

VMP-155

9m  
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Report #115

HC(21)

7



# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

SECRET

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMP-155 (b) Based on or at Majuro Atoll (c) Report No. 115  
 (d) Take off: Date 17 March 1945 Time (LZT) 1401 H. (Zone); Lat. 07-05-35N Long. 171-22-40E  
 (e) Mission Search Motje and Maloelap Atolls. (f) Time of Return 1753H. (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>VMP-155</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Two planes: 2-325# Depth Bombs</u>	<u>None: 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>		(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)  
(YES OR NO)  
 Time of Day and Brilliance  
 (j) of Sun or Moon - (k) Visibility - (MILES)  
(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.)

## 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, Niibunku Is., Motje Atoll (b) Time Over Target(s) 1600 H. (Zone) 1650 H.  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 1500, Cumulus 4/10  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility Unlimited  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used AI-MB-8  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)  
Bombs Dropped per Run 1 plane- 1 bomb Spacing - Altitude of Bomb Release 2000  
(NUMBER) (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)
Power launch near center lagoon beach Niibunku Is., Motje Atoll.	40' x 8'	2 F4U-1D VMF-155	Two planes: 2200 rds .50 cal ammunition	Numerous	Destroyed
3					
Power launch middle lagoon beach Tjan Island, Maloelap Atoll.	30' x 8'	2 F4U-1D VMF-155	Two planes: 1200 rds. .50 cal. ammunition. 3-325# Depth Bombs	Numerous 1	Serious Destroyed
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).

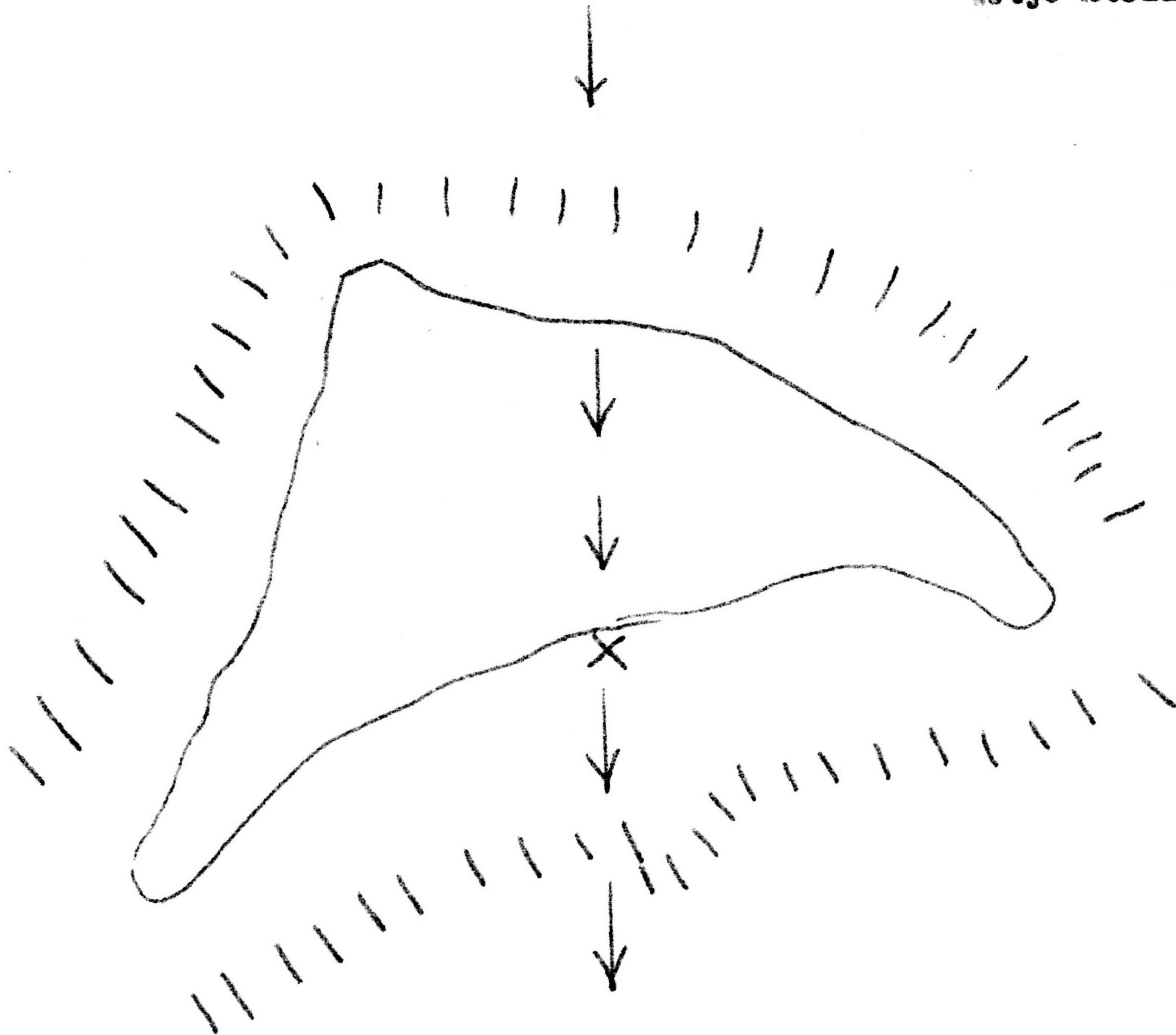
- Evening search planes (21 and 24 VJ11) strafed a 40 foot power launch observed in a well camouflaged position under the trees near the center of the lagoon beach of Niibunku Island, Motje Atoll. 2200 rounds were expended in ten runs on this target. The boat fell off its props and gaping holes were observed in its sides.
- The same planes bombed and strafed a 30 foot power launch beached on Tjan Island, Maloelap Atoll causing its destruction. One direct hit was scored blowing up the bow of the craft. The other two bombs hit within 50 feet of the target.

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



**SECRET**

**Nibunku Island  
Wotje Atoll**



**X Indicates where boat was seen.  
Arrows indicate direction of strafing runs.**



**SECRET**

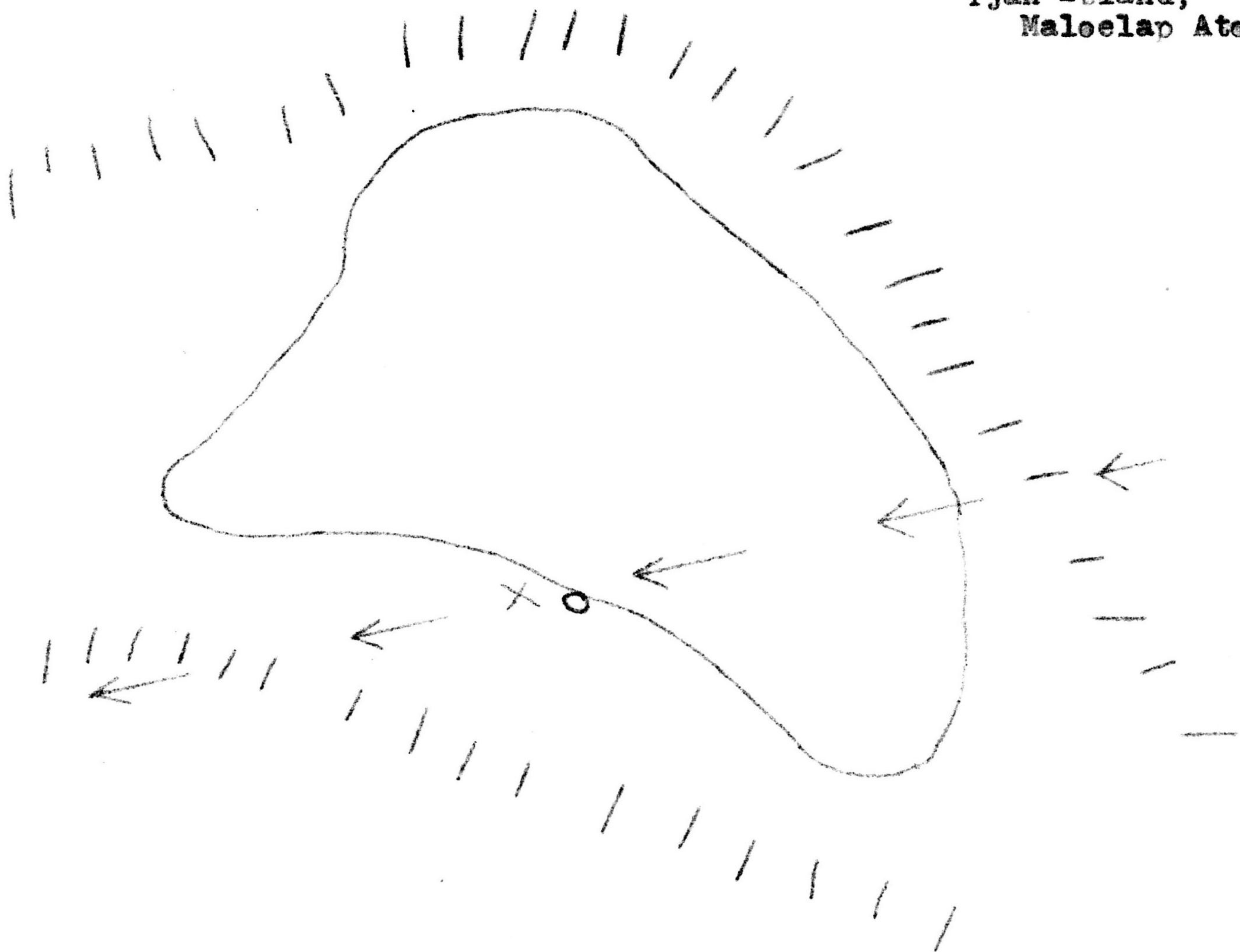
No. 115

30 foot Power Launch

Lagoon Beach

Bomb run W to E.

Tjan Island,  
Maloelap Atoll



X Indicates where boat was destroyed.  
O Indicates where bomb hit.  
Arrows indicate strafing and bombing 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 VJ11) located the 40 foot power launch in the same position on Hibunku Island, Motje Atoll that it had been reported by the previous days search planes (See ACA-1 Report 114). The two planes strafed the target with 2200 rounds delivered in ten runs. The runs were made from the lagoon toward the ocean. Positive results were obtained in todays attack as the boat fell off its props, disturbing the camoflage, and gaping holes could be seen in the freshly painted white sides of the craft.

While engaged in the perimeter search of Maloelap Atoll the search planes discovered another worthwhile target in a 30 foot power launch beached on the lagoon side of Tjan Island. The pilots made four strafing runs from west to east, expending 1200 rounds and scoring numerous hits. To insure the kill, however they made a glide bombing attack from 6000 feet, releasing at 2000 feet. One plane scored a direct hit blowing the bow off the boat. The other plane hit within 50 feet with two bombs. One bomb failed to release and when the pilot hit the other switch, both bombs fell away.

The pilots participating in the search were:

ROSS, K.S., 1stLt., USMC  
DUNLOP, J.D., 2ndLt., 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 bomb rack was checked as soon as the plane returned to the base and was found to function perfectly. It is believed that the pilot was guilty of error.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

R. L. Mohrman  
1st Lt. Intello  
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

R. L. MOHRMAN

APPROVED BY:

P. P. Lynch Capt. S. I. A. P. 21 Mar 45  
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY DATE

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