

VMB 423

160
⑨

Report #310

ITC ⑨

4

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

053489
CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB-423 (b) Based on or at Green Island (c) Report No 310
 (d) Take off: Date 6/7 May, 1945 Time (LZT) 0130 80325 (Zone); Lat. 04° 32' Long 154° 14'
Night snooper search and heckling mission over Rabagl, New Britain.
 (e) Mission _____ (f) Time of Return 04450655 (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)		
PBJ-1J	VMB423	2	None	2	8 X 250# GP	Nose: AN-M-103 .1 Sec Delay

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
None							

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
None			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(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		
None						

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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) Rabaul Area, New Britain (b) Time Over Target(s) 0215-0415 & 0430-0615 (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target .8 Cover (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target HAZY (e) Visibility 10-15 miles (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Level Bomb Sight Used D-8

Bombs Dropped per Run 8 Spacing Varied Altitude of Bomb Release 5,500' to 8,000'

(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 Rabaul Town		2 VMB-423	8 X 250# GP	See(o)	
2 NE of Lakauai Airstrip		1 VMB-423	3 X 250# GP	See(o)	
3 Matupi Island		1 VMB-423	4 X 250# GP	See(o)	
4 Cape Gazelle		1 VMB-423	1 X 250# GP	See(o)	
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 generally 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
Defensive 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 GREEN	T/O/T	P/O GREEN
331B21	HEIL	0130	0215-0415	0445
332B21	ROGERSON	0325	0450-0615	0655

On the night of 6/7 May, 1945, 331B21 was airborne by 0130 on a snoopers search and heckling mission over Rabaul, New Britain. 331B21 arrived on station at 0215, dropping 8 X 250 pound general purpose bombs prior to 0250. Three bombs were dropped northeast of Lakunai Airstrip and five on Rabaul Town with unobserved results. No anti-aircraft fire or searchlights were encountered.

At 0325, 332B21 was airborne and on way to Rabaul, New Britain to relieve 331B21. 332B21 arrived on station at 0450, dropping 8 X 250 pound general purpose bombs from that time to 0615. Four bombs were dropped on Matupi Island, three on Rabaul Town and one on Cape Gazelle with unobserved results. No anti-aircraft fire or searchlights were encountered.

(All times in this narrative are local).

WARD D. MARTIN
Capt., USNCR
Intelligence Officer

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Commanding