

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

Ref: -VMB-413 164
VMB-423 174
VMB-433 76
VMB-443 52

(a) Unit Reporting MAG-61 (b) Based on or at Emirau Island (c) Report No 34
E.0915-0931
 (d) Take off: Date 5 January, 1945 Time (LZT) 0.1000-1003 (Zone); Lat. 1°36' S. Long 150°E.
Coordinated medium altitude bombing of E.1235-1254
 (e) Mission Toboi target #1, Rabaul, New Britain (f) Time of Return G.1221-1224 (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-1D	VMB413	7	None	7	6 x 500 GP	AN-M-103 Inst
PBJ-1D	VMB413	2	None	2	4 x 500 GP	AN-M-103 Inst
PBJ-1D	VMB423	2	None	2	3 x 1000 GP	AN-M-100A2

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
PV	NZ-1	5	Green Island				

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 _____
 (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			
None						

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Form ACA-1
Sheet 1 of 5

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting MAG-61 (b) Based on or at _____ (c) Report No. _____
 (d) Take off: Date _____ Time _____ (Zone); Lat _____ Long _____
 (e) Mission _____ (f) Time of Return _____ (Zone)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

TYPE	SQD	NUMBER	TAKING OFF	ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	ATTACKING TARGET	BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (per plane)	FUZE, SETTING
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	
PRJ-1D	VMB423	1	None	1	2 x 1000 GP	AN-M-100A2	
PRJ-1D	VMB423	5	None	5	4 x 500 GP	AN-M-100A2	
PRJ-1D	VMB433	9	None	8	6 x 500 GP	AN-M-103 Inst	
PRJ-1D	VMB443	9	None	9	6 x 500 GP	AN-M-103 Inst	

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

TYPE	SQD	No.	TYPE	SQD	No.

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	(f) BOMBS TORPEDOES CARRIED	(g) CAMOUFLAGE AND MARKING
None			(zone)			
			(zone)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____
 Did Any Part of Encounter(s) _____
 (i) Occur in Clouds? _____ If so, Describe Clouds _____
 Time of Day and (yes or no) _____ (base in feet, type, tenths cover)
 (j) Brilliance of Sun or Moon _____ (k) Visibility _____
 (night, Bright moon; Day, overcast; etc.) (miles)

V. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only)

(a) TYPE	(b) Destroyed or Damaged By:	(c) Damage	(d) Claimed
ENEMY A/C:	Type A/C:	SQD :	Pilot or gunner :
None			

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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) Toboi target #1, N. B. (b) Time Over Target(s) 1111-1117 (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target .1 cover over target at 2000' - 1.0 at 14,000' See Narrative
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target clear (e) Visibility 20-25
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type level Bomb Sight Used Mk15 mod 7
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run all Spacing minimum Altitude of Bomb Release 11,500-13,000
(NUMBER) (FEET) (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 <u>Toboi #1</u>		<u>9</u> <u>VMB-413</u>	<u>50 x 500 GP</u>		
2		<u>8</u> <u>VMB-423</u>	<u>8 x 1000 GP</u> <u>20 x 500 GP</u>		
3		<u>8</u> <u>VMB-433</u>	<u>48 x 500 GP</u>		<u>See (o)</u>
4		<u>9</u> <u>VMB-443</u>	<u>54 x 500 GP</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.)

The 50' x 70' building south of the wharf was partially destroyed and three other buildings wrecked.

(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	Cunningham
255B21	Helling
256B21	Ingberg
257B21	Millington
258B21	Rinehart
259B21	Scheimer
260B21	Bouscaren
261B21	Smith
262B21	Bronleewe

433

CALL	PILOT
266B21	Adams
*267B21	Tyler
268B21	Hendy
269B21	Wolfe
270B21	Leachman
271B21	Shaw
272B21	Lattner
273B21	Klein
274B21	Green

423

CALL	PILOT
301B21	Anderson
302B21	Clark
303B21	Friedman
304B21	Bates
305B21	Hopper
306B21	Ryan
307B21	Meyer
308B21	Iverson

443

CALL	PILOT
279B21	Guillotte
280B21	Lord
281B21	Greene
282B21	Whitney
283B21	Booth
284B21	Rose
285B21	Hammond
286B21	Wilson
287B21	Ballou

*267B21 returned to base immediately after salvaging his bombs 5 miles from Emirau due to engine failure

Lt Col Guillotte led four Marine Mitchell Squadrons and New Zealand PV's in a coordinated medium level bombing raid on Float plane hide, Toboi target number 1, Rabaul, New Britain.

The first group, VMB-443 followed by VMB-433 and 413 were airborne Emirau by 0931, and proceeded on its prescribed course to rendezvous point Cape Namaroda. The second group VMB-423 and New Zealand PV's were airborne by 1003 and proceeded to the rendezvous with the Emirau Mitchells at 1055.

While it was fairly clear over the target, heavy clouds at the rendezvous point and enroute to the target made formation flying difficult. The first group became separated while making the rendezvous with Green PBJ's and PV's. The first two squadrons, VMB-443 and 433 came in early from the northwest, dropping at 1111 on a course of 156°. VMB-413 made its run alone a little late at 1117 from 13,000' on a course of 177°. The second group lead by VMB-423 approached on their course from the east at the same time at 11,500' and 11,900'. The thick clouds along the approach and the varied bomb runs reduced the effectiveness of the mission. Six bombs were along the shore just north of the target, six between the shore and the road, while three were near the wharf, and two in the northend of Toboi target #2. The balance were scattered in the water and well west of the target. The 50' x 70' building south of the wharf was partially destroyed and three other buildings wrecked.

