

VMB-423

161
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Report # 332

ILC(9)

4

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

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(a) Unit Reporting VMB-423 (b) Based on or at Green Island (c) Report No. 332
 (d) Take off: Date 20 May, 1945. Time (LZT) 0515-1715 (Zone); Lat. 04°32' Long. 154°14'
 (e) Mission Patrol Missions over Rabaul Area, New Britain (f) Time of Return 1005-2050 (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)		
<u>PB1-1J</u>	<u>VMB423</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6 X 500# GP</u>	<u>Nose: AN-M-103 .1 sec Delay Tail: AN-M-101A2 .025 sec Delay</u>

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

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

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
<u>None</u>			<u>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____

(i) Did Any Part of Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? _____ If so, Describe Clouds _____
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(j) Time of Day and 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 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			
<u>None</u>						

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REPORT No. **332**

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	
F4J-1J	---006---	41rs30	974	854	None	1000	None	None	None	1
F4J-1J	---773---	41rs36	974	819	None	None	None	None	None	3
F4J-1J	---005---	31rs36	974	641	None	None	None	None	None	1

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

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

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

- SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes
- TURNS
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

No enemy aircraft encountered.

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

CONFIDENTIAL
REPORT No **332**

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Reboul, Area, New Britain. (b) Time Over Target(s) 0600-2000 (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target CAVU
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 30 miles
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Level Bomb Sight Used Mark 15
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 1, 2 & 3 Spacing Varied Altitude of Bomb Release 7,500-9,000
(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, serious, destroyed or sunk)
1 Reboul		4 VMB-423	15 X 500# GP	See (o)	
2 Boat in Simpson Harbor. Huts along Ataliklikun.		1 VMB-423	1000 rd 50 Cal. 1 X 500# GP	" "	
3 Praed Pt. & Wataur		1 VMB-423	4 X 500# GP	" "	
4 Lakunai		1 VMB-423	1 X 500# GP	" "	
5 Vunakanau		2 VMB-423	4 X 500# GP	" "	
6 Duke of York		1 VMB-423	1 X 500# GP	" "	
7 Tobera		1 VMB-423	3 X 500# GP	" "	
8 Taliligan		1 VMB-423	1 X 500# GP	" "	

(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 identity by numbers above. Use additional sheets if necessary.)

- 375B21 - Huts along Ataliklikun were strafed, results were unobserved.
- 376B21 - Results were unobserved.
- 377B21 - Results were unobserved.
- 378B21 - Two of the five bombs dropped on Reboul were duds. All other results were unobserved.
- 379B21 - Results were unobserved.

(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.)

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	T/O GREEN	T/O/T	P/C GREEN
375B21	EVANS	0515	0600-0900	1005
376B21	LtCol. ANDERSON	0817	0855-1200	1250
377B21	HUBER	1110	1150-1500	1550
378B21	BEAIRD	1410	1455-1750	1845
379B21	BARRETT	1715	1800-2000	2050

On 20 May, 1945, five PBJs flew patrol and medium altitude bombing missions over Rabaul, New Britain. The planes relieved each other on station to maintain continuous patrol of this area from 0600 to 2000.

375B21 was airborne by 0515 and proceeded to New Britain where six 500 pound general purpose bombs were dropped between 0600 and 0900. Five on Rabaul for unobserved results and one missed a small boat in Simpson Harbor. Huts along Ataliklikun were strafed, results were unobserved.

376B21 was airborne by 0817 and proceeded to New Britain where six 500 pound general purpose bombs were dropped between 0855 and 1200. Three in Praed Point area, one on Wataur, one on Lekunai and one on Taliligan with unobserved results.

377B21 was airborne by 1110 and proceeded to New Britain where six 500 pound general purpose bombs were dropped between 1150 and 1500. Four on Rabaul and two on Vunakanau for unobserved results.

378B21 was airborne by 1410 and proceeded to New Britain where six 500 pound general purpose bombs were dropped between 1455 and 1750. Five on Rabaul and one on Duke of York hut area. Two of the five dropped on Rabaul were duds, the results of the balance of the bombs were unobserved.

379B21 was airborne by 1715 and proceeded to New Britain where six 500 pound general purpose bombs were dropped between 1800 and 2000. Three on Tobera, two on Vunakanau and one on Rabaul for unobserved results.

378B21 encountered three bursts of inaccurate heavy anti-aircraft from 50 yards south of Sulphur Creek.

(All times in this narrative are local).

WARD D. MARTIN
Capt., USMC
Intelligence Officer

NORMAN J. ANDERSON
LtCol., USMC
Commanding.