

VMB -423

161
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Report 359

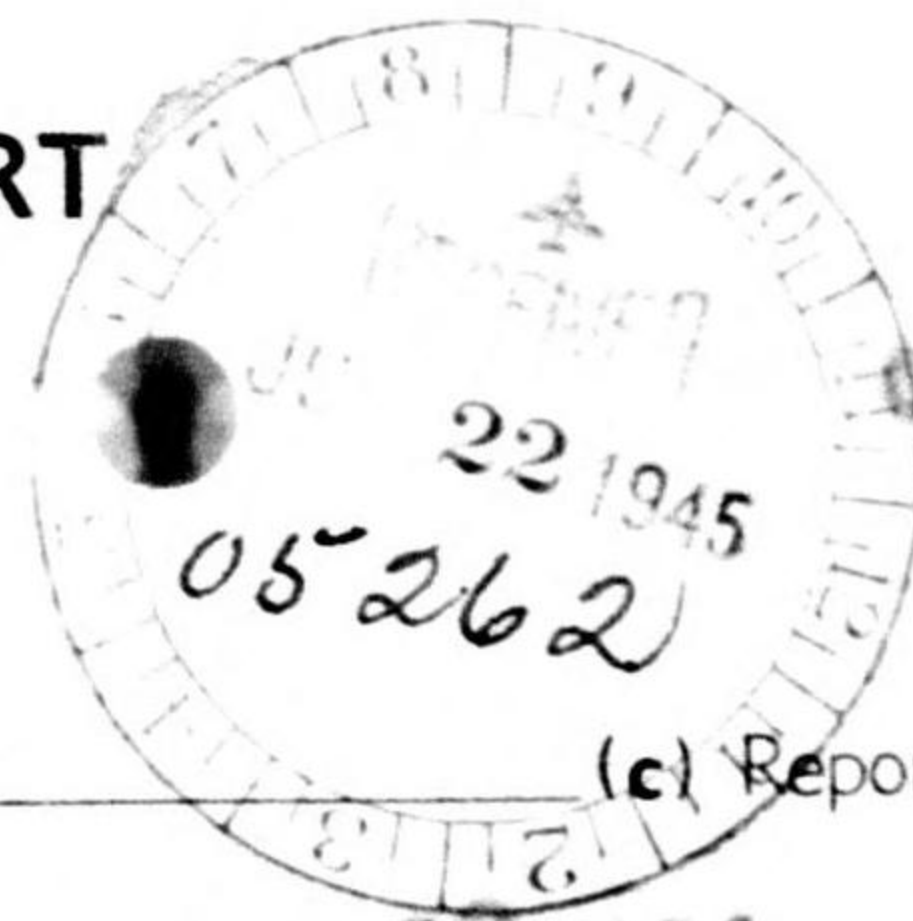
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AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL



I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB-423 (b) Based on or at Bairau (c) Report No. 359
 (d) Take off: Date 4 July, 1945 Time (LZT) 0015-0220 (Zone); Lat. 1° 38' Long 150°
 (e) Mission Medium altitude bombing and heckling of Kavieng, New Ireland. (f) Time of Return 0330-0638 (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>PBJ-1J</u>	<u>VMB423</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>12 X 120# Frag. Clusters</u>	

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>None</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	GUNS USED		
<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)
1				
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
	None			

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	
FW-19	310	270	3hr 30'	974	823	None	None	None	None	4

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

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

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

- SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes
- TURNS
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

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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) Kavlang, New Ireland (b) Time Over Target(s) 0100-0500 (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target None.
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 20 miles
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Level Bomb Sight Used D-8
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 1, 2, 3 & 4 Spacing Varied Altitude of Bomb Release 10,000-11,000'
(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 <u>Kavlang, N.I.</u>		<u>4</u> <u>VSB-423</u>	<u>24 X 120# Frag. clusters</u>	<u>See (a)</u>	
2 <u>Potopai</u>		<u>4</u> <u>VSB-423</u>	<u>16 X 120# Frag. clusters.</u>	<u>See (a)</u>	
3 <u>Belgai</u>		<u>3</u> <u>VSB-423</u>	<u>8 X 120# Frag. clusters</u>	<u>See (a)</u>	
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).

Results were unobserved.

(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

CALL	PILOT	T/O	EMIRAU	T/O/T	P/C	EMIRAU
242821	LtCol ANDERSON	0015		0100-0300		0330
243821	JOHN	0020		0100-0300		0335
244821	BEAIRD	0215		0300-0500		0530
245821	TOGHERSON	0220		0300-0500		0535

On the morning of 4 July, 1945, four planes of VB-423 covered Kavieng, New Ireland on medium altitude bombing and snoopers search and heckling missions from 0100 to 0500.

242821 was airborne by 0015 and 243821 by 0020. From 0100 to 0200, 242821 furnished cover while 243821 bombed and heckled the Kavieng area. 243821 dropped twelve 120 pound fragmentation clusters, six on the Kavieng area, four on the Panspai area and two on the Balgai are, all with unobserved results. From 0200 to 0300, 243821 furnished the cover while 242821 bombed and heckled the Kavieng area. 242821 dropped twelve 120 pound fragmentation clusters, eight on the Kavieng area, three on the Panspai area and one at Balgai.

244821 was airborne by 0215 and 245821 by 0220 and proceeded to Kavieng, New Ireland to relieve the planes on station. From 0300 to 0400, 244821 furnished cover while 245821 bombed and heckled the Kavieng area. 245821 dropped twelve 120 pound fragmentation clusters, five on the Kavieng area and seven on the Panspai are, all with unobserved results. From 0400 to 0500, 245821 furnished the cover while 244821 bombed and heckled the Kavieng area. 244821 dropped twelve 120 pound fragmentation clusters, five on Kavieng area, two on the Panspai area and five on the Balgai area, all results unobserved.

The planes maintained an altitude of 12,000 feet while furnishing cover and all bombing was done from altitudes between 10,000 feet and 11,000 feet.

No anti-aircraft fire or searchlights were encountered.

All planes returned safely and the last one was on the deck at 0636.

(All times in this narrative are local).

WARD D. MARTIN,
Capt., USMC,
Intelligence Officer.

NOELAN J. ANDERSON
LtCol., USMC,
Commanding.