

MG-41

1419  
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Report 1411

HC(41)

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

## I. GENERAL

Ref: VMB-413 337  
423 366  
443 225  
443 186

(a) Unit Reporting \_\_\_\_\_ (b) Based on or at \_\_\_\_\_ (c) Report \_\_\_\_\_  
 (d) Take off: Date MAJ-61 Time (LZT) Enirau (Zone) Lat. \_\_\_\_\_ Long. 141  
 (e) Mission 8 July 1945 0830-0943Z (f) Time of Return 1500 (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)		
PNJ-1	VMB-433	6	None	6	3 x 1000 GP M-65	Nose: AN-M-103 inst. Tail: AN-M-102A2 .01 sec
PNJ-1	VMB-443	9	None	9	12 x 260 Frags M-81	Nose: AN-M-103 inst Tail: AN-M-100A2 inst
PNJ-1B	VMB-413	9	None	9	3 x 1000 GP M-65	Nose: AN-M-103 inst Tail: AN-M-102A2 .025
PNJ-1J	VMB-423	6	None	6	12 x 260 Frags M-81	see delay

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
PHY	BNZA-786	1	Enirau				
PHU	BZ #25	2	Enirau				

## 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)			
			(ZONE)			
			(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	GUNS USED		
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	<b>None</b>			
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
	<b>None</b>			

## 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	
<b>F4U-1</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>2hrs 51'</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>30</b>

## IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	<b>X</b>			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	<b>X</b>			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	<b>X</b>			

## X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (use check list at left).

- SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes

TURNES

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) Panapai A/A, Kavieng A/A, N. I.  
Rabaul #39, Kabagada #19, N. B. (b) Time Over Target(s) 1039-1120L Zone
- (c) Clouds Over Target 4 - 5 tenths cu. at 2000', tops to 6,000.  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target partially obscured by clouds (e) Visibility 10  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type level Bomb Sight Used Mk. 15 Mod. 7.  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run All Spacing 25' - 100' Altitude of Bomb Release 10,000-10,800'  
(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 Panapai A/A W of A/S, New Ireland		6 VMB-433	18 x 1000 GPs		
2 Kavieng A/A NW of Air strip, N.I.		9 VMB-443	105 x 260 Frags		
3 Rabaul #39, New Britain.	1000' x 500'	9 VMB-413	27 x 1000 GPs.		See "e"
4 Kabagada #19, New Britain.	1400' x 1000'	6 VMB-423	72 x 260 Frags		
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).

- 1.-17 x 1000# GPs fell up to 5008 west and south west of gun positions for unobserved results. No damage assessment has been received.  
1 x 1000# GP hung and was jettisoned at sea.
- 2.-84 x 260# Frags hit from 300 yards south of target to SW corner of target.  
24 x 260# Frags hit 500 yards south of target. No damage other than to gardens in area.
- 3.-27 x 1000# GPs hit from NE corner of target to about 170 yards NE of target, probably destroying one medium gun and making direct hits on 20' and 10' buildings to east of target, similar hit destroyed two buildings directly opposite the GP. Gardens to east of target were damaged.
- 4.-72 x 260# Frags hit an area immediately NW of target, apparently causing damage to two gardens, several paths, and a road.

Photographs attached:

- (1) (VMB-443) (253) (0) (20") (11,000') (1120L) (8 July, 45) ( N Kavieng A/A, New Ireland)  
(4) (VMB-413 - 729) (0) (20") (10,000') (1039L) (8 July, 45) ( Rabaul #39).  
(1) (VMB-423) (237) (0) (20") (10,800') (1102L) (8 July, 45) ( Kabagada #19).

