

MG-61

145  
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Report # 66

IC (4)

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**AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Form ACA-1  
Sheet 1 of 5

**I. GENERAL**

(a) Unit Reporting MAC-63 (b) Based on or at \_\_\_\_\_ (c) Report No. 66  
 (d) Take off: Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ : Lat \_\_\_\_\_ Long \_\_\_\_\_  
 (e) Mission \_\_\_\_\_ (f) Time of Return \_\_\_\_\_

**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)	FUSE, SETTING
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)
P-51	MAC-63	9	Base	8		1 x 2000 GP Mk. 66	Inst. No. 103 TAIL: ALM-103-A2
P-51	MAC-63	9	Base	9		3 x 1000 GP	Mk 103 Inst. Base

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

TYPE	SQD	No.	BASE	TYPE	SQD	No.	BASE

**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 CARRIED, GUNS	(g) CAMOUFLAGE: MARKINGS
				(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)**

(a) TYPE A/C	(b) Destroyed or Damaged By: Type A/C: SQD	(c) Pilot or gunner	(d) Guns used: Where hit angle: Claimed

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## VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those listed in II only).

REPORT No. \_\_\_\_\_

(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)
PBJ-1D	VMB413	Mid-air collision		crashed at sea #35151
PBJ-1D	VMB433	Same		crashed at sea #35105
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
1	VMB413	Maj. James W. Cunningham USMCR (NAVC), (011053)	Mid-air collision	Dead
1	VMB413	George P. Boyes, 2ndLt USMC (NA), (036347)	same	Dead
1	VMB413	/Sgt Irl E. Joyce, USMCR-SS, (839429)	same	Dead
1	VMB413	Corp Peter R. Scorsen USMCR, (500106)	same	Dead
1	VMB413	Corp August L. Stark USMC (SS), (809920)	same	Dead
1	VMB413	/Sgt Raymond H. Mambourg USMCR, (501233)	same	Dead

## 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	244	212	3hrs21'	973	567	N	0	N	F	30

## 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

URNS  
DIVES  
CEILINGS  
RANGE  
PROTECTION  
ARMAMENT

No enemy aircraft encountered

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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				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
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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
1	BM433	S/Sgt Roy B. Hanson, USMC, (144339)	Mid-air collision	dead
2	BM433	1st Lt. Donald B. Harpole USMC (NAVY) (022564)	same	dead
2	BM433	MT/Sgt Edward Trudnowski USMC, (318990)	same	dead
2	BM433	Sgt Andrew M. Pastorniak USMC, (478816)	same	dead
2	BM433	Corp Wallace W. Grevel USMC (SS), (832850)	same	dead
2	BM433	Corp Frank F. Lacy, Jr. USMC(SS), (819099)	same	dead

## 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	

## IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over				
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm				
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm				

## X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (use check list at left).

- SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes

TURNS

DIVES

CEILINGS

RANGE

PROTECTION

ARMAMENT

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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				
2				
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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
2	VB-133	1st Lt. Archibald R. McAllister, USICR (NAVY) (025789)	air-air collision	Multiple laceration of face and body
2	VB-133	Ronald V. Holtz, USIC (NA) (036970)	same	dead

## 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	

## IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over				
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm				
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm				

## X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (use check list at left).

SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes

- URNS
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

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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 #24, Rebel, N. B. (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) 1012-1020L (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 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
- Bombs Dropped per Run all (NUMBER) Spacing varied (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 11,500-12,700' (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>Tobera #24</u>		<u>2</u> <u>VMB-413</u>	<u>2 x 2000 GP</u>		
2 <u>sane</u>		<u>7</u> <u>VMB-433</u>	<u>7 x 2000 GP</u>		
3 <u>sane</u>		<u>8</u> <u>VMB-443</u>	<u>8 x 2000 GP</u>		
4 <u>sane</u>		<u>9</u> <u>VMB-611</u>	<u>24 x 1000 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.)

Tobera #24's 3300 foot length and 1200 foot width was divided three ways for five squadrons (including the PV's). Excluding the PV's load, 17 x 2000 GP's and 24 x 1000 GP's were aimed at these three places with the following results: 3 x 2000 GP's dropped short by 100-200 feet, 2 x 2000 GP's dropped wide or west by 1800 feet, 1 x 2000 GP dropped just south of the runway and southeastern revetments, while 12 x 2000 GP's cleared out the woods in the target area, approximately in the middle and along the western edge near the cleared and cultivated area. After strike photographs, however, fail to show any apparent damage although the bombs fell near a group of buildings previously unnoticed due to natural cover. The fact that the target is honeycombed with ridges and gorges possibly helped to protect any installations from the blasts. In addition, 3 x 1000 GP's failed to release over target and were later salvaged at sea.

(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 Cox  
255B21 Roome  
256B21 Cunningham  
257B21 Ellis  
258B21 Gearhart  
259B21 Cochrane

**443**  
CALL PILOT  
279B21 Gould  
280B21 McConnell  
281B21 Hilbert  
282B21 McGuire  
283B21 Burt  
284B21 Wilson  
285B21 Hammond  
286B21 Booth  
287B21 Christmas

**433**  
CALL PILOT  
266B21 Miller  
267B21 Benjamin  
268B21 Carr  
269B21 Woten  
270B21 Harpley  
271B21 Fischer  
273B21 Smith  
274B21 Percy

**611**  
CALL PILOT  
242B21 Naulsby  
243B21 Lauer  
244B21 Good  
245B21 Roadley  
246B21 Chelgren  
247B21 McNamara  
248B21 Padgett  
249B21 LeMasters  
250B21 Woods

Tobera, Target #24, a wooded area south of the western end of the airfield was the objective of a co-ordinated strike by four PBJ squadrons and the N.Z. Ventures from Emirau. The strike was planned for the squadrons to divide into two groups enroute as well as in the approach to the target.

The order of take off was VMB-413, 433, 611 comprising the first group followed by VMB-443 and N748 as the second group. During the join up plane #35105 of VMB-433 and #35151 of VMB-413 collided in mid-air. #35105 crashed about 3 miles east of the east tip of Emirau. A plane of VMB-413 followed the plane down, dropped a 7 man life raft and returned to base after the crashboat arrived at the spot. The crashboat picked up the co-pilot, 1stLt A. R. McAllister after he had been in the water only a few minutes. He was the only survivor. #35151 was not seen to crash but the promptly organized search located debris about 15 miles northwest of Emirau, approximately 3 miles east of Cape Thilenus, Mussau. An unsuccessful search for survivors was maintained for 2 days.

As the flight, on course, approached Djaul Island, an oil leak developed in one engine of LtCol Cox's plane. So he turned leadership of the flight over to LtCol Miller, VMB-433, and returned to base with an escort. This left only two planes of VMB-413 so they joined on VMB-433, to complete the 3rd section. So the flight continued as two groups of two squadrons each.



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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:

APPROVED BY

**D. F. HATCH,**  
Capt., USMCR,  
Group Intelligence Officer.

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

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

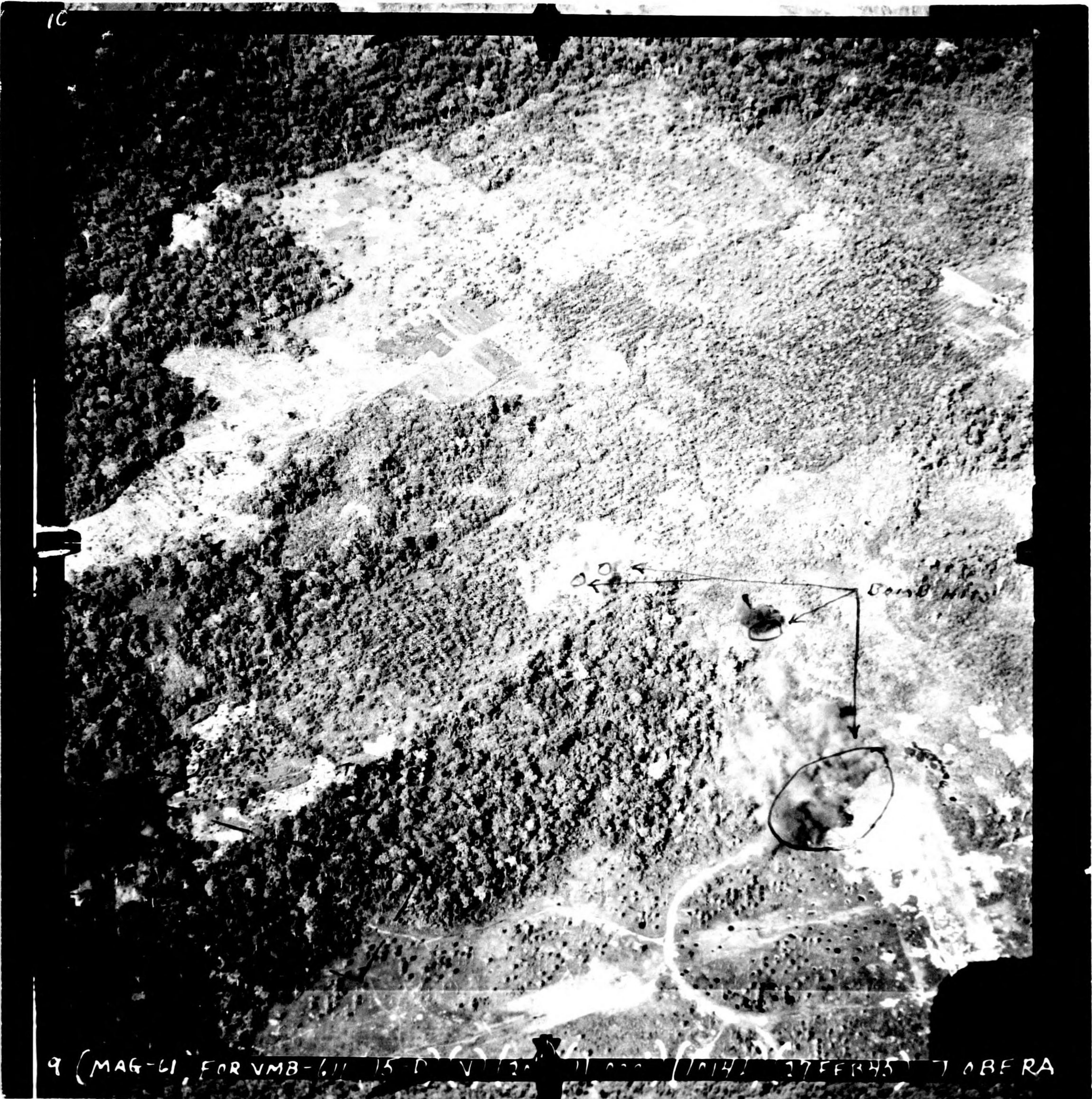
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MAY 51



VMB443-161 27 FEB 45 TOBERA NB 10,400' 8 1/4" 5

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9 (MAG-61) FOR VMB-6115 D.V. 12-11-66 (1014) 27 FEB 65 T O B F R A