VMF 185

Report #117

#C (21)

OPNAV-16-V-#S37 Form ACA-1 -Sheet

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED (Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

SECRET

AU-ID VEW-155 6 0 6 Five Planes:	(a)	SQUADRON (b)	TAKING OFF (c)	NUMBER ENGAGING ENEMY A/C (d)	ATTACKING TARGET (e)			ID TORPEDOES (PER PLANE) (f)			FUZE, SI		
TYPE SQUADRON NUMBER BASE AU-ID VIET-113 6 Majuro Atol1 IND-6 HQ-MAG-13 2 Majuro Atol1 (Photo + DASERVEE) IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only). (a) (b) (DASERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only). (b) (DASERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only). (c) (DASERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only). (d) (DASERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only). (d) (DASERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only). (d) (DASERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only). (d) (DASERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only). (d) (DASERVED OR DAMAGED IN AIR (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only). (e) (DASERVED OR DAMAGED BY: TYPE SQUADRON NUMBER BASE TYPE SQUADRON NUMBER TYPE SQUADRON NUMBER BASE TYPE S	(4U-1)	V:0F-155	6	0 6		2-500# G.P.							
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Did Any Part of Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? If so, Describe Clouds (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER) Time of Day and Brilliance (j) of Sun or Moon (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) V. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only). (a) (b) DESTROYED OR DAMAGED BY: (c) DAMAGED TYPE A/C SQUADRON PILOT OR GUNNER GUNS USED WHERE HIT, ANGLE CLAIM NONE				(ZO:	(E)								
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	(i) Encour Time of (j) of Sun 'V. EN	(b) DESTRO	YED OR DAMA	T	T OR GUNNER		I CUIVO						
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TURNS

DIVES

CEILINGS

PROTECTION

ARMAMENT

RANGE

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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(a) PE OWN A/C	(b) SQUADRON	CAL	JSE: TYPE ENEMY	Y A/C.	WHERE HIT, self-sealing to	(d) ANGLE (List ar inks, equipment	mor,	EXTENT (Give Bureau se	(e) OF LOSS OR erial number of	DAMAGE, planes destroyed)
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VII. PI	RSONNEL	CASUAL	TIES (in airc	craft listed i	n II only; ide		ianes liste	d ili vi by	(e)	
) (b) SQUADRO	N		(c) K OR RATING		CA	USE		CO	NDITION OR	STATUS
). SQUADRO	None									
	MOHe									
										
1/116	DANCE E	IIEI ANI	D AMMINI	TION DAT	A FOR PLAN	ES RETUR	NING			
		(c)	(d)	(e)	TA FOR PLANES RETURNING (f) (g) TOTAL AMA			NITION EXPEN	(h) NO. OF PLAN	
(a) TYPE A/C	MILES OUT	MILES RETURN	AV. HOURS IN AIR	AV. FUEL LOADED	AV. FUEL CONSUMED	.30	.50	20MM	MM	RETURNING
4U-1D	98	98	2	237	130	0	0	0	0	6
10					,					
			<u></u>						L	1
		TI AIDCD	AET ENCOL	INTERED (Check one blo	ck on each	line).			
	NIELAY AND			JIVI EKED (NO	NE	MEAGER	MC	DERATE	INTENSE
IX. E	NEMY AN	CALIB			•					
		CALIB s. 75mm and	dover			_				
IEAVY — Ti	me-fused shell	s, 75mm and				E — —				
HEAVY — TI	me-fused shell Impact-fused	s, 75mm and shells, 20mi	m-50mm			£				
HEAVY — TI MEDIUM — IGHT — Ma	me-fused shell Impact-fused achine gun bull	s, 75mm and shells, 20mi lets, 6.5mm-	m-50mm 13.2mm	OWN AND	FNFMY AL	CRAFT (u	se check	list at left	.).	
HEAVY — TI MEDIUM — IGHT — Ma	me-fused shell Impact-fused schine gun bull	s, 75mm and shells, 20mi lets, 6.5mm-	m-50mm 13.2mm	OWN AND	ENEMY AIR	CRAFT (u	se check	list at left	.).	

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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(a)	XI. ATTACK ON ENI Target(s) and Location	EMY SHIPS OR Center	GROUND OBJECTI Gun CD Posit	VES (By Own Aircraft Listed Lion (C4) SE Coast (b) Time Ove	in II Only). r Target(s)_	1455 M (Z	Zone)
				PPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)			
(b)	Visibility of Target_P	artially HAS	DECHIE O BELLED	cain squall (e)	isibility_U	nder, 10, mil	es
(f)	Bombing Tactics: Type Bombs Dropped per Run	5 Planes	TWO Spacing	Bomb Sight Us Altitude	of Bomb Rela	ease 1000 ft	
	Number of Enemy Airc			• Probably Destroyed_	0	_ Damaged Q	L
	(h) AIMING POINT	(i) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(j) NO. A/C ATTACKING (k) SQUADRON	BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	NO HITS On Aiming Point	DAMAGE (None, sli serious, destroyed or	aht sunk 1
1 	Center Gun, C4 Coastal Defense Position, SE Coast, Taroa Island	with 35. Diam.	6 F4U-1D MF-155	Five planes: 2-500# G.P. One plane: 1-500# G.P.	Possibl	e Not Obser	ved
4							
5	•						
6							
7							
8							

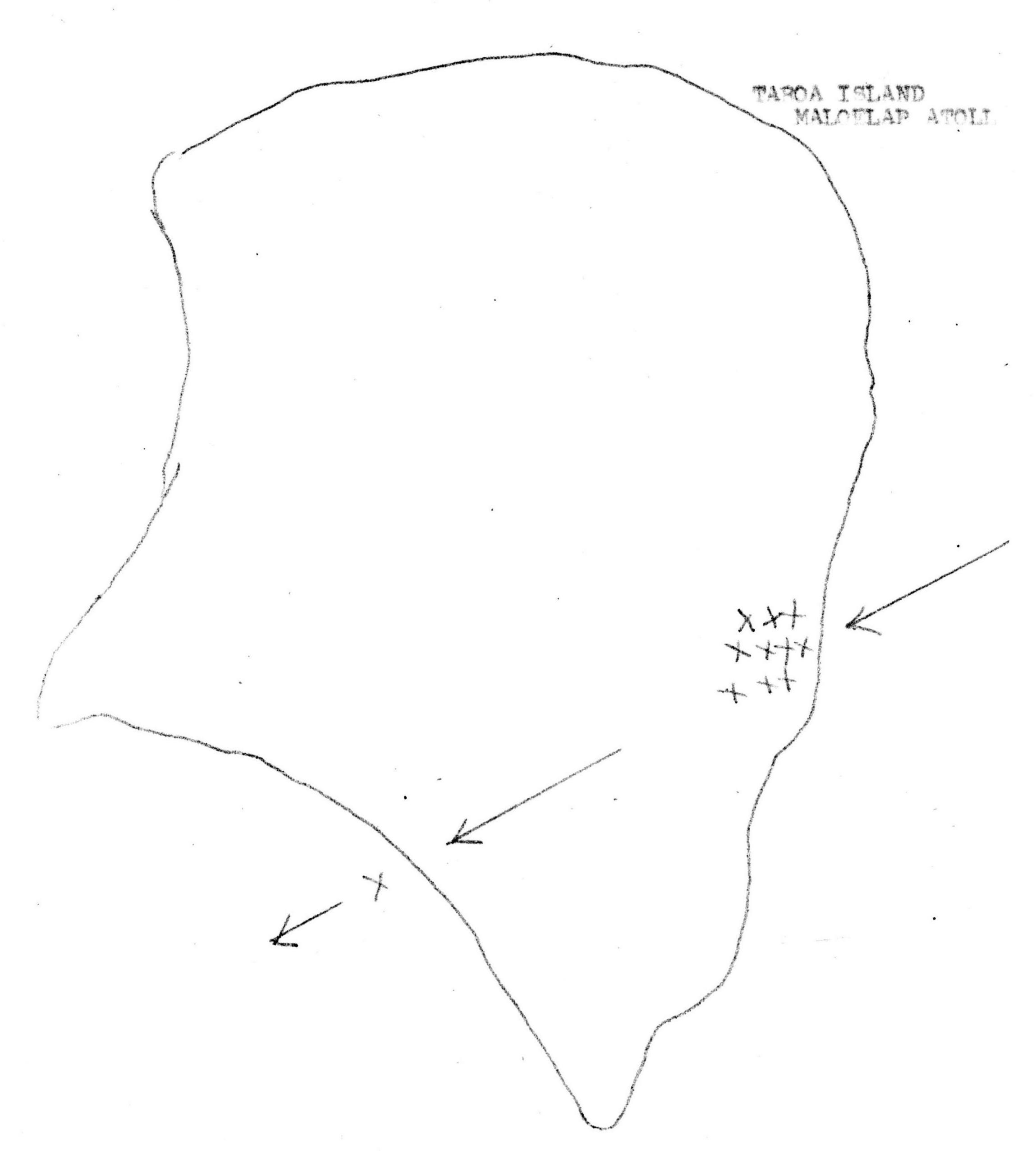
1. Center Gun-C4: Ten of eleven bombs dropped on this target hit in the immediate area with one possible direct hit. One bomb either hung up on the rack or was thrown by the pilot and hit in the lagoon.

Diagrams are attached

⁽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)

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

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X Indicates where bombs hit. Arrow indicates direction of bombing.

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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

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

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 1410 M. for a strike at Taroa Island, Maloelap Atoll. Take off was delayed for approximately 12 minutes because one of the planes of VMF-113 lost a bomb on the runway while taking off. One of our planes also lost a bomb off its rack while the motor was being turned up at the head of the runway. Normal rendezvous was quickly effected and the planes headed on direct course for the target island using power settings of 2050 RPM and 34 inches.

Flying conditions were excellent enroute to the target until the planes were in sight of Aur Atoll, but then they ran into a small front with the cloud cover getting lower and lower until it was below 4000 feet over the target island. There was a rain squall edging our target area and moving north. A dive bombing attack was out of the question so the planes made a glide bombing attack from a left hand turn in column formation. The approach run was in a northeast direction along the coast at just under 4000 feet. Bombs were released at 1000 feet and recoveries were over the lagoon with all planes turning slightly to the left after pullouts.

A running rendezvous was accomplished over the lagoon and the planes then made as careful a reconnaissance of Tar Island, Maloelap Atoll, as weather conditions permitted. Results were negative. Return to the base was without incident.

The pilots participating in the strike were:

Lynch, J. P., Capt. USMCR Svoboda, F. R., 2dLt USMCR Kissell, A. J., 1stLt USMCR Dutkin, A., LstLt USMCR Dunlop, 2dLt USMCR Ross, 1stLt USMCR

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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

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:

The pilot, who lost his bomb while turning up his engine at the head of the runway pror to take off, was unaware that he had only one bomb aboard until he was so advised by another pilot over the radio when he was airborne. It is unlikely that he could have been guilty of error and hit all the switches necessary for the normal electrical release of the bomb, however it could be possible the pilot may have pulled the manual release while reaching for the tail wheel lock as they are in adjacent positions in the cockpit. The pilot is certain in his own mind that he did not do this, but we have had one previous case when the manual release was pulled while the pilot was adjusting his safety belt.

The rack and release mechanism were thoroughly checked before and after the strike b ordnance personnel and they functioned perfectly. If the mechanism had not been securely locked after the bomb was hung, it would have dropped off while the plane was taxi-ing to the takeoff

position. This command does not believe that the AN-B-10 type bomb rack itself is at fault as it has been used successfully for many months with no previous failures of this kind.

APPROVED BY

SIGNATURE

Capt., S.N.A.P. RANK AND DUTY

DATE

R.L. MORMANN RANK AND DUTY S.