

MG-61

146
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Report # 84

II C (4)

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CONFIDENTIAL

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

Ref: VMB-413 253
433 146
443 120

Form ACA-1
Sheet 1 of 5

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting MAG-61 (b) Based on or at Emirau Island (c) Report No. 85
(d) Take off: Date 13 April, 1945 Time 1330L Lat 01°36'S. Long 150° E.
(e) Mission Coordinated medium altitude bombing of Vanakanau #9A, New Britain (f) Time of Return 1510-1613L

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT

TYPE	SQD	NUMBER	TAKING OFF	ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	ATTACKING TARGET	BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (per plane)	FUSE SETTING
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(g)
PBJ-1	VMB-413	8	None	8	6 x 500 GP	AN-M-103inst. AN-M-101A2inst.	
PBJ-1	VMB-433	5	None	5	6 x 500 GP AN-M-64 A:1	AN-M-103inst.	
PBJ-1D	VMB-443	9	None	9	6 x 500 GP MK.64	AN-M-103inst. AN-M-102A2inst.	

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

TYPE	SQD	NO.	BASE	TYPE	SQD	NO.	BASE
PBY-5A	VPE 44	1	Emirau Island				
F4U	NZ#23	2	same				
PV-1	NZ#9	6	Same				

IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only)

(a) TYPE	(b) NO.	(c) No. Engaged	(d) Time Encountered	(e) LOCATION OF ENCOUNTER	(f) BOMBS CARRIED	(g) CAMOUFLAGE MARKINGS
OBSERVED	Own A/C	Encountered				
Noen			(zone)			
			(zone)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____
Did Any Part of Encounter(s) _____
(i) Occur in Clouds? _____ If so, Describe Clouds _____
Time of Day and (Yes or No) _____ (base in feet, type, tenths cover)
(j) Brilliance of Sun or Moon _____ (k) Visibility _____
(night, Bright moon; Day, overcast; etc.) (miles)

V. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR (By Own Aircraft Listed in II)

(a) TYPE A/C	(b) Destroyed or Damaged By:	(c)	(d) Damage Claimed
Type A/C	SQD	Pilot or Gunner	Guns used: Where hit angle: Claimed
None			

VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those in II only)

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Type Own A/C	Sqd	Cause	Where hit, Angle	Extent of Loss or Damage
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 by use of VI.)

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
*No.	Sqd	Name, Rank or Rating	Cause	Condition or status
	None			

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

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)	
Type	Miles Out	Miles Return	Av. Hours In Air	Av. Fuel Loaded	Av. Fuel Consumed	30	50	20mm	mm	#Planes Returning
PBJ-1	189	198	2Hrs. 39'	974	340	N	0	N	E	22

IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line)

Caliber	None	Meager	Moderate	Intense
HEAVY	X			
MEDIUM	X			
LIGHT	X			

X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (Use check list at left).

No enemy aircraft encountered.

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

Primary, Vunakanau #9A, New Britain and
secondary, Panapai Bivouac, N.I. (b) Time over Target 1440-1502^u
P: Scattered cumulus at 2000', tops to 6000'.
(c) Clouds Over Target S: 10/10 A.S. and A.C. at 13,000'.
P: Partially obscured.
(d) Visibility of Target S: clear. (e) Visibility 10
(f) Bombing Tactics: Type level Bomb Sight Used Mk.15 mod.7
Bombs Dropped per Run All Spacing 50-100' Altitude S: 10,500'
P: 11,300-12,000'
(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground None Destroyed None Damaged None

(L)	(1)	(j)	(k)	(m)	(n)
1	Vunakanau #9A. : 2400' x 900'	8	VMB-413	48 x 500 GPs	
2	Panapai Bivouac:	5	VMB-433	30 x 500 GPs	See "o"
3	Vunakanau #9A. : 2400' x 900'	9	VMB-443	54 x 500 GPs	
4	:	:	:	:	:
5	:	:	:	:	:
6	:	:	:	:	:
7	:	:	:	:	:
8	:	:	:	:	:

- (o) RESULTS: 1.- Clouds obscured results, in photographs, See note below.
2.- 30 x 500 GPs fell astride the coast road approximately 2500 feet west of the target. The road was cratered in nine places.
3.- Clouds obscured results, in photographs. See note below.

Note:

- 1.- 21 x 500 GPs hit in northwest corner of target.
21 x 500 GPs hit in southeast corner of target.
3.- 54 x 500 GPs hit 200 yards south of southeast corner of target.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should be attached by staple.

(4) (VMB-433) (109) (V) (20") (10,500') (1440L) (13 April 1945) (Kavieng)

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(Reclassify when
filled out)

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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
Recognition, Ships
Communications
Flight Operations
Search and Tracking
Base Operations
Maintenance

413		433		443	
CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT
254B21	Mendenhall	266B21	Smith	279B21	Gould
255B21	Cochrane	267B21	Husten	280B21	Hartman
256B21	Roome	268B21	Watson	281B21	Schreier
257B21	Henry	269B21	Dethier	282B21	Drasgal
258B21	Ross	270B21	Wilfong	283B21	Wilson
259B21	Hines			284B21	Burt
260B21	Fey			285B21	Whitmore
261B21	Gesper			286B21	Balou
				287B21	Reese

With Lt. Col. A. D. Gould as flight leader the group of 22 PB78s took off at 1330 on a coordinated medium altitude bombing strike at Target No. 9A, a reported plane, supply and personnel area about one mile south of Vanakaneu Airstrip, New Britain. The group had started for this target in the morning but was forced to return with its bombs when a storm front was encountered 65 miles south of Amirsa. Weather improved during the day, allowing the mission to be accomplished in the afternoon.

The flight was made up of VMB-443, VMB-413 and VMB-433, taking off and flying to the target in that order. The group was in right echelon, with javelin down formation within the squadrons.

The first leg was on a course of 145° magnetic to Selapia Island, then 133° magnetic, 115 miles, to Sussus Point on Casselle Peninsula. Turning generally east to the initial point, gentle evasive maneuvers were used, weaving back and forth across the course without change in altitude.

Enroute to target, the lead plane of VMB-433 developed engine trouble and, with the flight leader's permission, turned for a nearby secondary target, Panapai, Bivouac Area, on Leving Peninsule.

The bombing run of VMB-433 was made in javelin down formation, one spot in the second vee being vacant, on a bearing of 337° magnetic, at an altitude of 10,500' and 160 kts. I.A.S. All bombs hit at a point 1000 yards west of target.

The squadron broke left, rallied off North Cape and flew back to base to land at 1510.

At the primary VMB-443 and VMB-413 went over the target in right echelon squadrons javelin down, on a bearing of 090° magnetic, 160 kts. I.A.S., and at altitudes of 12,000 feet and 11,300 feet respectively. Bombs away at 1500 with the following results.

21 x 500 GPs hit in NW corner of target.
21 x 500 GPs hit in SE corner of target.
54 x 500 GPs hit in 200 yards south of SE corner of target.
6 x 500 GPs were unobserved.

These results are based on interrogation as clouds prevented photo coverage of strike.

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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

Breaking sharply to the left, the flight passed over Ataliklikun Bay and rallied off Urova Island northwest of Cape Liguana. The flight returned to base at 1613 after a routine flight. All planes landed safely.

The Empire, New Zealand, PV No.9 Squadron took off at 1345, just after the PBJ group, to hit the same primary target 30 minutes later. This six-plane squadron flew to the target independently of the PBJ's and rendezvoused off Dubs of York Islands, timing their approach to target to reach there 30 minutes after the PBJ's SOT, the PV's hit Vunakoaona #9A at 1528 dropping 36 x 500# GPs in the target area.

**R. R. CHUISE,
Capt., USMC,
Group Intelligence Officer.**

**P. E. SMITH,
Col., USMC,
Group Commander.**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE



(VMB-433)(109)(V)(20")(10,500)(14404)(13 APR. '45)(KAW)