

MG-61

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Report # 54

IC (4)

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AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

Ref: -VMB-413 198
VMB-433 94

07383

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting MAG-61 (b) Based on or at Emirau Island (c) Report No 54
 (d) Take off: Date 10 February, 1945 Time (LZT) 0915-0917L (Zone); Lat. 1°36' S. Long 150° E.
 (e) Mission Coordinated low level bombing and strafing of Amba Plantation, New Ireland (f) Time of Return 1110L (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	VMB413	1	None	1	2 x 1000 S.A.P.	8-11' delay
PBJ-1	VMB413	8	None	8	3 x 1000 S.A.P.	8-11' delay AN-M-114
PBJ-1	VMB433	9	None	9	3 x 1000 S.A.P.	8-11' delay

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
PBY	VPR-44	1	Emirau Island				
P4U's	NZ-22	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 _____ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 (j) Time of Day and Brilliance _____ (k) Visibility _____ (MILES)
 of Sun or Moon _____ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.)

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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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. _____

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) **Amba, New Ireland** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1022L** (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

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

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

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **level** Bomb Sight Used **None Used**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run **all** Spacing **minimum** Altitude of Bomb Release **Tree top**
(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. HIT OR AIMING POINT	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, or destroyed or sunk)
1 Amba Pltn.	1600' x 1100'	9 VMB-413	26 x 1000 S.A.P.		See (o)
same		9 VMB-433	27 x 1000 S.A.P.		
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.)

Due to the vegetation cover of the target and the delay in fusing of the bombs photographs taken during the strike show only the approximate location of the hits and no visible damage.

(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
- " " , 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

CALL	PILOT
254B21	Cox
255B21	Mennes
256B21	Roome
257B21	Cunningham
258B21	Ellis
259B21	Gearhart
260B21	Treacy
261B21	Cochrane
262B21	Conant

433

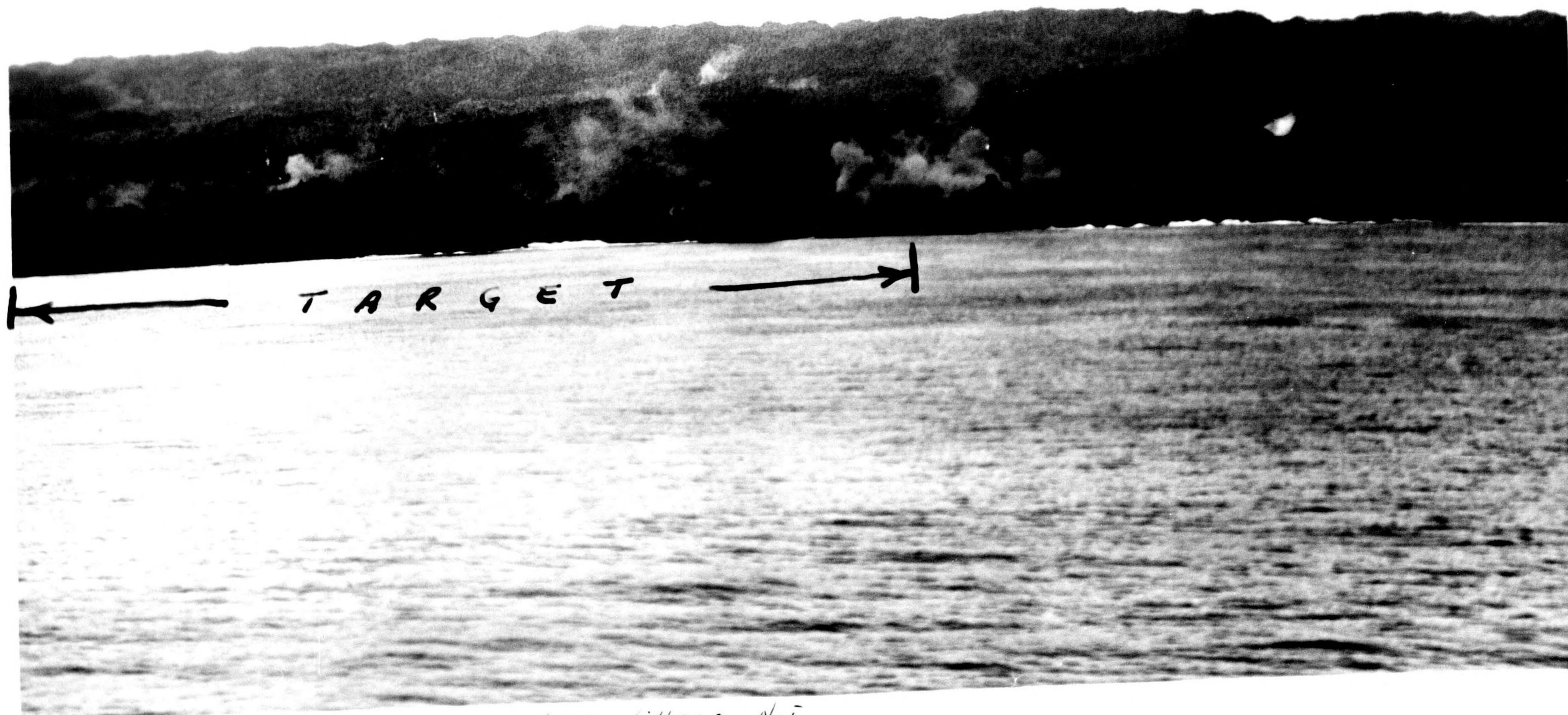
CALL	PILOT
266B21	Adams
267B21	Klein
268B21	Hendy
269B21	Wolfe
270B21	Green
271B21	Shaw
272B21	Lattner
273B21	Leachman
274B21	Tyler

Ambe Village which covers an area approximately 1600' x 1100' near the north shore of New Ireland was the target for a low level 2 squadron strike.

During the route out along the south western coast the formation was a left echelon of squadrons javelined down. At Patlangat on the turn to north the formation changed to a column of squadrons in vees with about 60 seconds between squadrons. After crossing the ridge the squadrons went into line abreast for the final bombing and strafing run at tree top level. There was a slight break to the left to the rally point out over the ocean.

D. E. HATCH,
Capt., USMCR,
Group Intelligence Officer.

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



VMB 413

4-10-57

Amos Village, N.I.