

MG-61

149
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Report #130

IC(4)

7

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting MAG-61 (b) Based on or at Bairou Island (c) Report No. 433 245
443 175
130

(d) Take off: Date 21 June, 1945 Time (LZT) 0759L-0900L (Zone); Lat. 01° 36' S. Long. 150° E.

(e) Mission Coordinated medium altitude bombing attack against targets.
Vunakona #17, New Baboul #11 and New Baboul #17 N.B. (f) Time of Return 1048-1140L (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)		
PBY-1	VMB-433	6	None	6	12 x 100 GP	None: AN-M-103 inst. Tail: AN-M-100A2 inst.
PBY-1	VMB-413	6	None	6	13 x 1000 GP	None: AN-M-103 inst. Tail: AN-M-102A2 inst.
PBY-1	VMB-443	9	None	9	12 x 100 GP	None: AN-M-103 inst. Tail: AN-M-102A2 inst.

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
PBY	VMF-436	1	Bairou Island				
PBY	VMF-425	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
<u>None</u>			(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 _____ (k) Visibility _____
(j) of Sun or Moon _____ (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		
<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	
PB-1	217	204	2hrs. 40'	974	371	2	0	1	1	2

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

URNS

DIVES

CEILINGS

RANGE

PROTECTION

ARMAMENT

None enemy aircraft encountered.

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Tavui Point, New Rabaul #11
New Rabaul #47, New Britain. (b) Time Over Target(s) 0932L
0945L (Zone) 1026L
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target clear over all targets
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target clear (e) Visibility 10
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type level Bomb Sight Used Mk.15. Mod.7.
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE)

Bombs Dropped per Run All Spacing 25' Altitude of Bomb Release 11,100'
(NUMBER) (FEET) TYPE
11,000'
10,500' (ET)

(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 Tavui Point, N.B.	1200' x 1200'	6 VMR-433	72 x 100 GPs		
2 New Rabaul #11, N.B.	1800' x 1700'	6 VMR-413	18 x 1000 GPs	See "o".	
3 New Rabaul #47, N.B.	1700' x 1700'	9 VMR-443	106 x 100 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.-72 x 100# GPs fell approximately 500' to 1000' southeast of the target. Due to the nature of the bomb and to the heavy vegetation results were unobserved. For the same reason results were unobserved in the post-strike photos.
- 2.-18 x 1000#GPs fell along the ridge at the western edge of the target for no visible damage.
- 3.-100 x 100#GPs hit 1500' west of the target for unobserved results.
6 x 100#GPs fell in the southern section of the target for no apparent damage.
- 4.- 2 x 100#GPs were temporarily caught in the bomb bay door and were later jettisoned in the sea.

Photographs attached/

- (4) (VMR-413 - 718) (0)(20")(11,000') (0945L) (21 June 45) (New Rabaul #11)
- (3) (VMR-433 - 151) (0)(20")(11,000') (0932L) (21 June 45) (Tavui Pt)
- (3) (VMR-443 - 244) (0)(20")(11300') (1021L) (21 June 45)(Rabaul #47)

(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
- Offensive Tactics, Enemy
- Defensive Tactics, Own
- Defensive Tactics, 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

CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT
254B21	Nickerson	266B21	Loag	279B21	Gould
255B21	Loggie	267B21	Longas	280B21	Biberstine
256B21	Oxsen	268B21	Giberson	281B21	Bark
257B21	Bruggestress	269B21	Butler	282B21	Stewart
258B21	Smith	269B21	Swimford	283B21	Krossin
259B21	Ross	270B21	Woodward	284B21	Hawkins
				285B21	England
				286B21	Graser
				287B21	Gronquist

Three strikes were coordinated by MAG-61 Squadrons against New Britain Targets on 21 June. Major Long led 6 Mitchells of VMB-433 over Funakasa #17. The primary target could not be located so the drop was on Rabaul #30, Tawui Point, the squadrons Sugar-1. Post-strike photos show the bomb load of 72 x 100# GPs to have hit 500' to 1000' southeast of the target with results undeterminable because of the nature of the bomb and the heavy vegetation. VMB-413 attacked building area of New Rabaul #11 with Major Nickerson leading six PBJs over the target to drop 15 half ton GPs along the western edge of the target. Photos failed to disclose any damage. The target assigned VMB-443 was Rabaul #7, an active storage area. Lt.Col. Gould led the formation of 9 planes. 108 x 100# GP Bombs were dropped, 100 of which fell 1500' west of the target, 6 hit in the south part of target and 2 temporarily hung in the bomb bay doors and were later jettisoned into the sea.

Taking off at 0759, VMB-433 proceeded southeast over Selapia Island to Crater Peninsula, thence over Vulcan Crater to the primary. The bombardier could not locate the assigned Funakasa so the flight leader struck his Sugar-1, Rabaul #30 or Tawui Point. The run was made at a speed of 155 knots, altitude 11,100' while on a magnetic heading of 077°. Breaking to the right all planes returned to the base at 1050.

VMB-413 departed Maivu Strip at 0624, flying vee of vees, squadron javelin down. The route over Selapia Island was taken to New Rabaul, #11. The bombs were released on a heading of 081° magnetic from 11,000', speed 160 knots (IAS) at 0945. The break was right to Mumu Island thence to base by 1053. A small craft was seen in Cape Leguan.

Upon leaving the base at 0900, VMB-443, flew over Selapia to Wakes forming up in threeplane sections, javelin down, which was used throughout the mission. The run was made on a heading of 145° magnetic at an altitude of 10,500' indicating 155 knots (IAS). Time over target was 1026. Breaking left the flight crossed New Ireland to Mumu Island, thence on a 300° magnetic course to base by 1140. Some bombs were observed to drop end over and while others were seen to diverge sharply from the normal flight path.

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

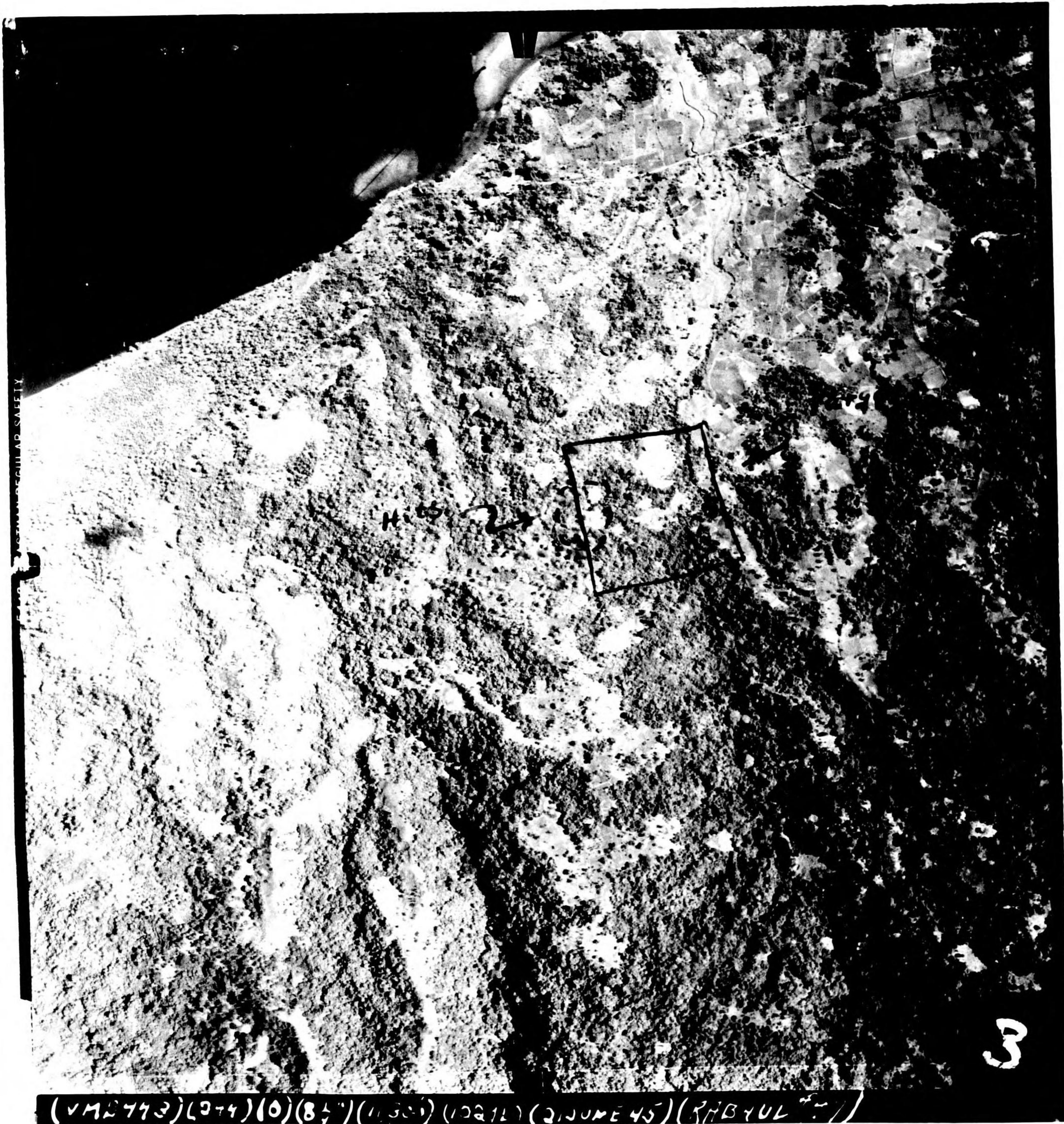
H.P. ZUCKER,
Col., USMC,
Group Commander.



VM75 4 3 713)(C)(20)(11000)(C775)(21 June 15)(New Nibaul II)



(1 MB433) (5) (0) (1110) (022) (04) (1945) (1201 PL)



FOR YOUR PROTECTION, WE CHOOSE SAFETY

H. 65 →

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(VM2773)(074)(0)(87)(1.50)(1021)(2)JUNE 45)(RIBYUL