

VMB 423

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Report # 328

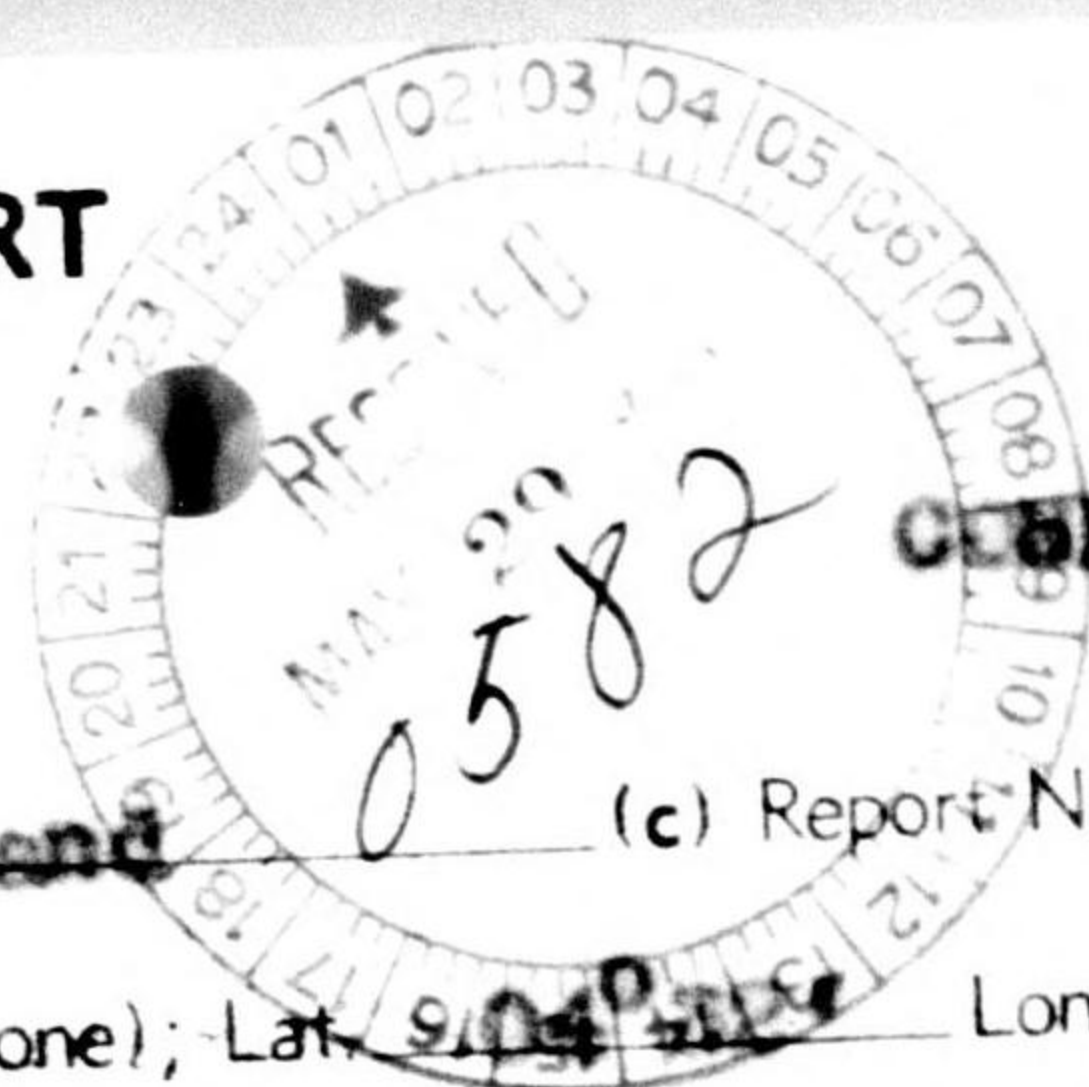
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CONFIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

053883



I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMB-423 (b) Based on or at Green Island (c) Report No. 328
 (d) Take off: Date 18 May, 1945 Time (LZT) 0815-0817 (Zone); Lat. 9°04'N Long 154°14'
 (e) Mission Medium altitude day raid on Gun Positions near Kahili, Bougainville (f) Time of Return 1035-1037 (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-1J	VMB423	6	None	6	6 X 500# CP	Nose: AN-M-103 .1 Sec Delay Tail: AN-M-101A2 .025 Sec Delay

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
PBY5A	VPB-63	1	Green Island				

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) _____
 (i) Did Any Part of Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? _____ If so, Describe Clouds _____ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 (j) Time of Day and Brilliance _____ (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:			GUNS USED	(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	
PBJ-1J	202	184	2hrs 20'	974	409	None	None	None	None	6

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

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

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) Kahili AA Guns, Bougainville. (b) Time Over Target(s) 0830 (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target CAVU (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility 30 miles (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Level (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used Mark 15 (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 6 (NUMBER) Spacing 75 feet (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 12,800 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 <u>Kahili AA, Bougainville.</u>		<u>6</u> <u>VMB-423</u>	<u>30 X 500# GP</u>	<u>See (c)</u>	
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.)

Good coverage was obtained as all but one bomb hit the target. The location of bomb hits with relation to the target is shown on the attached photograph. 306B21 returned to base with its bombs.

PHOTOGRAPH REFERENCE:

VMB-423 (206) (2-1) 5-18-45 (8 1/2" - 12,800') KAHILI AA POSITIONS, BOUG., CONF.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple

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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

CALL	PILOT	T/O GREEN	T/O/T	P/C GREEN
301B21	LtCol ANDERSON	0815	0930	1035
302B21	HICKS	0815	0930	1035
303B21	BARRETT	0816	0930	1036
304B21	BEAIRD	0816	0930	1036
305B21	LINEN	0817	0930	1037
*306B21	TOGERSON	0817	0930	1000

* Returned without reaching target due to operational trouble.

Lieutenant Colonel ANDERSON, Commanding Officer, led six PWs of VMB-423 in a medium altitude daylight attack on the anti-aircraft guns at Kahili, Bougainville. The strike was airborne by 0818 and joined up in two, three plane sections javalin down.

Finding the east coast closed in, the formation proceeded down the west coast of Bougainville to Empress Augusta Bay where it turned southwesterly. In the vicinity of Ovau Island the formation turned westerly crossing Tonolei Harbor and over Moisuru Bay turned into the bomb run.

Bombs were dropped at 0930 from an altitude of 12,800 feet at an indicated air speed of 155 knots.

Four bursts of inaccurate heavy anti-aircraft fire were encountered from known positions on Kangu Hill.

Good coverage was obtained as all but one bomb hit the target. The location of bomb hits with relation to the target is shown on the attached photograph. 306B21 returned to base with its bombs.

(All times in this narrative are local).

REPORT PREPARED BY:

WARD D. MARTIN
Capt., USMCR
Intelligence Officer

APPROVED BY:

NORMAN J. ANDERSON
LtCol., USMC
Commanding

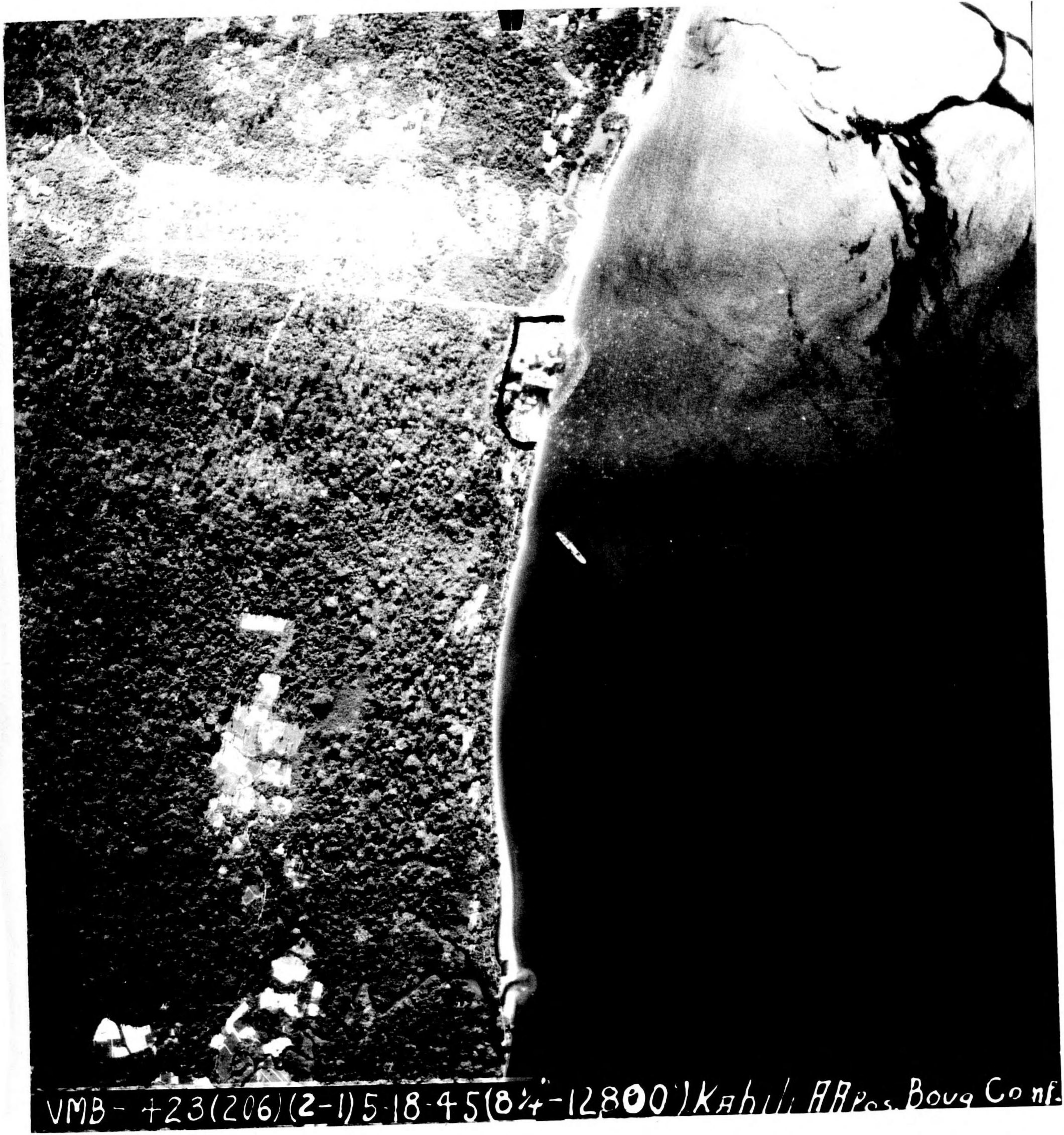
SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE



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