

VMB-413

148
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Report # 338

IC(8)

9

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

16918

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

024873

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB - 413 (b) Based on or at EMIRAU ST. MATTHIAS (c) Report No. 338
 (d) Take off: Date 8 JULY, 1945 Time (LZT) 1943 L (Zone); Lat. 01°36'S Long 150°E
 (e) Mission HECKLE KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND (f) Time of Return 2146 L (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	12 X 100 INCENDIARIES AN-M-69	NO FUZE

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) _____
 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 _____ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (k) Visibility _____ (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	GUNS USED		
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) 2030T02120 L
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 5/10 TO 7/10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target LOW BROKEN CLOUDS WITH BASE ONE TO TWO THOUSAND FEET (e) Visibility GREATER THAN 5
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type MEDIUM LEVEL Bomb Sight Used MK. 15 MOD. 7
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run VARIED Spacing VARIED Altitude of Bomb Release 10 TO 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		2			
2	AREA	VMB - 413	24 X 100 INCENDIARIES	SEE (0)	
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.)

24 BOMBS DROPPED BETWEEN NORTH CAPE AND PANAPAI

(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.) **VMB413**

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

PILOT
BRUEGGESTRASS
OXSEN

TWO PBJ'S TOOK OFF AT 1943 ON A HECKLING AND BOMBING MISSION OF THE KAVIENG AREA. EACH PLANE CARRIED 12 X 100 POUND INCENDIARIES.

TAKING A DIRECT COURSE TO KAVIENG, THE TWO PLANES WERE ON STATION FROM 2037 TO 2120, HECKLING THROUGH-OUT. DUE TO CLOUD COVER, GOOD OBSERVATION OF THE BOMB HITS AND POSSIBLE DAMAGE WAS IMPOSSIBLE. HOWEVER, 24 X 100 POUND INCENDIARIES WERE DROPPED IN THE WOODED AREAS BETWEEN PANAPAI AIRSTRIP AND NORTH CAPE. ONE SMALL FIRE WAS OBSERVED SOUTH OF THE KAVIENG STRIP UPON RETIREMENT.

AS ONE PLANE HECKLED THE OTHER REMAINED AS COVER 1,000 FEET ABOVE. SEVEN RUNS WERE MADE. THE ALTITUDES WERE CHANGED 200 FEET ON EACH RUN BETWEEN 10,000 AND 11,500 FEET. WITH THE RUNS VARIED 15 DEGREES BETWEEN 2 AND 3 DEGREES.

LEAVING THE TARGET AT 2120, BOTH PLANES ARRIVED SAFELY AT 2146.

THE SECOND FLIGHT WAS CANCELLED AS THE WEATHER CLOSED IN OVER THE TARGET.

(ALL TIMES IN NARRATIVE ARE LOVE)

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