(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

413	423	433	443
CALL PILOT	CALL PILOT	CALL PILOT	CALL PILOT
254B21 Hines	242B21 Anderson	266B21 Smith	279B21 Anderson
255B21 Ingberg	243B21 Vanaken	267B21 Guykendall	280B21 Biberstine
256B21 Newland	244B21 Tegerson	268B21 Manion	281B21 Carter
257B21 Leggie	245B21 Lusky	269B21 Pittner	282B21 Graser
258B21 Gilbert	246B21 Huber	270B21 Kain	283B21 Livingston
259B21 Menard	247B21 Heil	271B21 Madden	284B21 Joy
260B21 Henry			285B21 England
261B21 Ullrich			286B21 Hawkins
262B21 Genant			287B21 Weeks

Panapai, Kavieng and New Britain targets were attacked in 4 medium altitude strikes on 8 July.

VMB-433 was the first Squadron to leave the strip at Emirau, departing at 0830 with Major Smith in the van. The radar installation at Cape St. George was the briefed objective. Six PBJ's composed the attacking force. The formation employed to and over the target was javelin down. The course to the target was down the NW coast of New Ireland to Namatanai at which point the squadron leader elected to return to his Sugar-1, which was the Panapai Medium A/A. Weather dictated this change of targets. The flight retraced its track to Panapai to make the bomb run at a speed of 155 knots, altitude of 10,000 while on a magnetic heading of 350°. Bombs were away at 1120. The Squadron broke right to the east coast of New Ireland and thence to the base by 1152. One bomb hung and was jettisoned at sea. The other 17 x 1000 GPs fell up to 500' west and SW of the gun positions for no apparent damage. No damage assessment was received on this strike.

Nine Mitchells of VMB-443 were led by Major Anderson from the strip at 0839. Vanakana #21A was the primary. Upon reaching the target it was found to be hopelessly clouded. The formation attacked the A/A positions NW of the Kavieng Air strip by way of Mumi and up the NE coast of New Ireland. Bomb-sight trouble made two runs over the Sugar-1 necessary before dropping at 1115. The run was made on a heading of 340° mag., with 155 knots indicated at 10,000. 108 x 260# Frags were dropped, 24 landing 500 yards south of the target and 84 walked from 300 yards south of up to the SW corner of the target ~~XXXXX~~. The guns were not damaged. The break was right and all planes were down at Emirau by 1140. Javelin down formation was used throughout the entire flight.

Captain J Hines led 9 VMB-413 PBJs from Emirau at 0922 to attack the stores and supply area at Rabaul #39. Flying a vee formation javelin down the Squadron followed the Selapiu Island route to New Britain. The run was made at 1039 from an altitude of 10,000' on a course of 100° mag. while indicating 160 knots. The 27 x 1000# GPs were strung from the NE corner of the target to about 170 yards NE of it, probably destroying one medium gun and making direct hits on small buildings east of the target, as shown by post strike photos. The crew reported debris flying, small explosions and black smoke rising 3,000' upon leaving the area. The break was right to begin the trek home from a point 5 miles north of Tawai Point. The flight swung over to the NE coast of New Ireland via Mumi to base by 1152.

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**XIII. MATERIAL DATA.** (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.  
Use additional sheets if necessary).

## 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

At 0941 six planes from WBR-423 departed Mirau with Lt. Col. Anderson as flight leader, Kabagada #19 was the target. New Britain was reached via Selapiu and Watom Islands. The drop was made at 1102 from 10,500 feet, 155 knots IAS on a magnetic heading of 175°. After breaking right the flight followed the preceding Squadrons' route home by way of Mumu Island to land on the strip at 1214.

The formation used was two three-plane sections, javelin down. All 72 x 260 frags fell into the area immediately NW of the target damaging gardens and paths.

R. R. CHUISE,  
Capt., USMCR,  
Group Intelligence Officer.

H. P. BECKER,  
Col., USMC,  
Group Commander.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE



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EASTMAN REGULAR SAFETY

EASTMAN REGULAR SAFETY

(1) (VMB-425) (231) (0) (10800') (20") (1102L) (8 JULY 45) KARAGADA #19 CONF.