

MG-61

145
④

II a (4)

5

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

Ref:-VMB-413 180
VMB-433 86

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting MAG-61 (b) Based on or at Emirau Island (c) Report No 45
(d) Take off: Date 28 January, 1945 Time (LZT) 0845-0852L (Zone); Lat. 1°36' S. Long 150° E.
(e) Mission Coordinated low level bombing and strafing of Personnel Area, Balgai, N. I. (f) Time of Return 1010-1018 (Zone) L

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	2	None	2	4 x 300 GP	4-5 sec delay
PBJ-1	VMB413	7	None	7	8 x 300 GP	4-5 sec delay
PBJ-1	VMB433	6	None	6	8 x 300 GP	4-5 sec delay

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
F4U's	NZ-22	8	Emirau Island				
PBY	VPB44	1	same				
F4U'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)
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)
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	89	78	1hr26'	975	247	None	12300	None	None	15

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)

REPORT No _____

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) **Personnel Area, Balgai, N.I.** (b) Time Over Target(s) **0937** (Zone) _____
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target **.2 cu. at 1500'** (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

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

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

Bombs Dropped per Run **(See "o")** (NUMBER) Spacing **minimum** (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release **Tree top** (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, severe, destroyed, or sunk)
1 Personnel Area	2000' x	9 VMB-413	56 x 300 GP	38	See "o"
2	1000'	6 VMB-433	48 x 300 GP	41	
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.)

All bombs of VMB-433 were in the target area except 7 which fell on edge of cleared area west of the target. One direct hit on house, destroying same. VMB-413 placed 38 of its bombs in the target. 18 others were short and 8 jettisoned --- pilot didn't get bomb bay doors open in time. Other results were unobserved due to delayed fuses.

(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
Release
Pull-Out
Dive Angle
Strafing
Retirement
Defensive Tactics

DEFENSE, ENEMY

Evasive Tactics, Ships
Concealment
Anti-aircraft
Searchlights
Night Fighter Tactics

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	Mendenhall
255B21	Brueggestrass
256B21	Beam
257B21	Daniel
258B21	Powers
259B21	Mennes
260B21	Green
261B21	Nevins
262B21	Carlson

433	
CALL	PILOT
266B21	Miller
267B21	Percy
268B21	Carr
269B21	Adams
270B21	Benjamin
271B21	Woten

The bivouac area at Balgai is approximately 2000' x 1000' near the northeast coast of New Ireland. As there are six medium and six light known A/A positions as well as one reported heavy in the vicinity, a coordinated strike was planned. The main low level attack was made by 2 squadrons of Marine Mitchells and the dive bombing attack on the A/A positions by eight Corsairs of New Zealand #22.

After the join up the flight proceeded led by VB-433 to the southeast tip of New Hanover with the fighters at 6000' and the PBJ's at 1000' in left echelon of squadrons javelined down. At that point the Corsairs went ahead for their dive bombing attack on the A/A positions which had been assigned to each plane. The PBJ's continued to Baudisson Island where on the turn they went into line abreast formation to cover the long axis of the target. A fast (190 knots) bombing and strafing run at tree top level closely followed the dive bombing attack. The interval between squadrons was about 60 seconds.

Coordination was achieved as no A/A fire was received and the target area well covered.

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

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



VMB #33 28 Jan 45 Balgai N.I.



VME 413 28 Jan '45 Bulqai N.I.