CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Re	eporting VI	MO-251	(b)	Based on o		va Nor		(c)	9 0109 Report No	
(d) Date of	Action 23	3 August	1944e)	Take off:	Time_C	930 L	_( <b>E</b> CT); L	at. 4° 25'	S Long 1	.54°10' E
(f) Mission	Bomb a	and stra	fe Rata	val 127				(g) Time of	Return 1140	L (GCT)
II. OW	N AIRCRAI	FT OFFICIA	LLY COVERE	ED BY THIS	REPO	RT.				
(a) TYPE	(b) SQUADRON	NO. OF SORTIES	NO. ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	(e) NO. ATTACK- ING TARGET		BOMBS A	(f) ND TORPEDOES (PER PLANE)		(g) FUZE, SE	
F4U-1	VMO-25	1 9		9	1x50	O Mag	Clust	er		
FG-1A	11	2		2	11	17	tt			
			AIRCRAFT E		IN TH				, , ,	-
F4U-1	SQUADRON VMF-223	NUMBER 6	Same as	VMO-25	1	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BAS	E
FG-LA	11	6								
IV. ENI	EMY AIRCR	RAFT ENCO	UNTERED (E	By Own Airc	raft Lis	ted in 11 (	Only).			
(a) TYPE	(b) NO. OBSERVED	NO. ENGAGING OWN A/C			ION OF JNTER			OES CARRIED; SERVED	CAMOL	(g) IFLAGE AND ARKING
	NONE		(GCT)							
	NOIVE		(GCT)							
			(GCT)							
			(GCT)							
	r and Clouds	at Location (j) Su	of Encounter n or Moon		AID (B)	Own Aire	waft Lintad	_ (k) Visibili	ty	
(a) TYPE ENEMY A/C		YED OR DAMAG		MAGED III /	AIK (Dy	OWII AIIC	Tart Listed	(c)		(d) DAMAGE
ENEMY A/C	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT	OR GUNNER		GUNS US	SED	WHERE HIT	r, ANGLE	CLAIMED
								A8.		
	NONE					-11.				
				Ut 255 8	1	08		,		
				- 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1	1/(20					
1				10528841fn		94 CA				
/										
	872	09				.,	,			

RESTRICTED (Reclassify when filled out)

(a) TYPE OWN A/O	(b) SQUADRON	TYPE	CAUSE: TYPE ENE	MY A/C	WHERE H	IT, ANGLE ( tanks, equi	List armor,	(Give Bureau	NT OF LOSS serial number	OR DAMAGE, er of planes destroyed	
1			601, 01, 01, 11, 11			, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,					
2											
1	NONE										
•						No. No. 4					
5											
5		-							-	- 12 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	
		1									
	-	-									
									Quality.		
3											
<u> </u>											
VII P	PSONNEL	CASILA	ITIES (in air	craft listed	in II only; id	entify wit	h nlanes li	sted in VI by	Nos at	left)	
a) (b)	KOONINEL	CASUA	(c)	Clart listed		(d)	n planes ii.	sted in VI by	(e)	letty:	
NO. SQUADRO	N	NAME, RA	NK OR RATING			AUSE		со	CONDITION OR STATUS		
	NONE			1							
,											
		-									
VIII	ANCE FU	EL AN	ID ALAMATINI	TION DAT	A FOR DIAN	IEC DETI	IDAIINIC				
				THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN 2 I	A FOR PLAN			UNITION EXPEN	DED	(b)	
TYPE A/C	MILES OUT	MILES RETURN	AV. HOURS	AV. FUEL LOADED	AV. FUEL CONSUMED	.30	.50	20MM	MM	NO. OF PLANE RETURNING	
		253	2.2	344	160			2100		11	
70 -		~//	~ •								
										18, 400	
IX. EN	EMY ANT			NTERED (	Check one blo						
		CALIB			NON	NE	MEAGER	MOD	ERATE	INTENSE	
	-fused shells,								,		
	ine gun bullets										
ort - Macr	nie gun bunets	5, 0.511111-	13.211111								
X. CO	MPARATIV	E PERF	ORMANCE,	DWN AND	ENEMY AIR	CRAFT (	use check	list at left).			
PEED, CLIMB,											
at various alti	tudes										

TURNS
DIVES
CEILINGS
RANGE
PROTECTION
ARMAMENT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

1020 TOCT

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

X.	ATTACK	ON	ENEMY	SHIPS	OR	GROUND	<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	(By	Own	Aircraft	Listed in	II Onl	y),
----	--------	----	-------	-------	----	--------	-------------------	-----	-----	----------	-----------	--------	-----

(a) Location of Target(s) RATAVAL 127	(b) Time Over	larget(s)	ا عظم فرن	
(c) Weather and Clouds Over Target 7/10	at 15,000 ft.	Hazy.		
(d) Sun or Moon		(e) Visibili	ty <u>15 mi</u>	les
XI. TARGETS, RESULTS OF ATTACK.				
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	ALTITUDE OF RELEASE	(f) HITS
1 RATAVAL 127	11 VMO-251	llx500 lb. Mag. Clusters. 2100 r	ds.	11
2				
Buildings west of HAPAN, BUKA ISLAND.	1 VMO-251	lx500 lb. Mag. Cluster. No stra	fe.	1
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				

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 that ched huts just west of HAPAN, BUKA ISLAND, setting at least three huts afire. See next page for explanation.

<sup>(</sup>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).

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

# 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

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, rendevoused 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 of 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.

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

NONE

MISSION LOG

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

9 01096

APPROVED BY:

W. L. BACHELER, Major

23 August, 194

SIGNATURE

WELCH, 2ndLt., A.C.I.O. RANK AND DUTY

signAtoteg. CO.

RANK AND DUTY

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Re		0-251	(b)	Based on c	or at B				(c) Report 1	No3	
(d) Date of	Action 25	August	101.1(a)	Take off:	Time	1330 L 1645 L	(C <b>XX</b> ) · 1	at 601 31	S 10	ng 155°7'	E
(a) Date of	1. St	rafe, p	noto, an	d bomb	CD	guns a	t MOILO	POINT	, BOUGA	INVILLE.	
(f) Mission	2. BO	mb ana	strafe a	barge	on	BUKA I	SLAND.	(g) Time	of Return_	1600 L (GO	CT)
(a) TYPE	(b) SQUADRON		(d) NO. ENGAGING ENEMY A/C		1		(f) AND TORPEDOE ED (PER PLANE)	S	FU	(g) ZE, SETTING	
F4U-1	VM0-25	1 8	None	8		1x500 1x1000			1. 4-5 2. Sam	sec. del	ау
											_
	HER U. S.	OR ALLIED	AIRCRAFT E	MPLOYED	IN T	HIS OPER	ATION.				
TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER		BASE		TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER		BASE	
None											
IV. ENI	EMY AIRCR	AFT ENCO	UNTERED (E	By Own Air	craft l	Listed in 11	Only).				
(a) TYPE	(b) NO. OBSERVED	NO ENGAGING OWN A/C		LOCAT	(e) TION OF DUNTER		BOMBS, TORPE GUNS O	DOES CARRIE	D; (	(g) CAMOUFLAGE AND MARKING	
None											
			(GCT)								
			(GCT)								
			(GCT)								
			(GCT)								
	and Clouds	at Location(j) Sur	of Encounter					( <b>k</b> ) Visi			
	1	YED OR DAMAGE	YED OR DAN	MAGED IN	AIR (	By Own Ai	rcraft Listed	in II Only	(c)	(d) DAMA	
TYPE ENEMY A/C	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT	OR GUNNER		GUNS	USED	WHERE	HIT, ANGLE	CLAIM	GE ED
None.											
											_
								9 (	1096		
1	/										_
											-1

CONFIDENTIAL

VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those listed in II only).

