

VMF 155

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Report # 138

LIC (21)

7

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)  
10532  
14465

**SECRET**

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMP-155 (b) Based on or at Kwajalein Island (c) Report No. 138  
(d) Take off: Date 19 May 1945 Time (LZT) 1530 H. (Zone); Lat. 8° 43' N. Long. 167° 44' E.  
(e) Mission Bombing Army Officer Bivouac Area Wotje Is., Wotje Atoll  
Staffed other Islands in Wotje Atoll. (f) Time of Return 1800 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>F4U-1D</u>	<u>VMP-155</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>13 planes: 2x500# G<sup>2</sup> bombs</u>	<u>Nose: AN-M103 .10 sec. delay. Midship: None Tail: AN-M103-A1 .10 sec. delay.</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>F4U-1D</u>	<u>4th Wing</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Kwajalein Island</u>				
<u>BN</u>	<u>VN-5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Ebeye Island</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 \_\_\_\_\_ (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:			(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER		
<u>None</u>					

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**VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those listed in II only).**

(a) TYPE OWN A/C	(b) SQUADRON	(c) CAUSE: TYPE ENEMY A/C, TYPE GUN, OR OPERATIONAL CAUSE	(d) WHERE HIT, ANGLE (List armor, self-sealing tanks, equipment hit)	(e) EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE, (Give Bureau serial number of planes destroyed)
<b>P4U-1D</b>	<b>VMP-155</b>	<b>20 MM</b>	<b>Left wing near out-board gun.</b>	<b>Minor - damage repairable.</b>
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				

**VII. PERSONNEL CASUALTIES (in aircraft listed in II only; identify with planes listed in VI by Nos. at left).**

(a) NO.	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NAME, RANK OR RATING	(d) CAUSE	(e) CONDITION OR STATUS
		<b>None</b>		

**VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA FOR PLANES RETURNING**

(a) TYPE A/C	(b) MILES OUT	(c) MILES RETURN	(d) AV. HOURS IN AIR	(e) AV. FUEL LOADED	(f) AV. FUEL CONSUMED	(g) TOTAL AMMUNITION EXPENDED				(h) NO. OF PLANES RETURNING
						.30	.50	20MM	MM	
<b>P4U-1D</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>175</b>			<b>26,000</b>		<b>13</b>

**IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).**

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	<b>X</b>			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm			<b>X</b>	
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm			<b>X</b>	

**X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (use check list at left).**

SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes

URNS

DIVES

CEILINGS

RANGE

PROTECTION

ARMAMENT

**No enemy aircraft encountered.**

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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) Army Officer Bivouac Area  
Wotje Island, Wotje Atoll (b) Time Over Target(s) 1630 H. (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 2000' Cumulus 4/10  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility Unlimited to 3 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 2 Spacing salvo Altitude of Bomb Release 2,000  
(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 Army Officers Area Wotje Island.	500'x200'	13 VAF-155	13 Planes: 26x500 Lb. GP bombs	20	Not observed
2 Other Island on Wotje Atoll			26,000 rounds of .50 cal. ammunition		Numerous hits.
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. Underground shelters and living quarters of Army Officers on Wotje Island, Wotje Atoll. 26x500 lb. GP bombs expended of which 80% were in the target area. Results were not observed. (See overlay for location of target.)

2. Target of opportunity strafed on other islands of Atoll with 26,000 rounds of .50 cal. ammunition several fires were started.

(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
- 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

13 Corsair type aircraft from VMF-155 took off from Kwajalein at 1530 H., 19 May 1945, for the purpose of bombing and strafing Wotje Island and Atoll. Each plane was loaded with 2x500 lb. GP bombs with .10 second nose and tail fuzes.

The 13 aircraft climbed to 10,000 feet for the flight to Wotje, arriving at the target 1620 H. The bombing targets were underground shelters and buildings occupied by Army Officers according to information contained in Prisoner of War Interrogation Reports #6 through #21, dated 26 through 31 March, 1945, (see attached overlay for location), and recent aerial photographs.

The 26x500 lb. GP bombs were dropped from a glide at 2,500 feet to 2,000 feet altitude. The runs were made from southeast to northwest on a heading of approximately 240°. It was observed that 20 bombs fell in the target area and 6 bombs fell outside of it. Due to smoke and dust it was impossible to determine individual bomb hits. All bombs were observed to explode.

During the bombing runs, medium and light moderate accurate AA fire was observed from three points on Wotje Island. (See overlay for location). Captain J.P. LYNCH, leader of the second division, sustained a hit on the left wing near the outboard gun, while at an altitude of 4,000 feet. A hole was made through the wing. It is believed that this particular hit was made by 20 mm fire. Capt. LYNCH reported that just prior to the hit on his aircraft some AA exploded in front of him.

Following the bombing runs, targets of opportunity were strafed on the other Islands of Wotje Atoll by divisions.

The first division led by Major BARNUM strafed Ormed, Kirii and Tereech Islands. Most of the targets were thatched huts. Fires were started on Ormed Island.

The second division led by Capt. LYNCH strafed Toton, Bikeichi and Egmedio Islands. On Toton Island, a large wooden observation platform was severely damaged and left smoking. On Bikeichi Island huts were strafed and 2 fires were started.

The third division led by 2dLt. FOUST strafed Niibunku and Goat Islands. One fire was started on Niibunku and it was observed that there are many thatched huts on that island. Six fires were started on Goat Island.

2dLt. E.F. SMITH had a camera installed in his plane and made a special run at 1,000 feet altitude over the target area on Wotje Island for the purpose of taking pictures.

The pilots reported seeing 2 masts on Wotje Island (see overlay for location) which were believed might be radio towers.

No AA was observed on any of the islands except Wotje. No personnel was observed.

Rendezvous was over Goat Island and the 13 aircraft started for home 1705 H., arriving at Kwajalein at 1800 H.

A PBM from VM-5 at Burton Island acted as dumbo and was on station.

Lt. Col. E. DORSEY and Major Wm. HERRING from Headquarters Squadron of the 4th Wing flew on the strike.

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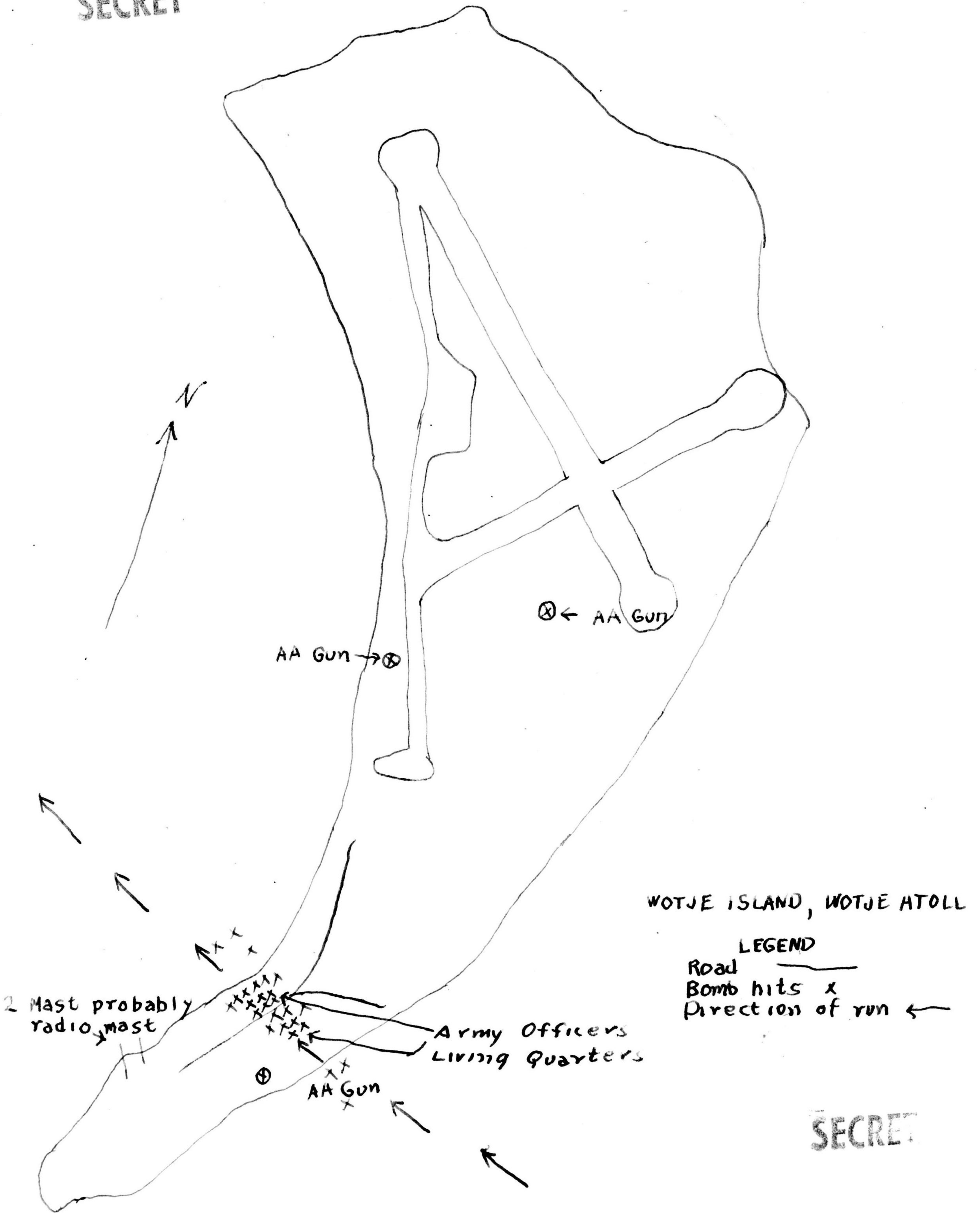
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The pilots from this squadron participating in the strike were:

BARNUM, A.T.	Major,	USMC.
LYNCH, J.P.	Capt.,	USMCR.
READ, J.E.	2dLt.,	USMCR.
SMITH, S.S.	2dLt.,	USMCR.
SOHA, L.S.	2dLt.,	USMCR.
SVOBODA, F.R.	2dLt.,	USMCR.
SMITH, E.P.	2dLt.,	USMCR.
PRITZLAFF, P.E.	2dLt.,	USMCR.
FOUST, H.L.	2dLt.,	USMCR.
SOLLENBERGER, T.S.	2dLt.,	USMCR.
PRITCHETT, J.E.	2dLt.,	USMCR.
GARDNER, H.A.	2dLt.,	USMCR.

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WOTJE ISLAND, WOTJE ATOLL

LEGEND  
Road ———  
Bomb hits x  
Direction of run ←

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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

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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

*C. B. Aronow*  
SIGNATURE  
CORDET B. ARONOW

1st Lt., Intello  
RANK AND DUTY

*A. T. Barium*  
SIGNATURE  
A. T. BARIUM  
Major, CO.  
RANK AND DUTY  
Acting

19 May 1945  
DATE

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