

VMB-423

168
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Report # 303

IIC (9)

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AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL
GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB-423 (b) Based on or at Green Island (c) Report No. 303
 (d) Take off: Date 2 May, 1945 Time (LZT) 0815-0817 (Zone); Lat. 04°32' Long 154°14'
 (e) Mission Medium Altitude Daylight Strike on Kahili #3, Bougainville. (f) Time of Return 1025-1028 (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	6	None	6	3 X 1000# 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
PBY5A	VPB-53	1	Green Island				

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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			
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	
PBJ-1J	182	166	2hrs 10'	974	370	None	None	None	None	6

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) **Kahili #3, Bougainville.** (b) Time Over Target(s) **0925** (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

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

(d) Visibility of Target **CLEAR** (e) Visibility **30 miles**
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Level** Bomb Sight Used **Mark 15**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run **3** Spacing **125 feet** Altitude of Bomb Release **10,700 feet**
(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 Kahili # 3.		6 VMB-423	18 X 1000# GP	See (o)	
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.)

Approximately 50% of the bombs were in the target area. One fire was started with smoke rising to 500 feet as the formation was leaving the area. The location of bomb hits with relation to the target is shown on the attached photographs.

PHOTOGRAPH VMB423 (183) (1-2) 5-2-45 (20"-10,500') KAHILI #3, BOUG., CONF.
REFERENCE: VMB423 (183) (2-2) 5-2-45 (20"-10,500') KAHILI #3, BOUG., CONF.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? **Yes** 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	PILOT	T/O GREEN	T/O/T	P/C GREEN
301B21	LtCol ANDERSON	0815	0925	1025
302B21	HEIL	0815	0925	1025
303B21	VANAKEN	0816	0925	1025
304B21	WALLER	0816	0925	1027
305B21	LINEN	0817	0925	1027
306B21	BARRETT	0817	0925	1028

Lieutenant Colonel ANDERSON, Commanding Officer, led six PBJs of VMB-423 in a medium altitude daylight bombing of target #3, Kahili, Bougainville. The strike was composed of two, three plane sections javelin down.

The raid was airborne by 0818 and after joining up as described above proceeded down the east coast of Bougainville. Finding most of southern Bougainville covered with clouds the formation went west up the Luluai Valley almost to Empress Augusta Bay and then made a 180° turn to the left around some clouds and approached the target from the north west.

Bombs were released at 0925 from 10,700 feet on a heading of 090° magnetic at 160 knots indicated air speed. Following the bombing the formation broke to the right and returned to base. All planes were safely on deck at Green by 1029.

No anti-aircraft fire was encountered.

Approximately 50% of the bombs were in the target area. One fire was started with smoke rising to 500 feet as the formation was leaving the area. The location of bomb hits with relation to the target is shown on the attached photographs.

(All times in this narrative are local).

REPORT PREPARED BY:

WARD D. MARTIN
Capt., USNCR
Intelligence Officer

APPROVED BY:

NORMAN J. ANDERSON
LtCol., USMC
Commanding

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE





VFB-423(183)(2-2)5-2-45(20°-10500') KANILI #3 - Boug. CONF.