

VMB-423

141  
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Report #349

HC(9)

5

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

12128

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

054323

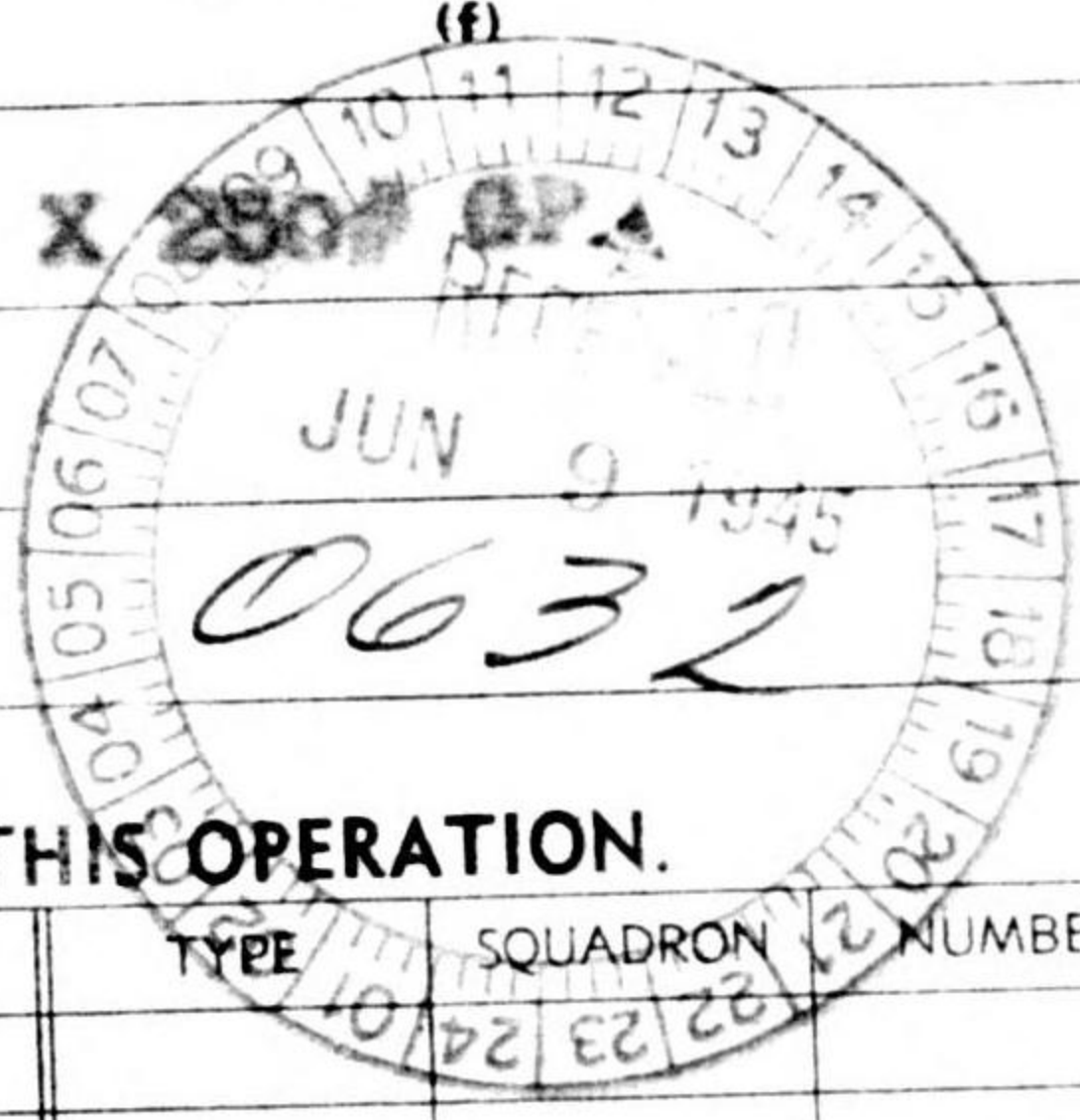
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## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB-423 (b) Based on or at Green Island (c) Report No 349  
 (d) Take off: Date 29 May, 1945 Time (LZT) 0845-0847 (Zone); Lat. 04°32' Long 154°14'  
 (e) Mission Medium altitude daylight raid on anti-aircraft positions atop Kangu Hill, Bougainville. (f) Time of Return 1108-1109 (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	8 X 250# GP	Nose: AN-M-103 .1 Sec Delay Tail: AN-M-100A2 .025 Sec Delay



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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
PBY5A	VPE53	1	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 \_\_\_\_\_ (k) Visibility \_\_\_\_\_ (MILES)  
 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:			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 <b>None</b>				
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
<b>None</b>				

### 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	
<b>PNJ-1J</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>2hrs 22'</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>8</b>

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

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

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

- SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes

TURNS

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) Kangu Hill AA Guns, Boug'nvill (b) Time Over Target(s) 1010 (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target .6 Cover with Rain and Hazy Overcast  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Hazy (e) Visibility 10-15 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 8 Spacing 50' Altitude of Bomb Release 9,800-10,000  
(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 <u>Kangu Hill AA Positions.</u>		<u>6</u> <u>VMS-423</u>	<u>48 X 250# GP</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).

**The pattern of bomb hits in relation to the target is shown on the attached photograph.**

### PHOTOGRAPH REFERENCE:

**VMS-423 (225) (1-2) 5-29-45 (20"-10,300') Kangu Hill, Boug., CONF.**

(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	LtCol ANDERSON	0845	1010	1108
302B21	KEITH	0845	1010	1107
303B21	VAN HORN	0846	1010	1108
304B21	WALLER	0846	1010	1108
305B21	HEIL	0847	1010	1109
306B21	JOBE	0847	1010	1109

Lieutenant Colonel ANDERSON, Commanding Officer, led six PEJs of VMB-423 in a medium altitude daylight raid on anti-aircraft positions atop Kangu Hill, Bougainville. The flight was airborne by 0847 and joined up in two, three plane sections.

After joining up the flight proceeded down the west coast of Bougainville to Notupena Point and followed the southwest coast to the mouth of the Hongorai River and turned inland for five miles on a heading of 091° magnetic to check drift. The flight then took a heading of 075° magnetic for 11 miles then 136° magnetic for 4 miles and turned into the bombing run.

Due to rain over the target three runs were made. Bombs were released on the third bombing run which was made on a heading of 270° magnetic at 165 knots indicated. The first section bombed from 10,000 feet and the second section from 9,800 feet.

Five bursts of heavy inaccurate and fifteen bursts of medium inaccurate anti-aircraft fire were encountered from known positions on Kangu Hill.

The pattern of bomb hits in relation to the target is shown on the attached photograph.

(All times in this narrative are local).

WARD D. MARTIN  
Capt., USMC  
Intelligence Officer

NORMAN J. ANDERSON  
LtCol., USMC  
Commanding



VMB-423(225)(1-2)5-29-45(20"-10300') KANGU HILL, BOUG. CONF.