

VMB-423

158  
⑨

Report # 231

LIC(9)

5











# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

REPORT No. **231**

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) **Mugual #1, Bougainville.**  
**Ruri Bay Tank Park, (A & B)** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1006** (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target **CAVU**  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target **Clear** (e) Visibility **30 miles**  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Level** Bomb Sight Used **Mark 15**  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run **1** Spacing \_\_\_\_\_ Altitude of Bomb Release **9,200 feet**  
(NUMBER) (FEET) (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 <b>Mugual #1, Bougainville.</b>		<b>6</b> <b>VMB-423</b>	<b>6 X 2000# GP</b>	<b>See (o)</b>	
2 <b>Ruri Bay Tank Park, Targets A &amp; B</b>		<b>6</b> <b>VMB-423</b>	<b>8000 rds of .50 Cal</b>	<b>See(o)</b>	
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).

**Failure to mark the target with smoke bombs as planned made target identification difficult. All bombs fell southeast of target number 1. The location of bomb hits with relation to the target is shown on 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  
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 LOWELL	0900	1006	1114
302B21	MORGAN	0900	1006	1115
303B21	WORKMAN	0901	1006	1116
304B21	BEARD	0901	1006	1119
305B21	EWERS	0902	1006	1120
306B21	BALL	0902	1006	1121

Major LOWELL led six PBJs of VMB-423 in a medium altitude daylight attack on Mugwai target number one, Bougainville. The formation was composed of two, three plane sections.

The strike was airborne by 0902 and after joining up as described above proceeded to Puk Puk Island on a heading of 129° magnetic where rendezvous was made with Corsairs from Piva at 1000 hours at 9,500 feet. From Puk Puk Island the formation flew a course of 173° magnetic for 27 miles to a point east of Mt. Gulcher and turned into the bomb run.

The Piva Corsairs after the rendezvous preceded the formation to the target and dropped smoke bombs which were duds. Since the formation expected to use the smoke bombs as an aiming point the lack of smoke on the target made a second bombing run necessary.

Bombing was done at 1006 hours on a heading of 136° magnetic from 9,200 feet at 160 knots indicated.

The formation broke away to the left and proceeded up the east coast of Bougainville. When above Puk Puk Island the second section made a 360 degree right turn to establish a two minute interval behind the first section. The formation then proceeded to Ruri Bay where targets A and B were thoroughly strafed. The strafing attack on the Ruri Bay Tank Park was made on a heading of 310° magnetic at 190 knots in three plane sections line abreast at tree top level.

After the strafing the formation broke right and returned to base all planes being safely on deck at Green Island by 1121.

Meagre inaccurate heavy anti-aircraft fire was encountered from known positions east of Kapa Air Strip. Meagre inaccurate light anti-aircraft fire was encountered from the west shore of Baniu Bay, Bougainville.

Failure to mark the target with smoke bombs as planned made target identification difficult. All bombs fell southeast of target number 1. The location of bomb hits with relation to the target is shown on the attached photograph.



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**XIII. MATERIAL DATA.** (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.  
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**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

**(All times in this narrative are local).**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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

APPROVED BY:

**H. W. TAYLOR**  
**Major, USMC**  
**Acting**

SIGNATURE

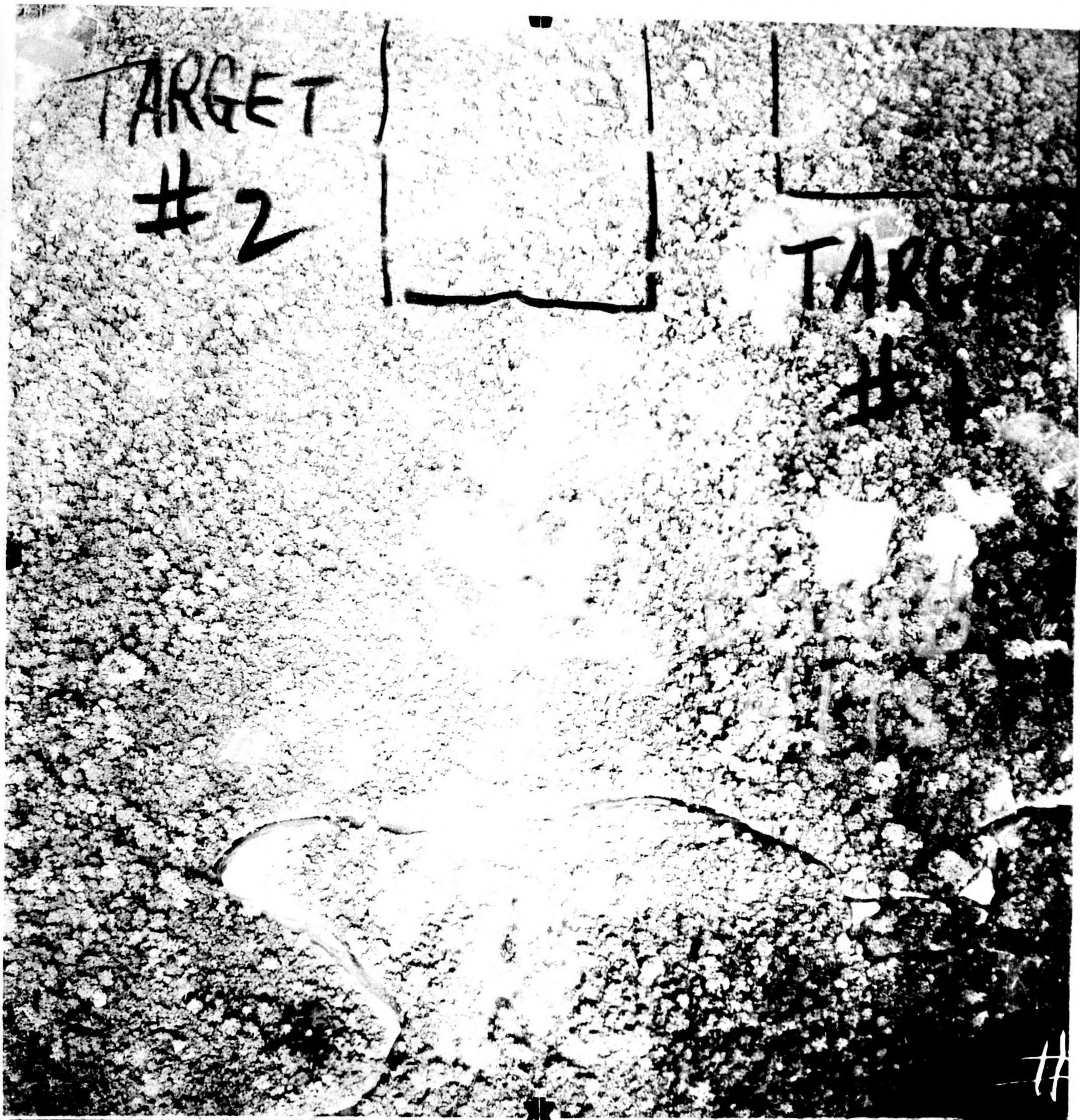
RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE





VMB 423-(4-2) 3-14-45-9000'-20" MUGVA #1 BOUY COMP.