

VMB-42B

160
9

Report #308

ITC (9)

4

CONFIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

10479 RESTRICTED (Reclassify when filled out)

RECEIVED
MAY 24 1945
0541

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting **VMB-423** (b) Based on or at **Green Island** (c) Report No. **308**
 (d) Take off: Date **5/6 May, 1945** Time (LZT) **2357 & 0231** (Zone) **04° 32'** Lat. **04° 32'** Long. **154° 14'**
 (e) Mission **Night snooper search and heckling mission over Rabaul, New Britain** (f) Time of Return **0335 & 0510** (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	2	None	2	8 X 250# GP	Nose: AN-M-103 .1 Sec Delay No Tail Used

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)
 (j) Time of Day and Brilliance _____
(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:			GUNS USED	(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-LJ	594		3hrs38'	974	630	None	None	None	None	1
PBJ-LJ	620		3hrs09'	974	551	None	None	None	None	1

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

URNS

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) **Rabaul Area, New Britain** (b) Time Over Target(s) **0045-0250 & 0315-0505** (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target **.1 Cover** (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target **CLEAR** (e) Visibility **25 miles** (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Level** Bomb Sight Used **D-8** (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run **1 & 2** Spacing **Varied** Altitude of Bomb Release **8,000' to 10,000'** (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, serious, destroyed or sunk)
1 Vunakanau Area & Strip		2 VMB-423	10 X 250# GP	See (o)	
2 Rabaul Town Between Vunakanau & Keravat		2 VMB-423	5 X 250# GP	" "	
		1 VMB-423	1 X 250# GP	" "	
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.)

A large fire with smoke to 3,000 feet was started northwest of Vunakanau by 331821. All other results were unobserved.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? **No** Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple

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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

CALL	PILOT	T/O GREEN	T/O/T	P/C GREEN
331B21	GRUE	2357	0045-0250	0335
332B21	WORKMAN	0231	0315-0505	0540

On the night of 5/6 May, 1945, 331B21 was airborne by 1157 on a snooper search and heckling mission over Rabaul, New Britain. 331B21 arrived on station at 0045, dropping 8 X 250 pound general purpose bombs prior to 0250. Seven bombs were dropped on Vunakanau Airstrip and area, and one on Rabaul Town with a large fire with smoke to 3,000 feet resulting from a bomb dropped on the area northwest of Vunakanau Strip on the second run. All other results were unobserved. One accurate searchlight was encountered on the last run coming from an area northwest of Vunakanau Strip, but no anti-aircraft fire was encountered.

At 0231, 332B21 was airborne and on way to Rabaul, New Britain, to relieve 331B21. 332B21 arrived on station at 0315 dropping 8 X 250 pound general purpose bombs from that time to 0505. Four bombs were dropped on Rabaul Town, three on Vunakanau Strip and area and one on an area between Vunakanau and Keravat Strips with unobserved results. No searchlights or anti-aircraft fire were encountered.

(All times in this narrative are local).

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE