

VMB-423

189
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Report #263

II (9)

4

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB-423 (b) Based on or at Green Island (c) Report No. 263
 (d) Take off: Date 8 April, 1945 Time (LZT) 005640300 (Zone); Lat. 04° 32' Long 154° 14'
 (e) Mission Night snoopers search and heckling mission over Rabaul, New Britain (f) Time of Return 043040535 (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-LJ	VMB423	2	None	2	8 X 250 # GP	Nose: AN-M-103 .1 Sec Delay Tail: AN-M-102A2 .025 Sec Delay

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
None							

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
Unidentified single engine	1	None	0300 (L) (ZONE)	Over Tobera Air strip	Unobserved	Unobserved
	1	None	0545 (L) (ZONE)	Simpson Harbor-Blanche Bay Area.	Unobserved	Unobserved

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Undetermined
 Did Any Part of
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? No If so, Describe Clouds 2000 ft. Cumulus, 8 Cover
 (YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance
 (j) of Sun or Moon Night - one quarter moon - Hazy (k) Visibility 30 lowering to 8 miles.
 (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			
None						

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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) Rabaul, New Britain (b) Time Over Target(s) 0145-0350
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) 0345-0545 (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target .5 to .8 Cover
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

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

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Level Bomb Sight Used D-8
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 1, 2 & 5 Spacing Varied Altitude of Bomb Release 9,500-10,000
(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 Northwest of Vunakenau		1 VMB-423	1 X 250# GP	See (o)	
2 Northeast of Keravat		1 VMB-423	2 X 250# GP	" "	
3 Northeast of Vunakenau		1 VMB-423	5 X 250# GP	" "	
4 Ground Lights Vunakenau-Tobera		1 VMB-423	1 X 250# GP	" "	
5 Vunakenau		1 VMB-423	7 X 250# GP	" "	
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.)

The results were generally 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
331B21	Major LOWELL	0056	0145/0330	0430
332B21	EVANS	0300	0345/0545	0635

On the morning of 8 April, 1945, 331B21 and 332B21 flew snoopier search and heckling missions over Rabaul, New Britain.

By 0056, 331B21 was airborne and proceeded to Rabaul where eight 250 pound general purpose bombs were dropped during the period of 0145 to 0330. One northwest of Vunakanau and two northeast of Keravat from 9,500 feet and five northeast of Vunakanau from 10,000 feet. No anti-aircraft fire was encountered but at 0300 when at an altitude of 9,500 feet on a course of 270° magnetic, 331B21 sighted an unidentified single engine plane which was between 500 and 1000 feet on a parallel course. This plane showed a white light until 331B21 attempted to close on it when the light went off and the PRJ was unable to follow the exhaust flame.

By 0300, 332B21 was airborne and proceeded to Rabaul where eight 250 pound general purpose bombs were dropped during the period 0345 to 0545. One on ground lights between Vunakanau and Tobera and seven on Vunakanau from 9,500 feet. Two bursts of inaccurate medium anti-aircraft fire were encountered from the Vunakanau area. At 0535 when at an altitude of 9000 feet on a course of 45° magnetic 332B21 sighted an unidentified single engine aircraft which was between 1000 and 2000 feet on a course of 090° over Simpson Harbor-Blanche Bay area. The plane showed a white light but with .8 of clouds in the area the bogey disappeared in the clouds.

(All times in this narrative are local).

WARD D. MARTIN
Capt., USMCR
Intelligence Officer

H. W. TAYLOR
Major, USMC
Acting