

VMB-44B

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Report #106

II c (11)

4

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB 443 (b) Based on or at MIRAU ISLAND. (c) Report No. 306
 (d) Take off: Date 26 MARCH 1945 Time (LZT) 1444 (L) (Zone); Lat. 01DEG36'8 Long 150DEG00'2
 (e) Mission LIBBA BRIDGE, NEW IRELAND. (f) Time of Return 1634 (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)		
PRJ-1B	VMB 443	6	NONE	6	1 X 2000# GP. MK. 66	NOSE: AN-M 102 INST. TAIL: AN-M 103-A2 INST.

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 _____ (k) Visibility _____
(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (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) **ROLAND YOUNG PLTN. AREA.** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1553 (L)** (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target **3-5 THRESH CUMULUS AT 1500', TOPS TO 6000'.**
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target **CLEAR.** (e) Visibility **UNLIMITED.**
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type **MEDI IN LEVEL.** Bomb Sight Used **ML. 15, NOB. 7**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run **ALL** Spacing **NONE** Altitude of Bomb Release **10,000'**
(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 ROLAND YOUNG PLTN. AREA.		6 FBIS VMB 443	6 X 2000# GPs	SEE	NARRATIVE.
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).

SEE NARRATIVE.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? **YES.** 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	TO	TOT	PAF
279B21	Anderson	1444	1553	1634
280B21	Mueller	1444	1553	1634
281B21	Wetsel	1445	1553	1635
282B21	Braseal	1445	1554	1635
283B21	Lord	1446	1554	1636
284B21	Burt	1446	1554	1636

Major Anderson took a turn at leading the bridge busters, but weather again prevented destruction of this link in the Japs New Ireland coastal highway.

Taking off at 1444, the squadron headed for Libba, Bridge, 123 miles from base on the northeast coast of New Ireland. Flying in javelin down formation, on a bearing of 120 deg. mag., the planes reached the target area on schedule but found the bridge completely hidden by clouds.

After an 180 deg. turn from the target, a flight along the coast of New Ireland to Fangelawa, across New Ireland to Djaul Island, the flight orbited for a run Roland Young Plantation. This area is well populated with Japanese and makes a good secondary.

The bombing run headed 045 deg. mag., at an altitude of 10,000' and 160 knots i.a.s. The one ton bombs left the planes at 1553 with the following results:

6 X 2000# GP'S hit 170 yds southwest of aiming point, and exploded in wooded area with unobserved results.

After a routine flight back to base, the planes landed at 1634.

SUBMITTED BY

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Capt. USMC
ACIO

APPROVED BY

A. D. Gould
Lt. Col. USMC
COMMANDING