

VMF-111

5

129
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Report #244

#c(15)

SECRET

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

12167 RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

16087

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VFP-11 (b) Based on or at Majuro (c) Report No. 244
 (d) Take off: Date 30 May, 1945 Time (LZT) 1050 H (Zone); Lat 07-05-35N Long 171-22-40E
 (e) Mission Bomb Jap living quarters, Arik Island, Maloelap Atoll, Atafu, Taka Island, Maloelap. (f) Time of Return 1230 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)		
<u>VFP-11</u>	<u>VFP-11</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>1x1400 Napalm 2x100 Incend. Clusters</u>	<u>Napalm Instan. Gren. Tail: 2 Instan. Gren. Incen. Fuse: Instan.</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>SP-4</u>	<u>HQ-13</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Majuro Atoll (Photo)</u>				
<u>PH-38</u>	<u>V-5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Majuro Atoll (Bombs)</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? (YES OR NO) If so, Describe Clouds _____
 Time of Day and Brilliance _____ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 (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:			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) Bivouac Area, southern end, Atoll side, Airik Island, Maloelap Atoll. (b) Time Over Target(s) 1140 M (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 2500, cumulus 4/10
(BASED IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 12 miles
(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 southern Atoll side Airik Is. Maloelap Atoll.	1000' x 300'	6 - F4U-1D VMF-111	6x1400// Napalm 11x100// Incendiary Clusters.	17	Numerous huts destroyed.
2					
3					
4 Strafed Taroa Is. and Bivouac Area, Airik Is. Maloelap Atoll.	1000' x 300'	6 - F4U-1D VMF-111	5500 rounds .50 cal.		Unobserved
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.

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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
- " " 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 P4U-1D's from this squadron and two SB2C-4 Photo planes from H. Squadron took off from Majuro at 1050 M. on 30 May, 1945. Target was the Bivouac Area of Airik Island, Maloelap Atoll. Trip to the target was uneventful, at 6000 feet, 145 IAS, drawing 28 inches of mercury at 2000 RPM. Weather enroute to target was good, with 3/10 cumulus cover with bases from 2000 to 6000 feet.

The aircraft arrived at the target about twenty minutes early and circled seven to eight miles on the ocean side, to wait for Dumbo. The Corsairs were over target at 1140 M and made a reconnaissance flight to pick out individual targets which were obscured by trees. The flight leader, Major Todd, had his right incendiary cluster abortive. It dropped in the ocean when the arming switches were turned on, upon approaching the target. The remaining seventeen bombs all fell in the target area, causing numerous fires, burning a number of huts. After the run, the Corsairs rendezvoused over the lagoon to await the photo planes. No AA was observed during the run.

The Corsairs then strafed ahead of the photo planes over Taroa Island, making an east west run across the runway intersection. The strafing dives started at six thousand feet with a pull out at five hundred feet. The photo planes followed at eight hundred feet. AA was medium, meager and inaccurate. The Corsairs then turned to the left and made a strafing run across the Bivouac Area of Airik Island. On this run, they were fired upon by what appeared to be a twenty MM. gun on the southern tip of Airik Island. The fire was inaccurate.

Return to base was made at 6000 feet at about 130 IAS, drawing 30 inches at 2000 RPM.

Pilots participating in the strike were:

<u>Pilot</u>	<u>Plane</u>
TODD, T.A.	Major 107
ELSON, C.A.	Lt. 119
ROTHM, F.P.	Capt. 113
WALLER, W.	Lt. 108
SHEEL, F.B.	Lt. 118
BYRANT,	Lt. 117

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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

One 100 pound incendiary dropped when arming switches turned on.

Reason -- mechanical failure.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

George J. Pugh

Thomas A. Todd

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

30 MAY 1949 DATE

GEORGE J. PUGH

Intell. O.

THOMAS A. TODD

Majuro

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