

VNF 155

93  
21

Report # 128

Hc(21)

6



# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

6304

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when  
filled out)

9966

## SECRET

### I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMF-155 (b) Based on or at Majuro Atoll (c) Report No. 128  
 (d) Take off: Date 7 April 1945 Time (LZT) 1315 H. (Zone); Lat. 07-05-35N Long. 171-22-40E  
Atoll  
 (e) Mission Bomb and Strafe Bokurigirikau Island, Mille (f) Time of Return 1445 H (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	Six Planes: 3 - 500# SAP	.1 Sec. Tail only

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
F4U-1D	NO-MAG-13	1	Majuro Atoll (Photo)				
SB2C-4	VMSB-231	1	Majuro Atoll (Observer)				
PBY-5A	VPB-24	1	Majuro Atoll (Dumbo)				

### 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?   NO   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 \_\_\_\_\_ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (k) Visibility \_\_\_\_\_  
(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) Bomb Storage Area, East Tip (b) Time Over Target(s) 1400 M (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)  
Bokuriguriku Is., Mille Atoll
- (c) Clouds Over Target 2000, 4 Cumulus  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility Over 30 Miles  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBTURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Dive Bomb Sight Used AN-MK-8  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 6 Planes/3 Bombs Spacing Salvo Altitude of Bomb Release 2000 Ft.  
(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)
Bomb Storage Area, East Tip	100'x40'	6-F4U-1D VMF-155	Six Planes: 18-500# SAP 6000 rounds .50 Cal. Ammunition	Nine	Serious
Bokuriguriku Is., Mille Atoll				Numerous	Slight
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

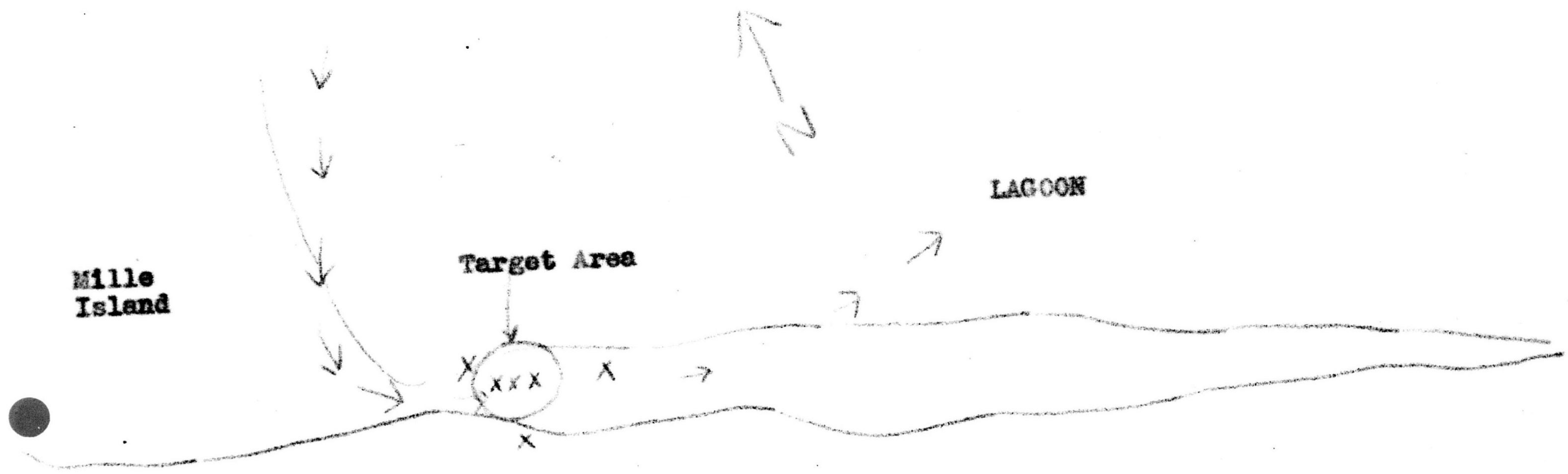
(o) RESULTS: (For all hits claimed on ship targets and for land targets of special interest, draw diagram, top or side view or both, as appropriate, showing type and location of hits. For all targets give location and effect of hits, and identify by numbers above. Use additional sheets if necessary).

Bomb Storage Area, Bokuriguriku Is., Mille Atoll Nine (9) out of the eighteen (18) bombs hit in the target area. Six (6) bombs hit on land, three (3) of these bombs were short and three (3) were over the target approximately fifty feet. Three (3) bombs were to the right of the target in the ocean. 83% of the bombs hit on land and 50% were in the target area. Six thousand rounds of 50 cal. ammunition were expended on the same target in two strafing runs. Numerous hits were scored with no visible results.

Diagrams are attached.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.  
Delivered to AirBasCom, Majuro for Forwarding.





Mille  
Island

Target Area

LAGOON

→ Bombing run.  
X Salvo of 3 Bombs.

BOKURIGIRIKKU ISLAND  
MILLE ATOLL

OCEAN



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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

Six fighters of this command took off at 1315 M. for a strike at a bomb storage area, reported by POW's to be located at eastern extremity of Bokuriguriku Island, Mille Atoll. The planes joined up in a running rendezvous and headed on direct course for the target atoll. Power settings of 2100 RPMs and 32 inches were used enroute to maintain an average IAS of 145 knots while reaching 10000 feet. The approach was made from the north, parallel to the western fringe of the atoll and over the lagoon. The planes dove from a left hand turn at 10000 feet, putting wheels down just as they entered the dive. Bombs were released at 2000 feet and recoveries were over the lagoon at above 1000 feet. Two pilots, on their first strike, failed to turn on the master arming switch and made a second run similar to the first. The planes then joined up five miles east of the target island at 2000 feet, then climbed to 6000 feet and made two strafing runs over the target. The runs were made from west to east following the general path of the bombing runs. After the second strafing attack the planes joined up in a running rendezvous and returned to the base without incident.

Pilots participating in the strike were:

Cargill, W. M., Major,	USMC
Todd, T. A., Major,	USMC
Chamberlain, J. F., 2dLt.,	USMC
Pritchett, J. E., 2dLt.,	USMC
Smith, E. F., 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:

*R. L. Mohrmann* Capt., S-2  
SIGNATURE **R. L. MOHRMANN** RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

*W. M. Zargill* Major, CO  
SIGNATURE **W. M. ZARGILL** RANK AND DUTY **8 April, 1945.** DATE