

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VFB-611 (b) Based on or at Enirau Island (c) Report No. 16
 (d) Take off: Date 14 February, 1945 Time (LZT) 0845L (Zone); Lat: 1° 36' S. Long. 150° E.
Minimum altitude strafing attack, Pangalat Plantation
 (e) Mission to Lamernewi Pt., New Ireland. (f) Time of Return 1115L (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)		
<u>PBT-1D</u>	<u>VFB-611</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>50 cal only</u>	<u>None</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>None</u>							

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
<u>None</u>			<u>(NONE)</u>			
			<u>(NONE)</u>			
			<u>(NONE)</u>			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____

Did Any Part of

(i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? _____ If so, Describe Clouds _____
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

Time of Day and Brilliance

(j) of Sun or Moon _____ (k) Visibility _____
(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON, DAY, OVERCAST, ETC.) (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			
<u>None</u>						

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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).

18 mi. strip of coastline from Patlangat to

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Lemernewi on the SW coast of N.I. (b) Time Over Target (s) 0945-1015L (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 unlimited _____
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type _____ Bomb Sight Used _____
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run _____ Spacing _____ Altitude of Bomb Release _____
(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		4			
Targets of		VMP-611	16,800 rds 50 cal.	unobserved	
2					
opportunity.					
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).

Unobserved.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

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
- Defensive Tactics and Their Effectiveness

CALL	PILOT	TWO	TOT	TOR
242B21	Maulsby	0845	0945 - 1015	1115
243B21	Good	0845	0945 - 1015	1115
244B21	Padgett	0845	0945 - 1015	1115
245B21	LeMasters	0845	0945 - 1015	1115

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
- Defensive Tactics, Own
- 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

Maj. Maulsby led the first strafing run this squadron has made over New Ireland. Four planes took off on this mission, for which they were assigned targets of opportunity from Patlanat Plantation South along the coast of New Ireland to Point Lamernewi, a distance of eighteen miles (nautical). Immediately after take-off, PBJ 35164, pilot Lt Le Masters, returned to base as his landing gear would not retract. He took off again in the standby plane, PBJ 35172. The first three a/c went in over the area in column with three thousand feet interval between planes and as much stagger as the area would permit. Targets were few and far between. Most of the huts seen had already been bombed or burned flat, and there was no truck or other vehicle traffic along the unimproved road that lies in this sector. However all possible personnel areas were sprayed thoroughly with .50 caliber from the fixed and flexible guns. As the three planes were finishing their run, Lt. Le Masters arrived over the area and commenced his run as the other planes withdrew. No AA was encountered and nothing of value or interest was sighted. The planes returned to base and entered the traffic circle. While Maj. Maulsby was in the traffic circle Ordnance Gunner SSgt. Judd began to unload his .38 caliber revolver. In attempting to force the cylinder, the piece was accidentally discharged and the bullet passed through the left thigh of Radioman Sgt. G. A. Deinst and creased his right upper thigh. Sgt Frank Dyer, Mechanic, immediately slit up SSgt Dienst trousers and exposed the wound, which he sprinkled with sulphur crystals. He also applied a tourniquet to the thigh and offered the radioman morphine which was declined. The wounded man was taken off the plane at the end of its landing run by an Acorn Seven ambulance and transferred to the hospital, where he is now well on the road to recovery.

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Intelligence Officer.

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