

VMB-423

161
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Report # 319

II(9)

5

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

053811
CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB-423 (b) Based on or at Green Island (c) Report No. 319
 (d) Take off: Date 12 May, 1945 Time (LZT) 0845-0849 (Zone); Lat. 04°32' Long. 154°14'
 (e) Mission Medium Altitude Daylight raid on Kangu Hill, Anti-Aircraft Gun Positions, Bougainville. (f) Time of Return 102-106 (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-1J	VMB423	9	None	9	3 X 1000/ GP	Nose: AN-M-103 .1 Sec Delay Tail: AN-M-102A2 .025 Sec Delay

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
PBY5A	VPB-53	1	Green Island				

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:				(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER	GUNS USED		
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	
PBJ-LJ	200	186	2hr17'	974	409	None	None	None	None	9

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
 - TURN
 - DIVES
 - CEILINGS
 - RANGE
 - PROTECTION
 - ARMAMENT

No enemy aircraft encountered.

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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) **Kangu Hill AA Posit., Boug.** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1000** (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 **30 miles**
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Level** Bomb Sight Used **Mark 15**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run **3** Spacing **125'** Altitude of Bomb Release **10,700'**
(NUMBER) (FEET) (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 Kangu Hill AA Posit.		9 VMB-423	27 X 1000# GP	See (e)	
2					
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.)

All bombs fell on the south slope of the hill just short of the AA battery. The pattern of bomb hits with relation to the target is shown on the attached photograph.

PHOTOGRAPH

REFERENCE: **VMB423 (196) (3-3) 5-12-45 (20°-10300') KANGU HILL, BOUG., CONF.**

(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
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 GREEN	T/O/T	P/C GREEN
301B21	Major LOWELL	0845	1000	1102
302B21	GARTHWAITE	0845	1000	1102
303B21	BARRETT	0846	1000	1103
304B21	BEAIRD	0846	1000	1103
305B21	HEIL	0847	1000	1104
306B21	KEITH	0847	1000	1104
307B21	WALLER	0848	1000	1105
308B21	EWERS	0848	1000	1105
309B21	RIGDON	0849	1000	1106

Major LOWELL, Operations Officer, led nine PBJs of VMB-423 in a medium altitude daylight attack on the anti-aircraft gun positions at Kangu Hill, Bougainville. The raid was composed of three, three plane sections javelin down.

The strike was airborne by 0850 and after joining up as described above proceeded down the east coast of Bougainville to Luluai Point. Here the formation turned to a heading of 173° magnetic until south of Tonoiei Harbor. Then the formation flew to Maifu Island where it turned northwesterly for four miles and then turned into the bomb run.

Bombs were released at 1000 from 10,700 feet on a heading of 324° magnetic at an indicated air speed of 160 knots.

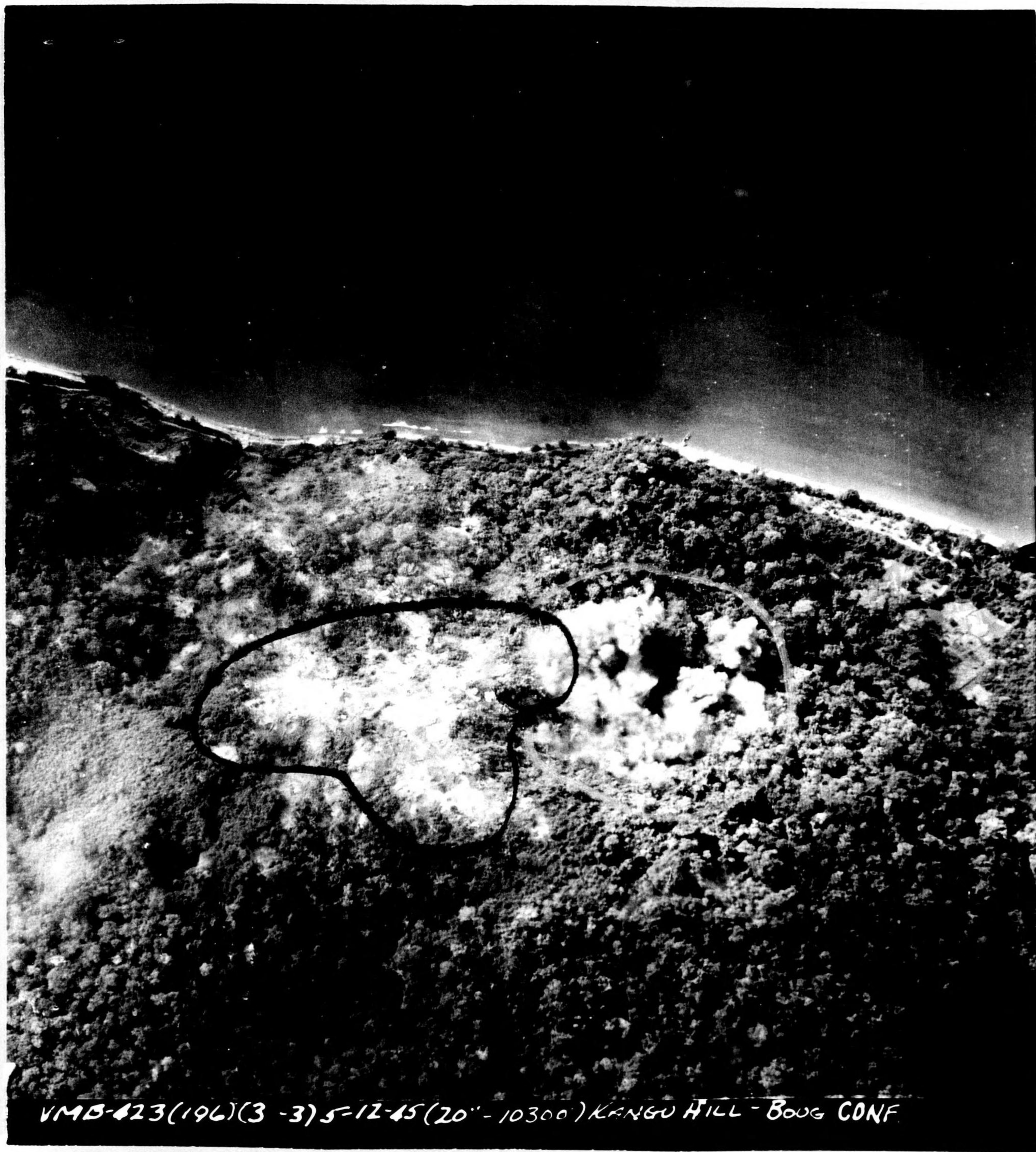
Seven bursts of accurate heavy anti-aircraft fire were encountered from known positions on Kangu Hill. Although no planes were holed a number of planes were rocked by the bursts.

All bombs fell on the south slope of the hill just short of the AA battery. The pattern of bomb hits with relation to the target is shown on the attached photograph.

(All times in this narrative are love).

WARD D. MARTIN
Capt., USMC
Intelligence Officer

NORMAN J. ANDERSON
LtCol., USMC
Commanding



VMB-423(196)(3-3)5-12-45(20''-10300)KANGU HILL - BOUG CONF.