

VMB 423

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Report #333

IC(9)

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AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

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I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB-423 (b) Based on or at Green Island (c) Report No. 333
 (d) Date of Action 21 May, 1945 (e) Take off: Time 0915 to L2T (GCT), Lat. 04° 32' Long 154° 14'
 (f) Mission Medium altitude dayraid, Buin #2, Bougainville. (g) Time of Return 1129 to L2T (GCT)
0917 (GCT)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

(a) TYPE	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NO OF SORTIES	(d) NO ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	(e) NO ATTACKING TARGET	(f) BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE)	(g) FUZE, SETTING
<u>PBJ-LJ</u>	<u>VMB423</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6 X 500# GP</u>	<u>Nose: AH-U-103 .1 Sec Delay Tail: AH-U-101A2 .025 Sec Delay</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>PHYSA</u>	<u>VPB-53</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Green Island</u>				

IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (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>None</u>			<u>(GCT)</u>			
			<u>(GCT)</u>			
			<u>(GCT)</u>			
			<u>(GCT)</u>			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____

(i) Weather and Clouds at Location of Encounter(s) _____

(j) Sun or Moon _____ (k) Visibility _____

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		
<u>None</u>					

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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

(a) Location of Target(s) Buin # 2, Bougainville. (b) Time Over Target(s) 1027 ^{L2F} ₆₀₄

(c) Weather and Clouds Over Target .3 Cloud Cover with light rain.

(d) Sun or Moon _____ (e) Visibility Hazy

XI. TARGETS, RESULTS OF ATTACK.

	(a) DESCRIPTION OF TARGET (List All Ships in Group, Whether or Not Individually Attacked)	(b) A/C ATTACKING (c) SQUADRON	(d) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH TARGET	(e) ALTITUDE OF RELEASE	(f) HITS
	1	<u>Buin # 2, Bougainville.</u>	<u>VMB-423</u>	<u>36 @ 500# GP</u>	<u>12,100</u> <u>12,300</u>
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

(g) **RESULTS:** (FOR SHIP TARGETS 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, WITH DIAGRAMS OR CHARTS WHERE DESIRABLE. DESCRIBE TARGETS FULLY IN (a), AND IN REPORTING DAMAGE OR DESTRUCTION, IDENTIFY BY NUMBERS AT LEFT. USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY).

The pattern of bomb hits in relation to the target is shown on the attached photograph.

PHOTOGRAPH REFERENCE:

VMB-423 (210) (1-2) 5-21-45 (80°-12,100') Buin #2, Bougainville, CONF.

(h) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached

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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
- Release
- Pull-Out
- Dive Angle
- Strafing
- Retirement
- Defensive Tactics

DEFENSE, ENEMY

- Evasive Tactics, Ships
- Concealment
- Anti-aircraft
- Searchlights
- Night Fighter Tactics

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 GREEN	T/O/T	F/G GREEN
301B21	Major TAYLOR	0915	1027	1129
302B21	LEAIRS	0915	1027	1129
303B21	LUSKY	0916	1027	1130
304B21	IVERSON	0916	1027	1131
305B21	EWERS	0917	1027	1131
306B21	HOPPER	0917	1027	1132

Major TAYLOR, Executive Officer, led six PBJs of VNB-423 in a medium altitude daylight raid on Bula target number 2, Bougainville. The strike was airborne and joined-up in two, three plane sections.

After joining up as described above the flight proceeded down the east coast of Bougainville to the south of the Abia River and turned inland on a heading of 223° magnetic for 4 miles to check drift. The flight then took a heading of 204° magnetic for 9 miles and turned into the bombing run.

The bombing run was made on a heading of 204° magnetic, the first section bombing from 12,300 feet and the second from 12,100 feet. After passing the bomb release line the flight broke away to the left and returned to Green. All planes were safely on deck by 1132.

