

VMB-44B

150
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Report # 92

IIc(11)

4

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB-443 (b) Based on or at Bairau Island (c) Report No. 92
 (d) Take off: Date 1 March 1945 Time (LZT) 1330 (Zone); Lat 01°36'South Long 150°00'East.
 (e) Mission Pinikindu Bridge, New Ireland. Medium altitude (f) Time of Return 1608 (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>PBJ-1D</u>	<u>VMB-443</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1 x 2000lb. GPS. Mk. 66</u>	<u>Nose: An-M 103 Inst. Tail: An-M 102-A2 Inst.</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) _____
 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		
<u>None</u>						

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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) **Pinikindu Bridge, New Ireland** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1445-1510** (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target **Scattered cumulus at 7000', 2-3 tenths coverage.**
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target **Clear** (e) Visibility **20 miles**
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type **medium level** Bomb Sight Used **Mk. 15, Mod. 7**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- ✓ Bombs Dropped per Run **All** Spacing **None** Altitude of Bomb Release **10,000'**
(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 Pinikindu Bridge		3 FBJS VMB-443	3x 2000 lb. GPS.		See narrative
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.)

See narrative.

Were Photographs Taken? **No.** 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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

<u>CALL</u>	<u>PILOT</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>T.O.T.</u>	<u>PANCAKE</u>
279B21	Whitney	1330	1445-1510	1608
280B21	Gorman	1330	1445-1510	1608
281B21	Wilson	1331	1445-1510	1609

The afternoon's bridge wrecking expedition was led by Major Boyd O. Whitney who took off with a three plane formation at 1330. The planes rendezvoused and turned on a course of 122° Mag. for a spot five miles off Pinikindu Point. Climbing steadily to 10,000' and using a javelin-down formation, the Major arrived at 1430.

The area was closely studied and many dry runs were made for these small bridges are very difficult to see at this altitude. Bombs were away at 1510 after a run on 180° Mag., and at 10,000' with 160 knots I.A.S. The 2000 pounders were not cooperative and scored as follows:

2 x 2000 lb. GPS. in the sea 25 yards off shore.
1 x 2000 lb. GPS. struck road intersection just north of the bridge.

The hit on the road tore out a very large section and left a huge crater.

Rendezvousing five miles off shore at 1510, the planes turned on a course of 304° Mag. at 160 knots I.A.S. to cover the 131 miles to base and land by 1608.

No sightings were made and no A/A was received.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

G. W. McCORMICK, Jr.
Captain, USMCR.
AGIO.

APPROVED BY:

D. M. GUILLOTTE
Lt. Colonel, USMC.
Commanding VMB-443.

APPROVED BY:

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RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE