

MG-61

4

145
④

Report # 72

ITC (4)

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

Ref: WR-413 228
WR-433 127
WR-443 99

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting MAC-61 (b) Based on or at Malren Island (c) Report No. 72
(d) Take off: Date 22 March, 1945 Time (LZT) 0845 (Zone); Lat. 1°36' S. Long. 150° E.
(e) Mission Coordinated low level bombing and strafing of Pinkinda Point, New Ireland. (f) Time of Return 1100L (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-1	WR413	5	None	5	1 x 2000 GP S-11 second	ALM-114 tail
PBJ-1	WR413	1	None	1	2 x 1000 GP delay	ALM-114 tail
PBJ-1	WR433	9	None	9	1 x 2000 GP ALM 30	S-11 second delay
PBJ-1	WR443	9	None	9	1 x 2000 GP MK.66	ALM-114 tail S-11 second delay

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
PBY-5A	VRB 144	1	Malren Island				
PBY	H2423	2	same				

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 _____ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 (YES OR NO)
 Time of Day and Brilliance _____ (k) Visibility _____ (MILES)
 (j) of Sun or Moon _____ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON, DAY, OVERCAST, ETC.)

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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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	
FBJ-1	107	99	2hrs 26'	974	375	1500	17,350	None	None	24

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

TURNS

DIVES

CEILINGS

RANGE

PROTECTION

ARMAMENT

No enemy aircraft encountered.

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No _____

XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Ray Pltn, E. I.
Lenskot Pltn, E. I. (b) Time Over Target(s) 1004 Z (Zone)
AREA UNDER ATTACK

(c) Clouds Over Target clear
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

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

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type level
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used WR 15 mod 7

Bombs Dropped per Run 23 (NUMBER) Spacing _____ (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 50-100'

(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	2500' x 1200'	5	4 x 2000 GP		
2 <u>Lenskot Pltn</u>		WR-413	2150 rds .50 cal.		
3 <u>same</u>		9	8 x 2000 GP		
		WR-433	800 rds .30 cal. 7700 rds .50 cal.		see "e"
4		9	9 x 2000 GP		
5 <u>same</u>		WR-443	700 rds .30 cal. 7500 rds .30 cal.		
6		1			
7 <u>Ray Pltn</u>		WR-413	2 x 1000 GP		
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.)

- 3 x 2000 GP's were long near edge of plantation, 1 x 2000 GP landed in the water and 1 additional tonner was returned to base
- 8 x 2000 GP's ran thru target, starting short and ending long, in the middle of the plantation. No damage observed. One additional tonner was returned to base.
- 9 x 2000 GP's ran from target to long, in plantation to the north. No damage observed.
- 2 x 1000 GP's landed in the target destroying two huts.

The target area was also thoroughly strafed by all squadrons.

(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
Defensive 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-Out
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	Bronleewe	266B21	Miller	279B21	Gould
255B21	Treacy	267B21	Percy	280B21	Christnas
256B21	Henry	268B21	Carr	281B21	Hartman
257B21	Bines	269B21	Lattner	282B21	Drazeal
258B21	Cochrane	270B21	Klein	283B21	Kennedy
259B21	Foy	271B21	Johnston	284B21	Mueller
		272B21	Hendy	285B21	Ross
		273B21	Smith	286B21	Kittnerman
		274B21	Fischer	287B21	Wetsel

The primary target for this coordinated low level bombing and strafing mission was Minikindu Point, New Ireland. However, due to adverse weather conditions over target, the flight directed its attack at Lenakot Plantation, a bivouac and storage area, 2500' x 1200', near the coast.

After the join up the flight proceeded to Selagut Island in a right echelon of squadrons, javelin down. At this point the flight proceeded on a direct course of 107° along the southeast coast of New Ireland to a point 10 miles from the planned turn. The flight circled right and headed for Lenakot.

Upon reaching the coast line near Doi Island the formation changed to the squadrons in line abreast, with 60 seconds interval between them. Helped by the let down, the bombing and strafing run was made on a heading of 350°, at a speed of 190 to 250 knots, breaking left to rally 5 miles north of Tangelawa Bay and return to base.

One plane that took off late and failed to join the flight, dropped his bombs over Ray Plantation.

Light and medium, inaccurate, meager AA fire was received by one squadron from positions approximately 1000 yards inland from southwest coast of New Ireland at Doi Island and from AA positions in the target area.

R. R. CHUISE,
Capt., USMC,
Group Intelligence Officer.

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