

MG-61

10

145
④

Report 78

IC(4)

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

I. GENERAL

Ref: WB-413; 423; 433; 443
240 243 137 111

(a) Unit Reporting MAO-61 (b) Based on or at Eniran Island (c) Report No. 78
 (d) Take off: Date 29 March, 1945 Time (LZT) 0:0917-0923L (Zone); Lat. 01° 36' S. Long 150° E.
Coordinated medium level bombing
 (e) Mission of Funakanan #12, New Britain. (f) Time of Return 0:1155-1159L (Zone)
E: Eniran Mitchells, G: Green Mitchells.

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)		
<u>PBY-1</u>	<u>WB-413</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3 x 1000 GP inst.</u>	<u>AN-M-103 nose.</u> <u>AN-M-102A2 tail.</u>
<u>PBY-1J</u>	<u>WB-423</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>3 x 1000 GP inst.</u>	<u>Nose: AN-M-103</u> <u>Tail: AN-M-102A2</u>
<u>PBY-1J</u>	<u>WB-423</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>6 x 500 GP inst.</u>	<u>Nose: AN-M-221</u> <u>Tail: Mk. 23</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>PBY-5A</u>	<u>VPB 44</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Eniran Island</u>	<u>PBY-5A</u>	<u>VPB 44</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Green Island</u>
<u>F4U</u>	<u>N2#23</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>same</u>	<u>PV-1</u>	<u>N2#3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>same</u>
				<u>F4U</u>	<u>N2#15</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>same</u>

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
<u>None</u>			(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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			
<u>None</u>						

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

Form ACA-1
Sheet 1 of 5

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting NAG 63 (b) Based on or at _____ (c) Report No. 76
 (d) Take off: Date _____ Time _____; Lat _____ Long _____
 (e) Mission _____ (f) Time of Return _____

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT

TYPE	SQD	NUMBER			BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (per plane)	FUZE, SETTING
		TAKING OFF	ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	ATTACKING TARGET		
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
REL-1	WIR-133	9	None	9	3 x 1000 GP ALM-114	ALM-103 Inst.
REL-1	WIR-133	9	None	9	3 x 1000 GP ALM-114	ALM-103 Inst.

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)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
TYPE	No. OBSERVED	No Engaging Own A/C	Time Encountered	LOCATION OF ENCOUNTER	BOMBS CARRIED	CAMOUFLAGE: GUNS 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:	(c)	(d) Damage Claimed
Type A/C: SQD	Pilot or gunner	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)
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	
*P4N-1	244	217	3hr 13'	974	149	N	0	N	R	9
**P4N-1	187	163	2hr 25'	974	115	N	0	N	R	

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

- TURN
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

No enemy aircraft encountered.

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 111105

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Funakasa #12, New Britain (b) Time Over Target(s) 0:11:11-11:12 (Zone) Green Mitchell's
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) Green Mitchell's
- (c) Clouds Over Target 4/10 - 6/10 cu. bases 2000' tops 6000'
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target partly obscured (e) Visibility 15-20
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type level Bomb Sight Used Mk 15 mod 7
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run all Spacing minimum Altitude of Bomb Release 10,400-12,800'
(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 (k) SQUADRON	(l) BOMB AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO. HIT ON A/C	(n) DAMAGE TO A/C
1 <u>Funakasa #12</u>		<u>6</u> <u>WR-413</u>	<u>18 x 1000 GP</u>		
2 <u>Funakasa #12</u>		<u>9</u> <u>WR-423</u>	<u>24 x 1000 GP</u> <u>6 x 500 GP</u>		
3 <u>Funakasa #12</u>		<u>9</u> <u>WR-433</u>	<u>27 x 1000 GP</u>		<u>See "c"</u>
4 <u>Funakasa #12</u>		<u>9</u> <u>WR-443</u>	<u>27 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 position and effect of hits. For all targets give location and effect of hits, and identify by numbers above. Use additional sheets if necessary.)

