

VMB-423

159
⑨

Report #274

#C(9)

CONFIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

8368

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

014266

I. GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB-423 (b) Based on or at Green Island (c) Report No. 274
 (d) Take off: Date 13 April, 1945 Time (LZT) 21122300 (Zone); Lat. 04° 32' Long. 154° 14'
 (e) Mission Two night snoopar searches & heckling missions over Rabaul, New Britain (f) Time of Return 022940230 (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-1J	VMB423	2	None	2	8 X 250# GP	Nose: AN-M-103 .1 Sec Delay Tail: AN-M-102A2 .025 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
Single Engine	1	None	0320 (ZONE)	Koravia Bay	Unobserved	Unobserved
Single Engine	1	None	0030 (ZONE)	Punkanau	Unobserved	Unobserved

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Undetermined
 Did Any Part of _____
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? No If so, Describe Clouds _____
(YES OR NO) 9,000' base, .4 towering Cumulus
 Time of Day and Brilliance _____
 (j) of Sun or Moon Light, Very little sun, Heavy (k) Visibility _____
(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON, DAY, OVERCAST, ETC.) 16 miles
(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	
PBW-1J	--921--	3hrs17'	974	554	None	None	None	None	None	1
PBW-1J	--555--	3hrs30'	974	588	None	None	None	None	None	1

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

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

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

SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

TURNS
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) Rabaul, New Britain (b) Time Over Target(s) 2145/2345 & 2345/0145 (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target .4 Cloud Cover (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Hazy (e) Visibility 16 miles (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Level Bomb Sight Used D-8 (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 1, 2 & 8 Spacing Varied Altitude of Bomb Release 10,000-10,500 (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, or by results destroyed or sunk)
1 Rabaul, N. B.		2 VMS-423	10 X 250# GP	See (e)	
2 Ground Lights E of TobaRa.		1 VMS-423	2 X 250# GP	" "	
3 VungkaRa		1 VMS-423	1 X 250# GP	" "	
4 South of VungkaRa		1 VMS-423	1 X 250# GP	" "	
5 Lights near Keravia Bay		1 VMS-423	1 X 250# GP	" "	
6 Lukunai A/D		1 VMS-423	1 X 250# GP	" "	
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 number of hits. For all targets give location and effect of hits, and identify by numbers above. Use additional sheets if necessary.)

The results of the bombs dropped were unobserved.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No 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
" " " " 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

CALL	PILOT	T/O GREEN	T/O/T	P/C GREEN
331B21	BEARD	2112	2145/2345	0029
332B21	HICKS	2300	2345/0145	0230

On the night of 13/14 April, 1945, two planes flew a snooper search and heckling mission over Rabaul, New Britain.

At 2112, 331B21 was airborne and proceeded to Rabaul where 8 X 250 pound general purpose bombs were dropped during the period of 2145 to 2345. Two on Rabaul, two on ground lights east of Tobera, one on Vanakanau, one south of Vanakanau, one on lights near Karavia Bay and one on Lekunai Airfield.

332B21 was airborne at 2300 and proceeded to Rabaul, where 331B21 was relieved on station, to continue the mission. During the period of 2345 to 0145, 8 X 250 pound general purpose bombs were dropped on Rabaul.

No anti-aircraft fire or search lights were encountered.

While on a course of 110° magnetic at 9,000 feet 331B21 sighted a "Hogey" over the Karavia Bay area flying about 2,000 feet on a heading of 200° magnetic. 332B21 while on a course of 130° magnetic at 10,000 feet sighted a "Hogey" at 5,000 feet flying a course of 300° magnetic.

The results of the bombs dropped were unobserved.

(All times in this narrative are local).

WARD D. MARTIN
Capt., USMC
Intelligence Officer

NORMAN J. ANDERSON
LtCol., USMC
Commanding