

VMB-423

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Report #278

#C(9)

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CONFIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB-423 (b) Based on or at Green Island (c) Report No. 278
 (d) Take off: Date 17 April, 1945 Time (LZT) 0830-0832 (Zone); Lat. 04° 32' Long 154° 14'
Medium Altitude Daylight Strike on Muguai #24,
 (e) Mission Bougainville. (f) Time of Return 1042-1044 (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-LJ	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
PV-1	NZ-3	3	Green Island	F4U	NZ-20	2	Piva
PBY5A	VPB-44	1	Green Island				
F4U	NZ-21	2	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:				(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)
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	186	168	2hrs 12'	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) Mugwai #24, Bougainville (b) Time Over Target(s) 0942 (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target .2 to .3 Low Scattered Clouds.
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 20-30 miles
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBTURED 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 75-125 feet Altitude of Bomb Release 10,800 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 <u>Mugwai #24</u>		<u>6</u> <u>VMB-423</u>	<u>18 X 1000# GP</u>	<u>See (c)</u>	
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.)

Good coverage was obtained, all bombs falling within a radius of 200 yards of the smoke bomb marking the target. The pattern of bomb hits with relation to the target is shown on the attached photograph.

(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	Major LOWELL	0830	0942	1042
302B21	LINEN	0830	0942	1042
303B21	VAN AKEN	0831	0942	1043
304B21	EVANS	0831	0942	1043
305B21	SPALDING	0832	0942	1044
306B21	RIGDON	0832	0942	1044

Major LOWELL, Operations Officer, led six PBJs on a medium altitude daylight attack on Mugual number 24, Bougainville. The formation was composed of two, three plane sections javelin down.

The strike was airborne by 0832 and after joining up as described above proceeded down the east coast of Bougainville to Koromira Point. The formation then flew a heading of 190° magnetic, for four miles for bombardiers to figure drift and then took a heading of 204° magnetic for thirteen miles where it turned into the bomb run. Two Corsairs from Piva preceded the formation to the target area and on direction from the flight leader marked the target with a smoke bomb.

Bombs were dropped at 0942 from 10,800 feet on a heading of 190° magnetic at 160 knots indicated. The formation broke to the left and returned to Green. All planes were safely on the deck by 1044.

No anti-aircraft fire was encountered.

Good coverage was obtained, all bombs falling within a radius of 200 yards of the smoke bomb marking the target. The pattern of bomb hits with relation to the target is shown on the attached photograph.

(All times in this narrative are love).

REPORT PREPARED BY:

WARD D. MARTIN
Capt., USMCR
Intelligence Officer

APPROVED BY:

NORMAN J. ANDERSON
LtCol., USMC
Commanding

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE



MB-423-160(2-2) 4-17-45, 10,600', 8 1/4" Muqatai #24, Conf.

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