

MG-61

145
④

Report # 44

⊕ C(4)

6

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

Ref: -VMB-413 178
VMB-423 185
VMB-433 85
VMB-443 63

05761

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting MAG-61 (b) Based on or at Fmirau Island (c) Report No. 44
 (d) Take off: Date 25 January, 1945 Time (LZT) G.0930-0933L (Zone); Lat. 1°36'S. Long. 150°E.
Coordinated strike on Sulphur Creek (e) Mission plane park, Rabaul, N. B. (f) Time of Return G.1145-1154L
E.1155-1206L (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-1	VMB413	2	None	2	2 x 1000 GP	Inst
PBJ-1	VMB413	7	None	7	3 x 1000 GP	Inst
PBJ-1	VMB423	6	None	6	2 x 1000 GP	AN-M-103
PBJ-1	VMB423	1	None	1	3 x 1000 GP	AN-M-103
PBJ-1	VMB433	8	None	7	6 x 500 GP	AN-M-103
*PBJ-1	VMB433	1	None	1	6 x 500 GP	AN-M-103
PBJ-1	VMB443	9	None	9	6 x 500 GP	AN-M-103

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
FV	NZ-2	7	Green Island	PBY	VPB44	1	Fmirau Island
PBY	VPB44	1	same	F4U's	NZ-22	2	same
F4U's	NZ-17	2	same				

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		
None					

* Hit Kavieng Strip

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No _____

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Sulphur Creek plane park (b) Time Over Target(s) 1041-1057L (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target .4 cloud cover over target area
(BASE IN FEET TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Partially obscured by clouds (e) Visibility 20 (MILES)
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Level Bomb Sight Used Mk 15 mod 7
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run all Spacing varied Altitude of Bomb Release 11,000-12,800'
(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 HIT ON Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
1 Sulphur Creek plane park	250' x 850'	9 VMB-413	25 x 1000 GP		
2 same		7 VMB-423	15 x 1000 GP		
3 same		7 VMB-433	42 x 500 GP		See (o)
4 same		9 VMB-443	54 x 500 GP		
5 Kavieng Strip		1 VMB-433	6 x 500 GP		
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.)

A heavy cloud formation over the target helped neither the majority of the bombardiers nor the photographers, therefore, any accurate count of the bombs hits or assessment of the damage is impossible. The attached photograph, however, one of the lucky few to find a clearing in the clouds shows that probably at least a dozen of the half tonners from 423 struck either in or very close to the plane park. The PW's which accompanied this squadron on its run from the west placed their load neatly along the northern bank of Sulphur Creek and into the park itself.

(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

CALL	PILOT
254B21	Bronleewe
255B21	Helling
256B21	Cornwell
257B21	Bergstrom
258B21	Bouscaren
259B21	Ellis
260B21	Millington
261B21	Smith
262B21	Ingberg

433

CALL	PILOT
266B21	Miller
267B21	Fischer
268B21	Smith
269B21	Wilfong
270B21	Benjamin
271B21	Percy
272B21	Johnston
273B21	Harpley
274B21	Carr

423

CALL	PILOT
301B21	Anderson
302B21	Friedman
303B21	Hopper
304B21	Griffitts
305B21	Kline
306B21	Lusky
307B21	Duttenhoffer

443

CALL	PILOT
279B21	Whitney
280B21	Wetzel
281B21	Whittemore
282B21	Hammond
283B21	Rose
284B21	Stewart
285B21	Schreier
286B21	Hudson
287B21	Kitterman

Another step in the elimination of Sulphur Creek plane park was a coordinated strike by three squadrons of PBJ's from Emirau and one squadron accompanied by a squadron of New Zealand Venturas from Green. The bomb loads varied with the squadrons.

The three squadrons from Emirau joined up and went directly to the rendezvous with the other group over Nabuto Bay on the northeast coast of New Ireland in a vee of squadrons javelined down. Leaving the rendezvous the Emirau group proceeded to Watom Island where the formation was changed to a column of squadrons for the bomb run on a course of 160° magnetic at an altitude of 12,800 to 12,200 with a break to the left.

Course of the second group was to Makada Island then an approach for a bomb run on a heading of 263° two minutes behind the section. However a heavy cloud build up over the "Mother" directly on the bombing run forced a change in plan. The group leader crossed behind the first group and made the approach from Talili Bay for a very satisfactory run

The two groups did not attempt a rally but the Emirau planes formed up north of Duke of York and returned directly to base.

