

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when  
filled out)

# CONFIDENTIAL

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-83 (b) Based on or at USS SARGENT BAY (UVE-83) (c) Report No. 68  
 (d) Take off: Date 1 April 1945 Time (LZT) 1519 (I) (Zone); Lat. 25°-59' N. Long. 129°-05' E.  
 (e) Mission Direct aircraft support of invasion of Okinawa. (f) Time of Return 1855 (I) (Zone)

## II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

(a) TYPE	(b) SQUADRON	NUMBER			(f) BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE)	(g) FUZE, SETTING
		(c) TAKING OFF	(d) ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	(e) ATTACKING TARGET		
FM-2	VC-83	10	0	10	6 - 5"(HE) AR	Nose plug - .02 base
FM-2	VC-83	2	0	2	Full ammo only	

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
		NONE					

## 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		NONE		
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	
<b>F4U-7</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>150</b>			<b>12,700</b>		<b>12</b>

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

## 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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(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) **From target area 8893 north to coast line on Okinawa.** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1640 (1)** (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target **4000 ft. - cumulus - 8/10ths**  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target **Hazy** (e) Visibility **10**  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type \_\_\_\_\_ Bomb Sight Used **Mk. 8 gunsight**  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)  
**Slant range 500-1000 yds.**

Bombs Dropped per Run \_\_\_\_\_ Spacing \_\_\_\_\_ Altitude of Bomb Release \_\_\_\_\_  
(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	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO. HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
		(k) SQUADRON			
1 <b>caves and small buildings</b>		<b>12 FM-2 VC-83</b>	<b>56 - 5" (HE) AR Strafe - 12,700 rds.</b>	<b>Many</b>	<b>See below</b>
2					
3					
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. **Three buildings about 50 X 75 ft., and a number of small huts with grass roofs were destroyed. Many caves were strafed and some were hit by rockets with unobserved results.**

(p) Were Photographs Taken? **No** Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.



**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

12 VF launched with 9 VT from VC-88 as direct support group in III Phib. Corps zone of action on Okinawa. VF and VT separated by CASCU and VF directed to attack targets of opportunity from target area 8693 north to coastline.

This same area had been thoroughly covered and attacked many times before during the preceding five days and there was a great dearth of targets. The planes flew low over the ground, just above tree top level, and made an almost minute inspection of the area but still were unable to locate any real targets except the usual caves, some small huts with grass roofs, and a few small buildings. The whole area was thoroughly covered with rocket hits and strafing. Many caves were destroyed and the buildings were burned.

Lieut. ZABEL and his division flew low over the roads to the north and east looking for targets. Lt. ZABEL saw a tank or truck moving along the road on the west side of the Ishikawa Isthmus but before they could strafe it the tank or truck disappeared into a large cave just off the road. The planes strafed into the cave opening but no results were observed.

**Pilots:** Lieuts. L. F. ZABEL, R. S. BOOZER; Lieuts.(jg) W. E. FLANKBY, W. H. BURNETT, R. J. BURNS, K. S. OLESON, F. M. KREBS, P. C. HOTEZ, R. T. REPINE; Ensigns P. A. McLENNON, J. J. MEAGHER, JR., L. A. KAHN.



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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:

