

VMB-413

148  
8

Report # 269

HC(8)

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# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when  
filled out)

## I. GENERAL

**CONFIDENTIAL**

(a) Unit Reporting **VMB - 413** (b) Based on or at **Enirau, St. Matthias** (c) Report No. **269 Two hundred-sixty nine**  
 (d) Take off: Date **21 April, 1945** Time (LZT) **1331L** (Zone); Lat. **01°38'S** Long. **150°E**  
 (e) Mission **Low level bombing and strafing of Dallum road cliff block, New Ireland** (f) Time of Return **1619 L** (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)		
<b>PBY-1</b>	<b>VMB413</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3 x 1000 S. A. P.</b>	<b>8 to 11 seconds delay</b>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<b>None</b>							

## 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
<b>None</b>			(ZONE)			
<b>None</b>			(ZONE)			
<b>None</b>			(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)  
 (YES OR NO)  
 Time of Day and Brilliance \_\_\_\_\_ (k) Visibility \_\_\_\_\_ (MILES)  
 (j) of Sun or Moon \_\_\_\_\_ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST, ETC.)

## 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		
<b>None</b>						







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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) Dallan, New Ireland (b) Time Over Target 1430-1515L (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target Clear  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 20  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBTURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Low Level Bomb Sight Used None Used  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 3 x 1000 SAP 8' toll Spacing 40 Altitude of Bomb Release 50 to 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 <b>Cliff</b>		<b>3</b> <b>VMB - 413</b>	<b>9 x 1000 S. A. P.</b> <b>8 to 11 seconds</b> <b>delay</b>	<b>see(o)</b>	<b>see(o)</b>
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).

**3 x 1000 On road**  
**3 x 1000 On cliff**  
**1 x 1000 Between road and cliff**  
**2 x 1000 In water**

(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  
254B21  
255B21  
256B21

PILOT  
MAC LEAN  
HELMKE  
OSLUND

A three plane strike took off at 1331 for a low level bombing attack to hit a cliff overlooking the coastal road that runs along the northeast coast of New Ireland from Kavieng to Bornoop. The cliff selected was located at Dallum Plantation, New Ireland.

Proceeding from target to the northeast coast of New Ireland, the planes made one dry run over target to become better oriented as to where the bombs should be dropped to perfect a "road block" by dropping the bombs on the cliff to cause a land slide.

Three half tonners S.A.P. 8 to 11 seconds delay bombs were placed on the cliff but the cliff was too far distant from the road to cause the land slide to carry to the road. Two additional runs were made on the road and six half tonners were dropped three cratering the road, one bounding between the cliff and road and two bouncing in the water.

The planes returned on a direct course to base hitting the deck at 1619.

(All times in narrative love)

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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