

VMB-423

159  
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Report # 256

#C(9)

6

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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(a) Unit Reporting VMB-423 (b) Based on or at Green Island (c) Report No 256  
 (d) Take off: Date 4 April, 1945 Time (LZT) 0844 (Zone); Lat. 04° 32' Long 154° 14'  
Medium Altitude Daylight Strike on Muguai #16  
 (e) Mission & Strafe Monoitu, Bougainville. (f) Time of Return 1131 (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)		
PBJ-1J	VMB423	1	None	1	6 X 500# GP	Nose: AN-M-103 .1 Sec Delay Tail: AN-M-102A2 .025 Sec Delay

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
PV-1	NZ-3	5	Green Island	F4U	NZ-20	2	Piva
PBY5A	VPB-44	1	Green Island				
F4U	NZ-24	2	Green Island				

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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(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) Muguai #16 & Monoitu, Bougainville. (b) Time Over Target(s) 1009 & 1028 (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 25 to 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 6 Spacing 50 to 100 ft. Altitude of Bomb Release 10,500 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>Muguai #16</b>		1 <b>VMB-423</b>	<b>6 X 500# GP</b>	<b>See(o)</b>	
2 <b>Monoitu</b>		1 <b>VMB-423</b>	<b>1300 rds .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.)

**Muguai #16**

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

**Monoitu**

The area from Tai Tai to Monoitu was thoroughly strafed but the height and speed of the planes prevented observation of results.

(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 TAYLOR	0844	1009	1131

Major TAYLOR, Executive Officer, in a PBJ led five PVs of New Zealand-Three in a medium altitude daylight strike on Target #16 Muguai, Bougainville. Major TAYLOR flew as leader of the New Zealand Squadron so that he could do the sighting as the Ventures do not carry a bombsight. The formation was two, three plane sections javelin down. The medium altitude strike was followed by a low level strafing of Monoitu, Bougainville.

The strike was airborne by 0847 and after joining up as described above proceeded down the east coast of Bougainville to Koromira Bay. From this point the formation flew a heading of 237° magnetic for six miles then flew a course of 173° magnetic for 12 miles where it turned into the bomb run of 237° magnetic.

At Koromira the formation rendezvoused with two Piva Corsairs which were to mark the target with smoke. However the target was not smoked and the flight bombed without this assistance.

Bombs were dropped at 1009 from 10,500 feet on a heading of 230° magnetic at 160 knots indicated. After bombing the formation broke right to rendezvous with the Piva Corsairs near Mt. Gulcher for the strafing mission.

Six bursts of inaccurate heavy anti-aircraft fire were encountered from known positions in Ebery's Lease and near Kara Air Strip.

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

Low Level Strafing Attack

After the rendezvous with the Corsairs at Mt. Gulcher the formation proceeded to a point five miles south of Mt. Taroka. Since the Corsairs had expended their smoke bombs they pointed the way to the target by flying over it.

The first section made its strafing run at tree-top level at 1028 on a heading of 187° magnetic and 210 knots and the second section made its run at 1030 on the same course and speed.

The area from Tai Tai to Monoitu was thoroughly strafed with the planes of each section in a formation of three planes line abreast.

No anti-aircraft fire was observed and the height and speed of the planes prevented observation of results.

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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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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

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

APPROVED BY:

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

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE



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