

VMB-423

161
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Report #372

IIC(9)

4

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No **372**

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 None				
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
None				

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	
F4U-1J	269	225	3hrs 9'	974	555	None	None	None	None	4

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

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

SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

- TURNES
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Kavieng, New Ireland. (b) Time Over Target(s) 2015-0015L (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target .1 to .3 scattered CU.
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 25 miles
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Level Bomb Sight Used D-8
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10 Spacing Varied Altitude of Bomb Release 10,000-10,500'
(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 Kavieng, N. I.		4 VNB-423	33 X 100# Incendiary clusters	See (o)	
2 Panapai, N. I.		4 VNB-423	15 X 100# Incendiary clusters	See (o)	
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).

One cluster dropped on Panapai at 2143 caused two fires which burned for twenty minutes. Three clusters dropped at 2333 resulted in two moderate explosions in the south end of Kavieng Town, four clusters which fell on Kavieng Town from 2350 to 0006 caused a number of small fires lasting fifteen to twenty minutes. Other results were unobserved.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No 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 EMIRAU	T/O/T	P/C EMIRAU
242B21	Major TAYLOR	1930	2015-2210	2238
243B21	VARAKEN	1935	2015-2215	2243
244B21	LINEN	2130	2215-0010	0040
245B21	NICOLAS	2135	2215-0015	0045

During the night of 16/17 July, 1945, four PBJ's of VMB-423 covered the Kavieng-Panapai area of New Ireland in a medium altitude bombing, snoop search and heckling mission from 2015 to 0015.

242B21 and 243B21 were airborne by 1930 and 1935 respectively and proceeded to the target area around the west and south sides of New Hanover Island. 242B21 furnished cover from 2015 to 2115 while 243B21 bombed and heckled, dropping twelve 100 pound incendiary clusters, ten on Kavieng and two on Panapai. From 2115 to 2215, 243B21 furnished cover while 242B21 dropped twelve 100 pound incendiary clusters, nine on Kavieng and three on Panapai. At the end of their time on station the planes flew a direct course to base and both were safely on deck by 2243.

244B21 took off at 2130 and 245B21 at 2135 and proceeded to Kavieng around the west and south sides of New Hanover. 244B21 furnished cover while 245B21 bombed from 2215 to 2315. 245B21 dropped twelve 100 pound incendiary clusters, five on Kavieng and seven on Panapai. 245B21 furnished cover from 2315 to 0015 while 244B21 bombed and heckled with twelve 100 pound incendiary clusters, dropping nine on Kavieng and three on Panapai. On completion of the mission the planes returned directly to base and were both on the deck by 0045.

The planes maintained 12,000 feet of altitude while furnishing cover and the bombing was done at 10,000 to 10,500 feet.

No anti-aircraft fire or searchlights were encountered.

One cluster dropped on Panapai at 2143 caused two fires which burned for twenty minutes. Three clusters dropped at 2333 resulted in two moderate explosions in the south end of Kavieng Town, four clusters which fell on Kavieng Town from 2350 to 0006 caused a number of small fires lasting fifteen to twenty minutes. Other results were unobserved.

(All times in this narrative are local).

WARD D. MARTIN,
Capt., USNCR,
Intelligence Officer.

NORMAN J. ANDERSON,
LtCol., USMC,
Commanding.