

VMF 155

94
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Report # 142

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AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

13877
17645

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

SECRET

(a) Unit Reporting VMF-155 (b) Based on or at Majuro Atoll (c) Report No. 142
 (d) Take off: Date 19 June, 1945 Time (LZT) 0915 M (Zone); Lat. 07-05-35N Long 171-22-40E
 (e) Mission Bomb Enidj Island, Jaluit Atoll (f) Time of Return 1225 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)		
<u>F4U-1D</u>	<u>VMF-155</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2-500# GP</u>	<u>103 Nose 101-AI-Tail Instantaneous</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>SB2C</u>	<u>VMSB331</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>Majuro Atoll</u>	<u>SB2C</u>	<u>Hq-13</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Majuro Atoll</u>
<u>SB2C</u>	<u>VMSB231</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>Majuro Atoll</u>	<u>PHM</u>	<u>VH-5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Majuro Atoll</u>
<u>F4U</u>	<u>VMF-111</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>Majuro Atoll</u>	<u>PBJ</u>	<u>VMB613</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Majuro Atoll</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 _____
(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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			
<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) Enidj Island, Jaluit Atoll (b) Time Over Target(s) 1000 M (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE AEL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 1500, Cumulus, 2/10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 20
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used None
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 2 Spacing -- Altitude of Bomb Release 1500
(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)
1 AA, base of pier	6' x 500'	VMF-155 3	6-500# GP	0	2 Near misses.
2					
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).

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

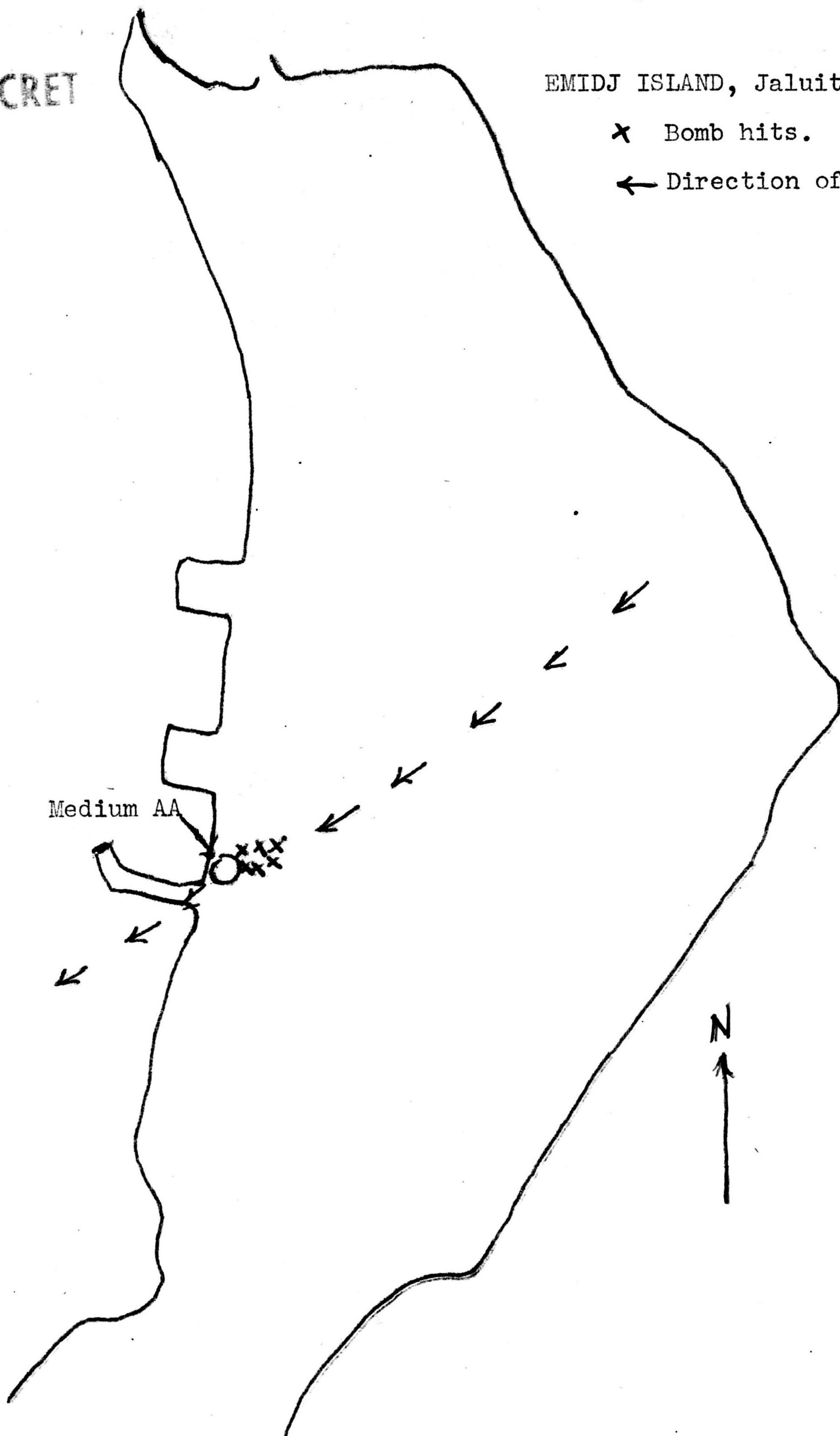
SECRET

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EMIDJ ISLAND, Jaluit Atoll.

x Bomb hits.

← Direction of run.



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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

Three Corsairs of VMF-155 took off from Majuro at 0915 M, 18 June, 1945, each loaded with 2-500# GP's with instantaneous nose and tail fuses for the purpose of striking AA positions on Enidj Island, Jaluit Atoll, prior to a shelling by a Navy surface vessel. This was part of a coordinated air and sea strike in accordance with Operation Order CTU 96.9.2 No. 1-45, dated 16 June, 1945.

The planes from VMF-155 arrived over target at 1000M and were ordered by the Air Coordinator to strike the AA position at the base of Elbow Pier. The runs were made in column from the ocean to the lagoon side of Enidj Island, starting the glide at 6500 feet and releasing at pullout at 1500 feet. They were dropped in salvo. Two bombs were observed to hit the edge of the gun position and are described as near misses. The pilots feel that these 2 near misses inflicted damage to the position, the extent of which they are unable to determine.

In addition to bombing, the Corsairs strafed in the general locality of the bombing target, expending 300 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition.

AA fire was observed, and it is believed to be 40mm from a dual purpose gun. The AA was moderate and inaccurate.

Friendly surface vessels observed were:

- BB Nevada
- DD Murray
- DD Taylor
- DE 27

The Corsairs of VMF-155 then landed without further incident at Majuro at 1225.

Pilots participating in this action were:

- Capt. Bachtel, USMC
- Capt. Morris, USMCR
- 2d Lt. Svaboda, 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

- 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

Communication and all equipment worked satisfactorily.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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 RANK AND DUTY
W. M. CARGILL
19Jun45
 DATE

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