

VMB-413

148
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Report #280

IC(8)

21

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

I. GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL

280

(a) Unit Reporting VMB - 413 (b) Based on or at Enirau, St. Matthias (c) Report No. Two hundred-eighty
 (d) Take off: Date 30 April, 1945 Time (LZT) 1353 L (Zone); Lat. 01°36'S Long 150°E
 (e) Mission Low level bombing and strafing of Lemakot Bivouac area, New Ireland (f) Time of Return 1642 L (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	VMB413	3	None	3	8 x 300 GP	8 to 11 seconds delay

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
None							

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 _____ (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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(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) Kimidan, New Ireland (b) Time Over Target (s) 1545 L (Zone)

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

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 20 (MILES)
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Low level Bomb Sight Used None Used
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 24x300GP 8'to11' Spacing 40 Altitude of Bomb Release 50 to 100
(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 Bivouac area		3 VMB - 413	4900 rounds 50 cal. 24 x 300 GP 8 to 11 seconds delay	see (0)	see (0)
2					
3					
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).

24 x 300 GP 8 to 11 seconds delay bombs in the target.

(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

CALL
254B21
255B21
256B21

PILOT
HENRY
GEARHART
MENARD

On schedule three Mitchells took off at 1353 to strike Lemakot bivouac area #2 from low level. They were carrying 8 x 300 GP 8 to 11 second delay bombs.

Enroute to the target, the flight leader was ordered to investigate the area around Baudissin Island and the southwest coast of New Ireland in the Kaut Bay area for a possible enemy float plane. This specified area was well covered from low level and all areas that were likely "plane holes" were strafed. No enemy plane was sighted.

From Kaut Bay the planes proceeded along the southwest coast of New Ireland to the east side of Doi Island. Turning left at Doi Island, the planes formed a line abreast on a course of 040° magnetic to the target. As the three planes approached the target it was evident from the low hanging clouds that it would be impossible to define the area to be raided. Turning right the planes flew along the northeast coast to the secondary target, Kimidan bivouac area.

Turning right on a course of 135° magnetic the planes, in a line abreast dropped 24 x 300 GP 8 to 11 second delay bombs in the target from just above tree top level. On the run they were indicating 220 knots. The target was well covered with 300 pounders and 4800 rounds of 50 caliber ammunition. One hut, in good condition just east of the bivouac area was well strafed.

In formation the planes broke to the left and proceeded directly to the base, hitting the deck at 1642.

(All times in narrative are love)

REPORT PREPARED BY:

DOUGLAS C. LAUDERDALE, JR.
CAPTAIN, USMCR
INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

APPROVED BY:

ROBERT B. COX
Lt. Col. USMCR
COMMANDING OFFICER

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE