

MG-61

1419
④

Report #136

LIC(4)

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

Ref: **WB-413 332**
423 357
433 221
443 181

(a) Unit Reporting **MAG-61** (b) Based on or at **Eniran Island** (c) Report No. **136**
(d) Take off: Date **1 July, 1945** Time (LZT) **0750-0850L** (Zone); Lat. **01° 36' S.** Long **150° E.**
Coordinated medium altitude attack against Kabagada #7,
(e) Mission **Reboul #4, Funakonan #30, & Tobera #25, New Britain.** (f) Time of Return **1032-1140L** (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	WB-413	9	None	9	12 x 260 M-81 Frags.	Nose: AN-M-103 inst.
PBJ-1	WB-443	9	None	9	12 x 260 M-81 Frags.	Tail: AN-M-100A2 inst.
PBJ-1J	WB-423	6	None	6	12 x 260 M-81 Frags.	Nose: AN-M-103 inst.
PBJ-1	WB-433	6	None	6	3 x 1000 GP M-41.	Tail: AN-M-100A2 inst.

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
PBY	WZA-236	1	Eniran Island				
F4U	WZ #25	2	same				

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 _____
(YES OR NO) (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:				(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER	GUNS USED		
None						

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

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(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				
2	None			
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.	
PB-1	257	171	2hrs. 42'	974	448	0	0	0	0	0

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

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)

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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) Kabagada #7, Rabaul #4, Vanakananu #30
H.B. and Kavieng AA, New Ireland. (b) Time Over Target 0922-1106L (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target Vanakananu & Kavieng 3/10 to 4/10 cu. at 2000'. Rabaul and Kabagada clear.
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Vanakananu & Kavieng partially obscured by clouds. (e) Visibility 10
(MILES)

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

Bombs Dropped per Run All Spacing 25' - 50' Altitude of Bomb Release 10,500-10,900'.
(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 Kabagada #7, New Britain.		9 WR 443	108 x 260# Frags.		
² Rabaul #4, New Britain.		9 WR 413	108 x 260# Frags.		
³ Vanakananu #30, New Britain.		6 WR 423	72 x 260# Frags.		See "o".
⁴ Kavieng AA Positions, New Ireland Strip.		6 WR 433	18 x 1000# GPs.		
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.-54 x 260# Frags. fell in southwestern section of the target.
54 x 260# Frags. fell from southern edge of the target to 200 yards to the southeast. Although no damage assessment has been received probable damage was done to the huts in the area.
- 2.-60 x 260# Frags. hit 300 yards west of the target for no apparent damage except to gardens.
48 x 260# Frags. hit 300 yards northwest of the target for unobserved results. Clouds obscured post-strike photographic assessment of damage.
- 3.-70 x 260# Frags. dropped through clouds for unobserved results. Clouds also prevented post-strike photographs.
2 x 260# Frags. hung and were jettisoned.
- 4.-18 x 1000# GPs fell on the edge of Kavieng Town approximately 1000 yards southwest of the target. Clouds prevented any damage assessment.

No photographs are attached because clouds obscured hits and photographs were bad.

(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

- Concealment, Ships
- Concealment
- Searchlights
- Night Fighter Tactics
- Use of Jamming

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Bombing Tactics
- Torpedo Tactics
- Effectiveness of Bombs, Torpedoes
- Fuzing
- 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

413		423		433		443	
CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT
254B21	Nickerson	242B21	Lowell	266B21	Whitney	279B21	Lemarie
255B21	Gilbert	243B21	Sullivan	267B21	McLaughlin	280B21	Biberstine
256B21	Mallette	244B21	Barrett	268B21	Manhattan	281B21	Hawkins
257B21	Henry	245B21	Hepper	269B21	Crocker	282B21	Johnson
258B21	Gearhart	246B21	Workman	270B21	Butler	283B21	Kreosin
259B21	Fey	247B21	Linan	271B21	Arent	284B21	Burk
260B21	Hines					285B21	Stewart
261B21	Ullrich					286B21	Sieben
262B21	Allen					287B21	Wardwell

Four consolidated medium altitude bombing strikes were scheduled against targets in New Britain on 1 July. Nine PBJs of WR-443 led by Capt. Lemarie was the first squadron off the strip, departing at 0750 to strike Kabagada #7. This is a hut area on either side of Wunaw tun Road showing activity. Smoky Joe marked the target with two smokers. Of the 108 x 260 Frags dropped half were in the target and half fell from the south edge of 200 yards southeast of the target. Two small fires were reported in the target area. WR-413 was second to leave the strip with 9 planes departing at 0820 with Major Nickerson leading. The used hut area at Rabaul #4 was attacked. The lead plane had last minute trouble with its automatic pilot causing an inaccurate drop. 60 x 260 Frags hit 900' west of the target while the remaining 48 landed 900' northwest of the target in garden areas. Clouds prevented photographic assessment of results. Vunakanau #30, hut and personnel area, was the target hit by six Mitchells from WR-423. Major Lowell was flight leader 70 x 260 Frags dropped over the target. Two hung and were jettisoned into the sea N.W. of Waton Island. Clouds prevented observation of results and after-strike photos were also clouded. WR-433 took off at 0850 with Major Whitney leading 6 PBJs to strike Tobera #26. Upon reaching the target it was discovered to be closed with cloud cover. The flight returned to Kavieng Strip. Clouds interfered with the run and 18 x 1000 GPs were released on the medium AA positions N.W. of the strip and all hit about 1000 yards S.W. of the gun positions in coord. 078100 for unobserved results.

WR-443 followed the N.E. coast of New Ireland to Munu Island, thence to Waton where a right turn was made to run over the target on a magnetic heading of 165°, from 10,900' at 155 knots (IAS). Dropping bombs at 0922 the flight reached base by 1032 following Selapiu route. Formation flown was javelin down.

WR-413 took the same route to New Britain as WR-443. The flight was over New Rabaul #4 at 0939 on a magnetic heading of 155°, 10,500' altitude and making 150 knots. Taking a course of 308° magnetic after the rally the base was reached at 1051. The formation used was javelin down.

WR-423 followed the N.E. coast of New Ireland to Munu Island, thence to New Britain to make its run over Vunakanau #30, using two, 3 plane sections, javelin down, on a magnetic course of 192° at 155 knots indicated, dropping from 10,600' at 1013. Breaching right the return trip was up the S.W. coast of New Ireland to base by 1122.

Upon departing the base WR-433 took the Munu Island route, as the other squadrons, thence crossing to its primary at Tobera #26. Finding it clouded over the squadron returned up the S.W. coast of N.I. over Djaul to make its attack on Kavieng AA positions on a heading of 290° from 10,600' and 155 kts. The drop was at 1106 and all planes were safely back at base at 1140.

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