

UMB-423

142
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Report # 305

IIc(9)

CONFIDENTIAL

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

053455

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting **VMB-423** (b) Based on or at **Green Island** (c) Report No. **305**
 (d) Take off: Date **3 May, 1945** Time: (LZT) **1400-1402** (Zone); Lat. **04°32'** Long. **154°14'**
Medium Altitude Daylight Strike on Kieta Peninsula, Bougainville.
 (e) Mission **Peninsula, Bougainville.** (f) Time of Return **1625-1627** (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	6	None	6	3 X 1000# GP	Nose: AN-M-103 .1 Sec Delay Tail: AN-M-102A2 .025 Sec Delay

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
PBY5A	VPB-53	1	Green Island				

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) **Kieta Peninsula, Bougainville** (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) **1539** (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target **.8 Cover** (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target **HAZY** (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility **10 miles** (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Level** (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used **Mark 15** (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run **3** (NUMBER) Spacing **125 feet** (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release **10,900 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 Kieta Peninsula		6 VMB-423	18 X 1000# GP	See(o)	
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.)

All bombs were in the target starting three fires with one explosion. The location of bomb hits with relation to the target is shown on the attached photograph.

PHOTOGRAPH

REFERENCE: **VMB423 (185) (4-2) 5-3-45 (20°-10,700') KIETA, BOUG., CONF.**

(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
- 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	T/O GREEN	T/O/T	P/O GREEN
301B21	Major TAYLOR	1400	1539	1626
302B21	WORKMAN	1400	1539	1626
303B21	HOPPER	1401	1539	1626
304B21	IVERSON	1401	1539	1626
305B21	GRUE	1402	1539	1627
306B21	HUBER	1402	1539	1627

Major TAYLOR, Executive Officer, led six PBJs in a medium altitude daylight strike on Kieta Peninsula, Bougainville, when he found the primary target Nakaru #36, covered by clouds. The formation was composed of two, three plane sections javelin down.

The strike was airborne by 1403 and after join-up proceeded down the east coast of Bougainville to Koromira Point where it turned south to the Luluai Valley and then west across South Bougainville searching for an opening in the clouds the formation circled down past the Shortland Islands and when unsuccessful flew to the alternate target on Kieta Peninsula.

The bombing run was made on a heading of 220° magnetic at 1539 from an altitude of 10,900 feet at 160 knots indicated air speed. After bombing the formation broke to the right and returned to base. All planes were safely on the deck by 1628.

Four bursts of inaccurate heavy anti-aircraft fire were encountered from two positions on the west tip of Ballale Island.

All bombs were on the target starting three fires with one explosion. The location of bomb hits with relation to the target is shown on the attached photograph.

(All times in this narrative are love).

WARD D. MARTIN
Capt., USMC
Intelligence Officer

NORMAN J. ANDERSON
LtCol., USMC
Commanding



2/15/57 (4-2) 53-40 (15-17) 1010, Snow, CNR