

VMB-443

150
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Report #104

2 (11)

4

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VCS 443 (b) Based on or at MIRAU ISLAND (c) Report No. 104
 (d) Take off: Date 25 MARCH 1945. Time (LZT) 1445 (L) (Zone); Lat. 0128036'S Long. 1502800'E
 (e) Mission: AMBA BIVOUAC AREA, NEW IRELAND. (f) Time of Return 1625 (L) (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>FBJ-1D</u>	<u>VCS 443</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>NONE</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1 X 2000# G.P.S. 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>						
			(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 _____ (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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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	
FNJ-1D	132	132	1.7	974	265	0	0	0	0	5

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
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

NONE ENCOUNTERED

TURNS

DIVES

CEILINGS

RANGE

PROTECTION

ARMAMENT

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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) AREA BIVOUAC AREA, NEW IRLAND (b) Time Over Target(s) 1540 (1) (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 (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility UNLIMITED (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type MEDIUM LEVEL (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used MK. 15, MOD. 7 (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run ALL (NUMBER) Spacing NONE (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 10,000 (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 BIVOUAC AREA, OF PLANTATION.	TARGET 100' X 100'	5 F21S. VCS 443	5 X 2000# GPs.	SEE NARRATIVE	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

(p) Were Photographs Taken? YES 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	TO	TOT	PAN
279321	Gorman	1445	1540	1625
280321	Kennedy	1445	1540	1625
281321	Graser	1446	1540	1626
282321	Kitterman	1446	1541	1626
283321	Dee	1447	1541	1627

As on other bypassed areas, the primary activity of the Japs on New Ireland is tilling the soil to obt in badly needed food supplies. Their practice is to work in the gardens until mid afternoon and the retire to adjacent bivouac areas. this strike was ti timed to catch the Hips napping after their hard days work. The target was a one hundred foot square bivouac area next to a large garden area near Aaba, New Ireland.

Led by Captain Gorman, the five planes available for the afternoon's activities took off at 1445. With the three plane of the lead section in vee formation and the other secti n's two planes directly behind in right echelon, the squadron proceeded along the northeast coast of new Ireland on a heading of 120 Deg Mag.

After circling inland to look the target over, the planes went into a bombing run of 355 Deg. Mag., at an altitude of 10,000' and 165 knots i.a.s., and dropped bombs at 1540.

RESULTS: 5 X 2000# GP'S Fused Inst. hit in gardens 150' east of bivouac area.

A considerable portion of this garden area will not furnish food to the Japs for a while.

After putting these sizeable holes in this Jap food source, the planes headed for home on a bearing of 295 Deg Mag. and landed at 1625.

SUBMITTED BY:

G. W. McCormick
Capt. USMC
ACIO

APPROVED BY:

A. B. Gould
Lt. Col. USMC
COMMANDING