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AIRCRAFT
FIVTA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE

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STRUCK 5 July, 1944.

7-02273

TARGET: AA Jig.
MISSION: Bomb and Strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER: Capt. Robert W. TELLER, Executive Officer.
SQUADRON: VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS: 16 F4U-1's(1/1000 lb Bomb, 1/100 sec fuse).
TIMES: T.O. 0840; C.F. 0950; T.A. 1100.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING: None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED: None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES: None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: None.
AA FIRE: Two gun flashes from gun position(5MG, 3Autos) under attack. Probably medium or light AA.

ATTACK TACTICS: Dive angles 50-65 degrees and Releases 1500-2500 ft. Speed in dives 350Kts IAS.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS: 3 Autos - 4 hits in area.
5 MG's - 2 confirmed damaging hits
3 Autos " " " "
4 MG's - 2 confirmed hits, damaging
7 MG's - 4 confirmed damaging hits. 1 returned to base.

WEATHER: ER 4/10 at 4,000 ft. Overcast at 14,000 ft.

OBSERVATIONS: The SBD's again went in ahead of schedule. Causing some confusion. Much smoke over target. App. half of pilots strafed buildings and piers on the way out. No observable damage from strafing. NEILSON'S engine quit near Tobera but he turned back toward the sea. The engine caught after he had lost 3,000 ft. altitude.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE	REMARKS
TELLER	221	Hit in area.
MOYNIHAN	014	" " "
SPRENGER	717	" " "
TANNER	895	" " "
SMITH	994	Confirmed damaging hit.
NEILSON	157	" " "
KANE	200	Unobserved.
THORNTON	163	Hit in area.
HART	032	Hit in area.
ERDMANN	766	Confirmed damaging hit.
HOLIDAY	691	Returned to base.
HILDEBRAND	387	Confirmed damaging hit.
HENLEY	305	Confirmed damaging hit.
LORCH	037	" " "
MAYA	405	" " "
CRUTCHER	724	" " "

Lt. H. B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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COMPOSITE
PIVA OPERATIONS
VMF INTELLIGENCE

STRUCK 7 July, 1944.

TARGET: BUILDINGS IN LAGUAN BAY.
MISSION: Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER: Captain Oscar M. PATE.
LOCATION: VMO-251.
BOMBS AND LOADINGS: 16 A/C ordered. 16 A/C over target, each with 1/1000 lb. bomb, instantaneous fuze.
TIMES: T.O. 1330; O.T. 1440; Return 1550.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING: None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED: None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES: None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: None.
AA FIRE: Light moderate inaccurate fire from Kabagada Point. Saw bullets striking the water during the retirement.

ATTACK TACTICS: Pilots reported excellent teamwork in this attack. Approach was from the sea westward of target area, then a 90 degree turn to left, with retirement straight and over the water.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS: 2 confirmed direct hits. 10 hits in target area. 1 miss. 1 unobserved. 1 jettisoned. 1 returned to base OT cavu. ER broken clouds 5/10 first 50 miles out.

WEATHER:

OBSERVATIONS: A great cloud of black smoke was seen to rise from ERDMANN'S direct hit. He released his bomb at 1500 ft. THORNTON saw KANE'S direct hit; saw the building blow up, with debris flying into the air. Several pilots strafed buildings and the beaches, saw fire and smoke in target area.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
BANE	050	Jettisoned bomb.
WILSON	221	Missed.
NELFUS	417	Hit in target area.
HILDEBRAND	895	" " " "
SMITH	014	Hit in target area.
NEILSON	157	" " " "
KANE	200	Confirmed direct hit.
THORNTON	163	Hit in target area.
HART	032	" " " "
ERDMANN	717	Confirmed direct hit.
HOLIDAY	691	Returned bomb to base.
PIRAGES	387	Hit in target area.
HENLEY	305	" " " "
LORCH	037	Unobserved.
CRUTCHER	994	Hit in target area.
KAY	724	" " " "

Lt. H. B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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7-02273

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COMAIRNORSOLS
FIVA OPERATIONS
VMF INTELLIGENCE

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STRUCK 7 July, 1944.

TARGET: AA DOG.
MISSION: Bomb And Strafe
FLIGHT LEADER: Captain Thomas W. Furlow, Flight Officer.
SQUADRON: VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS: 16 F4U-1's, 1/1000 lb. bomb inst.
TIMES: T.C. 0900; T.O.T. 1040; return 1135.
OTHER A/C COORDINATION: None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED: None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES: None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: None.
WEATHER: ER-6/10 base 2000. Layers on up. OT scattered 2-3000Ft.
ATTACK TACTICS: Attack approached from the east. Pushover at 8000 ft. 40-50 degree dives, Release 1-3000 ft. Pull out to the north. Strafed in dives and pull outs.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS: 2 Heavies-2hits in target area, one miss. 5 MG's- 1 confirmed damaging hit, one hit in target area;1 miss.
4 Heavies- 4 confirmed damaging hits.
3 Autos- 4 confirmed damaging hits; two hits in area
1 returned to base

AA FIRE: Intense heavy from Matupi firing at some planes other than ours. Grenda Islane Intense light AA but inaccur
One gun flashed at north end of Rapopo Strip, ant two between Target Dog and the Coast.

OBSERVATIONS: Major Humberd did not get off because his radio failed before takeoff. Our pilots reported a great deal of confusion over the target on the part of the 80 to 100 friendly planes involved in the Strike. The SBD's again were in the way of the fighter-bombers. Lt. Inglehart was kept from releasing his bomb because of the fact that an SBD went down on the target directly in front of him. Other obsarvations were negative.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE	REMARKS
Furlow	717	Hit in area.
Scoville	387	" " "
Cunningham	691	Returned to base.
Garrett	305	Hit in area.
Jennings	157	Confirmed damaging hit.
Mc Masters	200	Hit in area
Foley	163	Miss
Condon	032	Hit in area.
Gerety	037	Confirmed damaging hit.
Webber	724	" " "
Rosellen	994	" " "
Mac Lachlan	417	" " "
Inglehart	895	Miss.
Sigan	221	Hit in area
Robinson	014	Hit in area
Humberd		Did not take off.

Lt. H.B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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Reg. No. 1190
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COMAIRNORSOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
VMF INTELLIGENCE

STRUCK 8 July, 1944.

TARGET:	Buildings along Liguan Bay.
MISSION:	BOMB and Strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER:	W. C. HUMBERD, Major.
SQUADRON:	VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS:	16 A/C ordered 15 over target. 1/1000 lb. inst. fuse.
TIMES:	T.O. 0730, O.T. 08 44, Return 1000.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING:	None.
ENEMY PLANES ENCOUNTERED:	None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES:	None.
PERSONELL CASUALTIES:	None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED:	Meagre inaccurate light AA fire from point south of Kabagada Point.
ATTACK TACTICS:	Approached target west to east at 12,000 ft. Pushed over at 10,000 ft. Released at 2-3000 ft.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS.	3 confirmed damaging hits. 5 hitd in target area. 4 unobserved. 2 duds. 1 miss.
WEATHER:	ER thunderheads to south 2-15,000 ft. Otherwise 3/10 . Of. Cavu.
OBSERVATIONS:	Saw fire and smoke up to 100 ft south of Liguan Bay together with two small fires between road and beach at Toukandum Plantation. These fires were already burning when our planes reached the target area. Pilots reported the following radio conversation heard approximately 0830 while they were in vicinity of Duke of York Island. "What are those planes at 9 O'clock?" " They are 12 F4U-'s coming to bomb Liguan Bay like the New Zealanders did yesterday." The one miss by Lt. CUNNINGHAM was caused by the fact that the bomb failed to release in the dive but fell off a few seconds later and fell into the water. CONDON'S bomb rack(plane 153) came off with the bomb and the bomb was believed to have been unarmed when it hit. It was unobserved. Pilots strafed huts and roads on retirement with no observable damage.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
HUMBERD	050	Confirmed damaging hit.
WUBBEN	221	" " "
ROBINSON	014	Hit in area
STURGES	895	Dudd
FURLOW	717	Hit in area
SCOVILLE	691	" " "
CUNNINGHAM	305	Miss
GARRETT	037	Hit in area.
JENNINGS	157	Confirmed damaging hit.
LC MASTERS	994	Hit in area.
FOLEY	200	Unobserved.
CONDON	163	"
GERETY	151	"
ROSELLEN	387	Hit in area.
MAC LACHLAN	417	Unobserved
WEBBER	766	Did not take-off.

7 03698

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PIVA OPERATIONS
VMF INTELLIGENCE

STRUCK 8 July, 1944.

TARGET: BUILDINGS IN AGUAN BAY AREA.
MISSION: Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER: Capt. Robert T. TELLER.
SQUADRON: VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS: 13 A/C ordered. 12 A/C over Target, each carrying 1/1000 lb. inst. fuse.
TIMES: T.O. 1305; O.T. 1420; Return 1545.
WHERE A/C COORDINATING: None.
ENEMY PLANES ENCOUNTERED: None.
OUR LOSS TO PLANES: None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED: Light intense inaccurate from Kabagada Point. Light and medium meagre inaccurate form Capt Tavui. Light moderate inaccurate from all along the shore from Torokinandri Plantation to Kabagada Point.
ATTACK TACTICS: Approach and pushover at 12,000 ft. from the NW. Pushover 12,000 ft. Released at 1000-2000 ft. Strafed on way out.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS: 10 hits in target area. 1 confirmed direct hit on Kabagada Point by LORCH. 1 unobserved, 2 jettisoned, 1 returned to base.
WEATHER: ER scattered 4/10, 3-9000 ft. O.T. Hazy, 3 to 4/10 3-8000 ft. Ov'cast 13,000 ft.
OBSERVATIONS: Reported a number of buildings which look like good targets but which must be observed at a medium altitude before dive bombing run is made.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NOL	REMARKS
TELLER	014	Hit in area
MOYNIHAN	895	Hit in area.
SPRENGER	221	Unobserved.
TANNER	387	Hit in area
HART	157	" " "
ERDMANN	994	" " "
HOLIDAY	163	" " "
PIRAGES	724	" " "
BATE	717	Jettisoned.
WILSON	691	Returned to Base.
HILDEBRAND	305	Hit in area
HENLEY	151	Hit in area
LORCH	032	Confirmed direct hit.
MAYA	766	Jettisoned
CROTCHER	417	Hit in area.

Lt. H. B. WELCH,
VMF-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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PIVA OPERATIONS
VLF INTELLIGENCE

STRUCK 9 July, 1944.

Reg. No. 7419
R.S. No. 7 02454

TARGET: Buildings in Liguan Bay Area.
MISSION: Bomb And Strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER: Capt. Robbert W. TELLER.
SQUADRON: VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS: 16 F4U-1's, 1/1000 lb. bomb, inst. fuse.
FILES: T.O. 0955, O.T. 1105-1120, T.O. 1230.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING: None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED: None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES: None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: None.
AA FIRE: Light meagre inaccurate fire from Kabagada Point and From Cape Liguan.
ATTACK TACTICS: Once over target at 5, 00 ft. for observation. Back on bombing run. Pushover 7,000-7500 ft..
SUMMARY OF RESULTS: 1 confirmed damaging hit. 9 hits in target area. 4 misses, 1 jettisoned, 1 returned to base.
WEATHER: O.T. Visibility very poor. 2 miles max. overcast at 13,000 ft. with scattered showers and clouds increasing overtarget.
OBSERVATIONS: Saw flame and smoke from the one confirmed damging hit which lasted fro two or three minutes. Believe it was a building of some sort, not fuel. Quite a bit of strafing was done by most of the planes in three to four strafing runs, of buses, barges, roads, piers and beaches. No observed damage from these strafing attacks. Lt. NEILSON saw a piece fly off a truck he straffed.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
TELLER	032	Hit in area.
LOYNIHAN	766	" "
SPRENGER	691	Returned tobase.
TANNER	417	Hit in area.
SMITH	895	Jettisoned.
NEILSON	221	Wild miss.
KANE	050	" "
THORNTON	724	Hit in area.
BATE	305	Miss
HILDEBRAND	163	Miss
LORCH	200	Confirmed damaging Hit.
CRITCHLE	151	Hit in area.
HENEY	157	Hit in area.
ERDMANN	994	" " "
HOLIDAY	387	" " "
PIRAGES	014	" " "

Lt. H. B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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COMAR NORSOLS
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STRUCK 9 July, 1944.

TARGET: Promary weathered out. Secondary Guns on Sohana Island.

MISSION: Bomb and strafe.

FLIGHT LEADER: Major W. C. HUMBERD.

SQUADRON: VMO-251.

PLANES AND LOADINGS: All available A/C(F4U-1's) ordered. 7 A/C over target. 1/1000 lb. inst. fuse.

TIMES: T.O. 1430, O.T. 1616, return 1635.

OTHER A/C COORDINATING: None.

ENEMY PLANES ENCOUNTERED: None.

DAMAGE TO PLANES: None.

PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: None.

AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED: None.

ATTACK TACTICS: Usual dive bombing run from app. 10,000 ft. Release 2500 ft. indicated.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS: 1 condirmed damaging hit. 3 hits in target area. 2 misses. 1 dud.

WEATHER: Over Rabaul- 10/10 overcast 15,000 ft. Immense thunderhead south of Capt St. George. O.T. scattered cu. 4/10 2-8000 ft. ER- scattered Cu. Visibility 5 mi

OBSERVATIONS: Observed no shipping or enemy activity. HUMBERD observed two gun positions on Sohana. Did not strafe. The one dud was from GERETY'S plane (163) and was released at 800 ft. altitude.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
HUMBERD	050	Hit in area
WEBBER	200	Miss
GERETY	163	Hit in area.
FURLOW	717	Confirmed direct hit
SCOVILLE	724	Hit in area
CUNNINGHAM	151	Miss
GARRETT	417	Hit in area.

Lt. H. B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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COMAIRNORSOLS
FIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE

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STRUCK 10 July, 1944.

TARGET: Gun positions on Raluana Point. Barges Revavia Bay.
MISSION: Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER: Major W. S. HUMBERD.
SQUADRON: VMO-[illegible]
PLANES AND LOADINGS: 16 A/C ordered. 15 A/C over target. 1/1000 lb. bomb with [illegible] fuse. Plane 037 did not take-off because of starting trouble.
TIMES: T.O. 0800, C.F. 0900, Return 1030.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING: None.
ENEMY PLANES ENCOUNTERED: None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES: Plane 305, piloted by GERETY, lost 1/4 of it's main cowl and about 4 5 of it's right aileron, plus it's radio antenna. Pilot believes it was 40 MM or larger caliber AA. Released at 1000 ft. and was hit very shortly thereafter at 1700 ft. The blow spun the plane nearly 90 degrees off course. GERETY then flew through 30 or 40 puffs of AA from 2000 up to 5000 ft. Heavy and medium was extremely accurate.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED: Revavia Bay: Known accurate intense light.
Raluana Point: Known accurate intense med. and heavy
Pearl Point: Known accurate intense meluim.
Duke of York: Known accurate intense light. Many tracers and MG bullets seen striking water upon retirement.

ATTACK TACTICS: Altitudes of release varied from 1000 ft to 3500 ft. Much strafing on retirement.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS: 1 confirmed direct hit on ammunition dump on Raluana point. 1 reported damaging hit on gun position west of Raluana Point. 3 hits in area of the three mediums on east coast of Raluana Point. 4 misses, 6 unobserved.

WEATHER: CR 3/10 scattered Cu. 3-9000 ft. OK. navu.

OBSERVATIONS: Pilots report that barges make an exceedingly poor target for dive bombing attack: that they would rather have incendiary ammunition and be permitted to strafe targets of this type. STURGIS got the one confirmed hit on an ammunition dump at Raluana Point, causing a large explosion. All pilots did much strafing of roads, barges, beaches, with no observed damage. MC MASTERS strafed along a high cliff on the shore line of Kerevia Bay. He saw MG tracer coming at him so he turned into the gun position, strafing. The gun stopped firing. He observed the sides of the cliff from tree top level and reported seeing machine gun emplacements all along this cliff. He also observed what appeared to be steel doors leading into the base of the cliff, to the west of Raluana Point.

In this attack, all planes in the flight except Major HUMBERDS division, (which went after the guns on Raluana Point) attempted to bomb barges tied up and off shore in Kerevia Bay. CONDON obtained the only damaging hit, his bomb exploding very close to two barges which were tied together.

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MISSION LOG

	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
[illegible]		
[illegible]	050	[illegible]
[illegible]	221	[illegible]
LINDBERT	895	[illegible]
SCHMITS	014	Unobserved.
[illegible]	157	[illegible]
[illegible]	394	Unobserved.
[illegible]	151	[illegible]
COMLY	163	Reported [illegible]
FURLOW	717	[illegible]
SCOVILLE	691	Unobserved
CUNNINGHAM	417	Unobserved.
GARRETT	032	Unobserved.
GERETY	305	Unobserved.
WEBER	037	Did not take off.
ROLLISON	766	[illegible]
WUBBEN	724	Unobserved.

Lt. H. S. WELCH,
[illegible]
Intelligence Officer.

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COMAIRNORSOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE

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STRUCK 10 July, 1944.

TARGET: AA guns around Vulcan Crater.
MISSION: Bomb and strafe.
LEADER: Capt. Robert W. MILLER.
SQUADRON: VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS: 16 A/C ordered. 16 A/C over target. 1/1000 lb. bomb. Inst. fuse.

TILES: T.O. 1250. Off 1245, Return 1530.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING: None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNDERED: None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES: None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED: Target area: 20 bursts inaccurate heavy. Vulcan Crater(North Point) Moderate accurate med. Vulcan Crater(South Point) Intense accurate light and med. Kemavia Bay, NW shore: moderate to inaccurate light.

ATTACK TACTICS: Pushover at 10,000 ft. 50-60 degree dive. No brakes. strafed on way down and in pull out.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS: Possible gun positions NE point of Vulcan Crater: 1 hit in area; 1 jettisoned. Autos on SE point of Vulcan crater: 1 miss, 1 hit in area, 1 jettisoned, 1 on next target. MG's on SE coast of Vulcan Crater: 1 confirmed damaging hit. 1 hit in target area. 3 misses. Circular trench system to SW of Vulcan: 1 confirmed direct hit. 2 misses. Barges along NW shore of Kemavia Bay: 1 reported damaging hit.

WEATHER: ER scattered thunder storms. O.T. Cavu.
OBSERVATIONS: THORNTON got one confirmed direct hit on the trenches SW of Vulcan Crater. His section leader stated that when the bomb exploded it looked as if fire raced down the entire length of the trench. HILDEBRAND whose bomb was first reported as a miss on the trenche SW of Vulcan reportedly dropped among some barges along the NW shore of Kemavia Bay for what he is certain was at least a damaging hit. MYA observed a barge tied up along the North shore of CREDNER Island. NELSON reported that the AA from Vulcan Crater was extremely accurate as far as he was concerned. Bracketed his plane with bursts to either side of him. He felt his plane buffet and once the stick was knocked out of his hand. CRUTCHER observed gun flashes from what he thought is the doubtful gun position on NE tip of Vulcan Crater.

(OVER)

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MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
BATES	717	Jettisoned
WEBB.R	691	Hit in area.
SCHOETZ	387	" "
HILDEBRAND	032	Miss.
HENDRIX	417	Miss
LOESCH	724	Hit in area.
WALL	766	Hit in area.
CRUTCHER	037	Jettisoned.
TELLER	050	Miss
MOYNIHAN	221	Miss
SPRINGER	895	Confirmed damaging hit
TANNER	014	Miss
SMITH	157	Miss
NELSON	994	Miss
KANE	151	Miss
THORNTON	200	Confirmed direct hit

Lt. H. B. WELCH,
V.O-251,
Intelligence Officer

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COMAIRNORSOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
VMF INTELLIGENCE

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STRUCK 11 July, 1944.

TARGET: Promary target weathered out.. Attacked Sohana Island and guns SW of Bom's Airdield.

MISSION: Bomb and strafe.

SQUADRON LEADER: Capt. Robert W. TELLER,

SQUADRON: VMO-251.

PLANES AND LOADINGS: 16 A/C ordered, 1/1000 lb. bomb. 1/100 sec. fuse.

TIMES: T.O. 0820, O.T. 0920, return, 945.

OTHER A/C COORDINATING: None.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENOCUNTERED: None.

DAMAGE TO PLANES: XXXX. Plane 221, piloted by Lt. MOYNIHAN, received a ble in leading edge of left wing.

PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: None.

AA FIRE: Intense medium inaccurate from SW of Boms airfield.
Moderate meduim heavy inaccurate from W end Buka strip.
Intense light accurate from Sohana.

ATTACK TACTICS: Usual dove bombing tactics. Releases made from 1500 to 3000 ft.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS: Sohana Island Gun Positions; 10 hits in area, 2 misses, Two Gun positions SW of Bomis Airfield; 1 confirmed direct hit on oil or ammo dump.

WEATHER: ER Hit a solid front 100x miles out. OT visibility from over Sohana. Scattered showers.

OBSERVATIONS: HOLIDAY Saw one bomb, believed to be Capt.HART'S, throw up a big curling orange flames and smoke. This was from a poing SW of Bonis strip. Three pilots strafed on the way down.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
TELLER	650	Hit in area
MOYNIHAN	221	" " "
SPRENGER	895	" " "
CANNON	014	" " "
HART	032	Confirmed direct hit.
HOLIDAY	691	Hit in area
SCHOETZ	717	" " "
PTRACES	766	" " "
HENLEY	387	Wild miss
LORCH	037	" "
MAYA	394	Hit in area
BUTCHER	739	" " "
SMITH	387	" " "
WILSON	157	" " "
KANE	151	" " "
THORNTON	163	" " "

Lt. H. B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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R. S. No.

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COMAIRNORSOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
VMF INTELLIGENCE

CONFIDENTIAL

STRUCK 12 July, 1944.

TARGET: Concrete Block house NE of Rapopo Strip. Secondary targets of opportunity.

MISSION: LOW LEVEL BOMBING AND STRAFING.

FLIGHT LEADER: Lt. JENNINGS.

SQUADRON: VMO-251.

PLANES AND LOADINGS: 4 A/C ordered, 3 A/C over target. 1/1000 lb. bomb. 8 sec. delay fuse.

TIMES: T.O. 1230, O.T. 1322-1415, Return 1515.

OTHER A/C COORDINATING: None.

ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED: None.

DAMAGE TO PLANES: None.

PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: None.

AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED: Tobera Strip-accurate to inaccurate meagre light and heavy.

ATTACK TACTICS: Extremely low level bombing from a little better than tree top level.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS: Unable to locate primary target. Bombed a group of thatched huts and concrete underground shelter, 18/18 feet square, and flush with the ground. Released from 50 ft. altitude. Two of the three bombs exploded. The third was a dud, believed not to be armed. The one area hit landed between the concrete shelter and tank nearby, no damage observed. Strafed 50 to 60 huts in various locations.

WEATHER: ER- scattered. ~~Xxxx~~ cumulus. Visibility good.
OT- scattered cu. 3-8000 ft.

OBSERVATIONS: Observed extensive gardening under neath the coconut palm trees in the Ulaveo plantation directly east of Rapopo. Also found all heavy gun emplacements located in an area Rapopo to Tobera to Capo Gazelle and which were observed to be empty.

MISSION LOG

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
JENNINGS	050	Hit in target area.
MC MASTERS	014	Unobserved.
FOLEY	417	Did not take off
CONDON	739	Dud.

LT. H.B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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Authority: E.O. 13526
By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

Reg. No. 1190
R. S. No. CONFIDENTIAL

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COMAIRSOLS
STRIKE COMAND
VMF INTELLIGENCE

STRUCK 12 July, 1944.

TARGET: AA King.
MISSION: Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER: Major, W.C. HUMBERD.
SQUADRON. VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS: 16 A/C ordered. 1/1000 lb. bomb. 1/100 sec. fuse.
TIMES: T.O. 0800; O.T. 0915; Return 1050.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING: None
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED: None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES: Plane 417 piloted by Lt. WEBBER, was hit. Received one 7.7 MM hole in left elevator.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: None.
ATTACK TACTICS: Approached from SE. Pushed over at 10,000 ft. Released 3500 ft.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS: One north auro;1 hit in area, 1 dud. 2 east autos 1 hit in ara, 1 miss. Twosouth autos 1 confirmed damaging hit, 2 hits in area, 1 returned to base. One west auto 1 reported damaging hit, 1 hit in area. Three west autos 1 confirmed direct hit, w misses 3 unobserved. Strafing one barge on shore of Kabanga Bay causing smoke.

WEATHER: ER 5/10 2-8000 ft. Cavu OT
OBSERVATIONS: A LG position at west end of Tobera runway was silenced by ROSELLENS AND MAC LACHLAN'S strafing GERETY got the confirmed direct hit on the three West autos. Five fires were observed in a cocanut grove to the NW of Target King. Strafed roads and huts and a barge on the way out. The one plane which returned to base was 994 piloted by Lt. CONDON Returned because the wheels would not come up.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
FURLOW	717	Reported damaging hit.
SEVILLE	766	Hit in area.
ROBINSON	305	Miss
WEBBEN	691	Miss
GERETY	724	Confirmed direct hit.
WEBBER	894	Unobserved.
ROSELLEN	739	"
MAC LACHLAN	417	"
HUMBERD	050	Dud bomb.
STIGAN	895	Hit in area.
INGEHART	014	" " "
STURGIS	387	Wild miss
JENNINGS	157	Confirmed damaging hit.
MC MASTERS	151	Hit in area
FOLEY	200	" " "
CONDON	994	Returned to base.

Lt. H. B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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COMAIRNORSOLS
FIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE

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STRUCK 15 July, 1944.

TARGET:	Vunapope 57 and 58.
MISSION:	Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER:	Major W.C. HUMBERD.
SQUADRON:	VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS:	17 F4U-1's ordered. 1/1000 lb. bomb inst fuse. 15 A/C over Target. Robinson's plane #895 was forced to return because of engine trouble. He was escorted by WUBBEN, his wing man.
TIMES:	T.O. 0900, O.T. 1000, Return 1100.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING:	None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED:	None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES:	None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES:	None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED:	Over target: Inaccurate meage lightand med. Smaller of th Drednen Islands: Inaccurate intense light.
ATTACK TACTICS:	Usual dive bombing run of 50-60 degreeangle. Releases varied from 1600-2500 ft. Pullouts from 900-1500 ft.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS:	1 confirmed direct hit by GERETY on what was believed to be fuel storge. 2 confirmed damaging hits byHUMBERD and SIGAN on buildings in area 57. 11 hits in area 57and 58 . 1 unobserved. 2 returned to base.
WEATHER:	ER 5/10 , 4-18,000 ft. O.T. cavu.
OBSERVATIONS:	MAC LACHLAN reported he saw four guns flashing on the smaller of the two Credner Islands; that he dived on them strafing and silenced 3 of the 4. GERETY'S direct hit was observed by two pilots who stated that it caused a violent upheaval of orange colored flame. Colonel NEEFUS who accompanied this strike flying the fifth plane in Major HUMBERD's division, observed two bombs explode in area 57 which put up two columns of smoke app. 600 ft high, one black and the other a brown color. THORNTON saw two black puffs of AA at about 1500 ft. behind and to the right of Colonel NEEFUS'S plane.

MISSION LOG

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
HUMBERD	050	Confirmed direct hit.
SIGAN	014	" " "
INGLEHART	387	Hit in area.
STURGIS	994	" " "
NEEFUS	417	" " "
GERETY	305	" " "
MAC LACHLAN	037	" " "
ROSELLEN	017	Confirmed direct hit.
WEBBER	739	Unobserved.
FURLOW	717	Hit in area.
SCOVILLE	766	" " "
CUNNINGHAM	691	" " "
GARRETT	032	" " "
ROBINSON	895	Returned to base
WUBBEN	151	" " "
KANE	200	Hit in area.
THORNTON	163	" " "

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Lt. H. B. WELSH,
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COMAIRNORSOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE

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STRUCK 16 July, 1944.

TARGET::	Gun positions, Vulcan Crater.
MISSION:	Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER:	Capt. Robert W. TELLER.
SQUADRONS:	VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS:	16 A/C ordered. 14 A/C over target 1/1000 lb bomb, inst. fuse. Capt. HART in plane 032 was forced to return to base because of engine trouble. He was escorted by ERDMANN.
TIMES::	T.O. 0815, OT 0920, Return 1050.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING:	None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED:	None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES:	None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES:	None.
A A FIRE ENCOUNTERED:	Vulcan Crater heavy, intense, inaccurate. Ridge SW of Keravia Bay; heavy, moderate, inaccurate. S W shore of Vulcan Crater inland from large hulks; light meagre, inaccurate. NW corner of Duke of York; light, meagre, inaccurate.
ATTACK TACTICS:	Approached at 13-14,000 ft. Pushover at 12,000 ft. 60-70 degree angle of dive with wheels down. 320 knots indicated.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS:	2 or 3 autos SE point Vulcan Crater: 3 hits in area. Possible guns on NE point Vulcan Crater: 2 confirmed damaging hits, 1 hit in area, 1 miss. MG's on SW shore: 2 confirmed damaging, 2 jettisoned. MG's east of underground storage area, NW shore Kervia Bay: 2 confirmed damaging. 2 hits in area.
WE ATHER:	ER 6/10, 5-10000 ft. overcast at 14,000 ft. O.T. cavu.
OBSERVATIONS:	Upon the retirement and about five minutes after our attack, Lt. HOLIDAY saw a thin column of grey smoke from the target area going up to 5,000 ft. Lt. NEILSON saw a small metallic shiny object 6/10 ft, ¼ to ½ mile south of PARKINSON POINT, which he took to be a sunken storage hut or bin. It was placed in a revetment. All planes strafed huts and buildings on Duke of York Islands; smoked two huts. HOLIDAY reported seeing tracer ammunition coming up at our planes as they were entering the traffec circle. It appeared to be coming up from the ground from the vicinity of a bivouac area atop a butte located two to three miles due esst of the PIVA NORTH strip. HOLIDAY stated that he saw approximately 4 tracers pass up and well behind the plane ahead of him, piloted by Lt. HENLEY.

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MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
HART	032	Jettisoned
ERDMANN	717	"
HOLIDAY	691	Hit in area.
P IRAGES	766	" " "
SMITH	037	Hit in area.
NELSON	305	" " "
KANE	724	" " "
THORNTON	017	" " "
TELLER	050	Miss.
MOYNIHAN	895	Hit in area.
SPRENGER	014	" " "
TANNER	994	" " "
HENLEY	157	Miss
LORCH	151	Hit in area
MAYA	200	" "
CRUTHER	163	Unobserved.

Lt. H. E. WELCH,
VMO-251.
Intelligence Officer.

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COMAIRSOLS
STRIKE COMMAND
VMF INTELLIGENCE

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STRUCK 16 July, 19

TARGET:	Tobera 35.
MISSION::	Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER:	Capt. Thomas W. FURLOW.
SQUADRON:	VMO-251.
P LANES AND LOADINGS:	16 A/C ordered. 1/1000 lb. bomb. inst fuse. 11 A/C over target.
TIMES:	T.O. 1250, O.T. 1355. Return 1500.
OTHERA/C COORDINATING:	None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED:	None
DAMAGE TO PLANES:	None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES:	None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED:	Moderate inaccurate light AA from a clearing 2½ miles east of target.
ATTACK TACTICS:	Usual dive bombing attacks from altitude of 8-10,000 ft. Releases at 1500-2500 ft.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS::	1 confirmed direct hit. 9 hits in target area. 1 miss.
WEATHER:	ER small front 30 min. south of Cape St. George, with tops at 15,000 ft. OT cumu.
OBSERVATIONS::	The one direct hit, by WEBBER, was just inside the rubber trees at the crook of the road in target 35. There was a big explosion which put up a lot of flame and smoke ; the flame and smoke seemed to mishroom out among the trees. The pilots did not know what it was that was hit, but are positive that some thing blew up and the fire was still burning when they looked back on leaving. Several pilots strafed a 50 ft. square concrete block house located in a large clearing 2½ miles east of target area. GERETY strafed a gun position (probably 20 MM) which he saw flashing from a point east of the target. The gun stopped flashing. Pilots observed a fire 1 mile north of Tobera airfield, and two fires NNE of Vunakanau, at a distance of ½ to 3/4 mile. There were big fires putting up columns of white smoke 1000 ft. high. HUMBERD, EGAN and HART did not get off because of starting or other mechinical troubles. CARRETTA engine(Plane 766) cut out enroute to target and as it was not functioning properly he returned to base escorted by SCOVILLE.

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MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
HUMBERD	050	Did not get off.
SIGAN	895	" " " "
INGLEHART	014	Hit in area.
STURGIS	387	" " "
BERETY	157	Hit in area.
WEBBER	151	Confirmed direct hit.
ROSELLEN	200	Miss.
MC LACHLAN	163	Hit in area.
TUPLOW	717	Hit in area.
SCOVILLE	417	Returned to base.
CUNNINGHAM	739	Hit in area.
GARRETT	766	Returned to base.
HART	305	Did not get off.
ERDMANN	037	Hit in area.
ROBINSON	724	" " "
WUBBEN	017	" " "

Lt. F. P. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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COMAIRNORSOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE

S TRUCK 17 July,1944.

TARGET: Kervavia Bay Underground Storage.
MISSION: Low Level bombing.
FLIGHT LEADER: Major W. C. HUMBERD.
SQUADRON: VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS: 8 F4U-1's(1/1000 lb. Bomb 8-11 sec delay fuse.
TIMES: T.O. 0805, O.T. 0935, Return 1100.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING: 16 SBD's from Green Island. Coordination of the attack was described as "Perfect".
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED: None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES: None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED: All AA sighted is believed to have been directed at the SBD's:2 heavies and 4 autos SW of Keravia Bay heavy and medium moderate Kervia Bay shore line light moderate. Target area med or heavy 30 black puffs at 7,000 ft.

ATTACK TACTICS: Circled over St. George Channel at 10,000 ft. Came in across Raluana Point at less than 1000 ft. Final approach to target at less than 100 ft. Indicated air speed at time of release was 330--360 knots. Had no difficulties getting over ridge to west of target. All bombs released over target were in the area. One of these seven was seen to fall directly onto the target for a reported direct hit. None of the bombs was seen to explode, because of the 8 sec. delayed fusing. HART's bomb was later jettisoned in the vicinity of Duke of York because it would not release in the target area.

WEATHER: ER thunderheads 2-14,000 ft. south of route. Small front SW of Cape St. George. OT Cavu.

OBSERVATIONS: Pilots feel certain that all bombs hit well within the target, with possibly some direct hits. However, because of the 8 second delayed fusing and the high speed approach and retirement none saw the bombs explode. The one reported direct hit was by ROBINSON. The flight retired to the west and out over Talili Bay, thence round and out over Rabaul and down St. Georges Channel for another look at the target. By this time all they could see was thin smoke over the target area. The SBD's were seen to start a fire on the shore inland from the large hulks NW Kervia Bay.

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HQ AIRCRESOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE

STRUCK 18 July, 1944.
Optical Fighter Sweep, New Ireland Coast.

7-04032

MISSION: Ban ena strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER: Captain Robert V. TELLER.
SQUADRON: VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS: 9 F4U-1's. ./000 lb. bomb. 6-11 sec. delay fuse.
TIMES: TO. 0900 T.O.T. 0900-0930, Return 1040.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING: None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED: None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES: None.
A.A. FIRE ENCOUNTERED: None.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS: 3 confirmed direct hit. 1 confirmed damaging hit. 1 miss. 1 dud.(Houses on West Coast of New Ireland north of KAMDARU RIVER

Gun positions Schaan Island: 2 misses, 1 unobserved, 1 dud.

WEATHER: ER 6/10. C.T. East Coast of New Ireland-overcast. Rain squalls down to ground and extending out to sea. West Coast of New Ireland- Front moving south along coast from HURU POINT. Eukan- clear immediately above, but very hazy and rainy all around.

OBSERVATIONS: The one direct hit on a camouflaged hut was by Lt. HENLEY. The hit caused a unusual amount of smoke and dust. The one damaging hit by CRUTCHER was on a group of huts. Pilots all strafed many huts along west coast of New Ireland causing some to smolder. Other observations negative.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
TELLER	050	Miss
MOYNIHAN	895	"
SPRENGER	387	Unobserved.
SPRENGER	994	Dud.
HENLEY	159	Confirmed direct hit.
LORCH	151	Dud.
MAYA	200	Miss.
CRUTCHER	163	Confirmed damaging hit.

Lt. H. P. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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COMAIRNORSOLS CONFIDENTIAL
PIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGE NCE STRUCK 20 July, 1944.

TA RGET: Bridges South of KIETA and Jap bivouac area.
MISSION? Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER: Capt. TELLER.
SQUADRON: VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS: 12 a/c ordered. 4 F4U-1's ~~1/1000 lb. bomb~~ with inst. fuse. 8 F4U-1's with 1/100lb. 4-5 sec. delay fuse.

Reg. No. A-119
8 0329

TIMES: T.O. 1420; T.O.T. 1435-1540; T.A. 1555.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING: 12 TBF's, RNZAF Sq. 31.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED: None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES: None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED: None.
ATTACK TACTICS: Four F4U-1's attacked Jap bovouac area with TBF's. Eight F4U-1's with delayed action bombs attacked bridges.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS: 7 misses and 1 dud on bridge. 1 confirmed hit and 3 misses on Jap bivouac area.

WEATHER: ER Scattered Cu. to 10,000 ft. Ok. Javu.
OBSERVATIONS: HART got the one direct hit of the afternoon, in a group of huts near RUMBA PLANTATION, starting a large fire. Most pilots strafed good looking huts in and around CHINATOWN and a point on the west side of KIETA HARBOR. Nosigns anywhere of enemy. Also strafed old huts down the shore to the southeast of KIETA, as far as KIETA AIRFIELD. ERMANN, HOLIDAY, PIRAGES all set afire several huts by strafing. The two bridges which pilots attempted to get were located at TOBERET PLANTATION and at the base of KIETA PENINSULAR respectively. ROBINSON observed several small fires up in the mountains near MUNTAS.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
TELLER	942	Miss
MOYNIHAN	717	Dud
ROBINSON	050	Miss
TANNER	387	Miss
HENLEY	163	Miss
LORCH	151	Miss
MAYA	157	Miss
CRUTCHER	037	Miss
HART	691	Confirmed direct hit.
ERDMANN	724	Miss
HOLIDAY	417	Miss
PIRAGES	739	Miss

Lt. H. B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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PIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE — S TRUCK 21 July, 1944.

TARGET: New Ireland Fighter Sweep.
MISSION: Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER: Major HUMBERD. 8 0329
SQUADRONS: VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS: 16 A/C. 16 F4U-1's over target 1/1000 lb. 4-5 sec. delay.
TIMES: T.O. 0815; T.O.T. 0945; Return:1300.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING: None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED: None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES: None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: None.
A A FIRE: Moderate inaccurate light AA from CAPE NAMARODA.
ATTACK TACTICS: Low level bombing along the long axis of bridge.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS: 1 direct hit on bridge west of BORPOP.
1 [illegible] a building.
1 damaging hit on road near bridge.
1 dud. 12 near misses.
WEATHER: ER scattered clouds 1600 to 6000 ft.
Visibility good. Off. Dam.
OBSERVATIONS: NEILSON got the one direct hit on a bridge just south of BORPOP, completely demolishing it and leaving a crater where the bridge had been. KANE got the direct hit on a large building near NAMATANAI. Pilots strafed and killed a total of approximately 30 cattle and horses. MAC LACHLAN observed and strafed three thatched huts on a river at KAMIRARA PLANTATION, which he believes were camouflaged barges for barges. All planes smoked 3 to 10 huts and fired four, one to the N of NAMATANAI, a large one near CAPE LAMBERT, and five others. Strafed known gun positions on Capt NAMARODA as well as those located just to the east mentioned spot. ROSELLEN was low enough to see twin guns, believed to be 20 MM. The cattle which were destroyed by strafing were on the east coast of NEW IRELAND.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS	PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
FURLOW	717	Miss	GERETY	942	Miss
SCOVILLE	691	"	WEBBER	031	"
CUNNINGHAM	163	Dud	MACLACHLAN	724	"
GARRETT	151	Miss	ROSELLEN	17	"
SMITH	739	Miss			
NEILSON	417	Confirmed direct hit			
KANE	895	" "			
THORNTON	305	Reported direct hit.			
HUMBERD	387	Miss			
SIGAN	014	"			
INGLEHART	157	"			
STURGIS	032	"			

Lt. H. B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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COMAIRSOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE

Reg. No. 12336 CONFIDENTIAL
RESTRUCK 22 July, 1944.

TARGET: New Ireland Fighter Sweep.
MISSION: Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER: Capt. Robert W. TELLER.
SQUADRON: VMO(VF) 251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS: 16 A/C ordered. 15 F4U-1's 1/1000 lb. bomb inst. fuse., over target.

TIMES: T.O. 0855; T.O.T. 1000-1200; Return 1300.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING: None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED: None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES: Plane # 014, piloted by 1stLt. Robert F. SPRENGER, did not return from this mission It is believed to have crashed and burned in the jungle, about 400 yds. inland from CAPE NAMARODA. Lt. SPRENGER was missing immediately after a low level strafing run on the known gun positions on CAPE NAMARODA and when his wingmann lokked back he saw only a column of black smoke coming up out of the trees.
Plane bureau no. 56163, engine no. H.P 201313, piloted by 2ndLt. ROBERT C. HOLTZ was lost in a water landing north of FEN ISLAND. This plane was hit by AA fire light, over gun positions to NE of NAMA AIRFIELD. Pilot succeeded in keeping his plane airborne until his oil pressure dropped and the engine failed. Pilot was rescued by DUMBO from GREEN ISLAND after being in his rubber boat less than one hour. Plane 49717, piloted by Capt. TELLER, was hit in the left wing causing the ammunitions pans to explode and blow a large hole in the wing.

PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: SPRENGER, Robert F., 1stLt., USMCR, (02690) missing in action.

AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED: Capo Namaroda K, Light, Intense, Accurate. One pilot reported receiving accurate fire from this position as high as 3500 ft. Ramut Bay, light, intense, accurate.

ATTACK TACTICS: Releases were made as low as 600 ft. with inst. fused bombs but most pilots prefer the 4-5 sec delay fuse, which permits a much lower release.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS: 1 direct hit on a bridge in the vicinity of LAGOGON BAY. 5 bombs missed bridge but cratered roads. 7 misses. 2 duds.

WEATHER: ER AND OT-CAVU.
OBSERVATIONS: ERDMANN got the one direct hit of the day on a bridge near LAGOGON BAY, east coast of NEW IRELAND, almost to MEDINA. HART'S division found the barges they had seen previously, hidden up a river at what they believe is at PUTUMBU BAY, They made five

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OBSERVATION'S Cont'd;

or six runs strafing these barges and reported that although no fire or smoke was seen they believe the barges were rendered unserviceable. Pilots strafed numerous huts all along the east coast of NEW IRELAND, smoked several. One pilot saw a Jap running across a clearing at CAPE LEMERIS. Another saw what he believes is a pair of dummy gun positions on CAPE SENA-looked like haystacks with poles sticking out to simulate guns. Several pilots stated they definitely prefer the delayed action bomb for work against bridges.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
TELLER	717	Miss
MOYNIHAN	895	Dud
SPRENGER	014	Miss
TANNER	387	Miss
HART	157	Miss
ERDMANN	151	Confirmed direct hit
HOLIDAY	163	Miss
PIRAGES	417	Dud
SMITH	691	Reported damaging hit.
NEILSON	305	" " "
KANE	037	Miss
THORNTON	724	Reported damaging hit.
HENLEY	17	Miss
LORCH	739	Miss
MAYA	942	Miss
CRUTCHER	Did not get off.	

Lt. H. E. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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SOLAIRFORSOLS
FIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE

CONFIDENTIAL

STRUCK 23 July, 194

TARGET: Able-Charlie search
MISSION: Observe Jap activity. Strafe targets of opportunity.
FLIGHT LEADER: 1stLt. SMITH.
SQUADRON: VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS: 2 F4U-1's. 50 Cal.(Ratio 1-1-1)
TIMES: TO 0830; T.O.T. Continous; TA 1045.
CHIEF A/C COORDINATING: None.
ENEMY A/C ENGAGED: None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES: None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED: None.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS: Search was negative as far as enemy activity is concerned.

WEATHER: ER Ceiling Unl. Clear.
OBSERVATIONS: Saw no signs of enemy activity whatever. The huts along the NW and NE tip of Buka Island appeared to be deserted. Pilots SMITH and NEILSON observed at least 20 white crossed or grass markers beside various ones of these huts. There were three of these crosses beside one hut. Pilots strafed huts at LABAO and westward. A few were smoked and one had a small fire burning along side of it.

8 0329

MISSION LOG::

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
SMITH	739	See above
NEILSON	417	

1LT. H.B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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PIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE

STRUCK 23 July, 1944.

TARGET: Fighter Sweep, CAPE GAZELLE to RALUM.
MISSION: Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER: Major HUMBERD. 8 0329
SQUADRON: VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS: 12 A/C ordered. 12 F4U-1's 1/1000 lb. inst. over target.
TIMES: TO 0630; T.O.T. 0745; Return 0900.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING: None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED: None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES: None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED: None.
ATTACK TACTICS: Usual dive bombing approach from apx. 10,000 ft. releases varying from 2000-3000 ft.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS: 11 hits in supply area west of RAPOPO. 1 dud.
WEATHER: ER 5/10, 2-12,000 ft. scattered showers. O.T. Cavu.
OBSERVATIONS: Negative as far as enemy activity was concerned. Pilots saw many bomb craters had difficulty locating a good target. There was no easily observable damage from the bombing. However, WUBBEN observed on his way out, after strafing, a fire among a group of buildings 1to2 miles west of RAPOPO and close to the shore, putting up a 100 ft. column of smoke. ROBINSON reported that from 11,000 ft., VUNAKANAU appeared serviceable most planes strafed houses and roads on the way out.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS:
HUMBERD	050	Hit in area
SIGAN	895	dud
INGLEHART	221	Hit in area
STURGIS	387	" " "
FURLOW	942	Hit in area
SCOVILLE	305	" " "
CUNNINGHAM	037	" " "
GARRETT	724	" " "
GERETY	151	Hit in area
WEBBER	157	" " "
ROBINSON	032	" " "
WUBBEN	691	" " "

Lt. H. B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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Authority: E.O. 13526
By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

Res. No. XS 36
R. STRUCK 24 July, 1944.

CONFIDENTIAL

COMAIRNORSOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE

CONFIDENTIAL

TARGET: CAPE GAZELLE to RALUANA POINT.
MISSION: Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER: Capt. Robert W. TELLER.
SQUADRONS: VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS: 12 A/C ordered. 1 F4U-'s over target. 1/500 lb. inst. fuse.
TIMES: T.O. 0635; T.O.T. 0730; Return; 0855.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING: None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED: None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED: None.
ATTACK TACTICS: Bombs were released at altitudes varying from 2-3000 ft. Angle of dive-60-65 degrees. Strafing after pull out.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS: 3 hits in area of Vunapopo supply dumps. 3 confirmed direct hits on main coastal road west of Rapopo. 1 confirmed damaging hit on buildings near coast. 3 hits in are 2 miles west of Rapopo. 1 hit inarea of large buildings opposite the big derelict ship near Vunapopo.
WEATHER: ER: Good. Scattered clouds, 4-5/10, 3-10,000 ft. OT: Ceiling unlimited. No clouds but hazy. Visibility 15-20.
OBSERVATIONS. Negative. No observed damage. No smoke or fires. KANE flew over RAPOPO AIRFIELD at tree top level and reports it to be unserviceable, with many bomb craters in the runway.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
TELLER	050	Hit in area
MOYNIHAN	895	" " "
KANE	387	" " "
TANNER	221	" " "
HART	119	Confirmed damaginghit.
HARDMANN	187	Reported direct hit.
HOLIDAY	151	Mission incomplete.
PERAGES	032	Hit in area.
HENLEY	037	Hit in area
LORCH	691	" " "
MAYA	724	" " "
CRUTCHER	17	Confirmed direct hit.

Lt. H. B. WELCH
VMO-251,
Intell, Officer.

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COMAIRNORSOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE

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Reg. No. 1236
R. S. No.

STRUCK 25 July, 1944.

TARGET: Buildings, TAWII POINT to RATAVAL.
MISSION: Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER: Capt. Robert W. TELLER.
SQUADRON: VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS: 12 A/C ordered. 12 F4U-1's over target, 6 with 1/500 lb.
TIMES: T.O. 1315; T.O.T. 1425; Return; 1540.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING: None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED: None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES: Plane 157, piloted by Lt. THORNTON, received the following damage; 1/3 of port flap (outboard section) totally shot away; 3 to 4 holes just aft cockpit, port side; 3/4 hole in vertical stabilizer.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED: Intense acc. light and medium from TAWII POINT. Intense acc. medium from intersection of TUNNEL HIL ROAD and Coast Road. Intense acc. light and medium from 3 autos SW of TAWII POINT. Intense acc. light, inland from three autos. New position. Acc intense light, east edge of TALILI BAY.
ATTACK TACTICS: Usual dive bombing run was made.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS: Of the six planes carrying bombs, all were reported as having gotten hits in the area. At least 12 fires were caused, of which two smoked up to 500 ft.
WEATHER: ER 2/10. OT-CAVU.
OBSERVATIONS: Observed and strafed a camouflaged truck 3/4 mile south of CAPE TAWII, results unobserved. Truck was stationary and loaded with lumber and covered over with branches. Observed and strafed a 20 foot boat tied up along shore south of the 3 autos gun position. Observed a large new building with a tower on it's roof on the extreme tip of CAPE ST. GEORGE. This was our first experience with dropping magnesium clusters, and the pilots found they had a tendency to drop short of the target.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
TELLER	050	Confirmed direct hit
MOYNIHAN	895	" " "
ROBINSON	717	No bomb
BANNER	037	" "
SMITH	032	Confirmed damaging hit.
NEILSON	036	" " "
KANE	151	No bomb
THORNTON	157	" "
HART	221	Confirmed damaging hit
ERDMANN	739	" " "
HOLIDAY	17	No bomb
PIRAGES	724	" "

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Reg. No. X 236
R. S. No.

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COMAIRNORSOILS
PIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE

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STRUCK 25 July, 1944.

TARGET: KERAVIA BAY.
MISSION: Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER: Major William G. HUMBERD.
SQUADRON: VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS: 12 A/C ordered. 12 F4U-1's over target. 6x1x500; 6 strafed only.
TIMES: T.O. 0810; T.O.T. 0915; Return 1020.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING: None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED: None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES: None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED: Moagro heavy, known positions, west and KERAVIA B.Y.(Bursting at 12,000 ft. apparently aimed at SBD's). Moagro light, known, KERAVIA BAY. (Saw bullets hitting the water in the bay).
ATTACK TACTICS: Approached target around VUNAKNAUA at 12,000 ft., dived from West to East, released at 2500 ft., strafed on way out.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS: The six planes with bombs all dropped in the supply area, all bombs hit in target, results unobserved. All planes strafed shore line and land targets, results unobserved. All planes strafed skmxxxxxxx on out along BLANCHE BAY past RAPOPE to CAPE GAZELLE.
WEATHER: ER and O.T. CAVU.
OBSERVATIONS: Saw bomb smoke over SBD gun position targets but no observation of results of SBD attack. Saw about six fires along west side of SIMPSON HARBOR, area bombed by Green PBJ's.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
HUMBERD	050	Hit in area
SIGAN	895	" " "
INGLEHART	305	No bomb
STURGIS	037	" "
BURLOW	221	Hit in area
SCOVILLE	119	" " "
CUNNINGHAM	717	No bomb
GARRETT	691	" "
GERETY	151	Hit in area
WEBBER	157	" " "
ROSELLEN	724	No bomb
MAC LACHLAN	017	" "

Lt. H. B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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COMAIRNORSOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE
RALUM 202.

STRUCK 26 July, 1944.

TARGET:	Bomb and strafe.
MISSION:	Capt. TELLER.
FLIGHT LEADER:	VMO-251.
SQUADRON:	12 A/C ordered. 1 F4U-1's over target.
PLANES AND LOADINGS:	T.O. 0800; T.O.T. 0910; Return 1030.
TIMES:	None.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING:	None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED:	None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES:	None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES:	None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED:	

ATTACK TACTICS: High speed glide from 10,000 ft. some planes pushing over to 70 degrees. Indicated air speeds at pull out were plus 500 M.P.H. Releases varied from 3500 down to 2500. No strafing was done.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS: Eight planes got hits in target area; one missed; one was unobserved; and one a dud. No results observed, except for one small fire and a small amount of black smoke in target area. The one miss by ROBINSON was believed to have been caused by mechanical failure of the bomb rack in not releasing at the proper time. The bomb fell off a few seconds later into the water.

WEATHER: ER Visibility good. O'cast at 14,000 ft. O.T. CAVU.

OBSERVATIONS: Negative.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
TELLER	037	Hit in area.
MOYNIHAN	895	" " "
ROBINSON	221	Miss
TANNER	119	Did Not get off.
SMITH	151	unobserved
NEILSON	036	dud
KANE	032	hit in area
THORNTON	717	hit in area
HENLEY	691	hit in area
LORCH	942	hit in area
MAYA	305	hit in area
CRUTCHER	417	hit in area.

Lt. H. B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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COMAIRNORSOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE

STRUCK: 26 July, 1944.

TARGET:	RALUM 46.
MISSION:	Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER:	Major Humberd.
SQUADRON:	VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS:	12 A/C ordered. 12 F4U-1's over target, each carrying 1/500 lb. bomb inst. GP.
TIMES:	T.O. 1350; T.O.T. 1457; Return 1610.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING:	None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED:	None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES:	None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES::	None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED:	Moderate inaccurate light and medium from NE of target. Moderate inaccurate heavy from undetermined position, while over target. App. 25 puffs of black smoke at 4-5000 ft.
ATTACK TACTICS:	Pushover from 9500 ft. Releases varied from 2500 to 3500 ft.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS:	11 hits in area. 1 bomb was dropped on CAPE GAZELLE. Only observed damage was one patch of black smoke(not bomb burst) in target area.
WEATHER:	ER: BOUGAINVILLE O'cast at 1400. Big thunder head 5-6 mile NW of BUKA. New Ireland Coast solidly closed in.
OBSERVATIONS:	FURLOW sighted the large puff ob black smoke on the ground in the target area. He stated that it looked like it was possibly a hut burning, was definitely not bomb smoke. Observations otherwise negative.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
GERETY	305	Hit in area
WEBBER	037	" " "
ROSELLEN	17	" " "
MAC LACHLAN	739	" " "
HUMBERD	050	" " "
SIGAN	895	" " "
INGLEHART	119	" " "
STURGIS	036	" " "
FURLOW	717	" " "
SCOVILLE	032	" " "
CUNNINGHAM	691	" " "
WUBBEN	942	" " "

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COMAIRNORSOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE

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STRUCK: 27 July, 1944.

TARGET:	TOBERA 35.
MISSION:	Bomb and strafe.
SQUADRON:	VMO-251.
FLIGHT LEADER:	Major W.C. HUMBERD.
PLANES AND LOADINGS:	16 A/C ordered. 14 F4U-1's over target with 1x500 lb. magnesium cluster.
TIMES:	T.O. 0655; T.O.T. 1015; T.A. 1115.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING:	None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED:	None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES:	None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES:	None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED:	None.
ATTACK TACTICS:	Approached at 12,000 ft. Pushed over at 10,000 ft. 60-70°. Released at 2800 ft. Led target 200 mils.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS:	All mag. clusters reported within the target.
WEATHER:	ER: Good except for thunderhead west of Cape St. George running N To S. OT- Cave.
OBSERVATIONS:	GERETY strafed concrete blockhouse 2½ mi. east of TOBERA with unobserved results. Pilots reported 3-4 small fires north of VUNAKANAU. Other observations negative.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
HUMBERD	050	Hit in area.
SIGAN	895	" " "
INGLEHART	221	" " "
STURGIS	119	" " "
FURLOW	717	" " "
SCOVILLE	157	" " "
CUNNINGHAM	151	" " "
GERETY	036	" " "
WEBBER	032	" " "
ROSELLEN	691	" " "
MAC LACHLAN	942	" " "
SMITH	305	" " "
WUBBEN	724	" " "
KANE	417	" " "

Lt. H. B. WELCH,
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COMAIRNORSOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
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STRUCK: 28 July, 1944.

TARGET:	TOBERA 36.
MISSION:	Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER:	Capt. R. W. TELLER.
SQUADRON:	VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS:	16 A/C ordered. 16 A/C(f4U-1's) over target with 1/1000 lb. bomb with inst fuse.
TIMES:	T.O. 0805; T.O.T. 0915; T.A. 1025.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING:	None.
EMEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED:	None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES:	None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES:	None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED:	Intense inaccurate light from known position on Hospital Ridge. Moderate accurate light from Hospital Ridge.
ATTACK TACTICS:	Pushed over at 7-8000 ft. NORDUP 76 60° dive, 150 mils lead, released at 2500 ft.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS:	TOBERA 36- 3 area hits. TOBERA 35- 3 area hits, 1 miss. NORDUP 76- 3 area hits, 1 jettisoned. Buildings west of RAPOPO- 3 hits in area, 1 jettisoned. Buildings NE of TOBERA 1 area hit.
WEATHER:	ER: Good. CAVU.
OBSERVATIONS:	Most divisions selected targets of opportunity because of the low ceiling of 6-8000 ft. Observed three fires among buildings west of RAPOPO, one of these fires putting up white smoke to 500 ft. Looked like something blow up. Observed large fires between RABAUL and Vulcan Crater, with smoke to 500 ft. Also saw fires between VULCAN CRATER and VUNAKANAU.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
HENLEY	691	Hit in area
LORCH	942	" " "
GARRETT	305	" " "
CRUTCHER	037	" " "
SMITH	724	" " "
NEILSON	766	" " "
ROSELLEN	739	Reported damaging hit.
MAC LACHLAN	417	Hit in area.
TELLER	050	Hit in area
MOYNIHAN	221	" " "
ROBINSON	119	" " "
TANNER	157	" W "
HART	151	" " "
ERDMANN	044	Jettisoned.
CUNNINGHAM	032	Hit in area.
PIRAGES	036	" " "

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VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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COMAIRNORSOLS
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STRUCK: 29 July, 1944.

TARGET: Primary: PRAED POINT(Weathered out)
Secondary: SHHANA ISLAND.
MISSION: Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER: Major W.C. HUMBERD.
SQUADRON: VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS: 16 a/c ordered. 16 F4U-1's over target.
1x1000 lb. bomb with inst. fuse.
TIMES: T.O. 0815; O.T. 0910; T.A. 0945.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING: None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED: None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES: None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED: Saw few gun flashes on SOHANA ISLAND. Did not see the bursts or any tracers.
ATTACK TACTICS: Approached target from NE, used dive brakes. 70-80° dive. 330 knots indicated. Release at 2000 ft.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS: All bombs hit on NE tip of SOHANA ISLAND. Results unobserved.
WEATHER: ER- Big front across New Britain, running NE to SW from north of BUKA to WIDE BAY. OT(SOHANA) clear.
OBSERVATIONS: The flight was just off north west end of BOUGAINVILLE enroute to RABAUL, when DAN BASE instructed the flight leader to turn back and drop bombs near two missions east of POINT DOG. Pilots were not familiar with the exact location of this target, so the flight attacked SOHANA ISLAND gun positions as an alternate target. Other observations negative.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
SMITH	017	Hit in area.
NEILSON	724	" " "
ROSELLEN	417	" " "
MAC LACHLAN	739	" " "
FURLOW	717	" " "
SCOVILLE	691	" "
CUNNINGHAM	305	" " "
GARRETT	032	" " "
HUMBERD	050	" " "
SIGAN	895	" " "
INGLEHART	221	" " "
STURGIS	119	" " "
HART	157	" " "
ERDMANN	151	" " "
HENLEY	766	" " "
PIRAGES	036	" " "

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Lt. H. B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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Air Institute

CONFIDENTIAL COMAIRNORSOLS CONFIDENTIAL 8 0962
PIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE STRUCK: 29 July, 1944.

TARGET:	Huts on SW of BOUGAINVILLE.
MISSION:	Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER:	Major HUMBERD.
SQUADRON:	VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS:	16 A/C ordered. 16 F4U-1's over target. 1/1000 lb. bomb with inst. fuse.
TIMES:	T.O. 1305; C.T. 1400; Return 1450.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING:	None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED:	None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES:	None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES:	None.
A.A. FIRE ENCOUNTERED:	None.
ATTACK TACTICS:	Ceiling was down to 2000 ft, making it necessary to do 1 vel bombing from 1800 ft.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS:	13 area hits. 2 confirmed damaging hits. 1 dud.
WEATHER:	Very poor ceiling 2000 ft. in places, ceiling zero over large areas. Clear over water SW of target area but front moving westward over island.
OBSERVATIONS:	Observed absolutely nothing except a few deserted huts that were wet and wouldn't burn. No enemy activity.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
TURLOW	717	Hit in area
SCOVILLE	691	" " "
CUNNINGHAM	842	" " "
GARRETT	157	" " "
SMITH	724	" " "
NEILSON	017	" " "
HENLEY	739	" " "
LORCH	057	" " "
HUMBERD	050	" " "
SIGAN	417	Dud.
INGLEHART	221	Hit in area
JOLINK	119	" " "
HART	151	Confirmed damaging hit
ERDMANN	036	" " "
TANNER	032	Hit in area.
PIRGES	766	" "

Lt. H. B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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Authority: E.O. 13526
By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

Amended

CONFIDENTIAL COMAIRNORSOLS CONFIDENTIAL 8 0962
PIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE STRUCK: 30 July, 1944.

