

VMB-423

161  
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Report # 344

IC (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. 344  
 (d) Take off: Date 26 May, 1945 Time (LZT) 0515-1410 (Zone); Lat. 04°32' Long 154°14'  
 (e) Mission Patrol Missions Rabaul Area, New Britain (f) Time of Return 0945-1850 (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)		
<b>PBJ-1J</b>	<b>VMB423</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6 X 500# GP</b>	<b>Nose: AN-M-103 .1 Sec Delay Tail: AN-M-101A2 .025 Sec Delay</b>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<b>None</b>							

## 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
<b>None</b>			(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		
<b>None</b>						

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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	<b>None</b>			
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
	<b>None</b>			

## 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	
<b>PBJ-1J</b>	<b>-756-</b>	<b>4hr30'</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>PBJ-1J</b>	<b>-722-</b>	<b>4hr20'</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>PBJ-1J</b>	<b>-789-</b>	<b>4hr40'</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>837</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>1</b>

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

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

## 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) Rabaul Area, New Britain (b) Time Over Target(s) 0610-1800 (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 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 1 & 2 Spacing Varied Altitude of Bomb Release 6,500-10,000  
(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, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
1 Rabaul Area		3 VNB-423	14 X 500# GP	See (o)	
2 Vunakansu		2 VNB-423	4 X 500# GP	" "	
3 Tobera A/D		1 VNB-423	1 X 500# GP	" "	
4 Keravat A/D		1 VNB-423	1 X 500# GP	" "	
5 Duke of York		1 VNB-423	4 X 500# GP	" "	
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).

**Bombing results were all unobserved.**

(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.)

**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/O GREEN
375B21	RIGDON	0515	0610-0900	0945
376B21	LtCol ANDERSON	0815	0900-1200	1245
377B21	WORKMAN	1115	1157-1500	1540
378B21	PEARCE	1410	1500-1800	1850

On 26 May, 1945, four PBJs of VMB-423 patrolled the Rabaul, New Britain area from 0610 to 1800.

375B21 dropped six 500 pound general purpose bombs as follows: three on Rabaul Town, two on huts northeast Rabaul Town and one on Vunakanau with unobserved results.

376B21 dropped six 500 pound general purpose bombs as follows: three on Rabaul Town and three on Vunakanau, results were unobserved.

377B21 dropped six 500 pound general purpose bombs as follows: four on huts on Duke of York Island, one on Tobera Airdrome and one on Keravat Airdrome with unobserved results. At 1230, 377B21 sighted white paper objects floating through the air over Rataval at 6,000 feet. This sighting has been previously reported. The plane flew through these white objects with no effect on plane or radar which was on. The crew suggested that objects may be leaflets dropped by Liberators sighted over Blanche Bay at 1240. Photographs were taken but objects failed to appear on them.

378B21 dropped six 500 pound general purpose bombs as follows: five on piers at Rabaul Town and one on town proper with unobserved results.

No anti-aircraft fire was encountered.

(All times in this narrative are local).

**WARD D. MARTIN**  
Capt., USMC  
Intelligence Officer

**NORMAN J. ANDERSON**  
LtCol., USMC  
Commanding