

42nd Bombardment Squadron (H) Missions: 18 July 1942 – 7 February 1943.

**42nd Bombardment Squadron (H),
11th Bombardment Group (H), 7th Air Force (1941-January 1943);
13th Air Force (January 1943 -)**

*Air Force Historical Association, IRIS No. 44028.
Mission Reports, 18 July 1942 – 10 August 1943.*

This copy of the missions of the 42nd Bombardment Squadron was digitized from the microfilm copy (Air Force Historical Association, IRIS No. 44028) obtained from the Air Force Historical Association, Maxwell AFB, Alabama

18 July 1942

The following ships took off from Kahuku, Oahu at 0800, and landed at Christmas Island at 1700:

1st Flite

Ship #221, Major Manierre
Ship #071, Capt. Richards
Ship #420, Lieut. Norton

42 Bomb Sq

2nd Flite

Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt
Ship #445, Lieut. Puerta
Ship #151, Capt. Wuertele

3rd Flite

Ship #155, Capt. Stone
Ship #213, Capt. Hall
Ship #442, Lieut. Eberenz

19 July 1942

The following three ships took off from Christmas Island at 1030 and landed at Canton Island at 1630:

1st Flite

Ship #221, Major Manierre
Ship #071, Capt. Richards
Ship #420, Lieut. Norton

The following three ships took off from Christmas Island at 1600 and landed at Canton Island at 1645:

2nd Flite

Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt
Ship #151, Capt. Wuertele
Ship #445, Capt. Puerta

3rd Flite

Ship #155, Capt. Stone
Ship #213, Capt. Hall
Ship #442, Lieut. Eberenz

The above three ships took off from Christmas Island at 1110 and landed at Canton Island at 1745.

20 July 1942.

The following three ships took off from Canton Island at 0645 and landed at Nandi, Fiji at 1415:

1st Flite

Ship #221, Major Manierre
Ship #071, Capt. Richards
Ship #420, Lieut. Norton

The following three ships took off from Canton Island at 0700 and landed at Nandi, Fiji at 1430:

2nd Flite

Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt
Ship #151, Capt. Wuertele
Ship #445, Lieut. Puerta

4-4255-31

20 July 1942. Cont'd

The following three ships took off from Canton Island at 0715 and landed at Nandi, Fiji at 1445:

3rd Flite

Ship #155, Capt. Stone
Ship #213, Capt. Hall
Ship #442, Lieut. Eberenz

(The International Date Line was crossed on the way from Canton Island to Nandi, Fiji)

22 July 1942.

The following three ships took off from Nandi, Fiji at 0800 and landed at Plaines des Caiacs, New Caledonia at 1345:

1st Flite

Ship #221, Major Manierre
Ship #071, Capt. Richards
Ship #420, Lieut. Norton

The following three ships took off from Nandi, Fiji at 0820 and landed at Plaines des Caiacs, New Caledonia at 1415:

2nd Flite

Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt
Ship #151, Capt. Wuertele
Ship #445, Lieut. Puerta

The following three ships took off from Nandi, Fiji at 0830 and landed at Plaines des Caiacs, New Caledonia at 1430:

3rd Flite

Ship #155, Capt. Stone
Ship #213, Capt. Hall
Ship #442, Lieut. Eberenz

23 July 1942.

NO MISSIONS THIS DATE.

24 July 1942.

The following five ships all went out on dawn patrol: T.O. 0600

Ship #155, Capt. Stone
Ship #445, Lieut. Puerta
Ship #213, Capt. Hall
Ship #221, Major Manierre
Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt

SEARCH

Ship #420, Lieut. Norton, Out 650 Mi. Cont: None 324-334.5
Ship #071, Capt. Richards, Out 700 Mi. Cont: None 335-345

25 July 1942.

The following five ships all went out on dawn patrol: T.O. 0600

Ship #155, Capt. Stone
Ship #445, Lieut. Puerta
Ship #213, Capt. Hall
Ship #221, Major Manierre
Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt

26 July 1942.

The following seven ships all went out on dawn patrol: T.O. 0600

Ship #221, Major Manierre
Ship #071, Capt. Richards
Ship #420, Lieut. Norton
Ship #151, Capt. Wuertele
Ship #155, Capt. Stone
Ship #213, Capt. Hall
Ship #442, Lieut. Eberenz

SEARCH

Ship #445, Lieut. Puerta Out 650 Mi. Cont: Two enemy fighters (float type) on water south tip of Indispensable reef. No Action 324.5 - 334.5.

Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt Out 700 Mi. Cont: None 334.5 - 345.

27 July 1942.

The following seven ships all went out on dawn patrol: T.O. 0600

Ship #221, Major Manierre
Ship #071, Capt. Richards
Ship #420, Lieut. Norton
Ship #151, Capt. Wuertele
Ship #155, Capt. Stone
Ship #213, Capt. Hall
Ship #442, Lieut. Eberenz

MISSIONS THIS DATE.

28 July 1942.

The following seven ships all went out on dawn patrol this date:

Ship #221, Major Manierre
Ship #071, Capt. Richards
Ship #420, Lieut. Norton
Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt
Ship #151, Capt. Wuertele
Ship #445, Lieut. Puerta
Ship #155, Capt. Stone

SEARCH

Ship #213, Capt. Hall Out 600 Mi. Cont: None 334.5 - 345
Ship #442, Lieut. Eberenz Out 600 Mi. Cont: None 324.5-334.5

29 July 1942.

The following four ships went out on dawn patrol: T.O. 0600

Ship #445, Lieut. Puerta
Ship #216, Lieut. Sorensen
Ship #151, Capt. Wuertele
Ship #071, Capt. Richards

TACTICAL MISSIONS THIS DATE

30 July 1942

Ship #442, Lieut. Oberenz Swing Compass Took off 0700 landed 0830.
Ship #216, Lieut. Sprawls Swing Compass Took off 0700 landed 0830.

SEARCH

Ship #151, Capt. Muertele Out 600 Mi. Cont: None 334.5-345
Ship #155, Capt. Stone Out 600 Mi. Cont: None 324-334

31 July 1942.

Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt, Ferry Mission to Efate. T.O. 0955
landed 1100.

Ship #213, Capt. Hall, To Efate

SEARCH

Ship #071, Capt. Richards Out 600 Mi. Cont: None 324-334.5
Ship #420, Lieut. Norton Out 500 Mi. Cont: None 334.5-345
Ship #523, Col. Saunders, Major Manderre Co-Pilot: Took off from
Efate Island at 0815, leading flight of eight and element of two
planes. Photographed north and east coast of Guadalcanal Island.
Bombed Lunga Airfield. Bomb hits not observed, no AA or pursuit
interception. Landed Efate Island at 1930.

1 August 1942.

Ship #213, Capt. Hall Special Photo Mission (no pictures, bad weather)
Ship #442, Lieut. Oberenz, local test hop.

2 August 1942. *Received Ruffin Report*

Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt. Took off from Efate Island
leading three plane element. Landed and gassed up at Santo Island
Took off from Santo Island at 0930. Bombed area from Planters' House
to Lunga Pt. - Stores and quarters. Landed Santo Island at 1730.
All the bombs dropped in the target area. Moderate AA fire. Attacked
by three pursuits. Five hits in airplane - 14 holes. Shot down two
Zero type enemy fighters. Pilot received slight wound on forehead
as the result of a penetrated shell jacket. Co-Pilot struck in left
thigh by armor-piercing shell. He was hospitalized upon landing. 1st
Engineer E.C. Davis, received a grazing shot on right ankle.

Ship #445, Lieut. Puerta. Took off from Efate Island at 0645 in
three plane element. Landed and gassed up at Santo I. Took off from
Santo at 0930. Bombed constructors houses and installations at Lunga
Pt. Landed at Santo I. at 1730. All bombs dropped in target area.
Moderate AA. Attacked by two Zero type airplanes from out of the sun.
Three others did not attack. No damage done.

Ship #071, Capt. Richards. Took off from Efate I. in three plane
element. Landed at Santo I. and gassed up. T. O. from Santo I. at
0930 and bombed constructors Barracks and Soldiers barracks. Landed
Efate I. at 1730. All bombs dropped in the target area. Moderate AA
Enemy pursuit in air but no interception made.

Ship #213, Capt. Hall, a ferry mission to PdG.

3 August 1942.

Ship #071, Capt. Richards

Ship #221, Major Manierre

Both the above ships went out on an Interception and Identification Mission. Took off at 1100 and landed 1300.

Ship #221, Major Manierre, Ferry Mission, Poppy to Roses. Took off 0700-landed 1030. Ship #155 cracked up on runway at Roses.

NO TACTICAL MISSIONS

4 August 1942.

Ship #071, Capt. Richards. Took off from Santos I. at 0630 leading two plane formation. Bombed individually shore installations at Lunga Pt. Moderate AA, no pursuit interception. All Bombs dropped in target area. Landed Efate I. at 1530.

Ship #445, Capt. Puerta. Took off from Santo I. at 0630, 2nd plane in two plane formation. Bombed individually, Dropped on Lunga Pt. Airfield. Could not observe first 7 bombs because of clouds. On the 2nd run the next seven bombs were observed to cross the runway at a 30 degree angle. Attacked by a single Zero type enemy fighter - same shot down. No damage to our plane. Moderate AA.

5 August 1942.

Ship #445, Capt. Puerta. Took off from Efate I. Bombed Kukum anti-aircraft installations and storage dump. Landed Efate I. Bombs observed to fall on runway. Large fire observed started in dump area. Moderate AA fire. 6" hole made in left wing. Attacked by 5 enemy pursuit, using individual headon attack method. No damage done.

Ship #420, Lieut. Norton

Ship #221, Major Manierre

Ship #442, Lieut. Eberenz

The above three ships all went to Kourmac on this date.

6 August 1942

Ship #221, Capt. Stone. Took off from Santo I. leading two plane formation. Bombed AA installations on Lunga Pt. Could not determine hits through haze. Released 7 bombs on runway and the next four on AA installations. Made a crash water landing of N. coast of Santo Island at 1815 with approximately 30 gal. of gas in tanks on landing. Plane sank in approximately 45 sec. Inboard engines cut out and props feathered on landing. Broke in two parts in aft radio compartment. No casualties. 10 men using one raft. Minor cuts and bruises to all men. Paddled one Mi. to Island (Shark Bay) and it took two hours to row. Navy scout bomber sighted crew at 0930, 7 August 1942. Did not pull off damaging switches. POF and all other confidential and secret material went down with the plane.

Ship #442, Lieut. Eberenz. Took off from Santo I. at 1000. Bombed Lunga Pt. Dropped bombs in train across target quite a large fire started in trees. Light AA, no pursuit interception. Landed Santo I.

7 August 1942.

Ship #420, Lieut. Norton From buttons to Roses 1015-1115.
Ship #442, Capt. Eberenz From Buttons to Roses 1030-1140.
NO TACTICAL MISSIONS

8 August 1942

Ship #442, Capt. Eberenz, From Eate to Plaines des Gaiacs.
NO TACTICAL MISSIONS

9 August 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #420, Lieut. Norton Out 600 Mi. Cont: None
Ship #216, Capt. Puerta Out 600 Mi. Cont: None
Ship #071, Capt. Richards Out 600 Mi. Cont: None

10 August 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #213, Capt. Hall Out 700 Mi. Cont: None
Ship #442, Capt. Eberenz Out 700 Mi. Cont: None
Ship #151, Capt. Wuertele Out 700 Mi. Cont: None

11 August 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #420, Lieut. Norton Out 800 Mi. Cont: None

12 August 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #420, Lieut. Norton, Out 700 Mi. Cont: None 312-318
Ship #442, Capt. Eberenz, Out 800 Mi. Cont: None 306-312
Ship #216, Major Manierre, Buttons to Roses 0750-0900
Ship #213, Capt. Hall Buttons to Roses 0750-0900
Ship #213, Capt. Hall Roses to Buttons 1015-1140
Ship #213, Capt. Hall Buttons-Roses 1200-1315

13 August 1942.

NO MISSIONS THIS DATE.

14 August 1942.

Ship #151, Capt. Wuertele, Roses to Buttons 0800-0915
Ship #151, Capt. Wuertele, Buttons-Roses-PdG
Ship #213, Capt. Hall, Roses to Buttons 1515-1620
Ship #071, Capt. Richards Roses to Buttons 1515-1620

15 August 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #213, Captain Hall, Out 700 Mi. Cont: None
Ship #071, Captain Richards, Out 700 Mi. Cont: None
Ship #151, Captain Wuertele Nandi to Buttons
Ship #420, Lieut. Norton Buttons-Roses-PdG
Ship #151, Capt. Wuertele Spring Compass

16 August 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #216, Capt. Wuertele Out 650 Mi. Cont: None 312-318
Ship #213, Capt. Hall Swing Compass

17 August 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #151, Capt. Messerschmitt Out 750 Mi. Cont: None 318
Ship #213, Capt. Hall Buttons-Nandi.

18 August 1942.

Ship #213, Capt. Hall, Bombed enemy shipping at Gizo. No hits observed, the weather was very bad. No damage to own ship.

19 August 1942.

Ship #156, Capt. Wuertele, searched. Out 500 Mi. Cont: None sector 294-300.
Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt. Buttons to Roses
Ship #213, Capt. Hall Buttons to Roses to PdG.

20 August 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #151, Capt. Wuertele Out 700 Mi. Cont: 4 DD, 5 surface craft, all enemy. No action of any kind.
Ship #442, Capt. Eberenz. Buttons to Roses 0830-0945
Ship #442, Capt. Eberenz. Roses to Buttons 1300-1315.

21 August 1942.

Ship #214, Major Manierre, Out 700 Mi. Cont: 1 small launch 2 DD's. No action taken. 306-312.
Ship #420, Lieut. Norton Roses to Buttons
Ship #442, Capt. Eberenz Roses to Buttons
Ship #442, Capt. Eberenz Buttons to Roses to PdG

22 August 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #151, Capt. Wuertele Out 650 Mi. Cont: 15 Hut Village on peak of Mountain. Pictures taken. No action 306-312. Landed at Cactus 1035.
Ship #213, Capt. Hall Ferry Mission to Cactus 0730-1200.

23 August 1942.

Ship #213, Major Manierre and Capt. Hall. Leading the first flight the mission being to attack carriers and force to N.E. about 650 miles. Took off at 1430. Sighted enemy force at 0630 consisting of one carrier, 2 destroyers, and 2 cruisers. Attacked from 12,000'. Made two runs dropping two bombs each run. Near misses between carrier and cruisers on the first run. Second run was reported by the crew members to have direct hits on carrier. Several explosions, pictures however did not show evidence. Attacked by 5-7 Zeros, shot down one possibly two. *Recommended for DFC*

23 August 1942. Cont'd

Returned to Base after dark in bad weather. Lieut. [redacted] was killed when he crashed into some palms upon landing. Ship #151, Capt. Wuertle. Broke formation believing we were off course, consequently, did not find target and turned back to base with full load of bombs.

24 August 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #420, Lieut. Norton Out 600 Mi. Cont: Attacked enemy DD in Gizo Harbor. Three 500#. No hits, the bombs failed to release on the first two runs. Attacked once by fighter off Lengo. No damage.

25 August 1942

SEARCH

Ship #426, Capt. Hall Out 750 Mi. Cont: Engaged 4 engine flying boat 50 Mi. NW Gizo Island. Elevators shot away and boat believed destroyed. Was circling what appeared to be wreckage when engaged by one Zero. No visible damage to Zero. Two holes shot in own ship. No injuries.

26 August 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt	Out 700 Mi. Cont: None
Ship #420, Lieut. Norton	Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
Ship #442, Capt. Wuertele	Buttons to Roses 0935 1035
Ship #071, Capt. Richards	Roses to Buttons 0910 1030
Ship #071, Capt. Richards	Buttons to Roses 1205 1330
Ship #071, Capt. Richards	Roses to Buttons 1535 1700

27 August 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #145, Capt. Eberenz	Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
Ship #071, Capt. Richards	P-400 Mission.

28 August 1942:

SEARCH

Ship #420, Lieut. Norton. Out 700 Mi. Cont: Own task force of 24 ships. Three empty life boats drifting about two miles apart attempted to sink by gunfire and was unsuccessful.

Ship #213, Capt. Hall Out 700 Mi. Cont: Sub sighted of Cape Mahua, San Cristobal. Weather prevented bombing or strafing.

Ship #071, Capt. Richards. Out 700 Mi. Cont: None. Lightning struck nose gun and broke off trailing antenna.

Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt. Out Cont: One plane between Renound Island and Gizo I. Was a float type, seen ahead but he stayed about one half mile away, disappeared in about 3 min.

Ship #442, Capt. Wuertele.	Roses to Buttons 100 1218
Ship #442, Capt. Wuertele.	Buttons to Roses 1420 1540

29 August 1942.

#442, Capt. Wuertele. Roses to Buttons 0715 0835
 Ship #442, Capt. Wuertele, Buttons to Roses 0910 1030
 Ship #442, Capt. Wuertle, Roses to Buttons 1100 1210
 Ship #442, Capt. Wuertele, Buttons to Roses 1300 1430
 NO TACTICAL MISSIONS THIS DATE.

30 August 1942.SEARCH

Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt. Out 750 Mi. Cont: None
 Ship #218, Capt. Richards. Out 650 Mi. Cont: Bombed
 enemy task force, near miss or hit on battleship or heavy
 cruiser. Dropped four 500#.
 Ship #442, Capt. Hyland. Roses to Buttons

31 August 1942.

Ship #442, Capt. Hyland, Buttons to Roses 0745 0900
 Ship #420, Capt. Hall. Buttons to PdG
 Ship #442, Capt. Hyland. Roses to Buttons 1035 1130
 Ship #442, Capt. Hyland. Buttons to Roses 1207 1320
 NO TACTICAL MISSION TODAY.

1 September 1942.

Ship #442, Capt. Hyland, Roses to Buttons to Roses 1035 1525
 Ship #442, Capt. Hyland, Buttons to Roses 1620 1735
 Ship #442, Capt. Hyland, Roses to Buttons 0815 0920
 Ship #442, Capt. Hyland, Buttons to Roses 1130 1220
 Ship #151, Capt. Eberenz, Photo Mission over the Filed.
 NO TACTICAL MISSIONS THIS DATE.

2 September 1942.SEARCH

Ship #216, Capt. Mensley, Out 765 Mi. Cont: None 312 318
 Ship #151, Capt. Eberenz, Out 810 Mi. Cont: Enemy tanker
 directly hit at 1035. Last seen sinking and burning. Dropped
 four 500#. Fire encircled bow when hit. Light AA. No injuries
 to plane or personnel.
 Ship #071, Capt. Richards, Out 800 Mi. Cont: None Seen
 buildings being built at Gizo Island.
 Ship #442, Capt. Hyland Roses to Buttons.

3 September 1942.

Ship #442, Capt. Hyland, Buttons to Roses 0900 1015
 NO TACTICAL MISSIONS THIS DATE.

4 September 1942.

Ship #442, Capt. Hyland. Roses to Buttons
 Ship #442, Capt. Hyland. Buttons to Roses.

5 September 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt. Out 700 Mi. Cont: None 306 312
 Ship #213, Lieut. Norton. Out 800 Mi. Cont: 3 enemy destroyers
 dropped four 500#, but no hits. AA very heavy and poor. No damage
 to plane.

Ship #071, Capt. Richards. Out 825 Mi. Cont: 3 enemy destroyers
 or cruisers. Dropped four 500#. No hits, near miss. Light AA
 before and after run.

Ship #442, Capt. Hyland	Roses to Buttons	0720 0835
Ship #442, Capt. Hyland	Buttons to Roses	1010 1130
Ship #442, Capt. Hyland	Roses to Buttons	1400 1500
Ship #442, Capt. Hyland	Buttons to Roses	1605 1735

6 September 1942.

Ship #442, Capt. Hyland. Roses to Buttons 0935 1045

Ship #442, Capt. Hyland. Buttons to Roses 1315 1420

Ship #071, Capt. Richards. Buttons to cactus escort some P-400's

Ship #213, Lieut. Norton. Buttons to Cactus " " "

7 September 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #213, Lieut. Norton. Out 800 Mi. Cont: Four engine flying
 boat. #1 Engine caught fire from 7.7 hit in oil tank, were forced
 to abandon attack at 0840. No apparent damage inflicted on the enemy.
 Seven enemy landing barges and one torpedo boat on the beach,
 strafed (Reykaya Bay) for twenty min. no damage observed. 0.
 7.7 in the tail.

Ship #071, Capt. Richards. Out for a test hbp.

Ship #071, Capt. Richards. Buttons to Cactus.

8 September 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #071, Capt. Richards. Went out on search mission and failed
 to return. Later reported shot down by Jap Four engine Flying boat.
 Sector 306 312, T.O. from Buttons at 0300.

Ship #442, Capt. Hyland. Roses to Buttons

Ship #442, Buttons to Roses.

9 September 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #216, Capt. Eberenz. Out 750 Mi. Cont: Enemy 5 dd's, 2AK.
 Landed Cactus to escort SB's to reported enemy task force. T.O.
 on an air raid warning and returned to base. Strafed six land
 barges, results not observed. No damage to plane or crew.

Ship #151, Capt. Wuertele. Out 800 Mi. Cont: Enemy task force 1EB
 8 DD's. Dropped four 500#. No hits. Heavy AA. No damage to own
 plane or crew.

Ship #213, Lieut. Norton. Out 800 Mi. Cont: Burning flying boat
 on reef, believed to be PBV. Attacked enemy flying boat, did not
 destroy but made many hits. Damage to own plane: 20 MM in tail and
 each wing. 7.7 through ball turret, pilots cabin,

9 September 1942 Cont'd

two hits in #2 engine, 6 others through fuselage. PFC Burns wounded in the leg by 7.7 through ball turrett.
Ship #442, Capt. Hyland. Roses to Buttons 0810 0925

10 September 1942.

Ship #442, Capt. Hyland. Buttons to Roses to Hickam 0810
Ship #213, Lieut. Norton. Cactus to Buttons 0530 0940
Ship #213, Lieut. Norton. Buttons to Roses 1515 1625
TACTICAL MISSIONS THIS DATE.

11 September 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #151, Capt. Eberenz. Out 500 Mi. from Cactus. Cont: Straffed installations at Gizo. Encountered small calibre and 20 MM from shore. No damage to plane or crew.
Ship #

12 September 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt. Out 500 Mi. Cont: two transports, 2 DD. 210 miles out of Cactus. No aa or any action taken.
Ship #420, Capt. Hall. Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
Ship #211, Capt. Steedman. Out 500 Mi. Cont: Attacked 5 bi-planes float type with inline engines at Gizo Island. Knocked down 2. Noted two white buildings on beach, a dock and scattered buildings in the woods. No injuries to own plane or crew.
Ship #420, Capt. Hall. Roses to Buttons.
Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt. Buttons to Cactus.

13 September 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #216, Capt. Stone Out 750 Mi. Cont: None
Ship #151, Capt. Wuertele. Out 600 Mi. Cont: Nose gun would not work. Shot down one float bi-plane. Three enemy float bi-planes on water and we straffed them. Tail gunner was wounded (Sgt. Lowrie) by MG fire from enemy plane. Guns in both the turrettts jammed. Own ship: 7.7 in fuselage and in the wing.
Ship #420, Lieut. Norton and Ship #213, Capt. Hall both part of the striking force took off at 1300. Flew for five hours without contact with the enemy returned to base at 1800.
Ship #213, Capt. Hall. Roses to Buttons 0530 0635.

14 September 1942.

Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt, Ship #213, Lieut. Norton, and Ship #420, Capt. Eberenz were all on one hour alert. These three ships all took off from Buttons at 1300 in search of the enemy who had previously been reported. Flew for approximately six hours without a contact. Returned to Buttons.

15 September 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #216, Capt. Wuertele. Out 790 Mi. Cont: Bombed Reykata Bay. Near hits on buildings, two gun positions silenced. Bombed from 2000' and made two runs. Two twin engine land bombers in the water.
 Ship #213, Capt. Hall. Out 800 Mi. Cont: Enemy task force of 3 cruisers, 1DD, and 1SS, 15 miles N of Kolombangari. Bombed Reykata Bay and started a number of fires. Made three runs, NoAA.
 Ship #211, Capt. Eberenz Buttons to Cactus
 Ship #426, Capt. Wuertele Up for a compass swing.
 Ship #426, Major Manierre, Ship #211, Capt. Eberenz, Ship #420 Lieut. Norton all on striking took off at 0600 and returned to base at 0900. No contacts made.

16 September 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #528, Major Manierre. Out 600 Mi. Cont: PEY beached. It appeared to have been shot up badly and the left wing was down in the water. The rest of the plane was above the shallow water. A general swing was made of the Islands and shoals below and above Ndeni. On most of the Islands huts and villages were noticed and black natives were observed. There are a Group of uncharted Islands about 30 miles South of Ndeni.
 Ship #211, Capt. Eberenz. Cacts to Roses 0620 1035
 Ship #445, Capt. Puerta Roses to Buttons 1505 1630

17 September 1942

SEARCH

Ship #216, Capt. Hensley. Out 800 Mi. Cont: 10 enemy flying boats in Gizo Harbor, 3 light cruisers or destroyers, 1 heavy cruiser, 1 aircraft tender, 2 cargo ships, and various other ships dispersed under heavy weather at Blakett Strait. Three fighters came out of the harbor, did not attack. Bombed tender. The hits not observed, pictures taken. AA moderate.
 Ship #213, Capt. Eberenz. Out 800 Mi. Cont: Bombed Gizo. Dropped one bomb on shore in houses at harbor all the others went in the water. Pictures taken, AA light. One twin engine float type and one single pontoon zero encountered in air, machine gun fire was exchanged but did not attack closely and fled into clouds when pursued. No hits on own plane.
 Ship #420. Lieut. Norton. Out 800 Mi. Cont: Dropped Seven 300# at construction about Reykata Bay. No direct hits and no apparent damage. No AA observed.
 Ship #426, Capt. Wuertele. Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
 Ship #214, Capt. Puerta Out 750 Mi. Cont: None

18 September 1942.

Ship #426, Major Manierre
 Ship #445, Capt. Puerta Both these ships went out for a compass swing.

18 September 1942. Cont'd

The following ships were all on striking but they did not T.O.:

Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt
Ship #426, Major Manierre
Ship #151, Capt. Stone
Ship #213, Capt. Hall
Ship #445, Capt. Puert.

19 September 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #445, Capt. Stone Out 800 Mi. Cont: None 334 339
Ship #426, Major Manierre Out 800 Mi. Cont: None 329 334
Ship #213, Capt. Hall Out 750 Mi. Cont: None 324 329
Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt Out 720 Mi. Cont: None 318 324
Ship #523, Capt. Hensley Out 720 Mi. Cont: Bombed Reykata,
saw no planes in condition to fly, took pictures. No damage
noticed. Two wrecked planes on beach. No damage to own plane
although there was very light AA.
Ship #420, Lieut. Norton stood by on 1 hour alert all the day.

20 September 1942

The following ships were all on striking but they did not T.O.:

Ship #426, Major Manierre
Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt
Ship #213, Capt. Hall
Ship #445, Capt. Puerta
Ship #420, Lieut. Norton Buttons to Cactus 1305 1700

21 September 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #445, Capt. Puerta Out 755 Mi. Cont: None
Ship #426, Capt. Wuertele Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
Ship #213, Capt. Hall Out 700 Mi. Cont: Bombed Reykata Bay,
no opposition, and very little if any damage done. No AA.
Ship #420, Lieut. Norton. Out 700 Mi. Cont: Bombed Reykata, no
hits made. AA, 7.7, and 20mm very heavy. No damage to own plane.
Pictures taken.
Ship #216, Capt. Sorensen. Out 750 Mi. Cont: Bombed Gizo Harbor
installations with 8-100# Demo. and 2 Incend. bombs. Hazy over
the target, and No AA observed. First 5 bombs were released in
train and observed to fall close to nearest buildings on runway.
Pictures taken, no damage to own ship.

22 September 1942.

The following ships were all on striking but they did not T.O.:

Ship #445, Capt. Wuertele
Ship #213, Capt. Stone
Ship #426, Major Manierre
Ship #420, Lieut. Norton

23 September 1942.SEARCH

Ship #426, Major Manierre Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
 Ship #445, Capt. Hensley Out 750 Mi. Cont: None
 Ship #213, Capt. Hall Buttons to Fombouta for repairs.

24 September 1942.

Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
 Ship #426, Major Manierre Buttons to Roses 1320 1530
 Ship #151, Capt. Wuertele Buttons to Roses 1320 1530
 Ship #445, Capt. Puerta Buttons to Roses 1320 1530

The above three ships all left this date for Nandi and a three day rest period.
 Ship #420, Lieut. Norton On this date Lieut. Norton and crew were reported as missing in action. They were never heard from.
why shot down by Zoro's gang down in floats.

25 September 1942.

Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt Buttons to Fantan 0730 1250
 This ship and crew was to stay at Nandi for a three days rest period.

26 September 1942.

NO MISSIONS ALL CREWS AT NANDI FOR REST

27 September 1942.

NO MISSIONS ALL CREWS AT NANDI FOR REST

28 September 1942.

ALL CREWS CALLED IN FROM SOUVA TO GO ON SPECIAL ALERT AT NANDI.

29 September 1942.SEARCH

Ship #151, Capt. Wuertle Out 800 Mi. Cont: None 351 357
 Ship #426, Lieut. Andrews Out 750 Mi. Cont: None 345 351
 Ship #216, Capt. Hensley Out 780 Mi. Cont: None 357 003
 Ship #445, Capt. Puerta Out 800 Mi. Cont: None 003 009

30 September 1942.

NO MISSIONS THIS DATE.

1 October 1942. --SEARCH

Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt Out 800 Mi. Cont: None 351 357
 Ship #426, Major Manierre Out 800 Mi. Cont: None 003-009
 Ship #151, Capt. Stone Out 800 Mi. Cont: None 357 003
 Ship #445, Lieut. Andrews Stand By for Search.

2 October 1942.

The following ships were all on striking 15 min. alert but did not take off:

Ship #151, Capt. Wuertele
 Ship #426, Capt. Puerta
 Ship #216, Capt. Hensley

3 October 1942.

Ship #151, Capt. Wuertle

Ship #426, Capt. Puerta

Ship #216, Capt. Hensley

The above three ships all went out on a special photographic mission from Mandi.

4 October 1942.

ALL MISSIONS CANCELLED THIS DATE DUE TO BAD WEATHER.

5 October 1942.

Ship #151, Capt. Wuertle Fantan to Roses

Ship #426, Major Manierre Fantan to Roses

Ship #445, Capt. Puerta Fantan to Roses

Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt Fantan to Roses

All ships landed at Buttons 1300.

6 October 1942.

Ship #426, Capt. Stone Buttons to Cactus

Ship #445, Lieut. Andrews Buttons to Cactus

Ship #213, Capt. Hall PdG to Roses to Buttons

7 October 1942.Ship #426, Capt. Stone Out 200 Mi. From Cactus Cont: None
302 312Ship #445, Lieut. Andrews Out 450 Mi. from Cactus Cont: None
322 322.

Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt Buttons to Roses for repairs.

8 October 1942SEARCH

Ship #426, Major Manierre Out 950 Mi. Cont: None

Ship #213, Capt. Hall Out 825 Mi. Cont: Enemy fighters,
5 DD's, 1 heavy cruiser. Dropped aerial bombs and made overhead passes almost head on. One fighter knocked down. AA very light. Damage to own ship: holes in left wing, aileron, elevator and navig. glass, deep out in #2 prop. Heavy cruiser appeared to be on fire, alot of black smoke.

Ship #445, Capt. Puerta Out 600 Mi. Cont: None

Ship #151, Capt. Wuertle Out 650 Mi. Cont: None

All the above ships landed at Cactus after the mission.

9 October 1942.

Ship #151, Capt. Wuertle Out 450 Mi. from Cactus Cont: None

Ship #213, Capt. Hall Out 450 Mi. From Cactus Cont: None

10 October 1942.

Ship #445, Capt. Puerta Buttons to Cactus

Ship #128, Major Manierre Buttons to Cactus

11 October 1942.SEARCH

Ship #445, Capt. Puerta Out 500 miles from Cactus Cont: None
 landed at Cactus 305 315.
 Ship #151, Lieut. Andrews on one hour alert until 1300. No T.O.

12 October 1942.SEARCH

Ship #445, Capt. Puerta Out 500 Mi. from Cactus Cont: None
 landed at Cactus 305 315.
 Ship #535, Capt. Hall Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
 Ship #151, Capt. Wuertele Buttons to Cactus
 Ship #426, Capt. Hensley Cactus to Buttons

13 October 1942.

Ship #151, Major Manierre Buttons to Cactus
 Ship #426, Capt. Stone Buttons to Cactus
 Upon arriving at Cactus it was found that the place was undergoing
 an air raid, circled the field for over an hour before landing.
 Ship #445, Capt. Puerta Cactus to Buttons
 Ship #445, Lieut. Andrews Buttons to PdG 1400 1745

14 October 1942.

Ship #151, Major Manierre Cactus to Buttons
 Ship #426, Capt. Stone Cactus to Buttons
 Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt Roses to Buttons
 Ship #426, Capt. Hall on 15 min alert took off at 1500 and flew
 about 575 miles in search of a Jap task force. No contacts
 made. Returned to Base at 2240.

15 October 1942.SEARCH

Ship #216, Captain Messerschmitt Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
 Ship #426, Major Manierre
 Ship #445, Capt. Puerta
 Ship #216, Capt. Stone

The above three ships all took off at 0745. The mission being to
 bomb enemy ships at Kukua. Arrived at the target area at 1145 and
 there were four enemy transports one of which was burning, about
 4 cruisers, 5-7 destroyers. Went in at 10,000' indicated air speed
 180 indicated. No bombs dropped by Major Manierre and Capt. Puerta
 on first run due to solenoid trouble. Capt. Stone dropped four bombs
 on an individual run. The first run was made on two transports close
 together. The second run was made on a single transport by Major
 Manierre and Capt. Puerta, 5 bombs dropped by each. Close miss by
 Major Manierre, possible hit by Capt. Puerta in formation. Enemy
 aircraft about 12 Zeros attacked during both runs over target.
 Approximately 3 to 4 Zeros were shot down by the flight. Pieces
 were taken of one shot down by Major Manierres crew. Enemy AA
 was very heavy and concentrated, all planes returned safely to the
 Base, although many bullet holes and pieces of equipment were affected
 so as to render them useless.

CORRECTION 17 Oct. 1942.

Major Manierre in Ship # 4426, leading six ship formation. Bombed shore installations and troop concentration, west of Point Cruz in Kukulanga area. No A A and no pursuit interception. Returned to Base, encountered bad weather there, and finally landed in a heavy rain. All six ships returned safely in spite of the bad weather.

15 October 1942. Cont'd

RESULTS: Possible hits on transport, three to four Zeros shot down. CASUALTIES: M/Sgt. K. Lawton shot by 7.7 which came through bombardiers window, glancing off bombsight stabilizer, and hit him in the mouth. He was immediately hospitalized upon landing. Landed at 0345.

16 October 1942

SEARCH

Ship #216, Capt. Hall Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
Ship #213, Capt. Puerta, Took off at 1300 and bombed Kukumbonga
All the bombs hit on the target. Observed two Zeros crash into the sea. Zeros set fire to sea tender McFallame. #1 engine went out, returned from Cactus on three engines.
Ship #151, Capt. Wuertele. Took off from Buttons at 1300 for Cactus. ~~Returned to Buttons at 1400. Landed at 1400.~~
Ship #426, Capt. Hensley Buttons to Cactus 0447 0834
Went out in afternoon looking for Jap task force, could not make contact;

17 October 1942.

Ship #426, Major Manierre.
Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt. Both these ships were on striking and they did not take-off.
Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt Swing Compass 1600 1700

18 October 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt Out 750 Mi. Cont: None
Ship #445, Lieut. Andrews PdG to Roses to Buttons
Ship #151, Capt. Wuertele Buttons to Cactus (Ferry Gasoline)

19 October 1942.

Ship #216, Capt. Puerta Out 800 Mi. Cont: Was one white man on Antony Java, signaled with flags, dropped him some food.
Ship #426, Lieut. Andrews Buttons to Cactus.
Ship #151, Capt. Wuertele

20 October 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #444, Capt. Stone Out 700 Mi. Cont: Seen one 25 Ft. sail boat with white-cross on the top of the cabin. No action. Could not identify the boat.
The following ships were all on striking but did not T.O.:
Ship #426, Major Manierre
Ship #151, Capt. Hall
Ship #431, Capt. Hensley
Ship #445, Capt. Puerta

21 October 1942.

Ship #216, Lieut. Sorensen Buttons to Hoses 0915 1030
 Ship #128, Lieut. Hensley Spare Search Ship
 Ship #442, Lieut. Hyland Roses to Buttons from Hickam
 Ship #426, Major Manierre
 Ship #444, Capt. Hall
 Ship #431, Andrews
 Ship #445, Capt. Wuertele The above four ships were all all one hour alert and did not take off.

22 October 1942.

Ship #442, Lieut. Hyland Swing Compass over Field. 0815 0940
 The following ships were on one hour alert but did not take off:
 Ship #444, Capt. Stone
 Ship #445, Capt. Puerta
 Ship #426, Lieut. Andrews
 Ship #431, Lieut. Hensley

23 October 1942.

Ship #151, Lieut. Hensley Buttons to Roses for repairs.
 Ship #060, Lieut. Hensley Roses to Buttons
 The following ships were one hour alert and did not take off:
 #426, Major Manierre
 #445, Capt. Wuertele
 #444, Lieut. Hyland
 #431, Capt. Hall
 #403, Lieut. Thomas

24 October 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #445, Lieut. Andrews Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
 Ship #409, Lieut. Hyland Out 725 Mi. Cont: None
 Ship #213, Capt. Hall one hour slow time on plane.
 The following three ships were all on striking and took off at 0545:

Ship #426, Major Manierre
 Ship #403, Capt. Puerta
 Ship #444, Capt. Stone The target was an Enemy Carrier Task Force approaching Cactus from the NE. The striking group would not find the Task Force and all the planes returned to the Base. Went out 600 miles, then weather got bad in frontal area.

25 October 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #444, Capt. Hall Out 800 Mi. Cont: 1CA, 3DD, three Zeros land based came in once from rear and above. Climbed into the clouds no damage done to plane or personnel.
 Ship #431, Lieut. Hensley Out 750 Mi. Cont: 1 Single engine plane, 1EB, 3DD, and two cargo ships. One four engine flying boat shot down by crew. AA very heavy mostly broadsides. No damage to own plane or crew.
 Ship #445, Capt. Wuertele Out 800 Mi. Cont: 3 DD's, AA very light. No damage. Capt Wuertele shot in ankle by

25 October 1942 Cont'd

Ship #426, Lieut. Andrews

Ship #403, Lieut. Hyland

Both these ships members of the striking group took off at 1045 after searching without contacting the enemy at any time the planes all returned to their base.

26 October 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #223, Capt. Puerta Out 785 Mi. Cont: Sighted one float type monoplane but it did not attack. Fired upon by ground installations at Rennel Island, no damage to plane.

Ship #444, Lieut. Sprawls Out 800 Mi. Cont: one float type monoplane 3000 yds away, did not attack.

Ship #403, Lieut. Levy Out 720 Mi. Cont: Sighted 4-6 Zeros N.W. of Reykata Bay. Flew low over Reykata Bay. Enemy 20mm AA made hits in rudder control cables, radio compartment, navigators compartment and right wing. T/Sgt. Shepherd (Nav) wounded badly in left shoulder and upper left arm. Sgt. Gordon Radio Oper. wounded badly in the leg. Sgt. Gordon operated the radio all the way back to the base, after being propped up to the set. He later had his leg amputated above the knee at the Cub 1 Hosp.

Ship #431, Lieut. Hensley Escorted fighters to Cactus

Ship #213, Capt. Hall

Ship #534, Capt. Conradi Both these ships members of the striking group took off at 1015: a six plane formation dropped 24-500 lbs from 20,000'. Bombs all fell beyond the BB, real close misses. No damage observed, No aa or fighters. All ships returned to the base safely.

27 October 1942.

NO MISSIONS TODAY.

28 October 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #442, Lieut. Hyland Out 650 Mi. Cont: None 318-324

Ship #216, Lieut. Sorensen Roses to Buttons 1250 1410

29 October 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #523, Capt. Levy Out 800 Mi. Cont: None

Ship #445, Capt. Puerta Buttons to Roses 1330 1500

30 October 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #403, Capt. Conradi Out 645 Mi. Cont: None

31 October 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt Out 700 Mi. Cont: None

Ship #213, Capt. Hall Out 750 Mi. Cont: None

1 November 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #431, Capt. Mensley Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
Ship #444, Capt. Sprawls Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
Ship #213, Capt. Hall Buttons to PdC 1406 1730

The following ships all went out on a bombing missions this date:

Ship #216, Capt. Puerta Took off from Buttons at 0403 and was over the target at 0745 (Mukumbonga). Bombed alone from 7500', and all the bombs dropped in the target area. No AA or fighter interception.

Ship #213, Capt. Sorenson Target: (Mukumbonga/Poka River) All the bombs released in 100' intervals all hit in target area. AA none.

Ship #442, Capt. Hyland Over the target at 0830 at 5000'. All the bombs dropped in and to the left of the target area. AA none.

Ship #2426, Capt. Levy Over the target at 0840 at 4000 feet.

3/4 of the bombs dropped in the beach the rest in the water.

All the ships returned to base unharmed.

2 November 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #431, Capt. Conradi Out 730 Mi. Cont: 17 BB's, and 4GL, very light AA, no damage. Landed at Cactus.

Ship #213, Capt. Hall Tontouta to Buttons

The following ships were on striking and did not T.O.:

Ship #445, Capt. Puerta

Ship #442, Capt. Hyland

Ship #216, Capt. Sprawls

Ship #431, Capt. Levy

The following combat crew left for Auckland, N.Z. this date:

Major Manierre, Capt. Messerschmitt, Capt. Mensley, plus Capt.

Sorenson minus crew.

3 November 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #431, Capt. Conradi Out 800 Mi. from Cactus Cont: None returned to Buttons.

The following ships were all on striking and did not take off:

Ship #445, Capt. Puerta

Ship #213, Capt. Hall

Ship #442, Capt. Hyland

Ship #216, Capt. Sprawls

Ship #2426, Capt. Levy

4 November 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #431, Lieut. Woodruff Out 700 Mi. Cont: None

The following ships were all on striking and did not take off:

Ship #445, Capt. Puerta

Ship #442, Capt. Hyland

Ship #216, Capt. Sprawls

Ship #2426, Capt. Levy

The following crews left for Auckland, N.Z. This date:

Capt. Hall and Capt. Steedman

5 November 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #213, Capt. Sprawls Out 800 Mi. Cont: None 310-316
Ship #4426, Lieut. Thomas Out 800 Mi. Cont: None 316-322
The following ships were all on striking and they did not take

off:
Ship #403, Capt. Puerta
Ship #442, Capt. Hyland
Ship #2426, Capt. Levy
Ship #216, Capt. Conradi

6 November 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #426, Lieut. Harp Out 750 Mi. Cont: one wrecked sampson
S.W. of Wainakai Bay.
Ship #442, Capt. Hyland Out 800 Mi. Cont: 3 AK, 3DD, offshore
at Cactus. The AK's were evidently unloading. Saw what looked
like a double row of tents in one cove of 1000 ships bay.

7 November 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #442, Capt. Conradi Out 780 Mi. Cont: 11DD, very light
AA, no damage.
Ship #4426, Capt. Puerta Escort P-39's to Cactus
Ship #128, Capt. Levy Escort P-39's to Cactus remain over
night.

The following ships were on striking and did not take off:
Ship #216, Capt. Sprawls
Ship #431, Lieut. Woodruff

8 November 1942.

Ship #4426, Capt. Puerta Cactus to Buttons
Ship #128, Capt. Levy Cactus to Buttons
The following ships were on striking and did not take off:
Ship #442, Capt. Hyland
Ship #216, Capt. Sprawls
Ship #403, Capt. Conradi
Ship #4426, Lieut. Thomas

9 November 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #403, Lieut. Thomas Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
The following ships were on striking and did not take off:
Ship #44, Capt. Puerta
Ship #442, Capt. Hyland
Ship #216, Capt. Sprawls
Ship #431, Conradi

10 November 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #442, Capt. Hyland Out 785 Mi. Cont: None
Ship #216, Capt. Sprawls Out 800 Mi. Cont: None

10 November 1942. Cont'd

Ship #426, Lieut. Harp Out 775 Mi. Cont: Eight washed up planes on the beach at Reykata Bay, none apparently servicable.

11 November 1942.

Ship #445, Capt Puerta Swing Compass
 The following ships were on striking but did not take off:
 Ship #403, Capt. Puerta
 Ship #442, Capt. Hyland
 Ship #2426, Capt. Levy
 Ship #216, Lieut. Woodruff
 Ship #213, Capt. Conradi

12 November 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #445, Capt. Puerta Out 750 Mi. Cont: 2BB, 1CL, 6DD. Intense AA, no damage. Five Zeros attacked B-17 at 1000'. The lower turret was out, tail guns went out, and the top turret would not fire long bursts. One Zero shot down cracked up on the water, one damaged maybe more. Lamage to #445 two 20mm hits in the wing, few 7.7.
 Ship #213, Capt. Conradi Out 770 Mi. Cont: None
 Ship #426, Capt. Levy Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
 The following ships were on striking and did not take off:
 Ship #442, Capt. Hyland
 Ship #216, Capt. Sprawls
 Ship #431 To Roses for repairs.

13 November 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #611, Lieut. Harp Out 720 mi. Cont: Sighted large Jap Task Force, two small boats burning, AA very light, no damage.
 Ship #060, Lieut. Thomas Out 800 Mi. Cont: 4CL, 3DD, 12AK location 25 Mi. NW cactus. Light AA. BB observed at 1050 great clouds of slate gray smoke, 5DD, circling around it. DD's fired at plane upon flashing of identification. AA from getting close and I could not stay around. Two miles off shore of Lunga 2DD, on fire, 1 ship sinking (unidentified).
 Ship #445, Capt. Puerta Buttons to Roses 1340 1445
 Ship #403, Capt. Puerta Roses to Buttons 1540 1645
 Ship #216, Capt. Sprawls on striking took off at 0545. Target: Japanese Naval Force moving in on Cactus. Searched in flight led by Capt. Lucas and could not find target. Ran into front and then returned to base.

14 November 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #128, Capt. Hyland Out 700 Mi. Cont: Large slick looked rather recent, lots of debris, and about 60 men of raft and observed men getting aboard, definitely white men.
 Ship #442, Capt. Levy on striking and took off: Closed Diamond in flight led by Major Sewart. Target: Large Jap Transport. Dropped 4-500 lb. bombs at 17000' and all were near misses, no other

14 November 1942 Cont'd

bombing observed. Sighted a 20 ships convoy, two of the ships were burning and was badly damaged. 10-12 Zeros were around us during the bombing, rear gunner saw one Zero fall (this was not corroborated).

Ship #213, Capt. Comradi was #2 position in flight led by Major Ridings. The target was the same and we dropped 4-500 lb. bombs. Bombs not observed, no AA, and no interception by fighters.

Ship #403, Capt. Puerta Dropped 4-500 lb. bombs on the same target, and didn't see any direct hits. The AA was very light and poor. One Zero was shot down.

Ship #216, Capt. Sprawls. Dropped 4-500 lb. bombs on the same target. All the bombs were very close and may have caused some damage. No AA or fighter interception.

15 November 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #444, Lieut. Harp Out 775 Mi. Cont: None (Used 431st Crew)

Ship #415, Lieut. Thomas Out 800 Mi. Cont: Approximately 50 men in water 35 miles off Cactus, they waved from a yellow raft.

Three enemy destroyers burning, abandoned, 2 enemy cruisers. No AA.

Ship #2426, Capt. Levy Out 800 Mi. Cont: 4DD, 4CL, and three small vessels. 12-15 float Zeros at Reykata Seaplane Base.

Four of five of them took off but did not have a chance to attack as the B-17 flew into the clouds.

The following three ships were all on striking and T.O.:

Ship #213, Capt. Comradi

Ship #216, Capt. Puerta Both these ships loaded with 4-500 lb. bombs searched in vain for target (Transport Ship). All ships appeared fully destroyed and so returned to base with bombs. No troops or supplies evident alongshore of Cactus.

Ship #442, Capt. Hyland. Sighted Task Force and all ships were burning with the exception of one. Dropped 4-500 lb. Bombs on the one ship but no direct hits were made. Sighted life raft with men on it about 30 miles SW of San Cristobal. No AA or damage to own plane.

16 November 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #213, Capt. Sowers Out 800 Mi. Cont: Two burning enemy vessels, three life boats drifting empty 5-15 miles from Cactus.

The following ships were on striking and did not take off:

Ship #442, Capt. Hyland

Ship #216, Capt. Sprawls

The following combat personnel returned from a rest in N.Z.:

Major Manierre, Capt. Messerschmitt, Capt. Hensley, Capt. Sorensen

17 November 1942.

Ship #213, Major Manierre Buttons to Cactus

Ship #216, Capt. Sprawls Buttons to Cactus

Ship #442, Capt. Hyland Buttons to Cactus

17 November 1942. Cont'd.

SEARCH

Ship #409, Capt. Hensley Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
 Ship #2426, Capt. Messerschmitt Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
 Ship #535, Lieut. Thomas Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
 Ship #060, Capt. Puerta Out 800 Mi. Cont: None.
 Landed at Cactus 1220 for repairs, took off immediately after.
 Ship #222, Capt. Sorensen Out 800 Mi. Cont: None

18 November 1942. STRIKING FORCE TOOK OFF

Ship #216, Capt. Sprawls arrived over Buin Area at 0830. Made first bomb run and no bombs dropped as leaders bombs hung. The target was a large AK and it was stationary. Dropped 4-1000 lb. bombs at 12,000'. All the bombs were dropped on the lead plane in formation (Maj. Sewart), Although orders received Bombardier had no time to sight for range. Navigator was the only member to observe the bombing and he through drift meter. One near miss and two further away, one bomb unseen. Other bombing observed:

2-3 near misses on same ship

2-3 near misses on another ship. No burning ships observed upon leaving the target. The aa was very heavy during the bombing runs. Zeros shot down by Bombardier and Upper turrett. Damage to B-17: Gash in fuselage by a 20mm. This shell wounded Corp. Giammara left waist gunner who courageously stayed at his post until the attack was over. Four 7.7 shells in the EE door.

Ship #442, Capt. Hyland. Over the target at 0810 and dropped 4-1000 lb. bombs on the leader. Possibly one direct hit on the bow of one ship. Small amount of smoke was coming out from the ship. AA from the land was very poor and light, but the AA from the ships was very heavy and accurate. Zeros attacked us upon leaving the target and one of them was shot down.

Ship #213, Major Manierre Attacked enemy shipping at Tonelei Harbor and made one run. Leader couldn't drop and made a second run on an enemy cargo ship and as leader could not drop the flight dropped on Major Manierres' Bombardier S/Sgt Noble. Each plane dropped 4-1000 lb. bombs except lead ship. Bombs scored several hits and many close misses. The ship was reported to be sunk by Lt. Chambers who arrived shortly after we left. The AA was extremely heavy. As we left the target area we were attacked by about 15-20 Zeros. They made direct frontal and side attacks. Several Zeros were shot down by the flight. The lead ships Pilot and Co-Pilot, (Lt. Lee and Major Sewart) Col. Saunders took over and as two engines were out he made a water landing near Baga Island. The rest of the flight circled until he landed safely. Col. Saunders and remainder of the crew were picked up later. RESULTS: One cargo vessel sunk. 4-5 Zeros destroyed one B-17 shot down with Pilot and Co-Pilot killed by 7.7.

Recommended for Medal

19 November 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #222, Capt. Sorensen Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
 Ship #403, Capt. Conradi Out 785 Mi. Cont: Seen Col. Saunders
 and Group 4-5 in all, located on Vella Lavella Island, at native
 village in Sand Fly Bay.
 Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt Ferry to Cactus (Gen. Patch)
 Ship #213, Capt. Puerta Buttons to Roses for repairs.
 Ship #445, Capt. Puerta Roses to Buttons.

20 November 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #222, Lieut. Thomas Out 650 Mi. Cont: None
 Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt Cactus to Buttons
 The following ships were on striking and did not take off:
 Ship #445, Capt. Puerta
 Ship #442, Capt. Hyland
 Ship #2426, Capt. Levy
 Ship #403, Capt. Messerschmitt.

21 November 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #445, Capt. Puerta Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
 The following ships were on striking and did not take off:
 Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt
 Ship #442, Capt. Hyland
 Ship #403, Capt. Levy
 Ship #445, Capt. Puerta

22 November 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #445, Capt. Sprawls Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
 Ship #2426, Capt. Hyland Out 670 Mi. Cont: Life boat empty
 had oars in it, evidently Jap built.
 Ship #216, Lieut. Harp Swing Compass
 Ship #216, Capt. Puerta Buttons to Roses
 Ship #216, Lieut. Harp Roses to Buttons.
 The following ships were on striking and did not take off:
 Ship #403 Capt Conradi.

23 November 1942.

Ship #2426, Capt. Levy Buttons to Cactus.
 Ship #442, Capt Hyland Swing Compass
 Ship #213, Capt. Puerta Roses to buttons

24 November 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #222, Capt. Sorensen Out 800 Mi Cont: None
 Ship #444, Capt. Hensley Out 800 Mi Cont: None
 Ship #213, Capt. Conradi Out 800 Mi Cont: None
 Ship #216, Lieut. Harp Out 800 Mi Cont: None

25 November 1942.

SEARCH.

Ship #216, Capt. Steedman Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
 Ship #213, Capt. Hall Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
 Ship #445, Capt. Puerta Swing Compass

26 November 1942. THANKSGIVING DAY

Ship #444, Major Manierre Buttons to Cactus
 Ship #445, Capt. Puerta Buttons to Cactus
 Ship #463, Capt. Sorensen Buttons to Cactus
 Ship #535, Capt. Conradi Buttons to Cactus
 Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt Buttons to Cactus
 Ship #213, Capt. Hensley Buttons to Cactus
 Ship #525, Capt. Sprawls Buttons to Cactus
 Ship #442, Capt. Hyland Buttons to Cactus

27 November 1942.

The following named ships took off at 0000 to Bomb Kahili Airfield:

Ship #444, Major Manierre
 Ship #445, Capt. Puerta
 Ship #535, Capt. Conradi 24-500 lb. bombs dropped by this flight
 Ship #444 dropped its bombs all in the water and the other two ships
 dropped them in dispersed area at S end of the field. Dropped from
 11,000', no opposition returned to cactus.

The following ships of the second flight took off at 0015 to bomb
 the same target:

Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt
 Ship #213, Capt. Hensley
 Ship #442, Capt. Hyland
 Ship #525, Capt. Sprawls

These ships dropped a total of 32-500 lb. bombs, one tenth of
 second delay and instantaneous. Bombed from 13,000'. All the bombs
 dropped on the airfield. No opposition, landed at Cactus at dawn.

28 November 1942

The following named ships went out on a bombing mission this date:

Ship #216, Major Manierre
 Ship #213, Capt. Hensley
 Ship #643, Capt. Sorensen
 Ship #442, Capt. Hyland
 Ship #535, Capt. Sprawls

The Target: 2AF, 5DD. One of the AF's was smoking previously had
 been damaged by dive bombers at Munda. On the first run we made
 three hits and several near misses. On the second run she was
 smoking and lying in the water. This was later confirmed by a
 coast watcher. AA low and very far behind. Attacked by 10 landZeros
 with belly tanks. Dropped belly tanks and then flew above Bell and
 started dropping bombs on them. The bursts were five times the
 size of AA bursts. White smoke with red particles flying off
 leaving white trails. One crew which flew through cloud of this
 became sick with headaches. Bottom gunner on Capt. Sprawls

Am. Model

CORRECTI *Frederick* 30 November 1942.

Captain Searching out of Cactus. Photographed Buka Passage, Kieta Harbor, Kilului Airport, Tonolieu and Shortland Harbor. Contacted 24 enemy vessels in Shortland Harbor. Intercepted by 6 Zeros at Choisiel Island, had a running fight for about 20 minutes. Four aerial bombs were dropped on us, and we knocked down two fighters which crashed into Choisiel Island.

28 November 1942 Cont'd

crew got two hits on two Zeros. On the Majors crew T/Sgt. Brewster, Cpl. Stephanik and Caviness together, and Lt. Lewis knocked down Zeros. #216 was damaged with 20mm through one of the main spars. Some pictures taken. Ship #643 returned on three engines. All personnel returned without injury. Ship #403, Capt. Hall Searched out 750 Mi. Cont: None.

29 November 1942.

Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt Cactus to Buttons for repairs.
Ship #643, Capt. Sorensen Cactus to Buttons for repairs.

SEARCH

Ship #124, Capt. Levy Out 800 Mi. Cont: None

30 November 1942

SEARCH

Ship #403, Capt. Steedman Out 750 Mi. Cont: None
The following ships were on striking from Cactus and did not take off:
Ship #444, Major Manierre
Ship #213, Capt. Hensley
Ship #442, Capt. Hyland
Ship #525, Capt. Sprawls
Ship #535, Capt. Conradi

1 December 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #403, Capt. Steedman Went out 450 miles from Cactus and didn't make any contacts.
The following ships were on striking from Cactus and did not take off:
Ship #444, Major Manierre
Ship #213, Capt. Hensley
Ship #442, Capt. Hyland
Ship #525, Capt. Sprawls
Ship #535, Capt. Conradi

2 December 1942.

The following crews were on alert from Cactus all T.O. at 1300
Ship #444, Major Manierre for Buttons.
Ship #213, Capt. Hensley
Ship #442, Capt. Hyland
Ship #525, Capt. Sprawls
Ship #535, Capt. Conradi

3 December 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #431, Capt. Hall Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
Ship #213, Capt. Hensley Out 500 Mi. From Cactus returned to Buttons. Cont: None
Ship #403, Capt. Sorensen on striking. No T.O.
Ship #215, Capt. Levy Out 750 Miles Cont: None

4 December 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #415, Capt. Steedman Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
Ship #403, Capt. Sorensen Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
Ship #216, Capt. Messerschmitt Buttons to Nandi and then on to
Hickam Field for repairs.
The following ships were on striking and did not take off:
Ship #442, Capt. Hyland
Ship #445, Capt. Sprawls
Ship #431, Capt. Conradi

5 December 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #442, Capt. Hyland Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
The following ships were all on striking and did not take off:
Ship #213, Captain Hall
Ship #431, Capt. Hensley
Ship #444, Major Manierre
Ship #445, Capt. Sprawls
Ship #403, Capt. Levy

6 December 1942.

Ship #403, Capt. Steedman Buttons to Cactus T.O. at 1300.
The following ships were on striking and did not take off:
Ship #444, Major Manierre
Ship #445, Capt. Sorensen
Ship #431, Capt. Sprawls
Ship #213, Capt. Hall
Ship #442, Capt. Hensley

7 December 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #426, Capt. Sprawls Out 800 Mi. Cont: None 292-298
Ship #445, Lieut. Harp Out 800 Mi. Cont: None 298-304
Ship #403, Capt Steedman at Cactus did not fly.
The following ships were on striking and did not take off:
Ship #431, Capt. Hensley
Ship #213, Capt. Hall
Ship #442, Capt. Hyland
Ship #444, Capt. Levy

8 December 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #445, Capt. Levy Out 800 Mi. Cont: None 298-304
Ship #403, Capt. Steedman out from cactus searched 425 miles.
Cont: 5 enemy vessels and no action. Returned to Cactus.
The following ships were on striking and did not take off:
Ship #426, Capt. Sorensen
Ship #442, Capt. Hyland
Ship #444, Capt. Hall
Ship #431, Capt. Hensley

9 December 1942.SEARCH

Ship #445, Major Menierre Out 800 Mi. Cont: None Rear turret knocked off plane when parking it in the bunker.

Ship #403, Capt. Steedman Searched 310 miles out of Cactus Cont: 24 enemy vessels. #5 engine out and #4 on fire returned to Cactus.

The following ships were all on striking and took off at 0445:
 Ship #442, Capt. Hyland. Bombed Munda Pt. Airport with 20-100 lb. bombs. All the bombs landed in the target area. Fairly accurate AA about 4" stuff, but no hits. Landed Buttons 1615.
 Ship #128, Capt. Sorensen. Bombed Munda Pt. Airport with 20-100 lb. bombs. All bombs landed in the target area. AA very close. No damage to own ship. Landed Buttons because of engine trouble.
 Ship #444, Capt. Hall and Ship #431 Capt. Hensley. Dropped all the bombs on the Munda Pt. Airport in formation. All the bombs hit on the runway. 3" AA altitude was fine but the deflection was off. Landed at Cactus.(both ships).

10 December 1942.

Ship #403, Capt. Steedman at Cactus. Did not fly.

Ship #442, Capt. Sprawls Buttons to Cactus.

Ship #444, Capt. Hall. Ship #431 Capt. Hensley: Capt. Hall leading five ship formation Capt. Hensley in #2 position. Bombed large tanker with 4-1000 lb. bombs each, in Tololet Harbor. Had an escort of 4 P38's. Scored one direct hit on the stern and several near misses. Heavy AA, altitude good but the deflection slightly off. Five enemy fighters one of which made attack and damaged an engine on #4 ship in the formation (Capt. Thomas). Fighter that made the attack was shot down by P-38 as he cleared the bomber formation. Lt. Whiteley of this Squadron flew as Co-Pilot with Capt Darby in Ship #059, #3 position.

11 December 1942.SEARCH

Ship #128, Capt. Levy Returned to Base because of bad weather had already searched 450 Mi. Cont: None.

Ship #403, Capt. Steedman at Cactus did not fly.

Capt. Hall in Ship #444, and Capt. Hensley Ship #431 went out from Cactus on the following bombing mission: Capt. Hall in #2 position and Capt. Hensley in #3 position with Capt. Sullivan leading Bombed Munda Pt Airfield with 20-100 lb. bombs each, from 18,000'. Hits not observed because of clouds just past bomb release line. Believe all bombs hit on land which would necessitate their reaching the target. No AA or fighter interception.

Ship #442, Capt. Sprawls at Cactus did not take off.

12 December 1942.

Ship #403, Capt. Steedman Cactus to Buttons.

SEARCH

Ship #415, Capt. Hyland Out 770 Mi. Cont: None 292 304

Ship #426, Lieut. Thomas Out 800 Mi. Cont: 1 enemy destroyer, heavy AA, but no damage done.

12 December 1942 Cont'd

Ship #442, Capt. Sprawls. Searched from Cactus to Buia. Cont: one unidentified ship (transport) no action.

The following ships were on striking and did not take off:

Ship #222, Capt. Sorensen

Ship #426, Capt. Levy

13 December 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #426, Capt. Conradi. Out 775 Mi. Cont: None

Ship #442, Capt. Hyland (with houx and crew) Out 700 miles

Cont: None

Ship #442, Capt. Sprawls search out of Cactus to Shortland and Tonolei. Cont: 27 enemy ships, 3 high flying boats on the water. Very light AA, no damage. On the return to Buttons at 19,000' ice started forming on the wings making the ships hard to handle. Landed Buttons.

The following ships were on alert and did not take off:

Ship #213, Capt. Hall

Ship #403, Capt. Sorensen

14 December 1942.

Ship #403, Capt. Sorensen. Buttons to Cactus.

Ship #213, Capt. Hall. Bombing Mission. Loaded with 10-100 lb. bombs bombed Munda Pt. Airfield. Dropped all bombs to the right of the runway at about a 20 degree angle. Lost formation due to bad weather and made the bombing run alone. Landed Cactus to refuel and returned to Buttons.

Ship #403, Capt. Hensley. Bombing Mission. Loaded with 10-100 lb. bombs and dropped all bombs on Munda Pt. Airfield. All the bombs dropped in the target area. A 3" AA shell went through the right horizontal stabilizer but did not explode. No injuries to plane or crew members. Returned to Buttons.

Ship #214, Capt. Hyland. Bombing Mission. Loaded with 10-100 lb. bombs bombed Munda Pt. Airfield. All the bombs dropped in the target area. AA was very heavy but did not make any hits. Landed Buttons.

Ship #128, Capt. Levy. Bombing Mission. Loaded with 10-100 lb. bombs bombed Munda Pt. Airfield. All the bombs dropped in the target area. AA heavy, not hits on ship. Returned to Buttons.

15 December 1942.

Ship #442, Capt. Sorensen. Spare Search Ship at Cactus.
NO TACTICAL MISSIONS THIS DATE.

16 December 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #442, Capt. Sorensen. Searched from Cactus, T.O. 0730:
Flew over Choisenl Island, Bouganville, (Shortland, Kieta, and Buia) Reykata Bay and One Thousand Ships Bay. No contacts made.

16 December 1942 Cont'd.

The following ships took off from Buttons 0700 for Bombing:

Ship #487, Capt. Levy
 Ship #521, Capt. Hyland ✓ TIC
 Ship #122, Capt. Mensley ✓
 Ship #213, Capt. Hall
 Ship #403, Capt. Steedman
 Ship #415, Lieut. Thomas

Target: Munda Pt. Airfield. On the way to the Airfield Capt. Steedman lost the formation and the five remaining planes went on without him. A total of 99 one hundred lb. bombs were dropped by the five ships. All bombs hit in the middle of the target. Attacked by 12 Zeros on the way out after dropping the bombs. Damage to own planes and personnel: #122, Prop control cable shot up. #415, Lt. Thomas lost #4 engine and #213, Capt. Hall got a 20 mm. hit in the left wing and 7.7 in Bomb Bay oxygen system. Sgt Stephens of Capt. Hall's crew was hit in the left shoulder by a 7.7 and continued to operate the radio. Ship #321 Capt. Hyland, was shot down. Right after the Captain made a water landing a message was sent to Buttons requesting a PEY for rescue, reply to which was "amplify". (BIG HELP). At this point Capt. Steedman rejoined the formation and the ships all returned to Cactus. Capt. Mensley's crew claims 3 Zeros this mission.

16 December 1942 (2nd Mission)

Ship #487, Capt. Hall
 Ship #437, Capt. Brewer
 Ship #214, Capt. Charters
 Ship #403, Capt. Steedman All ships reloaded with 20-100 lb. bombs and took off (1600) to bomb supply dump and bivouac area. to NE of runway at Munda Pt. Clouds interfered with bombing runs but bombs believed dropped in target area. Had fighter escort of 8-P38's. No aerial opposition and very little AA. Landed Cactus.

17 December 1942.

Ship #213, Capt. Hyland. Returned from Cactus. Several members of this crew along with Sgt. Stephens from Capt. Hall's crew were sent to hospital for treatment. Following is the account of Capt. Hyland's waterlanding: Ship #521, Capt. Hyland. Took off from Buttons at 0645. Six planes of which I was #3 of the first element led by Capt. Hall. Arrived over target at 1158 and sighted Zeros who did not attack until we had dropped our bombs. All our bombs hit in the target area. Then after turning the formation into the enemies attack we were flying straight for a second. A Zero leveled off ahead of us and came straight for me, firing as he came. He hit my #1 and #2 eng. #1 engine began to wind up about 3000 RPM and #2 was hit in the oil tanks. I couldn't feather either of the engines. On subsequent attacks our ball turret was hit in three places & a whole line of hits appeared in the nose. I decided to prepare to bail out as the ship was vibrating terribly.

Capt. Hylands Water Landing Cont.

However this soon ceased and we continued our descent with Capt. Hensley covering us. The vibration started again and we began to lose control and so we landed in the water. The ship stayed afloat for about one minute and 15 sec. We all paddled to the nearest shoreline and awaited rescue. A PBY picked us up at 1715 and we landed at Cactus at 1845. Minor cuts and bruises to all members of the crew. No serious injuries.

17 December 1942 Cont'd.

Ship #403, Capt. Steedman Took off at 0600.
 Ship #487, Capt. Hall
 Ship #214, Capt. Levy
 Ship #122, Capt. Hensley
 Ship #437, Capt. Brewer
 Ship #660, Capt. Kinney Loaded with 8-500 lb. bombs the six ships went after the runway at Munda Pt. 1st Flight dropped their bombs to the left of the runway. The 2nd Flight dropped four bombs on the runway, and the remainder to the left of the runway. Capt. Brewer's bombs failed to release and his bombsight was out and he then came up and got on Capt. Hall's wing. Three more runs were made and on the final run all the bombs were dropped. No aerial opposition and little AA. landed Cactus 0930.

18 December 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #217, Capt. Sprawls Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
 Ship #431, Capt. Conradi Out 775 Mi. Cont: None
 The following ships all took off on a bombing mission:

Ship #487, Capt. Hall
 Ship #122, Capt. Hensley
 Ship #403, Capt. Steedman
 Ship #214, Capt. Charters
 Ship #437, Capt. Levy All ships loaded with 20-100 lb. bombs took off from Cactus at 0530. Capt. Charters lost prop. governor at 0900 and returned to Cactus. Went after supply dump and bivouac area. The weather on the way to the target was rotten, and finally managed to get above and around it. At the target the weather was good. A total of 80 bombs was dropped in the target area covering it thoroughly. Subsequent reports from Coast Watcher reported main supply dump hit, ammunition dump hit, and camp grounds of 500 men. Had fighter escort of 8-P38's but lost contact with them prior to the bombing. No aerial opposition and very little AA. All ships returned safely to Cactus.

19 December 1942 WHITE MISSION

Ship #122, Capt. Hensley. Took off from Cactus at 2300. Target: Kahili Airfield. Over target at 0100 and dropped 8-100 lb. bombs, dropping at the end of the runway. At 0215 dropped 3-100 lb. bombs on S. end of the runway, no hits observed. At 0315 dropped 3-100 lb. bombs across the center of the field.

WIDE MISSION CONT'D

at 0345 dropped 3-100 lb. bombs on the beach area at end of runway. Left the target at 0555. Very little AA, and no aerial opposition. Returned to Cactus.

19 December 1942.

The following crews all returned from Cactus this date:

Ship #487, Capt. Hall
 Ship #122, Capt. Hensley
 Ship #415, Lieut. Thomas
 Ship #214, Capt. Levy did not return from Cactus. Flew a night mission. T.O. 1100 & Bombed Munda Pt. Over target at 1230, dropped 20-100's and 2 cases beer bottles. All in target area. Left 0415.

