

VMB 425

161

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Report #3B

HC (9)

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# CONFIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

053810

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

## I. GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB-423 (b) Based on or at Green Island (c) Report No. 313  
 (d) Take off: Date 8 May, 1945 Time (LZT) 0145 & 0345 (Zone); Lat. 04° 32' Long 154° 14'  
 (e) Mission Night snoop search and heckling mission over Rabaul, New Britain (f) Time of Return 0515 & 0715 (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)		
<b>PBJ-1J</b>	<b>VMB423</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6 X 500# GP</b>	<b>Nose: AN-M-103 .1 Sec Delay Tail: AN-M-101A2 .025 Sec Delay</b>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<b>None</b>							

## 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
<b>None</b>			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 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		
<b>None</b>						

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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 <b>None</b>				
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
	<b>None</b>			

## 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	
<b>PBJ-1J</b>	<b>--588--</b>	<b>3hrs30'</b>		<b>974</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>2</b>

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

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

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

SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes

- TURNES
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

**No enemy aircraft encountered.**

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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)

**0240-0435 &  
0430-0630** (Zone)

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) **Rabaul Area, New Britain** (b) Time Over Target(s) **0240-0435 & 0430-0630** (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target **.2 Cover**  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target **Clear** (e) Visibility **25 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** Spacing **Varied** Altitude of Bomb Release **8,000-10,500**  
(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 <b>Rabaul Town</b>		2 <b>VMB-423</b>	<b>7 X 500# GP</b>	<b>See (o)</b>	
2 <b>Matupi Island</b>		1 <b>VMB-423</b>	<b>1 X 500# GP</b>	" "	
3 <b>Vunakanau Area</b>		1 <b>VMB-423</b>	<b>4 X 500# GP</b>	" "	
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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**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

CALL	PILOT	T/O GREEN	T/O/T	P/C GREEN
331B21	JOSE	0145	0240-0435	0515
332B21	HUBER	0345	0430-0630	0715

331B21 was airborne for a snoopier search and heckling mission by 0145 and proceeded to Rabaul, New Britain. Between 0240 and 0435, 331B21 dropped six 500 pound general purpose bombs, five on Rabaul Town and one on Matupi Island, all for unobserved results. No searchlights or anti-aircraft fire were encountered.

332B21 was airborne at 0345 and relieved 331B21 on station over Rabaul at 0430. Between 0430 and 0630, 332B21 dropped six 500 pound general purpose bombs, two on Rabaul Town and four on the Vunakanau area for unobserved results. 332B21 also encountered no opposition from searchlights or anti-aircraft fire.

Both planes returned to base safely, the first banded at 0515 and the second at 0715.

(All times in this narrative are local).

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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Intelligence Officer

APPROVED BY:

**NORMAN J. ANDERSON**  
LtCol., USMC  
Commanding

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE