

MG-61

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Prepart II 67

IC(4)

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

15618 210270
CONFIDENTIAL
Ref: WR-413 219
WR-433 118
WR-443 91

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting MAC-61 (b) Based on or at Maiana Island (c) Report No. 67
 (d) Take off: Date 1 March, 1945 Time (LZT) 0845-0853L (Zone); Lat. 1°36' S. Long 150° E.
 (e) Mission Cordinated medium level bombing of Vunakonan #3. New Britain. (f) Time of Return 1137-1202L (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)		
PNJ-1	WR-413	2	None	2	2 x 1000 GP inst.	AN-M-103 nose
PNJ-1	WR-413	4	None	4	1 x 2000 GP inst.	AN-M-102-A2 tail
PNJ-1	WR-433	8	None	8	1 x 2000 GP inst.	AN-M-103 inst.
PNJ-1	WR-443	9	None	5	1 x 2000 GP inst.	Nose: AN-M-103 inst Tail: AN-M-102-A2 inst

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
PV-1	H248	6	Maiana Island				
PBY-5A	VPB 44	1	same				
P4U	H2422	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)
 (j) Time of Day and Brilliance _____ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.)
 of Sun or Moon _____ (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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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-1	230	202	2hrs55'	975	460	N	0	N	T	14
PBJ-1	395	70	3.3	970	520	N	0	N	T	9

IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	X			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	X			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	X			

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

- SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes
- URNS
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

No enemy aircraft encountered.

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. _____

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) **(Primary) Yunakanau #3, N. B.** **(Secondary) Kavieng Strip, N. I.** Time Over Target(s) **1031L** (Zone) **1115L**
- (c) Clouds Over Target **(Primary) 5/10 cumulus bases 2000' tops to 8000'**
(Secondary) 5 tenths cumulus at 2000' tops to 8000'
- (d) Visibility of Target **(Primary) Partially obscured** (e) Visibility **10** MILES
(Secondary) clear (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS ETC.)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type **level** Bomb Sight Used **Mk 15 mod 7**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run **all** Spacing _____ (NUMBER) (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release **11,300-12,800** (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed **None** Probably Destroyed **None** Damaged **None**

(h) AIMING POINT	(i) DIMENSION OR TONNAGE	(j) NO. & C. ATTACKING (k) SQUADRON	(l) BOMB AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED (M) TYPE & M. POINT	(m) NO. HIT OR A.M. POINT	(n) DAMAGE TO TARGET (o) TYPE & EXTENT OF DAMAGE
1 Yunakanau #3	1500' x 3300'	6 VMB-413	4 x 1000 GP 4 x 2000 GP		
2 same		8 VMB-433	8 x 2000 GP		see "o"
3 Kavieng Strip		5 VMB-443	4 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, marking hits and extent of hits. For all targets give location and effect of hits and identify by numbers above. Use additional sheets if necessary.)

A cloud cover over the primary target kept Yunakanau #3 safe from the bombardiers' view and as a result 4 x 2000# GP's and 4 x 1000# GP's landed 1200 yards due west of the northwest corner of the target. 8 x 2000# GP's fell along the edge of some woods and in a cleared area 1100 yards due north of the northwest corner of the target where no apparent damage was indicated. Inasmuch as the flight leader's bomb hung while over the primary target, five FBJ's held their load and proceeded to secondary - Kavieng strip - where 4 x 2000# GP were dropped on the northwest end of the runway while 1 x 2000# GP refused to drop and was returned to base. The photograph attached shows the smoke rising from the strip area at Kavieng. Photographs taken during the strike were mostly cloud covered while after-strike photographs were prevented by a complete cloud cover that persisted in remaining over the area.

Photograph attached:
VMB-443 - 168 **1 March, 1945** **Kavieng Strip (Secondary) 8 1/2"**

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

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XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left)

- 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

Use additional sheets if necessary

CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT
254B21	Mendenhall	266B21	Miller	279B21	Guillette
255B21	Powers	267B21	Fischer	280B21	Burt
256B21	Smith	268B21	Parrish	281B21	Dee
257B21	Arsenault	269B21	Percy	282B21	Schreier
258B21	Ross	270B21	Smith	283B21	Whittemore
259B21	Helling	272B21	Johnston	284B21	Lord
		273B21	Carr	285B21	Kitterman
		274B21	Benjamin	286B21	Hudson
				287B21	Hartman

Vunakanau, Target #3 is part of the Northern Plantation (coconut palms), 4000 ft north of the northwest end of the strip. It is an area 1500 ft by 3300 ft including a number of small buildings and stores.

LtCol Guillette, of VMB-443 led three PBJ squadrons and six New Zealand PV's along the course out directly to Powell Bay. At different points enroute three planes of VMB-443 returned because of engine trouble, the last plane was accompanied by his wingman. This left only five planes in the leading squadron. The formation was a vee of squadrons stepped up with the PV's high on the right.

Leaving Powell Bay the flight headed East for 10 miles and then turned northward to a course of 024° for 26 miles swinging into the bomb run of 350°. The altitudes were from 12,800 down to 11,200.

VMB-443, 433, and NZ#8 were bombing on the squadron leader, as only the lead plane in each squadron was equipped with a bombsight. As all the planes in VMB-413 had bombsights the squadron bombed by sections using the PDI but not the automatic pilots. Each squadron had a separate aiming point on the long axis of the target. Turning into the bomb run VMB 413 in #2 position remained on the left of the leading squadron. The other two squadrons came up into a right echelon. At the bomb release line the flight leaders' bomb release did not function so the planes of VMB-443 did not drop. The othersquadrons released on their leaders through 5/10th's clouds.

Breaking left the flight rallied 5 miles north of Urara Island and were advised that VMB443 planes would hit the alternate target, Kavieng Strip. When the returning flight reached Selapiu Island the five planes of VMB-443 turned north to approach the target. The bomb run was on a course of 050° at 13,200' and a speed of 170. The leaders bomb again hung at the moment of release. The Colonel rocked his plane in a prearranged signal so the other bombs were away in time to hit the north west end of the runway. The planes broke left and landed shortly after the other squadrons. LtCol Guillette landed last after an unsuccessful attempt to jettison his bomb.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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Group Commander

SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

DATE



Smoke from bomb hit

STRIP

11

11/20/44