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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
Landing System
Flight Characteristics
At Various Loadings

POWER PLANT

Engines
Engine Accessories
Propellers
Lubricating System
Starters
Exhaust Dampers

HYDRAULIC SYSTEM

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

Auxiliary Power
Lights

FUEL SYSTEM

FLIGHT CLOTHING

MAINTENANCE

BASE FACILITIES

Plane Servicing Equipment
Personnel Facilities

Immediately after the take off, one of the planes of VMB-433 jettisoned its bombs and returned to base when the navigator discovered smoke coming from the bomb bay. Another plane of VMB-433 could not take off on schedule due to engine trouble. The crew changed to the standby plane and took off late. The plane was too far behind the flight to catch up so a bombing run was made on Kavieng Strip at 1005.

No A/A or enemy interception was encountered.

D. E. HATCH,
Capt., USMCR,
Group Intelligence Officer.

P. K. SMITH,
Col., USMC,
Group Commander.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

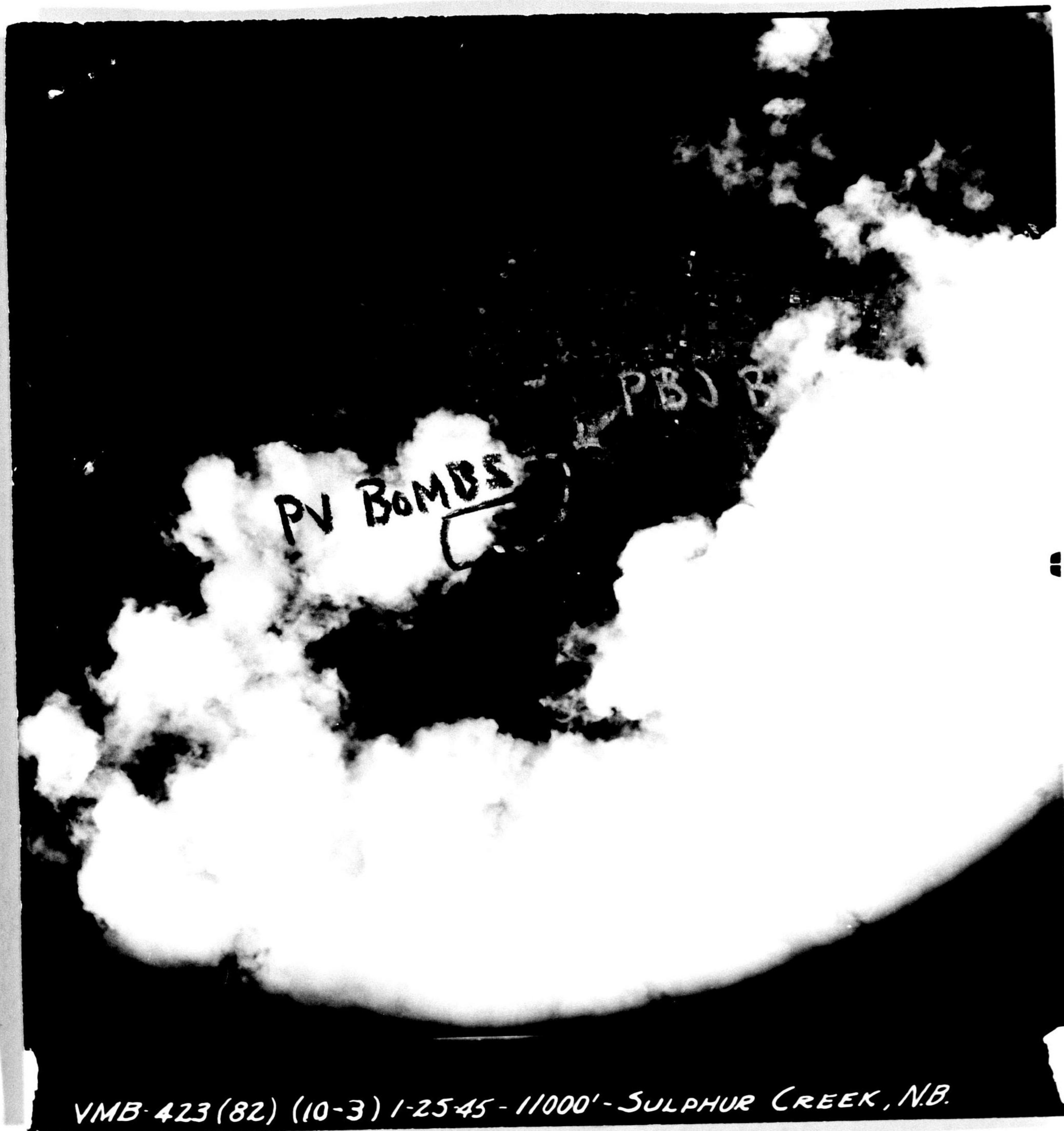
SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE



VMB-423(82) (10-3) 1-25-45 - 11000' - SULPHUR CREEK, N.B.