

MG-61

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Report # 91

IC(4)

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
Reclassify when
filled out

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No **91**

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) **Primary: Tobera #37, N.B.**
Secondary: Matupi Island. (b) Time Over Target(s) **P: 1058L**
S: 1115L (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target **S: 2 - 3/10 cu. at 2000', tops 4000'.**
P: scattered cu. at 3000', tops to 9000'. (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target **Partially obscured by clouds.** (e) Visibility **10** (MILES)
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Level** (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used **Mk.15 Mod.7**
Bombs Dropped per Run **All** (NUMBER) Spacing **20'** (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release **P: 11,399'-11,800'**
S: 11,000'. (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground Destroyed **None** Probably Destroyed **None** Damaged **None**

(h) AIMING POINT	(i) DIMENSION OR TONNAGE	(j) NO. A/C ATTACKING (BY SQUADRON)	(k) BOMB AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO. HIT OF AMMO PLUGS	(n) DAMAGE (Name of Hit and Effect of Damage)
1 Tobera #37, New Britain.	1400' x 2600'.	5 VMB 413	60 x 100 demolition		
2 Matupi Island.	1400' x 1000'.	6 VMB 433	72 x 100 demolition		See "c"
3 Tobera #37, New Britain.	1400' x 2600'.	9 VMB 443	108 x 100 demolition		
4 Returned to base		1 VMB 413	12 x 100 demolition		
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 size and location of hits. For all targets give location and effect of hits, and identify by numbers above, and show effect of damage.)

- 1.-24 x 100 hit along of the target.
- 12 x 100 hit wide of the target.
- 14 x 100 hit short of the target.
- 10 x 100 hit in the target.
- 2.-52 x 100 hit in the southeastern corner of target.
- 20 x 100 hit long in the water.
- 3.-108 x 100 hit about 100 yards south of the target.
- 4.-12 x 100 were returned to base because plane developed trouble in electrical system.

Note:

No photographs are attached because they did not pick up bomb hits.

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

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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

413		433		443	
CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT
254B21	Cox	266B21	Wolfe	279B21	Whitney
255B21	Roose	267B21	Leachman	280B21	Larsen
256B21	Freacy	268B21	Parrish	281B21	Schreiber
257B21	Reary	269B21	Woten	282B21	Gorman
258B21	Cochrane	270B21	Percy	283B21	Burt
259B21	Cooper	271B21	Smith	284B21	Tafel
				285B21	Kitterman
				286B21	Biberstine
				287B21	Stewart

With Lt. Col. R. B. Cox as flight leader, 21 PB's went on a coordinated medium level bombing strike at Tebera #37. This is a personnel and storage area, 1400' x 2600', northeast of Tebera Airstrip. The group consisted of VMA-413, VMA-443 and VMA-433. Take off was in that order and the first plane started off at 0915.

The group joined up in vee of squadrons. VMA-413, VMA-433 and VMA-443 were numbers one, two and three respectively in the vee. All squadrons were javelined down.

When the Duke of York Islands were reached, after the usual route from Emirau via Selapia, VMA-443 dropped behind to make an independent bombing run. One plane from VMA-413 had electrical trouble and brought its bombs back to base early.

VMA-413 and VMA-433 swung around at the Duke of York Islands, to the right, headed south and then went into a bombing run of 263° magnetic, at an altitude of 11,300 feet and 160 kts. I.A.S. Bombs dropped at 1058 with results as follows: 10 x 100# Mk.4 bombs hit in the target and 50 x 100# Mk.4's were scattered around the target.

VMA-433 did not drop on this run as clouds obscured its aiming point. With Lt. Col. Cox's permission, these planes left the formation and hit Natupi Island in a bombing run of 115° magnetic, at an altitude of 11,000 feet and 165 kts. Bombs dropped at 1115. 52 x 100# Mk.4's hit on the southeastern corner of the island and 20 x 100# Mk.4's splashed.

Over the primary VMA-443 went into its bombing run on a bearing of 215° magnetic, at an altitude of 11,800 feet and 160 kts. I.A.S. Bombs were away at 1100 through the low cumulus clouds that cluttered the target. Results, as near as could be determined, were: 108 x 100# Mk.4 bombs hit 100 yards south of target.

After these runs, the group rallied off Duke Of York Islands and then flew a routine flight back to base for a TOR of 1229.

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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

Bomb. Reports indicate, from the altitude used, these bombs drift badly with considerable dispersion.

A squadron of Amirau Venturas, 7 PV's from N.Z.-9, hit the same primary. Tobera #37, on an independent mission fifteen minutes earlier. 42 x 250# GP's were reported as hitting in the target.

**R. R. CRUISE,
Capt., USMC,
Group Intelligence Officer.**

**P. K. SMITH,
Col., USMC,
Group Commander.**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE