

VME-113

9
16

Report #173

#(16)

5

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

SECRET

I. GENERAL

- (a) Unit Reporting **VMF-113** (b) Based on or at **Engebi, Eniwetok Atoll** (c) Report No **73**
(Majuro Atoll)
(d) Take off: Date **16 March, 1945**, Time (LZT) **1000 M** (Zone); Lat **07-05-35N**, Long **171-22-40E**.
Dive Bomb Bivouac Area and
(e) Mission **strafe Mille Island, Mille Atoll.** (f) Time of Return **1115 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-113.	7	0	7	2x500# GP	Nose; None Tail: .1 delay
FG	VMF-113	5	0	5	2x500# GP	Nose: None Tail: .1 delay

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
SB2C	VMSB-331	1	Majuro (Observation)				
SB2C	VMSB-331	1	Majuro (Photo)				
PBY	VPB-24	1	Majuro (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? _____ 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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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)
1	None			
2				
3				
4				
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	74	74	1.25	230	65	0	3800	0	0	2
FG	74	74	1.25	230	65	0		0	0	5

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	X			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	X			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm		X		

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

SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

- _____ TURNS
- _____ 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) Bivouac Area, South East (b) Time Over Target(s) 1030 M (Zone) Hille Is.
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 4500; cumulus - 9/10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Ceiling at 4500' - Hazy Below (e) Visibility 10 Miles
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used AN-MK8-Mod. 6
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run Two Spacing None Altitude of Bomb Release 2500'
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed None Probably Destroyed None Damaged None

(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 Bivouac Area, C-2 on CTG 96.1	X	12 VMF-113	21x500 GP	21	Serious
2 weekly Targ. Analysis #27					
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.)

Twenty-one bombs dropped in target area. Three bombs did not release over target due to faulty shackles and later fell off in water.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple
Delivered to Com Majuro Air Group for forwarding.

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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
- Defensive 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
- Offensive Tactics, Enemy
- Defensive Tactics, Own
- Defensive Tactics, 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 (6) F4U-1D's and six (6) FG's of VMF-113 took off at 1000 M this date (16 March, 1945) from Majuro Airfield on a combined dive bombing and strafing mission over Mille Island, Mille Atoll, Marshalls. The assigned target was a bivouac area in which Japanese officers were reported billeted.

On the way to the target the cloud coverage averaged 6/10 cumulus clouds with bases at about 4000 and crest at 6500. The target was completely covered with the ceiling at 4500. The planes on the strike found a hole through the overcast and came in below the cloud cover, crossing over the island in a NW-SE direction, made a 180° change in course and executed a glide bombing attack from 4000, releasing at 2500 feet and recovering at 1500 over the lagoon east of the island. On joining up after the attack they swung around the northern end of the island to a position off the northeast and went back in on a general east-west course, strafing buildings, machine gun emplacements, personnel and a sixty foot motor launch tied up to the wharf. One pilot who had not released his bombs on the first run went in ahead of the strafing and dropped on the target area. Eighty-five percent of the bombs dropped were seen to strike in the target area. Three bombs were abortive due to the shackles failing to release over the target. They later came loose and fell into the water some distance off shore. On the strafing run the above mentioned motor launch was sunk by fire from Lieutenant Bland's Division and a machine gun emplacement from which three men were directing A/W fire was strafed by Lieutenant Fowatt. The emplacement was wiped out.

The following pilots of VMF-113 participated in this strike:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Major Sims | Lt Scott, J.L. |
| Lt Green | Lt Smith, H.F. |
| Lt Fausett | Lt Bland |
| Lt Kelleher | Lt Peterson |
| Lt Wendt | Lt Shockey |
| Lt McCracken | |
| Lt Scott, R.S. | |

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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

Three planes failed to release one bomb each over target. Shackles failed to function properly and bombs would not release. The planes are equipped with the AN-B-10 bomb shackle. These shackles are not satisfactory for dive bombing at a steep angle because pressure of gravity tends to cause the bomb to bind in the shackle.

All other material functioned in a satisfactory manner.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

J. Jordan
SIGNATURE **J. JORDAN**

Capt., Intel 10

RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

Hensley Williams
SIGNATURE **HENSLEY WILLIAMS**

Major, CO

RANK AND DUTY

18 March, 1945

DATE