

VMB-433

149
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Report # 151

HC (10)

4

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB-433 (b) Based on or at Emirau Island (c) Report No. 151
 (d) Take off: Date 17 April, 1945 Time (LZT) 1350-1425 L (Zone); Lat. 01 36' S Long. 150 00' E
 (e) Mission MAB Hamatanai Area, New Ireland (f) Time of Return 1630-1710 (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)		
<u>PBJ-1</u>	<u>VMB-433</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>N11</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8 x 250 CP AN-M57</u>	<u>AN-M-103 Inst. Fuse</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>N11</u>							

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
<u>N11</u>			<u>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) N11
 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 _____ (k) Visibility _____
(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON, DAY, OVERCAST, ETC.) (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			
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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)
N11				

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
	N11			

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	
PBI-1	145	144	1hr. 40'	974	402	N11	N11	N11	N11	6

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

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

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

- SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes
- TURNS
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

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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) Namatanai Area, New Ireland (b) Time Over Target(s) 1502-1539 (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target .2-.3 cu bases 2000' tops 4000' (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target clear (e) Visibility 15-20 (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type level Bomb Sight Used M-15 (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run all Spacing 100'- Salvo Altitude of Bomb Release 10,000-12,000' (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed Nil Probably Destroyed Nil Damaged Nil

(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 Namatanai Bridge	60' x 15'	3 VMB-433	8 x 250 GP		See Below
2 Namatanai Jetty	50' x 10'	3 VMB-433	8 x 250 GP		See Below
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.)

1st Section - All bombs 200 yards northwest of Namatanai Bridge.
2nd Section - Bomb hits in a string from north to south about 200 yards west of Jetty.
Results U/O.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No 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

CALL	PILOT	TO EMIRAU	TOT	TCR EMIRAU
266B21	Lattner	1350	1502	1630
267B21	Klein	1350	1502	1630
268B21	Shaw	1351	1502	1630
269B21	Woten	1425	1539	1710
270B21	Benjamin	1425	1539	1710
271B21	Green	1426	1539	1711

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
- Defensive Tactics, Own
- Flexible Gunnery, Own
- Escort Tactics
- Fighter Direction
- Use of Radar
- Night Fighting
- Recognition, Aircraft

Six PBJ's from the squadron participated in an afternoon medium altitude bombing attack upon the Namatanai area, New Ireland. The flight was composed of two three plane sections, the first headed by Capt. W. T. Lattner and the second by Capt. R. C. Woten. The two sections took off 35 minutes apart and proceeded southeast along the northern coast of New Ireland to Namatanai in a three plane section vee. The first section was assigned the bridge located on the coastal road as its target, and the second section was assigned the jetty in Nabute Bay. The first section made its bombing run at a speed of 160 knots, altitude of 10,000', and a magnetic heading of 150°, while the second section made its run thirty-seven minutes later at a speed of 160 knots, altitude of 12,000', while on a magnetic heading of 180°.

All of the first section's bombs hit about 200 yards northwest of the bridge, the second formation's bombs hit in a string from north to south approximately 200 yards west of the jetty. Specific results were unobserved.

No A/A and no enemy interception were encountered and all Mitchells returned safely to Emirau without incident.

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

J. V. A. Fine
Capt., USMCR
Intelligence Officer

W. H. Miller
Lt. Col., USMC
Acting