**H. VERNON BNEY, Lt., USNR, ACI Officer.**

**B. V. GATES, Lt. Comdr., USN.**

**4/13/45**

SIGNATURE

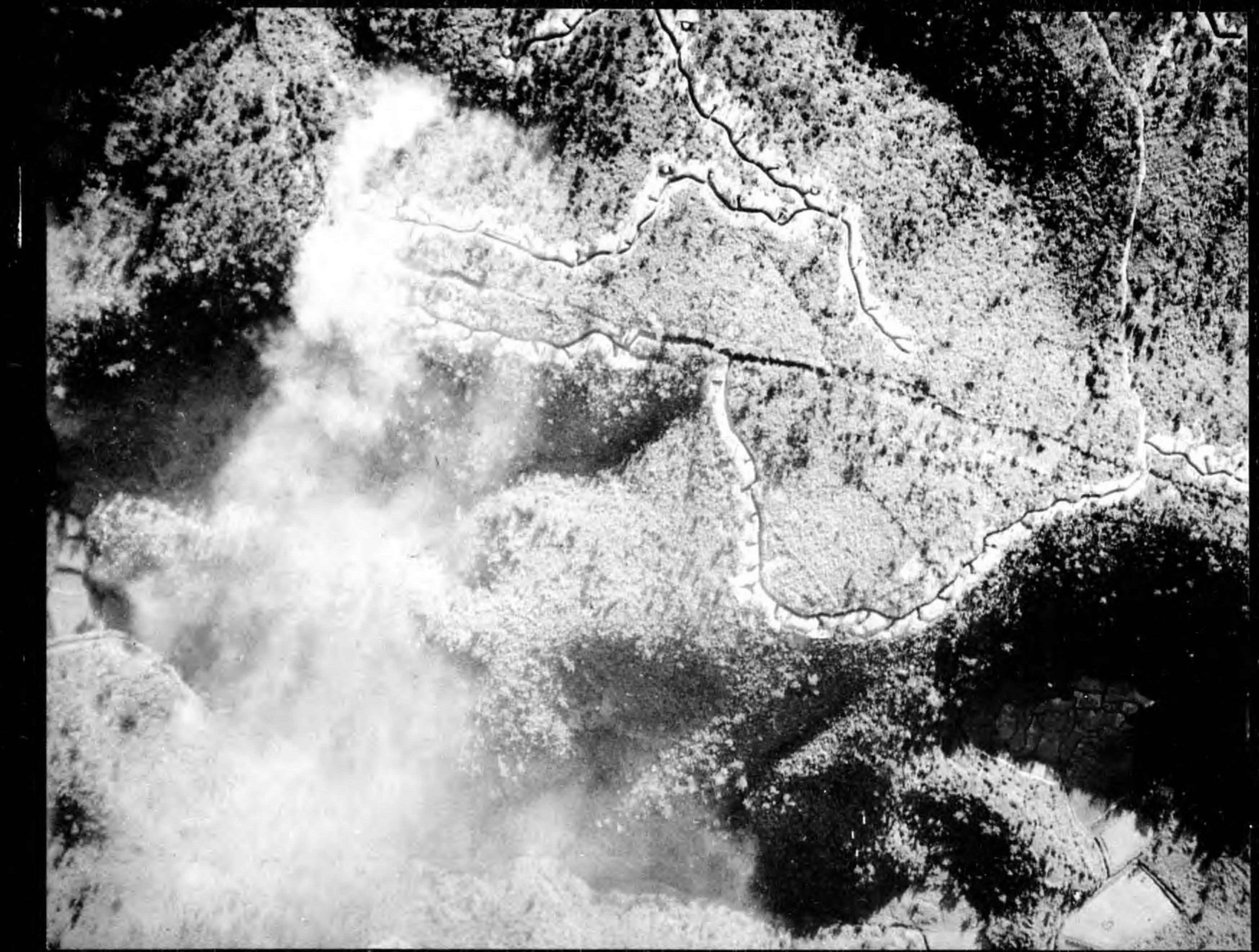
