

VMB-423

159
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Report # 250

#c(9)

5

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB-423 (b) Based on or at Green Island (c) Report No. 250
 (d) Take off: Date 1 April, 1945 Time (LZT) 0830-0832 (Zone); Lat. 04° 32' Long 154° 14'
 (e) Mission Medium Altitude Daylight Strike on Vunakanau target number 8, New Britain (f) Time of Return 1021-1025 (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	5	None	5	3 X 1000# GP	Nose: AN-M-103 .1 Sec Delay
PBJ-1J	VMB423	1	None	1	6 X 500 # GP	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
PV-1	NZ-3	5	Green Island				
PBY5A	VPB-44	1	Green Island				
F4U	NZ-24	2	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 _____ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
(YES OR NO)
 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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			
None						

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VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those listed in II only).

(a) TYPE OWN A/C	(b) SQUADRON	(c) CAUSE: TYPE ENEMY A/C, TYPE GUN, OR OPERATIONAL CAUSE	(d) WHERE HIT, ANGLE (List armor, self-sealing tanks, equipment hit)	(e) EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE, (Give Bureau serial number of planes destroyed)
1	None			
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				

VII. PERSONNEL CASUALTIES (in aircraft listed in II only; identify with planes listed in VI by Nos. at left).

(a) NO	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NAME, RANK OR RATING	(d) CAUSE	(e) CONDITION OR STATUS
	None			

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

(a) TYPE A/C	(b) MILES OUT	(c) MILES RETURN	(d) AV. HOURS IN AIR	(e) AV. FUEL LOADED	(f) AV. FUEL CONSUMED	(g) TOTAL AMMUNITION EXPENDED				(h) NO. OF PLANES RETURNING
						.30	50	20MM	MM	
PBJ-1J	161	148	1hr51'	974	323	None	None	None	None	6

IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	XX			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	XX			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	XX			

X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (use check list at left).

- SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

TURNS

DIVES

CEILINGS

RANGE

PROTECTION

ARMAMENT

No enemy aircraft encountered.

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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) Vunakanau #8, New Britain (b) Time Over Target(s) 0943-0944 (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target .5 Low Clouds with light rain.
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Partially Obscured (e) Visibility 10 to 15 miles
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Level Bomb Sight Used Mark 15
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 3 & 6 Spacing 50 & 100 feet Altitude of Bomb Release 10,900-11,300
(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>Vunakanau #8</u>		<u>6</u> <u>VMB-423</u>	<u>6 X 500 # GP</u> <u>15 X 1000# GP</u>	<u>See(o)</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.)

Ninety percent of the PBJs bombs were in the target while thirty percent of the PVs bombs hit the target but others were long and short. Two fires were started in the target area. The pattern of bomb hits with relation to 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
Escort Tactics, Own
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	Major LOWELL	0830	0943	1021
302B21	EVANS	0830	0943	1022
303B21	HICKS	0831	0943	1022
304B21	LUSKY	0831	0943	1023
305B21	KEITH	0832	0943	1023
*306B21	BEAIRD	0832	0944	1025

* Captain BEAIRD flew as leader of the New Zealand Squadron.

Major LOWELL, Operations Officer of VMB-423, led six PBJs of VMB-423 and five PVs of NZ-3 in a medium altitude daylight strike on Vunakanau target number 8. The formation was composed of five PBJs in one three plane and one two plane section as the first squadron and one PBJ and five PVs in two, three plane sections as the second squadron. Captain BEAIRD flew as leader of the New Zealand Squadron so that he could do the sighting for the PVs which do not carry a bombsight.

The strike was airborne by 0835 and joined up as described above, then proceeded to Wide Bay, New Britain. From Wide Bay the formation turned up the coast toward Adler Bay for bombardiers to adjust bombsights and figure drift. The flight then turned into a heading of 320° magnetic for 33 miles and when southwest of Vunakanau turned into the bombing run.

The first squadron bombed from 11,300 feet at 0943 on a heading of 037° magnetic and 160 knots indicated. The second squadron released its bombs from 10,900 feet at 0944 on a course of 037° magnetic and 160 knots.

After bombs were away the formation broke right and returned to base. All planes were safely on deck at Green Island by 1027.

No anti-aircraft fire was encountered.

Ninety percent of the PBJs bombs were in the target while thirty percent of the PVs bombs hit the target but others were long and short. Two fires were started in the target area. The pattern of bomb hits with relation to the target is shown on the attached photographs.

(All times in this narrative are love).

WARD D. MARTIN
Capt., USMCR
Intelligence Officer

H. W. TAYLOR
Major, USMC
Acting



VMB 423 141 (22) 4-1-45-11100' ALT. 20' JUMKADAN⁴² CONFID.

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VMB 423 141 (3-3) 4-1-45 - 10,800' ALT. off JODAKAAMA, COCHIS

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