

VMB-423

159  
⑨

Report # 272

IIa(9)

4

**CONFIDENTIAL**

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

Form ACA-1  
Sheet 1 of 5

CONFIDENTIAL  
272

**I. GENERAL**

- (a) Unit Reporting: VMB-423 (b) Based on or At: Green Island (c) Report #272  
(d) Take Off: Date: 13 April, 1945. Time: 0845-0847 (L) Lat: 04° 32' Long: 154° 14'  
(e) Mission: Medium Altitude Daylight Strike on Muguai #14, weathered off Muguai #10, Bougainville.  
(f) Time of Return: 1107 to 1109 (L)

**II. OWN A/C OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT**

| TYPE   | SQUAD   | NUMBER | TAKING OFF | ENGAGING ENEMY A/C | ATTACKING TARGET | BOMBS & TORPEDOES CARRIED PER PLANE                                   | FUZE SETTING |
|--------|---------|--------|------------|--------------------|------------------|---|--------------|
| PBJ-1J | VMB-423 | 6      | None       | 6                  | 3 X 1000# GP     | Nose: AN-M-103<br>.1 Sec Delay<br>Tail: AN-M-102-A2<br>.025 Sec Delay |              |

**III. OTHER U. S. OR ALLIED A/C EMPLOYED IN THIS OPERATION.**

| TYPE  | SQUAD  | NO. | BASE         |
|-------|--------|-----|--------------|
| PBY5A | VPE-44 | 1   | Green Island |
| F4U   | NZ-24  | 2   | Green Island |
| F4U   | NZ-20  | 2   | Piva         |

**IV. ENEMY A/C OBSERVED OR ENGAGED.**

None

**V. ENEMY A/C DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR.**

None

VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT.

None

VII. PERSONNEL CASUALTIES

None

| Type A/C | Miles Out | Miles In | Hours in Air | Fuel Loaded | Fuel Consumed | AMMO EXPENDED |              | # Planes Returning. |
|----------|-----------|----------|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|
|          |           |          |              |             |               | :.30          | .50 20MM MM: |                     |
| PBJ-1J   | 202       | 174      | 2hrs22'      | 974         | 412           | N             | O - N - E    | 6                   |

IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED

|        | None | Meager | Moderate | Intense |
|--------|------|--------|----------|---------|
| HEAVY  |      |        | XX       |         |
| MEDIUM | XX   |        |          |         |
| LIGHT  | XX   |        |          |         |

X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT.

No enemy aircraft encountered.

XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES.

- (a) Target & Location: Muguai #14, Bougainville (b) Time over Target: 1014  
 (c) Clouds over Target: .4 Cloud Cover (d) Visibility of Target: Hazy  
 (e) Visibility: 15 miles (f) Bombing Tactics: Type: Level Bomb Sight: Mark 15  
 Bombs Dropped per Run: 3 Spacing: 50-100 ft. Altitude: 10,900 ft.  
 (g) No. of Enemy A/C hit on Ground: None Probably Destroyed: None Damaged: None

| (h)        | (i) | (j) | (k)     | (l)           | (m)     | (n) |
|------------|-----|-----|---------|---------------|---------|-----|
| Muguai #14 |     | 6   | VMB-423 | 18 x 1000# GP | See (c) |     |

(d) RESULTS:

All bombs were in the west end of Muguai #14 but clouds hampered observation of results and obscured all photographs.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when  
authorized)  
**CONFIDENTIAL**  
REPORT No 272

**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 LOWELL | 0845      | 1014  | 1107      |
| 302B21 | PEARCE       | 0845      | 1014  | 1107      |
| 303B21 | LEAIRD       | 0846      | 1014  | 1108      |
| 304B21 | LUSKY        | 0846      | 1014  | 1108      |
| 305B21 | MONROE       | 0847      | 1014  | 1109      |
| 306B21 | HEIL         | 0847      | 1014  | 1109      |

Major LOWELL, Operations Officer, led six PBJs in a medium altitude daylight strike on Muguai target number 14, Bougainville when clouds obscured the assigned target of Muguai #10. The formation was composed of two, three plane sections javelin down.

The strike was airborne by 0848 and after joining up as described above proceeded down the east coast of Bougainville to Luluai Point. At Luluai Point the flight leader contacted the Piva Corsairs which were to mark the target with smoke bombs. However due to the cloud cover the formation was unable to locate Muguai #10 and for that reason hit Muguai #14 which was comparatively free of clouds.

Bombs were released from 10,900 feet at 1014 on a heading of 090° magnetic with 160 knots indicated air speed. After bombing the formation broke away to the right and returned to base. All planes were safely on deck at Green Island by 1109.

The formation encountered nine bursts of inaccurate heavy anti-aircraft fire partly from known positions at Ebery's Lease and partly from unidentified positions.

All bombs were in the west end of Muguai target number 14, but clouds hampered observation of results and obscured all photographs.

(All times in this narrative are local).

WARD D. MARTIN  
Capt., USMCR  
Intelligence Officer

NORMAN J. ANDERSON  
LtCol., USMC  
Commanding