

5
MG-61

146
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Report #108

IC (4)

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

Ref: VMB-413 295
433 183
443 153

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting WAG-61 (b) Based on or at Emirau Island (c) Report No. 108
 (d) Take off: Date 17 May 1945 Time (LZT) 0900L (Zone); Lat. 01° 36' S. Long. 150° E.
 (e) Mission Coordinated medium altitude bombing attack on New Rabaul Pt., New Britain. (f) Time of Return 1150L (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	VMB-413	6	None	6	8 x 250 GP Mk. 57. 12 x 100 Mk. 54 incendiaries	ALM nose inst. ALM-100A2 tail inst.
PBJ-1	VMB-433	6	None	5	8 x 250 GP Mk. 57. 12 x 100 Mk. 54 incendiaries	ALM-103 nose inst. ALM-100A2 inst.
PBJ-1D	VMB-443	3	None	3	8 x 250 GP Mk. 57. 12 x 100 Mk. 54 incendiaries	ALM-103 inst. ALM-100A2 inst.
PBJ-1	Hq Sq	1	None	1	8 x 250 GP Mk. 57.	same

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
PBY-5A	VFB 44	1	Emirau Island				
B2 #25	P4U	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	299	204	2hrs. 53'	974	442	0	0	0	0	25

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: Rabaul #4, N.B. Secondary: Panapai Bivouac, N.I. (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) P: 1034L S: 1117L (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target 1/10 ca. at 3000' tops to 4000'. 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. (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run All (NUMBER) Spacing 50' (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 10800' - 11600' S: 10,000' (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 Rabaul #4, N.B.	1200' x 2000'	9 VMB-413	36 x 100 incendi 48 x 250 GPs		
2 Rabaul #4, N.B.	1200' x 2000'	8 VMB-433	36 x 100 incendi 40 x 250 GPs		
3 Panapai Bivouac Area, N.I.	1000' x 2000'	1 VMB-433	8 x 250 GPs		See #4
4 Rabaul #4, N.B.	1200' x 2000'	3 VMB-443	36 x 100 incendi		
5 Panapai bivouac Area, N.I.	1000' x 2000'	3 VMB-443	24 x 250 GPs		
6 Rabaul #4, N.B.	1200' x 2000'	1 Sq Sq	8 x 250 GPs		
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.- 8 x 250 GPs grouped themselves 300' west of the southern section of the target.
8 x 250 GPs grouped themselves 300' west of the northern section of the target.
24 x 250 GPs fell from 100' to 400' north of the target. Eight of these cratered the road junction north of the target, the remainder fell among huts.
8 x 250 GPs fell north of the target by 1600'.
36 x 100 incendiaries landed from 100' to 1600' northwest of the target falling among huts. and leaving fires.
- 2.- 8 x 250 GPs fell 1600' south of the target in another similar target of huts.
16 x 250 GPs fell 2400' south of the target.
16 x 250 GPs fell unobserved.
36 x 250 GPs fell 3000' south of the target leaving fires in a hut area.
- 3.- 8 x 250 GPs fell in the northwest section of the target for unobserved results.
- 4.- 36 x 100 incendiaries strung from southern edge of the target to a point 2500' southeast. Four of these incendiaries landed among huts and fires were left.
- 5.- 12 x 250 GPs landed in the northwestern section of the target for unobserved results.
12 x 250 GPs landed across the road from target for unobserved results.
- 6.- 8 x 250 GPs landed east of target into hut area with hits unobserved.

Photograph attached:

(10) (VMB-433) (131) (0) (20") (10700') (1034L) (17 May 45) (Rabaul, N.B.)

(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

254B21	Bronisewo	266B21	Miller	279B21	Whitney
255B21	Kuehleisen	267B21	Radden	280B21	Whittemore
256B21	Oslund	268B21	Arent	281B21	Wilson
257B21	Arconault	269B21	Woton	282B21	McConnell
258B21	Gilbert	270B21	Fischer	283B21	Graser
259B21	Helake	271B21	Osmas	284B21	Dee
260B21	Bouscaren	272B21	Benjamin.		
261B21	Ingberg	273B21	Wilfong		
262B21	Howland	274B21	Dunn		

Lt. Col. W. H. Miller led three squadrons on a medium level raid of New Babaul #4, an area 1200' by 2000' reputed to be a Jap Bivouac Area.

124 x 250# GP's and 72 x 100# incendiary clusters were dropped on and around the target causing several fires in the hitted area. Three planes from VMF-443 and one from VMF-433 failed to drop over the Primary and released 32 x 250# GP's over the Panapai Bivouac Area on the way to the base. Results were unobserved.

Lt. Col. W. H. Miller, leading VMF-433, took off at 0900 followed by VMF-443 at 0903 and VMF-413 at 0906. Each squadron upon being airborne headed for Djaul Island where the Group rendezvous was held at 10,000 feet.

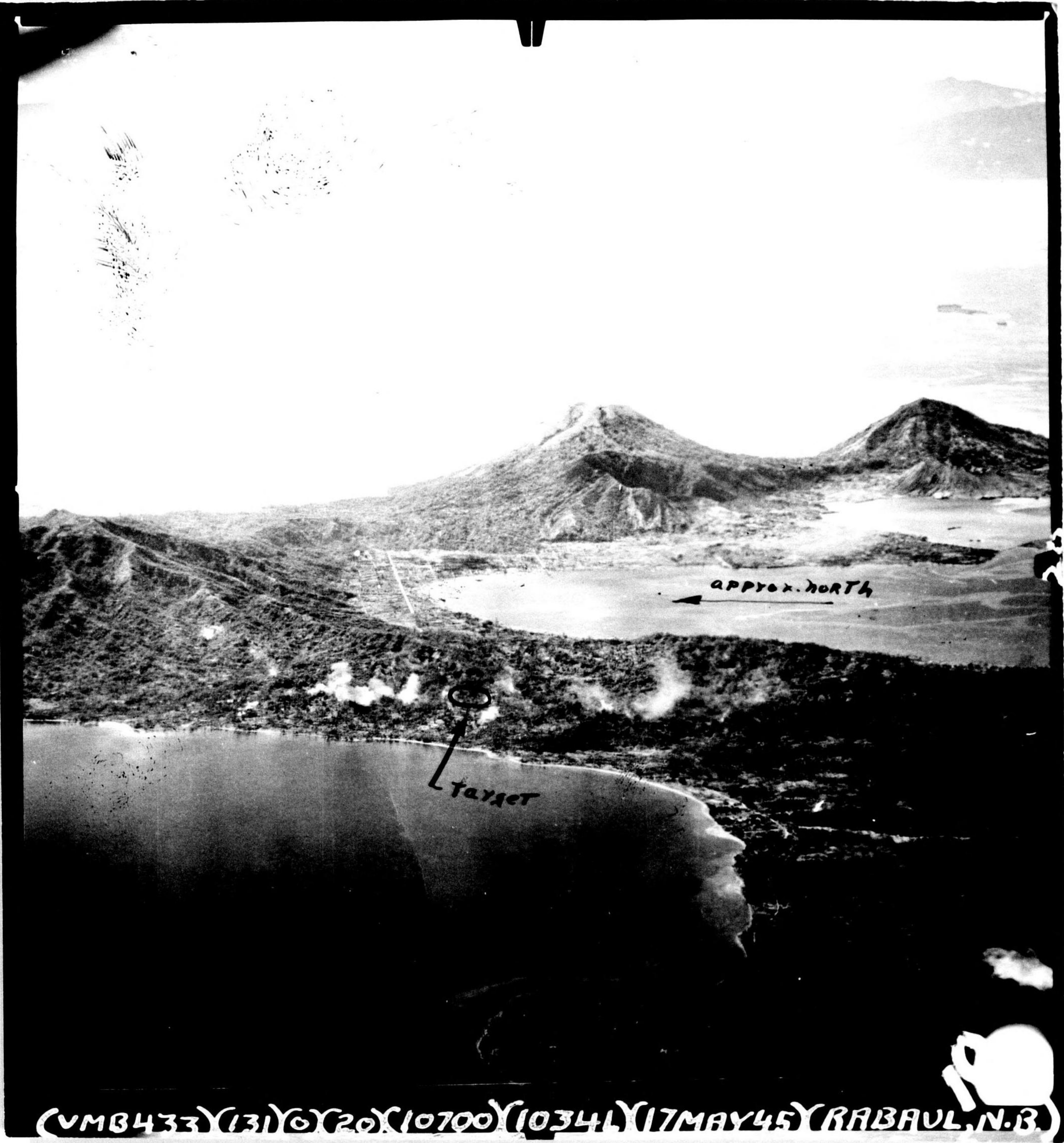
From Djaul the flight in a vee formation, squadrons javelin down, flew down to Woton, shifting to the bombing formation of squadrons in column before reaching this point. A gentle starboard turn brought the planes to the initial descending 400' as they did so. The run was made on 170° magnetic and bombs were away at one minute intervals starting at 1034. Speed of the squadrons was 160 knots I.A.S. and altitudes were varied 400' between squadrons from 10,800' to 11,600'.

Breaking right all squadrons rallied 10 miles west of Woton Island, along the southern coast of New Ireland, hittin the deck at 1204. All planes landed safely.

One PBW from Headquarters Squadron flew an observation hop and also dropped 8 x 250# GP's on a Bivouac Area east of the New Babaul Target #4 for unobserved results.

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

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



(VMB433)(131)(6)(20)(10700)(10344)(17MAY45)(RABAU, N.B.)