

VMB to B

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Report #61

#c(s)

6

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No 61

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) AA position on bulk, Maloelap Is. (b) Time Over Target(s) 1515-1550M (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target Various islands, Maloelap Atoll.
3000' cumulus 4/10.
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 15
(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 4 Spacing 100 Altitude of Bomb Release 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 AA position on bulk.	30' x 150'	3 PBJ-1H WAB 613	9X5"AR 300 rds. of .50cal.	0 250	Slight.
2 Pigeon Is.	Undetermined	2 PBJ-1H WAB 613	6X250/G.P. 400 rds. of .50cal.	5 300	Probably destroyed building on island.
3 Kaven Is.	"	1 PBJ-1H WAB 613	3X5"AR. 200 rds. of .50cal.	3 150	Serious.
4 Airik Is.	"	2 PBJ-1H WAB 613	6X250/G.P. & 3X5"AR. 1000 rds. of .50cal.	2 750	Village and gun position probably destroyed.
5 Raibin Is.	"	1 PBJ-1H WAB 613	3X5"AR. 400 rds. of .50cal.	4 300	Serious.
6 Other islands in the Atoll	"	3 PBJ-1H WAB 613	1700 rds. of .50cal.	1200	Serious.
7					
8					

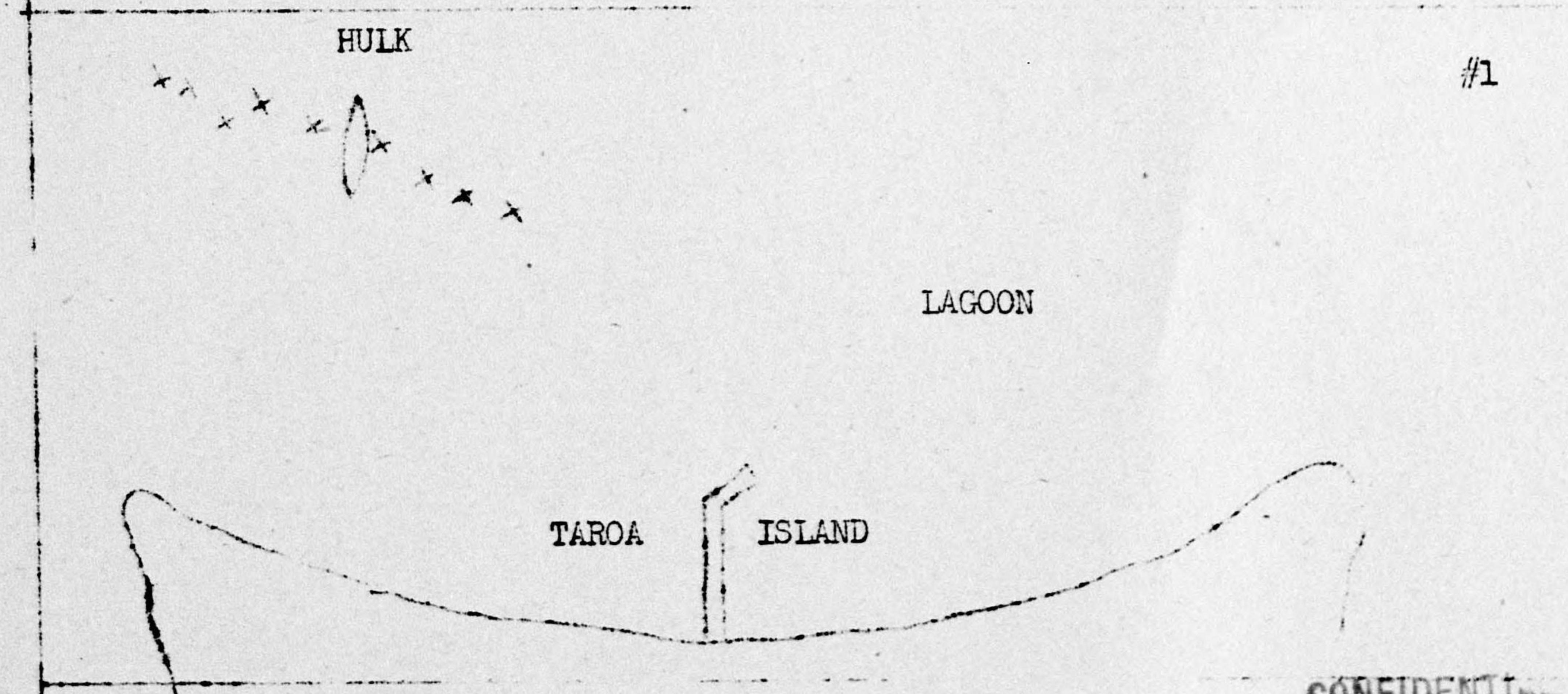
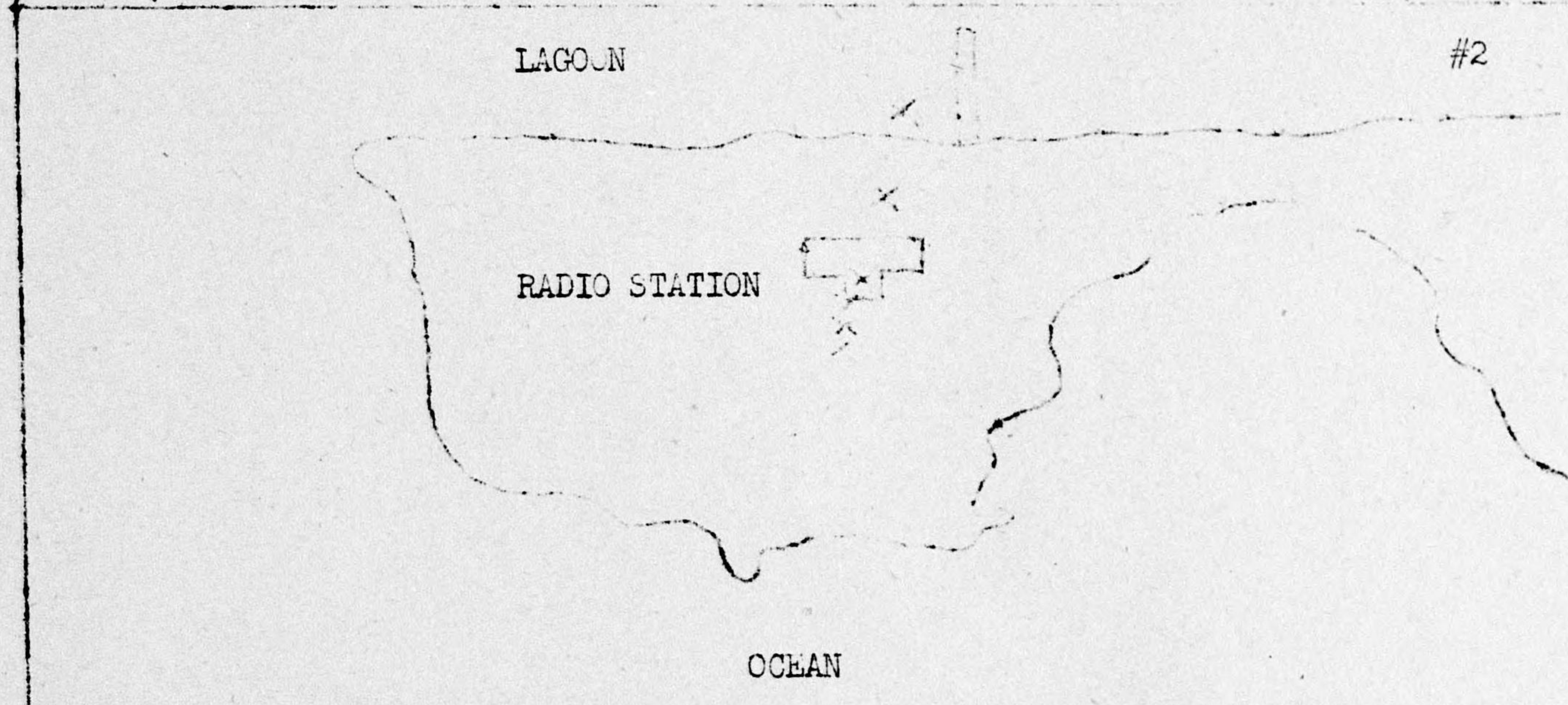
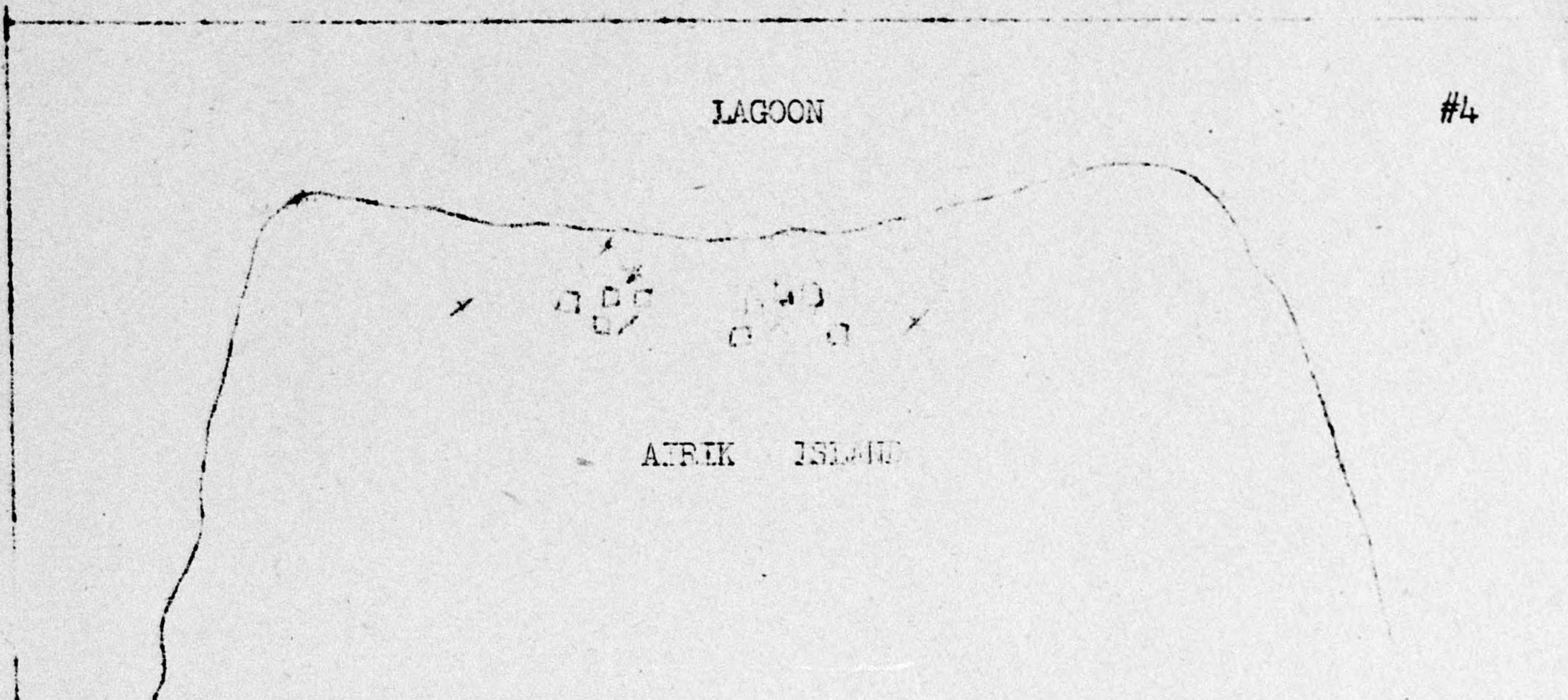
- (o) RESULTS: (For all hits claimed on ship targets and for land targets of special interest, draw diagram, top or side view or both, as appropriate, showing type and location of hits. For all targets give location and effect of hits, and identify by numbers above. Use additional sheets if necessary).

For targets one, two, and four, see next page.

Other islands attacked were those known to contain Jap gardens and living areas. Pilots were briefed to conduct a harrassing mission against these islands. Due to nature of targets accurate damage assessment is impossible, however serious damage is assumed to have resulted in cases where rockets, bombs, and .50 caliber ammunition hit in target areas.

- (p) Were Photographs Taken? No 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
- 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 PBJ's of this squadron took off following twenty Halldivers and nine Corsairs for a strike on Maloelap. Arriving over the Atoll the three PBJ's made a rocket attack on a gun position in the lagoon as a prelude to the main attack by the dive bombers and fighters on Taroo Island. Nine 5" rockets were launched by the Mitchells, none of which hit the target although there were two near misses. The bulk was strafed with .50 caliber fire in addition to the rocket attack. Rockets were released at 1000' altitude in a glide that started at 3500 feet. Speed was 225 knots. The run was made from south to north and a gun position on the north-west tip of Taroo Island was strafed in passing after pulling out of the rocket attack. The three planes then split up and proceeded to harass assigned targets while the main attack was being made on Taroo. Two planes attacked Pigeoyette getting hits and near misses with four 250# G.P. bombs on the old radio station which probably destroyed the building. One plane attacked gardens and birouac areas on Kaver and Sribin Islands expending rockets and bombs. Two planes attacked a bulk up area and antiaircraft position on Airik Island getting direct hits with five out of six G.P. bombs and probably destroying the installation. All other islands of the Atoll with the exception of the NE portion, which was restricted, were harassed by the PBJ's, 1700 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition being expended. Weather was good with 4/10 cloud cover from 3000 feet. Light meager inaccurate antiaircraft fire was observed from Airik Island. Following the harassment the PBJ's returned to base landing at 1635H.

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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 rocket failed to launch for reasons undetermined at this time.
All other material functioned satisfactorily.**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

SIGNATURE C. R. MOGINS, CAPT., S-2. RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE G. H. BEVILS, LTJG., COMMANDING. RANK AND DUTY

31 July, 1945
DATE

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