

VMB 423

160
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Report #296

HC(9)

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

296

(a) Unit Reporting: VMF-123 (b) Based at: Green Island (c) Report # 296
 (d) Date of Action: 27 April, 1943 (e) Take off: Time: 0845-0847 LZT
 Lat. 04° 32' Long. 154° 14' (f) Mission: Medium Altitude Daylight
Bombing Raid on Kahili Pt, Hougainville.
 (g) Time of Return: 1055-1101 LZT

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT

TYPE	SQDN	NO. OF SORTIES	NO. ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	NO. ATTACKING TARGET	BOMBS CARRIED PER PLANE
PBJ-LJ	VMF123	5	None	5	3 x 1000# GP
PBJ-LJ	VMF123	1	None	1	3 x 250# GP

FUZE, SETTING

Nose: AN-M-103
 .1 Sec Delay
 Tail: AN-M-102A2 } - - 1000#
 .055 Sec Delay
 Nose same as above
 Tail: AN-M-100A2 } - 500#
 .055 Sec Delay

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

Type	Sqdn.	No.	Base	Type	Sqdn.	No.	Base
PBY3A	VPB-53	1	Green Island				

IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED

None

V. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR

None

290

VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL OF OWN AIRCRAFT

None

VII. PERSONNEL CASUALTIES

None

VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA FOR PLANES RETURNING

TYPE A/C	MILES OUT	MILES IN	AV HOURS IN AIR	AV FUEL LOADED	AV FUEL CONSUMED	TOTAL AMMO EXPENDED	PLANES RETURNING
P-51	100	100	1:15	970	870	None	1

IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED

	None	Meager	Moderate	Intense
HEAVY				
MEDIUM		XX		
LIGHT	XX			

X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT

No enemy aircraft encountered.

296

XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES

- (a) Target & Location: Eschill 24, Bouzainville.
- (b) Time over Target: 1000 (c) Clouds over Target: 8 Cover
- (d) Visibility of Target: Hazy (e) Visibility: 10
(miles)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type: Level Bomb Sight Used: Next 15
Bombs Dropped per Run: 1 1 1 Spacing: 50-100' Altitude: 10,400' & 10,200'
Probably
- (g) No. of Enemy A/C hit on Ground: None Destroyed: None Damaged: None

(H)	(I)	(J) (K)	(L)	(M)	(N)
<u>Eschill 24,</u>		<u>8</u>	<u>8 x 250 / 8</u>		<u>See (a)</u>
			<u>15 x 1000 / 8</u>		

Fifteen 1,000 pound bombs hit in the target area and eight 250 pound bombs hit just east of the target.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should be attached by staple.

CALL	PILOT	T/O GREEN	T/O/T	P/C GREEN
301B21	Major LOWELL	0845	1002	1058
302B21	HICKS	0845	1002	1059
303B21	LINEN	0846	1002	1059
304B21	HOPPER	0846	1002	1100
305B21	HEIL	0847	1002	1101
306B21	WORKMAN	0847	1002	1101

Major LOWELL, Operations Officer, led six PBJs of VMB-423 in a medium altitude daylight raid of target number 4, Kahili, Bougainville. The formation was composed of two, three plane sections Javelin down.

The strike was airborne by 0847 and after joining up as described above proceeded down the east coast of Bougainville to Rantan Island. From Rantan Island the flight took a heading of 247° magnetic to the northern end of Tonelei Harbor to enable all bombardiers to check drift, then on a heading of 222° magnetic to the junction of the Sasei and Mailal Rivers and turned into the bomb run.

The bomb run was made on a heading of 250° magnetic at 160 knots indicated. Bombs were released at 1002, the first section bombing from 10,400 feet and the second section from 10,200 feet. After the bombs were released the formation broke away to the left and returned to base. All planes were safely on the deck by 1101.

Three bursts of heavy inaccurate anti-aircraft fire were received from known positions southwest of Kahili Strip.

Fifteen 1,000 pound bombs hit in the target area and eight 250 pound bombs hit just east of the target.

No pictures of the bomb hits were obtained due to a sharp break-away.

(All times in this narrative are local).

WARD D. MARTIN
Capt., USMC
Intelligence Officer

NORMAN J. ANDERSON
LtCol., USMC
Commanding