

VMB 423

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Report # 297

JIC (9)

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**CONFIDENTIAL**

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting: VMF-223 (b) Based at: Green Island (c) Report # 297  
 (d) Date of Action: 27 April, 1945 (e) Take off: Time: 1430-1431 LZT  
 Lat. 04° 33' Long. 154° 14' (f) Mission: Low Level Bombing and  
Neutralizing of Nakaru # 11, Noumeaville. (daylite strike)  
 (g) Time of Return: 1430-1431 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
<u>FB-15</u>	<u>VMF-223</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0 x 100 &amp; 02</u>

FUZE, SETTING

No Nose Fuze Used

Total: 4-11-15  
8/11 sec delay

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

Type	Sqdn	No.	Base	Type	Sqdn	No.	Base
<u>FB-15A</u>	<u>VMF-223</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Green Island</u>				

IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED

None

V. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR

None



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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
PBJ-13	150	175	2:20:00	270	220	12,000 rds of .50 caliber	4

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: Nakuru # 11, Nakuruville.  
 (b) Time over Target: 1530 (c) Clouds over Target: Low scattered  
 (d) Visibility of Target: HAZY (e) Visibility: 10  
 (miles)  
 (f) Bombing Tactics: Type: Low Level Bomb Sight Used: None  
 Bombs Dropped per Run: 8 Spacing 200 Altitude Tree-Top Level  
 (g) No. of Enemy A/C hit on Ground: None Probably Destroyed: None Damaged: None

(B)	(i)	(j) (k)	(l)	(m)	(n)
<u>Nakuru #11.</u>		<u>4</u>	<u>32 x 500 # GP</u>	<u>See (c)</u>	

(c) RESULTS

All bombs were in the target area and the target was effectively strafed with 12,000 pounds of caliber .50 ammunition. A fire was started with smoke billowing above the tree-tops.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should be attached by staple.



SHEET 4

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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CALL	PILOT	T/O GREEN	T/O/T	P/C GREEN
301B21	Major TAYLOR	1430	1536	1650
302B21	HUBER	1430	1536	1650
303B21	WALLER	1431	1536	1651
304B21	VAN HORN	1431	1536	1651

Major TAYLOR, Executive Officer, led four PBJs of VMB-423, in a daytime low level bombing and strafing attack on target #11, 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 strike was airborne by 1432 and after join-up in diamond formation proceeded down the west coast of Bougainville to Express Augusta Bay where the formation turned to a heading of 085° magnetic until south of Mt. Taroka and at an altitude of 4,000 feet. Here the flight headed toward the Mibo River losing altitude and went into right echelon. At the Mibo River Ford the planes turned to a heading of 104° magnetic for the bomb run.

The bombing and strafing was done in four planes line abreast at tree top level and at 220 knots indicated air speed. Following the run the planes broke to the right, joined up in diamond formation off Montopena Point and returned to base. All planes were safely on deck by 1652.

Meagre inaccurate automatic fire was encountered from an unidentified position north of Moila Point.

All bombs were in the target area and the target was effectively strafed with 12,000 rounds of caliber .50 ammunition. A fire was started with smoke billowing above the tree-tops.

(All times in this narrative are local).

WARD D. MARTIN  
Capt., USMCR  
Intelligence Officer

NORMAN J. ANDERSON  
LtCol., USMC  
Commanding.