

MB-61

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Report # 55

HC(4)

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ RESTRICTED 3017
 Ref: -VMB-413 199
 VMB-433 95 28712
 VMB-443 71
 VMB-611 14

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting MAG-61 (b) Based on or at Emirau Island (c) Report No. 55
 (d) Take off: Date 11 February, 1945 Time (LZT) 0915-0931L (Zone); Lat. 1° 36' S Long 150° E
Coordinated medium altitude strike on
 (e) Mission Vunakanau # 11, Rabaul, New Britain (f) Time of Return 1209-1226L (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	VMB413	4	None	4	3 x 650 depth charges	
PBJ-1	VMB413	1	None	1	2 x 650 depth charges	
PBJ-1	VMB413	1	None	1	4 x 250 frag clusters	
PBJ-1	VMB433	9	None	9	3 x 650 depth charges	AN-M-103 Inst
PBJ-1	VMB443	9	None	8	3 x 650 depth charges	Nose: AN-M-103 Inst.
PBJ-1	VMB611	1	None	1	4 x 650 depth charges	Nose: AN-M-103 Inst.
PBJ-1	VMB611	8	None	8	3 x 650 depth charges	Nose: AN-M-103 Inst.

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
PBY	VPB44	1	Emirau Island				
F4U's	NZ-22	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 _____ (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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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	None			
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
None				

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	
PBJ-1	236	209	2hrs 57'	973	478	N	0	N	N	33

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

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

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.

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No _____

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Vunakana # 11, Rabaul, N. B. (b) Time Over Target(s) 1102-1103 (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target clear (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target clear (e) Visibility unlimited
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type level Bomb Sight Used Mk 15 and 7
- Bombs Dropped per Run all Spacing varied Altitude of Bomb Release 11,400-12,900'
- (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, or destroyed or sunk)
1 <u>Vunakana # 11</u>	<u>1000' x 1000'</u>	<u>6</u> <u>WR-413</u>	<u>4 x 250 Frags</u> <u>14 x 650 D/C</u>		
2 <u>same</u>		<u>9</u> <u>WR-433</u>	<u>27 x 650 D/C</u>		<u>See (o)</u>
3 <u>same</u>		<u>8</u> <u>WR-443</u>	<u>21 x 650 D/C</u>		
4 <u>same</u>		<u>9</u> <u>WR-611</u>	<u>28 x 650 D/C</u>		
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.)

93 x 650 D/C's plus 4 x 250 Frag Clusters were dropped on Vunakana with the eastern most revetment area as outlined on the attached photograph as the aiming point. 31 x 650 depth charges fell in the target doing no apparent damage other than what possibly might occur from two bombs falling near a revetment where a hidden A/C was reported on 5 Feb. 22 x 650 depth charges fell in a line parallel to the target and within 300'. 40 x 650 depth charges plus 4 x 250 frag clusters dropped long in a northerly direction falling generally in cleared areas except for 12 x 650 depth charges which cleared out a patch of dense low growth near a reported possible plane hide.

ACTIO COMMENT

Even though it was realized that this particular target did not call for depth charge demolitions such charges used due to the shortage of general purpose bombs on the island.

(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

CALL	PILOT
254B21	Mendenhall
255B21	Arsenault
256B21	Smith
257B21	Brueggestrass
258B21	Ross
259B21	Helling

433

CALL	PILOT
266B21	Loughran
267B21	Wilfong
268B21	Sory
269B21	Smith
270B21	Pittner
271B21	Lattner
272B21	Bable
273B21	Kronka
274B21	Huston

443

CALL	PILOT
279B21	Guillotte
280B21	Rose
281B21	Burt
282B21	Gorman
283B21	McGuire
284B21	Booth
285B21	Hilbert
286B21	Kitterman

611

CALL	PILOT
242B21	Sarles
243B21	Fish
244B21	Schmiller
245B21	Kronick
246B21	Peterson
247B21	Horton
248B21	McRobert
249B21	Pollau
250B21	Barnett

As VMB-611 was again available for combat missions, the four PBJ squadrons based on Emirau participated in a coordinated strike together for the first time in longer than a month. The objective was the revetment area at Vunakanau designated as Target # 11.

2 Planes from the 4 squadrons followed a direct course to Pondo Point in a box formation. There the flight headed east and finally divided into 2 groups for complimentary approaches to the target. VMB-443 lead 433 as the first group while VMB-611 and 413 were the second group. The first two squadrons turned north and made the bomb run on a heading of 046°. Going along the length of the target the squadrons were in column javelined down. The break was to the right.

The second group continued on an easterly course for 2 minutes, turned north for 7 miles then into the bombing run on a heading of 326° two minutes after the first group. Hitting across the target the formation was in a very flat right echelon of squadrons javelined down. The planes broke left and rallied for a direct return to base.

D. E. HATCH,
Capt., USMCR,
Group Intelligence Officer.

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



VMB 443-134 (11 FEB 45) (8 1/4") (1000') VUNMANAU (II)

XII
516
107

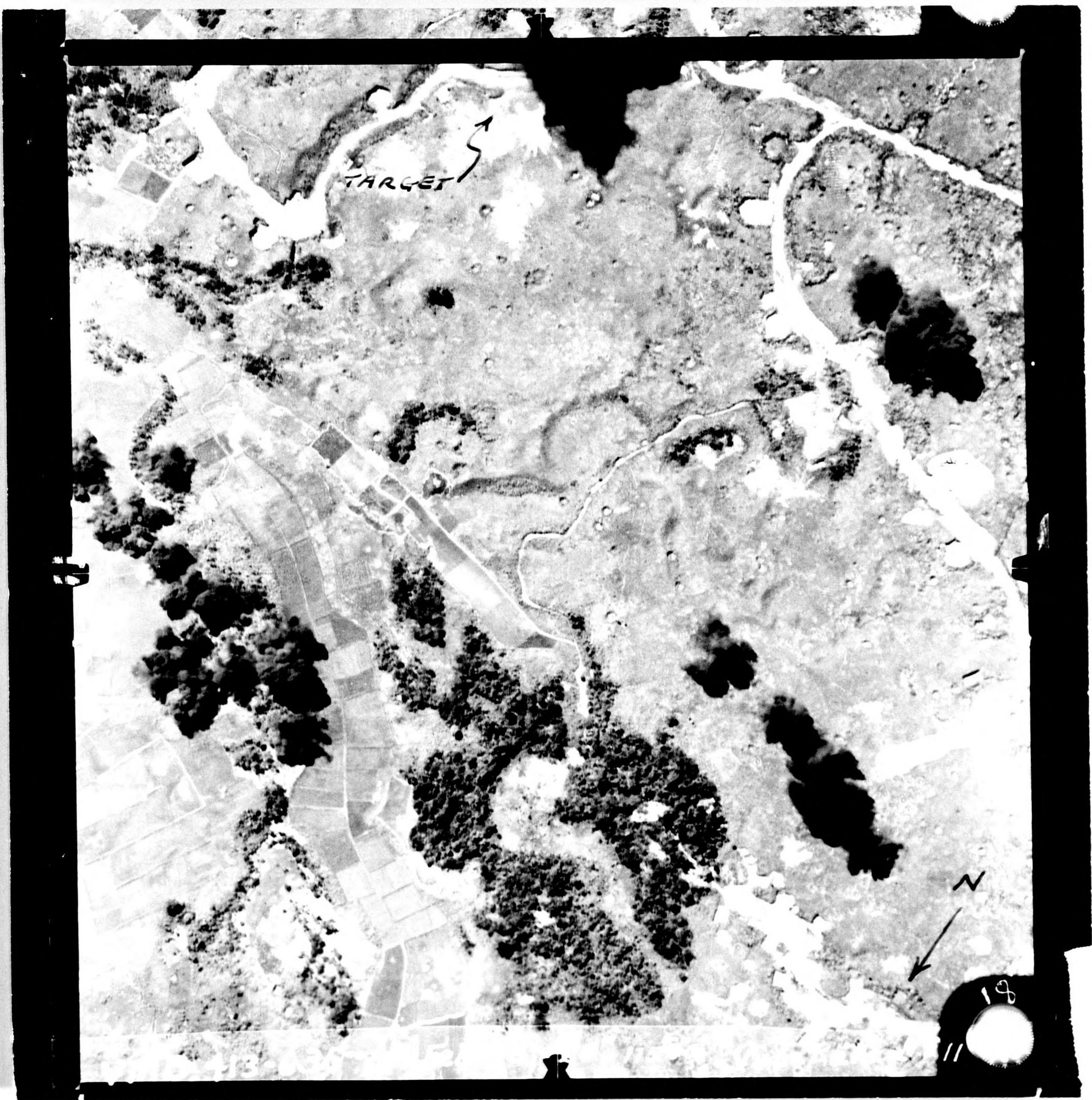
VMB 413-635 · 11 Feb. 45 · 20" 1500' Vuna Kana

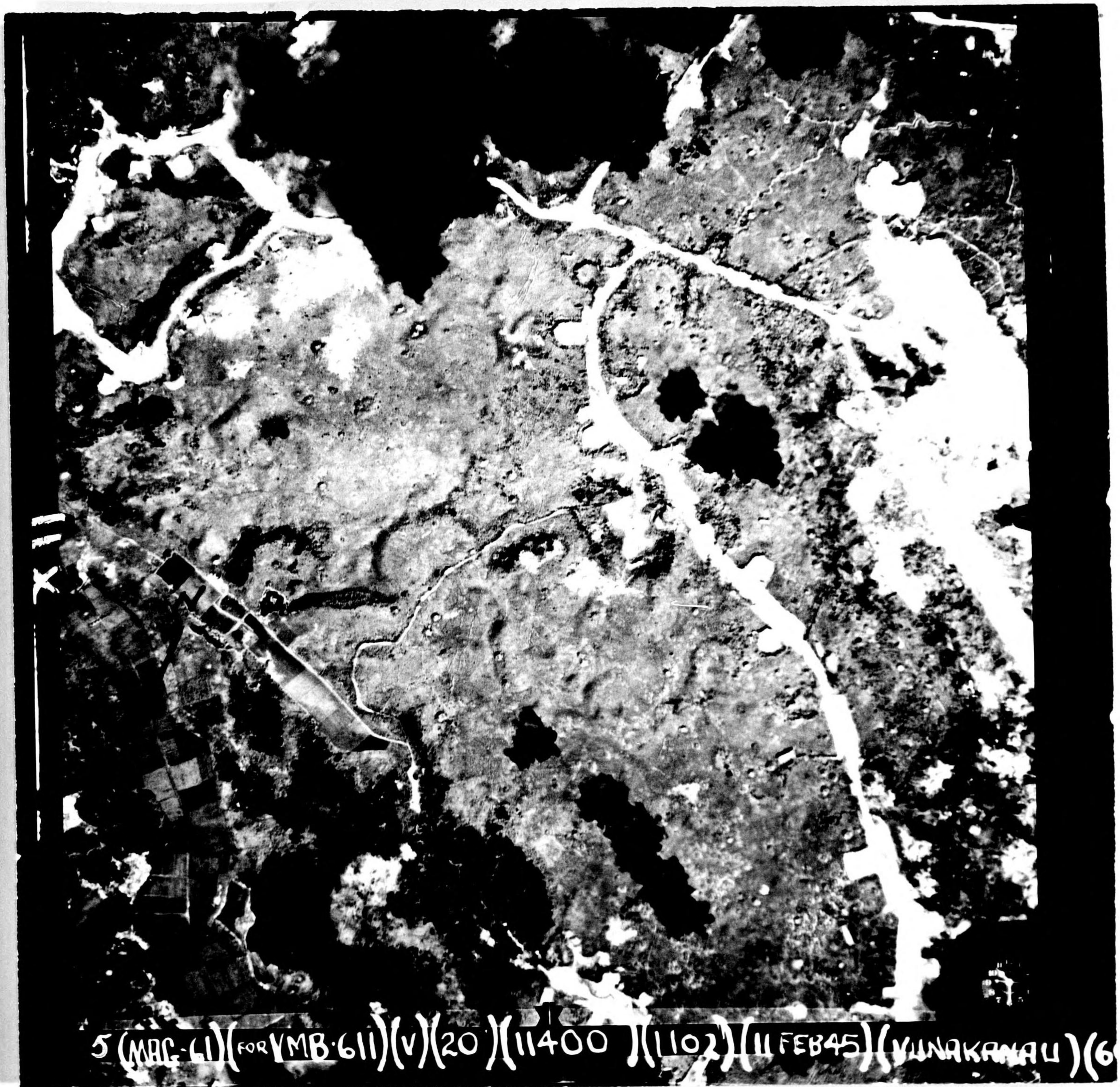


IX

7) (70) VMB-433 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ " (E) 2-11-45 VUNAKANAU, N. B.

7





5 (MBC-61) (FOR VMB-611) (V) (20) (11400) (1102) (11 FEB 45) (YUNAKAMALI) (6)