

MG-61

149
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Report 119

II C (4)

7

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

Ref: **VMB-413 310**
433 199
443 164

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting MAG-61 (b) Based on or at Emirau Island (c) Report No. 119
 (d) Take off: Date 5 June, 1945 Time (LZT) 0815-0915L (Zone); Lat 01°36' S. Long 150° E.
Coordinated medium altitude bombing attack against
 (e) Mission Tobera #21, Yunakansu #9A and Rabeul #36, N. B. (f) Time of Return 1115-1212Z (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)		
PBY-1	VMB-413	6	None	6	3 x 500 GP M-64	Nose: AN-M-103 inst. Tail: AN-M-101A2 .025 sec.
PBY-1	VMB-413				3 x 500 GP M-64	Nose: AN-M-103 .1 sec. Tail: AN-M-101A2 .01 sec.
PBY-1	VMB-433	6	None	6	3 x 1000 GP M44	Nose: AN-M-103 inst.
PBY-1	VMB-443	6	None	6	3 x 1000 GP M-65	Tail: AN-M-102A2 inst.

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
PBY-5A	VPB 53	1	Emirau Island				
P4U	NZ #25	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 _____
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance _____
 (j) of Sun or Moon _____ (k) Visibility _____
(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON, DAY, OVERCAST, ETC.) (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	
PB-1	221	218	2hrs. 45'	974	427	1	0	1	0	18

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (use check list at left).

SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

TURN

DIVE

CEILING

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) Tobera #21, Vanakanau #9A and Rabaul #36, New Britain. (b) Time Over Target(s) T: 0957L, V: 0940L, R: 1037L (Zone)

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

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 10 (MILES)
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type level Bomb Sight Used Mk. 15, Mod. 7.
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE)

Bombs Dropped per Run All Spacing 20' Altitude of Bomb Release T: 10,900', V: 11,490', R: 10,600'
(NUMBER) (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 Tobera #21, N. B.	2600' x 1500'	6 VMB-413	36 x 500 GPs		
2 Vanakanau #9A, N. B.	2400' x 900'	6 VMB-433	18 x 1000 GPs		See "o"
3 Rabaul #36, N. B.	1500' x 1200'	6 VMB-443	18 x 1000 GPs		
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.-30 x 500⁺ GPs strung from southwest to northeast, lengthwise through the middle of the target. Large areas of vegetation were cleared, but after-strike photographs showed no damage.

6 x 500⁺ GPs hit southwest of the target for no apparent damage.

2.-12 x 1000⁺ GPs landed 1000' southwest of the target in wooded area.

6 x 1000⁺ GPs landed 2000' west of the target in a garden area.

3.-16 x 1000⁺ GPs strung across the northern half of the target.

2 x 1000⁺ GPs fell just east of the target astride Malaguna Avenue.

During the run flames were observed from one of the hits and a large column of oily black smoke reached for the sky. After-strike photographs showed one building 120' x 60', one building 120' x 30', one building 95' x 30' and one building plus eight others of the smaller type (all revetted) destroyed.

Photographs attached:

- (2) (VMB-413 - 708) (0) (20") (10,900') (0957L) (5 June, 1945) Tobera #21
- (4) (VMB-433 - 141) (0) (20") (11,000') (0940L) (5 June, 1945) Vanakanau, N. B.
- (6) (VMB-443 - 233) (0) (20") (11,600') (1038L) (5 June, 1945) Rabaul #36, N. B.

(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
- 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
- Offensive Tactics, Enemy
- Defensive Tactics, Own
- Defensive Tactics, 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
- Communication
- Flight Operations
- Search and Tracking
- Base Operations
- Maintenance

254B21	Mendenhall	266B21	Whitney	279B21	Anderson
255B21	Rose	267B21	Swinford	280B21	Boyson
256B21	Smith	268B21	Coleman	281B21	Dee
257B21	Arsenault	269B21	Aykendall	282B21	Braseal
258B21	Oxson	270B21	Rain	283B21	Greene
259B21	Fischburg	271B21	Brayuskas	284B21	Schreier

The three squadrons made coordinated medium altitude bombing attacks against separate targets.

The first squadron off was VMB-433, led by Major Whitney with 6 PWs participating. Eighteen bombs were released over Vanakanau #9A, a supply dump area and possible plane hide. After strike photos indicated that 12 bombs landed 1000' southwest of the target in a wooded area and 6 landed 2000' west of target in a garden area. Immediately following VMB-433's take-off Major Mendenhall led 6 Mitchells of VMB-413 in a similar raid on the storage area at Tobera #21. 36 x 500# GPs were dropped, 30 of which were strung from southwest to northeast through the middle of the target while 6 strayed southwest of the target. Later pictures showed large areas of vegetation cleared but no wreckage. VMB-443, led by Major Anderson, struck at Rabaul #36, a shore target at the head of Simpson Harbor, containing revetted stores. Of the 18 x 1000# GPs dropped 16 were shown, in after strike photographs, to have strung across the northern half of the target while 2 fell just east of the target astride of Malaguna Ave. Flames and smoke from a fuel dump were seen for 25 minutes after the strike.

VMB-433 took a route over Selapia Island to Ramander, N. E. flying vee of sections, javelin down, and changing to left echelon for the attack. The run was made on a heading of 054° magnetic, altitude 11,500' at 153 knots (IAS). Breaking right to rally at Rapope Airdrome the trip home was without incident with all planes down safely at 1059.

VMB-413 took off at 0832 flying for 190 miles on a heading of 121° magnetic to a point east of New Ireland, thence across N.I. on a heading of 195° magnetic for 40 miles to the initial point. The bombing run was on a course of 207° magnetic leaving the target area after a break to the right on a course of 302° magnetic for 145 miles where heading was changed to 325° magnetic for the home landing safely at 1116. One plane returned to the base after take-off because of engine trouble but immediately followed the squadron in the standby plane. This plane failed to join up in time to release its bombs on the lead plane. However its bombs were dropped by sight and were the ones that fell south west of the target for no apparent damage. Return to the base was effected by 116.

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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

VMA-443 was off at 0915 along the Nusa Archipelago route flying javelin down formation to Mission Point, the initial point, on the west side of Talili Bay. The target run was on a magnetic heading of 060° making 155 knots (IAS) from an altitude of 10,500 feet. Breaking right the squadron swung away over Simpson Harbor and Blanche Bay to rally halfway between Cape Gazelle and the Duke of York Islands. The return trip was interrupted by a flash from a Green Island plane reporting that 4 submarines had been sighted west of Taber Island. The squadron moved up to the scene of the search via Namatanai but found nothing. Taking a course of 301° magnetic back to base, landing was safely made at 1212.

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

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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE





(YMB 433 Y/WI X 0 Y 20 Y 1000 X 0940 Y 5 JUNE 55 (VUN 9 KAMAU, NB)

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