

VMB 423

160  
⑨

Report 304

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# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

053459

## I. GENERAL

**CONFIDENTIAL**

(a) Unit Reporting VMB-423 (b) Based on or at Green Island (c) Report No. 304  
 (d) Take off: Date 3 May, 1946 Time (LZT) 0800-0802 (Zone); Lat. 04°32' Long 154°14'  
Medium Altitude Daylight Raid on Kahili #1, Bougainville.  
 (e) Mission \_\_\_\_\_ (f) Time of Return 1024-1028 (Zone)

## II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

| TYPE<br>(a)   | SQUADRON<br>(b) | NUMBER               |                              |                            | BOMBS AND TORPEDOES<br>CARRIED (PER PLANE)<br>(f) | FUZE, SETTING<br>(g)   |
|---------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|
|               |                 | TAKING<br>OFF<br>(c) | ENGAGING<br>ENEMY A/C<br>(d) | ATTACKING<br>TARGET<br>(e) |   |  |
| <b>PBJ-1J</b> | <b>VMB423</b>   | <b>6</b>             | <b>None</b>                  | <b>6</b>                   | <b>3 X 1000# GP</b>                               | <b>Nose: AN-M-103<br/>.1 Sec Delay<br/>Tail: AN-M-102A2<br/>.025 Sec Delay</b> |
|               |                 |                      |                              |                            |   |  |

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

| TYPE         | SQUADRON      | NUMBER   | BASE                | TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE |
|--------------|---------------|----------|---------------------|------|----------|--------|------|
| <b>PBY5A</b> | <b>VPB-53</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>Green Island</b> |      |          |        |      |
|              |               |          |                     |      |          |        |      |

## IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

| (a)<br>TYPE | (b)<br>NO<br>OBSERVED | (c)<br>NO ENGAGING<br>OWN A/C | (d)<br>TIME<br>ENCOUNTERED | (e)<br>LOCATION OF<br>ENCOUNTER | (f)<br>BOMBS, TORPEDOES CARRIED;<br>GUNS OBSERVED | (g)<br>CAMOUFLAGE AND<br>MARKING |
|-------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| <b>None</b> |                       |                               | (ZONE)                     |                                 |   |                                  |
|             |                       |                               | (ZONE)                     |                                 |   |                                  |
|             |                       |                               | (ZONE)                     |                                 |   |                                  |

(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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (j) of Sun or Moon \_\_\_\_\_ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (k) Visibility \_\_\_\_\_  
(MILES)

## V. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

| (a)<br>TYPE<br>ENEMY A/C | (b) DESTROYED OR DAMAGED BY: |          |                 |           | (c)<br>WHERE HIT, ANGLE | (d)<br>DAMAGE<br>CLAIMED |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------|-----------------|-----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
|                          | TYPE A/C                     | SQUADRON | PILOT OR GUNNER | GUNS USED |                         |                          |
| <b>None</b>              |                              |          |                 |           |                         |                          |
|                          |                              |          |                 |           |                         |                          |
|                          |                              |          |                 |           |                         |                          |
|                          |                              |          |                 |           |                         |                          |
|                          |                              |          |                 |           |                         |                          |
|                          |                              |          |                 |           |                         |                          |
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## VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those listed in II only).

| (a)<br>TYPE OWN A/C | (b)<br>SQUADRON | (c)<br>CAUSE: TYPE ENEMY A/C,<br>TYPE GUN, OR OPERATIONAL CAUSE | (d)<br>WHERE HIT, ANGLE (List armor,<br>self-sealing tanks, equipment hit) | (e)<br>EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE<br>(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)<br>NO | (b)<br>SQUADRON | (c)<br>NAME, RANK OR RATING | (d)<br>CAUSE | (e)<br>CONDITION OR STATUS |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
|           | <b>None</b>     |                             |              |                            |
|           |                 |                             |              |                            |
|           |                 |                             |              |                            |
|           |                 |                             |              |                            |
|           |                 |                             |              |                            |
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|           |                 |                             |              |                            |
|           |                 |                             |              |                            |
|           |                 |                             |              |                            |

## VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA FOR PLANES RETURNING

| (a)<br>TYPE<br>A/C | (b)<br>MILES<br>OUT | (c)<br>MILES<br>RETURN | (d)<br>AV. HOURS<br>IN AIR | (e)<br>AV. FUEL<br>LOADED | (f)<br>AV. FUEL<br>CONSUMED | (g) TOTAL AMMUNITION EXPENDED |             |             |             | (h)<br>NO. OF PLANES<br>RETURNING |
|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             | 30                            | 50          | 20MM        | MM          |                                   |
| <b>P4I-1J</b>      | <b>199</b>          | <b>180</b>             | <b>2hrs 24'</b>            | <b>974</b>                | <b>403</b>                  | <b>None</b>                   | <b>None</b> | <b>None</b> | <b>None</b> | <b>6</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

URNS  
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) Kahili #1, Bourgainville. (b) Time Over Target(s) 0915 (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target .5 Cover  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target HAZY (e) Visibility 20 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 3 Spacing 125 feet Altitude of Bomb Release 10,400-10,600  
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed None Probably Destroyed None Damaged None

| (h)<br>AIMING POINT     | (i)<br>DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE | (j) NO A/C ATTACKING<br>(k) SQUADRON | (l)<br>BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED EACH AIMING POINT | (m)<br>NO HITS On Aiming Point | (n)<br>DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk) |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|
| 1<br><u>Kahili # 1.</u> |                              | <u>6</u><br><u>VMB-423</u>           | <u>18 X 1000# GP</u>                                   | <u>See(e)</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 identity by numbers above. Use additional sheets if necessary.)

**The bombs were in the target area for good coverage.  
The relation of bomb hits to the target area is shown on the attached photograph.**

**PHOTOGRAPH**

**REFERENCE: VMB-423 (184) (120-2) 5-3-45 (20"-10,400') KAHILI #1, BOUG., CONE**

(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 | Major LOWELL | 0800      | 0915  | 1024      |
| 302B21 | MONROE       | 0800      | 0915  | 1025      |
| 303B21 | RIGDON       | 0801      | 0915  | 1025      |
| 304B21 | EVANS        | 0801      | 0915  | 1026      |
| 305B21 | EWING        | 0802      | 0915  | 1027      |
| 306B21 | BARRETT      | 0802      | 0915  | 1028      |

Major LOWELL led six PBJs of VMB-423 in a medium altitude daylight strike on target number 1, Kahili, Bougainville. The formation was composed of two, three plane sections javelin down.

The strike was airborne by 0802 and after joining up as described above proceeded down the east coast of Bougainville to Oema Island. The flight then took a heading of 242° magnetic to Ovau Island to enable bombardiers to check drift, then on a heading of 277° magnetic to the mouth of the Mailal River and turned into the bombing run.

Bombs were released at 0915, the first section bombing from 10,600 feet and the second section from 10,400 feet on a heading of 242° magnetic. The flight then broke to the left and returned to Green. All planes were safely on deck by 1028.

Three bursts of heavy inaccurate anti-aircraft fire were encountered from known positions on Kangu Hill.

All bombs fell in the target area for good coverage. The relation of bomb hits to the target area is shown in the attached photograph.

(All times in this narrative are local).

**WARD D. MARTIN**  
Capt., USMC  
Intelligence Officer

**NORMAN J. ANDERSON**  
LtCol., USMC  
Commanding



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B-433(189)X12-2)5-3-45-(20"-10.400') Kobil' #1/Boag-Conf.