

VMB-433

149
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Report #165

c(10)

4

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB-433 (b) Based on or at Emirau Island (c) Report No 165
 (d) Take off: Date 25 April, 1945 Time (LZT) 1315 L (Zone); Lat. 01 36' Long 150 00' E
 (e) Mission MAB Namatanai Area, New Ireland (f) Time of Return 1600 L (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	VMB-433	3	N11	3	12 x 100 GP AN-M-30	AN-M-103 Inst. Fuse

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
N11							

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
N11			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) N11
 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 _____ (k) Visibility _____
(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON, DAY, OVERCAST, ETC.) (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		
N11						

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No **165**

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Namatani Bridge (b) Time Over Target(s) 1430-1500 L (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target .3-.5 cu bases 1800' tops 4000'
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target clear (e) Visibility 15-20
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type level Bomb Sight Used M-15
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run all Spacing 100' Altitude of Bomb Release 11,000'
(NUMBER) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed N11 Probably Destroyed N11 Damaged N11

(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 Namatani Bridge	75' x 15'	3 VMB-433	12 x 100 GP		See Below
2 " "	75' x 15'	3 VMB-433	12 x 100 GP		See Below
3 " "	75' x 15'	3 VMB-433	12 x 100 GP		See Below
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.)

On the three runs made, the bombs fell straddling the bridge on the first two. On the third run, the bombs fell about 200 feet north of the bridge starting a fire 50'-100' in diameter with black smoke rising to 400'. This fire was still burning when the Mitchells left station.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple

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REPORT No. 165

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

CALL	PILOT	TO EMIRAU	TOP	TOB EMIRAU
266B21	Dethier	1315	1430-1500	1600
267B21	Shaw	1315	1430-1500	1600
268B21	Green	1316	1430-1500	1601

Three PBJ's led by Capt. G. Dethier took off from Emirau on a three plane strike upon the Namatanai Area, New Ireland. Following the join-up, the flight proceeded down the northern coast of New Ireland to Namatanai in a three plane vee. This formation was also employed for the bombing runs. Three runs were made upon the Namatanai Bridge. The first was made at a speed of 156 knots, altitude of 10,500', while on a magnetic heading of 030°. The second run was made at a speed of 156 knots, altitude of 11,000', while on a magnetic heading of 030° and the third run was made at a speed of 160 knots, altitude of 11,000', and a magnetic heading of 310°.

On the first two runs, the bombs all fell straddling the bridge. The third run started a fire fifty to one hundred feet in diameter with black smoke rising to four hundred feet at a point two hundred feet north of the bridge. This fire was still burning when the Mitchells left station and it is believed to have been a barge drawn up the creek and concealed under the overhanging foliage.

No A/A and no enemy interception were encountered and all Mitchells returned safely to base by 1601 L.

J. V. A. Fine
Capt., USMCR
Intelligence Officer

W. H. Miller
Lt. Col., USMCR
Commanding Officer