

VMB

141  
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Report # 370

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4

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

17690

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)  
**CONFIDENTIAL**

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB-423 (b) Based on or at Enirou (c) Report No. 370  
 (d) Take off: Date 15 July, 1945 Time (LZT) 2200-2205L (Zone); Lat. 1° 33' Long 150°  
 (e) Mission Medium altitude bombing and beeking of Kavieng, New Ireland. (f) Time of Return 0115-0120L (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>PRJ-1J</b>	<b>VMB423</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12 X 100/ Incendiary clusters</b>	

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<b>None</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 \_\_\_\_\_ (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		
<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	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-LJ	290	256	3hrs 15'	974	578	None	None	None	None	2

## 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

- \_\_\_\_ TURNS
- \_\_\_\_ DIVES
- \_\_\_\_ CEILINGS
- \_\_\_\_ RANGE
- \_\_\_\_ PROTECTION
- \_\_\_\_ ARMAMENT

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Kavieng, New Ireland. (b) Time Over Target (s) 2245-0045L (Zone)

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

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 30 miles (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Level Bomb Sight Used D-8 (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 1, 10 & 11 Spacing Varied Altitude of Bomb Release 10,000-10,500' (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 Kavieng, N. I.		2 VMB-423	23 X 100# Incendiary clusters	See (o)	
2 Panapni, N. I.		1 VMB-423	1 X 100# Incendiary clusters	See (o)	
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).

Three incendiary clusters dropped at 2257 caused fires at Kavieng which burned for fifteen minutes and two clusters dropped at 2345 started fires in Kavieng which burned five minutes. All other results were unobserved.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No 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 EMIRAU	T/O/T	P/C EMIRAU
*242B21	LINEN			
*243B21	TOGERSON			
244B21	HUNNOR	2200	2245-0040	0115
245B21	REIL	2205	2245-0045	0120

\*The first two hecklers were cancelled when field operations did not have the strip lights in operation.

Two PBJ's of VMF-423 took off to heckle Kavieng, New Ireland, each carrying twelve 100 pound incendiary clusters. 244B21 and 245B21 were airborne by 2200 and 2205 respectively and proceeded to the target area going around the west and south sides of New Hanover.

244B21 furnished cover while 245B21 heckled from 2245 to 2345. 245B21 dropped ten clusters on Kavieng, one on Panapai and one dud.

244B21 heckled from 2345 to 0040, dropping eleven 100 pound incendiary clusters on Kavieng and one in the water while 245B21 flew cover.

The planes returned to base by a direct route and both were safely on deck at Emirau by 0120. The cover plane maintained 12,000 foot altitude while the other plane bombed from 10,000 feet to 10,500 feet.

No searchlights or anti-aircraft fire were encountered.

Three incendiary clusters dropped at 2257 caused fires at Kavieng which burned for fifteen minutes and two clusters dropped at 2345 started fires in Kavieng which burned five minutes. All other results were unobserved.

(All times in this narrative are love).

WARD D. MARTIN,  
Capt., USMC,  
Intelligence Officer.

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