

VMB-423

158

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Report #237

IC(9)

3

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

2910
011579

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB-423 (b) Based on or at Green Island (c) Report No. 237
 (d) Take off: Date 19 March, 1945 Time (LZT) 0845-0849 (Zone); Lat. 04° 32' Long 154° 14'
 (e) Mission Medium Altitude Daylight Attack on Tobera target #27, New Britain. (f) Time of Return 104-1052 (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	9	None	9	1 X 2000# 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
PBY5A	VPB-44	1	Green Island				
F4U	NZ-17	2	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 _____ (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		
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	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	
PBJ-1J	158	147	1 hr 59'	974	332	None	None	None	None	9

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

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

X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (use check list at left).

- SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

URNS

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) **Tobera #27, New Britain.** (b) Time Over Target(s) **0946** (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target **.2 Cloud Cover over Target Area**
- (d) Visibility of Target **Clear** (e) Visibility **25 miles**
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Level** Bomb Sight Used **Mark 15**
- Bombs Dropped per Run **1** Spacing _____ Altitude of Bomb Release **10,500-10,700-10,900**
- (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, or destroyed or sunk)
1 Tobera #27, NB.		9 VMB-423	9 X 2000# GP	See (o)	
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.)

Six bombs hit in the target area while two hit approximately 100 yards south of the target. One bomb hung and was salvaged in Saint George's Channel.

Due to cloud cover vertical photographs were indistinct. One oblique photo is attached showing the pattern of bomb hits with relation to the target.

(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	T/O GREEN	T/O/T	P/C GREEN
301B21	Major TAYLOR	0845	0946	1044
302B21	WORKMAN	0845	0946	1045
303B21	LINEN	0846	0946	1046
304B21	BEAIRD	0846	0946	1047
305B21	HICKS	0847	0946	1048
306B21	VAN HORN	0847	0946	1049
307B21	EVANS	0848	0946	1050
308B21	TOGERSON	0848	0946	1051
309B21	LEAIRD	0849	0946	1052

Major TAYLOR, Executive Officer, led nine PBJs of VMB-423 in a medium altitude daylight attack on Tobera target no. 27, New Britain. The formation was composed of three, three plane sections in columns stepped down.

The flight was airborne by 0849 and after joining up as described above proceeded to Adler Bay, New Britain. From Adler Bay a turn was made to 306° magnetic to the forks of the Keravas River. From this point the flight took a course of 005° magnetic to the junction of the Keravas and Werangoi Rivers and turned into the bombing run.

The bombing run was made on a heading of 033° magnetic. The first section bombing from 10,900 feet; the second section from 10,700 feet and the third section from 10,500 feet. The air speed for all the sections was 160 knots indicated. After the bombs were released the flight broke away to the right and returned to Green.

No anti-aircraft fire encountered.

Six bombs hit in the target area while two hit approximately 100 yards south of the target. One bomb hung and was salvaged in Saint George's Channel.

Due to cloud cover vertical photographs were indistinct. One oblique photo is attached showing the pattern of bomb hits with relation to the target.

(All times in this narrative are love).

JOSEPH T. TODD
1stLt., USMCR
Ass't. Intelligence Officer

NORMAN J. ANDERSON
LtCol., USMC
Commanding



VMB-423-127(2-2)3-19-45-10700'-8 1/4"-TOBERA #27-CONF