

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

9 01096

(a) Unit Reporting VMO-251 (b) Based on or at Piva North, Bougainville (c) Report No. 1
 (d) Date of Action 23 August, 1944 (e) Take off: Time 0930 L (GCT); Lat. 4° 25'S Long 154° 10' E
 (f) Mission Bomb and strafe Rataval 127 (g) Time of Return 1140 L (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
F4U-1	VMO-251	9		9	1x500 Mag. Cluster	
FG-1A	"	2		2	" " "	

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
F4U-1	VMF-223	6	Same as VMO-251				
FG-1A	"	6					

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
			(GCT)			
	NONE		(GCT)			
			(GCT)			
			(GCT)			

(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	GUNS USED		
	NONE					

87209

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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

(a) Location of Target(s) RATAVAL 127 (b) Time Over Target(s) 1030 IGCT
 (c) Weather and Clouds Over Target 7/10 at 15,000 ft. Hazy.
 (d) Sun or Moon _____ (e) Visibility 15 miles

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	RATAVAL 127	11 VMO-251	11x500 lb. Mag. Clusters. 2100 rds.	
2					
3	Buildings west of HAPAN, BUKA ISLAND.	1 VMO-251	1x500 lb. Mag. Cluster. No strafe.		1
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).

Saw several fires in target area, with lots of smoke over target. Very little strafing by planes, for lack of suitable target. One plane separated from flight dropped on a group of thatched huts just west of HAPAN, BUKA ISLAND, setting at least three huts afire. See next page for explanation.

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

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AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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

This operation was staged through GREEN ISLAND, where the supply of magnesium clusters is stored. Took off from BOUGAINVILLE at 0710, landed at GREEN at 0750. All planes of VMO-251 except 157, piloted by Lt. ROBINSON, took off, rendezvoused with the 12 planes of VMF-223 over GREEN. Proceeded to target with VMF-223 leading the flight, via the north of TAWII POINT. ROBINSON took off late because of starter trouble, attempted without success to overtake the flight, returned to base after dropping his mag. cluster on a group of thatched huts located just west of HAPAN, BUKA ISLAND, firing three of them.

The flight made its approach from the sea, made a 180 degree turn, dropped bombs and retired to the seaward. Very little strafing was done, for lack of a target.

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

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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

NONE

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

MISSION LOG

<u>PLANE NO.</u>	<u>PILOT</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
036	TELLER	Area
942	MOYNIHAN	"
157	ROBINSON	Fired 3 huts.
037	TANNER	Area
895	SMITH	Area
387	NEILSON	"
691	ROSELLEN	"
032	MAC LACHLAN	"
119	JENNINGS	Area
724	CRUTCHER	"
394	FOLEY	"
265	FRANK	"

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REPORT PREPARED BY:

H. B. Welch

H. B. WELCH, 2ndLt., A.C.I.O.

APPROVED BY:

W. L. BACHELER, Major

23 August, 1944.

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE

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

(a) Location of Target(s) 1. CD guns at MOILO POINT, BOUGAINVILLE 1.1250 L
2. Barge at KARSORILAI, BUKA ISLAND (b) Time Over Target(s) 2.1705 ~~L~~
 (c) Weather and Clouds Over Target 1. Cavu.
2. Cavu.
 (d) Sun or Moon _____ (e) Visibility Unlimited

XI. TARGETS, RESULTS OF ATTACK.

(a) DESCRIPTION OF TARGET (List All Ships in Group, Whether or Not Individually Attacked)	(b) A/C ATTACKING	(d) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH TARGET	(e) ALTITUDE OF RELEASE	(f) HITS
	(c) SQUADRON			
1 Coastal Defense guns MOILIO POINT, BOUGAINVILLE	4 VMO-251	3,000 rds.50 Cal. 4x500 lb. bombs	25 ft.	3
2 22 ft. Barge discovered at KARSORILAI, BUKA ISLAND.	4 VMO-251	3,200 rds.50 Cal. 4x1000 lb. bombs	"	None.
3 Huts and gardens 4 miles west of KAHILI	4 VMO-251	3,000 rds.50 Cal.		Unobserved
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).

Three damaging hits on Coastal Defense guns at MOILIO POINT, BOUGAINVILLE. Three huts destroyed there, fired by strafing the camouflage netting over gun position. Strafed gardens and huts west of KAHILI. Strafed thoroughly a barge on west coast of BUKA ISLAND.

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(h) Were Photographs Taken? Yes. Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached.
 These were movie shots by gun camera.

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 - Control System
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 - Flight Characteristics At Various Loadings
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- HYDRAULIC SYSTEM**
- ELECTRICAL SYSTEM**
 - Auxiliary Plant
 - Lights
- FUEL SYSTEM**
- FLIGHT CLOTHING**
- MAINTENANCE**
- BASE FACILITIES**
 - Plane Servicing Equipment
 - Personnel Facilities

MISSION LOG

	<u>PLANE NO.</u>	<u>PILOT</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
	# 1		
	895	JENNINGS	Direct hit.
	044	BARTON	Damaging hit.
	037	MAC LACHLAN	Overshot.
	221	NEILSON	Damaging hit.
	# 2		
	895	JENNINGS	All four planes missed. Bombs fell short and skipped over the target.
	044	BARTON	
	037	MAC LACHLAN	
	221	NEILSON	

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REPORT PREPARED BY: H.B. Welch
H.B. WELCH, 2ndLt., A.C.I.O.
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY: W.L. Bachelier
W.L. BACHELER, Major,
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

10
25 August, 1944.
DATE