

MG-61

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Report # 63

HC(4)

9

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

Ref: -VMB-413 212
VMB-433 111
VMB-443 83

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting MAG-61 (b) Based on or at Emirau Island (c) Report No 63
 (d) Take off: Date 23 February, 1945 Time (LZT) 0915-0923L (Zone); Lat. 1°36' S Long 150° E.
 (e) Mission Coordinated medium level attack on Tobera # 450-D, Rabaul, New Britain (f) Time of Return 1217-1230Z (one)

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	VMB413	6	None	6	1 x 2000 GP Inst	AN-M-102-A-2 tail AN-M-103 nose
PBJ-1	VMB413	3	None	3	2 x 1000 SAP Inst.	AN-M-103 nose AN-M-114-A1 tail
PBJ-1	VMB443	9	None	9	1 x 2000 GP MK.66	Nose: AN-M-103 inst Tail: AN-M-102-A2 inst
PBJ-1	VMB433	9	None	8	1 x 2000 GP AN-M-34	AN-M-103 inst.

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
PV-1	NZ#8	6	Emirau Island				
PEY-5A	VFB 44	1	same				
P4U	NZ# 22	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)
 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			
None						

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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 #450-D, N. B. (b) Time Over Target(s) 1105L (Zone) _____
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target CAVU
(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 None Altitude of Bomb Release 12,200-13,199'
(NUMBER) (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 Done to the serious, destroyed, etc.
1 Hedgerow running from NE to SW		9 VMB-413	6 x 2000 GP Inst 6 x 1000 SAP		
2 through the center of target		9 VMB-443	9 x 2000 GP		see "o"
3		8 VMB-433	8 x 2000 GP		
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.)

Twenty-six PBJ's unloaded a total of 23 x 2000# GP's and 6 x 1000# SAP's at Tobera 450-D using the diagonal hedgerow as an aiming point. 8 x 2000# GP's found that mark and nicked the western end of the row. The remainder of the bombs were short and wide up to 3500' falling in gardens and wooded areas. (One of these 2000# GP's proved to be a dud. The twenty-seventh plane returned to base due to engine trouble and the ten bomb was brought back with it.

At the time of the strike no damage was observed. A photo reconnaissance plane flying over the target soon afterwards encountered nothing but clouds so specific results could not be obtained through photographs. The SAP bombs were loaded because of the shortage of bombs.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

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XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left
Use additional sheets if necessary).

ARMAMENT

Guns, Gunsights
Turrets
Ammunition
Bombs, Torpedoes
Bomb Sights
Bomb Releases

COMMUNICATIONS

Radio, Radar
Homing Devices
Visual Signals
Codes, Ciphers

RECOGNITION

IFF
Signals
Battle Lights
Procedures

PROTECTION

Armor, Points and Angles
of Fire Needing Further
Protection
Leak Proofing

EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

Parachutes
Life Belts, Life Rafts
Safety Belts
Emergency Kits
Rations, First Aid

NAVIGATIONAL EQUIPMENT

Compasses
Driftsights
Octants
Automatic Pilots
Charts
Field Lighting

INSTRUMENTS

Flight
Power Plant

OXYGEN SYSTEM

**CAMOUFLAGE AND
DECEPTION DEVICES**

STRUCTURE

Airframe
Control Surfaces
Control System
Dive Flaps
Landing Gear
Heating System
Flight Characteristics
At Various Loadings

POWER PLANT

Engines
Engine Accessories
Propellers
Lubricating System
Starters
Exhaust Dampers

HYDRAULIC SYSTEM

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

Auxiliary Plant
Lights

FUEL SYSTEM

FLIGHT CLOTHING

MAINTENANCE

BASE FACILITIES

Plane Servicing Equipment
Personnel Facilities

413		433		443	
CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT
254B21	Mendenhall	266B21	Smith, A.G.	279B21	Gould
255B21	Powers	267B21	Smith, F.F.	280B21	Ballou
256B21	Smith	268B21	Pittner	281B21	Christmas
257B21	Arsenault	269B21	Loughran	282B21	Harmond
258B21	Ross	270B21	Wilfong	283B21	Dee
259B21	Conant	271B21	Sory	284B21	Wilson
260B21	Brueggestrass	272B21	Bable	285B21	Stewart
261B21	Helling	273B21	Huston	286B21	Wetzel
262B21	Gearhart	274B21	Kromka	287B21	Guillotte

Tobera #450-D, a new target, is an area approximately 2200' x 2200' including part of a plantation and a prominent hedgerow. It is about 4500 yards north of the east end of the strip and is a reported supply and personnel area including a number of small buildings.

On take off the 3 PBJ squadrons and the PV squadron joined up in a box formation and flew directly to Powell Harbor. From there the planes headed northeast and shifted to a right echelon of squadrons stepped down. Swinging into a bomb run at a speed of 160 kts with a heading of 021°, the altitudes were from 13,100' down to 11,600'. The break was to the left. However, because of clouds the approach had been considerably to the left of the planned course with the result that the breakaway came within range of Vunakanau AA positions. No AA was seen over the target but a dozen bursts of heavy AA were fairly close to the retiring planes. None were holed.

The flight rallied north of Urara Island and returned directly to base.

LtCol Guillotte, CO, VMB-443, flew as an observer, not in the formation. However, he bombed the target so his plane is included in the statistics.

D. E. HATCH,
Capt., USMCR,
Group Intelligence Officer.

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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE