

VMB-4/23

160
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Report # 2013

IIc

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VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT

None

VII. PERSONNEL CASUALTIES

None

VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA FOR PLANES RETURNING

TYPE A/C	MILES OUT	MILES IN	AV HOURS IN AIR	AV FUEL LOADED	AV FUEL CONSUMED	TOTAL AMMO: EXPENDED	NO. OF A/c RETURNING
PBJ-1J	185	178	2hrs 20'	974	385	11,000 rds .50 Caliber	3

IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED.

	None	Meager	Moderate	Heavy
HEAVY	XX			
MEDIUM				
LIGHT	XX		XX	

X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY'S AIRCRAFT.

No enemy aircraft encountered.

XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES.

- (a) Target & Location: Nakaru#9, Boug'nvil' (b) Time over Target: 2040
2042
(c) Clouds over Target: .2 Cover (d) Visibility of Target: Clear 2043
(e) Visibility: 20 miles (f) Bombing Tactics: Type: Low Level
Bomb Sight Used: None Bombs Dropped per Run: 8 Spacing: 25 ft.
Altitude of Bomb Release: 100 Feet
(g) No. of Enemy A/C hit on Ground None ^{Probably} Destroyed None Damaged None

(h)	(i)	(j) (k)	(l)	(m)	(n)
Nakaru #9, Bougainville		3 VMB-423	24 X 250# GP	See(o)	

(o) RESULTS:

Five bombs were dropped on gardens two miles north of the target while nineteen obtained good coverage of Nakaru target #9 and the target was thoroughly strafed with 11,000 rounds of caliber .50 ammunition. The speed of the planes prevented observation of results and no photographs were taken.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No

CALL	PILOT	T/O GREEN	T/O/T	P/C GREEN
331B21	Major LOWELL	1930	2040	2145
332B21	HOPPER	1930	2042	2150
333B21	LUSKY	1931	2043	2155

Major LOWELL, Operations Officer, led three PBJs of VMB-423 in a night low level bombing and strafing attack on target #9, Nakaru, Bougainville. The strike was planned to surprise the enemy relying on darkness, direction of approach and the speed of the planes to achieve this effect.

The strike was airborne by 1932 and joined up as described; a three plane section in vee formation and proceeded down the west coast of Bougainville at 3000 feet. South of Montopena Point the formation went into left echelon and made a shallow left turn at the Mibo River to a heading of 018° magnetic, still at 3000 feet. When west of Kara Airdrome the flight leader peeled off to the right and flew east until north of Kara at an altitude of 2000 feet. The other planes proceeded on the heading of 018° magnetic and peeled off to the right successively at one minute intervals and flew east until north of Kara Airdrome.

The first plane made its bombing and strafing run on a heading of 138° magnetic at 2040, the second plane at 2042 on a heading of 158° magnetic and the third at 2044 on a heading of 178° magnetic. All bombing and strafing was done from an altitude of 100 feet at a speed of from 190 to 200 knots indicated, and when beyond target #9, broke to the right and returned to base individually at altitudes of 2000, 3000 and 4000 feet. All planes were safely on deck at Green by 2155.

Moderate inaccurate medium anti-aircraft fire was encountered from unidentified positions.

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(All times in this narrative are love).

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