

VMB-433

149
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Report 133

C (10)

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AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB-433 (b) Based on or at Emirau Island (c) Report No. 133
 (d) Take off: Date 26 March, 1945 Time (LZT) 1427 L (Zone); Lat. 01 36° S Long 150 00° E
 (e) Mission Primary Secondary
NAB Kinidan Bridge, N.I. - Hit Lossuk Bridge, N.I. (f) Time of Return 1635 L (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-1</u> | <u>VMB-433</u> | <u>8</u> | <u>Nil</u> | <u>8</u> | <u>1 x 2000 GP AN-M34</u> | <u>AN-M-103 Inst. Fuse</u> |
| | | | | | | |

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

| TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE | TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE |
|------------|----------|--------|------|------|----------|--------|------|
| <u>N11</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>N11</u> | | | (ZONE) | | | |
| | | | (ZONE) | | | |
| | | | (ZONE) | | | |

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Nil
 Did Any Part of
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? If so, Describe Clouds (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 (YES OR NO)
 Time of Day and Brilliance (k) Visibility (MILES)
 (j) of Sun or Moon (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST, ETC.)

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>N11</u> | | | | | | |
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REPORT No. **133**

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 | N11 | | | |
| 2 | | | | |
| 3 | | | | |
| 4 | | | | |
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| 6 | | | | |
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| 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 |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| | N11 | | | |
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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 | |
| FBJ-1 | 184 | 88 | 2hr. 08' | 974 | 316 | N11 | N11 | N11 | N11 | 8 |

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

| CALIBER | NONE | MEAGER | MODERATE | INTENSE |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------|----------|---------|
| HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | |

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

- SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

TURNING

DIVES

CEILINGS

RANGE

PROTECTION

ARMAMENT

N11

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No **133**

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) **Lossuk Bridge, New Ireland** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1550 L** (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target **.6-.8 cu at 1800° .10 AS 9000-10000°**
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target **Partially obscured** (e) Visibility **11-15**
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type **level** Bomb Sight Used **M-15**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run **all** Spacing **N11** Altitude of Bomb Release **8000°**
(NUMBER) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed **N11** Probably Destroyed **N11** Damaged **N11**

| (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 Lossuk Bridge | 75' x 15' | 8 VMB-433 | 8 x 2000 GP | | See Below |
| 2 | | | | | |
| 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.)

Four x 2000 GP straddled road immediately southeast of bridge.
Four x 2000 GP hit in water off target.

(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 | TO EMIRAU | TOT | TCR EMIRAU |
|--------|----------------|-----------|------|------------|
| 266B21 | Hendy | 1427 | 1550 | 1635 |
| 267B21 | Klein | 1427 | 1550 | 1635 |
| 268B21 | Percy | 1428 | 1550 | 1636 |
| 269B21 | Lattner | 1428 | 1550 | 1636 |
| 270B21 | Carr | 1429 | 1550 | 1637 |
| 271B21 | Green | 1429 | 1550 | 1637 |
| 272B21 | Lt. Col. Adams | 1430 | 1550 | 1638 |
| 273B21 | Johnston | 1430 | 1550 | 1638 |

Eight PBJ's led by Lt. N. V. Hendy took off from Emirau on a squadron medium altitude bombing attack upon the coastal road bridge located at Kinidan Plantation, New Ireland. This was another of similar attacks carried out by the squadron in the past.

Following the eight-plane joinup over Emirau, the flight proceeded on course down the northern coast of New Ireland to the vicinity of Lossu Plantation, where adverse weather conditions forced the squadron to turn back to the secondary target, Lossuk Bay Bridge. The formation to this point was a javelin down column of 3-plane sections. Prior to the bombing run, the sections closed up into a tight column and prepared for the attack. The run was made at a speed of 160 knots, altitude of 8000', while on a magnetic heading of 165 degrees.

Four of the tonners straddled the road immediately southeast of the target area and the remaining four hit just off shore in the water. Specific damage was unobserved.

No A/A and no enemy interception were encountered and all Mitchells returned safely to base by 1638 L.

J. V. A. Fine
Capt., USMCR
Intelligence Officer

J. G. Adams
Lt. Col., USMCR
Commanding Officer