20 December 1942.

Ship #213, Capt. Sprawls Test Hop to Roses.
 Ship #2426, Capt. Sorensen Test Hop to Roses.
 Ship #214, Capt. Levy, No mission.

21 December 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #442, Capt. Sorensen. Out 800 Mi. Cont: Saw oil slick and a couple of boats, seen some Australians in a small boat near Angtona, Java. Landed buttons 1630.
 Ship #2426, Capt. Steedman. Buttons to Cactus
 Ship #451, Capt. Conradi. Buttons to Cactus
 Lt. Houx and crew flew to Cactus as passengers and will pick up a ship upon arrival.
 Capt. Levy and crew returned from Cactus in Ship #411 as passengers.

22 December 1942.

Ship #2426, Capt. Steedman. Took off from Cactus at 0030, the target being Munda Pt Airfield. Dropped 20-100 lb. bombs on Navigators BEA. Made 7 runs and were over the target for two hours. Landed at Cactus.
 Lt. Houx at Cactus, no mission.

23 December 1942.

SEARCH

Ship #436, Major Manierre Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
 Ship #122, Capt. Hensley Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
 Ship #227, Capt. Hall Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
 Ship #444, Capt. Sprawls Buttons to Cactus.
 Ship #2426, Capt. Steedman. Took off from Cactus at 1015 flying formation. Dropped 20-100 lb. bombs on Munda Pt Airfield. Bombs all very far from the target, AA very heavy. Landed at Cactus 1415.
 Ship # , Lt. Houx. Bombed Munda Pt. Airfield with 20-100 lb bombs. All bombs hit in the target area. No AA, or damage to plane, landed at Cactus.

24 December 1942

SEARCH

Ship #442, Capt. Sorenson Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
Ship #403, Capt. Levy Out 725 Mi. Cont: One Mitsubishi B
shot at him and made a few hits. No damage to own ship.
Ship #2428, Capt. Steedman Cactus to Buttons.
Lt.oux at Cactus, no mission.

25 December 1942.

Ship # 415 Lt.oux. Bombed Buka with 4-1000 lb. bombs. Hit
on the taxi strip, and one of the left of the runway. No damage
to own plane or crew. Returned to Buttons.

Ship #444, Capt. Sprawls. Searched out of Cactus and from 24,000'
photographed Buka Airfield and Passage, Kaieta Airfield, and the
shoreline of Boganville. Let down to 15,000' and photographed
Reykata Bay and returned to Base.

26 December 1942

Ship #428, Lt. Thomas Buttons to Cactus
Ship #444, Capt. Sprawls Cactus to Buttons
Ship #442, Capt. Hall, searched. Out 800 miles. Cont: None
Ship #415, Capt. Hensley, searched. Out 800 Miles, Cont: None.
Ship #431, Capt. Conradi. Buttons to Cactus.

27 December 1942.

Ship #145, Capt. Sorensen, searched. Out 750 Mi. Cont: None

28 December 1942.

The following named combat crews left for Port Moresby this date:

Major Manierre
Ship #128, Capt. Puerta
Ship #413, Capt. Hall
Ship #643, Capt. Hensley
Ship #437, Capt. Sorensen
Ship #415, Capt. Steedman

Lt. O.D. Thomas in ship #428 was reported as having not returned
from a search mission. It is believed that he was attacked by Zeros
and possibly shot down.

8 January 1943 Cont'd.

Damage to own plane: # 4 engine was shot out 2 Sq. Feet of skin shot away from right wing by 20 mm fire. Two Zeros were shot down by the crew members. Landed Cactus.

9 January 1943.

Ship #128, Capt. Puerta Cactus to Buttons

10 January 1943.

NO MISSIONS TODAY

11 January 1943.

Ship #413, Capt. Sorensen Buttons to Cactus

12 January 1943.

Ship #442, Capt. Hall. Search Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
Ship #413, Capt. Sorensen. Searched out of Cactus. Flew over the northern end of Bouganville and back down over San Isabel Island, and Reykata Bay. No Contacts made.

13 January 1943.

Ship #442, Capt. Hensley Searched Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
Ship #413, Capt. Sorensen. Searched out of Cactus. Flew over the left side of Bouganville, Shortland and Tonolei Harbors and back over Russell Islands. Contacts: 16 enemy vessels, and numerous flying boats. No interception or AA of any description.

14 January 1943.

Ship #442, Capt. Steedman. Out 400 Mi. (Returned due to bad weather conditions) Cont: None.
Ship #413, Capt. Sorensen. Flew over the Japanese lines at Guadalcanal and dropped about 6 tons of supplies to American troops. Made three different trips and on each trip was fired upon by Japanese troops from the ground. No damage to plane or personnel. Landed Cactus.

15 January 1943.

Ship #213, Capt. Puerta Out 800 Mi. Cont: None
Ship #413, Capt. Sorensen Cactus to Buttons.

16 January 1943.

Ship #213, Capt. Hall Searched. Out 800 Mi. Cont: None

17 January 1943.

NO MISSIONS TODAY

18 January 1943.

Ship #213, Capt. Hensley Searched Out 800 Mi. Cont: None

19 January 1943.

Ship #442, Capt. Puerta Buttons to Cactus

20 January 1943.

Ship #442, Capt. Puerta search out of Cactus. Took pictures of Wickam and Viru Harbors. Seen 10 vessels in the Tonolei, Buin, and Shortland area. Float Zeros taking off from Shortland so we left on three engines. No AA at all.

Ship #413, Capt. Steedman Buttons to Cactus
Ship #211, Capt. Sowers Searched Out 800 Mi. Cont: None

21 January 1943.

Ship #442, Capt. Puerta search ot of Cactus. Lost engine over Buka. Contacted 4 AK's, 1DD, 50 miles out of Tonolei. No AA, or interception.

Ship #213, Capt. Steedman. Search out of Cactus. Encountered five ships and one fighter, all enemy. No action.

22 January 1943.

Ship #442, Capt. Puerta search out of Cactus. Searched Shortland area. Shot at by four Zeros, no hits or injuries. 1 DD off Shortland, two Cargo ships, 1DD, and 1 PT 20 miles off Shortland. Took Pictures of Munda and was fired upon by AA, no hits. Returned to Cactus.

Ship #156, Capt. Sorensen Searched Out 800 Mi. Cont: None

23 January 1943

Ship #442, Capt. Puerta Cactus to Buttons - Ship #213, Capt Steedman bombed Munda Pt. All bombs in target area. No AA.

24 January 1943.

Ship #520, Capt. Hall Searched Out 800 Mi. Cont: Own task Force.
Ship #457, Capt. Hensley Searched Out 800 Mi. Cont: Own task Force.

Ship #213, Capt. Steedman. Bombed Munda Pt. singularly, all bombs dropped in the target area. No AA or interception. Returned to Cactus.

25 January 1943.

NO TACTICAL MISSIONS THIS DATE.

26 January 1943.

Ship #213, Capt. Steedman. Took off from Cactus on a striking mission and returned to Base because of weather conditions.

27 January 1943.

Ship #415, Capt. Hall
Ship #156, Capt. Hensley
Ship #054, Capt. Sowers The above three ships all went out on a Special Search Mission. The missions being to try and locate Ship #403 which was forced down at sea. No contacts or planes sighted by any of the above

28 January 1943.

NO TACTICAL MISSIONS THIS DATE.

29 January 1943.

Ship #151, Capt. Hall Buttons to Cactus
Ship #415, Capt. Sowers Buttons to Cactus
Ship #442, Capt. Hensley Special Search for Ship #403 . No
planes sighted.
Ship #054, Capt. Houx. Search Out 800 Mi. Cont: None

30 January 1943

Ship #213, Capt. Steedman Cactus to Buttons
Ship #442, Capt. Hensley Buttons to Cactus

31 January 1943.

Ship #122, Capt. Houx Buttons to Cactus

1 February 1943.

The following three crews went on a Bombing Mission
and failed to return. Captain's Hall, Hensley, Houx.
Captain Sowers and crew flew a photo mission over
Rekata Bay.

2 February 1943

Captain Sowers and Crew flew a photo mission over
Rekata Bay.

3 February 1943

Captain Sowers and Crew flew a photo mission over
Rekata Bay and Russell Island.

4 February 1943.

Captain Sowers and Crew took off from Cactus at 0200
with 20-100 lb. bombs. The bombs were dropped on
Kahili Airfield. No AA, but a great many searchlights.
Hits not observed.

5 February 1943.

NO MISSIONS TODAY

6 February 1943

Captain Sowers and Crew flew an 800 mile search out
of Cactus . Sectors 04° to 013°. No Contacts made.

7 February 1943.

Captain Sowers and Crews returned to Buttond.

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

This marks the end of activities for the original nine crews that left Oahu, Hawaii on 18 July 1942. On the 1st of February 1943 orders were received relieving all combat personnel of this organization from assigned.

FINIS

FLYING OFFICERS

Commanding Officer:

Major Manierre, Ernest R.	O-23367
---------------------------	---------

(Captains)

Eberenz, Richard J.	O-386381
Hall, Carl O.	O-325099
Messerschmitt, Hermit D.	O-330690
Puerta, Frank J.	O-401051
Richards, Robert H.	O-395292
Stone, Rolle E. Jr.	O-383747
Wuertele, Carl E.	O-368901

(1st Lieutenants)

Alley, Bert A.	O-430072
Castro, Joaquin.	O-428914
Eminger, Leo M.	O-388557
Gaskell, Robert C.	O-426864
Hensley, Harold P.	O-413623
Hyland, Donald M.	O-413597
McChee, Robert H.	O-428441
Norton, Charles E.	O-416333
Sage, Hubert P.	O-426962
Sprawls, Philip C.	O-416913
Sorensen, Glenn W.	O-416908
Sowers, Louis M.	O-416910
Toler, Richard G.	O-416929

(2nd Lieutenants)

Barker, Bruce B.S.	O-428792
Gammans, George W.	O-431827
Lewis, Thornton H.	O-432484
Staples, George M.	O-431803
Mahoney, Hugh.	O-426868
Morris, William F. B.	O-431726

(2nd Lieutenants Cont'd)

Schrom, James R. Jr.	0-428383
Simpson, Robert W.	0-725214
Stauffer, Dale E.	0-431686
Copeland, James R.	0-433007
Andrews,	
Shriver,	