OPNAV 16-223
Form ACA-1
Sheet 1 of 5

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB-611 (b) Based on or at Emirau Island (c) Report No. 19

(d) Take off: Date 17 February, 1945 Time (LZT) various (Zone); Lat. 1° 36' S. Long 150° E.

(e) Mission Minimum alt. strafing attack Balus Pltn. to Cape Lemeris, New Ireland (f) Time of Return various (Zone)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

TYPE (a)	SQUADRON (b)	NUMBER: TAKING OFF (c)	NUMBER: ENGAGING ENEMY A/C (d)	NUMBER: ATTACKING TARGET (e)	BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE) (f)	FUZE, SETTING (g)
PBJ-1	VMB611	5	None	5	50 cal only	None

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
None							

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
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____

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

(j) Time of Day and Brilliance of Sun or Moon _____ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (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: TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER	GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
None						

ALLEST – MFG. BY THE ENNY REGISTER CO., PATENTED

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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 PBJ-1D	VMB-611	Collision with flying	Radome	destroyed radome, scanner.
2		Fox		
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 .30	.50	20MM	MM	(h) NO. OF PLANES RETURNING
PBJ-1D	150	150	3.0	974	480	None	21,000	None	None	5

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

TURNS
DIVES
CEILINGS
RANGE
PROTECTION
ARMAMENT

No enemy aircraft encountered.

ALLOFT — MFR. BY THE BEST REGISTER CO., PATENTED

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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	TTO	TOT	TOR
1B204	Sarles	1450	1520 - 1645	1710
242B21	Kronick	1420	1440 - 1700	1730
243B21	Horton	1420	1440 - 1700	1730
244B21	Peterson	1420	1440 - 1600	1730
245B21	Schmillen	1420	1440 - 1600	1635

This days strafing mission was of a seventy mile strip of coast line between Balus Plantation on the Northern shore of New Ireland Southeast to Cape Lemeris. No specific targets were assigned. The planes were to hit targets of opportunity, huts, personnel areas, etc. 1B204 was delayed due to interphone failure for about a half hour. The other planes proceeded towards the start of their target area, staying clear of Kavieng on the route down. Once over the start of the run they dropped to treetop level in a column with about 3000' interval between planes and made one run South., turned and strafed back up the coast. There was little of value to be seen through the dense foliage and what could be seen of the road was bare of traffic. Huts were strafed as well as possible personnel areas and what were thought to be likely AA positions. During the run PBJ 35178 collided with a very large flying fox which smashed through the radome and carried away the radar scanner covering the navigator, who was in the nose firing the flexible gun, with large and bloody pieces of bat. This plane immediately returned to base. The rest of the a/c completed their runs without incident.

A S Bodreroso

A. S. BODRERO,
1stLt., USMCR,
Intelligence Officer.

G. A. Sarles

G. A. SARLES,
LtCol., USMC,
Commanding Officer.