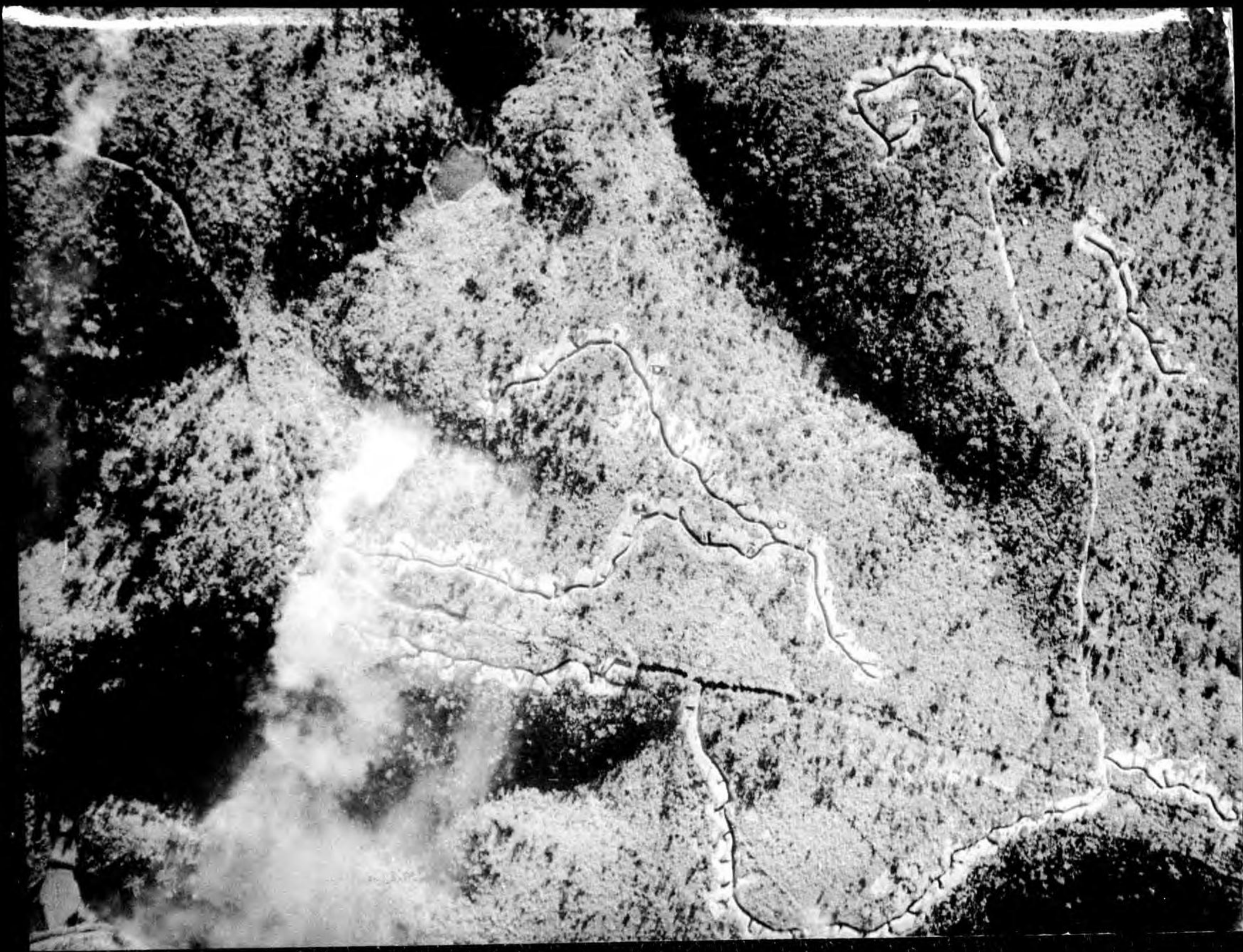
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RANK AND DUTY

