

VMB-44B

150
⑪

Report # 79

II c (11)

4

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

07955

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB-443 (b) Based on or at Bairon Island (c) Report No. 79
 (d) Take off: Date 17 February 1945 Time (LZT) 1353 (Zone); Lat. 1°36'South Long. 150°00' East
 (e) Mission Strafing North coast of New Ireland from Balus Pita. to Cape Isorria. (f) Time of Return 1618 (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-1D</u>	<u>VMB-443</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>None carried</u>	

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>None</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>None</u>			<u>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			

(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 _____ (k) Visibility _____
 of Sun or Moon _____
(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:			(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER		
<u>None</u>					

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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	None			
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	
F3J-1D	186MI.	167MI.	2.4hrs.	974Gals.	430Gals.	2600	11,550	H O H E	MM	4

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

- TURNS
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

~~None 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) 20°42'N, -150°58'E. 30°15'N, -152°03'E. (b) Time Over Target(s) 1435-1520 (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
Coastal area from Balus Fltn. to Cape Lemeris.
- (c) Clouds Over Target Clear
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.)
- (e) Visibility Unlimited
(MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type None carried. Bomb Sight Used None used.
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run None Spacing None Altitude of Bomb Release None
(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	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
		(k) SQUADRON			
1 <u>Balus Fltn. to Cape Lemeris.</u>		<u>4 PRJs</u> <u>VMB-443</u>	<u>None carried.</u>		<u>See narrative.</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.)

See narrative.

(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

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

<u>CALL</u>	<u>PILOT</u>	<u>T.O.</u>	<u>T.O.T.</u>	<u>PARADE</u>
279B21	Hammond	1353	1435-1520	1618
280B21	Wetsel	1353	1435-1520	1618
281B21	Stewart	1354	1435-1520	1618
282B21	Mc Guire	1354	1435-1520	1618

Captain Hammond led the afternoon's strafing formation, consisting of a pair of two-plane elements. Leaving the strip at 1353, they bore away on a course of 125° Mag. and 150 knots, to reach a position five miles off the I. P., Balus Plantation, at 1430.

Diving in to reach tree-top level, the formation split to allow the elements to work independently, thus assuring flexible operation and thorough searching. The sweep to the south was executed at 180-200 knots I.A.S., and at altitudes between the deck and 300'.

The coastal area between Balus Plantation and Cape Ismeris was covered by irregular runs from the sea to the hills. Huts, trail intersections, creeks and garden areas were all strafed but no signs of life were seen except for a seagre touch of enemy machine gun fire from a hidden gunner located at the junction of a cross-island trail and the coastal road, just north of Cape Ismeris.

Swinging out to sea, the two sections flew northeast up the coast and cut in again at Finikindu Point to resume the hunt over the southern half of the target area. The enemy machine-gunner's area was raked by all guns of all four planes...There was no answer.

Ammunition being expended, the sections left target at 1520, joined up, and came in on a course of 298° Mag. for a landing at 1618.

There is no change from previous reports stating that the Jap has apparently abandoned this area in the daylight hours.

All times are local.

APPROVED BY:

REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

D. M. GUILLOTTE,
Lt. Colonel, USMC.,
Commanding VMB-443.

G. W. MCCORMICK, Jr.
Captain, USMC.,
ACTO.