

VMB 423

160  
⑨

Report #321

ITC (9)

5



# CONFIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

321-329  
③

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

MAY 27 1945  
0572

053857  
**CONFIDENTIAL**  
10747  
321

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB-423 (b) Based on or at Green Island (c) Report No. 321  
 (d) Take off: Date 14 May, 1945 Time (LZT) 1415-1419 (Zone); Lat. 04°32' Long 154°14'  
Medium altitude daylight raid on Warehouses,  
 (e) Mission Kieta Peninsula, Bougainville. (f) Time of Return 1630-1634 (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)		
<b>PBJ-LJ</b>	<b>VMB423</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6 X 500# GP</b>	<b>Nose: AN-M-103 .1 Sec Delay Tail: AN-M-101A2 .025 Sec Delay</b>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<b>PBY5A</b>	<b>VPB-53</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Green Island</b>				

## 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
<b>None</b>			(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 \_\_\_\_\_ (k) Visibility \_\_\_\_\_  
(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (MILES)

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

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



# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

REPORT No. **321**

## VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those listed in II only).

(a) TYPE OWN A/C	(b) SQUADRON	(c) CAUSE: TYPE ENEMY A/C, TYPE GUN, OR OPERATIONAL CAUSE	(d) WHERE HIT, ANGLE (List armor, self-sealing tanks, equipment hit)	(e) EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE (Give Bureau serial number of planes destroyed)
1	<b>None</b>			
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				

## VII. PERSONNEL CASUALTIES (in aircraft listed in II only; identify with planes listed in VI by Nos. at left).

(a) NO	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NAME, RANK OR RATING	(d) CAUSE	(e) CONDITION OR STATUS
	<b>None</b>			

## VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA FOR PLANES RETURNING

(a) TYPE A/C	(b) MILES OUT	(c) MILES RETURN	(d) AV. HOURS IN AIR	(e) AV. FUEL LOADED	(f) AV. FUEL CONSUMED	(g) TOTAL AMMUNITION EXPENDED				(h) NO. OF PLANES RETURNING
						30	50	20MM	MM	
<b>PBJ-1J</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>2hrs05</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>9</b>

## IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over				
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	<b>XX</b>			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	<b>XX</b>			
	<b>XX</b>			

## X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (use check list at left).

SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes

TURNS  
 DIVES  
 CEILINGS  
 RANGE  
 PROTECTION  
 ARMAMENT

**No enemy aircraft encountered.**



# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

RESTRICTED  
Reclassify when  
filled out!  
**CONFIDENTIAL**  
REPORT No. **321**

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) **Warehouses-Kieta-Boug'ville** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1533** (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target **.3 Cover** (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target **Hazy** (e) Visibility **15-20 miles** (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Level** Bomb Sight Used **Mark 15** (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE) **10,800 &**
- Bombs Dropped per Run **6** Spacing **50-75 Feet** Altitude of Bomb Release **11,000-11,200** (NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed **None** Probably Destroyed **None** Damaged **None**

(h) AIMING POINT	(i) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(j) NO A/C ATTACKING (k) SQUADRON	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO HITS OR Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, or by serious destroyed or sunk)
1 <b>Warehouses, Kieta, Boug.</b>		<b>9 VMB-423</b>	<b>54 X 500# GP</b>	<b>See (o)</b>	
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

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

Three of fifty-four bombs hit in the edge of the bay while the balance obtained good coverage of the warehouse area. The location of bomb hits with relation to the target is shown on the attached photograph.

### PHOTOGRAPH

REFERENCE: **VMB-423 (199) (4-3) 5-14-45 (20"-10800') KIETA, BOUG., CONF.**

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



## AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when  
filled out)  
**CONFIDENTIAL**  
REPORT No. 321

**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  
Exorbitant Gunnery, Own  
Escort Tactics  
Fighter Direction  
Use of Radar  
Night Fighting  
Recognition, Aircraft

**ATTACK**

**OWN TACTICS**

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

**DEFENSE, ENEMY**

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

**COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

**OPERATIONAL**

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

CALL	PILOT	T/O GREEN	T/O/T	P/C GREEN
301B21	Major TAYLOR	1415	1533	1620
302B21	VANAKEN	1415	1533	1620
303B21	HICKS	1416	1533	1621
304B21	WALLER	1416	1533	1621
305B21	RIGDON	1417	1533	1622
306B21	HEIL	1417	1533	1622
307B21	BEAIRD	1418	1533	1623
308B21	KEITH	1418	1533	1623
309B21	BARRETT	1419	1533	1624

Major TAYLOR, Executive Officer, led nine PBJs of VMB-423 in a medium altitude daylight raid on warehouses at Kieta Peninsula, Bougainville, when cloud cover prevented an attack on the AA positions at Kangu Hill. The flight was airborne by 1419 and was joined up in three, three plane sections javelin down.

After joining up as described above the flight proceeded down the west coast of Buka and crossed to the east coast near Buka Passage when a severe squall line was encountered. Proceeding down the east coast to Lake Lahala the south tip of Bougainville was found to be covered by ten tenths of low and middle clouds so the formation turned north to strike the alternate target at Kieta Peninsula.

The bombing run was made on a heading of 220° magnetic and bombs were released at 1533 at 160 knots indicated air speed with the first section at 11,200 feet, the second section at 11,000 feet and the third section at 10,800 feet. Following the bombing the formation broke to the right and returned to base. All planes were safely on deck at Green Island by 1624.

No anti-aircraft fire was encountered.

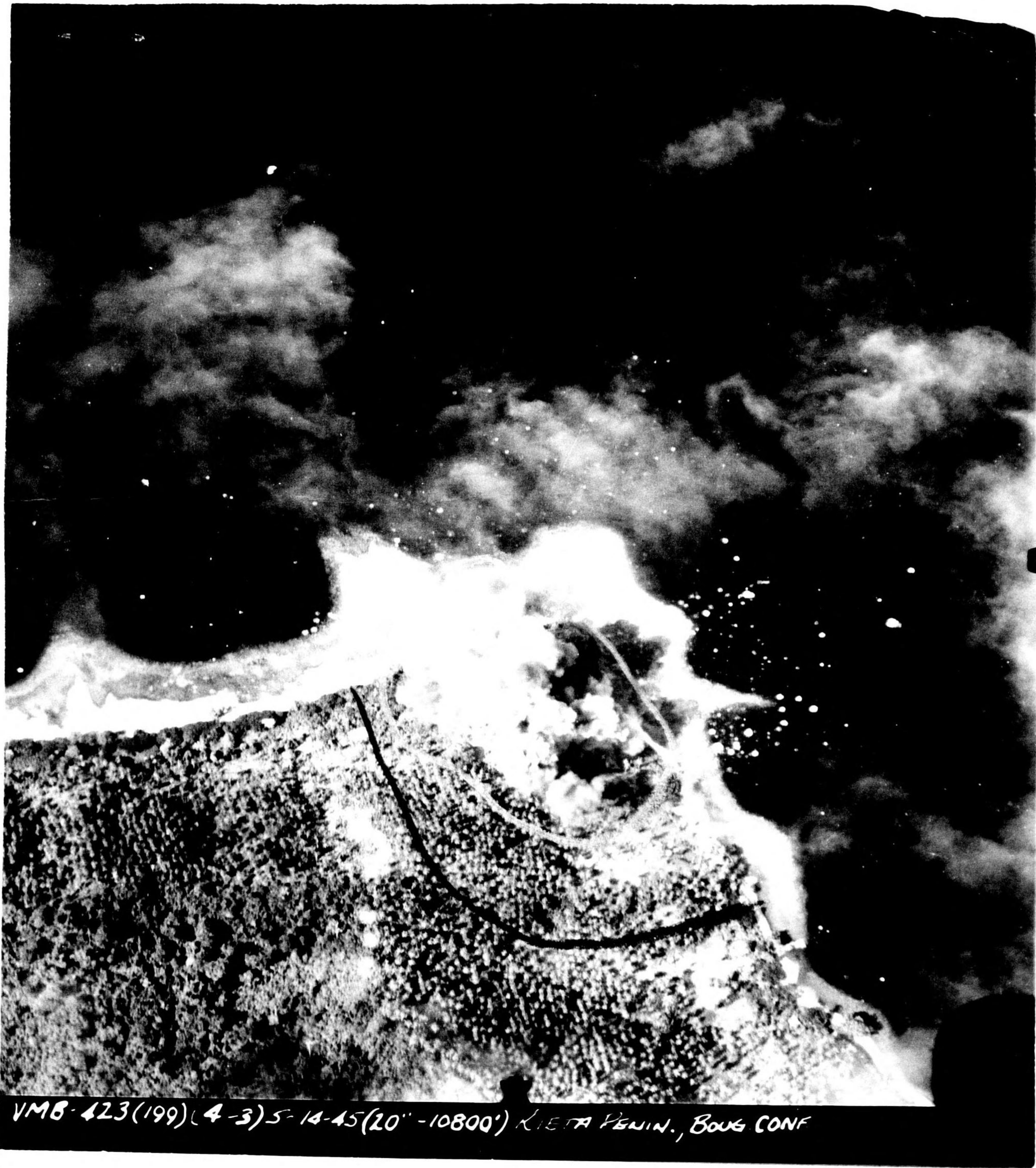
Three of fifty-four bombs hit in the edge of the bay while the balance obtained good coverage of the warehouse area. The location of bomb hits with relation to the target is shown on the attached photograph.

(All times in this narrative are local).

WARD D. MARTIN  
Capt., USMCR  
Intelligence Officer

NORMAN J. ANDERSON  
LtCol., USMC  
Commanding





VMB-423(199)(4-3)5-14-45(20"-10800') KIETA PENIN., BOUG CONF