

VNR 155

OB
21

Report # 118

HC(21)

4

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

SECRET

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting V-155 (b) Based on or at Majuro Atoll (c) Report No. 118
 (d) Take off: Date 21 March, 1945 Time (LZT) 0810 M (Zone); Lat. 07-05-35N Long. 171-22-40E
 (e) Mission Search Mille and Jaluit Atolls (f) Time of Return 1100 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	V-155	2	0	2	Two Planes: 2-325 Depth Bombs	Nose: Inst. Midships: 25 Foot Hydrostatic Tail: None

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
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
	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 _____ (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		
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).

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Rowboat south point Jaluit Island, Jaluit Atoll (b) Time Over Target(s) 0220 M (Zone) 1035 M
Power boats along pier Mille Is., Mille Atoll
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 1300, Cumulus .8
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Hazy, Partially obscured by clouds (e) Visibility 10 miles
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

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

Bombs Dropped per Run 2 planes/1Bomb Spacing --- Altitude of Bomb Release 1000'
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

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

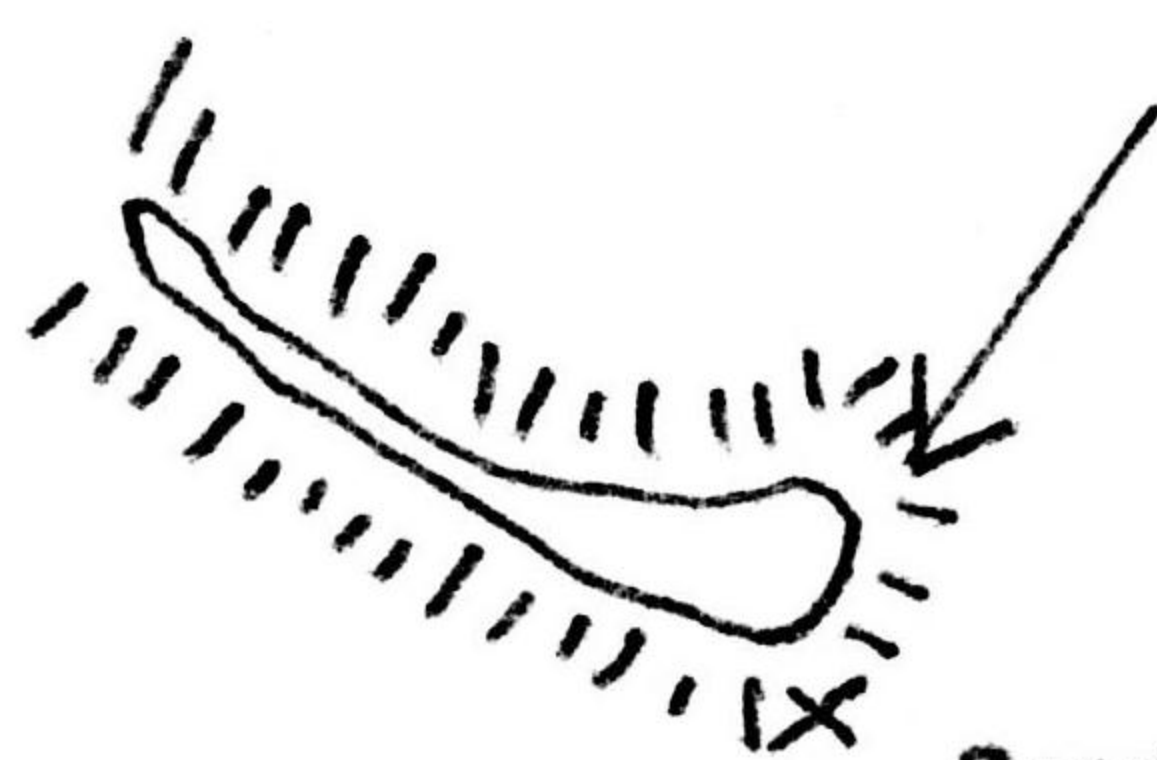
(h) AIMING POINT	(i) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(j) NO. A/C ATTACKING (k) SQUADRON	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO. HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
1 One Rowboat at Southpart, Jaluit Is., Jaluit Atoll	12'	2 F4U-1D VMF-155	Two planes: 300 rounds of .50 Cal. Ammunition	Numberous	Serious
3					
4					
2 Three Power boats tied along Pier Mille Is., Mille Atoll	40x8'	2 F4U-1D VMF-155	Two planes: 4-325# Depth Bombs 1400 rounds of .50 Cal. ammunition	None Numberous	None 2-Destroyed 1-Serious
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).

- Morning search planes (32 and 35 V311) strafed a rowboat found bottom-side up on the beach at South Point, Jaluit Island, Jaluit Atoll. 300 rounds were expended in four runs and numerous tracers were observed to enter the boat.
- The same planes observed three power boats tied alongside the pier on the lagoon side of Mille Island, Mille Atoll. The planes first attacked the target with depth ^{bombs} two out of four landing within 100 feet but causing no apparent damage. The other two hung up and dropped off when pilot was climbing to get altitude for another run. Eight strafing attacks were effective, however, as two of the boats caught fire, and the other must have received hits due to its proximity to the other boats.

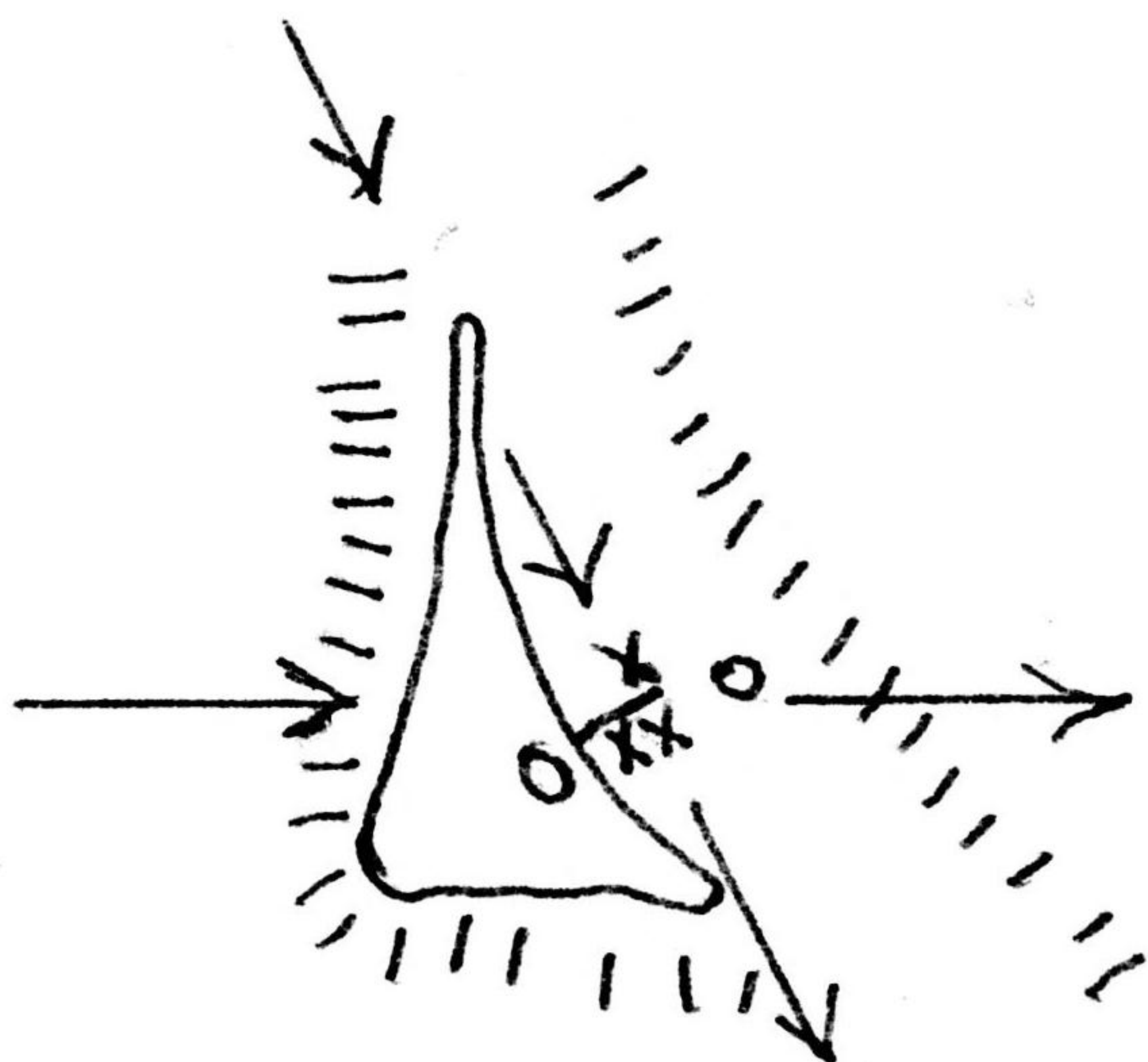
Diagrams are attached.

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



South Point
Jaluit Atoll

X Indicates where boat was
strafed and left inoperational
Arrows indicate direction of
strafing runs.



Mille Island,
Mille Atoll

X Indicates where boats were strafed and bombed and left
inoperational.

Two arrows indicate direction of bombing.
Three arrows indicate direction of strafing runs.
O Indicates where bombs hit.

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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

Morning search planes (32 and 35 V311) while engaged in a perimeter search of Jaluit Atoll located a 12 foot row-boat overturnal on the beach at South Point, Jaluit Island. The boat appeared to be in good condition. The pilots made three strafing runs on this target, lengthwise of the beach. They "walked" their bullets on the sand and through the target in all three runs, so it must have received many hits.

At Mille Island, Mille Atoll the pilots went down to 200 feet along the pier to try and find three power boats which had been reported by Japanese prisoners of war. The boats were observed, bobbing in the water alongside the pier, two on one side and one on the other. The engines located amidship were covered with a greyish tarpaulin.

The pilots immediately climbed to 6000 feet and made a glide bombing attack across the island from seaward to the lagoon side. In four glide bombing runs, two bombs were placed within 100 feet, with the pilot releasing at 1500 feet. The other pilot was unable to release either of his bombs electrically and they dropped off while he was climbing to make another run to release them manually. Eight strafing attacks were then delivered from 200 feet with the runs being parallel to the beach. On the fifth run substantial fires were started in the engine mountings of two of the boats, one on each side of the pier. The other boat must have been seriously damaged due to its proximity to the other targets.

Pilots participating in the search were:

Lynch, J.P., Capt.,
Svoboda, . . ., 2dLt.

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USMC

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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

The plane which was unable to release its bombs was checked as soon as it returned to the deck. Ordnance found a corroded cannon plug in the main electrical lead which did not allow a complete contact to be made. The current was merely sufficient to unlock the bomb release mechanism, allowing the bombs to fall off when the plane was in a climbing altitude. This connection has been replaced, and other planes have been checked for a similar condition.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

H. L. Mohrman
SIGNATURE **H. L. MOHRMAN**

1stLt. Intell O.
RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

J. P. Lynch
SIGNATURE **J. P. LYNCH**

Capt. S.N.A.P. 22Mar45.
RANK AND DUTY DATE