

MG-61

146
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Report # 89

#C(4)

>

CONFIDENTIAL

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

Ref: WML-413 263
433 152
443 126

Form ACA-1
Sheet 1 of 5

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting WML-61 (b) Based on or at Enniscorthy Island (c) Report No. 59
(d) Take off: Date 18 April 1945 Time 0921L Lat 51° 36' Long 12° 51'
(e) Mission Coordinated medium altitude bombing of Killybegs Town, New Ireland. (f) Time of Return 1052L

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT

TYPE	SQD	NUMBER	TAKING OFF	ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	ATTACKING TARGET	BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (per plane)	FUSE SETTING
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)
PW-1	WML-413	6	None	6	6 x 500 Gp	AL.N.1032 tail, inst.	AL.N.103 none, inst.
PW-1	WML-433	9	None	9	6 x 500 Gp AL.N.12	AL.N.103 inst.	None: AL.N.103 inst.
PW-1	WML-403	6	None	6	6 x 500 Gp WML-61	Tail: AL.N.10322 inst.	
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

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

TYPE	SQD	NO.	BASE	TYPE	SQD	NO.	BASE
PW-5	WML-4	1	Enniscorthy Island	:	:	:	:
PW	WML-3	2	None	:	:	:	:

IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only)

(a) TYPE	(b) NO.	(c) No. Engaged	(d) Time Encountered	(e) LOCATION OF ENCOUNTER	(f) BOMBS CARRIED	(g) CAMOUFLAGE MARKINGS
OBSERVED:	OBSERVED:	Own A/C	Encountered:	ENCOUNTER	CARRIED, GUNS	MARKINGS
None	:	:	(zone):	:	:	:
:	:	:	(zone):	:	:	:
:	:	:	:	:	:	:

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____
Did Any Part of Encounter(s) _____
(i) Occur in Clouds? _____ If so, Describe Clouds _____
Time of Day and (Yes or No) _____ (base in feet, type, tenths cov)
(j) Brilliance 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)

(a) TYPE	(b) Destroyed or Damaged By:	(c) Damage
A/C	Type A/C: SQD : Pilot or Gunner : Guns used: Where hit angle:	Claimed
None	:	:
:	:	:
:	:	:

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VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those in II only)

(a) Type Own A/C	(b) Soc	(c) Cause	(d) Where hit, Angle	(e) Extent of Loss or Damage
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 by soc of VI.)

(a) *No.	(b) Soc	(c) Name, Rank or Rating	(d) Cause	(e) Condition or status
	None			

VII. 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. Load Consumed	(f) Av. Fuel Consumed	(g) Total Ammo Expended	(h) Planes Returning
None	76	73	1hr. 29min.	974	231		21

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

Caliber	None	Meager	Moderate	Intense
HEAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
MEDIUM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
LIGHT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

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

No enemy aircraft encountered.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Kavieng Rom, N.I. (b) Time over Target 1015

(c) Clouds Over Target scattered cumulus at 2000', tops to 3000'

(d) Visibility of Target clear (e) Visibility 10

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

Bombs Dropped per Run all Spacing 50' Altitude 11,000-11,500'

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

(L)	(1)	(j)	(1)	(m)	(n)
1	Kavieng Rom. New Ireland.	4500' x 500'	6 782-413	36 x 500 GP	
2	Kavieng Rom. New Ireland.	4500' x 500'	9 782-433	54 x 500 GP	see 504.
3	Kavieng Rom. New Ireland.	4500' x 500'	6 782-443	36 x 500 GP	
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

(o) RESULTS:

See next page.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should be attached by staple.

(c) Results:

- 1.- 36 x 500 GPs fell in a rectangular pattern 200' x 500' from eastern edge of north end target to a point 500' east. One house 30' x 30' and one hut were probably damaged.
- 2.- 6 x 500 GPs fell in the water a few yards west of the target.
3 x 500 GPs fell west of the target by 100' for no apparent damage.
45 x 500 GPs fell in the target from western edge to the eastern edge completely surrounding the knoll on which are located five medium gun positions and a possible searchlight. Photographs show that the positions were apparently untouched, however, positive damage was done to one jetty 100' long, one partially damaged house destroyed, and one beached barge destroyed.
- 3.- 3 x 500 GPs fell in water just off shore at the southern end.
2 x 500 GPs fell inshore for no apparent damage.
4 x 500 GPs fell 200' east of the target for no apparent damage.
2 x 500 GPs cratered the road along eastern edge of the target.
25 x 500 GPs fell in the target from the western edge to the eastern edge. The bombs surrounded the four light gun positions doing possible damage to two. A small building, unidentified, south of the positions, was destroyed as well as a hut near the road along eastern edge.

Photographs attached:

- (5) (VMS 413 - 678) (0) (20°) (11800') (1018L) (18 April 45) (Kavieng, N.I.)
(6) (VMS 433) (113) (0) (20°) (11000') (1024L) (18 April 45) (Kavieng, N.I.)

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

REPORT No. _____

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

413		433		443	
CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT
254B21	Cox	266B21	Wolfe	279B21	Whitney
255B21	Leggie	267B21	Benjamin	280B21	Andrews
256B21	Smith	268B21	Percy	281B21	Tafel
257B21	Henry	269B21	Waten	282B21	Meyer
258B21	Ross	270B21	Parrish	283B21	Hawkins
259B21	Helling	271B21	Carr	284B21	Borland
		272B21	Johnston		
		273B21	Smith		
		274B21	Watson		

With Lt. Col. R. B. Cox as flight leader, 21 PRJ's of squadrons VMB 413, VMB 443 and VMB 433 took off at 0919, 0923 and 0928 respectively on a coordinated medium altitude bombing strike at Kavieng Town on New Ireland. This target is the West Coast of Kavieng Peninsula and is 4500' long by 500' wide. The long side of the target is along the shore. This such bombed area is still fairly active and contains many good buildings and shops.

The group of three squadrons flew right echelon, with all squadrons javelin down to and over the target. VMB 413 was number one, VMB 443 was number two and VMB 433 was number three, in formation, enroute and over the target. The first leg was to the northeast top of New Anover, then to Langatsag Island where the formation turned into a bombing run of 090° magnetic, at an altitude of 11,800' and 155 kts., I.A.S. Bombs dropped at 1018 with the following results: 72 x 500 GPs hit in the target, 45 x 500 GPs fell around the target and 9 x 500 GPs splashed in the water west of the target.

Breakaway was sharp left to keep out of heavy A/A range. The group rallied off North Cape and returned to base without mishap. Time of return was 1050.

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

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



433 HITS

AD
POSITIONS
(AIMING
POINT)

443 HITS

6

() (VMB-433) (113X0) (20) (11,000) (1024L) (18 APRIL 45) (KAVIENG N.I.)



433 hits

5

(VMB-413-678)(0)(20')(11,800')(1018 L)(18-APRIL-45)(KAVIENG. N.I.)