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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

REPORT PREPARED BY: _____

Meager inaccurate heavy anti-aircraft fire was encountered.

After passing the bomb release line, all squadrons broke to the right and rallied 10 miles north of Water Island. The rally having been effected, the two groups separated and proceeded to their respective bases. All planes were safely on Green by 1224, while all Tmirau Mitchells landed safely by 1254.

(All times love)

ACIO COMMENT

This strike demonstrates the importance of a successful rendezvous for a closely coordinated attack and the necessity that the groups depart accurately from the rendezvous. Each group must adhere carefully to the check points and times as they have been briefed and scheduled. Variations of course or timing create confusion and the necessity of squadrons and groups watching each other instead of concentrating on hitting the target.

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

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

APPROVED BY: _____

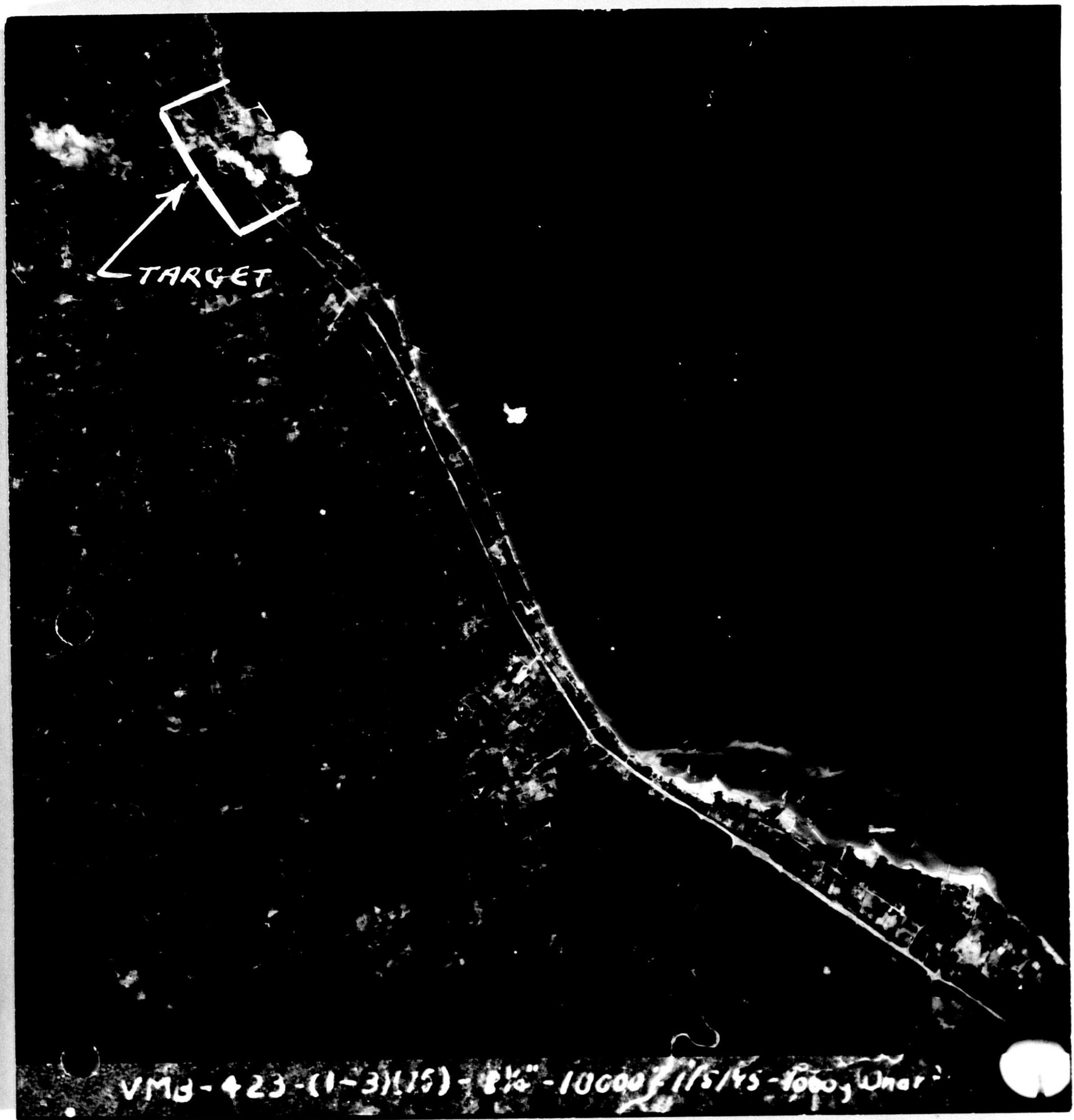
SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE



VMB-423-(1-3)(15)-8 1/2 - 10000 1/5/45-1000, Wnar

413-592

20"

1220

TobiiWARRF

5 JAN 48

