

MG-61

146  
④

Report # 99

IC(4)

5

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

## I. GENERAL

Ref: VNR-413 283  
433 174  
443 144

(a) Unit Reporting MAC-61 (b) Based on or at Rairou Island (c) Report No. 99  
 (d) Take off: Date 5 May, 1945 Time (LZT) 0915L (Zone); Lat. 01° 36' N. Long 150° E.  
 (e) Mission Coordinated medium altitude bombing of Federa #4, New Britain. (f) Time of Return 1233L (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)		
PHJ-1	VNR-413	6	None	6	8 x 250 GP Mk. 57.	None: AN-M-103 inst. Tail: AN-M-101A2 inst
PHJ-1	VNR-433	9	None	9	8 x 250 GP Mk. 57.	None: AN-M-103 inst. Tail: AN-M-100A2 inst
PHJ-1B	VNR-443	9	None	9	8 x 250 GP Mk. 57.	None: AN-M-103 inst. Tail: AN-M-102A2 inst

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
PHJ-5A	VNR 44	1	Rairou Island				
PHU	42423	2	base				

## 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)
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 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	
PRI-1	250	227	3hrs. 18'	974	494	0	0	0	0	24

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	X			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	X			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	X			

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

- SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes
  
  - URNS
  - 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) Tobera #4, New Britain (b) Time Over Target(s) 1106L (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target scattered cumulus at 2000'. tops to 6000'.  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target clear (e) Visibility 10  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type level Bomb Sight Used Mk. 15 Mod. 7  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run All Spacing 50-100' Altitude of Bomb Release 12000-12800'  
(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, medium, destroyed, or sunk)
1 <u>Tobera #4, N. B.</u>	<u>1000' x 400'</u>	<u>6 VMB-413</u>	<u>48 x 250 GP</u>		
2 <u>Tobera #4, N. B.</u>	<u>same</u>	<u>9 VMB-433</u>	<u>72 x 250 GP</u>		<u>See "a"</u>
3 <u>Tobera #4, N. B.</u>	<u>same</u>	<u>9 VMB-413</u>	<u>72 x 250 GP</u>		
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.)

- 1.- 8 x 250 GPs landed on the edge of a reported plane hide 100 yards east of the target. A few holes were torn in the already badly beaten vegetation.
- 40 x 250 GPs landed in a group cratering the eastern end of the target.
- 2.- 72 x 250 GPs landed in excellent coverage of target area according to interrogation. (Photographs failed to pick up the hits).
- 3.- 8 x 250 GPs landed on the edge of a reported plane hide 100 yards east of the target tearing more holes in an already beaten area.
- 8 x 250 GPs landed 100 yards west of the target along a road.
- 56 x 250 GPs strung across the center of the target putting as many craters in the runway.

**Photographs attached:**

- (2) (VMB-413) (214) (0) (20") (13,000') (1103L) (5 May '45) (Tobera #4)  
(3) (VMB-413 - 689) (0) (20") (12,000) (1107L) (5 May '45) (Tobera #4)

(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

413		433		443	
CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT
254B21	Mendenhall	266B21	Long	279B21	Whitney
255B21	Muehleisen	267B21	Green	280B21	Dee
256B21	Oslund	268B21	Shaw	281B21	Kozlowski
257B21	Mac Lean	269B21	Lattner	282B21	Gorman
258B21	Gilbert	270B21	Parks	283B21	Lord
259B21	Helme	271B21	Hendy	284B21	Carton
		272B21	Leachman	285B21	Lemarie
		273B21	Dethier	286B21	Graser
		274B21	Benjamin	287B21	Greene

Major B. O. Whitney led three squadrons on a coordinated medium level bombing attack of Tobera #4, New Britain, a 400' by 1000' dirt runway.

The attack by 24 PB's was one of the most successful of the month as 142 x 250# GP's were strung along the target. The other 50 bombs also did considerable damage, as a reported plane hide east of the target was hit, a road cratered and gardens ruined.

Major Whitney of VMB-443 took off at 0915, followed by VMB-433 at 0920 and VMB-413 at 0932.

Each squadron joined up and flew independently to Selapiu Island where a rendezvous was held at 10,000 feet. The formation in a vee of squadrons, javelin down had VMB-443 in the lead, VMB-413 in the number two position and VMB-433 number three.

A course of 120° Magnetic was taken to Pinikindu Point, where the flight crossed New Ireland bringing them to Watom Island hence to the west side of Ataliklikun Bay and into a slow turn for the bombing run.

Going over the target the group was in right echelon with the squadrons javelin down. Bombs were away at 1107 on a 027° magnetic course and an altitude of 12,000 feet. Breakaway was made to the left and the rally point between Cape Gazelle and the Duke of York Islands.

A course up the East coast of New Ireland to the base brought all planes in at 1242.

**R. R. CRUISE,**  
Capt., USMGR,  
Group Intelligence Officer.

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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE



20

3

(VM 5 413 689)(0)(20)(12000)(11074)(5711470)(10 beta "4")



(1)(VMB443)(214)(0)(20'')(13,000')(1103L)(5MAY45)(TOBERA#4)