

MG-61

$\frac{146}{4}$

Report #102

#c(4)

>

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when  
filled out)

**I. GENERAL**

Ref: VMB-413    288  
           433       177  
           443       147

(a) Unit Reporting MAQ-61 (b) Based on or at Emirau Island (c) Report No 102  
 (d) Take off: Date 9 May, 1945 Time (LZT) 0855L (Zone); Lat 01° 36' S. Long 150° E  
 (e) Mission Coordinated medium altitude bombing  
of Vanakana #7, New Britain. (f) Time of Return 1205L (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)		
<b>PH-1</b>	<b>VMB-413</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8 x 250 GP Mk.57.</b>	<b>Noses: AN-M-103 inst</b> <b>Tails: AN-M-100A2 inst</b>
<b>PH-1</b>	<b>VMB-433</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8 x 250 GP Mk.57.</b>	<b>Noses: AN-M-103 inst.</b> <b>Tails: AN-M-100A2 inst</b>
<b>PH-1D</b>	<b>VMB-443</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8 x 250 GP Mk.57.</b>	<b>Noses: AN-M-103 inst.</b> <b>Tails: AN-M-102A2 inst</b>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<b>PH-5A</b>	<b>VMB 44</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Emirau Island</b>				
<b>F4U</b>	<b>ME #23</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>same</b>				

**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
<b>None</b>			(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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			
<b>None</b>						

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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>PB-1</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>3hrs.15'</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</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>X accurate</b>		
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	<b>X</b>			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	<b>X</b>			

## 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) **Vunakanau #7, New Britain** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1047L** (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target **2/10 cu. at 2000'**  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target **clear** (e) Visibility **10**  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **level** Bomb Sight Used **Mk.15.Mod.7**  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run **All** Spacing **50'** Altitude of Bomb Release **10,400-12200'**  
(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, general, destroyed or sunk)
1 <b>Vunakanau #7</b>	<b>1300x100'</b> <b>1650 x 100'</b>	<b>5</b> <b>VMB-413</b>	<b>40 x 250 GP's</b>		
2 <b>Kavieng A/A position, N.I.</b>		<b>1</b> <b>VMB-413</b>	<b>8 x 250 GP's</b>		
3 <b>Vunakanau #7</b>	<b>1300x100'</b> <b>1650 x 100'</b>	<b>9</b> <b>VMB-433</b>	<b>72 x 250 GP's</b>		<b>See "e"</b>
4 <b>Vunakanau #7</b>	<b>1300x100'</b> <b>1650 x 100'</b>	<b>9</b> <b>VMB-443</b>	<b>72 x 250 GP's</b>		
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).

- 1.- **12 x 250# GP's tore away 200' of the north-south leg of the hedgerow.**  
**28 x 250# GP's were strung from 500' east of the hedgerow to 100' west cratering a taxiway in several places and destroying garden plots.**
- 2.- **8 x 250# GP's hung up over target and were later dropped to hit northwest of Kavieng strip for unobserved results.**
- 3.- **4 x 250# GP's hit 1000' east of the north-south leg of the hedgerow for no damage.**  
**68 x 250# GP's were strung from 600' east of target to hedgerow's edge. Gardens in the area were destroyed.**
- 4.- **24 x 250# GP's tore away 200' of the east-west leg of the hedgerow.**  
**30 x 250# GP's fell just north of the east-west leg for no apparent damage in open areas.**  
**18 x 250# GP's fell 300' north of the target for unobserved results.**

**Photographs attached:**

**(5) (VMB-413-692) (0) (20") (11,800') (1058L) (9 May 45) (Vunakanau #7) (N.B.)**  
**(3) (VMB-433) (126)(0)(20") (12,200') (1047L) (9 May 45) (Vunakanau #7, N.B.)**

(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
- 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

413		433		443	
CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT
254B21	Mendenhall	266B21	Miller	279B21	Whitney
255B21	Ingberg	267B21	Carr	280B21	Palmer
256B21	Gilbert	268B21	Parks	281B21	Tafel
257B21	McLean	269B21	Woten	282B21	Whittemore
258B21	Bouscaren	270B21	Benjamin	283B21	Greene
259B21	Heinke	271B21	Parrish	284B21	Koslowski
		272B21	Sadkin	285B21	Ballou
		273B21	Smith	286B21	McGuire
		274B21	Fischer	287B21	Lord

Lt. Col. W.E. Miller led 24 PWs from three squadrons on a medium altitude bombing raid on Vanakanau #7, New Britain. The target, a triangular hedge-row of trees 1300' x 100' and 1650' x 100', a plane hide and storage area was blasted by 192 x 250# GPs which cratered the area and around the target. 200' of the north-south leg and another 200' from the east-west leg of the plane hide was thoroughly devastated and a number of gardens near the target were ruined.

VMB-433 with Lt. Col. W.E. Miller in the lead, took off at 0858; VMB-413 was next at 0906 followed by VMB-443 at 0912.

Each squadron upon being airborne, headed directly for Djaul Island where the rendezvous was held at 10,000 feet. The formation with the Group in a vee, squadrons javelin down, followed a course to Pondo Point, hence on an easterly leg for 30 miles at which time the group changed to its bombing formation, which was a right echelon, squadrons javelined down.

At this point a course of 060° magnetic was taken to the initial point followed by the run on a course of 310° magnetic and a speed of 155 knots, I.A.S. The lead squadron, VMB-433, was at an altitude of 12,200', VMB-413 at 11,800' and VMB-443 at 10,400' when bombs away at 1047. Heavy, moderate and accurate flak broke around the formation, with bursts on the left, dead ahead and above, coming from unobserved positions, as the squadrons were in their run.

Breaking quickly to the port, the formation cleared the vicinity of the target and rallied off Urara Island. No planes were damaged by the A/A, however, the flight on a course west of New Ireland, was interrupted, close to Huiraa, when one plane from VMB-443 blew a cylinder on the starboard engine. A quick landing brought the damaged plane safely on the deck at 1215, and the balance of the Group followed at 1224.

On the return leg, because release handle failed to operate over the primary, one plane from VMB-413 was given permission to drop its 8 x 250# GPs on Kavieng. Bombs landed in wooded area 300' northwest of the Kavieng Airstrip with unobserved results.

**R. R. CRUISE,**  
Capt., USMGR,  
Group Intelligence Officer.

**P. K. SMITH,**  
Col., USMC,  
Group Commander.





(176433)(126)(0120°)(1200)(171)(93445)(VUCAKAYAN 113)