

VMB-413

148  
⑧

Report # 270

HC(8)

41

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

8926

014752

## 1. GENERAL

**CONFIDENTIAL**

(a) Unit Reporting **VMB - 413** (b) Based on or at **Enirau, St. Matthias** (c) Report No. **270 Two hundred-seventy**  
 (d) Take off: Date **22 April, 1945** Time (LZT) **1257 L** (Zone); Lat. **01° 36' S** Long **150 E**  
 (e) Mission **Medium level bombing attack of Namatanai personnel area, New Ireland** (f) Time of Return **1533 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)		
<b>PBJ -1</b>	<b>VMB413</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12 x 100 instantaneous</b>	<b>Mk. 219 nose</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 \_\_\_\_\_  
(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		
<b>None</b>						



# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. 270  
VMB-413

## XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Namatani, New Ireland (b) Time Over Target(s) 1408L (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target Clear (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 20  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED 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 36x100 inst. Mk 4 Spacing Minimum Altitude of Bomb Release 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 <u>Personnel Area</u>		<u>VMB - 413</u>	<u>36 x 100 Mk. 4 instantaneous</u>	<u>see (0)</u>	<u>see (0)</u>
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).

18 x 100 In target  
18 x 100 100 yards east of target

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when  
filled out)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

REPORT No. 270

VMB-413

**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  
254B21  
255B21  
256B21

PILOT  
MENDENHALL  
MAC LEAN  
HENRY

Three Mitchells took off at 1257 for a medium level bombing mission of a personnel bivouac area located west of the airstrip at Namatanai, New Ireland.

The course to target was along the northeast coast of New Ireland, passing by Namatanai then a right turn was made on a course of 235° magnetic, lining up on an airstrip that was grown over with grass for their bombing run.

Bombs were released from 10,500 feet at a speed of 160 knots at 1408. Eighteen century bombs fell in the target and 18 hit approximately 100 yards east of the target. No A/A was encountered.

The three plane formation returned to the base by way of the southwest coast of New Ireland and New Hanover to the southwest tip of New Hanover, then turning right on a direct course to base, landing at 1533.

(All times in narrative are love)

REPORT PREPARED BY:

DOUGLAS G. LAUDERDALE, JR.  
CAPTAIN, USMCR  
INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

APPROVED BY:

ROBERT B. COX  
Lt. Col. USMCR  
COMMANDING OFFICER