

MG-61

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Report # 79

LIC(4)

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filed out)

(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) Panapai A/A Positions (b) Time Over Target(s) 1531-1534 (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE A, B, C, AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 2/10 cu. bases 2000' tops 4000'
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target clear (e) Visibility 10 (MILES)
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type level Bomb Sight Used Mk 15 mod 7
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run All Spacing _____ Altitude of Bomb Release 10,800-12,800'
(NUMBER) (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. HIT OR AIMING POINT	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, or destroyed or sunk)
1 2 heavy, 4 medium A/A Positions		6 WR 413	17 x 1000 GP		
2 North of Panapai Airstrip		8 WR 433	24 x 1000 GP		See "6"
3 3 heavy north of Panapai Airstrip		9 WR 413	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 time and location of hits. For all targets give location and effect of hits, and identify by numbers above. Use additional sheets if necessary.)

- 1.-7 x 1000 GPs landed south of the western end of the Panapai R/W with no apparent damage resulting
9 x 1000 GPs landed in a plantation area 1000 feet short (or south) of target.
1 x 1000 GP landed just off shore
- 2.-24 x 1000 GPs landed in a group approximately 2000 feet southeast of the target
Ten of the bombs fell along the beach, while the remainder fell near the main road cratering the same in four places.
- 3.-6 x 1000 GPs landed in the target area doing possible damage to the medium AA position and destroying two revetted huts.
21 x 1000 GPs landed within 100-200 feet of the target along the road and just south of it. A building 20 x 40 feet was destroyed.

Photographs attached:

- (WR 413-670) (0) (20") (10,800') (1538L) (30Mar45) (Panapai Gun Positions)
(WR 433-103) (0) (8 1/2") (12,800') (1531L) (30Mar45) (Panapai)
(WR 443-192) (0) (20") (11,700') (1530L) (30Mar45) (Panapai)

(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
Defense 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
254821	Hendonhall	266821	Adams	279821	Connan
255821	Boyd	267821	Leachman	280821	Cracer
256821	Smith	268821	Green	281821	Greene
257821	Arsenault	269821	Wolfe	282821	Kitteman
258821	Ross	270821	Fischer	283821	Hudson
259821	Conant	271821	Klein	284821	Hurt
		272821	Parri sh	285821	Braceal
		273821	Tyler	286821	Hiedell
				287821	Stewart

The primary target for this strike had been Tobara #1 and 2, New Britain. However, due to adverse weather conditions in the New Britain Area, the strike was postponed until the afternoon when Panapal AA positions, located along the coast north of the Panapal Airstrip, was the target of a coordinated medium level bombing attack by 3 F4U squadrons.

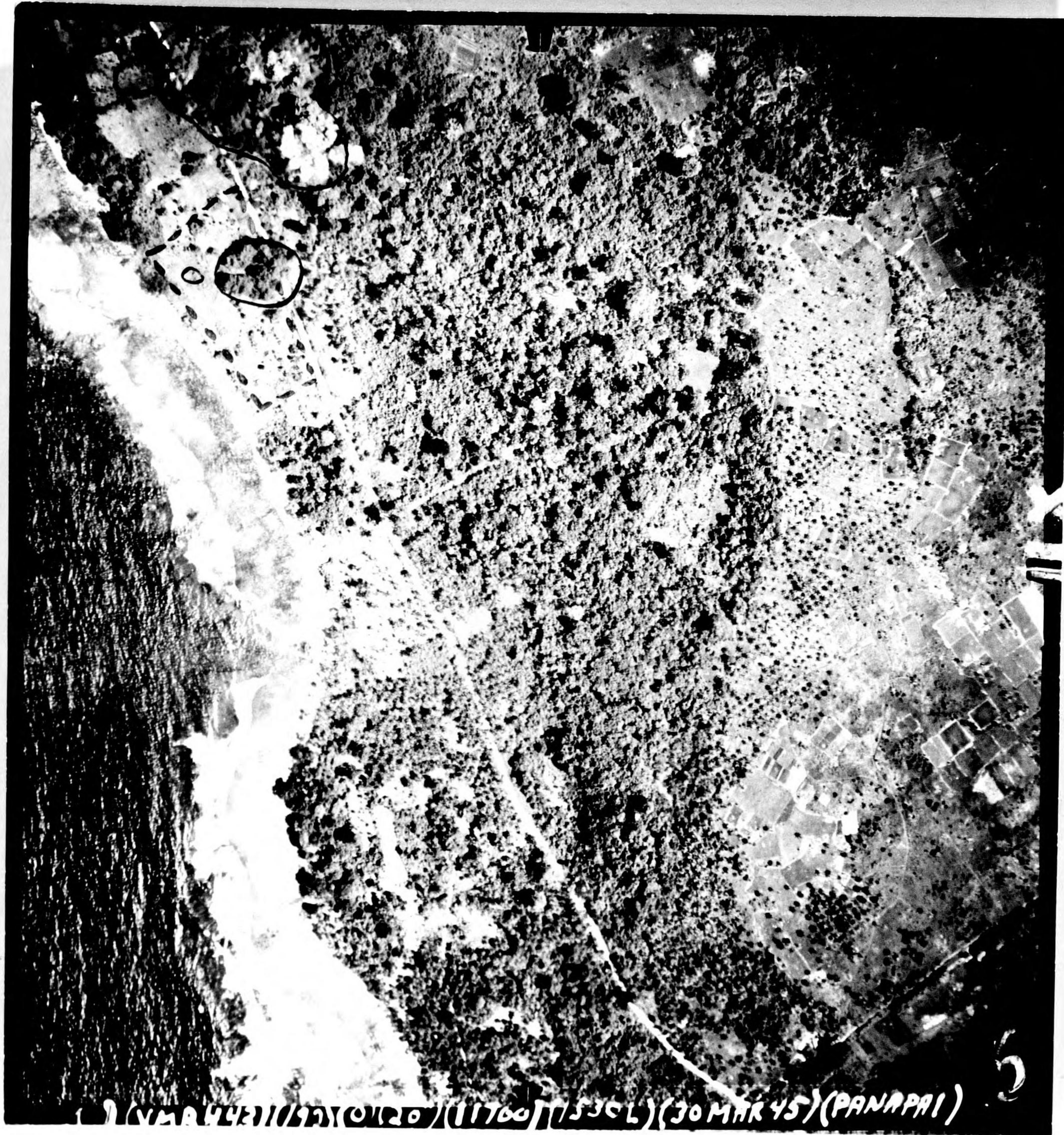
Following the join up over An'ran, the flight in a vee formation with WR-433 as lead squadron and Lt. Col Adams as flight leader, proceeded on course south to the eastern tip of New Hanover, thence east to eastern tip of Bjanl Island. From this point the flight headed inland and changed to a left echelon squadron javelined down, heading towards the target. WR-433 and WR-413 had as their aiming point 2 heavy and 4 medium AA gun positions approximately 800 yards north of the Panapal Airstrip. Their bombing run was on a heading of 350° magnetic, at a speed of 160 kts, with altitudes of 12,800 and 10,800 feet.

WR-443 entered the bomb run on a heading of 330° magnetic, at a speed of 160 kts, with an altitude of 11,000 feet, and had as its target the 3 heavy AA gun positions 2200 yards north of the Panapal Airstrip.

All squadrons broke to the right and rallied five miles off North Cape. After the flight was in formation, it returned to the base.

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

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



(PANAPAI) (MAR 45) (11700) (120) (1945) (11700) (120) (1945)

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(VMB413-670)(0)(20°)(10,900')(15384)(3-30-45)(200000 / 600000)

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