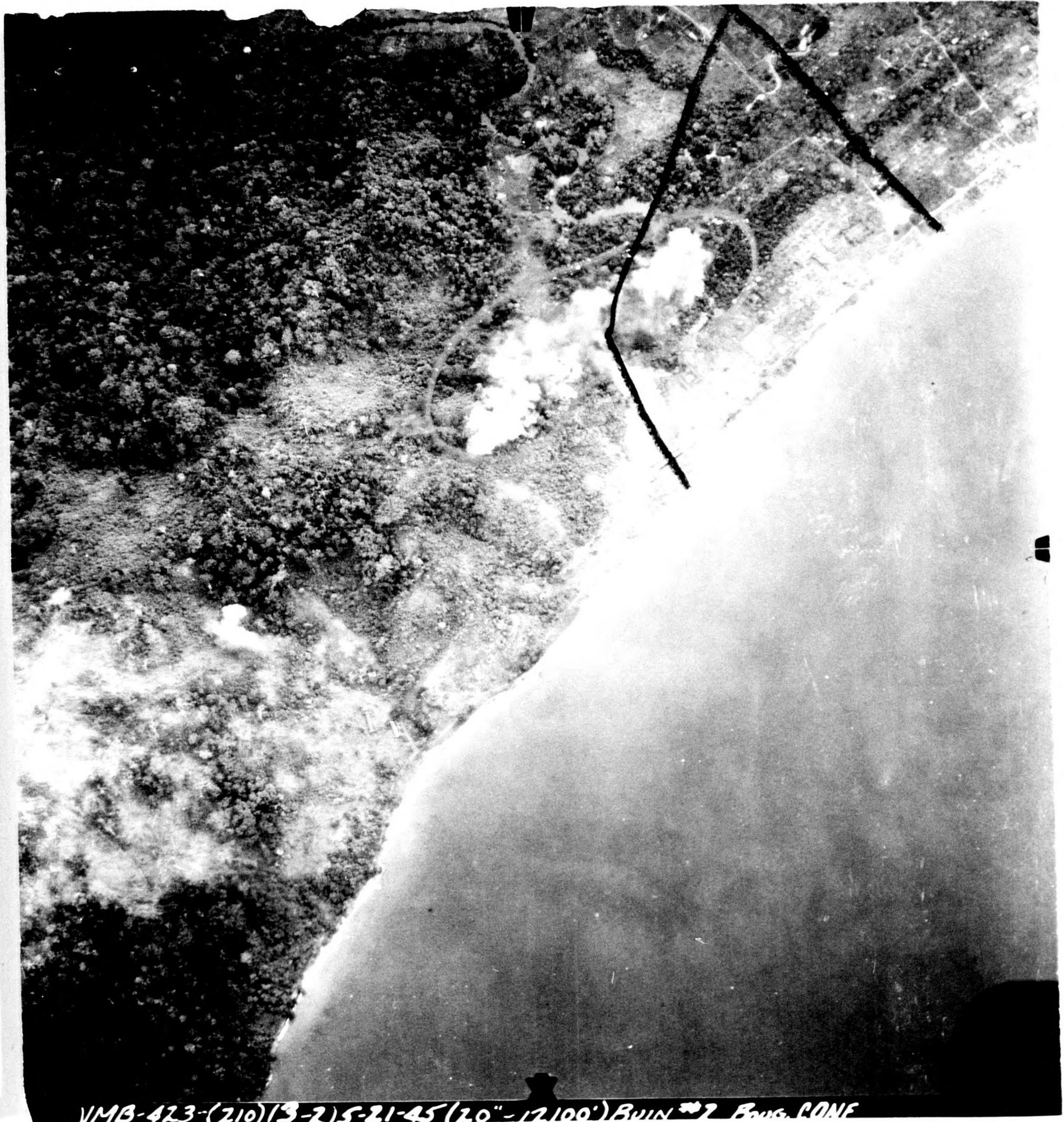
Five bursts of accurate and inaccurate anti-aircraft fire were received from known positions on Kangu Hill.

The pattern of bomb hits in relation to the target is shown on the attached photograph.

(All times in this narrative are local).

WARD B. MARTIN
Capt., USMC
Intelligence Officer

NORMAN J. ANDERSON
LtCol., USMC
Commanding



VMB-423-(210)B-7)S-21-45(20"-17100')BUN #7 BUNG. RONE