

VMB-423

158  
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Report # 217

IC(9)

4





# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

CONFIDENTIAL  
REPORT No. 217

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Diddymans Agricultural Station, New Ireland (FOR SHIPS, INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) 1035 (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target .4 low clouds (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility 20 miles (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Low level (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used None (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 4 (NUMBER) Spacing 150 feet (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 100 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>Diddymans Agricultural</u>				
2	<u>Station, New Ireland</u>	<u>4</u> <u>VMB-423</u>	<u>16 X 250# GP</u>	<u>See (c)</u>	
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 area and the target was thoroughly strafed although the speed of the planes prevented observation of the results.**

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

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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

CALL	PILOT	T/O	RISE	T/O/T	F/C GREEN
375821	WILHITE	0930		1036	1136
376821	B. H. JONES	0930		1036	1136
377821	FRIEDMAN	0931		1036	1137
378821	TAYLOR	0931		1036	1120

Captain WILHITE led four PBJs in a low level bombing and strafing attack on the hut area at Diddymans Agricultural station near Heatsani, New Ireland. This strike was planned to surprise the enemy relying on the speed of the planes and the direction of approach to achieve this effect.

The flight was airborne by 0931 and proceeded to New Ireland crossing from the east coast to the west coast at Delomakas Bay. Proceeding up the west coast to a point five miles off shore of Ulaputer Plantation a shallow right turn was made into the bomb run.

The bombing and strafing run was made in a formation of four planes line abreast on a course of 016° magnetic. The planes struck from tree top level at an indicated air speed of 280 knots and bombs were released at 1036. All bombs were in the target area and the target was thoroughly strafed although the speed of the planes prevented observation of the results.

Intense, accurate anti-aircraft fire from both light and medium weapons was encountered from well concealed positions located in the garden area south of the road at Diddymans Agricultural Station. The PBJ flown by Lieutenant TAYLOR on the extreme right of the formation, was hit by a 20 mm shell which penetrated the port side of the navigators compartment. Also anti-aircraft fire severed the radio aerial on Lieutenant TAYLOR's plane. T/Sgt. Gordon R. SCHNEIDER (375062) navigator-bombardier received shrapnel wounds in the back from this shell.

After his plane was hit Lieutenant TAYLOR pulled out of the formation and proceeded by the most direct route to base and was safely on deck at 1120.

Other planes broke to the left after the bomb run and proceeded to base without incident and were safely on deck by 1137.

(All times in this narrative are local).

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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acting

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE