

MG-61

1416
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Report # 813

IC (4)

5

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

9418

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

Ref: **WR-413** **250**
433 **144**
443 **118**

(a) Unit Reporting **MAQ-61** (b) Based on or at **Enirou Island** (c) Report No. **83**
(d) Take off: Date **6 April, 1945** Time (LZT) **0915L** (Zone); Lat. **01° 36' S.** Long **150° E.**
(e) Mission **Coordinated medium level bombing of Kavieng Gun Positions, New Ireland.** (f) Time of Return **1117L** (Zone)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

TYPE (a)	SQUADRON (b)	NUMBER			BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE) (f)	FUZE, SETTING (g)
		TAKING OFF (c)	ENGAGING ENEMY A/C (d)	ATTACKING TARGET (e)		
PBJ-1	WR-413	8 1	None	8 1	6 x 500 GP 4 x 500 GP	ALM-102A2 Tail; inst.
PBJ-1	WR-433	9	None	9	6 x 500 GP ALM-12	ALM-103 inst.
PBJ-1D	WR-443	9	None	9	6 x 500 GP ALM-12	Nose: ALM-103 inst. Tail: ALM-102A2 inst.

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
PBY-5A	VPB 44	1	Enirou Island				
F4U	NZ423	2	same				

IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

(a) TYPE	(b) NO OBSERVED	(c) NO ENGAGING OWN A/C	(d) TIME ENCOUNTERED	(e) LOCATION OF ENCOUNTER	(f) BOMBS, TORPEDOES CARRIED, GUNS OBSERVED	(g) CAMOUFLAGE AND MARKING
None			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____
Did Any Part of _____
(i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? _____ If so, Describe Clouds _____
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
Time of Day and Brilliance _____
(j) of Sun or Moon _____ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (k) Visibility _____ (MILES)

V. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

(a) TYPE ENEMY A/C	(b) DESTROYED OR DAMAGED BY:				(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER	GUNS USED		
None						

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No **83**

XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) **Kavieng Gun Positions, New Ireland** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1029L** (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE VESSEL NAME UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target **2/10 cu. bases 2000', tops 8000'**
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target **clear** (e) Visibility **10**
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **level** Bomb Sight Used **Mk.15 mod.7**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run **All** Spacing **20'** Altitude of Bomb Release **10,500'**
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed **None** Probably Destroyed **None** Damaged **None**

(h) AIMING POINT	(i) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(j) NO. A/C ATTACKING (k) SQUADRON	(l) BOMB AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO. HIT ON Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, or destroyed or sunk)
1 Positions SE of Kavieng Airstrip.	750' x 600'	9 WB 413	52 x 500 GP		
2 Positions S of SE of Kavieng Strip.	same	9 WB 413	54 x 500 GP		See "o"
3 Positions SE of SE of Kavieng Strip.	same	9 WB 413	54 x 500 GP		
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

(o) RESULTS: (For all hits claimed on ship targets and for land targets of special interest, draw diagram, top or side view or both, as appropriate, showing type and location of hits. For all targets give location and effect of hits, and identify by numbers above. Use additional sheets if necessary.)

- 1.-16 x 500 GPs fell 500 feet southwest of target.
- 12 x 500 GPs fell 500 feet southwest of target.
- 12 x 500 GPs fell 500 feet northwest of target.
- 12 x 500 GPs fell 500 feet southeast of target.
- 2.-54 x 500 GPs fell in wooded area east and in cleared area northeast of target.
- 3.-54 x 500 GPs fell 1000 yards south of the target.

Photographs attached:
#3 (WB 413 - 673) (0) (20") (10,000') (1032L) (6 Apr 45) (Kavieng)

(p) Were Photographs Taken? **Yes** Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple

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XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA. (Narrative and comment. Describe action fully and comment freely, following applicable items in check list at left. Use additional sheets if necessary.)

ENGAGEMENT WITH ENEMY

OWN AIRCRAFT

Disposition
Altitudes
Speeds
Approach Tactics
Use of Cover, Deception
Angles of Attack and
Their Effectiveness
Distance of Opening Fire
Defense Tactics and
Their Effectiveness

ENEMY AIRCRAFT

Method of Locating, Distance
Disposition
Altitudes
Speeds
Approach Tactics
Use of Cover, Deception
Angles of Attack
Distance of Opening Fire
Defensive Tactics

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Own Weaknesses
Enemy Weaknesses
Offensive Tactics, Own
" " " Enemy
Defensive Tactics, Own
" " " Enemy
Flexible Gunnery, Own
Escort Tactics
Fighter Direction
Use of Radar
Night Fighting
Recognition, Aircraft

ATTACK

OWN TACTICS

Method of Locating Target
Approach to Target
Altitudes, Speeds
Approach
Dive
Pull-Out
Dive Angle
Strafing
Retirement
Defensive Tactics
Use of Jamming

DEFENSE, ENEMY

Evasive Tactics, Ships
Concealment
Searchlights
Night Fighter Tactics
Use of Jamming

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Bombing Tactics
Torpedo Tactics
Effectiveness of
Bombs, Torpedoes
Selection of Targets
Fuzing
Strafing Tactics
Defensive Tactics
Use of Radar
Reconnaissance
Photography
Briefing

OPERATIONAL

Navigation
Homing
Rendezvous
Recognition, Ships
Communications
Flight Operations
Search and Tracking
Base Operations
Maintenance

413		433		443	
CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT
254B21	Wendenhall	266B21	Miller	279B21	Goman
255B21	Loggio	267B21	Kronka	280B21	Wilson
256B21	Smith	268B21	Carr	281B21	Ballon
257B21	Arsenault	269B21	Johnston	282B21	Brascol
258B21	Conant	270B21	Fischer	283B21	Burt
259B21	Halling	271B21	Percy	284B21	Rose
260B21	Braeggestrass	272B21	Parri sh	285B21	Schreier
261B21	Gilbert	273B21	Pittner	286B21	Wetzel
262B21	Ingberg	274B21	Watson	287B21	Biedstall

Led by Lt. Col. W. H. Miller, three WB squadrons, 433, 413 and 443 took off at 0915, 0920 and 0926, respectively, on a coordinated medium altitude bombing strike at A/A installations on Kavieng, New Ireland. The assigned target area is about 750 x 200 yards and is located approximately 1500 yards southeast of the southeast end of Kavieng Airstrip.

The group departed from base at 0945 after circling to join up and gain altitude for the short run to target. Formation used was vee of squadrons with WB_433 as number one, WB_413 as number two and WB_443 as number three. The squadrons were in javelined down formation.

From the base the group went south to New Hanover, then east to Djaul Island and then northeast to Bagaterre Harbor from where the bombing run was made.

For the bombing run, WB_443 was to swing out and back and WB_413 was to get in the mid position of a right echelon formation. WB_413 had trouble getting into its slot, however, and went over the target almost directly behind WB_433. The tail-end squadron, WB_443, was unable to get into proper position for its bombing run and had some difficulty lining up on the target.

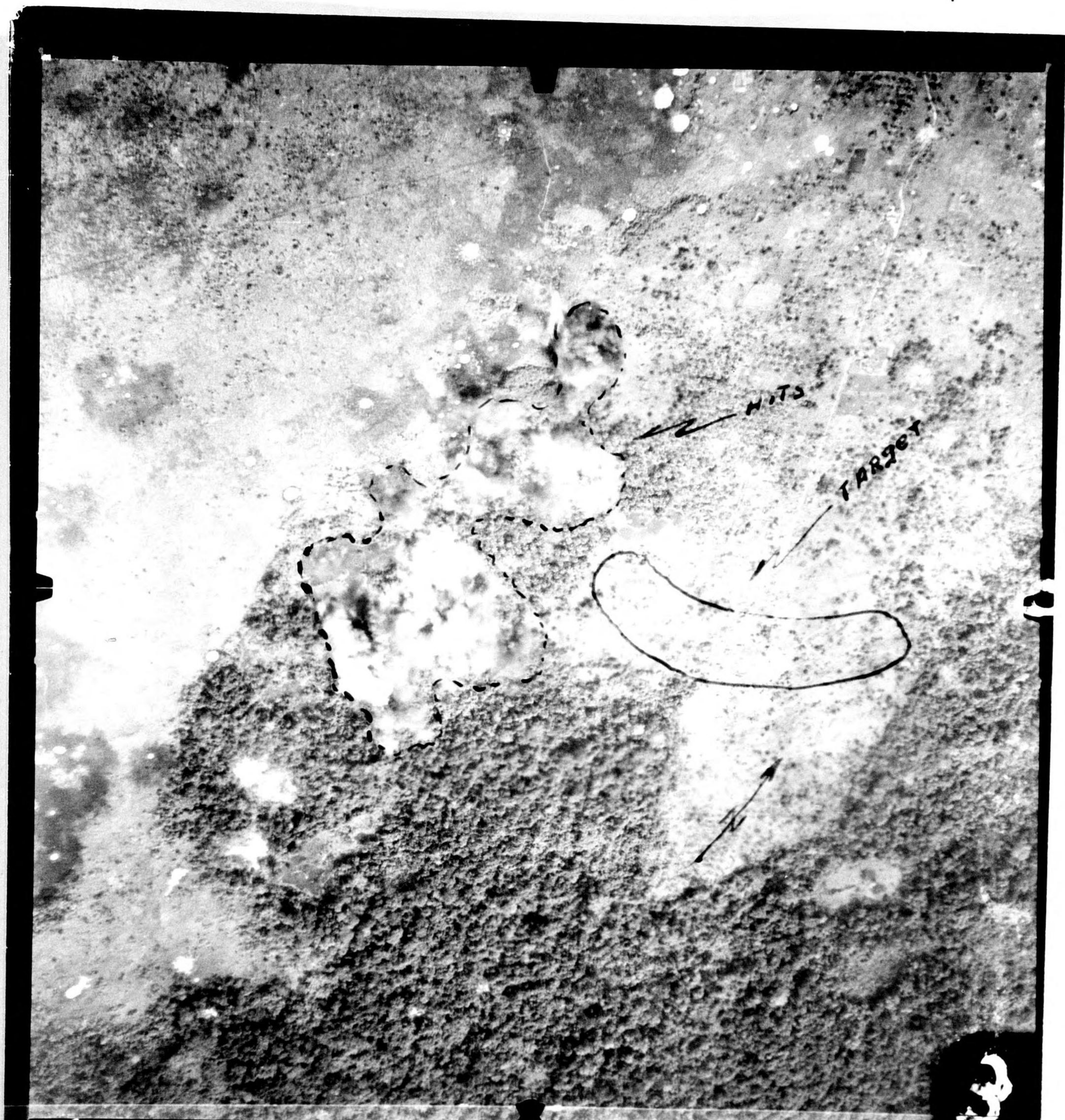
WB_433 entered the bombing run at 165 kts, on a heading of 300° magnetic, at an altitude of 10,500 feet having as its aiming point two heavy A/A positions on the left. WB_413 made the bombing run on a heading of 340° magnetic at 160 kts, and an altitude of 10,300 feet and had as its aiming point the camouflaged revetment in the center. WB_443 made its bombing run on a heading of 330° magnetic, at 160 kts, and an altitude of 10,000 feet having as its aiming point the 3 heavy A/A positions on the right. Bombs were away at 1029 and 160 x 500 GPs fell from 500 to 3000 feet around the target with unobserved results.

Twenty-one bursts of heavy, inaccurate, meagre A/A were reported. Gun flashes were seen from positions 750 and 1000 yards north of northwest end of Kavieng A/S, a position near the middle of Kavieng A/S, and from positions 1000 and 2500 yards northwest of Panapai A/S. No damage was done to our aircraft.

After leaving the target, the group broke left, rallied off North Cape and pancaked at 1117 after an uneventful return flight.

R. R. CRUISE,
Capt., USMC,
Group Intelligence Officer.

F. K. SMITH,
Col., USMC,
Group Commander.



(VMB 413-673)(6)(20") (10.00') (1032) 18 APR. 45 (KAVIENG N.I.)

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