

VMB-42B

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Report #298

IC(9)

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I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting: ~~1018-423~~ (b) Based at: ~~Green Island~~ (c) ³⁰⁰ Report # ~~300~~
 (d) Date of Action: ~~23 April 1942~~ (e) Take off: Time: ~~0830-0835~~ LZT
 Lat. ~~00° 32'~~ Long. ~~154° 14'~~ (f) Mission: ~~Low Level Bombing and strafing of Nakoru # 15, Bougainville.~~
 (g) Time of Return: ~~1000-1000~~ LZT

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT

TYPE	SQDN	NO. OF SORTIES	NO. ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	NO. ATTACKING TARGET	BOMBS CARRIED PER PLANE
PBJ-1J	VB-423	3	None	3	3 x 250 lb GP

FUZE, SETTING :
 * :
 * :
 * :
 * :
 * :
 * :
 * :
 * :

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

Type	Sqdn.	No.	Base	Type	Sqdn.	No.	Base
PB5A	VPB-33	1	Green Island				

IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED

~~None~~

V. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR

~~None~~

VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL OF OWN AIRCRAFT

None

VII. PERSONNEL CASUALTIES

None

VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA FOR PLANES RETURNING

TYPE A/C	MILES OUT	MILES IN	AV HOURS IN AIR	AV FUEL LOADED	AV FUEL CONSUMED	TOTAL AMMO EXPENDED	PLANES RETURNING
P-51-D	210	180	3hr 32'	270	220	2,000 lbs of	3
						200 lbs of	

IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED

	None	Meager	Moderate	Intense
HEAVY				
MEDIUM	XX			
LIGHT	XX	XX		

X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT

No enemy aircraft encountered.

XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES

(a) Target & Location: Submarine # 10, Bourville

(b) Time over Target: 0940 (c) Clouds over Target: CAVS

(d) Visibility of Target: 0.25 (e) Visibility: 10 (miles)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type: low level Bomb Sight Used: None
 Bombs Dropped per Run: 0 Spacing: 0 Altitude: tree-top level

(g) No. of Enemy A/C hit on Ground: None Destroyed: None Damaged: None

(B)	(i)	(j) (k)	(l)	(m)	(n)
<u>Submarine # 10,</u>		<u>0940</u>	<u>0.25</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>(photo)</u>

(c) REASONS

All bombs hit in the target area and the area was thoroughly strafed. No photographs were taken.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? None Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should be attached by staple.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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CALL	PILOT	T/O GREEN	T/O/T	P/C GREEN
301B21	LtCol. ANDERSON	0815	0940	1047
302B21	WORKMAN	0815	0940	1047
303B21	EVANS	0816	0940	1048

Lieutenant Colonel ANDERSON, Commanding Officer, led three PBJs of VMB-423 in a low level bombing and strafing of target #15, Nakaru, Bougainville. The strike was planned to surprise the enemy relying upon the direction of approach and the speed of the planes to achieve this effect. The flight was composed of one three plane section.

The raid was airborne by 0817 and proceeded down the east coast of Bougainville to Lulua valley at 5,000 feet altitude where it turned on a heading of 265° magnetic to five miles south of Mt. Taroka. At this point the flight went into right echelon and flew a heading of 180° magnetic toward the mouth of the Mibo River and after four miles turned left into the bomb run losing altitude.

The bombing and strafing run was made at 0940 at tree-top level with an indicated air speed of 240 knots. The flight broke right and returned to Green. All planes were safely on the deck by 1043.

Meagre inaccurate light anti-aircraft fire was encountered from unidentified positions south of the target area.

All bombs hit in the target area and the area was thoroughly strafed. No photographs were taken.

(All times in this narrative are local).

WARD D. MARTIN
Capt., USMC
Intelligence Officer

NORMAN J. ANDERSON
LtCol., USMC
Commanding