

VMB-413

148
⑧

Report #252

HC(8)

4

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

7646

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

013482

CONFIDENTIAL

252

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB 413 (b) Based on or at Enirau, St. Matthias (c) Report No. Two hundred-fifty two

(d) Take off: Date 12/13 April, 1945 Time (LZT) 1957-2300L (Zone); Lat. 01° 36' S Long. 150° E
0116L

(e) Mission Heckle Kavieng Area, New Ireland (f) Time of Return 2036-0087 (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-1	VMB413	3	None	1	8 x 250 GP inst.	101A2 tail 103 nose
PBJ-1	VMB413	1	None	1	12 x 100 incendiary clusters	No fuse

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
None							

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)

Time of Day and Brilliance
(j) of Sun or Moon _____ (k) Visibility _____
(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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			
None						

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. 252

VMB 413

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	
PBJ-1	74	74	1hr-44'	975	264	N	0	N	E	4

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

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

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.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No **252**

XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only). **VMB 413**

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) **Kavieng, New Ireland** (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE DECK IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target **2300-0035 L** (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target **5/10 to 7/10** (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target **Low broken clouds with base one to two thousand feet** (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBTSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility **Greater than 5** (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Medium level** (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used **Mk. 15 Mod. 7** (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run **Varied** (NUMBER) Spacing **Varied** (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release **10,300 to 11,000** (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		2	8 x 250 GP inst.	see(o)	see(o)
Area		VMB 413	12 x 100 incendiary clusters	see(o)	see(o)
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).

8 x 250 GP inst. Between Kavieng Town and Panapai Strip.
12 x 100 incendiary clusters Between Kavieng Town and Panapai Strip.

Four fires started in woods south east of Panapai strip

(p) Were Photographs Taken? **No** Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No **252**

VMB413

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

CALL
258B21
259B21

PILOT
MAC LEAN
BOUSCARON

ENEMY AIRCRAFT

- Method of Locating, Distance
- Disposition
- Altitudes
- Speeds
- Approach Tactics
- Use of Cover, Deception
- Angles of Attack
- Distance of Opening Fire
- Defensive Tactics

Two planes from this squadron heckled Kavieng area from Kavieng Town to Panapai Strip from 2330 to 0035.

Taking off at 2300, the two plane section reached the target area at 2330. One plane heckled and the other remained as cover 1000 feet above. A total of thirteen runs were made on the target from varied altitudes above 10,000 feet. One plane dropped 8 x 250 GP instantaneous bombs between Kavieng Town and Balgai Town, while the other plane dropped 12 x 100 incendiary clusters in the wooded area between Balgai and Panapai, where four large fires were started.

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

Leaving the target at 0035, the two planes headed for the base and hit the deck at 0116.

Earlier in the evening at 1957, two planes took off on the Kavieng heckle mission, but due to adverse weather returned to base with bomb load at 2036.

(All times in narrative are local)

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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

EDWARD W. KRAUSE
1st Lt. USMCR.
ASS'T INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

ROBERT B. COX
LtCol. USMCR.
COMMANDING OFFICER

OPERATIONAL

- Navigation
- Homing
- Rendezvous
- Recognition, Ships
- Communications
- Flight Operations
- Search and Tracking
- Base Operations
- Maintenance