

VMB 423

161
⑨

Report # 315

HC (9)

5

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

053810
RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)
CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VIB-423 (b) Based on or at Green Island (c) Report No. 315
 (d) Take off: Date 9 May, 1945 Time (LZT) 0830-0832 (Zone); Lat. 04°32' Long. 154°14'
 (e) Mission Medium Altitude Raid on Nakaru #9, Bougainville. (Daylight). (f) Time of Return 1042-1045 (Zone)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

TYPE (a)	SQUADRON (b)	TAKING OFF (c)	NUMBER		ATTACKING TARGET (e)	BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE) (f)	FUZE, SETTING (g)
			ENGAGING ENEMY A/C (d)				
PBJ-1J	VIB423	6	None	6		3 X 1000# GP	Nose: AN-M-103 .1 Sec Delay Tail: AN-M-102A2 .025 Sec Delay

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
PBY5A	VPB-53	1	Green Island				

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) _____
 (i) Did Any Part of Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? _____ If so, Describe Clouds _____ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 (j) Time of Day and Brilliance 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			
None						

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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-1J	192	173	2hrs 12'	974	392	None	None	None	None	6

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

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

X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (use check list at left).

SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

SPEED, CLIMB,
 at various altitudes
 TURNS
 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) **Nakuru #9, Bougainville.** (b) Time Over Target(s) **0937** (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target **CAVU** (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target **CLEAR** (e) Visibility **30 miles** (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Level** Bomb Sight Used **Mark 15** (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run **3** Spacing **125'** Altitude of Bomb Release **10,200-10,400'** (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 (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 Nakuru #9.		6 VMB-423	17 X 1000# GP	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.)

Seventeen bombs hit in the target, the remaining bomb hung and was salvaged in the water. The pattern of bomb hits in relation to the target are shown in the attached photograph.

PHOTOGRAPH

REFERENCE: VMB-423 (192) (6-2) 5-9-45 (20"-10,200') NAKARU #9, BOUG., CONF.

(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 TAYLOR	0830	0937	1042
302B21	KEITH	0830	0937	1042
303B21	WORKMAN	0831	0937	1043
304B21	BEAIRD	0831	0937	1044
305B21	HICKS	0832	0937	1044
306B21	LUSKY	0832	0937	1045

Major TAYLOR, Executive Officer, led six PBJs of VMB-423, on a medium altitude raid on target #9, Nakaru, Bougainville. The formation was composed of two, three plane sections javelin down.

The strike was airborne by 0832 and after joining up as described above proceeded down the east coast of Bougainville to Koromira Point and turned on a heading of 152° magnetic for four miles to check drift. The flight then took a heading of 242° magnetic for nineteen miles and turned into the bombing run.

The bombing run was made on a heading of 152° magnetic at 160 knots indicated. The first section bombing from 10,400 feet and the second from 10,200 feet. Bombs were away at 0937. After passing the bomb release line the formation broke away to the left and returned to Green. All planes were safely on deck by 1045.

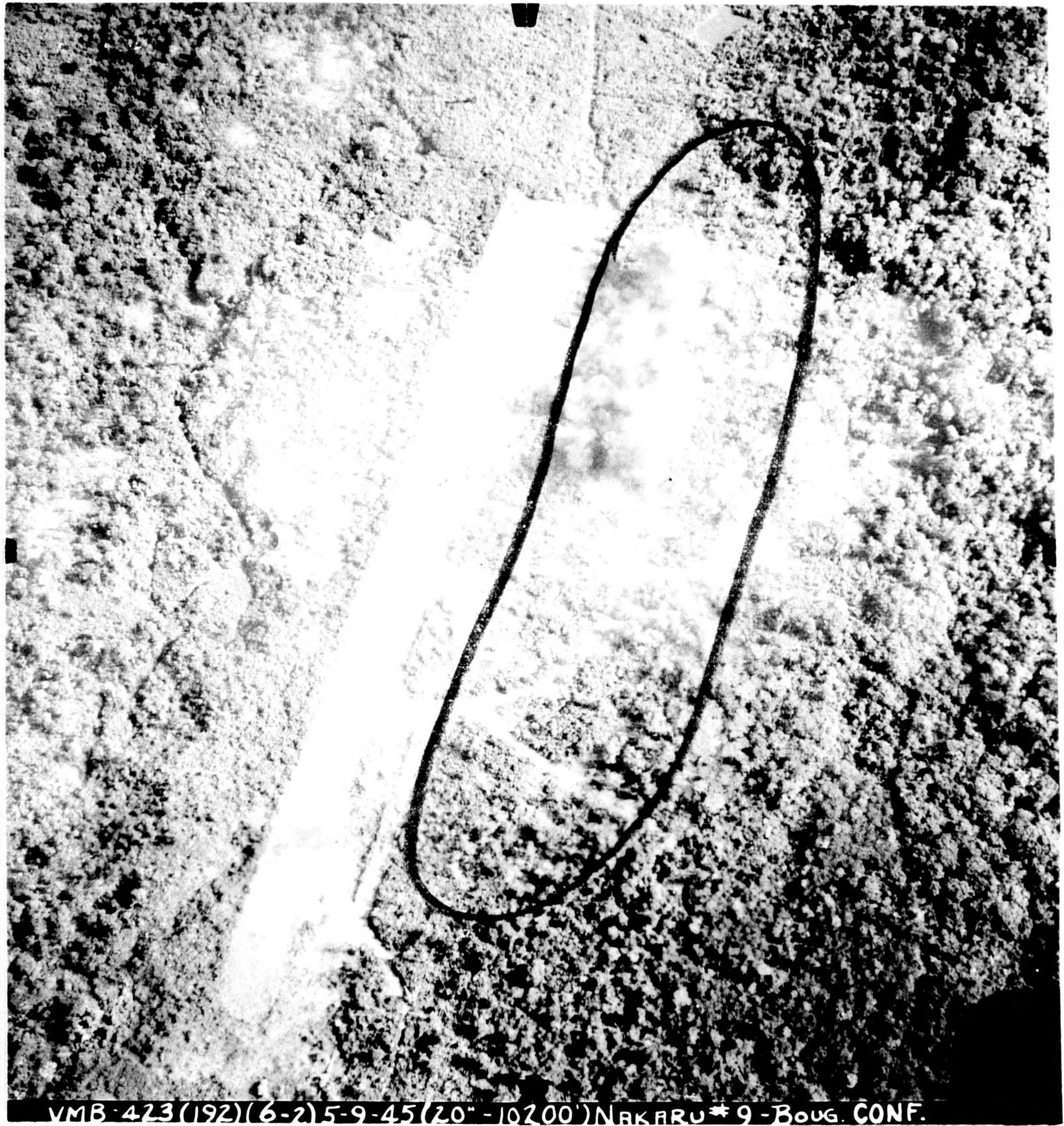
No anti-aircraft fire was encountered.

Seventeen bombs hit in the target, the remaining bomb hung and was salvaged in the water. The pattern of bomb hits in relation to the target are shown in the attached photograph.

(All times in this narrative are local).

WARD D. MARTIN
Capt., USMCR
Intelligence Officer

NORMAN J. ANDERSON
LtCol., USMC
Commanding



VMB 423(192)(6-2)5-9-45(20"-10200)NRKRRU*9-BOUG. CONF.