

VMB433

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ILC (10)

4

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VNB-433 (b) Based on or at Bairen Island (c) Report No. 187
 (d) Take off: Date 22 May, 1945 Time (LZT) 2000-2330 L (Zone); Lat. 01 36' S Long 150 00' E
 (e) Mission NAB Night Bockling of Kaviang, New Ireland (f) Time of Return 2230-0200 (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>PNJ-1</u>	<u>VNB-433</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>N11</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3 x 1000 GP Inst. AN-M44</u>	<u>Base: AN-M103 Tail: AN-M102A2</u>
		<u>2</u>	<u>N11</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3 x 1000 SAP Inst. AN-M59</u>	<u>Tail: AN-M102A2</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>N11</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>N11</u>			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

N 11

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____
 (i) Did Any Part of Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? _____ If so, Describe Clouds _____ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 (j) Time of Day and Brilliance _____ (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			
<u>N11</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	H11			
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
	H11			

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	
F4U-1	78	78	2hr. 30'	974	9%	N11	N11	N11	N11	6

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"/>	<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"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

H11

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) Kavieng Peninsula (b) Time Over Target(s) 2045-0115 1 (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target .3-.5 cu bases 2000' tops 6000'
(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 H11
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run all Spacing 100' Altitude of Bomb Release 11,000'
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed H11 Probably Destroyed H11 Damaged H11

(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 Strip		5 VMR-433	9 x 1000 GP		See Below
2 Kavieng Town		2 VMR-433	4 x 1000 GP		See Below
3 Belgai Hut Area		1 VMR-433	2 x 1000 GP		See Below
4 Belgai Strip		1 VMR-433	1 x 1000 GP		See Below
5 Panapai Bivouac		1 VMR-433	2 x 1000 GP		See Below
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).

Results were unobserved. Several fires started.

- (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

CALL	PILOT	TO ENIRAU	TOT	TCR ENIRAU
266B21	Major Long	2000	2045-2145	2230
267B21	Evans	2000	2045-2145	2230
268B21	Giberson	2145	2230-2330	2415
269B21	Tougas	2145	2230-2330	2415
270B21	Wilfong	2330	0015-0115	0200
271B21	Pittner	2330	0015-0115	0200

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

Six PBJ's from the squadron took part in a medium altitude night heckling of the Kavieng peninsula from Kavieng town to the Balgai Hut area. Two planes were on station simultaneously, one acting as cover plane while the other heckled, and then the heckler acting as cover for the original cover plane. Each Mitchell carried 3 x 1000 GP's and released on varied targets, making three runs. Following the take off, the planes flew southeast around the southern coast of New Hanover to the target area and returned around the northern coast. The average speed for the runs was 155 knots and the average altitude was 10,500'.

Results were unobserved however numerous fires were started. Nine bombs were dropped on Kavieng strip including the revetment areas. Four bombs were dropped on Kavieng town. Two bombs hit in the Balgai Hut area. One bomb hit on Balgai airstrip and two bombs were released on Panapai bivouac area.

No A/A was encountered by the first two Mitchells, however the second pair encountered intense, light, inaccurate A/A and meager, heavy accurate A/A. 268B21 had a close call on one of his runs, encountering two near misses, one directly in front and one directly behind his Mitchell. The third pair on station encountered moderate light A/A, flashes observed from the northwestern end of Kavieng strip. No damage was inflicted and all Mitchells were safely on the deck by 0200 L.

R. S. Hackett
1st Lt., USMC
Ass't. Intelligence Officer

Boyd O. Whitney
Major, USMC
Commanding Officer