

VMB-423

158
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Report # 214

IIC (9)

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AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)
CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB-423 (b) Based on or at Green Island (c) Report No. 214
 (d) Take off Date 22 February 1945 Time (LZT) 0900-0903 (Zone); Lat. 04° 32' Long. 154° 14'
Medium altitude daylight strike
 (e) Mission on Mugai, Bougainville. (f) Time of Return 1115-1119 (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-1J	VMB423	4	None	4	4 X 1000# SAP	Nose: AN-M-103
PBJ-1D	VMB423	1	None	1	4 X 1000# SAP	Tail: AN-M-102A2
PBJ-1D	VMB423	1	None	1	3 X 1000# SAP	Nose: AN-M-103 Tail: AN-M-102A2
PBJ-1J	VMB423	1	None	1	2 X 1000# GP	AN-M-103

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
PV-1	NZ-2	8	Green Island	F4U		2	Piva
PBY5A	VPS-44	1	Green Island				
F4U	NZ-17	2	Green Island				

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					

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VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those listed in II only).

(a) TYPE OWN A/C	(b) SQUADRON	(c) CAUSE: TYPE ENEMY A/C, TYPE GUN, OR OPERATIONAL CAUSE	(d) WHERE HIT, ANGLE (List armor, self-sealing tanks, equipment hit)	(e) EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE (Give Bureau serial number of planes destroyed)
1 None				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				

VII. PERSONNEL CASUALTIES (in aircraft listed in II only; identify with planes listed in VI by Nos. at left).

(a) NO	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NAME, RANK OR RATING	(d) CAUSE	(e) CONDITION OR STATUS
None				

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

(a) TYPE A/C	(b) MILES OUT	(c) MILES RETURN	(d) AV. HOURS IN AIR	(e) AV. FUEL LOADED	(f) AV. FUEL CONSUMED	(g) TOTAL AMMUNITION EXPENDED				(h) NO. OF PLANES RETURNING
						30	50	20MM	MM	
PBJ-1J	192	169	2hrs15'	1016	468	None	None	None	None	5
PBJ-1D	192	169	2hrs15'	1016	468	None	None	None	None	2

IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over			XX	
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	XX			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	XX			

X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (use check list at left).

- SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes
- TURNS
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

No enemy aircraft encountered.

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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) Muguai, Bougainville (b) Time Over Target(s) 1015 (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target CAVU (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 30 miles (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Level Bomb Sight Used Mark 15 (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 3 & 4 Spacing 170 feet Altitude of Bomb Release 9,800-10,300 (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 <u>Muguai, Bougainville</u>		<u>6</u> <u>VNB-423</u>	<u>23 X 1000# SAP</u>	<u>See (a)</u>	
2					
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.)

All bombs were in the target area. Three large explosions were observed and black smoke from the south end of the target. The pattern of bomb hits with relation to the target is shown on the attached photographs.

(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

CALL	PILOT	T/O GREEN	T/O/T	P/C GREEN
301B21	Major PRITCHARD	0900	1015	1115
302B21	HAZLEHURST	0900	1015	1115
303B21	CLARK	0901	1015	1116
304B21	ECKHARDT	0901	1015	1116
305B21	BURLINGHAM	0902	1015	1117
**306B21	HOPPER	0902	1015	1119
*307B21	GRAVES	0903	----	0950

* Captain GRAVES flew as leader of the Venturas, but was forced to return to base due to an oil leak.

** Lieutenant HOPPER took over as leader of the PV squadron.

Major PRITCHARD, Operations Officer of VMB-423 led seven PBJs and eight PVs of New Zealand-2 in a medium altitude daylight strike on personnel and supply area at Muguai, Bougainville.

The formation was composed of six PBJs of VMB-423 in two, three plane sections, as the first squadron, and one PBJ and eight PVs in three, three plane sections as the second squadron. A PBJ flew as lead aircraft of the PV squadron so that it could do the sighting for the Venturas which do not carry a bombsight.

The flight was airborne by 0905 and joined up as described above. The formation proceeded to Puk Puk Island on the east coast of Bougainville where rendezvous was made with Corsairs from Piva at 1000 hours at 11,000 feet. From Puk Puk Island, the formation flew a course of 173° magnetic for 21 miles, then on a course of 135° magnetic for nine miles and turned into the bomb run.

On the bombing run the PBJs flew a course of 178° magnetic at 10,300 feet with 160 knots indicated air speed and bombs were away at 1015. Lieutenant HOPPER led the PVs on the bomb run on a course of 200° magnetic at 9,800 feet with 160 knots indicated air speed as bombs were released at 1015.

The Piva Corsairs after the rendezvous preceded the formation to the target and marked it with smoke bombs. This cooperation assisted materially in the results achieved.

All bombs were in the target area. Three large explosions were observed and black smoke from the south end of the target. The pattern of bomb hits with relation to the target is shown on the attached photographs.

After the bomb release the formation broke to the

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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
Heating System
Flight Characteristics
At Various Loadings

POWER PLANT

Engines
Engine Accessories
Propellers
Lubricating System
Starters
Exhaust Dampers

HYDRAULIC SYSTEM

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

Auxiliary Plant
Lights

FUEL SYSTEM

FLIGHT CLOTHING

MAINTENANCE

BASE FACILITIES

Plane Servicing Equipment
Personnel Facilities

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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Capt., USMCR
Intelligence Officer

APPROVED BY:

ARTHUR C. LOWELL
Major, USMC
Acting

**left and all planes were safely on deck at Green Island
by 1123.**

**Moderate, inaccurate heavy anti-aircraft fire was
encountered from known positions at Kara air strip and
Ebery's Lease.**

(All times in this narrative are local).

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE



