

VMB-433

149
⑩

Report #149

ITC (10)

4

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)



CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB-433 (b) Based on or at Emirau Island (c) Report No. 148
 (d) Take off: Date 14 April, 1945 Time (LZT) 1345 L (Zone); Lat 01 36' S Long 150 00' E
 (e) Mission MAB Balgai Storage Area, New Ireland (f) Time of Return 1450 L (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-1</u>	<u>VMB-433</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>8 x 250 GP AN-M57</u>	<u>AN-M-103 Inst. Fuse</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>Nil</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>Nil</u>			<u>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Nil
 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 (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) 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			
<u>Nil</u>						

016437

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No **148**

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Balgai Storage Area (b) Time Over Target(s) 1421 L (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target .3-.5 SC at 8000' .3 AS at 18,000'
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target clear (e) Visibility 15
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type level Bomb Sight Used M 15
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run all Spacing 100' Salvo Altitude of Bomb Release 10,000'
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed N11 Probably Destroyed N11 Damaged N11

(h) AIMING POINT	(i) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(j) NO A/C ATTACKING (k) SQUADRON	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
1 Balgai Storage	500' Square	2 VMB-433	15 x 250 GP		See Below
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).

15 bombs fell from coast thru target area. One bomb hung and later jettisoned in wooded area NE of target.

(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 148

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	PILOT	TO EMIRAU	TOT	TOR EMIRAU
266B21	Capt. Lattner	1345	1421	1450
267B21	Benjamin	1345	1421	1450

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 PBJ's piloted by Captain W. T. Lattner and Lt. J. T. Benjamin took off from Emirau on a 2-plane attack upon the storage area located west of the Balgai airstrip, New Ireland. Following the joinup over Emirau, the Mitchells proceeded on course southeast over Selapiu Island, thence north and east to the target. The formation to and over the target was a right echelon. The bombing run was made at a speed of 160 knots, altitude of 10,000' while on a magnetic heading of 087°. The two planes broke right and returned safely to base.

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

Fifteen bombs fell from the coast to the target area with the majority hitting within the designated area. One bomb hung and was later released in wooded area northeast of the target. Specific results were unobserved.

No A/A and no enemy interception were encountered and the Mitchells returned to base by 1450 L.

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

J. V. A. Fine
Capt., USMCR
Intelligence Officer

W. H. Miller
Lt. Col., USMC
Acting