

MG-61

146
④

Report 97

IC (4)

7

I. GENERAL

433 170
443 141

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(a) Unit Reporting MAG 61 (b) Based on or at Emirau Island (c) Report No. 97
 (d) Take off: Date 1 May, 1945 Time (LZT) 0917L (Zone); Lat. 01° 36' S. Long. 150° E.
 (e) Mission Coordinated medium altitude bombing of Tobera #1, New Britain. (f) Time of Return 1225L (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	8	None	8	3 x 1000 GP Mk. 44	Nose: AN-N-103 inst. Tail: AN-N-101A2 inst.
PBJ-1	VMB-433	8	None	8	3 x 1000 GP Mk. 44	Nose: AN-N-103 inst. Tail: AN-N-102A2 inst.
PBJ-1	VMB-443	9	None	9	3 x 1000 GP Mk. 65	Nose: AN-N-103 inst. Tail: AN-N-102A2 inst.
PBJ-1	Hq. Sq.	1	None	1	8 x 300 GP	Nose: AN-N-103 inst. Tail: AN-N-100A2 inst.

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
PBY-5A	VPB 44	1	Emirau Island				
F4U	NZ #23	2	same				
PV-1	NZ #9	6	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		
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 PBJ-1J	VMB-413	Blew tire on warm-up apron before take-off	Right Landing gear	One tire demolished (PBJ-1J 35235)
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	245	215	3hrs. 05'	974	469	N	0	N	E	25

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)

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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) Tobera #1, New Britain. (b) Time Over Target(s) 1057L (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 4/10 cu. at 2000', tops to 8000'.
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Partially obscured by clouds (e) Visibility 7
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Level Bomb Sight Used Mk.15, Mod.7.
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run All Spacing 100' Altitude of Bomb Release 11,100-11,900'
(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 Tobera #1.	1000' x 600'.	8 VMB-413	24 x 1000 Gp		
2 Tobera #1.	same	8 VMB-433	24 x 1000 GP		See "o".
3 Tobera #1.	same	9 VMB-443	27 x 1000 GP		
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.--24 x 1000 GPs were strung thru the target from south to north with all bombs clearing out large chunks of the western portion.
- 2.-- 6 x 1000 GPs fell astride one of the taxiway loops south of the runway and 1000' north of the target.
18 x 1000 GPs fell from middle of target north 200' to slit trench system. The eastern section of the target had large holes left in the vegetation.
- 3.--27 x 1000 GPs covered the southern and middle sections of the target leaving clearings in the former reported hide.

Photographs attached:

- (1) (VMB-413) (687) (0) (20") (11,900') (1057L) (1 May 45) (Tobera #1.)
 (2) (VMB-433) (120) (0) (20") (11,000') (1058L) (1 May 45) (Tobera, N.B.)
 (1) (VMB-443) (212) (0) (20") (11,500') (1056L) (1 May 45) (Tobera #1, 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
- 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		Hq. Sq.	
CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT
254B21	Mendenhall	266B21	Smith	279B21	Whitney	200B21	Wolfe
255B21	Menard	267B21	Loughran	280B21	Burk		
256B21	Muehleisen	268B21	Dethier	281B21	Graser		
257B21	Oslund	269B21	Pittner	282B21	Gorman		
258B21	Arsenault	270B21	Huston	283B21	Garton		
259B21	Gilbert	271B21	Hendy	284B21	Bish		
260B21	Gearhart	272B21	Parks	285B21	Kitterman		
261B21	Bouscaren	273B21	Kromka	286B21	Wilson		
262B21	Helmke			287B21	Greene		

Major Edward V. Mendenhall led 26 FBJ's in a successful coordinated medium altitude bombing raid on Tobera #1, New Britain. The target, 1000' by 600', reported to be the most important plane hide was blasted by 69 x 1000# GPs and 8 x 300# GPs while the other 6 x 1000# GPs carried fell astride one of the taxiway loops south of the runway.

Major E. V. Mendenhall of VMB-413 took off at 0917 followed by VMB-433 at 0920 and VMB-443 at 0924.

The 3 squadrons headed for Djaul Island where a rendezvous was held at 10,000 feet. After a quick join-up, the flight formed in a left echelon, squadron javelin down and departed on a course of 122° magnetic towards the Duke of York Islands whereupon a course was taken inland. Bombs were away at 1055, on a course of 325° magnetic, speed of 160 knots I.A.S. and at an altitude of 11,500 feet. The flight was in left echelon, squadrons javelin down.

Breaking to the right, the group rallied below the Duke of York Islands, and returned via the south coast of New Ireland through heavy weather and landed at 1230.

Major Wolfe, Assistant Operations Officer, flew an observation plane for Headquarters Squadron and joined up on VMB-433 in its bombing run.

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

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

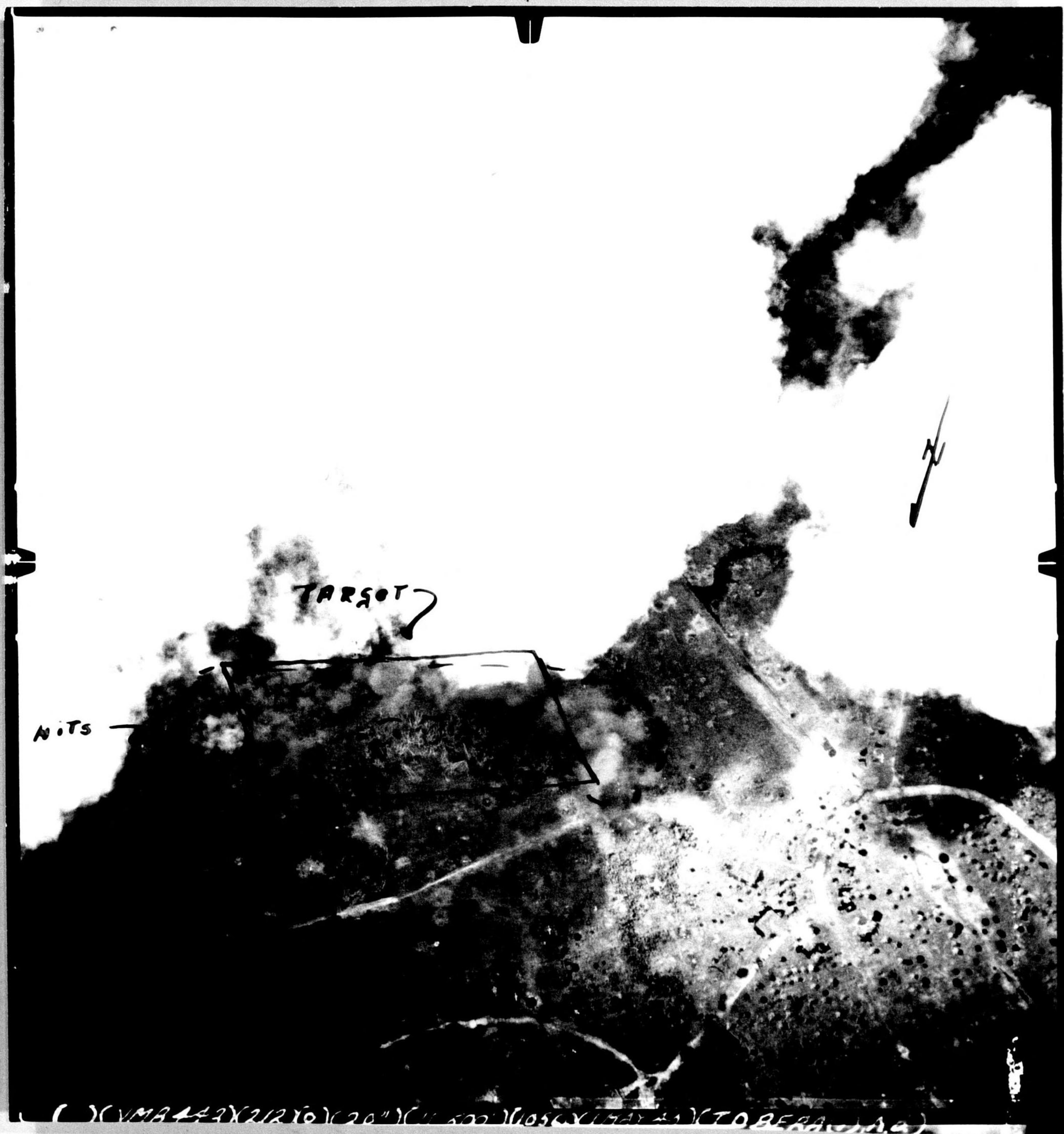


(YMB 413-687)(0)(20 X11900)(1057L)(1.18945)(Tobera 1)

SAFETY FILM



(VMB433)(20)(20)(1,000)(1058L)(MAY 45)(TOBERA, N.B.)



NITS

TARROT

() (VMA 443) (212) (6) (20) (11) (105) (17) (14) (TO BEBA) (14)