

MG-61

144
④

Report # 87

IIc(4)

10

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

VNO-413 295
433 149
443 122

Form ACA-1
Sheet 1 of 5

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VNO-62 (b) Based on or at Midway Island (c) Report No. 57
 (d) Take off: Date 15 April 1945 Time 0911 Lat 01° 36' N Long 159° E
 (e) Mission Coordinated medium altitude bombing at Sebasa Pt., New Britain. (f) Time of Return 1215

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT

| TYPE | SQD | NUMBER | TAKING OFF | ENGAGING ENEMY A/C | ATTACKING TARGET | BOOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (per plane) | FUSE SETTINGS |
|-------|---------|--------|------------|--------------------|------------------|--|---------------|
| (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (e) | (f) | (g) | (h) |
| PBI-1 | VNO-413 | 5 | None | 5 | 5 | 6 x 250 GP AL-N-57 | None |
| PBI-1 | VNO-413 | 8 | None | 8 | 8 | 6 x 250 GP AL-N-57 | None |
| PBI-1 | VNO-413 | 9 | None | 9 | 9 | 6 x 250 GP AL-N-57 | None |

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

| TYPE | SQD | NO. | BASE | TYPE | SQD | NO. | BASE |
|--------|---------|-----|---------------|------|-----|-----|------|
| PBI-54 | VNO-413 | 1 | Midway Island | | | | |
| PBI | VNO-413 | 2 | None | | | | |
| PBI-1 | VNO-413 | 7 | None | | | | |

IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only)

| (a) TYPE | (b) NO. | (c) No. Engaged | (d) Time Encountered | (e) LOCATION OF ENCOUNTER | (f) BOOMBS CARRIED | (g) CAMOUFLAGE MARKINGS |
|----------|---------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 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 cov)
 (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)

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

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

Form ACA-1
Sheet 3 of 5

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Tobara #1, New Britain (b) Time over Target 1123L
 (c) Clouds Over Target scattered cumulus at 2000', tops to 6000'
 (d) Visibility of Target clear (e) Visibility 10
 (f) Bombing Tactics: Type level Bomb Sight Used Mk. 15 mod. 7
 Bombs Dropped per Run 411 Spacing 50' Altitude 10,500-11,600'
 (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground None Destroyed None Damaged None

| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7) |
|-----|---------------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|-----|--------|
| 1 | Tobara #1, New Britain | 900' x 600' | 5 WAB-413 | 40 x 250 GP | | |
| 2 | Tobara #1, New Britain | same | 8 WAB-433 | 60 x 250 GP | | See #2 |
| 3 | Tobara #1, New Britain | same | 7 WAB-443 | 70 x 250 GP | | |
| 4 | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | | |

(c) RESULTS: 1.-40 x 250 GPs fell approximately 500 yards south and southwest of the target along the edge of a wooded area doing no apparent damage other than clearing out the trees and cratering the runway to a reported supply area.
 2.-64 x 250 GPs fell in a string from the western edge of target #2, missed the southern edge of target #1 by 100 yards and across the middle of the dirt runway leaving the latter well cratered.
 3.-48 x 250 GPs fell from the northeastern edge of target #2 through the middle of target #1 to a point approximately 400 yards north. The target had a swath cut through it 50 - 100 yards wide.
 24 x 250 GPs completely undermined a slit trench system located 100 yards north of the target.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should be attached by staple.

Photographs attached:
 (4) (WAB-413 - 676) (0) (20°) (11,200') (1123L) (15 April 45) (Tobara #1)
 (4) (WAB-433) (111) (0) (20°) (11,600') (1123L) (15 April 45) (Tobara)
 (3) (WAB-443) (202) (0) (20°) (10,800') (1124L) (15 April 45) (Tobara)

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
Replaces NAWP
Form 1001

REPORT # 57

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

| 413 | | 433 | | 443 | |
|--------|-------------|--------|----------|--------|----------|
| CALL | PILOT | CALL | PILOT | CALL | PILOT |
| 254B21 | Mendenhall | 266B21 | Miller | 279B21 | Whitney |
| 255B21 | Machleissen | 267B21 | Carr | 280B21 | Anderson |
| 256B21 | Oslund | 268B21 | Parrish | 281B21 | Bark |
| 257B21 | Mac Lean | 269B21 | Woten | 282B21 | Kroessin |
| 258B21 | Holake | 270B21 | Benjamin | 283B21 | Wilson |
| | | 271B21 | Percy | 284B21 | Tafel |
| | | 272B21 | Johnston | 285B21 | Jeffries |
| | | 273B21 | Fischer | 286B21 | Booth |
| | | | | 287B21 | Greene |

With Lt. Col. W. E. Miller leading, 22 PB's and 7 PV's left Emirau at 0941 on a coordinated medium altitude bombing attack at a plane hide and personnel and storage area located about 1000 yards south of Tebera Air-strip and designated as Tebera Target No. 1. Target dimensions are 900 x 600 feet.

Four squadrons participated in three attacking sections: First section VMB-433 and VMB-413; second section VMB-443; and third section N.Z. No. 9 (Bomber-recco-squadron using Venturas). Take-off, position in flight enroute, and run over target were in order given.

In accordance with pre-flight plans, the first sections proceeded to the target, in a Vee of squadrons, javelin down within the squadrons, together, while the third section went independently. This arrangement developed from trouble experienced by the PV's on previous coordinated strikes. The PV's rate of climb and airspeed is not as good as the PB at medium altitude and they had had difficulty keeping up with the formation.

The group started out on the familiar route through the slot to Salspiu Island but instead of going as usual to the west coast of Gazelle Peninsula, N.B., a course of 120° magnetic was followed for 140 miles to the Duke of York Island Group. This group of islands is east of Rabaul, N.B. Here, as per plan, the second section left the formation to make its run separately. With the PV's coming along separately on still another heading, the attack on the target was accomplished from three directions and altitudes. This afforded maximum protection against A/A while not interfering with the bombing runs.

VMB-433 and VMB-413, in right echelon of squadron, went over the target on a heading of 290° magnetic, at an altitude of 11,600 feet and 160 kts., I.A.S. Bombs were away at 1123 with the following results: 40 x 250# GPs fell approximately 500 yards south and southwest of the target along the edge of a wooded area doing no apparent damage other than clearing out the trees and cratering the road which leads from the runway to a reported supply area. 64 x 250# GPs fell in a string from the western edge of target #2, missed the southern edge of target #1 by 100 yards and across the middle of the dirt runway leaving the latter well cratered.

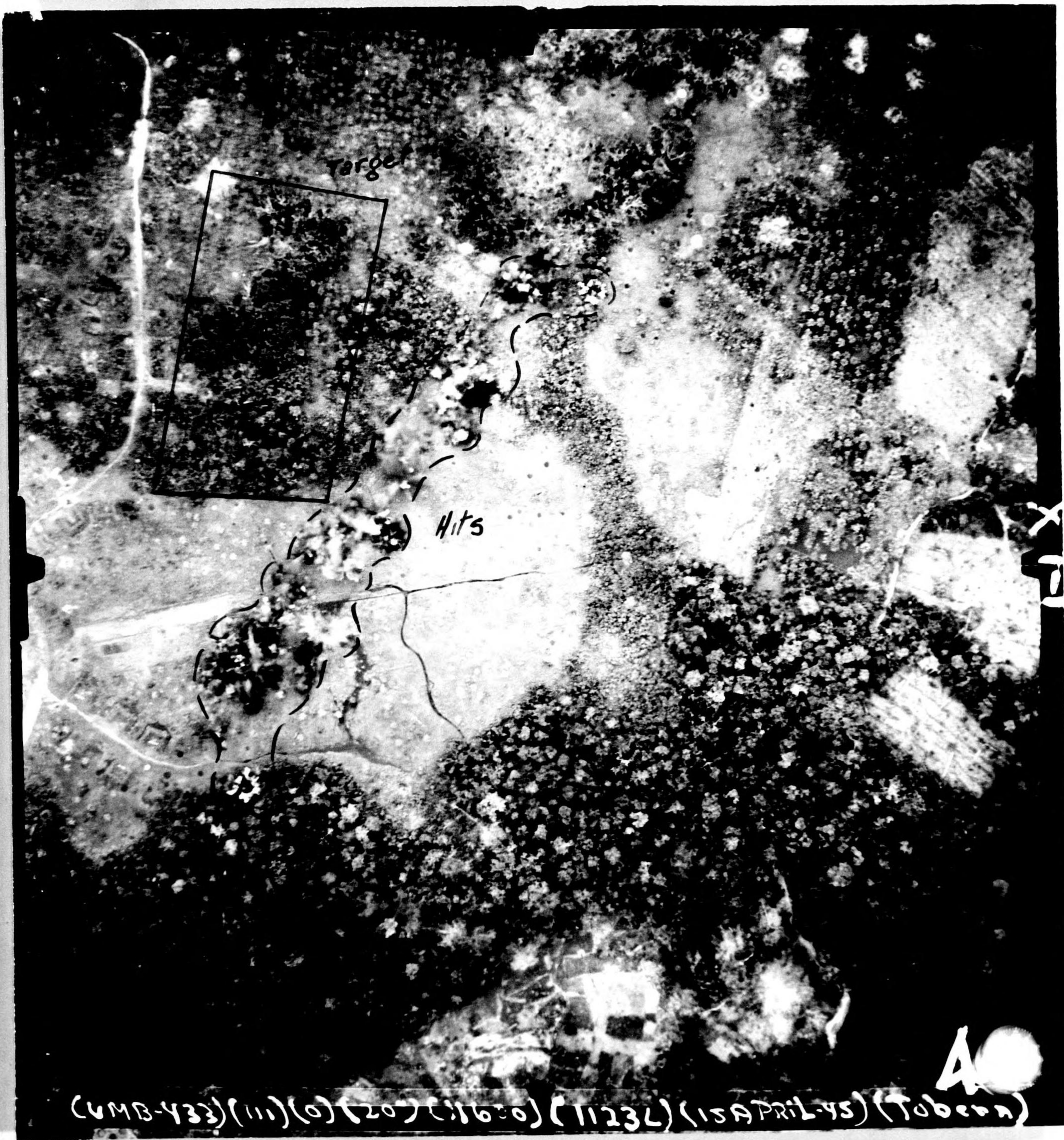
APPROVED BY

REPORT PREPARED BY:

SIGNATURE _____ RANK AND DUTY _____ SIGNATURE _____ RANK AND DUTY _____ DATE _____



() (VMB 443 (202) (0) (20") (10800') (1124) (15 APRIL 45) (TOSERA)



Target

Hits

(UMB-433)(111)(0)(20)(11600)(11234)(15 APRIL 45)(Tobacco)

A



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(20173) 5/3 500000 (X) 121 (10 532) 1924 10/10/24