TARGET:	RATAVAL 127.(closed in) Hit SOHANA ISLAND.
MISSION:	Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER:	Capt. Thomas W. FURLOW.
SQUADRON:	VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS:	16 A/c ordered. 14 F4U-1's over target with 1x000 lb. with inst. fuse.
TIMES:	T.O. 0815; T.O.T. 1030; L.A.1045.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING:	None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED:	None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES:	None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES:	None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED:	None.
ATTACK TACTICS:	60-80° dive bombing run from 12,000 ft. Releases varied from 2500 to 4000 ft. Dive brakes used.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS:	Twelve planes dropped bombs on NE tip of SOHANA ISLAND, with no observed damage. One dropped on CHINATOWN, BUKA ISLAND, no observed damage. One bomb(Plane 766) would not release over target and was jettisoned in the sea.
WEATHER:	ER- scattafront to 15,000 ft. running from CAPE ST. GEORGE to WIDE. BAY. O.T.(SOHANA ISLAND). Clear immediately over island, rain squalls all around.
OBSERVATIONS:	SOLANA ISLAND appeared to be deserted. Saw the bombs bursting in the island but other observations were negative. No strafing.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
BACHELOR	050	Hit in area
PIRAGES	221	" " "
SWICK	119	" " "
SPINDLER	766	Jettisoned.
FOLINCK	032	Hit in area.
ENDERS	036	" " "
FOWLER	151	" " "
FURLOW	717	" " "
ERDMANN	691	" " "
MC CABE	942	" " "
CORMAN	305	" " "
HENLEY	417	" " "
LORCH	739	" " "
JOHNSON, A.	17	" " "

Lt. H.B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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COMAIRNORSOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE

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STRUCK: 3 August, 1944.

TARGET: PUT PUT, MALABUNGA, KERAVAT FIGHTER SWEEP.
DUKE OF YOUR-CAPE LAMBERT " "

MISSION: Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER: Lt. HENLEY and Major BACHELER.
SQUADRONS: VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS: 8 planes, 1x500 lb. 4-5 second delay fuse.
TIMES: T.O: 0835; TOT: 0940-1010; Return: 1140.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING: None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED: None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES: Plane No. 56151, piloted by Lt. LORCH, was hit by AA fire near TOBERA, and was lost in a water landing in St. GEORGE CHANNEL.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: LORCH, Orville F., 1stLt.(026772) USMCR, Missing in Action. Lt. LORCH's plane was hit at app. 1000 ft. altitude while he was making a strafing run on gun positions SE of TOBER AIRFIELD. LORCH headed out toward ST. GEORGE CHANNEL and gained 3000 ft. altitude and had reached a poing 1/3 to 1/2 the distance from the mouth of the WARANGOI RIVER to CAPE ST. GEORGE when his engine froze completely. He glided down, with the other three planes in his division right on his wing, made a water landing, and failed to get out of the plane before it sank. The plane floated less than 10 seconds. The other three pilots sent distress signal to Dumbo at GREEN ISLAND, and circled the spot at masthead height for nearly thirty minutes. No trace of the pilot was seen. Concerning the water landing, it was made in rough water, with many whitecaps and swells. The plane's tail touched first. The plane made one low bounce, then hit the water. The other pilots reported that LORCH had jettisoned his hood and apparently was well prepared to make the landing. They could not tell why LORCH failed to get out of the plane.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED: Saw 4 guns firing from position app. 2 miles SE of TOBERA RUNWAY, 2 in cocoanut plantation and 2 in edge of woods along the road running north to south.
ATTACT TACTICS: Usual dive bombing tactics.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS: 1 direct hit by CRUTCHER on group of huts SE of TOBERA STRIP. 1 area hit and one miss on same huts. 1 area hit on buildings near MALABUNGA. 1 area hit and 1 dud on plantation on WATOM ISLAND. 1 area hit and 1 dud on houses in area of VUNAGALIP, near CAPE LAMBERT. Four planes strafed huts. No damage was observed.

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(Over)

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WEATHER: ER-Front lies NW to SE on a line to south of and parallel to route to target. OT-Scattered low clouds.

OBSERVATIONS: DUKE OF YOUK-CAPE LAMBERT: Saw several good plantation houses scattered about to the east of CAPE LAMBERT. Observed several good sized fires in CAPE LIGUAN area. BACHELER blew wheels down instead of purging tanks, so he and his wingman turned back and dropped on plantation on WATOM ISLAND. PUT PUT KERAVAT SWEEP: FLICKINGER's bomb, listed as a miss actually overshot and hit on a road, cratering it.

MISSION LOG:

PUT PUT KERAVAT SWEEP

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
HENLEY	036	Hit in area.
LORCH	151	" " "
FLICKENGER	157	Miss.
CRUTCHER	032	Direct hit.
BACHELER	050	Dud.
PIRAGES	895	Hit in area.
SWICK	119	" " "
SPINDLER	037	Dud.

Lt. H.B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

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PIVA OPERATIONS
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STRUCK: 3 August, 1944.

TARGET: PUP-PUT, MALABUNGA, KERAVAT FIGHTER SWEEP, DUKE OF YOUR-CAPE LANBERT " ".

MISSION: Bomb and strafe targets of opportunity.

FLIGHT LEADER: Lts. FOWLER and JOLINK.

SQUADRON: VMO-251.

PLANES AND LOADINGS: 8 planes, 1x500 lb. each, 4-5 second delay fuse. 6 planes reached target. 1 plane, No. 724, piloted by Lt. CORMAN, returned to base with a hydraulic leak. One plane did not take off.

TIMES: T.O: 1230; TOT; 1330-1445; Return: 1550.

OTHER A/C COORDINATING: None.

ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED: None.

DAMAGE TO PLANES: None.

PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: None.

AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED: None.

ATTACK TACTICS: FOWLERS direct hit; pushover at 5000 ft. 50 degree dive with dive brakes, released between 300 and 500 ft, and indicating less than 200 knots. Release made when target passed beneath cowl.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS: 2 direct hits; 2 area hits; 2 misses. No specific damage was observed. Three planes strafed huts. No known damage.

WEATHER: ER- poor. Front lying from point west of TOROKINA to NEW IRELAND. OT-scattered cu. at 4,000 ft. Visibility 20 to 30 miles.

OBSERVATIONS: PUT-PUT KERAVATSWEEP: FOWLER and JOHNSON. H got direct hits on buildings on KERAVAT RIVE three to four miles from KERAVAT AIRFIELD Noticed that Japs have cleared out the und brush in an area SE of the EXPERIMENTAL FA as if they were making a new supply or garden area. Observed many good log struc ures inland to SE of KERABAT. No strafing.

DUKE OF YORK* CAPE LAMBERT SWEEP: Bombs were dropped on buildings in GAVIT PLANTATION which looked like a bivouac area. Strafed huts but no damage observed. No AA. No enemy activity. Observed fires near VUNAKANAU. Planes on this sweep released bombs only 50 ft. above the tree tops, the instant target disappeared beneath the cowl. Two of the three overshot app. 100 ft.

MISSION LOG: PUT PUT KERAVAT SWEEP

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
FOWLER	691	Confirmed direct hit.
MC CABE	766	Did not take off.
JOHNSON, A.	065	Hit in area.
JOHNSON, H.	17	Confirmed direct hit.
[illegible]NK	305	Hit in area.
[illegible]S	417	Wild miss.
[illegible]S	739	Wild miss.
[illegible]AN	724	Returned to base.

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PIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE STRUCKE 4 August, 1944.

TARGET: DUKE OF YOUK-CAPE LAMBERT FIGHTER SWEEP.
PUT PUT, MALABUNGA, KERAVAT " "

MISSION: Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER: Capt. FURLOW and Lt. JENNINGS.
SQUADRONS: VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS: 8 planes, 1x500 lb. 4-5 sec delay fuse.
7 planes over target. 1 did not take off.
TIMES: T.O. : 1205; T.O.T: 1300-1330; TA: 1450.
OTHER A/C COORDINATINGS None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED: None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES: None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED: None.
ATTACT TACTICS: Usual delayed action bombing tactics.
Released varied form 100 to 300 ft.

SUMMARY OF RESUITS: 3 area hits on MALABUNGA, 1 unobserved. 1 miss and 2 duds on buildings located on the narrow penissular on the south of the DUKE OF YOUK ISLAND. JENNINGS is believed to have wrecked a truck by strafing; the truck was headed south on the north-south road just north of MALABUNGA. The truck was moving at high speed but JENNINGS was able to keep hit pipper right on its cab. Truck appeared to crash into ditch on side of road.

WEATHER: ER- Scattered clouds. Ot. CAVU.
OBSERVATIONS: DUKE OF YOUR- CAPE LAMBERT: Sighted a column of white smoke rising from vicinity of HOSPITAL RIDGE to 3 or 4000 ft. No strafing done, for lack of suitable target. Other observations negative.
PUT PUT KERAVAT SWEEP: The three planes strafed various huts. The only observation of note was the truck strafed by JENNINGS as described above.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
JENNINGS	724	Hit in area
MC MASTERS	065	" " "
FOLEY	036	" " "
FRANK	032	Unobserved.
FURLOW	717	Miss
SCOVILLE	766	did not take off.
CUNNINGHAM	17	dud
GARRETT	417	dud

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PIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE STRUCK: 4 August, 1944.

TARGET:	DUKE OF YORK-CAPE LAMBERT SWEEP. PUT PUT, MALABUNGA, KERAVAT SWEEP.
MISSION:	Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER:	Maj. HUMBERD and Lt. JOLINK.
SQUADRON:	VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS:	8 F4U-1's, 1x500 lb. 4-5 sec. delay fuse.
TIMES:	TO: 0835; TOT: 0950-1050; Return; 1155.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING:	None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED:	None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES:	None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES:	None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED:	None.
ATTACK TACTICS:	Pushover 10,500 ft. 70 degree dive with dive brakes. 75-80 mils lead on far edge of target. Released at 2500 ft.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS:	1 reported direct hit on huss; 3 area hits; 1 miss; 3 unobserved. Strafed huts and docks Smoked a hut and a church. Didn't realize it was a church until too late. Only other observed damage from the bombing was the demolishing of the hut that was the object of the one direct hit.
WEATHER:	ER-Scattered clouds west of BUKA to CAPE ST. GEORGE. OT-CAVU.
OBSERVATIONS:	DUKE OF YOUK-CAPE LAMBERT: No trucks seen. Roads looked very good. Saw quite a few good huts and buildings along CAPE LAMBERT shore to the east. Saw a cloud of white smoke in CAPE LIGULA area(not caused by our planes) go up to 2-300 ft. The smoke disappeared within several minutes. All four planes dropped their bombs on rows of huts on MAKADA ISLAND, DUKE OF YOUK, which looked like a camp or bivouac area. PUT PUT KERAVAT SWEEP: One plane dropped bombs on shacks at MALABUNGA from 100 ft. altitude; for a hit in the area. Three dropped near PUT PUT HARBOR, ENDERS getting a direct hit on a little shack of some sort. One plane strafed PUT PUT ELTN. Reconnaissance from 1000 ft. along whole sweep was otherwise negative.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
HUMBERD	650	Unobserved
SIGAN	691	Hit in area
INGLEHART	221	Miss
STURGIS	119	Unobserved.
JOLINK	037	Hit in area
ENDERS	036	Reported direct hit.
BOWERS	157	Hit in area.
CORMAN	044	Unobserved.

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STRUCK: 5 August, 1944.

TARGET: PUT PUT MALABUNGA KERAVAT FIGHTER SWEEP.
... - : DUKE OF YOUR-CAPE LAMBERT FIGHTER SWEEP.
MISSION: Bomb and Strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER: Major BACHELER and Lt. FOWLER.
SQUADRON: VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS: 8 planes, 1x500 lb. 4 to 5 seconds delay.
TIMES: TO: 1200; TOT: 1330; TA: 1400. Primary targets weathered out. Struck; SOHANA [illegible].
OTHER A/C COORDINATING: None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED: None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES: None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED: None.
ATTACK TACTICS: Pushover 8,000 ft. 20 degree glide; Release 1500 ft.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS: 4 area hits; 3 misses; and 1 dud.
WEATHER: ER-Solid front N To S this side of CAPE GAZELLE. OT: Did not reach primary target. Visibility reduced, much haze and mist over secondary. Mattress at 9,000.
OBSERVATIONS: No enemy activity seen in BUKA PASSAGE ar[illegible]. No observed damage from bombing attack. Other observations likewise negative.

MISSION LOG:

PUT PUT KERAVAT SWEEP

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
BACHELER	050	Miss
PIRAGES	065	Hit in area
SPINDLER	724	" " "
SWICK	739	Miss

DUKE OF YOUR CAPE LAMBERT SWEEP

FOWLER	417	Miss
MC CABE	717	Dud.
JOHNSON,H.	032	Hit in area.
JOHNSON,A.	691	" " "

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STRUCK: 6 August, 1944.

TARGET: PUT-PUT MALAGUNGA, KERAVAT SWEEP.
MISSION: Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER: Major. HUMBERD.
SQUADRON: VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS: 4 F4U-1's, 1x500 4 to 5 seconds delay.
TIMES: TO: 0740; TOT: 0905; TA: 0930.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING: None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED: None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES: None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED: None.
ATTACK TACTICS: Pushover at 10,000 ft; 70 degree dive [illegible] with brakes. Released at 2000 ft. recovered at 700ft. . Speed of 280-90 knots. with 75 to 80 mils lead given the target.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS: All four bombs hit in the target area(gun positions on NE portion of island) but results could not be seen because of bad weather, high speed retirement, and delay action in bomb fusings. No strafing was done by any plane.

WEATHER: ER: Cu. 2-6000 ft. for first 70 miles of route to target. Very soupy. Big front from BUKA to NE NEW BRITIAN, with heavy and visibility zero. OT; Primary target not reached. BOHANA weather poor. Vis reduced to 5 miles.

OBSERVATIONS: Negative because of weather.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
HUMBERD	050	Hit in area.
SIGAN	221	" " "
INGLEHART	119	" " "
STURGIS	037	" " "

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STRUCK: 6 August, 1944.

TARGET:	EBERY's LEASE to TOBURAI FIGHTER SWEEP.
MISSION:	Strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER:	Lt. FOWLER.
SQUADRON:	VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS:	4 F4U-1's, no bomb load.
TIMES:	TO: 1530; TOT: 1610-1625; TA: 1700.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING:	None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED:	None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES:	None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES:	None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED:	Intense inaccurate heave or medium fro EBERY's LEASE. Intense inaccurate hea or medium from KARA STRIP.
ATTACK TACTICS:	Approached at 6,000 feet over water between KAHILI and BALLALE. SWung NW and came in at tree top level. Scisso up the trail from EBERY's LEASE to nort end of target area.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS:	Target area was well covered by all planes, with many bursts of 50 Cal. Smoked one hut but no other damage wa visible.
WEATHER:	ER: Clear. OT: Poor. Cloud layer at 2500-3000 ft. Hazy and misty. Visibi 8 to 10 miles.
OBSERVATIONS:	Observed results of much enemy activit many gardens and all well cultivated. and trails in target area were worn, a if from much usage. Many clearings beneath the trees and at one spot in t area saw large number of small logs s and piled up, with two small fires burn nearby.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
FOWLER	895	
MC CABE	221	All four planes strafed.
JOHNSON, H	14119	
JOHNSON, A.	305	

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Intelligence Officer

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Authority: E.O. 13526
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TARGET: DUKE OF YOUK-CAPE LAMBERT SWEEP
KERAVAT, MALABUNGA, PUT PUT SWEEP.

MISSION: Bomb and Strafe.

FLIGHT LEADER: Capt. FURLOW, and Maj. HUMBERD.

SQUADRON: VMO-251.

PLANES AND LOADINGS: 8 F4U-1's, 1x500 lb. each, 4 to 5 seconds delay.

TIMES: TO: 0755; TOT: 0855-1015; TA: 1100.

OTHER A/C COORDINATING: None.

ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED: None.

DAMAGE TO PLANES: Plane Bu. No. 50050, piloted by Major HUMBERD, suffered extensive damage to the right wing when it struck a tree top while in a low level strafing run.

PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: None.

AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED: None.

ATTACK TACTICS: Bombing runs: Two planes released at tree top level, in slight glide, at 200 kts., when target disappeared below the cowling; One hit 20 ft. to right, the other overshot 15 ft.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS: 3 misses; 1 jettisoned; 4duds. Strafed two trucks and one civilian automobile. Unobserved results.

WEATHER: ER-7/10 at 2000 ft., 50 miles this side of CAPE ST. GEORGE, going up to 7000 ft. at the cape. 15,000 ft. overcast. OT- Visibility good. No low clouds. O'cast at 15,000 ft.

OBSERVATIONS: DUKE OF YOUR-CAPE LAMBERT: Negative, except for observing many houses on JAQUINOT POINT, DUKE OF YOUK ISLAND. All four planes in the sweep dropped their bombs on a group of huts on ROKUNDA PLANTATION. The four bombs were duds. Nobody strafed.
PUT PUT KERAVAT SWEEP: Major HUMBERD was strafing a truck on a road near the WARANGOI RIVER, south of TOBERA, at low level, when he struck the top of a tall tree with his right wing, inflicting extensive damage to the plane. The truck was not moving. At first sight, 6 or 8 people were seen running away from it. They were out of sight when the pilot came back for his strafing run. The truck was loaded above the sides and had branches laid on the top of it. Major HUMBERD and his wingman, SIGAN, turned back for the base and the other two planes continued the sweep. SIGAN had sighted another truck, empty and going west on the same road Maj. HUMBERD's truck was on, but when he turned back to strafe, it had disappeared. SIGAN got the impression that this truck had a rear platform on which was mounted a machine gun, manned by two men. On the way out SIGAN dropped his bomb on some huts near a cocanut plantation near the shore north of WARANGOI RIVER. Bomb hit near(over)

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some hits but no damage was observed.

STURGIS sighted, strafed, and bombed a civilian automobile, on a road just east of TOMA, SE of VUNAKANAU. The car was parked on a road which leads up a hitl to a burned-out church with a hole in the roof, located atop the hill. STURGIS strafed the car thoroughly in several passes. On the way back ffom KERAVAT he again sighted this automobile, and noticed that someone had covered it with branches. He then dropped his bomb on the car, in a low level run. Overshooting by only 15 ft.

MISSION NO. DUKE OF YOUK CAPE LAMBERT SWEEP

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
FURLOW	717	Did
SCOVILL	942	Did.
CUNNINGHAM	17	Did.
GARRETT	691	Did.

KERAVAT SWEEP

HUMPERD	050	Jettisoned.
SEGAN	036	Did
ENGLEHART	221	Did
STURGIS	119	Did.

Lt. H. B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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STRUCK: 7 August, 1944.

TARGET:	DUKE OF YORK-CAPE LAMBERT SWEEP.
MISSION:	Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER:	Lt. JENNINGS.
SQUADRON:	VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS:	4 F4U-1's. 1x500 lb. 4 to 5 sec. delay.
TIMES:	TO: 1200; TOT: 1315-1420; TA: 1530.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING:	None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED:	None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES:	None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES:	None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED:	None.
ATTACK TACTICS:	Pushed over 7000. Angle 50 to 60 degrees speed 320; release: 1500. Lead: 100 mil Results: 1 overshot 100 ft.; 2 fell sho 50 to 75 ft. L unobserved.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS:	All four planes dropped their bombs on grpi½ pf bio;domgs ;00 yds. inland fro a wharf on GARRERR BAY; east of CAPE LA Strafed buildings on DUKE OF YORK ISLAND No damage seen from bombing or strafi
WEATHER:	ER: Mattress at 16,900. 9/10 from 700- OT: Scattered low clouds. Ceiling at 1
OBSERVATIONS:	Negative.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
JENNINGS	065	Unobserved
MC MASTERS	724	Hit in area.
FOLEY	739	Hit in area.
FRANK	417	Hit in area.

Lt. H.B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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STRUCK: 7 August, 1944.

TARGET:	PUT-PUT, MALABUNGA, KERAVAT SWEEP.
MISSION:	Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER:	Major BACHELER.
SQUADRON:	VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS:	4 F4U-1's 1x500 lb. 4-5 sec. delay.
TIMES:	TO: 1230; TOT: 1330-1450; TA: 1550.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING:	None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED:	None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES:	Plane 221, piloted by PIRAGES, receiv small(30 or 50 cal.) bullet hole in f lage near horizontal stabilizer. D see any AA Does not know how he got hole.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES:	None.
AA IFRE ENCOUNTERED:	None.
ATTACT TACTICS:	Low level glide bombing; pushed over at 3,000 ; 20 degree glide; 300 knots; no brakes; released at tree top, using cowl for sighting.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS:	All bombs on buildings at NEINDUK PLANTATION. o overshot 25 yds; 1 over-shot 100 yds; and one fell short 200 ft; one was a direct hit, and this pilot pushed over at 1500 ft, in a 10 degree glide, speed 240, and released at 50 ft about 50 yds before the plane was over target. Completely destroyed one bui Much strafing resulted in 2 hits smok and Major BSCHELER strafed and killed Jap running across a garden near MAL ER: Mattress at 16,000. 9/10 from 70C 9,000 ft. OT; Scattered low clouds. Ceiling at 15,000 ft.
OBSERVATIONS:	Negative.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
BACHELER	895	Miss.
PIRAGES	221	Direct hit.
SPINDLER	119	Miss
SWICK	037	Miss

Lt. H.B. WELCH,
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Intelligence Officer.

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STRUCK: 7 August, 1944.

TARGET:	NEW IRELAND FIGHTER SWEEP.
MISSION:	Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER:	Lt. JOLINK.
SQUADRON:	VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS:	4 F4U-1's, 1x500 lb. inst.
TIMES:	TO: 1300; TOT:--; TA: 1400.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING:	None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED:	None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES:	None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES:	None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED:	None.
ATTACT TACTICS:	No attack was made.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS:	Flight leader returned flight to base because it was unable to get through, as was predicted before takeoff. All planes jettisoned bombs in sea before returning base.
WEATHER:	ER: Very poor. Hit solid front extending NE to SW through BUKA ISLAND, with many rain squalls and ceiling and visibility zero. OT: Did not reach target.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PALEN NO.	REMARKS
JOLINK	032	
ENDERS	157	All four planes jettisoned bombs.
BOWERS	739	
CORMAN	387	

Lt. H.B. WELCH,
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Intelligence Officer.

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STRUCK: 8 August, 1944.

TARGET:	DUKE OF YORK-CAPE LAMBERT SWEEP.
MISSION:	Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER:	Lt. HENLEY.
SQUADRON:	VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS:	4 F4U-1's, 1x500 lb. inst.
TIMES:	TO: 0730; TOT: 0830-0939; TA: 1030.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING:	None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED:	None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES:	None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES:	None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED:	Meagre inacc. unknown type from TOBERA. Saw only the gun flashes(2 or 3) on the ground.
ATTACK TACTICS:	Usual dive bombing tactics;
SUMMARY OF RESULTS:	All four planes dropped bombs on group of buildings at ST. PAUL, CAPE LAMBERT. Two were believed to be damaging hits. All four bombs hit well within the group of buildings. All four planes strafed, with no observed damage.
WEATHER:	ER and OT; CAVU.
OBSERVATION:	Negative.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
HENLEY	17	Damaging hit.
CRUTCHER	739	" "
SCHOETZ	724	Hit in area.
BARTON	065	" " "

Lt. H.B. WELCH,
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Intelligence Officer

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STRUCK: 8 August, 1944.

TARGET:	EBERY's LEASE TO TAKASAGO FARMS SWEEP.
MISSION:	Strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER:	Capt. FURLOW.
SQUADRON	VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS:	4 F4U-1's. No bomb load.
TIMES:	TO: 1050; TOT: 1125-1200; TA: 1250.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED:	None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES:	None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES:	None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED:	Intense inacc. heavy from KAHILI AIRFIELD (40 to 50 puffs at 9500 ft. very close to planes). Intense inacc. heavy from EBERY's LEASE.
ATTACK TACTICS:	Low level strafing, app. 6000rounds.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS:	Smoked one group of hits. Other damage visible. Obtained good strafing coverage of target area by all four planes.
WEATHER:	ER and OT: 4/10 at 3-9000 ft.
OBSERVATIONS:	Saw one fire five miles to NE of EBERY's LEASE, and another to the east of the target. No Japs or enemy activity sighted. Observed some very good looking gardens. Saw one truck pulling out onto KAHILI RUNWAY but did not go down on because it might have been a trap.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
FURLOW	717	All four of these planes strafed. No bombs
SCOVILLE	065	
CUNNINGHAM	036	
GARRETT	305	

Lt. H.B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer

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By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

Reg. No. X1177
R. S. No.

CONFIDENTIAL

COMAIRNORSOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE

CONFIDENTIAL

STRUCK: 8 August, 1944.

TARGET:	DUKE OF YORK-CAPE LAMBERT SWEEP.
MISSION:	Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER:	Lt. FOWLER.
SQUADRON:	VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS:	4 F4U-1's, 1x500 inst.
TIMES:	TO; 1145; TOT: 1325-1400; TA: 1515.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING:	None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED:	None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES:	None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES:	None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED:	None.
ATTACK TACTICS:	Pushed over 10,000; 75 degree dive; released at 3,000; used dive brakes; FOWLER and MC CABE used cowl to sight; JOHNSON and FLICKINGER gave 75 to 100 lead.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS:	FOWLER and FLICKINGER got direct hits MC CABE overshot 100 yards; JOHNSON undershot 20 yards. Destroyed two buildings. All planes bombed the area target, a group of buildings and huts at VUNALAMA PLANTATION.
WEATHER:	ER: Scattered cu. OT: Cavu.
OBSERVATIONS:	No trucks. No enemy activity. Saw a huge column of smoke inland and from RALUANA POINT.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
FOWLER	157	Direct hit.
MC CABE	119	Miss
JOHNSON,A.	387	"
FLICKINGER	394	Direct hit.

Lt. H.B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

Mag. No. X1177
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COMAIRNORSOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLEGENCE

CONFIDENTIAL

STRUCK: 8 August, 1944.

TARGET: PUT PUT MALABUNG KERAVAT SWEEP.
MISSION: Bomb and Strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER: Major BACHELER.
SQUADRON: VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS: 4 F4U-1's, 1x500 inst.
TIMES: TO: 1215; TOT: 1310-1400; TA: 1450.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING: None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED: None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES: None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED: None.
ATTACK TACTICS: Two planes used 45-50 degree dive, 320 [illegible] released at 2-3000 ft. without brakes; sighted by colw; overshot 25-75 yards. One plane pushed over at 9000, with dive brakes, in 80 degree dive, at 250 knots, released at 2200 ft. with no lead, and g[illegible] almost a direct hit.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS: Damaged one hut by bombing. No damage se[illegible] from strafing.

WEATHER: ER and OT: Cavu.
OBSERVATIONS: Eight or ten camp fires were sighted i[illegible] various little clearings, with huts nearb[illegible] in a wide area three to six miles south of BUNAKANAU. Straf[illegible]d huts at TOMA. SW[illegible] and SPINELER photographed roads between MALABUNGA, KERAVAT and VUNAKANAU.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
BACHELER	895	Dud
BRIAGES	417	Miss.
SPINDLER	037	Miss.
SWICK	032	Direct hit.

Lt. H.B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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COMAIRNORSOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE

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STRUCK: 8 August, 1944.

TARGET:	EBERY's LEASE-TAKASGA FARMS SWEEP.
MISSION:	S trafe.
FLIGHT LEADER:	Lt. JOLINK.
SQUADRON:	VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS:	4 F4U-1's. No bomb load.
TIMES:	TO: 1300; TOT: 1320-1500; TA: 1520.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING:	None.
ENEMY PLANES ECNOUNTERED:	None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES:	None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED:	None.
ATTACK TACTICS:	Low level strafing passes.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS:	None observed.
WEATHER:	ER and OT: Scattered 2/10 clouds at 1,000ft. just right for strafing.
OBSERVATIONS:	Observed many good gardens and huts. Saw 1 Jap near beach on east side of KAHILI. He ran out of his hut and jumped into a ditch. Were not able to bring guns to bear on him. No trucks seen.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
JOLINK	724	
ENDERS	766	All four pilots strafed with fixed guns
BOWERS	691	
CORMAN	17	

Lt. H.B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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Reg. No. 11177
R. S. No.

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COMAIRNORSOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
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STRUCK: 9 August, 1944.

TARGET: EAST CAPE to NAMATANAI SWEEP.
MISSION: Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER: Major HUMBERD.
SQUADRON: VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS: 8 F4U-1's, 1x500 lb. inst.
TIMES: TO: 0830; TOT: 0930-1030; TA: 1200.
MC MASTERS and FOLEY landed at 1300.
OTHER A/C COORDINATION: None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED: None
DAMAGE TO PLANES: Plane 49766, piloted by Lt. JENNINGS, was lost in the water at a point thirty miles [illegible] BUKA PASSAGE on heading of 294 degree magnetic. The pilot bailed out at 2500-3000 feet, because his RPM dropped off to between 500 and 800. He had lost altitude at the rate of 300 feet per minute for five minutes, before his RPM got al low as 500. Pilot does not know what caused this, unless his plane was hit by AA while he was strafing buildings just south of CAPE SENA, NEW IRELAND. JENNINGS stated that his engine continued to run smoothly, and that it must have been his prop that failed. He made a successful jump, but struck his foot on the vertical stabilizer of the plane as it went past him. He was rescued by Dumbo in two hours.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: JENNINGS' foot crippled temporarily when he bailed out.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED: None seen. Could have been small calibre AA from buildings just south of CAPE SENA, NEW IRELAND, which caused Lt. JENNINGS' plane to fail on way back to base.
ATTACK TACTICS: Usual strafing tactics.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS: Smoked five or six huts and started a grass fire. Five planes bombed a bridge across the first river south of KANDAU, toward CAPE SENA. Results: 4 misses; 1 area hit. No damage. Three planes bombed buildings just south of CAPE SENA. Result: 1 direct hit which destroyed one hut and damaged two nearby; 1 dud; and 1 miss. All planes strafed several villages.
WEATHER: ER and OT; Cavu. Between GREEN ISLAND and CAPE ST. GEORGE there were 3 to 4/10 medium buildings, with rain showers.
OBSERVATIONS: Negative.

MISSION LOG:

	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
HUMBERD	895	Miss
SIGAN	037	Miss
INGLEHART	417	Hits in area.
STURGIS	044	Miss
JENNINGS	766	Dud.
MC MASTERS	691	Direct hit.
FOLEY	717	Miss.
FRANK	394	Miss.

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Lt. H.B. WELCH,
VMO-251

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Reg. No. XI177
R. S. No.

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COMAIRNORSOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
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STRUCK: 10 August, 1944.

TARGET:	PUT-PUT, MALABUNGA, KERAVAT SWEEP.
MISSION:	Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER:	Lt. FOWLER.
SQUADRON:	VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINS:	4 F4U-1's, 1x500 lb. inst. bomb each.
TIMES:	TO: 1240; TOT: 1340-1420; TA: 1515.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING:	None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED:	None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES:	None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES:	None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED:	None.
ATTACK TACTICS:	Usual. Attacked buildings 2 miles NW of MALABUNGA.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS:	Obtained four hits believed tobe damaging varying from 20 to 60 feet from one or more buildings. All planes strafed many hits and buildings, seeing one ablaze at MALABUNGA.
WEATHER:	ER: Scattered Cu. at 4,000. OT; CAVU.
OBSERVATIONS:	Saw a truck standing still on road about halfway between MALABUNGA and BUNAKANAU. This road appeared well worn. Did not strafe this truck, as pilot was past it before he could bring his guns to bear. Much track activity around the EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
FOWLER	037	Miss.
MC CABE	221	Miss.
JOHNSON, A.	417	Miss.
JOHNSON, H.	065	Miss.

Lt. H.B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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COMAIRNORSOLS
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STRUCK: 11 August, 1944.

TARGET: PUT PUT MALABUNGA KERAVAT SWEEP.
MISSION: Bomb and Strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER: Lt. JOLINK.
PLANES AND LOADINGS: 4 F4U-1's, 1x500 lb. Inst. all over target.
TIMES: TO: 0800; TOT: 0900-0929; TA: 1030.
OTHER A/C COORDINATIN: None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED: None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES: None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED: None.
ATTACK TACTICS: 55 to 65 degree dive bombing run, with dive brakes, from 10,000 ft, at 300 kts. The one observed bomb burst was over by 100 yds.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS: The principal target for bombs was warehouses between KERAVAT and the EXPERIMENTAL FARMS but missed. No huts were smoked or fired, though many were strafed.
WEATHER: ER: CAVU. OT: CAVU. Visibility somewhat hampered by haze.
OBSERVATIONS: Pilots observed their tracers bouncing off the warehouses described above. No enemy activity seen. Other observations likewise negative.

MISSIONLOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
JOLINK	942	Unobserved.
ENDERS	265	Overshot.
BOWERS	394	Unobserved.
GORMAN	691	Overshot.

H.B. Welch

Lt. H.B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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COMAIRNORSOLS
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STRUCK: 11 August, 1944.

TARGET: DUKE OF YORK-CAPE LAMBERT SWEEP
MISSION: Bomb and Strafe.
SQUADRON LEADER: Lt. HENLEY.
SQUADRON: VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS: 4 A/C ordered. 3 over target with 1x500 lb. inst. fuse.
TIMES: TO: 0800; TOT: 0915-1100; TA: 1145.
CRIPP A/C COORDINATING: None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED: None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES: Plane 56417, piloted by 1stLt. SCHOETZ, apparently hit by AA fire described below. His plane was smoking when he bailed out, at a point 50 miles from RABAUL on 290 degrees

AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED: No AA was actually seen by any of the three pilots who returned to base. They reported only that they saw smoke coming out of a red painted building which they were strafing at a point app. 2 miles north of VUNAGALIP, east of CAPE LAMBERT. This smoke of course could have been either AA fire or fire resulting from our strafing. It was at that moment that SCHOETZ's plane was hit.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS: Possibly smoked a red painted building north of VUNAGALIP. The sweep was abandoned only a few seconds after the flight went in on the target area, toaccompany the crippled plane. All bombs were jettisoned into the sea. Did some strafing on huts at ST. PAUL (before the above incident occurred) with unobserved resutls.

WEATHER: ER and Ot: CAVU.
OBSERVATIONS Negative.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
HENLEY	221	
CRITCHER	037	
SCHOETZ	417	All four bombs were jettisoned.
BARTON	044	

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Lt. H.B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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COMAIRNORSOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE

CONFIDENTIAL

STRUCK: 12 August, 1944.

TARGET:	PUT PUT MALABUNGA KERAVAT SWEEP.
MISSION:	Strafe and Sweep.
FLIGHT LEADER:	Major HUMBERD.
SQUADRON	VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS:	4 F4U-1's. No bombs.
CALL:	Garnet 2.
TIMES:	TO: 0800; TOT: 0900÷1000; TA: 1100.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING:	None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED:	None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES:	Plane 55942, piloted by 1stLt. [illegible] was hit by small calibre AA near [illegible] and developed a bad oil leak. The pilot succeeded, however, in making his way to GREEN ISLAND, where he landed with very little oil pressure. Examination of the plane showed three cylinders pierced. Pilot reported that the plane is all right, the engine probably a survey.
ATTACK TACTICS:	Usual low level strafing and searching.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS:	Very little strafing was done, for lack suitable targets. STURGIS strafed a lone short and fat Jap who was running along a road at LIVUAN PLANTATION, and strafed huts west of VARZIN PLANTATION, and huts SE of MT. VARZIN.
WEATHER:	ER: Series of big thunderheads NW of BUKA. OI: Mattress at 18,000. Visibility good.
OBSERVATIONS:	Negative;
MISSION LOG:	

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
HUMBERD	221	
SHEAN	044	
ENGELHART	942	All strafed.
STURGIS	265	

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Lt. H.B. WELCH,
VMO-251, Intelligence Officer

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COMAIRNORSOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE

CONFIDENTIAL

STRUCK: 12 August, 1944.

TARGET: DUKE OF YOUK-CAPE LAMBERT SWEEP.
MISSION: Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER: Major BACHELER.
SQUADRON: VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS: 4 A/C ordered. 3 over target with 1x500 lb. inst. fuse. PIRAGES did not take off because of a flat tail wheel.
TIMES: TO: 1215; TOT: 1325-1430; TA: 1530.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING: None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED: None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES: None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: None.
A.A. FIRE ENCOUNTERED: None.
ATTACK TACTICS: In 45 degree glide, from pushover at 4,000 ft., no dive brakes, 300 kts speed and release at 500 to 1000 ft. with 100 mils lead, bombs fell 50 to 100 ft. short of target.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS: Bombs may have slightly damaged several huts. All three planes in the flight strafed many huts and buildings along the north shore of CAPE LAMBERT.
WEATHER: ER: Large thunderstorms NW of BUKA.
OT: Visibility 20 miles. 3/10 low clouds at 1000 ft.
OBSERVATIONS: Negative.
MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
BACHELER	036	Hit in area
WELCH	265	" " "
MC MASTERS	717	All three strafed

H/B. Welch
Lt. H.B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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COMAIRNORSOLS
BIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE

CONFIDENTIAL

STRUCK: 12 August, 1944.

TARGET: PUT PUT MALABUNGA KERAVAT SWEEP.
MISSION: Strafe and Sweep.
FLIGHT LEADER: Capt. FURLOW.
SQUADRON: VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS: 4 planes ordered. 3 over target. No bomb load. Lt. GARRETT, in Plane 017, did not take off because of smoke in cockpit.
TIMES: TO: 1230; TOT: 1315÷1400; TA: 1500.
OTHER A/C COORDIANTING: None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED: None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES: None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED: None.
ATTACK TACTICS: Usual low level strafing and searching.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS: Strafed huts all along the route from the mouth of the WARANGOI RIVER to KERAVAT, with no observed results.
WEATHER: ER: Poor. Thunderstorm over CAPE ST. GEORGE. Worse coming back. Flew on instruments for 15 minutes enroute to base. OT: 8/10 at 5,000. Visibility 20 miles.
OBSERVATIONS: Saw about six little fires west of MT. VARZIN.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
FURLOW	037	
SUTVILLE	221	All three strafed.
CUNNINGHAM	044	
GARRETT	017	Did not take off.

H. B. Welch

Lt. H. B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer

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COMAIRNORSOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
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STRUCK: 13 August, 1944.

TARGET:	Bivouac along BOVO RIVER, ARAWA BAY
MISSION:	Bomb and Strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER:	Major BACHELER.
SQUADRONS:	VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS:	16 F4U-1's, 1x500 lb. inst. bombs.
TIMES:	TO: 0555; TOT: 0630; TA: 0715.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING:	None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED:	None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES:	None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES:	None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED:	None.
ATTACK TACTICS:	Pushed over at 10,000 ft. 60-70 degree dive angle; 300 to 320 kts. indicated speed; released at 2,000 ft., with lead varying from 50 to 100 mils. Strafed in dive and on way out to coast.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS:	Good coverage of target area with 12 of the 16 bombs. 2 were unobserved and 2 were duds. 15 of the 16 planes strafed the area thoroughly. No damage could be seen because of dense jungle.
WEATHER:	ER-OT- Ceiling unlimited. Visibility reduced by haze.
OBSERVATIONS:	No enemy activity was seen. No fires observed in the target area but one pilot saw about five thin wisps of smoke rising from an area about 10 miles up the coast, NW of target.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
BACHELER	036	Hit in area
PIRAGES	099	" " "
SPINDLER	119	Unobserved
SWICK	387	"
JOLINK	065	Hit in area
ENDERS	413	" " "
BOWERS	912	" " "
CORMAN	032	Dud.
FURLOW	717	Hit in area.
SCOVILLE	394	Dud.
CUNNINGHAM	265	Hit in area
GARRETT	691	" " "
FOWLER	353	" " "
MC CABE	739	" " "
JOHNSON	724	" " "
JOHNSON	305	" " "

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Lt. H.B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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COMAIRNORSOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
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CONFIDENTIAL

STRUCK: 13 August, 1944.

PARCELS:
DIVISION:
FLIGHT LEADER: Lt. HENLEY.
SQUADRON: VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS: 4 F4U-1's, No bomb load.
TIMES: TO: 0720; TOT: 0830; TA: 0900.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING: None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED: None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES: None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED: None.
ATTACK TACTICS: Low level strafing.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS: Strafed with unobserved results houses on west shore of KIETA HARBOR, a village inland from ARAWA PLANTATION, another village up the KOROVANA RIVER; also, photoed only the bridge at KIETA and two villages and one gardan between ARAWA PLANTATION and MANATEI MISSION.

PUT PUT MALABUNGA KERAVAT SWEEP.
Strafe and Photo. (Weathered out).

MAPS:

FLAK: Solid front running East to West just south of CAPE ST. GEORGE, from water up to 20,000 ft. Turned back and so informed BASE. The flight was then instructed to proceed to ARAWA BAY and MANATEI MISSION on BOUGAINVILLE and take photographs of enemy shipping that area.

OBSERVATIONS: Observed three small scattered fires up in the hills from ARAWA.

MISSION NO.	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
TARGET	044	
GROUND	895	No bombs carried.
LIAISON	221	
BASE	037	

Lt. H.B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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STRUCK: 13 August, 1944.

TARGET: PUT PUT MALABUNGA KERAVAT SWEEP.
MISSION: Strafe and Photo.
FLIGHT LEADER: Lt. FOWLER.
ORGANIZATION: VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS: 4 F4U-1's. No bombs.
TIMES: TO: 1400; TA: 1600; Target weathered out.
FIGHTER A/C COORDINATING: None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED: None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES: None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: None.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS: Negative. Flight returned to base before reaching target area. Turned back at a point well up the NEW IRELAND coast, where the flight leader had gone attempting to go around the front. However, he considered it inadvisable to attempt to go through it, particularly since this was largely a photographic mission.
WEATHER: ER: Solid front of towering cumulus clouds extending from NEW IRELAND to WIDE BAY.
OT: Did not reach target.
OBSERVATIONS: Negative.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
FOWLER	044	
MC CABE	895	
JOHNSON A.	221	None of these planes carried bombs.
JOHNSON, H.	037	

H.B. Welch
Lt. H.B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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COMAIRNORSOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
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Reg. No. XIIII
R. S. No. CONFIDENTIAL

STRUCK: 14 August, 1944.

TARGET: PUT-PUT MALABUNGA KERAVAT SWEEP.
MISSION: Strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER: Lt. INGLEHART.
SQUADRONS: VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS: 4 F4U-1. 3 over target, no bomb load. Major HUMBERD, in plane 036, returned to base immediately after takeoff because of hydraulic leak.
TIMES: TO: 0745; TOT: --; T.: 0945.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING: None.
ENEMY PLANES ENCOUNTERED: None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES: None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED: None.
ATTACK TACTICS: No attack was made. Flight leader attempted without seccess to find a hole in the front to get through to target.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS: Flight returned to base because of weather.
WEATHER: ER: 7/10 vut visibility good. Large thunderhead NW of BUKA which was moving toward GREEN ISLAND. Cloud layers at 4 and 8000. Near CAPE ST. GEORGE; struck a solid front from water up to 15,000 ft. extending from WIDE BAY across to NEW IRELAND. Could just barely see the Cape.
OBSERVATIONS: Negative. Saw one PT boat coming SE down ST. GEORGE CHANNEL.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
HUMBERD	036	Returned to base.
GIGAN	037	
INGLEHART	394	
STURGIS	044	These three carried no bombs.

Lt. H.B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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PIVA OPERATIONS
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STRUCK: 14 August, 1944.

TARGET: DUKE OF YOUK-CAPE LAMBERT SWEEP.
MISSION: Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER: Capt. FURLOW.
SQUADRON: VMO-251
PLANES AND LOADINGS: 4 F4U-1's with 1x500 inst.
TIMES: TO: 0905; TOT: 1010÷1100; TA: 1200.
OTHER a/c COORDIANTING: None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED: None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES. None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: None.
A/A FIRE ENCOUNTERED: None.
ATTACT TACTICS: Pushed over at 10,500 ft. 70 to 75 degree dive angle; with dive brakes; speed; 3[illegible] knots. Released 2 1/2 to 3 thousand feet; Two gave 100 mils, one 50 mils, and one 100 yards lead.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS: All four bombs hit well among the group of buildings aimed at, located at MANDRES SAWMILL; the buildings looked pretty well beaten up before we hit them. Damaged six hits. Strafed buildings on NW side of WATOM ISLAND, and on DUKE OF YORK.

WEATHER: ER: Rain squalls in mouth of ST. GEORGE CHANNEL, but flew through them. OT; Cavu.

OBSERVATIONS: Observed several friendly PT boats in vicinity of ST. GEORGE CHANNEL. No enemy activity sighted.

REMARKS: There was during this flight gross breach of radio discipline by other planes in the air at the same time. Our pilots recognized the names of the pilots who were jamming the air as belonging to Squadrons 218 and 222. FOLEY and FRANK, who reported this matter stated that it was not only today but every day that this sort of thing occurs. For instance, on August 9th, our pilots had much difficulty getting the air cleared for an urgent communication to base notifying it of pilot(Lt. JENNINGS) down in the water.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
FURLOW	717	Hit in area
MC MASTERS	410	" " "
FOLEY	265	" " "
FRANK	691	" " "

8 04121

Lt. H.B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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DECLASSIFIED
Authority: E.O. 13526
By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

X 11177

S. No. CONFIDENTIAL

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COMAIRNORSOLS
PIVA OPERARIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE

STRUCK: 14 August, 1944.

TARGET:	PUT-PUT MALABUNGA KERAVAT SWEEP.
MISSION:	Strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER:	Lt. JOLINK.
SQUADRON:	VMO-251
PLANES AND LOADINGS:	4 F4U-1's ordered. No bomb load. 3 A/C over target. Plane 394(Lt. FLICKINGER) returned to base shortly after takeoff because of a hydraulic leak.
TIMES:	TO: 1300; TOT: 1400-1430; TA: 1530.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING:	None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED:	None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES:	None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES:	None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED:	None.
ATTACK TACTICS:	Low level strafing.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS:	Strafed huts and buildings from KABANGA BAY TO KERAVAT with unobserved results
WEATHER:	ER: 3/10. TO: CAVU. SW of MALABUNGA it was solid, zero to 15,000 ft.
OBSERVATIONS:	Saw a big fire just north of VUNAKANAU, putting up 1000 ft. of white smoke, which had also spread over a large area. Observed six small fires9rather, the smoke from them) in the area MALABUNGA to VUNAKANAU to MT. VARZIN. Other observations were negative.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
JOLINK	895	
ENDERS	037	No bomb load. all 4 pilots strafed.
FLICKINGER	394	
BARTON	044	

Lt. H.B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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8 04121

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Authority: E.O. 13526
By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

Reg. No. XI127
R.S No. 8 04121

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COMAIRNORSOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE

CONFIDENTIAL

STRUCK: 14 August, 1944.

TARGET:	DUKE OF YORK-CAPE LAMBERT SWEEP.
MISSION:	Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER:	Major BACHELER.
SQUADRON:	VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS	4 F4U-1's, 1x500 lb. inst.
TIMES:	TO: 1345; TOT: 1500-1530; TA: 1645.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING:	None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED:	None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES:	None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES:	None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED:	None.
ATTACK TACTICS:	All planes pushed over at 6000. Two made 70 degree dives, 320-330 knots., released at 1200 with 80-90 mils lead, overshot 20 to 30 yards; two planes made 70 degree dives with dive brakes, released at 1500 using cowl for sighting and one overshot 30 feet in deflection(caused by not being lined up on target in the dive.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS:	None observed from bombing. BACHELER strafed a hut east of CAPE LAMBERT. Planes strafed several tim-roofed huts in same area(Plantations along the coast) which would not burn though pilots could see their tracers going into them. ER and OT; 3/10 low clouds, visibility 20 miles. Otherwise clear.
OBSERVATIONS:	Negative.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
BACHELER	717	Missed
PIRAGES	410	"
SWICK	265	"
SPINDLER	691	"

Lt. H.B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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Authority: E.O. 13526
By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

Reg. No. X/1771
R. S. No.

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COMAIRNORSOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE

CONFIDENTIAL

STRUCK: 15 August, 1944.

TARGET:	VUNAKANAU AA TARGETS "C" & "P" and REVET.
MISSION:	Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER:	Major HUMBERD.
SQUADRON:	VMD-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS	8 F4U-1's, 1x1000 inst.
TIMES:	TO: 0730; TOT: 0847; TA: 1015.
OTHER A/C COORDIANTING:	7 F4U-1's from VMF 223. 24 F4U-1's fr RNZAF 19 and 21.
DAMAGE TO PLANES:	None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED:	None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED:	None.
ATTACK TACTICS:	Approached target at 12,000 ft, glided to 10,000, pushed over at that altitude 60 degree dive without brakes, speed 380 knots, released at 1500-2000 ft., with 90 to 100 mils lead. All bombs target area.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS:	5 bombs seen to explode in area and v close to target; 2 were unobserved; 1 was jettisoned because the pilot fail to release bomb in bombing run. No of bombing could be seen. Results of bombs dropped: 3 Autos east of plantation: 2 area hit 2 " " " " : 1 area hit, 1 jettisoned; 1 unobserved. MG at west end of runway : 2 area hit 3 MG s south of plantation: 1 unobserv
WEATHER:	ER: 5 to 7/10. Thunderheads to 15,000 feet all along route. OT: Clear exce haze. Visibility 20-25 miles.
OBSERVATIONS:	Negative.
REMARKS:	Attack was well co-ordinated. There wa very poor radio discipline on the part of the NEW ZEALANDERS. Also PT boats were doing unnecessary talking on the radio, such as placing bets on which of them would reach him first.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
HUMBERD	036	Hit in area
SIGAN	099	" " "
INGLEHART	387	" " "
STURGIS	912	" " "
FOWLER	305	Unobserved.
MC CABE	353	"
JOHNSON, A.	413	Jettisoned
JOHNSON, H.	065	Unobserved.

8 04121

Lt. H.B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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Authority: E.O. 13526
By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

Reg. No. X1177
R. S. No.

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COMAIRNORSOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE

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STRUCK: 15 August, 1944.

TARGET: PUT PUT MALABUNGA KERAVAT SWEEP.
MISSION: Strafe and photo.
FLIGHT LEADER: Lt. JOLINK.
SQUADRON: VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS: 4 A/C ordered. 3 F4U-1's over target. No bombs.
TIMES: TO: 0930; TOT: 1040-1110; TA: 1210.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING: None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED: None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES: None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES: None.
A.A. FIRE ENCOUNTERED: None.
ATTACK TACTICS: Low level tree top strafing.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS: Strafed many hits and buildings along t. route from PUT PUT to KERAVAT, but coul. observe no damage.
WEATHER: ER: 3/10 from 1000 to 8000 feet. 4/10 above 8000. OT: Clear, but saw storm lying SW of MALABUNGA.
OBSERVATIONS: Saw no smoke or other evidence of dam.e over VUNAKANAU as a result of the bombing attack there two hours earlier. Saw a cloud of dust on the NE end of TOBERA AIRFIELD. Couldn't see what was causing the dust.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
JOLINK	895	
ENDERS	044	All four strafed. No bombs.
FOWLER	221	
NORMAN	394	

Lt. H.B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

8 04121

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Authority: E.O. 13526
By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

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COMAIRNORSOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE

Reg. No. XI1977
R. S. No.
CONFIDENTIAL

STRUCK: 15 August, 1944.

TARGET:	DUKE OF YORK-CAPE LAMBERT SWEEP.
MISSION:	Bomb and strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER:	Capt. FURLOW.
SQUADRON:	VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS:	4 F4U-1's; 1x500 lb. inst.
TIMES:	TO: 1015; TOT: 1100-1145; TA: 1230.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING:	None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED:	None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES:	None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES:	None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED:	None.
ATTACK TACTICS:	Pushed over at 11,000 ft. angle 60 degrees speed 350; released at 2500 ft. 50 to 65 mils lead.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS:	All four bombs hit well within target area which condisted of a group of buildings at KAKADA POINT, DUKE OF YORK ISLAND. Strafe UTUAN and MICKO ISLANDS, adjacent to DUKE OF YORK. No results of bombing or strafe were observed.
WEATHER:	ER: Good to CAPE ST: GEORGE, where there were buildups to 14,000 ft. OT;4/10 at 4000. Clear. Clouds moving SW from NEW IRELAND.
OBSERVATIONS:	Negative.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
FURLOW	717	Hit in area.
SCOVILLE	410	" " "
CUNNINGHAM	265	" " "
GARRETT	695	" " "

Lt. H.B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

8 04121

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Authority: E.O. 13526
By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

S. No. X1177
R. S. No.

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COMAIRNORSOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE

CONFIDENTIAL

STRUCK: 15 August, 1944.

TARGET:	PUT PUT MALABUNGA KERAVAT SWEEP.
MISSION:	Strafe and photo.
FLIGHT LEADER:	Lt. HENLEY.
SQUADRON:	VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS:	4 F4U-1's. No bomb load.
TIMES:	TO: 1330; TOT: 1430-1445; TA: 1545.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING:	None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED:	None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES:	None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES:	None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED:	None.
ATTACK TACTICS:	Low level strafing.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS:	Results of strafing unobserved.
WEATHER:	ER: Bad. 8/10 cu. from 1000 to 10,000 ft OT: CAVU.
OBSERVATIONS:	Saw four to five brush fires 2 miles nor of MALABUNGA. No traffic on WARANGOI RIVER. Observed twenty-five or more separate thatched huts between MALABUNGA and KERAVAT. The roofs of which came right down to the ground, as if the hut was dug beneath the level of the ground. Huts werein little clearings;

MISSION LOG:	PLANE NO.	
HENLEY	895	All four strafed and took photos.
CRUTCHER	044	
FLICKINGER	037	
BARTON	394	

Lt. H.B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Offic.

8 04121

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Authority: E.O. 13526
By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

Reg. No. X1213
R. S. No. CONFIDENTIAL

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COMAIRNORSOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE

STRUCK: 17 August, 1944.

TARGET:	PUT-PUT, MALABUNGA, KERAVAT SWEEP.
MISSION:	Strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER:	Major HUMBERD.
SQUADRON:	VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS:	4 F4U-1's, no bomb load.
TIMES:	TO: 0820; TOT: 020-0935; TA: 1050.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING:	None..
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED:	None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES:	None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES:	None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED:	None.
ATTACK TACTICS:	Low level strafing.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS:	Strafed wharf and buildings at VUNAPAL BAY, buildings and huts strafed smoked momentarily when the tracers hti them b none were fired.
WEATHER:	ER AND OT: CAVU.
OBSERVATIONS:	Small fire seen at the EXPERIMENTAL C Brush fir seen inland from VUNAPAL DIG putting up 100 feet of white smoke. observed an AK and DE together SW of BU headed NW.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS.
HUMBERD	036	
SIGAN	221	
INGLEHART	895	All four planes strafed.
STURGIS	044	

Lt. H.B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

8 04122

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DECLASSIFIED
Authority: E.O. 13526
By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

Reg. No. X1273
R. S. No. CONFIDENTIAL

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COMAIRNORSOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE

STRUCK: 17 August, 1944.

TARGET:	RATION DUMP, HONGARAI RIVER, BOUGAINVILLE.
MISSION:	BOMB AND STRAFE.
FLIGHT LEADER:	Major BACHELER.
SQUADRON:	VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS:	12 F4U-1's, 1x500 inst. bomb each.
TIMES:	TO: 0840; TOT: 0900; TA: 0930;
OTHER A/C COORDINATING:	None.
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED:	None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES:	None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES:	None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED:	None.
ATTACK TACTICS:	Dived from 10,000 ft, 50 to 60 degree with dive brakes, speed of 300 to 340 k released at 2,000 ft. with 50 to 75 mi load, all bombs hit and exploded in the target area.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS:	Results were obscured by jungle. Good coverage was had of the target area, wit all bombs of the 12 planes in the are The area was also strafed by several o the planes of this flight.
WEATHER:	ER and OT; CAVU.
OBSERVATIONS:	Negative.

MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
FOLEY	099	
FRANK	394	
MC MASTERS	912	allfour bombs hit in area.
BOWERS	037	

Lt. H.B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

8 04122

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Authority: E.O. 13526
By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

Reg. No. X1253
R. S. No.

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COMAIR NORSOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE STRUCK: 17 August, 1944.

TARGET:	PUT-PUT, MALABUNGA, KERAVAT SWEEP.
MISSION:	Strafe.
FLIGHT LEADER:	Lt. FOWLER.
SQUADRON:	VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS:	4 F4U-1's, no bomb load.
TIMES:	TO: 1315; TOT: 1405-1430; TA: 1530.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING:	None
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED:	None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES:	None.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES:	None.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED:	None.
ATTACK TACTICS:	Usual low level strafing.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS:	Very little strafing was done because of lack of suitable targets, and no damage observed.
WEATHER:	ER: Scattered cu. 5/10 up to 11,000 ft. OT: Target clear but a bit hazy, with visibility 15-20 miles.
OBSERVATIONS:	Saw the smoke of two small burning north of MT. VARZIN. Otherwise negative.

8 04122

MISSION LOG:	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
FOWLER	895	
MC CABE	037	All four planes strafed.
JOHNSON A	044	
JOHNSON,H.	394	

Lt. H.B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.

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Authority: E.O. 13526
By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

Reg. No. X1213
R.S. No.

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COMAIRNORSOLS
PIVA OPERATIONS
VF INTELLIGENCE

CONFIDENTIAL

STRUCK: 18 August, 1944.

TARGET:	VUNAKANAU AA TARGETS "O" and "P".
MISSION:	Bomb and strafe revetments.
FLIGHT LEADER:	Major DRUCKER, of VMF-223.
SQUADRON:	VMO-251.
PLANES AND LOADINGS:	18 F4U-1's with 1x1000 lb. inst. bomb each. CALL: Garnet 1,2,3,4, and 5.
TIMES:	TO:0725; TOT: 0845; TA: 1025.
OTHER A/C COORDINATING:	12 F4U-1's of VMF-223; 12 F4U-1's of [illegible]
ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED:	None.
DAMAGE TO PLANES:	Plane Bureau number 56410, piloted by [illegible] MC MCASTERS, was lost, hit by AA over target, and abandoned by pilot 15 miles NE of PRAED POINT. Plane 49717 was hit on the under side of the starboard wing just outboard the gull angle of the wing knocking a 4 inch hole on the bottomside and about ten shrapnel holes through the topside of the wing. Also, the plane was struck beneath the cockpit by a 50 cal bullet which went the length of the [illegible] and emerged on the port side just forward of the vertical stabilizer. Plane returned to base and will be OK after a wing change.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES:	1stLt. JOHN J. MC MASTERS was struck by the horizontal stabilizer as he bailed of his plane and suffered a broken leg internal injuries(as reported by Dumbo which rescued him.
AA FIRE ENCOUNTERED:	Intense Acc. 20 MM from SW of VUNAKANAU STRIP. Intense acc. heavy from cocanut plantation north of VUNAKANAU STRIP. Intense AA of all types from RAPOPO and TOBERA. White phosphorous projectiles seen exploding at 3,000 ft and 100 ft OT.
ATTACK TACTICS:	Most of VUNAKANAU AA appeared to come from west end of strip. Weather forced an approach from the NE, from NEW IRELAND, There was a thin cloud layer at 5-8000 ft over target. The flight circled VUNAKANAU twice, then dived through a small opening in the clouds, which was soon filled with AA fire. Our planes dived from 10,000 ft in 45 to 60 degree angle, no brakes, speed of 280 to 360, released at 2,000 to 3500
SUMMARY OF RESULTS:	Results could not be well observed. All bombs appeared to explode in the target area, with good coverage, except one which was jettisoned.
WEATHER:	ER: Front running parallel to route on left. OT; Thin layer of white cloud at 5-8000 ft. over target. Otherwise clear.
OBSERVATIONS:	Negative, except for many bomb bursts in target area.

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(Over)

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MISSION LOG:

PILOT	PLANE NO.	REMARKS
BACHELER	036	
PIRAGES	099	
SPINDLER	221	
SWICK	037	
FOWLER	895	All bombs hit in area.
MC CABE	387	
JOHNSON,H.	912	
JOHNSON,A.	044	
JENNINGS	717	
MC MASTERS	410	
FOLEY	394	
FRANK	265	
JOLINK	305	
ENDERS	353	
BOWERS	413	
CORMAN	065	
ROSELLEN	739	
MAC LACHLAN	691	

Lt. H. B. WELCH,
VMO-251,
Intelligence Officer.