

V MB-4123

161  
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Report # 375

IC(9)

4



# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

18149

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

026386

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB-423 (b) Based on or at Enirau (c) Report No. 375  
 (d) Take off: Date 18 July, 1945 Time (LZT) 2030-2242L (Zone); Lat. 1° 38' Long. 150°  
 (e) Mission Medium altitude bombing, snooper search and heckle of Kavieng, New Ireland. (f) Time of Return 2340-0145L (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-1J</u>	<u>VMB423</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>12 X 100/ Incendiary clusters</u>	

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>None</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>None</u>			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Did Any Part of \_\_\_\_\_  
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, Describe Clouds \_\_\_\_\_ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)  
 (YES OR NO)  
 Time of Day and Brilliance \_\_\_\_\_ (k) Visibility \_\_\_\_\_ (MILES)  
 of Sun or Moon \_\_\_\_\_ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.)

## 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	GUNS USED		
<u>None</u>						







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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Kavieng, New Ireland (b) Time Over Target(s) 2115-0115L (Zone)  
 (c) Clouds Over Target .2 low scattered CU  
 (d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 25 miles  
 (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Level Bomb Sight Used D-8  
 Bombs Dropped per Run 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 & 8 Spacing Varied Altitude of Bomb Release 10,000-10,500'  
 (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 <u>Kavieng, N. I.</u>		<u>4</u> <u>VNB-423</u>	<u>26 X 100# Incendiary</u>	<u>See (o)</u>	
2 <u>Panapai, N. I.</u>		<u>4</u> <u>VNB-423</u>	<u>22 X 100# Incendiary</u>	<u>See (o)</u>	
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).

**Numerous fires of moderate duration in the Kavieng and Panapai areas.**

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No 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
- Defensive Tactics, Own
- 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
- Strating
- 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
- Strating 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 EMIRAU	T/O/T	P/C EMIRAU
242B21	LEAIRD	2030	2115-2315	2340
243B21	MONROE	2035	2115-2315	2345
244B21	LtCol. ANDERSON	2235	2315-0115	0145
245B21	BEAIRD	2242	2326-0110	0140

On the night of 18 July, 1945, a four plane medium altitude snoop-er search and heckling mission was flown over Kavieng, New Ireland. The mission was planned to have two planes over the area simultaneously, so that one plane could fly cover, two thousand feet above the heckling plane. The cover and heckle planes then changed positions after the first heckler had expended its bombs, then the second plane continued to heckle while the other plane flew cover. The second section of two planes relieved the first section on station.

242B21 dropped twelve 100 pound incendiary clusters, six on Panapai bivouac area and six on Kavieng. Several fires of moderate duration in the Kavieng and Panapai areas resulted. On three bomb runs, ten rounds of inaccurate medium anti-aircraft fire were encountered from a three gun position located between Balgai Airstrip and the north Coast. No searchlights were encountered.

243B21 dropped twelve 100 pound incendiary clusters, six in line from Kavieng to Panapai, four on Kavieng and two on Panapai, causing several fires of moderate duration in Kavieng and Panapai areas. No anti-aircraft fire and no searchlights were encountered.

244B21 dropped twelve 100 pound incendiary clusters, six on Panapai, four on Kavieng and two duds, causing numerous small fires of moderate duration in Kavieng and Panapai areas. No anti-aircraft fire and no searchlights were encountered.

245B21 dropped twelve 100 pound incendiary clusters, eight on Kavieng, three on Panapai and one dud, causing numerous small fires, some lasting twenty minutes in the Kavieng area. No anti-aircraft fire and no searchlights were encountered.

On this mission Lieutenant Colonel ANDERSON, Commanding Officer, completed his one-hundredth combat mission and celebrated the anniversary of his assumption of command of the squadron.

(All times in this narrative are love).

WARD D. MARTIN,  
Capt., USMCR,  
Intelligence Officer.

NORMAN J. ANDERSON,  
LtCol, USMC,  
Commanding.