

VMB-123

159
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Report # 241

HC (a)

7

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No **241**

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Matupi Island, New Britain (b) Time Over Target(s) 1108-1115
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) 1049-1050 (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target .3 Cloud Cover
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 20 to 25 miles
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Level Bomb Sight Used Mark 15
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 3 & 6 Spacing 25 feet Altitude of Bomb Release 10,000-10,200
(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 Matupi Island		10 VNB-423	6 X 500 # GP 27 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).

Nine bombs fell in the water short of the target and the balance hit the target. The relation of the bomb hits with the target is shown on the attached photographs.

(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/C GREEN
301B21	LtCol. ANDERSON	0930	1108	1205
302B21	LINEN	0930	1108	1205
303B21	LUSKY	0931	1108	1206
304B21	WALLER	0931	1049	1206
305B21	GRUE	0932	1049	1207
306B21	VAN AKEN	0932	1049	1207
307B21	TAYLOR	0933	1115	1208
308B21	WORKMAN	0933	1115	1208
309B21	LEAIRD	0934	1115	1209
*310B21	IVERSON	0935	1050	1140

* Captain IVERSON, of VMB-423, in a PBJ flew as leader of the New Zealand Ventura Squadron.

Lieutenant Colonel ANDERSON, Commanding Officer of VMB-423, led ten PBJs and five PVs in a medium altitude daylight strike on Matupi Island, after weather and cloud cover prevented the planned coordinated strike with Emirau planes on the primary target of Vunakanau number twelve, New Britain. The formation was composed of nine PBJs in three, three plane sections as the first squadron and one PBJ and five PVs in two, three plane sections as the second squadron. Captain IVERSON in a PBJ led the second squadron so that he could do the sighting for the PVs which do not carry a bomb-sight.

The flight was airborne by 0938 and after joining up as described above, proceeded to Powell Harbor. The formation then flew to the scheduled primary target area but weather conditions prevented the bombing. The flight then proceeded to Raluana Point then entered bombing run on the secondary target, Matupi Island.

The bombing run was made on a heading of 345° magnetic. Due to hung bombs the first and third sections of the first squadron did not bomb on the first bombing run. The third section of the first squadron could not bomb on the second run as they were not aligned on the target. Bombs were released by the second section of the first squadron at 1049 from 10,400 feet, one minute later the second squadron bombed from 10,000, the first section of the first squadron bombed at 1108 from 10,600 feet on their second bomb run, the third section bombed at 1115 from 10,200 feet on their third bomb run. The air speed of all planes was 160 knots indicated.

After the bombing runs were completed the planes broke to the right and returned to base. All planes were safe on deck at Green by 1209.

(No anti-aircraft fire was encountered).

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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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

JOSEPH T. TODD
1stLt., USMCR
Ass't. Intelligence Officer

APPROVED BY:

NORMAN J. ANDERSON
LtCol., USMC
Commanding

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

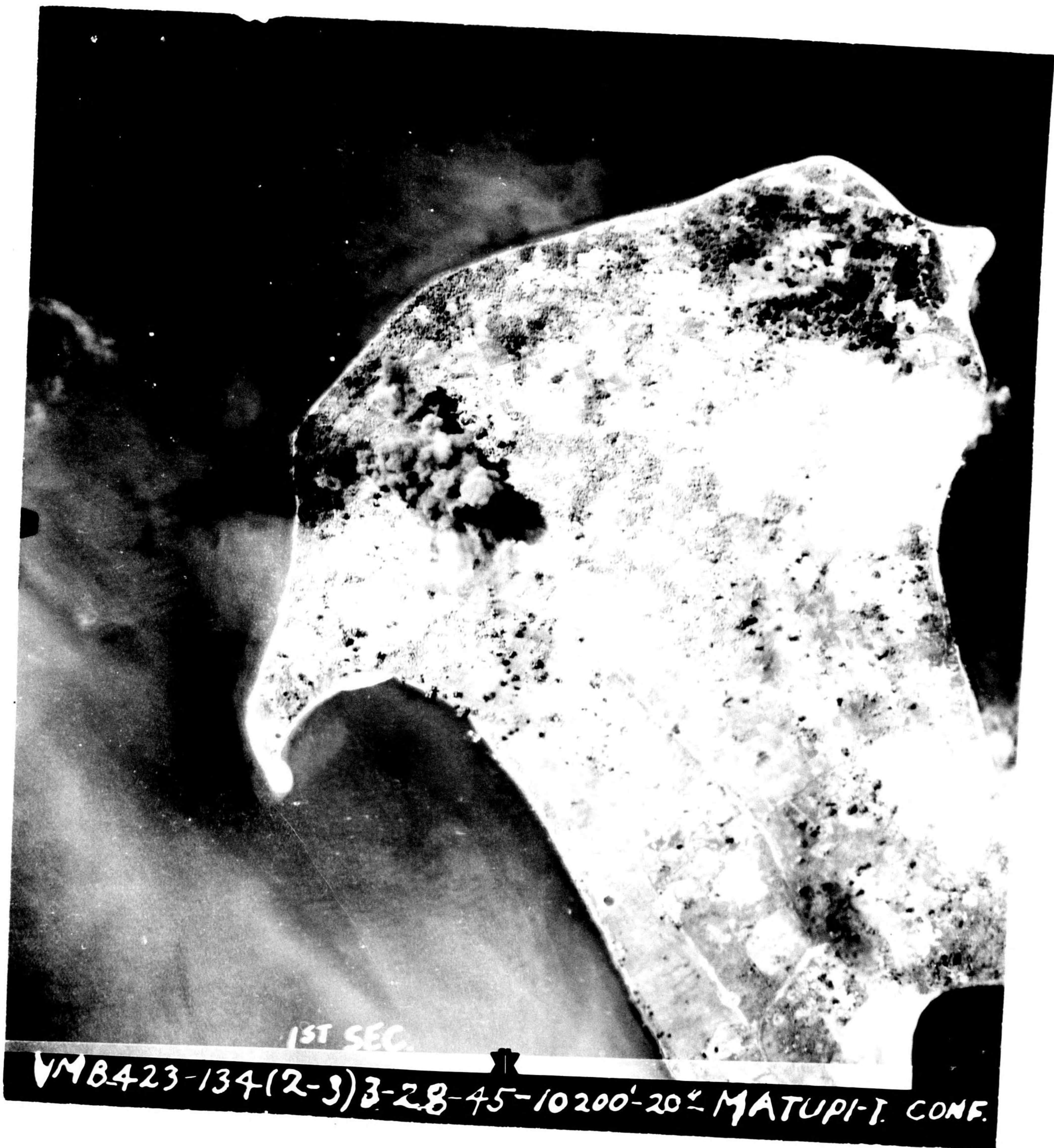
SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE

Nine bombs fell in the water short of the target and the balance hit the target. The relation of the bomb hits with the target is shown on the attached photographs.

(All times in this narrative are love).



1ST SEC.

VMB423-134(2-3)3-28-45-10200'-20" MATUPI-I. CONF.



2ND PV

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STUPID ONE.