

MAG-61

145  
④

Report #33

II C (4)

12



## AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ RESTRICTED  
(Classification filled out)

1729  
Ref: - VMB-413 163  
VMB-433 75  
VMB-443 51

### I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting MAG-61 (b) Based on or at Emirau Island (c) Report No. 33  
(d) Take off: Date 4 January, 1945 Time (LZT) 0915-0926 (Zone); Lat. 1°36'S Long 150°E.  
Coordinated low level bombing and strafing  
(e) Mission of Panemansu Village, N. I. (f) Time of Return 1135-1145 (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-1D	VMB413	7	None	7	3 x 1000 GP	8/11 sec delay
PBJ-1D	VMB413	1	None	1	2 x 1000 GP	8/11 sec delay
PBJ-1D	VMB433	9	None	9	3 x 1000 GP	8/11 sec delay
PBJ-1D	VMB443	9	None	9	3 x 1000 GP	8/11 sec 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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#### 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 <b>None</b>				
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
<b>None</b>				

#### 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	
<b>PBJ-1B</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>2hr 19'</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>20,880</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>26</b>

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

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

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

- SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes
- TURNING
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- 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) Panomansu Village, N. I. (b) Time Over Target(s) 1033-1035 (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 6 tenths low scattered cumulus 1500'  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target clear (e) Visibility 25  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type level Bomb Sight Used Mk15 mod 7  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run all Spacing irregular Altitude of Bomb Release 50-150  
(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 Pinikindu Pltn		8 VMB-413	17 x 1000 GP		
2 Fambuso Pltn		9 VMB-433	24 x 1000 GP		
3 Pinikindu Pltn		9 VMB-443	26 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).

Results were unobserved due to low level, speed of planes over target and the delayed fusing of bombs. Bombardiers did not get four bombs off over target in short fast run. Mechanical trouble hung up six more. Fighter Director later ordered all 10 jettisoned before returning to base.

(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
- Communications
- Flight Operations
- Search and Tracking
- Base Operations
- Maintenance

413		433		443	
CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT
254B21	Daniel	266B21	Lattner	279B21	Guillotte
255B21	Brueggestrass	267B21	Sory	280B21	Rose
256B21	Beam	268B21	Carr	281B21	Whittemore
257B21	Green, W. A.	269B21	Willer	282B21	German
258B21	Kerber	270B21	Johnston	283B21	Burt
259B21	Osgood	271B21	Bable	284B21	Mueller
260B21	Bergstrom	272B21	Smith	285B21	Hilbert
261B21	Snelson	273B21	Green	286B21	Hartman
		274B21	Harpley	287B21	Dee

Twenty-six (26) Marine Mitchells, led by Lt Col Guillotte of VMB-443, were airborne by 0926 and proceeded on a low level bombing and strafing mission on Panemansu Village, N. I.

Planned to insure surprise in the attack the route out was along the west coast of New Ireland. The group was in vee formation, squadrons javelined down, with VMB-443 leading followed by VMB-413 and 433 in that order. At Koko Plantation a turn was made to the north and the formation changed to a column of squadrons with an interval of one minute between squadrons. The column cleared the mountain ridge and swept down to attack the coast plantations at tree top level on a course of 095°.

Panemansu was the assigned target, but clouds covered the land mark and the first two squadrons dropped on the similar area at Pinikindu Point. VMB-433 went a little farther and dropped on the Fambuso area. Planes started strafing 1000 yards from the target and continued to the shoreline.

Results were unobserved due to low level, speed of planes over target and the delayed fusing of bombs.

After a rally about ten miles northeast of the target the flight proceeded to base where all planes were safely on the deck by 1145.

(All times love)

D. F. FATCH,  
Capt., USMCR,  
Group Intelligence Officer

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