing edge, it must have come from this area.

This is this squadron's first experience with 125⁷ fragmentation clusters and we apparently didn't treat them with enough respect. The wingman of the first section picked up 8 pieces of shrapnel in the underpart of the fuselage. He was at 500 feet over the bomb blast of his section leader.

The planes rendezvoused over Northeast Pass after the attack and returned to base without incident.

Pilots participating in the strike were:

- CARGILL, W. F., Major, USMC GRAIN, L. B., 2dLt., USMC
 CHAMBERLAIN, J. F., 2dLt., USMC GARDINER, H. A., 2dLt., USMC
 PRITCHETT, J. E., 2dLt., USMC MATAS, T. F., 2dLt., USMC

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XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.
Use additional sheets if necessary).

In all respects all material functioned satisfactorily.

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:

L. L. Mohrman, S-2
SIGNATURE **L. L. MOHRMANN** RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

W. M. Cargill Major, CO 12 April, 1945
SIGNATURE **W. M. CARGILL** RANK AND DUTY DATE