

V MB-423

159
⑨

Report #270

HC(9)

5

CONFIDENTIAL 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. 270
 (d) Take off: Date 12 April, 1945 Time (LZT) 1445-1447 (Zone); Lat. 04° 32' Long. 154° 14'
 (e) Mission Medium Altitude Daylight Strike on Kara A/D personnel area, (scheduled to hit Muguai 14, Boug'ville) (f) Time of Return 1716-1718 (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-LJ | VMB423 | 6 | None | 5 | 3 X 1000# GP | Nose: AN-M-103 .1 Sec Delay 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 |
|-------|----------|--------|--------------|------|----------|--------|------|
| PBY3A | 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)
 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 | | |
| 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 | | | | |
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| 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 | | | | |
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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 | 208 | 193 | 2hrs31' | 974 | 432 | None | None | None | None | 5 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
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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) **Kara A/D personnel area, Bougainville.** Time Over Target(s) **1615** (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target **.8 Cloud Cover over Target**
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target **Hazy** (e) Visibility **8-10 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** Spacing **50 to 100 ft.** Altitude of Bomb Release **10,600 ft.**
(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 Kara Airdrome personnel area | | 5 VMB-423 | 15 X 1000# GP | See(o) | |
| 2 | | | | | |
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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.)

The pattern of bomb hits with relation to the Kara Airdrome personnel area is shown on the attached photograph.

(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 | Major LOWELL | 1445 | 1615 | 1716 |
| 302B21 | TOGERSON | 1445 | 1615 | 1716 |
| 303B21 | HEIL | 1446 | 1615 | 1717 |
| 304B21 | HOPPER | 1446 | 1615 | 1717 |
| 305B21 | EWERS | 1447 | 1615 | 1718 |
| *306B21 | SPAULDING | 1447 | 1615 | 1718 |

Major LOWELL, Operations Officer, led six PBJs in a medium altitude daylight strike on Kara Airdrome personnel area, scheduled to hit Target #14 Muguai, Bougainville. The formation was composed of two, three plane sections javelin down.

The strike was airborne by 1448 and proceeded down the east coast of Bougainville to Oema Island. A course of 139° magnetic was flown over Oema Island for bombardiers to figure drift. The flight then went south and west to Popotata Island where it turned into the bomb run.

South Bougainville was hidden beneath nine tenths of low clouds and it was impossible to bomb target #14. A clear spot was located at Kara Airdrome and the formation lined up for a bombing run on the Kara personnel area.

Bombs were released at 1615 from 10,600 feet on a heading of 310° magnetic at 160 knots indicated air speed. The formation broke away to the right and returned to base. All planes were safely on deck at Green Island by 1718.

No anti-aircraft fire was encountered.

The pattern of bomb hits with relation to the Kara Airdrome personnel area is shown on the attached photograph.

* 306B21 returned to base with its bombs without reaching the target as a result of electrical trouble.

(All times in this narrative are love).

WARD D. MARTIN
Capt., USMCR
Intelligence Officer

NORMAN J. ANDERSON
LtCol., USMC
Commanding



VMB423 # 155 (3-1) 4-1245 10,600' ALT. 8 1/4" KARA AIRBORNE ENG CASE