

MG- 61

149
④

Report # 1/5

HC(4)

6

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

14488

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

Ref: VMB-413 305
433 193
443 160

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting MAG-61 (b) Based on or at Emirau Island (c) Report No. 115
 (d) Take off: Date 31 May, 1945 Time (LZT) 0934L (Zone); Lat. 01° 36' S. Long. 150° E.
 (e) Mission Coordinated medium altitude bombing attack on Venakanau #15, New Britain. (f) Time of Return 1235L (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	VMB-413	6	None	6	8 x 250 GP Mk. 57.	Nose: AN-M-103 inst. Tail: AN-M-100A2 inst.
PBJ-1	VMB-433	9	None	8	8 x 250 GP Mk. 57.	Nose: AN-M-103 inst. Tail: AN-M-100A2 inst.
PBJ-1	VMB-443	9	None	9	8 x 250 GP Mk. 57.	Nose: AN-M-103 inst. Tail: AN-M-100A2 inst.

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
PEY-5A	VPB 53	1	Emirau Island				
FLU	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						

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

REPORT No **115**

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	209	201	3jrs.02'	974	466	N	0	N	E	24

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

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

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

- SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes
- TURNES
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

No enemy aircraft encountered.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No 115

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) (1120L) Yunakanau #15, N. B. (b) Time Over Target(s) 1120L (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 5 - 7/10 cu. at 1500' tops to 10,000'
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Low broken clouds with heavy cover (e) Visibility 5
(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 10,800'-12,800'.
(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 Yunakanau #15, N.B	1700' x 1500'	6 VMB-413	48 x 250 GPs		
2 Yunakanau #15, N.B	same	8 VMB-433	64 x 250 GPs		See "o"
3 Yunakanau #15, N.B	same	9 VMB-443	72 x 250 GPx		
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.-48 x 250 GPs hit from edge of target in train to 500' west of target.
- 2.-64 x 250 GPs hit approximately 1900 feet southwest of the target. Difficult to judge where bombs fell due to cloud cover of the area.
- 3.-72 x 250 GPs were seen to hit 500 yards east of target among some gullies and huts.

Note:
Due to cloud cover over target photographs taken showed no hits.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes. Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

REPORT No. 115

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	Long	279B21	Anderson
255B21	Thomas	267B21	Evans	280B21	Hudson
256B21	Roome	268B21	Benjamin	281B21	Biberstine
257B21	Hines	269B21	Wilson	282B21	Stewart
258B21	Cochrane	270B21	Fischer	283B21	Burt
259B21	Fey	271B21	McGuckin	284B21	Greene
		272B21	Beavers	285B21	Brazeal
		273B21	Hadden	286B21	Tafel
		274B21	Dunn	287B21	Palmer

Lt. Col. R. B. Cox led 24 PBJs on a medium altitude bombing attack of Yunakanau #15, a Japanese Bivouac Area composed of numerous huts.

Due to cloud cover over the target the flight released its bombs on a wooded area northwest of the target causing possible damage to huts in that area.

Lt. Col. R. B. Cox, of VMB-413, took off at 0934 followed by VMB-443 at 0938 and VMB-433 at 0942. One plane of VMB-433 returned to base after take-off due to hydraulic failure of his nose wheel.

Each squadron proceeded individually to Fangelawa Bay for a rendezvous at 10,00 feet. During the rendezvous, one burst of medium inaccurate flak was observed. In a vee of vees, the flight headed to Mumus Island along the northern coast of New Ireland. Upon reaching this point a turn was made to the right on a course of 180° magnetic. Crossing New Ireland, the flight changed to its bombing formation, a left echelon, javelin down.

The target was very difficult to pick out; there were no prominent check points from which to identify the target. Going over target on a heading of 220° magnetic, bombs were released from varied altitudes while indicating 155 knots at 1120.

Breaking right the squadrons rallied west of Watom Island and then took a direct course to Selapiu Island and finally to the base with all planes landing safely at 1235.

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

ROSWELL B. BURCHARD, JR.,
Lt. Col., USMCR,
Acting Group Commander.