

VMB-423

159  
⑨

Report # 261

HC(9)

4











# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when  
filled out)

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**261**

REPORT No. \_\_\_\_\_

## XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Rabaul, New Britain (b) Time Over Target(s) 0415-0615 (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target CAVU  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target CLEAR (e) Visibility 15-20  
(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 2 & 5 Spacing Varied Altitude of Bomb Release 8,000-9,500  
(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 <b>Rabaul Town</b>		1 <b>VMB-423</b>	5 X 100# GP	See(o)	
2 <b>Vunakenu</b>		1 <b>VMB-423</b>	5 X 100# GP	See(o)	
3 <b>Tobera</b>		1 <b>VMB-423</b>	2 X 100# GP	See(o)	
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.)

**On the second bomb run on Tobera a column of smoke to about 1000 feet was observed three miles northeast of the strip, the results of the balance of the bombs was 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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

CALL	PILOT	T/O GREEN	T/O/T	P/O GREEN
331B21	SPAULDING	0135	*	0345
332B21	PEARCE	0335	0415/0615	0655

\* See Narrative.

On the night of 5 April, 1945, 331B21 was airborne by 0135 on a snoopier search and heckling mission over Rabaul, New Britain, however after taking off the plane was notified by Fighter Control to proceed to Pinepel Island and search that vicinity for an unidentified ship. The ship was sighted and signaled by the plane but it did not reply. The plane then dropped flares and again signalled the ship but it did not reply so 331B21 continued to orbit about the ship, keeping the ship under close surveillance. Later Fighter Control advised the plane that the craft was friendly. 331B21 then salvaged his bomb load of 6 X 500 pound general purpose bombs and returned to base pancaking at 0345.

By 0335, 332B21 was airborne on a snoopier search and heckling mission and proceeded to Rabaul, New Britain. During the period of 0415 and 0615, 12 X 100 pound general purpose bombs were dropped, five on Rabaul, five on Vunakanau and two on Tobera. One burst of inaccurate medium anti-aircraft fire was encountered from Vunakanau. No search lights were encountered.

On the second bomb run on Tobera a column of smoke to about 1000 feet was observed three miles northeast of the strip, the results of the balance of the bombs was unobserved.

(All times in this narrative are love).

WARD D. MARTIN  
Capt., USMCR  
Intelligence Officer

APPROVED BY:

H. W. TAYLOR  
Major, USMC  
Acting

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE