

VMF-111

6

129
⑮

Report #2417

LTC (15)

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

12887

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

16689

I. GENERAL

SECRET

(a) Unit Reporting VMF-111 (b) Based on or at Majuro Atoll (c) Report No VMF-111 247
 (d) Take off: Date 4 June, 1945 Time (LZT) 0925 N (Zone); Lat 07-05-35N Long 171-22-40E
 (e) Mission Strike Bivouac Area, Inewa Island, Mille Atoll (f) Time of Return 1100 N (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-111</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>1x1400# Napalm (175 cal.) 2x100# Incendiary Clusters.</u>	<u>Hose: Inst. Gren. Widships: None Tail: 2 Inst. Gren. Tail: Inst.</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>SB2C-4</u>	<u>VMFB-231</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>Majuro Atoll (Divebombers)</u>				
<u>SB2C-4</u>	<u>Ho. Sq-13</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Majuro Atoll (Photo)</u>				
<u>PM-3R</u>	<u>YH-5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Majuro Atoll (Dusbe)</u>				
<u>SB2C-4</u>	<u>VMFB-231</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Majuro Atoll (Air Coordinator)</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>			<u>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			

(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		
<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) Bivouac Area, Inewa Island, Mille Atoll. (b) Time Over Target(s) 1000 M (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 2000, cumulus 1/10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 10
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Level Bomb Sight Used -----
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run Three (3) Spacing 0 Altitude of Bomb Release 50
(NUMBER) (FEET) (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 Bivouac Area, Inewa Island,	2400' x 400'	6	6x1400# Napalm (175 gal.)	18	Not observed
2 Mille Atoll.		VMP-111	12x100# Incendiary Clusters		
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? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

Photographs and negatives delivered to Commander, 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
- 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 Corsairs from this squadron took off in a coordinated strike with six Helldivers from VMSB-231, Majuro Atoll, against the bivouac area of Inewa Island, Mille Atoll. The strike was originally scheduled for 0900 but was delayed until 1000 M due to inclement weather.

The planes took off at 0930 M and cruised to the target at 6000 feet, indicating 150 Knots, drawing thirty inches of mercury at 2100 RPM's. Weather enroute was poor, with cloud base of 1000 feet and about 8/10 cover. Upon reaching the target, rendezvous was made over the southeastern end of the Atoll. The Helldivers went in first, and dropped their GP bombs, from 1600 feet. The Corsairs next went in, dropping their Napalms and Incendiary Clusters in salvo. Release altitude was fifty feet and the area was covered as shown on the overlay. All bombs fell in the target area. The Helldivers then went in again and dropped their Napalms.

The entire strike was under the able direction of the Air Coordinator who examined the target after each drop and directed the next plane in.

The dense undergrowth and trees prevented observation of specific damage. Due to the rainfall of the last several days, only one fire, giving off a considerable volume of white smoke, was observed to be burning after the Napalm had burned itself out.

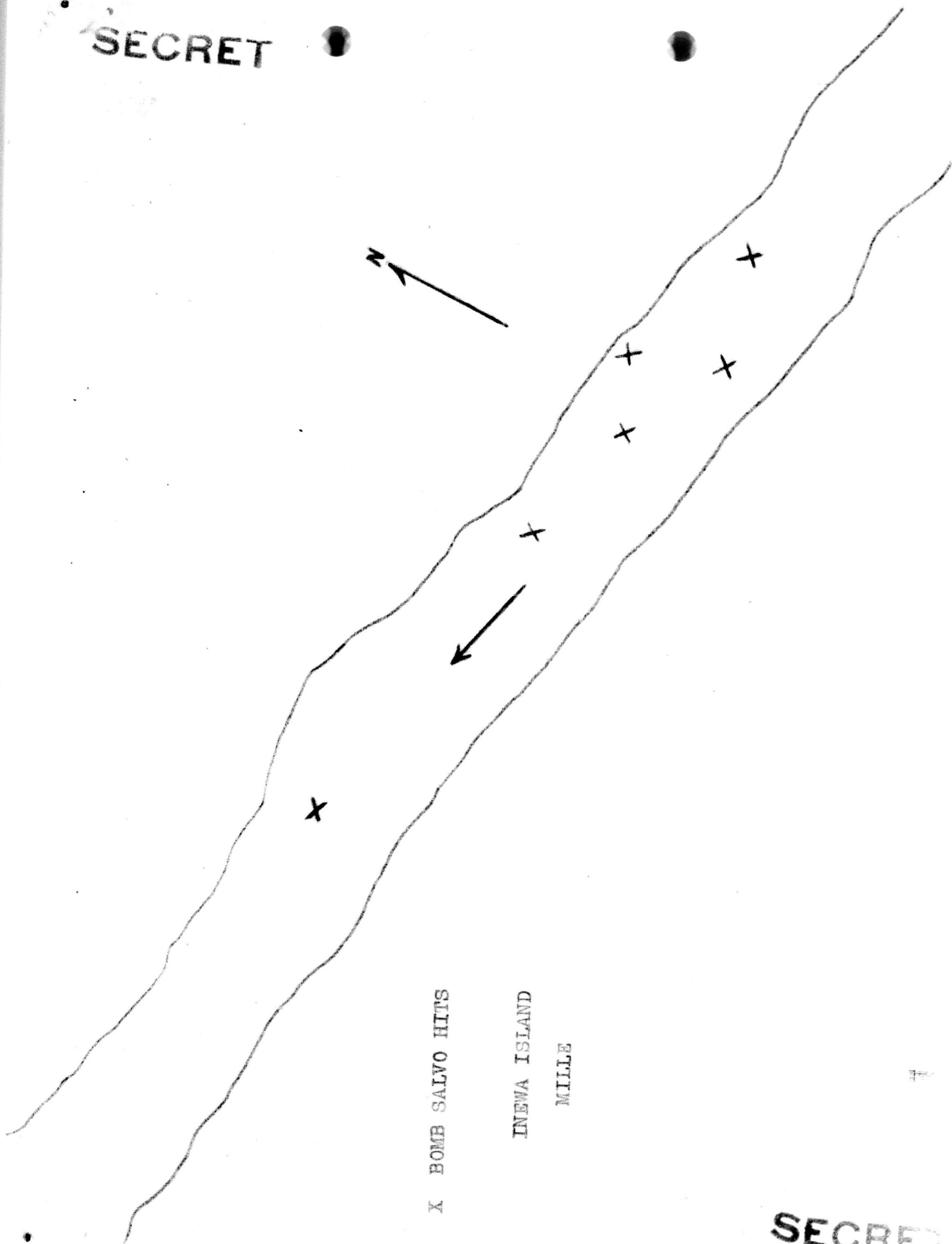
Return to base was made at 6000 feet, indicating 170 Knots, drawing thirty-two inches at 1800 RPM. The weather was poor with a cloud base of 1000 feet and 8/10 cover. Pancake was at 1100 M.

The following personnel participated in the strike:

- Maj T. A. TODD
- Lt F. J. SCHWITZ
- Capt F. F. ROTTER
- Lt F. B. SCHEEL
- Lt R. H. CHERRY
- Lt G. W. ALSON

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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

All material functioned satisfactorily.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

George J. Pugh

Thomas A. Todd

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SIGNATURE

SIGNATURE

GEORGE J. PUGH Sq. Intell. Co.

THOMAS A. TODD

Major, USMCR 4 June, 1945
SNAP, Majuro

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