

VMB-423

160
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Report #294

Itc (9)

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XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES

(a) Target & Location: Kieta Peninsula Alternate (Scheduled for Muguai #16, Bougainville)

(b) Time over Target: 1534 (c) Clouds over Target: .8 Cover

(d) Visibility of Target: Partially Obscured (e) Visibility: 12 miles

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type: Level Bomb Sight Used: Mark 15

Bombs Dropped per Run: 3 Spacing: 120' Altitude: 10,500'

(g) No. of Enemy A/C hit on Ground None ^{Probably} Destroyed None Damaged none

(h)	(i)	(j) (k)	(l)	(m)	(n)
Kieta Peninsula		6			
Bougainville.	VMB-423		18 X 1000# GP	See(o)	

(o) RESULTS:

All bombs fell in the sea just southwest of the target. The location of bomb hits with relation to the target is shown on the attached photograph.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes

PHOTOGRAPH

REFERENCE: VMB-423 (173) (1-2) (4-26-45) (20"-10,200') Kieta, Boug.

VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT

None

VII. PERSONNEL CASUALTIES

None

TYPE A/C	MILES OUT	MILES IN	AV HOURS IN AIR	AV FUEL LOADED	AV FUEL CONSUMED	AMMO EX- PENDED	PLANES RETURNING
PBJ-1J	212	198	2hrs 40'	974	437	None	6

IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED

None

X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT.

No enemy aircraft encountered.

CALL	PILOT	T/O GREEN	T/O/T	P/C GREEN
301B21	Capt. IVERSON	1345	1534	1625
302B21	PEARCE	1345	1534	1625
303B21	KEITH	1346	1534	1626
304B21	LUSKY	1346	1534	1626
305B21	JOBE	1347	1534	1627
306B21	GRUE	1347	1534	1628

Captain IVERSON led six PBJs of VMB-423 in a medium altitude daylight strike against Jap installations on Kieta Peninsula when clouds prevented the bombing of Muguai #16, Bougainville, the scheduled target. The strike was composed of two, three plane sections javelin down.

The raid was airborne by 1348 and after joining up as described above proceeded down the east coast of Bougainville to Koromira Point. From here a heading of 210° magnetic was flown for six miles for bombardiers to figure drift. The formation then flew fourteen miles on a heading of 154° magnetic where it turned to 228° magnetic.

On direction of the flight leader two Corsairs dropped smoke bombs to mark the target but three attempted bombing runs from different directions failed to find an opening in the clouds which would permit bombing.

The strike then proceeded northeast to the alternate target at Kieta Bay. Bombs were released at 1534 from 10,500 feet on a heading of 220° magnetic at 160 knots indicated. After bombing the formation broke away to the right and returned to base. All planes were safely on deck at Green Island by 1628.

No anti-aircraft fire was encountered.

All bombs fell in the sea just southwest of the target. The location of bomb hits with relation to the target is shown on the attached photograph.

(All times in this narrative are love).

WARD D. MARTIN
Capt., USMCR
Intelligence Officer

NORMAN J. ANDERSON
LtCol., USMC
Commanding



VMB-423(173)(1-2) 4-26-45 (20'-10200') KITTA, Bouc. CONF.