

VMB-423

158

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Report # 208

HC (9)

5



# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB-423 (b) Based on or at Green Island (c) Report No. 208  
 (d) Take off: Date 16 February 1945 Time (LZT) 0803 (Zone); Lat. 04° 32' Long 154° 14'  
 (e) Mission Medium Altitude raid on Makai target AA-57. (f) Time of Return 1030 (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)		
<b>PBJ-1J</b>	<b>VMB423</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2 X 1000# GP</b>	<b>Nose: AN-M-103 Instantaneous Tail: AN-M-100A2 .1 sec delay</b>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<b>PV-1</b>	<b>N2-2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Green Island</b>	<b>F4U</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>Piva</b>
<b>PBY5A</b>	<b>VPB-44</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Green Island</b>				
<b>F4U</b>	<b>N2-17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Green Island</b>				

## 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
<b>None</b>			(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)  
 (j) 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		
<b>None</b>						







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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) Maikai AA-57, Bougainville. (b) Time Over Target(s) 0925 (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 Two Spacing 170 feet Altitude of Bomb Release 11,000  
(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 <u>Maikai AA-57</u>		<u>1</u> <u>VMB-423</u>	<u>2 X 1000# GP</u>	<u>See (o)</u>	
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 identity by numbers above. Use additional sheets if necessary.)

**Bomb hits with relation to the target are 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

CALL	PILOT	T/O GREEN	T/O/T	P/C GREEN
301B21	DUTTENHOFER	0803	0925	1030

Captain DUTTENHOFER led eight PVs of M2-2 on a medium altitude bombing raid on Maikai target AA-57, Bougainville. The formation was three, three plane sections javelin down. Captain DUTTENHOFER served as flight leader so that he could do the sighting for the Venturas which do not carry a bomb-sight.

The flight was airborne by 0803 and joined up as above described and then proceeded to Oema Island for rendezvous with a Piva Corsair. After rendezvous the Corsair from Piva proceeded ahead of the formation and marked the target with a smoke bomb. The bombers approached the target from Oema Island at 155 knots on a heading of 256° magnetic dropping their bombs from 11,000 feet at 0925.

No anti-aircraft fire was encountered.

Bomb hits with relation to the target are shown on the attached photograph.

(All times in this narrative are love).

**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

WARD D. MARTIN  
Capt., USMCR  
Intelligence Officer

NORMAN J. ANDERSON  
LtCol., USMC  
Commanding Officer





1959(8) 2-16-44 - 11,000' - 20" - AA-57 - BOUGAINVILLE