DATE



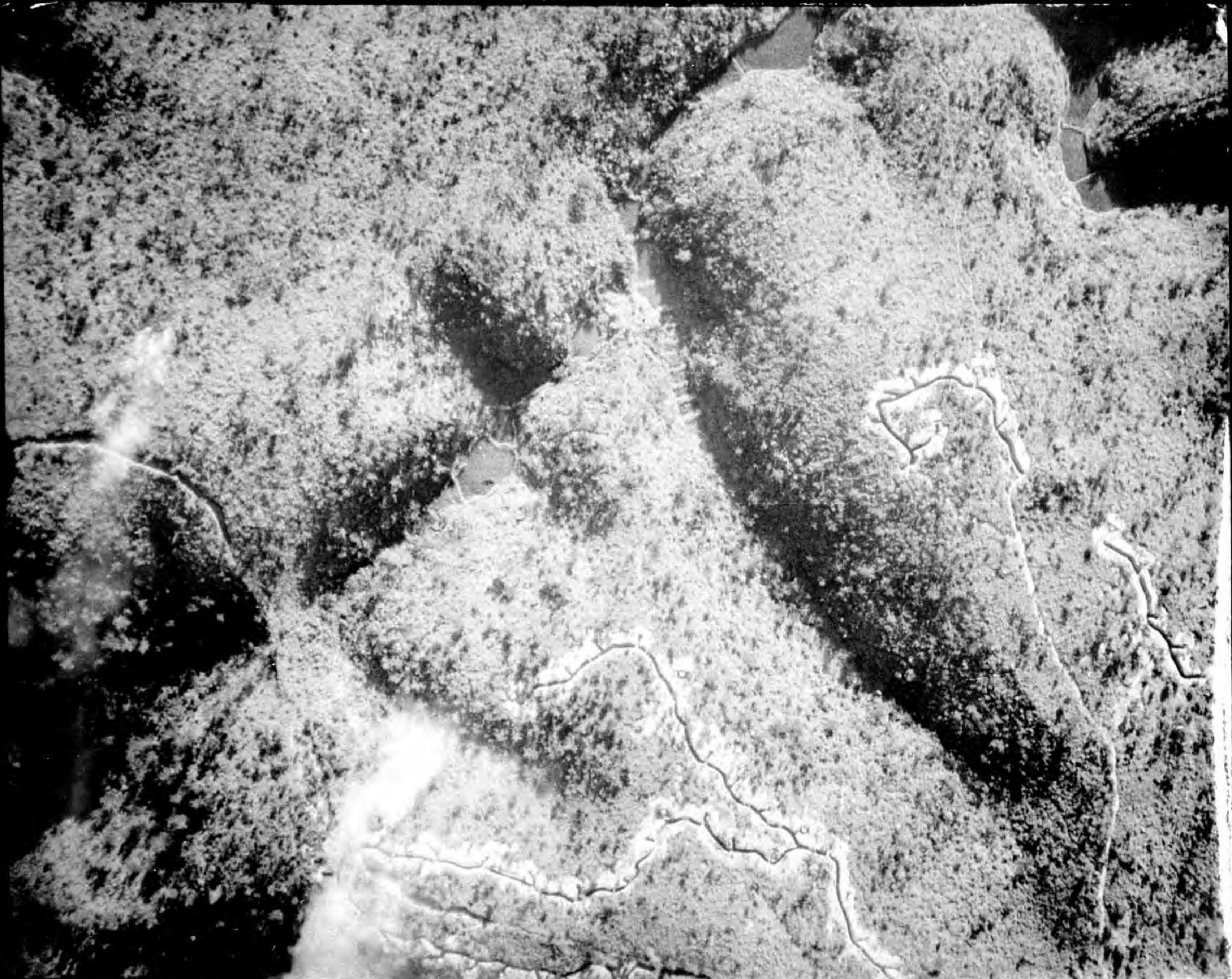




NO. R2N2 DATE 2 April 1945  
UNIT VC-83 U.S.S. SARGENT BAY  
MADE FOR VC-83 ACA-1 Report #69  
SUBJECT: Photo taken during  
bombing run by Lt.(jg) BOWEN.

NO. R2N2 DATE 2 April 1945  
UNIT VC-83 U.S.S. SARGENT BAY  
MADE FOR VC-83 ACA-1 Report #69  
SUBJECT: Photo taken during  
bombing run by Lt.(jg) BOWEN.







NO. R2N/3 DATE 2 April 1945  
UNIT VC-83 U.S.S. SARGENT BAY  
MADE FOR VC-83 ACA-1 Report #69  
SUBJECT: Photo taken during  
bombing run by Lt.(jg) BOWEN.

NO. R2N/4 DATE 2 April 1945  
UNIT VC-83 U.S.S. SARGENT BAY  
MADE FOR VC-83 ACA-1 Report #69  
SUBJECT: Photo taken during  
bombing run by Lt.(jg) BOWEN.



**No.**\_\_\_\_\_

**Name**\_\_\_\_\_

**Order**\_\_\_\_\_

**Remarks**\_\_\_\_\_

**Retouched**\_\_\_\_\_

**Order Finished**\_\_\_\_\_

**Reorder**\_\_\_\_\_

**Reorder**\_\_\_\_\_

*Photographs enclosed with  
VC-83 ACH-1 Report No. 69*