

VMB-423

159
⑨

Report # 251

#1991

4

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No **251**

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Rabaul Area, New Britain (b) Time Over Target(s) 2230/2400 & 2400/0200 (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target High Overcast, .7 to .9 Cloud Cover

(d) Visibility of Target Hazy (e) Visibility 15 to 20 miles

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Level Bomb Sight Used D-8

Bombs Dropped per Run 1,2,3 & 4 Spacing Varied Altitude of Bomb Release 9,500 & 10,600

(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 Vunakonau, N.B.		2 VMB-423	6 X 100# GP	See(o)	
2 Koravat, N. B.		2 VMB-423	4 X 100# GP	" "	
3 Rabaul, N. B.		2 VMB-423	4 X 100# GP	" "	
4 Sulphur Creek		2 VMB-423	3 X 100# GP	" "	
5 Northeast Rabaul		2 VMB-423	4 X 100# GP	" "	
6 Duke of York Is.		1 VMB-423	1 X 100# GP	" "	
7 Tobara, N. B.		1 VMB-423	1 X 100# GP	" "	
8 Malaguna, N. B.		1 VMB-423	1 X 100# GP	" "	

(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.)

332B21 observed a very large flash and a large column of smoke but no fire after the second run on northeast Rabaul area, on the third run over this target a large explosion was observed. The results of the balance of bombs dropped by 332B21 and those dropped by 331B21 were unobserved.

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

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
Reclassify when
dated out

CONFIDENTIAL
REPORT NO. 231

XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left. Use additional sheets if necessary).

- ARMAMENT**
 - Guns, Gunsights
 - Turrets
 - Ammunition
 - Bombs, Torpedoes
 - Bomb Sights
 - Bomb Releases
- COMMUNICATIONS**
 - Radio, Radar
 - Homing Devices
 - Visual Signals
 - Codes, Ciphers
- RECOGNITION**
 - IFF
 - Signals
 - Battle Lights
 - Procedures
- PROTECTION**
 - Armor, Points and Angles of Fire Needing Further Protection
 - Leak Proofing
- EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT**
 - Parachutes
 - Life Belts, Life Rafts
 - Safety Belts
 - Emergency Kits
 - Rations, First Aid
- NAVIGATIONAL EQUIPMENT**
 - Compasses
 - Driftsights
 - Octants
 - Automatic Pilots
 - Charts
 - Field Lighting
- INSTRUMENTS**
 - Flight
 - Power Plant
- OXYGEN SYSTEM**
- CAMOUFLAGE AND DECEPTION DEVICES**
- STRUCTURE**
 - Airframe
 - Control Surfaces
 - Control System
 - Dive Flaps
 - Landing Gear
 - Heating System
 - Flight Characteristics At Various Loadings
- POWER PLANT**
 - Engines
 - Engine Accessories
 - Propellers
 - Lubricating System
 - Starters
 - Exhaust Dampers
- HYDRAULIC SYSTEM**
- ELECTRICAL SYSTEM**
 - Auxiliary Plant
 - Lights
- FUEL SYSTEM**
- FLIGHT CLOTHING**
- MAINTENANCE**
- BASE FACILITIES**
 - Plane Servicing Equipment
 - Personnel Facilities

CALL	PILOT	T/O GREEN	T/O/T	P/C GREEN
331B21	GARTHWAITE	2145	2230/2400	0030
332B21	EVANS	2530	2400/0200	0300

On the night of 1/2 April, 1945, 331B21 and 332B21 flew snooper search and heckling missions over Rabaul, New Britain.

By 2145, 331B21 was airborne and proceeded to Rabaul where twelve, one hundred pound general purpose bombs were dropped from 10,600 feet during the period 2230 to 2400. Four on Vunakanau, two on Keravat, two on Rabaul, two on Sulphur Creek, one on northeast Rabaul and one on the Duke of York Island.

At 2400, 332B21 relieved 331B21 on station and from that time until 0200 dropped twelve, one hundred pound general purpose bombs, three on northeast Rabaul, two on Vunakanau, two on Keravat, two on Rabaul, one on Sulphur Creek, one on Tobera and one Malaguna area.

Fifteen bursts of moderate, medium inaccurate anti-aircraft fire were encountered by 332B21 from unidentified positions north east of Vunakanau. No anti-aircraft fire was encountered by 331B21. No search-lights were encountered.

332B21 observed a very large flash and a large column of smoke but no fire after the second run on northeast Rabaul area, on the third run over this target a large explosion was observed. The results of the balance of bombs dropped by 332B21 and those dropped by 331B21 were unobserved.

(All times in this narrative are love).

REPORT PREPARED BY:

WARD D. MARTIN
Capt., USMCR
Intelligence Officer

APPROVED BY:

H. W. TAYLOR
Major, USMC
Acting

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE