

VMB-423

158
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Report #206

HC(9)

4

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No **206**

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) **Tovakundum Plantation, New Britain & Keravat, New Britain** Time Over Target(s) **0905 & 0915** (one)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target **CAVU**
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target **Hazy**
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility **20 miles**
(MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Level**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used **Mark 15**
(TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run **1 & 3**
(NUMBER) Spacing **Varied**
(FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release **11,000**
(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 On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
1 Tovakundum Plantation		1 VMB-423	1 X 1000 # SAP	See (c)	
2 Underground storage area, Keravat, New Britain		1 VMB-423	3 X 1000 # SAP	See (c)	
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.)

Bombs dropped on Tovakundum Plantation (1) were seen to explode in Wangarut Plantation east of the target area.

Only two bomb bursts were observed which were about 1,000 feet west of the target at Keravat (2).

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

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XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left
Use additional sheets if necessary).

- ARMAMENT**
 - Guns, Gunsights
 - Turrets
 - Ammunition
 - Bombs, Torpedoes
 - Bomb Sights
 - Bomb Releases
- COMMUNICATIONS**
 - Radio, Radar
 - Homing Devices
 - Visual Signals
 - Codes, Ciphers
- RECOGNITION**
 - IFF
 - Signals
 - Battle Lights
 - Procedures
- PROTECTION**
 - Armor, Points and Angles
of Fire Needing Further
Protection
 - Leak Proofing
- EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT**
 - Parachutes
 - Life Belts, Life Rafts
 - Safety Belts
 - Emergency Kits
 - Rations, First Aid
- NAVIGATIONAL EQUIPMENT**
 - Compasses
 - Driftsights
 - Octants
 - Automatic Pilots
 - Charts
 - Field Lighting
- INSTRUMENTS**
 - Flight
 - Power Plant
- OXYGEN SYSTEM**
- CAMOUFLAGE AND
DECEPTION DEVICES**
- STRUCTURE**
 - Airframe
 - Control Surfaces
 - Control System
 - Dive Flaps
 - Landing Gear
 - Heating System
 - Flight Characteristics
At Various Loadings
- POWER PLANT**
 - Engines
 - Engine Accessories
 - Propellers
 - Lubricating System
 - Starters
 - Exhaust Dampers
- HYDRAULIC SYSTEM**
- ELECTRICAL SYSTEM**
 - Auxiliary Plant
 - Lights
- FUEL SYSTEM**
- FLIGHT CLOTHING**
- MAINTENANCE**
- BASE FACILITIES**
 - Plane Servicing Equipment
 - Personnel Facilities

CALL	PILOT	T/O GREEN	T/O/T	P/C GREEN
301B21	IVERSON	0750	0905 & 0915	1010

On 14 February, 1945 Captain IVERSON led 8 New Zealand Venturas in a medium altitude daylight strike against targets on New Britain. The strike was planned to attack a personnel area in Tovakundum Plantation, New Britain with half the bombs and release the balance on an underground storage area near Keravat, New Britain.

The flight took off at 0750 and formed in three, three plane sections javelin down. Since the Venturas do not carry a bombsight, Captain IVERSON led the formation in a PBJ so that he could do the sighting for the entire formation.

The flight proceeded to Watom Island turned on to a bomb run of 196° magnetic toward Tovakundum Plantation. The leader dropped one half tonner and the Venturas released half their load at 0905 from 11,000 feet at 155 knots indicated. These bombs were seen to explode in Wangarmut Plantation east of the target area.

The formation then turned for a run on Keravat but were unable to get lined up on the target and made a 360° turn for a new run. Bombs were released at 0915 on a course of 154° magnetic from 11,000 feet and an indicated speed of 155 knots. Only two bomb bursts were observed which were about 1,000 feet west of the target. No anti-aircraft fire was encountered. Photographs do not show target area.

(All times in this narrative are love).

ACIO COMMENT

The New Zealand Squadron in this case planned to strike two targets about 10 miles apart with the same formation. The unsatisfactory results may largely be attributed to the confusion resulting from the attempt to divide the effort of one formation and the difficulty of good bomb runs at medium altitude on targets which are near each other.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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NORMAN J. ANDERSON
LtCol., USMC
Commanding Officer

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE