

VMB 425

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Report #302

HC (9)

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# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

REPORT No **302**

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) **AA positions Kangu Hill, Bougainville** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1508** (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target **.7 Cloud Cover**  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target **Hazy** (e) Visibility **20 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 **6** Spacing **75 feet** Altitude of Bomb Release **10,200'-10,400'**  
(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>AA positions Kangu Hill</b>		<b>5 VMF-423</b>	<b>30 X 50# GP</b>	<b>See (c)</b>	
2					
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 pattern of bomb hits in relation to the target area is shown on the attached photograph.**

**PHOTOGRAPH**

REFERENCE: **VMF423 (182) (8-2) 5-1-45 (20°-10,000') KANGU AA, BOUG., CONF.**

(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/O GREEN
301B21	Major LOWELL	1345	1506	1604
302B21	VANAKEN	1345	1506	1604
303B21	GARTHWAITE	1346	1506	1605
304B21	HOPPER	1346	1506	1606
305B21	JOBE	1347	1506	1607

Major LOWELL, Operations Officer, led five PBJs of VMB-423 in a medium altitude daylight strike against anti-aircraft positions atop Kangu Hill, Bougainville, when clouds prevented the bombing of Nakaru target #37. The strike was composed of one, three and one, two plane section javelin down.

The raid was airborne by 1347 and after joining up as described above proceeded down the east coast of Bougainville to Lultial Point and turned inland toward the primary target. Being unable to find an opening in the clouds flew out over Ballele Island and turned into the bombing run.

The bomb run was made on a heading of 200° magnetic. The first section releasing their bombs from 10,400 feet and the second section from 10,200 feet at 1506. The flight then broke to the right and returned to Green. All planes being safely on the deck by 1607.

No anti-aircraft fire was encountered.

The pattern of bomb hits in relation to the target area is shown on the attached photograph.

(All times in this narrative are local).

WARD D. MARTIN  
Capt., USMC  
Intelligence Officer

NORMAN J. ANDERSON  
LtCol., USMC  
Commanding



KANGU AA

VMB-423(182)(2-2)5-1-45 (20"-10000') NATALCO-18-BOUG. CONF.

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