

VMB 423

159  
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Report # 276

HC (9)

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**CONFIDENTIAL** AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**I. GENERAL**

(a) Unit Reporting VMB-423 (b) Based on or at Green Island (c) Report No 276  
 (d) Take off: Date 15 April, 1945 Time (LZT) 0745-0748 (Zone); Lat. 04° 32' Long 154° 14'  
Medium Altitude Daylight Attack on Gun Positions,  
 (e) Mission SE of Kara Airdrome, Bougainville. (f) Time of Return 1014-1017 (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-1J	VMB423	8	None	8	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
PV-1	NZ-3	6	Green Island	F4U	NZ-21	2	Green Island
F4U	NZ-24	8	Green Island				
PBY5A	VPB-44	1	Green Island				

**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		
None					

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**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	<b>None</b>			
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
	<b>None</b>			

**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	
<b>PBJ-1J</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>2hrs29'</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>8</b>

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

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

**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) Gun Positions, Kara A/D, Bville (b) Time Over Target(s) 0912 (Zone)
- (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 8 Spacing 50 feet Altitude of Bomb Release 10,300 & 10,500-10,700  
(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, serious, destroyed or sunk)
1 <b>Gun Positions, Kara Airdrone.</b>		<b>8</b> <b>VMB-423</b>	<b>64 X 250# GP</b>	<b>See (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.)

**All bombs hit the target with black and white smoke rising from 500 to 1000 feet into the air and was visible until the strike was out of sight. The bomb hits in relation to the target are shown on the attached photograph.**

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes 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

CALL	PILOT	T/O GREEN	T/O/T	P/C GREEN
301B21	Major LOWELL	0745	0912	1014
302B21	HEIL	0745	0912	1014
303B21	HUBER	0746	0912	1015
304B21	BEAIRD	0746	0912	1015
305B21	VAN AKEN	0747	0912	1016
306B21	RIGDON	0747	0912	1016
*307B21	HOPPER	----	----	----
308B21	SPAULDING	0748	0912	1017
309B21	EWERS	0748	0912	1017

\* 307B21 did not take off due to operational trouble.

Major LOWELL, Operations Officer, led eight PBJs on a medium altitude daylight attack on gun positions southeast of Kara Airdrome, Bougainville. The formation was composed of two, three plane sections and one, two plane section javelin down. The strike was coordinated with six PVs and eight F4Us of RNZAF stationed at Green.

The strike was airborne by 0749 and after joining up as described above proceeded to the rendezvous point at Empress Augusta Bay. The rendezvous with the New Zealand planes was effected at 0855. At 0900 the strike departed on a course of 118° magnetic for 45 miles, then turning to 035° magnetic to the coast west of Kangu Hill from where the bombing run was made.

The bombing run was made on a course of 014° magnetic with bombs away at 0912. The first section was at an altitude of 10,700 feet, the second at 10,500 feet and the third at 10,300 feet. The indicated air speed was 160 knots.

No anti-aircraft fire was encountered.

All bombs hit the target with black and white smoke rising to 500 to 1000 feet into the air and was visible until the strike was out of sight. The bomb hits in relation to the target are shown on the attached photograph.

(All times in this narrative are local).

REPORT PREPARED BY:

**WARD D. MARTIN**  
Capt., USMCR  
Intelligence Officer

APPROVED BY

**NORMAN J. ANDERSON**  
LtCol., USMC  
Commanding

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE



VMB-42-158(4--.) 4-15-45, 10,300' - 8 1/4" - KARL AA pos. Cont.