

VMB 42B

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Report #295

#C(9)

4

**CONFIDENTIAL**

053039

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting: VMB-423 (b) Based at: Green Island (c) Report # 298  
 (d) Date of Action: 26 April, 1945 (e) Take off: Time: 1930-1931 LZT  
 Lat. 04° 32' Long. 154° 14' (f) Mission: Night Low Level Bombing & Strafing Mission on Kahili # 4, Bougainville.  
 (g) Time of Return: 2050 & 2154 - 2159 LZT

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT

TYPE	SQDN	NO. OF SORTIES	NO. ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	NO. ATTACKING TARGET	BOMBS CARRIED PER PLANE
PBJ-LJ	VMB423	3	None	2	8 X 250# GP

FUZE, SETTING  
~~Full~~: AN-M-115  
 8/11 Sec Delay

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

UNIT	No.	Base	Type	Sqdn.	No.	Base
PBY5A	VPB-53	Green Island				

IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED

None

V. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR

None

VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL OF OWN AIRCRAFT

None

VII. PERSONNEL CASUALTIES

None

VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA FOR PLANES RETURNING

TYPE A/C	MILES OUT	MILES IN	AV HOURS IN AIR	AV FUEL LOADED	AV FUEL CONSUMED	TOTAL AMMO EXPENDED	PLANES RETURNING
PBJ-1J	199	180	2hrs 24'	974	403	5,000 rds of caliber .50	2

IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED

	None	Meager	Moderate	Intense
HEAVY	<del>XX</del>			
MEDIUM	<del>XX</del>			
LIGHT			<del>XX</del>	

X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT

No enemy aircraft encountered.

XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES

- (a) Target & Location: Kahili #4, Bougainville
- (b) Time over Target: 2045-2047 (c) Clouds over Target: CAVU
- (d) Visibility of Target: Clear (e) Visibility: 30  
(miles)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type: Low Level Bomb Sight Used: None  
Bombs Dropped per Run: 8 Spacing 25' Altitude 100'
- (g) No. of Enemy A/C hit on Ground: None <sup>Probably</sup> Destroyed: None Damaged: None.

(B)	(1)	(j) (k)	(l)	(m)	(n)
<u>Kahili #4</u>	<u>YMB</u>	<u>2</u> <u>YMB-423</u>	<u>16 X 250# GP</u>	<u>See(o)</u>	

(c) RESULTS

The plane returning early brought its bombs back to base. The other bombs were in the target and the target area was thoroughly strafed with 5,000 rounds of caliber .50 ammunition. The raid started a large fire in the target area which was visible for many miles.

- (p) Were Photographs Taken? No Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should be attached by staple.

## III. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA.

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CALL	PILOT	T/O GREEN	T/O/T	P/C GREEN
331B21	LtCol. ANDERSON	1930	2045	2154
*332B21	EVANS	1930	----	2050
333B21	RIGDON	1931	2047	2159

\* Did not reach target.

Lieutenant Colonel ANDERSON, Commanding Officer, led three PBJs of VMB-423 in a night low level bombing and strafing attack on target #4, Kahili, Bougainville. The strike was composed of a three plane section in Vee formation. The strike was planned to surprise the enemy using darkness, direction of approach and the speed of the planes to achieve this effect.

The raid was airborne by 1932 and after joining up proceeded down the east coast of Bougainville climbing to 6,000 feet to get over the scattered cumulus. 332B21 returning to base early due to operational difficulties. At Lulua Point the two planes flew south for four miles and then turned to a heading of 263° magnetic. The flight proceeded on this course for three and one-half minutes when Colonel ANDERSON peeled off to make his bombing and strafing run at 2045 on a heading of 165° magnetic and Lieutenant RIGDON continued on course an additional minute and then peeled off to make his run at 2047 on a heading of 155° magnetic. On the approach to the target both planes lost altitude from 6,000 feet to 100 feet at which altitude the bombing and strafing was done at an indicated air speed of 200 knots.

Following the attack the planes broke away to the right and returned to base individually. The raid was safely on deck at Green by 2159.

Moderate inaccurate light anti-aircraft fire was encountered from unidentified positions east of Ebery's Lease and along the coast near Kahili Airdrome.

The plane returning early brought its bombs back to base. The other bombs were in the target and the target area was thoroughly strafed with 5,000 rounds of caliber .50 ammunition. The raid started a large fire in the target area which was visible for many miles.

(All times in this narrative are love).

WARD D. MARTIN  
Capt., USMCR  
Intelligence Officer

NORMAN J. ANDERSON  
LtCol., USMC  
Commanding