

MG-61

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Report # 118

LIC(4)

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No 118

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Rabaul #57, New Britain. (b) Time Over Target(s) 1050L (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 2 to 4/10 cu. at 2000', tops to 4000'.
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target partially obscured by clouds. (e) Visibility 8
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type level Bomb Sight Used Mk.15 Mod.7.
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run All Spacing 20' Altitude of Bomb Release 10600-11,000'
(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 #57, N.B.	1700' x 1500'	5 VMF-413	14 x 1000 GP		
2 Rabaul #57, N.B.	same	5 VMF-433	15 x 1000 GP		See "o"
3 Rabaul #57, N.B.	same	5 VMF-443	15 x 1000 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).

1. 3 x 1000 GPs hit among gardens 300' west of the target.
- 11 x 1000 GPs hit from 200' west of target to just inside the western edge.
2. 15 x 1000 GPs hit in the western section of target generally in the level area and the edge of the hill.
3. 15 x 1000 GPs ran from the western edge of the target half way across the target up into one of the ravines.
4. 3 x 1000 GPs were returned to base when plane developed mechanical trouble.
5. 3 x 1000 GPs were returned to base when they failed to release over target.

Note:

As the accompanying photographs will show the bombs from the three squadrons landed in a group. The total damage is as follows: One building 80' x 30', one building 70' x 30', one building 50' x 20' and eight smaller buildings. All probably damaged and possibly destroyed. Damage was also probably done to truck reverments and small gardens plots in the area.

Photograph attached:

(4) (VMF-413 - 707) (0) (20") (11,000') (1052L) (3 June 45) (Rabaul #57)

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes 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:

413		433		443	
CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT
254B21	Hickerson	266B21	Long	279B21	Gould
255B21	Thomas	267B21	Maker	280B21	Garton
256B21	Gearhart	268B21	Goldston	281B21	Kozlowaki
257B21	Hines	269B21	Hanner	282B21	Schreier
258B21	Foy	270B21	Kain	283B21	Gronquist
		271B21	Swinford	284B21	McGonnell

Lt. Col. A. D. Gould led three squadrons of FBs on a coordinated medium altitude bombing attack against New Sabaul #57, a supply area dispersed in the base of the hills surrounding the town, located on New Britain.

44 x 1000# SFs were dropped over this active target and landed in a group with 35 of the bombs in the target. After strike photos show the total score to be three large and eight smaller buildings probably damaged and possibly destroyed. Damage was done to truck reverments and small garden plots in the area.

VMB-443, with Lt. Col. Gould leading, took off at 0915, followed immediately by VMB-433 and VMB-413. They followed the normal Selapin Island route to the rendezvous at Djaul Island. At this point one plane from VMB-443 developed a heavy vibration in the tail and was forced to return to base with its bomb load.

From Djaul the formation took a course of 133° magnetic for approximately 106 miles, changing to the bombing formation of right echelon, squadrons javelin down, thence on a course for the initial point located in the western end of Talili Bay and into the bombing run with the lead squadron at 10,600 feet on 090° magnetic and a speed of 155 knots (IAS). All bombs were away at 1050. One plane from VMB-433 had its bombs hang and returned them to base.

Following a break to the left the strike rallied and returned via the same route and landed safely at 1205.

R. E. CRUISE,
Capt., USMC,
Group Intelligence Officer.

S. W. RALSTON
Lt. Col., USMC,
Group Commander.

APPROVED BY

SIGNATURE _____ RANK AND DUTY _____ SIGNATURE _____ RANK AND DUTY _____ DATE _____



(VMS 413-707) (0/26) (0/000) (0524) (3 June 55) (Rabat) (57)