

VMB-423

IS8
⑨

Report # 227

HC (9)

5

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

I. GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB-423 (b) Based on or at Green Island (c) Report No. 227
 (d) Take off: Date 5 March, 1945 Time (LZT) 1405-1409 (Zone); Lat. 04° 32' Long 154° 14'
Medium Altitude Daylight Attack on
 (e) Mission Ruri Tank Park, Bougainville. (f) Time of Return 1515-1519 (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)		
PBJ-1J	VMB423	6	None	6	1 X 2000# GP	Nose: AN-M-103 Tail: AN-M-102A2
PBJ-1D	VMB423	3	None	3	1 X 2000# GP	Nose: AN-M-103 Tail: AN-M-102A2

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
None							

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)			
None			(ZONE)			
None			(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 _____ (k) Visibility _____
(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON, DAY, OVERCAST, ETC.) (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:			(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-LJ	70	80	1hr10'	974	234	None	None	None	None	6
PBJ-LD	70	80	1hr10'	974	280	None	None	None	None	3

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
 -
 - 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) **Ruri Tank Park, Bougainville** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1450** (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target **CAVU** (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target **Clear** (e) Visibility **30 miles** (HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Level** Bomb Sight Used **Mark 18** (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE)

Bombs Dropped per Run **1** Spacing (NUMBER) (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release **9,500 ft.**

(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 Ruri Tank Park, Bougainville.		9 VMB-423	9 X 2000# GP	SEE (o)	
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).

The Australian Army had requested that bombs be concentrated in the north west end of the target. This was done successfully with seven bombs in the designated part of the target and two slightly short. The pattern of bomb hits with relation to the target is shown in the attached photograph.

(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
Fuzeing
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	LtCol ANDERSON	1405	1450	1515
302B21	BALL	1405	1450	1515
303B21	ROBISON	1406	1450	1516
304B21	WILHITE	1406	1450	1516
305B21	LUSKY	1407	1450	1517
306B21	TAGEN	1407	1450	1517
307B21	TAYLOR	1408	1450	1518
308B21	SCHLEGEL	1408	1450	1518
309B21	MORGAN	1409	1450	1519

Lieutenant Colonel ANDERSON, Commanding Officer, led nine PBJs in a medium altitude daylight attack on Ruri Tank Park, Bougainville. The formation was composed of nine PBJs in three, three plane sections.

The strike was airborne by 1409 and after joining up as described above proceeded on a course of 140° magnetic to the north end of Buka Island at which the flight made a 360° climbing turn to gain bombing altitude. The formation then crossed Buka Island on 130° magnetic while bombardiers stabilized bombsights and figured drift. When five miles off the east coast a turn was made to 181° magnetic to the north coast of Bougainville where the flight turned into the bombing run.

Bombs were released from 9,500 feet at 1450 on a course of 130° magnetic at 160 knots indicated air speed.

No anti-aircraft fire was encountered.

The Australian Army had requested that bombs be concentrated in the north west end of the target. This was done successfully, with seven bombs in the designated part of the target and two slightly short. The pattern of bomb hits with relation to the target is 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 Officer

