

VMB-613

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Report #59

#C(1S)

18507

RESTRICTED  
Reclassify when filled out

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMF-123  
 (b) Based on or at Wotje Island, Wotje Atoll  
 (c) Report No. VMF-123-57  
 (d) Take off: Date 28 July, 1945 Time (LZT) 1210Z (Zone); Lat. 07°05'N. Long. 171°22'E.  
 (e) Mission Bomb and strafe islands, Wotje Atoll. (f) Time of Return 1530Z (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)		
FMF-12	123	4	1000	4	2500 lb. bombs in three planes.	Inc.-instantaneous. Tail-non-delay.
FMF-13	155	3	1000	3	3000 lb. incendiary clusters.	Inc.-instantaneous.

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
		1					

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
			(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 \_\_\_\_\_ (k) Visibility \_\_\_\_\_  
 (MILES)  
 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) 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		



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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 1315-34108 **153**

**XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).**

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Various Islands, Totje Atoll. (b) Time Over Target(s) 1315-14108 (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target Surface to 2000' 6/10 cumulus 10/10 ceiling.  
(BASE IN FEET. TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Partially obscured by clouds. (e) Visibility 3  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Level and Glide. Bomb Sight Used None  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 1 Spacing --- Altitude of Bomb Release 75' to 1500'  
(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 Unikon Is.	Undetermined	1 F4U-1 155 613	12500 lbs. 5275m. 225°AR 12500 lbs incendiary	4	Serious cluster.
2 Totou Is.	"	1 F4U-1 155 613	12500 lbs. 5275m. 225°AR 12500 lbs incendiary	5	Serious cluster.
3 Cherutaku Is.	"	1 F4U-1 155 613	22250 lbs. 5275m. 225°AR 12500 lbs incendiary	2	Serious.
4 Eganedio Is.	"	1 F4U-1 155 613	12500 lbs. 5275m. 225°AR 12500 lbs incendiary	10	Serious cluster.
5 Island West North of Bikoto Is.	"	1 F4U-1 155 613	12500 lbs. 5275m. 225°AR 12500 lbs incendiary	4	Serious.
6 Ruroo Is.	"	1 F4U-1 155 613	12500 lbs. 5275m. 225°AR 12500 lbs incendiary	6	Serious cluster.
7 Eboa Is.	"	1 F4U-1 155 613	12500 lbs. 5275m. 225°AR 12500 lbs incendiary	11	Serious cluster.
8 Enilibia Is.	"	1 F4U-1 155 613	12500 lbs. 5275m. 225°AR 12500 lbs incendiary	2	Serious cluster.
9 Torouai Is.	"	1 F4U-1 155 613	12500 lbs. 5275m. 225°AR 12500 lbs incendiary	1	Serious cluster.

(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.)

50 cal. 5100 hits. Serious.

RESULTS:  
 Targets were islands on which Jap bivouac areas and gardens were known to exist through POW intelligence. No specific aiming points on islands were assigned. Serious damage is assumed to have resulted in all cases where bomb, shell, rocket, incendiary clusters, and .50 cal strafing hit in target area. Nature of target and weather prevented accurate damage assessment.

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

**CONFIDENTIAL** AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
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REF ID: A67-155  
59-153

REPORT No. \_\_\_\_\_

**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
- Escort Tactics, Own
- 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

Four F4U's of this squadron and three P4U's of VAW 155 took off from Majuro at 1215M, 28 July, 1945 for a harassing strike on Jap gardens and living areas on various islands of Notje Atoll. The planes proceeded to Notje with the Corsairs flying formation on the Mitchells. Individual targets were assigned each plane and upon arriving over the atoll the formation broke up and each plane proceeded to attack its own targets. Runs were made in both directions across the line of islands in a direction approximately 90° to the line of the reef. The Mitchells made their attacks in a shallow glide at 200 knots releases of bombs, rockets, and shells being made from 800' to 1500'. The Corsairs dropped the incendiary clusters in level flight from an altitude of 75' at 240 knots air speed. All planes strafed all targets expending a total of 6800 rounds of .50 cal ammunition. There was a solid overcast at 2000' with 6/10 scattered clouds below it all the way down to the deck. The weather was entirely closed in at the NE tip of the atoll and planes assigned those targets were forced to attack islands further south. All runs were rendered more difficult by poor visibility. Light, meager, inaccurate AA was observed from Orsed and Agonedie islands. One P4U experienced a hydraulic failure over the target which permitted the nose wheel and one main landing gear to extend. The emergency hydraulic system proved ineffective either to extend the other main gear or to retract the wheels already extended. The plane returned to base with the other planes in formation and after trying various maneuvers in the air succeeded in getting all gear down and locked and a safe landing was made at 1600M. The other six planes landed safely at 1530M.

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RESTRICTED  
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710-61377-155  
REPORT No. 59-155

**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 PW's experienced hydraulic failures, one caused by a cracked sleeve on main landing gear line, the other by a broken line to the bomb bay door actuating cylinder.

The PW's upon examination showed signs that the bombs had dropped on the bomb bay doors. If the electrical system is functioning properly in this plane such a thing is impossible, however the system checks out satisfactorily and the nature and cause of the failure are unknown at present.

Seven out of eight sets of rocket launching posts on one PW were partially destroyed when the rockets were fired, cause unknown at present.

All other material functioned satisfactorily.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ RANK AND DUTY \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE JAMES E. COTTON, Lt. Col., USAF, VMS 613. RANK AND DUTY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 29 July, 1966  
SIGNATURE W.T. O'NEAL, Capt., USAF, VMS 155. RANK AND DUTY \_\_\_\_\_