

VMF 155

915

(21)

Report # 135

HC(21)

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# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

**SECRET**

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 135

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Center gun, (E1) (b) Time Over Target(s) 1515 M (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ABL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)  
South Ocean Beach, Wotje Is., Wotje Atoll.
- (c) Clouds Over Target 1100, 8/10 Cumulus  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Hazy (e) Visibility 10 Miles  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used AN-MK-8  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 6 planes/1 bomb Spacing 0 Altitude of Bomb Release 50  
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 0 Probably Destroyed 0 Damaged 0

(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 CD gun (E1), center position,	Circle 35 Diam.	6-F4U-1D VF-155	Six planes: 6-1400# napalm bombs	2	Serious
2 Wotje Is., Wotje Atoll.					
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).

1. CD Gun (E1), Wotje Is: Of six napalm bombs expended on this target, two hit squarely in the target area. The other four bombs were slightly long and hit slightly inboard of the gun position. A large explosion with flying debris was reported by the last planes in the formation and confirmed by observers. It is believed that the explosion may have been an ammunition storage area located near the gun position, but damage evaluation must wait for the development of photographs.

See diagrams attached.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

Delivered to Commander, Majuro Air Group for forwarding.

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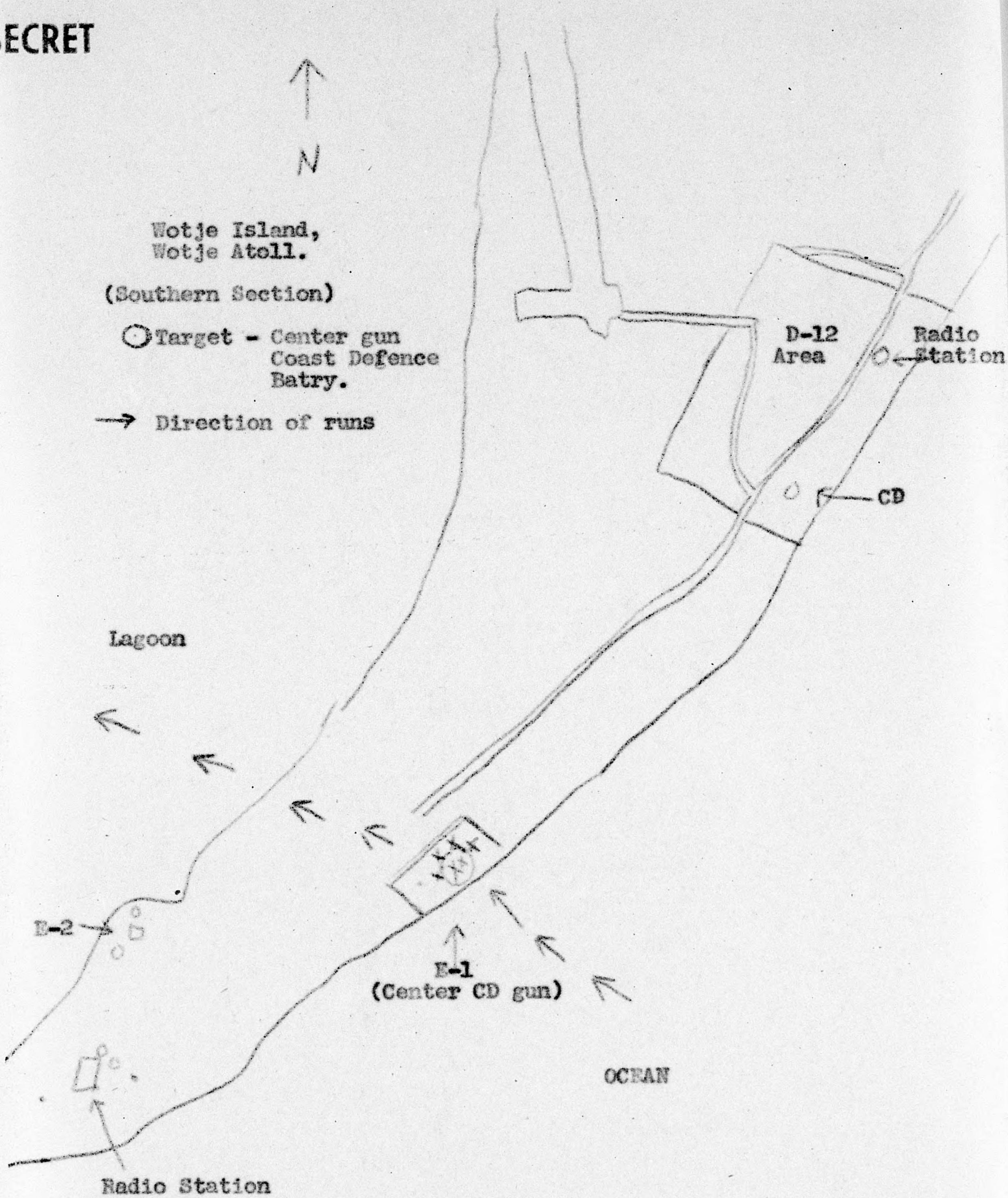


Wotje Island,  
Wotje Atoll.

(Southern Section)

○ Target - Center gun  
Coast Defence  
Batory.

→ Direction of runs



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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 fighters of this command took off at 1400 M. following the SB2C's of VMSB231 from the deck. The mission was a coordinated strike on installations on Wotje Island, Wotje Atoll. The plan was to have the fighters drop Napalm bombs on the remaining gun of a coastal defense battery on the southern part of the island while the Helldivers made a simultaneous attack on a bivouac area and command post located along the central ocean coastline.

The two squadrons rendezvoused separately and flew to the target keeping visual contact. The fighters did not perform escort tactics because of the nature of their bomb load. Our planes used power settings of 1700 RPMs and 32 inches while climbing to 3000 feet enroute.

As the formation approached the target island the fighters dropped back slightly and allowed the SB2C's to go into their attack first. At a radio signal from the air coordinator the fighters started their glide from column formation at 1100 feet which was the base of the clouds. It was a glide with power on and all the planes were making around 200 knots when the bombs were released at 50 feet. The runs were made from east to west and recovery was over the lagoon.

The fighters joined up in a running rendezvous over the center of the lagoon and returned directly to their home base, Kwajalein Island, Kwajalein Atoll. On this return trip they were escorted by Mag 13's R4D.

The dumbo plane was observed on station.

Pilots participating in the strike were:

LYNCH, J.P.,	Capt.,	USMCR.
SVOBODA, F.R.,	2dLt.,	USMCR.
DENISON, C.R.,	1stLt.,	USMCR.
GARDINER, H.F.,	2dLt.,	USMCR.
MATAS, T.F.,	2dLt.,	USMCR.
SMITH, E.F.,	2dLt.,	USMCR.

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**XIII. MATERIAL DATA.** (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.  
Use additional sheets if necessary).

**In all respects all material functioned satisfactorily.**

### 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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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 RANK AND DUTY **1st Lt., Intello.**

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*W. M. Carroll*  
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 RANK AND DUTY **1st Lt., CO.**

27 Apr 45  
DATE

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