

VMB 413

148
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Report # 241

HC(8)

4

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

Form ACA-1
Sheet 1 of 5

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB413 (b) Based on or at airau, St. Mathias (c) Report Two hundred and forty one
(d) Take off: Date 29 March, 1945 Time 1440 L ; Lat 01° 36' S Long 150° E
(e) Mission Day level and strafing of Fangelava (f) Time of Return 1641 L

Plantation, New Ireland

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT

TYPE	SQD	No.	MARKINGS	WEIGHTS	BOOMS AND TORPEDOES	FUSE, SETTING
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
PBJ-1	VMB413	3	None	3	2 x 1000 8 to 11'	M-114 tail
:	:	:	:	:	:	:
:	:	:	:	:	:	:
:	:	:	:	:	:	:
:	:	:	:	:	:	:
:	:	:	:	:	:	:
:	:	:	:	:	:	:

III. OTHER U. S. OR ALLIED AIRCRAFT EMPLOYED IN THIS OPERATION.

TYPE	SQD	No.	BASE	TYPE	SQD	No.	BASE
None	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only)

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
TYPE	No.	No Engaging	Time	LOCATION OF ENCOUNTER	BOOMS	CAMOUFLAGE
:	OBSERVED	Own A/C	Encountered	:	CARRIED	GUNS MARKINGS
None	:	:	(zone):	:	:	:
:	:	:	(zone):	:	:	:

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____
 Did Any Part of Encounter(s) _____
 (i) Occur in Clouds? _____ If so, Describe Clouds _____
 Time of Day and _____ (Yes or no) (base in feet, type, tenths cover)
 (j) Brilliance of Sun or Moon _____ (k) Visibility _____
 (night, Bright moon; Day, overcast; etc.) (miles)

V. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR (By Own Aircraft Listed in II)

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
TYPE	Destroyed or Damaged By:	Damage	Claimed
A/C	Type A/C: SQD : Pilot or gunner : Guns used:	Where hit angle:	
None	:	:	:
:	:	:	:
:	:	:	:

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
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(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). VMB 413

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Fangelawa Bay, New Ireland (b) Time Over Target(s) 1635-1610L (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 5/10 to 7/10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Low broken clouds with base one to two thousand feet (e) Visibility greater than 5
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Low Bomb Sight Used None used
(LEVEL GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run Varied Spacing Minimum Altitude of Bomb Release 100
(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>Bivouac area</u>		<u>3</u> <u>VMB - 413</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>see(o)</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).

2 x 1000 on Lakurange plantation
2 x 1000 on Fangelawa Bivouac area
2 x 1000 on Paruai village

Yes

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

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241

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
- Release
- Pull-Out
- Dive Angle
- Strafing
- Retirement
- Defensive Tactics

DEFENSE, ENEMY

- Evasive Tactics, Ships
- Concealment
- Anti-aircraft
- Searchlights
- Night Fighter Tactics

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

GALL
254B21
255B21
256B21

PILOT
BRONLEWE
INGBERG
HELMKE

Major Thomas G. Bronleewe led three planes from this squadron in a low level bombing and strafing attack of Fangelawa Bay area, New Ireland.

The Primary target, Libba Plantation, New Ireland was rained out so the flight leader hit the secondary, Fangelawa, New Ireland.

Taking off at 1440, the flight headed directly for Djaul Island in a vee formation. Turning inland, Major Bronleewe flew varied courses to miss clouds. Upon reaching the north west coast of New Ireland the flight in line abreast flew at tree top level along the coast strafing from Lossuk Bay to Fangelawa Bay, New Ireland. The formation made two runs, one on a 090 degrees magnetic course and the other on a course of 330 degrees magnetic. Bombs were away at 1535 and 1610. Results were unobserved with 2 x 1000 pound 8 to 11 second delay bombs hitting in the bivouac area at Lakurange Plantation, 2 x 1000 pounders landed in the Fangelawa bivouac area and two were seen to explode in Paruai Village, New Ireland. Twenty eight hundred rounds of fifty calibre were used up on the runs. After the second run the three planes in a vee formation headed for home, landing at 1644.

(All times in narrative are local)

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