

VMB 413

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Report # 2841

HC (8)

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AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT 10477

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

284

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB - 413 (b) Based on or at Emirau, St. Matthias (c) Report No. Two hundred-eighty four
 (d) Take off: Date 5/6 May, 1945 Time (LZT) 1949-2117-2300; Lat. 01° 36' S Long 150° E
 (e) Mission Medium level heckle of Kavieng area, New Ireland. Time of Return 2200-2320-0120L

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-1	VMB413	6	None	6	12 x 120 AN-M-41 frag clusters	110 nose

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
None							

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) _____

(i) Did Any Part of Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? _____ If so, Describe Clouds _____
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(j) Time of Day and Brilliance _____ (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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			
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) Kavieng, New Ireland (b) Time Over Target(s) 2030 to 0045 (one)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target Clear
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 20
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Medium level Bomb Sight Used None Used
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run Varied Spacing Varied Altitude of Bomb Release 10,500 to 11,500
(NUMBER) (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 Area	From Kavieng Town to Panapai Bivouac area	6	72 x 120 frag clusters	see(o)	see(o)
2		VMB - 413			
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)

- 9 x 120 North west of Panapai strip
- 6 x 120 West of Panapai strip.
- 13 x 120 In Panapai Bivouac area.
- 10 x 120 In Kavieng Town.
- 8 x 120 South east of Kavieng strip.
- 5 x 120 North east of Kavieng strip.
- 4 x 120 Hit along the Balgai Bay shore.
- 1 x 120 Hit searchlight near Kavieng strip.
- 16 x 120 Hit between Kavieng Town and strip.

(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
254B21
255B21
256B21
257B21
258B21
259B21

PILOT
Ross
HELLING
SMITH
CONANT
LEGGIO
ARSENAULT

During the night of May 5, VMB 413 sent six PBJ's to heckle the Japs at Kavieng, New Ireland.

The first two planes took off at 1949 and flew directly to the target. The following planes established a traffic pattern from the base, to the northwest tip of New Hanover, to the target and then directly back to the base. This definite pattern is made so as to lessen the danger of the planes colliding going to and from the target.

The target was heckled from 2030 to 0045. Twenty-five individually bombing runs were made from varied altitudes and directions. Seventy-two 120 pound frag clusters were dropped between Kavieng Town, North Cape and the bivouac area at the Panapai airstrip. The first two planes over the target drew four relatively, poorly maned searchlights but encountered no A/A.

Either our common enemy was up to something that night or he was trying to distract our planes from bombing the bivouac areas, for many small lights were seen around Balgai Bay and the nearby islands. Ordinarily that area is completely darkened.

The last plane landed at the base at 0120.

(All times in narrative are love)

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