

VMB-423

159
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Report # 259

II c(a)

u

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

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I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB-423 (b) Based on or at Green Island (c) Report No 259
 (d) Take off: Date 5 April, 1945 Time (LZT) 0830-0833 (Zone); Lat. 04° 32' Long 154° 14'
Medium Altitude Daylight attack on Muguai #9 &
 (e) Mission Strafing Attack on Monitu area, Bougainville (f) Time of Return 1116-1123 (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-1J	VMB423	6	None	6	3 X 1000# GP	Nose: AN-N-103 Tail: AN-N-102A2 .1 Sec Delay Nose .025 Sec Delay Tail
PBJ-1J	VMB423	1	None	1	6 X 500 # GP	

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
PV-1	NZ-3	2	Green Island	F4U	NZ-20	2	Piva
PBY5A	VPB-44	1	Green Island				
F4U	NZ-15	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)
 (j) Time of Day and Brilliance _____ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON, DAY, OVERCAST, ETC.)
 of Sun or Moon _____ (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	PBJ-1J	VMB423 Medium enemy AA	Holed in starboard fin and rudder	Replacement of rudder and part of skin on fin
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
	None			

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	235	202	2hrs46'	974	462	None	14000	None	None	7

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

- URNS
- 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) Muguel #9 & Monoitu, Bougainville. (b) Time Over Target(s) 0937-0938 Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target .3 Cloud Cover
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 23 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 & 6 Spacing 50 to 100 feet Altitude of Bomb Release 11,000-11,400
(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, serious, destroyed, or sunk)
1 <u>Muguel</u>		<u>7</u> <u>VMB-423</u>	<u>6 X 500 # GP</u> <u>18 X 1000# GP</u>	<u>See(e)</u>	
2 <u>Monoitu</u>		<u>7</u> <u>VMB-423</u>	<u>14,000 rds 50 Cal</u>	<u>See(e)</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.)

Muguel, Bougainville

All bombs were in the target area and started a fire with brown-grey smoke to 1000 feet. The location of bomb hits with relation to the target is shown on the attached photograph.

Monoitu, Bougainville

The targets were thoroughly strafed but the speed of the planes prevented observation of results.

(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 TAYLOR	0830	0937	1116
302B21	LEAIRD	0830	0937	1117
303B21	PEARCE	0831	0937	1118
304B21	LUSKY	0831	0937	1119
305B21	GRUE	0832	0937	1120
306B21	MONROE	0832	0937	1121
*307B21	WALLER	0833	0938	1122

* Captain WALLER flew as leader of the New Zealand Squadron.

Major TAYLOR, Executive Officer of VMB-423, led seven PBJs of VMB-423 and two PVs of NZ-3 in a medium altitude daylight attack on target number 9, Muguai, Bougainville, followed by low level strafing attacks on the Monoitu area, Bougainville. The formation was composed of three, three plane sections javelin down with one PBJ and two PVs as the third section. Captain WALLER flew as leader of the PVs so that he could do the sighting for them as they do not carry a bombsight.

The strike was airborne by 0835 and after joining up as described above proceeded down the east coast of Bougainville to Koromira Point. From Koromira a heading of 181° magnetic was flown for 12 miles to figure drift and adjust bombsights. The formation then went twelve miles on a heading of 240° magnetic and then turned left into the bomb run.

Bombs were released at 0937 from 11,400 feet with each section stepped down two hundred feet, and on a course of 180° magnetic at 160 knots indicated. The formation broke away to the left.

Twenty to twenty-five bursts of inaccurate heavy anti-aircraft fire were encountered from known positions in Ebery's Lease.

All bombs were in the target area and started a fire with brown-grey smoke to 1000 feet. The location of bomb hits with relation to the target is shown on the attached photograph.

LOW LEVEL STRAFING

The six PBJs led by Major TAYLOR then proceeded west to Empress Augusta Bay. The first section then made its strafing run from the Pororei River Ford to Monoitu at tree top level and at 210 knots indicated. The second section orbited once over the bay to establish an interval and then strafed the same area as the first section at the same height and speed.

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XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left
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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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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Capt., USMCR
Intelligence Officer

APPROVED BY

H. W. TAYLOR
Major, USMC
Acting

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY



UMB 423-149(3) - 314-5-45-11,000' - 84° - MOBUA #9-BOUCY-CONF.

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