

MG-61

149
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Report # 129

ITC(41)

6

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

Ref: **WB 413 322**
433 214
443 174

(a) Unit Reporting **NAAG-61** (b) Based on or at **Enirau Island** (c) Report No. **129**
(d) Take off: Date **19 June, 1945.** Time (LZT) **0811-0900L** (Zone); Lat. **01° 36' S.** Long **150° E.**
(e) Mission **Coordinated medium altitude bombing attack against Kabagoda #5, Tobera #24 and New Beaul #59, N.B.** (f) Time of Return **1015-1148** (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-1	WB-413	6	None	6	12 x 100# GP M-30.	Nose: AN-M-103 inst. Tail: AN-M-100A2 inst.
PBJ-1	WB-433	5	None	5	3 x 1000# GP M-44.	Nose: AN-M-103 inst. Tail: AN-M-102A2 inst.
PBJ-1	WB-443	6	None	6	3 x 1000# GP M-65.	Nose: AN-M-103 inst. Tail: AN-M-102A2 .01 sec delay.

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
PBJ	WB-436	1	Enirau Island				
PBJ	WB-435	2	same				

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 _____
(YES OR NO) (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:			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				
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

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	
PN-1	171	162	2hrs. 02'	974	364	0	0	0	0	17

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

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

SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

- TURNES
- 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) Kabagada #5, Kavieng A/A Position. (b) Time Over Target(s) 0938L
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) N.W. of Kavieng Strip, & Rabaul #59. 0929L (Zone) 1025L
- (c) Clouds Over Target Clear. Kavieng 2/10 cu. 5000'. tops to 12000'.
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target clear (e) Visibility 10
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type level Bomb Sight Used Mk. 15 Mod. 7.
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run All Spacing 25' Altitude of Bomb Release 11,000'
(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 Kabagada #5, N.B.	2500' x 1800'	6 WR.413	72 x 100# GP's		
2 A/A Position NW of Kavieng Airstrip.		5 WR.433	15 x 1000# GP's		See "a"
3 New Rabaul #59, N.B.	1400' x 1100'	6 WR.443	15 x 1000# GP's		
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).

- 1.-72x100# GP's hit in and around a stream bed 4500' southwest of the target. Damage was limited to three gardens and a small road crossing.
 - 2.-15x1000# GP's fell wide or west of the target for no damage.
 - 3.-17x1000# GP's fell in a group 300' southeast of the designated target, but on the dividing line between two other similar targets. Foliage was torn away revealing possible damage to six hitherto unobserved fuel storage tanks.
- 1 x1000# GP hung and was jettisoned 10 miles southeast of base.

Photographs attached:

- (2) (WR.413) (717) (0) (20") (11,000') (0938L) (19 June 45) (Kabagada #5)
- (3) (WR.443) (243) (0) (20") (10,800') (1019L) (19 June 45) (Rabaul #59, N.B.)

(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
- Defensive Tactics and Their Effectiveness

CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT
254B21	Cox	266B21	Whitney	279B21	Lemario
255B21	Gearhart	267B21	Maker	280B21	Booth
256B21	Roome	268B21	Crocker	281B21	Riberstine
257B21	Hines	269B21	Henhennet	282B21	England
258B21	Fay	270B21	Butler	283B21	Garten
259B21	Bingler			284B21	Necke

ENEMY AIRCRAFT

- Method of Locating, Distance
- Disposition
- Altitudes
- Speeds
- Approach Tactics
- Use of Cover, Deception
- Angles of Attack
- Distance of Opening Fire
- Defensive Tactics

There were 3 strikes coordinated today on medium altitude runs. WR-413 was off base at 0811 with 6 Mitchells in the flight and Lt. Col. Cox leading. Numerous well hidden huts at Kabagada #5 was the target. Smoky Joe missed the target and 72 x 100# GPs hit 4500' short and to the northwest of the target. WR-433 was next off scheduled to strike Tobera #24. Major Whitney, the leader, developed trouble in his starboard engine when over Selapiu. A run was made over medium AA positions at Kavieng but the 15 x 1000# GPs fell west of the target for no apparent damage. The active dump and supply area at Rabaul #99 was the objective of 6 FBJs from WR-443 led by Captain Lemario. 17 x 1000# GPs fell in a group 300' southeast of the target area, but on the dividing line between two other similar targets. Foliage was torn away revealing possible damage to 6 hitherto unobserved fuel storage tanks as shown by post-strike photos.

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

WR-413 followed the Selapiu route to New Britain. It was necessary to orbit to give Smoky Joe a second chance to hit the target, which also failed. Nevertheless, making the bombing run on a magnetic heading of 162° bombs were released from 11,000' while indicating 160 knots. No damage resulted to Kabagada #5, the target. Landing at base was complete at 1051 after an uneventful trip back.

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

WR-433 got as far as Selapiu before having to turn over Kavieng. The flight passed over Nusan Island for its run on a heading of 013° magnetic from 10,700' making 154 knots indicated air speed. No damage to the AA positions resulted. Breaking to the left Huirau was reached at 1019.

DEFENSE, ENEMY

- Evasive Tactics, Ships
- Concealment
- Searchlights
- Night Fighter Tactics
- Use of Jamming

WR-443 took a route over Selapiu, to Urara, to Cape Liguana, along the shore of Talili Bay to hit Rabaul #99 on a course of 060° magnetic, altitude 10,800' and 160 knots IAS. One hangup was jettisoned 10 miles southeast of Huirau. The breakaway was to the left to rally off Tawui Point. Following the northeast coast of New Ireland landings were perfected at 1142. Two three plane sections javelin down was the formation used throughout the flight.

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

R. R. CRUISE,
Capt., USMC,
Group Intelligence Officer.

E. P. BECKER,
Col., USMC,
Group Commander.



(VMB 413-117)(C)(20 X 11.500)(C9332)(19 June 45)(Nabagata #5)

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5412 EASTMAN SAFETY

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