

VMB-413

148  
⑧

Report # 317

#C (8)

4

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

14124 RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

027342

**I. GENERAL**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

(a) Unit Reporting VMB - 413 (b) Based on or at Emirau St. Matthias (c) Report No. 317  
Three hundred seventeen  
 (d) Take off: Date 12/13 June, 1945 Time (LZT) 1947to2310L (Zone); Lat. 01° 36' S Long 150° E  
 (e) Mission Heckle Kavieng Area, New Ireland (f) Time of Return 2151to0050L (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)		
<b>PBJ-1</b>	<b>VMB413</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12 x 120 Frag Clusters</b>	<b>110 nose fuse</b>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<b>None</b>							

**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
<b>None</b>						
			(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 \_\_\_\_\_ (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		
<b>None</b>						

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REPORT No. 317

## 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	
<del>PRJ-1</del>	74	74	2hr06	974	254	N	0	N	E	4

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over				
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)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

REPORT No **317**

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) **Kavieng, New Ireland** (b) Time Over Target(s) **2030 to 2255L** (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target **5/10 to 7/10** (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target **Low broken clouds with base one to two thousand feet.** (e) Visibility **greater than five** (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Medium level** Bomb Sight Used **None Used**
- Bombs Dropped per Run **Varied** Spacing **Varied** Altitude of Bomb Release **10 to 12,000**
- (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 Or Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
1 <b>Area</b>		<b>4</b> <b>VMB - 413</b>	<b>48 x 120 Frag Clusters</b>	<b>See</b>	<b>(o)</b>
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).

**48 x 120 Dropped between North Cape and Panapai.**  
**24 x 120 Brought back to base-poor weather over target.**

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

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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.) **VMB 413**

**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**

**254B21**  
**255B21**  
**256B21**  
**257B21**  
**258B21**  
**259B21**

**PILOT**

**ROOME**  
**MALLETTE**  
**HINES**  
**NEVLAND**  
**THOMAS**  
**GEARHART**

Six planes were scheduled to heckle Kavieng, New Ireland, Japs. Only four made the target; weather caused the other two Mitchells to return to base with the bomb loads.

The first plane took off at 1947—the last one landed at 0050. The Nips were heckled from 2030 to 2255. Fifteen passes were made at the target with 48 x 120 pound frag clusters dropped between North Cape and Panapai. A large fire was started northwest of Panapai Air Strip, (204704)-F96). 24 of the frags were returned to the base.

The Japs from all appearances were asleep at the post; no A/A or searchlights were encountered.

Although the enemy resistance for the previous heckle raids has been nil, the bomber pilots have been on the ball. Their runs are planned in advance. No two runs are made from the same altitude, on the same or reciprocal heading and airspeed is varied. No bombing run is ever longer than one second for each 1,000 feet of altitude. The cover plane is always 1,000 feet above the heckler plane and constantly alert for possible bogies.

The traffic pattern to target this night was via the southwest tip of New Hanover; on the return trip the course was direct.

(All times in narrative are love)

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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**ACTING**