

MG-61

146
④

Report 103

IIc(4)

5

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

Ref: **WR-413** **289**
433 **178**
443 **148**

(a) Unit Reporting **MAQ-61** (b) Based on or at **Enirou Island** (c) Report No. **103**
(d) Take off: Date **11 May, 1945.** Time (LZT) **0915L** (Zone); Lat. **01° 36' S.** Long **150° E.**
(e) Mission **Coordinated medium altitude bombing of Tobera #21, New Britain.** (f) Time of Return **1218L** (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-1	WR-413	5	None	5	6 x 500 GP Mk.57.	Nose: AN-M-103 inst. Tail: AN-M-101A2 inst.
PBJ-1	WR-433	8	None	8	6 x 500 GP Mk.64.	Nose: AN-M-103 inst. Tail: AN-M-101A2 inst.
PBJ-1D	WR-443	9	None	9	6 x 500 GP Mk.64.	Nose: AN-M-103 inst. Tail: AN-M-102A2 inst.
PBJ-1	Hq. Sq.	1	None	1	6 x 500 GP Mk.64.	Nose: AN-M-103 inst.

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
PBY-5A	VPB 141	1	Enirou Island				
F4U	NZ #23	2	same				

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 _____ (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		
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-1	257	216	3hrs.09'	974	129	N	0	N	R	23

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

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

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).

P: 1058L

S1: 1119L

S2: 1127L (Zone)

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) **P: Tobera #21, S2: Matanghuri Ptn.** (b) Time Over Target(s) **S1: See R. Bridge.**

(c) Clouds Over Target **P: obscured by clouds, S1 & S2: partially clear.**

(d) Visibility of Target **P: 4-6/10 cu. at 1500', tops to 6000'** (e) Visibility **P: 5, S1 & S2: 10**

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **level** Bomb Sight Used **Mk. 15, Mod. 7.**

Bombs Dropped per Run **All** Spacing **50'** Altitude of Bomb Release **P: 12,400', S1: 11,000', S2: 11,500'.**

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed **None** Probably Destroyed **None** Damaged **None**

Primary: Tobera #21, N.B. S1: See River Bridge, N.I. S2: Matanghuri Ptn., N.I.

(h) AIMING POINT	(i) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(j) NO. A/C ATTACKING (k) SQUADRON	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO. HIT OR A/C DOWN	(n) DAMAGE (Type and Extent)
1 Tobera #21, N.B.	2600' x 1500'	9 WR-413	49 x 500 GPs		
2 See River Bridge, New Ireland.		4 WR-413	24 x 500 GPs		
3 Tobera #21, N.B.	2600' x 1500'	1 WR-413	6 x 500 GPs		See "o"
4 Matanghuri Ptn. New Ireland.		7 WR-433	42 x 500 GPs		
5 Kavieng Airstrip New Ireland.		1 WR-433	6 x 500 GPs		
6 Vanakanza A/S & Revetment, N.B.		1 Hq. Sq.	6 x 500 GPs		
7					
8					

(o) RESULTS: (For all hits claimed on ship targets and for land targets of special interest, draw diagram, stippling, view or other as appropriate, showing location and extent of hits. For all targets give location and effect of hits, and identify by numbers above. Use and fill in spaces if applicable.)

- 1.- 49 x 500⁰ GPs fell over the target. A cloud again obscured the target; however, it was accurately located from known terrain features. Results unobserved.
- 2.- 24 x 500⁰ GPs dropped within target area of the bridge with six of the twenty-four dropping as near misses in the water near the bridge.
- 3.- 6 x 500⁰ GPs dropped on Tobera #21 were unobserved.
- 4.- 42 x 500⁰ GPs dropped in the vicinity of the Matanghuri Ptn. Bridge, but specific observations could not be made.
- 5.- 6 x 500⁰ GPs failed to release over Matanghuri due to mistaking the identity of landmarks and dropped over Kavieng without the assistance of a bombsight. All six bombs hit in the center of Kavieng Airstrip.
- 6.- 6 x 500⁰ GPs carried by an observation plane from Hq. Sq. dropped on Vanakanza Strip and revetment area for unobserved results.
- 7.- 6 x 500⁰ GPs hung and were returned to base.

Note: No photographs are attached due to clouds and absence of bomb hits.

(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
- Defensive 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	CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT
254B21	Hines	266B21	Long	279B21	Could
255B21	Gearhart	267B21	Shaw	280B21	Larson
256B21	Roome	268B21	Green	281B21	Blagdoll
257B21	Muehleisen	269B21	Lattner	282B21	McDonnell
258B21	Cochrane	270B21	Leadman	283B21	Booth
259B21	Cooper	271B21	Parke	284B21	Garton
		272B21	Hendy	285B21	McGuire
		273B21	Farrieh	286B21	Dee
				287B21	Stewart

Lt. Col. A. B. Could led three squadrons on a coordinated medium altitude bombing attack of the storage and bivouac area located at Tobera #21, New Britain.

Due to adverse weather conditions the results over Tobera #21, See River Bridge, at Hamatanai, and Matangshuri were mostly unobserved. However, some damage was noted at Hamatanai on the bridge.

WIL-413 with Lt. Col. A. B. Could as flight leader took off at 0915, followed by WIL-433 at 0920 and WIL-413 at 0927. Each squadron proceeded independently to Fangelawa Bay where a rendezvous was held at 10,000 feet, then departing in a vee, squadrons javelin down, the flight continued down the east coast of New Ireland, crossing at Habuto Bay, and turning on a course for Hapono, New Britain.

The target was clouded, but WIL-413 dropped at 1058 on Tobera #21 with a course of 220° magnetic from 12,000' and a speed of 157 kts. I.A.S. squadron javelin down. The two other squadrons did not drop on the primary and broke off at this point for the secondaries. In the meantime WIL-413 broke to the right and rallied off Urara Island. This squadron returned to base independently via Salapia Island and all planes landed safely at 1218.

WIL-413 took a direct course to Hamatanai and five planes released at 1108 on a big bridge over the See River. The run was made on a course of 065° magnetic from an altitude of 11,000 feet and a speed of 158 kts, I.A.S. squadron was javelin down. The bombs hit around the northeast end of the bridge, causing some damage. One plane from this squadron dropped its bombs on the primary target, Tobera #21. Breaking right WIL-413 returned to the base along the northeast coast of New Ireland hitting the deck at 1229.

WIL-433 after leaving the primary headed for Hapono, finding this area closed in the leader decided to drop on a bridge southeast of Ujan River on Matangshuri Plantation. The run was made on a heading of 265° magnetic, 11,500' and a speed of 158 kts, I.A.S. Cloud cover made observation impossible, however, bombs were seen to land in the target vicinity. Breaking right the squadron headed for base along the northeast coast of New Ireland. Upon reaching Kavieng, one plane, which did not release over the target was given permission to drop his six bombs on the Kavieng Airstrip. After this the flight continued to the base and landed safely at 1248.

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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

**Lt. Col. D. W. Guillette flew a Headquarters Squadron Plane as an observer and dropped 6 x 500# GP's in-t on the Yunakanan Airstrip and rev-
ement area.**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

R. R. CRUISE,
Capt., USMC,
Group Intelligence Officer.
APPROVED BY:

P. K. SMITH,
Col., USMC,
Group Commander.

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE