

VMB-44B

150
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Report #102

#2 (11)

4

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB 443 (b) Based on or at EMIRAU ISLAND (c) Report No. 102
 (d) Take off: Date 23 MARCH 1945 Time (LZT) 1500(L) (Zone); Lat. 01DEG36'S Long. 150DEG00'E
 (e) Mission KIMIDAN BRIDGE, NEW IRELAND. MED ALTITUDE. (f) Time of Return 1715 (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) | | |
| PBJ-1D | VMB 443 | 6 | NONE | 6 | 1 X 2000# GPs. MK. 66 | NOSE: AN-M 103 INST TAIL: AN-M 102*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 _____ (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: | | | GUNS USED | (c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE | (d) DAMAGE CLAIMED |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------|-----------------|-----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| | TYPE A/C | SQUADRON | PILOT OR GUNNER | | | |
| 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) **KAUT BAY, NEW IRELAND.** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1623 (L)** (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target **OVERCAST OF ALTOSTRATUS AT 9000' WITH SCATTERED CUMULUS AT 1500'.**
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target **CLEAR** (e) Visibility **RESTRICTED BY CLOUDS**
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBTURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type **MEDIUM LEVEL.** Bomb Sight Used **MK. 15, MOD. 7**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run **ALL** Spacing **NONE** Altitude of Bomb Release **5,000'**
(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 1500' FROM SHORE IN LINE WITH MOUTH OF KAUT BAY. | TARGET 200' X 300' | 6 PRJS. VMB 443 | 6 X 2000# BPs. | SEE | NARRATIVE |
| 2 | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | |
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- (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
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

| <u>CALL</u> | <u>PILOT</u> | <u>TD</u> | <u>TOT</u> | <u>PAI</u> |
|-------------|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| 279B21 | Gould | 1500 | 1623 | 1715 |
| 280B21 | McGuire | 1500 | 1623 | 1715 |
| 281B21 | Christmas | 1501 | 1623 | 1716 |
| 282B21 | Lenarie | 1501 | 1624 | 1716 |
| 283B21 | Lord | 1502 | 1624 | 1717 |
| 284B21 | Graser | 1502 | 1624 | 1717 |

Led by Lt. Col Gould, six planes took off at 1500 on another span smashing attempt at Kimidan Bridge, New Ireland. This pin point target is located seven miles south-east of Pinikinda point on the Northeast coast of New Ireland.

In javelin down formation, the flight headed for the target on a bearing of 120 Deg Mag. north east of Kavieng, New Ireland, it was obvious that bad weather would prevent a strike at the primary target. Accordingly, the squadron turned, circled around the west coast of New Hanover and flew to a point west of Djaul Island.

The secondary target selected was a suspected bivouac area 500 yds north of Kaut Bay. A clearing nearby was used as the aiming point.

Going into a bombing run at 5000' and 165 knots i.a. s. on a bearing of 045 Deg Mag., bombs were away at 1623.

6 X 2000# GP'S Fuzed Inst., were dropped and the target bracketed. Poor visibility prevented damage assessment.

The flight back to base was routine, packed time was 1715.

SUBMITTED BY:

G. W. McCormick
Capt. USMCR
ACIO

APPROVED BY:

A. D. Gould
Lt. Col. USMC
COMMANDING