(a) a TYPE OWN A		CAUSE: TYPE ENEMY A/C, TYPE GUN, OR OPERATIONAL CAUSE	(d) WHERE HIT, ANGLE		EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE, REMARKS
1 F4U-	-1 VMO-251	Operational	Plane struck a	tree	Left wing change.
2			while in a low		
3			level strafing	, ,	
4			attack.		
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
0					
1					
2					
3					
4					

VII. PERSONNEL CASUALTIES (in aircraft listed in II only; identify with planes listed in VI by Nos. at left).

(a) (b	DRON	NAME, RANK OR RATING	(d) CAUSE	(e) CONDITION OR STATUS
Non	e.			

VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA

(a)	(b)	(c) MILES	AV HOURS	(e)	AV. FUEL	(g) TOTAL AMMUNITION EXPENDED, PLANES RETURNI				
TYPE A/C	OUT	RETURN	AV. HOURS IN AIR	AV. FUEL LOADED	AV. FUEL CONSUMED	NO. OF PLANES	.30	.50	20MM	MM
1.F4U-1	52	272	2.5	344	225			6,000		
2.F4U-1	60	60	1.3	344	110			3,200		

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

SPEED, CLIMB, at various altitudes

TURNS
DIVES
CEILINGS
RANGE
PROTECTION
ARMAMENT

(d) Sun or Moon.

## AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED (Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

v	ATTACK (	146	ENIELIV	CHIDC	AD.	CROUNIN	OD IECTIVES	( D	A	A:	I intend in	11 Onl.
Λ.	ALIACK	אוע	EMEWI	SUILS	UK	GROUND	<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	(DV	Own	Aircraft	Listed in	II Only /.

	1.	CD g	uns	at MOIL	O POI	NT. B	OUGAINVII	LE		1.	1250	L
(a)	Location of Target(s)2.								Over	Target(s)2.	1705	TOTA
			1.	Cavu.								
(c)	Weather and Clouds Over	Target_	2.	Cavu.								

XI. TARGETS, RESULTS OF ATTACK.

(e) Visibility Unlimited					
	(e) V	isibility	Unl	imi	ted

(b) A/C ATTACKING (c) SQUADRON	(d) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH TARGET	ALTITUDE OF RELEASE	(f) HITS
VMO-251	3,000 rds.50 Cal. 4x500 lb. bombs	25 ft	. 3
VM0-251	3,200 rds.50 Cal. 4x1000 lb. bombs	11	None.
VMO-251	3,000 rds.50 Cal.		Unobserved
			7
	VMO-251 VMO-251 4 VMO-251	(c) SQUADRON EXPENDED, EACH TARGET  3,000 rds.50 Cal.  VMO-251 4x500 lb. bombs  3,200 rds.50 Cal.  VMO-251 4x1000 lb. bombs  4	(c) SQUADRON  EXPENDED, EACH TARGET  A 3,000 rds.50 Cal.  VMO-251 4x500 lb. bombs  4 3,200 rds.50 Cal.  VMO-251 4x1000 lb. bombs  """

<sup>(</sup>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.

9 01096

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

These were movie shots by gun camera.

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

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

# 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

The first flight located, strafed and photographed the coastal defense gun positions on MOILO POINT, SW tip of BOUGAINVILLE. They did not see any gun barrels but did see the positions well camouflaged by netting. Three of the four bombs hit close enough to be called damaging hits, one of these three being a direct hit. In addition to possible damage to guns, three nearby huts were destroyed. These four planes strafed the gun positions thoroughly with approximately 3,000 rounds, then proceeded to strafe huts and gardens located 5 miles west of KAHILI. The flight made a circuit of BOUGAINVILLE before returning to base, diring which they spotted a serviceable looking 22 foot barge lying just off shore at KARSO RILAO on the west coast of BUKA ISLAND.

This four plane division then landed at base, reloaded the plane this time with lx1000 lb. bombs and took off to get the barge they had found. Locating the target, they dropped their bombs in level flight at 25 feet. However, all four bombs fell into the water 15-20 yards short, then skipped over the barge and exploded on the shore. The flight then strafed this barge with 3,200 rounds, rendering it unserviceable, if it was not already so.

## CONFIDENTIAL

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

## MISSION LOG

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

9 01096

REPORT PREPARED BY: 14316

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

APPROVED BY BACHELER, SIGNATUREC tg. CO.

Major,

25 August, 1944.