

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

~~RESTRICTED~~
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~SECRET~~

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

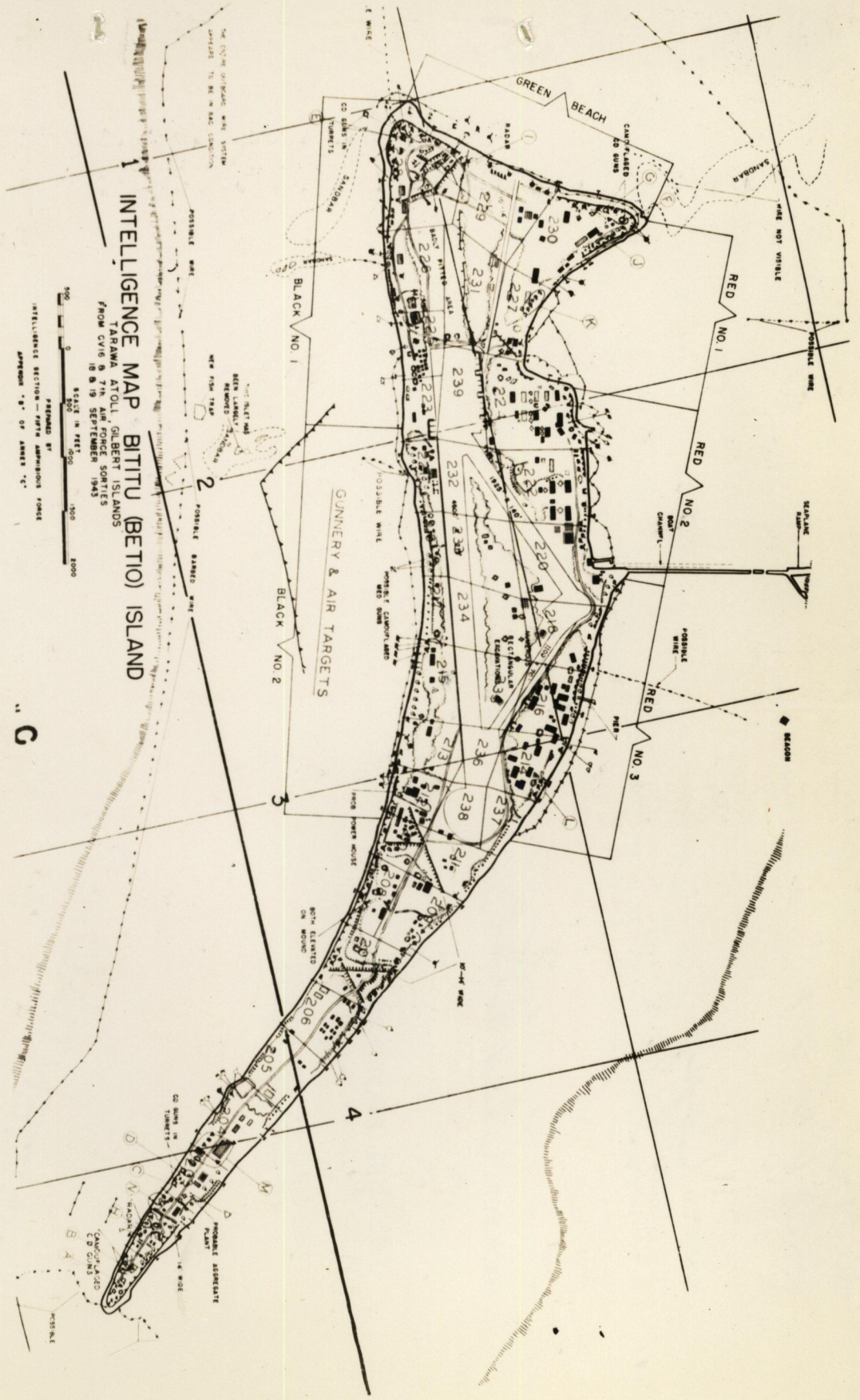
(a) Location of Target(s) Bititu Island, Tarawa Atoll, (b) Time Over Target(s) 1955 GCT.
Gilbert Islands
(c) Weather and Clouds Over Target 7/10 cloud cover with ceiling at 1800 feet.
(d) Sun ~~not~~ obscured (e) Visibility 10 miles

XI. TARGETS, RESULTS OF ATTACK.

(a) DESCRIPTION OF TARGET (List All Ships in Group, Whether or Not Individually Attacked)	(b) A/C ATTACKING	(d) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH TARGET	(e) ALTITUDE OF RELEASE	(f) HITS
	(c) SQUADRON			
1 Target Areas 201 & 204, as per attached Target Map, on Bititu Island.	5 SBD-5 VC 60	5x500# & 8x100#	1000 ft	Not observed
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				

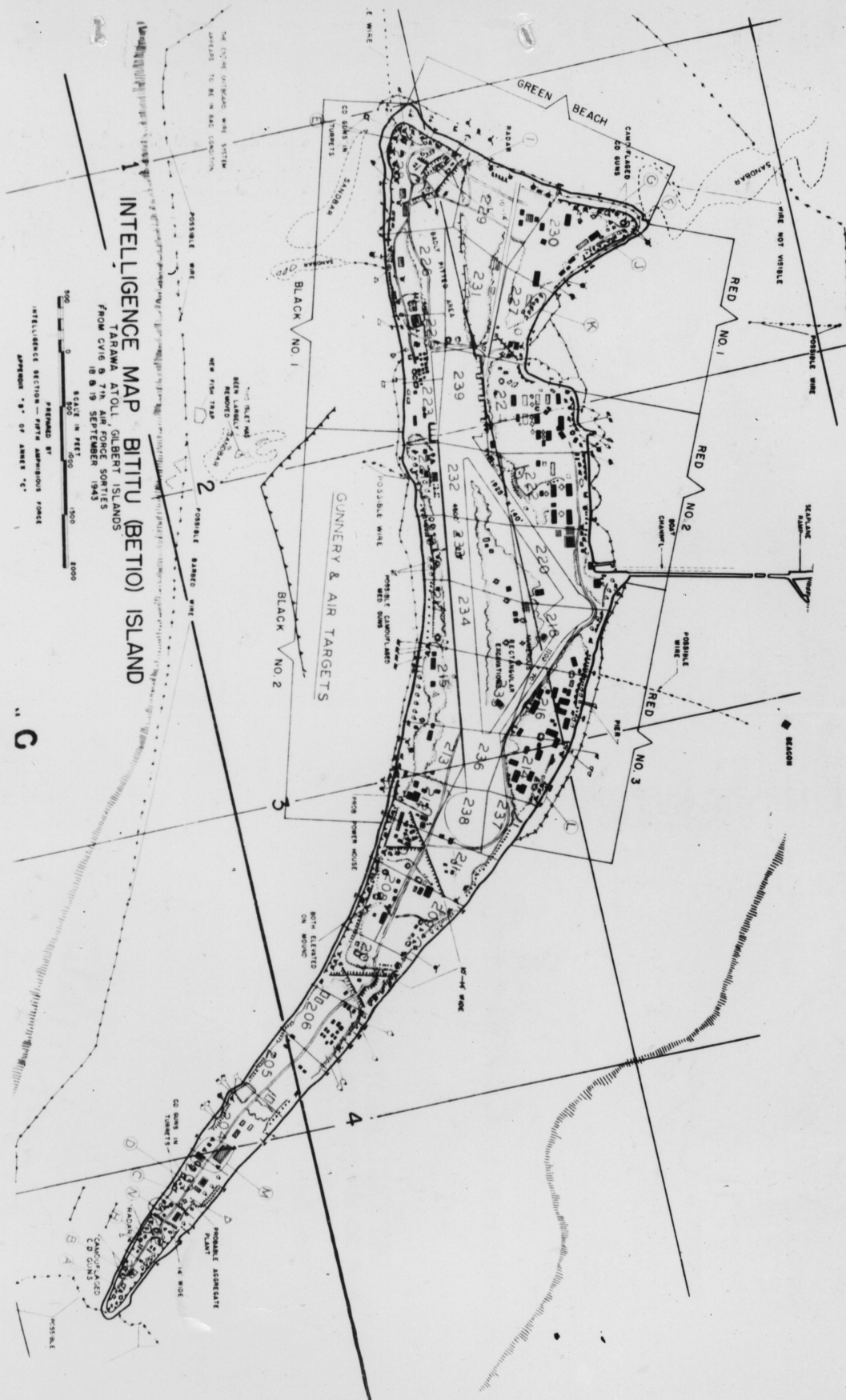
(g) **RESULTS:** (FOR SHIP TARGETS DRAW DIAGRAM, TOP OR SIDE VIEW OR BOTH, AS APPROPRIATE, SHOWING TYPE AND LOCATION OF HITS. FOR ALL TARGETS GIVE LOCATION AND EFFECT OF HITS, WITH DIAGRAMS OR CHARTS WHERE DESIRABLE. DESCRIBE TARGETS FULLY IN (a), AND IN REPORTING DAMAGE OR DESTRUCTION, IDENTIFY BY NUMBERS AT LEFT. USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY).

(h) Were Photographs Taken? _____ Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached.



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NO. 465 DATE 18 NOV 1943

UNIT 246 21

SUBJECT Copied

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OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH
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BY ORDER OF
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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
 Release
 Pull-Out
 Dive Angle
 Strafing
 Retirement
 Defensive Tactics

DEFENSE, ENEMY

Evasive Tactics, Ships
 Concealment
 Anti-aircraft
 Searchlights
 Night Fighter Tactics

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

After completion of an Anti-Sub Patrol around the Transport Area, during which one of the six subject SBD's attacked submarine as per separate report, this flight was ordered by the Support Air Commander at Tarawa to bomb coast defense guns in Target Areas 201 and 204 (see attached chart). The plane which had attacked the sub and expended its bombs did not engage in the dive bombing.

Smoke and dust from bombed and burning areas on Bititu made it impossible to see clearly the specific targets which had been assigned and the ceiling of 1800 feet made it necessary to resort to glide bombing at very shallow angle with extremely poor accuracy. Three planes put their bombs in the general area designated and the two others dropped theirs in the water with the exception of 2 x 100# which did not release.

20.

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XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.

Use additional sheets if necessary.)

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With exception of bomb releases on wing racks of
one SBD all equipment functioned properly.

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:

APPROVED BY:

SIGNATURE

W. E. Richmond
W. E. Richmond, Lt. (jg) USNR
A.C.I. Officer, VC 60

SIGNATURE

A. C. Edmonds
A. C. Edmonds, Lt. Col. USN.
C. O., VC 60

21 Nov., 1943

DATE

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22

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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	(e) EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE, REMARKS
1 TBF-1	VC 60	Fragments from	1 small hole each wing	Damage repaired
2		blast of own bomb	4" hole in bomb bay door	and plane operating
3			10" hole left elevator	within two hours
4				after landing.
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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).

[illegible]

VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA

[illegible]

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

SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

TURNS
 DIVES
 CEILINGS
 RANGE
 PROTECTION
 ARMAMENT

No enemy planes encountered.

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- (a) Location of Target(s) Target Areas 204 & 205, Bititu Island, Tarawa Atoll, Gilbert Islands (b) Time Over Target(s) 2255 GCT.
 (c) Weather and Clouds Over Target Thunderstorms and rain on southern edge of Bititu Island clear over lagoon.
 (d) Sun ~~not~~ partially obscured by clouds and by dust and smoke. (e) Visibility 100 yards over target.

XI. TARGETS, RESULTS OF ATTACK.

(a) DESCRIPTION OF TARGET (List All Ships in Group, Whether or Not Individually Attacked)	(b) A/C ATTACKING	(d) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH TARGET	(e) ALTITUDE OF RELEASE	(f) HITS
	(c) SQUADRON			
1 <u>Target Area 204. Probable ammunition dump.</u>	<u>TBF-1</u>	<u>8x500# Gen. Purp.</u>	<u>800 ft</u>	<u>one sure</u>
	<u>VC 60</u>			<u>one probable</u>
2	<u>SBD-5</u>	<u>1x500# Gen. Purp.</u>	<u>1200 ft</u>	<u>all in</u>
	<u>VC 60</u>	<u>2x100# " "</u>		<u>water</u>
3				
5				
6				
7				
8				

- (g) **RESULTS:** (FOR SHIP TARGETS 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, WITH DIAGRAMS OR CHARTS WHERE DESIRABLE. DESCRIBE TARGETS FULLY IN (a), AND IN REPORTING DAMAGE OR DESTRUCTION, IDENTIFY BY NUMBERS AT LEFT. USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY).

See attached Target Area Chart

- (h) Were Photographs Taken? No Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached.

