

MG-41

2

145  
④ Report # 58

IC (4)





# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ RESTRICTED  
Reclassify when  
filled out

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Vunakanau # 10, N.B. (Primary)  
Kavieng, N.I. (Secondary) (b) Time Over Target(s) 1056-1100L  
1131L (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)  
 (c) Clouds Over Target (Primary) 3-5 tenths cumulus at 2000', tops 6000-8000'  
(Secondary) Clear  
(SEE IN FEET, TYPE, AND TENTHS COVERED)  
 (d) Visibility of Target (Primary) Partially obscured by clouds 12 miles in haze  
(Secondary) Clear (e) Visibility 20  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)  
 (f) Bombing Tactics Type Level Bomb Sight Use Mk15 mod 7  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)  
 Bombs Dropped per Run all (see "o") Spacing varied Altitude of Bomb Release 11,450-13,00'  
(NUMBER) (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. OF ATTACKING (k) SQUADRON	(l) BOMB AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED EACH AIMING POINT	(m) DISTANCE (n) DAMAGE
1 Kavieng Strip		5 VMB-413	5 x 2000 GP's	
2 Vunakanau # 10	1000' x 1000'	6 VMB-433	6 x 2000 GP's	
3 Kavieng Strip		1 VMB-433	1 x 2000 GP	See "o"
4 Vunakanau #10		8 VMB-443	8 x 2000 GP	
5 <u>same</u>		1 VMB-413	4 x 325 D/C	
6				
7				
8				

(o) RESULTS: (For all hits claimed on ship targets and for land targets of special interest, draw diagram, top of line view is best, as appropriate, showing location of hits. For all targets give location and effect of hits, and identify by numbers above. Use additional sheets for detail.)

Two squadrons hit Vunakanau # 10, the primary target, and 14 x 2000 GP's were dropped. Results, however, were obscured by clouds. Photographs taken during and after the strike could pick up only small patches of the terrain

One squadron hit Kavieng, the secondary target. 5 x 2000 GP's missed the western end of the strip by 300-400 feet. The bombs put craters along the main road. 1 x 2000 GP jettisoned by plane returning because of generator trouble.

The 4 x 325 depth charges were also released over Vunakanau # 10 by the PBJ flying as lead plane for PV's.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staps

REPORT No. \_\_\_\_\_

**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
- Offensive Tactics, Enemy
- Defensive Tactics, Own
- Defensive Tactics, 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

413		433		443	
CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT
254B21	Cox	266B21	Miller	279B21	Gould
255B21	Roome	267B21	Harpley	280B21	McGuire
256B21	Ellis	268B21	Smith	281B21	Booth
257B21	Treacy	269B21	Woten	282B21	Habig
258B21	Cunningham	270B21	Benjamin	283B21	Burt
259B21	Cochrane	272B21	Johnston	284B21	Lord
260B21	Bronleewe	274B21	Carr	285B21	Dee
				286B21	Rose

The revetment area approximately 1000' x 1000' northwest of the northern end of Vunakanau Strip is designated as Target # 10. The strike on this objective by 3 PBJ squadrons and one N.Z. PV squadron from Emirau was planned as a coordinated attack by two groups of two squadrons each, approaching on complimentary courses.

Shortly after take off LtCol Cox who was leading the flight was forced to return to base because of generator trouble. He turned the lead over to LtCol Miller, VMB-433. In making this change the formation became disrupted. What should have been two groups of two squadrons each, became four separate squadrons as VMB-413 fell back and NZ#8 did not join up.

The two leading squadrons followed the original course to Pondo Point, hence east 30 miles, turning to the left for an approach from the south. Heavy clouds over the target forced the squadrons to alter their courses and make separate bomb runs. VMB-433 was in right echelon of sections in vees and dropped at 1056. Four minutes later VMB-443 released through a hole in the clouds. The PV's of NZ#8 released at 1104 from 11,000'. They received the usual penalty of straggling squadrons and reported twelve bursts of heavy AA. No planes were holed.

On approaching Gazelle Peninsula the leader of VMB-413 decided the target was closed in and turned back for the secondary target, Kavieng Airstrip. Another plane which took off late because of generator trouble had dropped on Kavieng earlier.

Although the squadrons returned to base separately they all arrived over the field within a few minutes.

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Group Commander.