

MG-41

149
④

Report # 113

IC(4)

7

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ GENERAL

Ref: WB-413 301
433 191
443 158

(a) Unit Reporting MAC-61 (b) Based on or at Enfren Island (c) Report No. 113
(d) Take off: Date 27 May, 1945 Time (LZT) 0915L (Zone); Lat. 01° 36' S. Long. 150° E.
(e) Mission Coordinated medium altitude bombing attack on Yunakonan #14, New Britain. (f) Time of Return 1215L (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)		
<u>PBJ-1</u>	<u>WB-413</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6 x 500 GP Mk. 61.</u>	<u>Nose: ALM-103 inst. Tail: ALM-101A2 inst.</u>
<u>PBJ-1</u>	<u>WB-433</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6 x 500 GP Mk. 61.</u>	<u>Nose: ALM-103 inst. Tail: ALM-102A2 inst.</u>
<u>PBJ-1D</u>	<u>WB-443</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6 x 500 GP Mk. 61.</u>	<u>Nose: ALM-103 inst. Tail: ALM-102A2 inst.</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>PBY-5A</u>	<u>VPR 53</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Enfren Island</u>				
<u>P4U</u>	<u>BZ #25</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>same</u>				

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
<u>None</u>			<u>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			

(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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			
<u>None</u>						

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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	
PN-1	230	212	3hrs.03'	974	452	0	0	0	0	1

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

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) Primary: Funakana #14, New Britain (b) Time Over Target(s) P:1100L (Zone) S:1145L
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
Secondary: Panapai Bivouac Area, N.I.
- (c) Clouds Over Target Primary: 2/10 ca. at 2000', tenate 3000' S: clear.
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target clear (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility 10 (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type level (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used Mk. 15, Mod. 7.
- Bombs Dropped per Run All (NUMBER) Spacing 50' (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release P:10300-11000' S:11000' (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, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
1 Panapai Bivouac Area, New Ireland	3750' x 1500'	7 WIR-413	42 x 500 GPs		
2 Funakana #14, N.I.	1800' x 900'	6 WIR-433	36 x 500 GPs		See "a"
3 Funakana #14, N.I.	same	6 WIR-443	36 x 500 GPs		
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.- 36 x 500 GPs dropped in target in 600 foot train.
6 x 500 GPs dropped short of target 300'.
- 2.- 36 x 500 GPs split the middle of a target located 3200 feet southwest of the assigned target. Probable damage and possible destruction was done to four huts and to what appeared to be revetted stores and truck area.
- 3.- 20 x 500 GPs strung from 600 feet northeast of the target to the northern edge of target. The bombs fell for no apparent damage in an unused portion of land.
12 x 500 GPs strung through the northwest corner of the target and across the road. Probable damage was done to three huts and to the road.
4 x 500 GPs fell west of the target by 300 feet for no apparent damage.
- 4.- 6 x 500 GPs were returned to base due to pilot's error.

Photographs attached:

- (1) (WIR-443) (227) (0) (20") (12,000') (1101L) (27 May 45) (Funakana #14, N.I.)
 (4) (WIR-433) (0) (20") (10,300') (1100L) (27 May 45) (Funakana #14, N.I.) (135)

(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
- Defensive 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	Nendonhall	266B21	Smith	279B21	Gould
255B21	Thomas	267B21	Guotin	280B21	Palmer
256B21	Roome	268B21	Littman	281B21	Tafel
257B21	Arsensault	269B21	Fittner	282B21	Stewart
258B21	Fey	270B21	Manhennet	283B21	Kozlovski
259B21	Geschart	271B21	Hadden	284B21	Carton
260B21	Brueggstrass	272B21	Arant		
261B21	Pischburg				

Lt. Col. Gould led 21 PB's on a successful medium bombing attack of Vun-akama #14, a concentration of huts in a Jap Bivouac Area. Only 12 of the planes released over the primary. However, 72 x 500# GP's caused considerable damage, destroying a road, seven huts, and a revetted stores and supply dump.

WR-413's lead plane had mechanical difficulties with the automatic pilot over the primary and did not release. The 7 planes carrying 42 x 500# GP's made a good run over the secondary target, Tobera #26 a plane and revetment area, planting all bombs on the target. Photos were not taken of this run, consequently the results were unobserved.

One plane from WR-433 returned 6 x 500# GP's to the base when the pilot failed to release over the target.

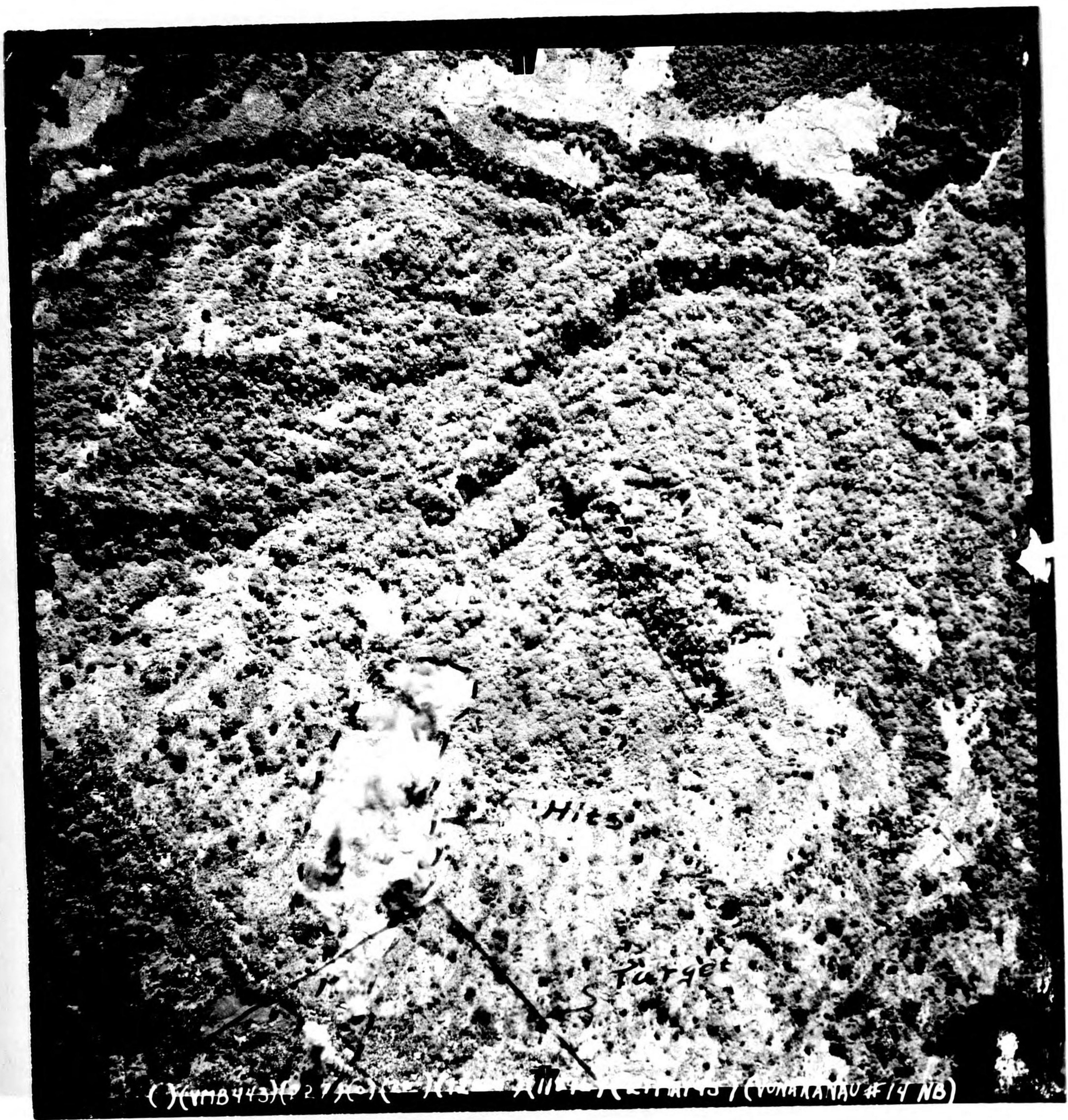
Lt. Col. A.D. Gould, leading the flight, took WR-443 off the deck at 0915, followed by WR-413 at 0918 and WR-433 at 0923.

The squadrons headed for Fangelawa Bay independently for the rendezvous at 10,000 feet. In a vee of vee the flight flew along the east coast line of New Ireland to Nabute Bay. Turning right the formation in a left echelon squadrons javelin down at this point headed for Matupi Island and then into the bombing run of 230° magnetic, speed 155 knots (IAS) to release at 1100. WR-443 was at 11,000' and WR-433 at 10,300'. WR-413 continued on to Tobera #26 and released at 1103 from 11,000'.

All squadrons broke to the right for a rendezvous over Water Island, from which point, the flight headed for Selapiu and then to the base to land safely at 1215.

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

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



Hits

Target

(XMB443)(279)(114)(15)(19 NB)



() UMB-433(0)20'11.30' (L) 27 May 45 (Umbria 14.13) (35)