- 1.-6 x 1000 GPs fell in the revetment area west of the target demolishing a reported plane hide and plane.
- 12 x 1000 GPs fell in the western section of the target helping to demolish the camouflage netting over the taxiway and to clear out the wooded area.
- 2.-2 x 1000 GPs fell north of the target with unobserved results.
- 6 x 500 GPs fell north of the target with unobserved results.
- 22 x 1000 GPs fell in the south western section of the target helping to clear out the wooded area, rendering such area unserviceable as a plane hide.
- 3.-18 x 1000 GPs fell in the revetment area west of the target destroying many gardens, demolishing a plane hide, and cratering the taxiway in several places.
- 9 x 1000 GPs fell in the western section of the target helping to demolish the camouflage netting over the taxiway and to clear out the wooded area.
- 4.-18 x 1000 GPs fell just north west of the target cratering a former plane hide.
- 9 x 1000 GPs fell in the western section of the target helping to demolish the camouflage netting over the taxiway and to clear out the wooded area.

A.C.I.O. Cement.

The total target area cleared out by the above bombing was a section approximately 1000' x 500'. The fact that the target consists of a series of deep gorges probably prevented more widespread damage within the target itself.

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

Funakonan #12, New Britain.

#78

Photographs attached:

- (2) (WB_413 - 668) (0) (20") (12800') (10104) (29 March 1945) (Funakonan #12)
- (2) (WB_433 - 100) (0) (20") (11800') (11104) (29 March 1945) (Funakonan #12)
- (2) (WB_443 - 190) (0) (6 3/8)(11600')(11104) (29 March 1945) (Funakonan #12)
- WB_423 - 136 (1-3) (29 March 1945) 10200' - 20" - Funakonan #12 - Conf.

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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 Treacy
256B21 Henry
257B21 Hines
258B21 Goerhart
259B21 Gilbert

433
CALL PILOT
266B21 Smith
267B21 Kronka
268B21 Watson
269B21 Bable
270B21 Pittner
271B21 Huston
272B21 Bethier
273B21 Wilfong
274B21 Leachman

423
CALL PILOT
301B21 Iverson
302B21 Rogerson
303B21 Van Horn
304B21 Pearce
305B21 Van Allen
306B21 Grue
307B21 Milone
308B21 Workman
*309B21 Beard

443
CALL PILOT
279B21 Whitney
280B21 Ballou
281B21 Greene
282B21 Gorman
283B21 Hudson
284B21 Blaisdell
285B21 Lenario
286B21 Graser
287B21 Lord

Vunakanau #12, New Britain, a wooded area east of the Vunakanau Air-strip was the objective of a coordinated medium altitude bombing attack by three PBJ squadrons from Enirou and one PBJ and one PV squadron from Green. Vunakanau #12 is an area approximately 900 feet in radius and is reported to be a plane hideaway.

The strike was planned as a coordinated effort by two groups of planes approaching on separate courses. From Enirou 24 Mitchells flew to Powell Harbor for a rendezvous with 9 PBJ's and 5 PV's from Green. As the Venturas were not equipped with bomb sights their squadron was led by a PBJ from Green.

Leaving the rendezvous on a course of 068° magnetic the flight divided into two groups. The first group consisting of the 3 PBJ squadrons from Enirou, stayed on this course for 26 miles and then turned north on to a course of 095° magnetic for 9 miles to the initial point. Here they turned into the bombing run on a heading of 350° magnetic at a speed varying from 160 to 165 kts, with altitudes of 12,800 to 11,800 feet. This group was in right echelon, squadrons javelined down for the bombing run and broke to the left to rally 10 miles north of Urara Island.

The PBJ and the PV squadrons from Green formed the second group to head east from the rendezvous with the same heading of 068° magnetic for a distance of 36 miles, and then for a turn north on to a heading of 354° magnetic for 16 miles. At this point they turned into their bombing run on a heading of 293° magnetic at a speed of 160 kts, with an altitude of 10,600 and 10,400 feet.

* Led PVs of H243.

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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

The group was in right echelon, squadrons javelined down for the bombing run and broke to the left for the rally.

After the rally both groups returned to their respective bases.

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

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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

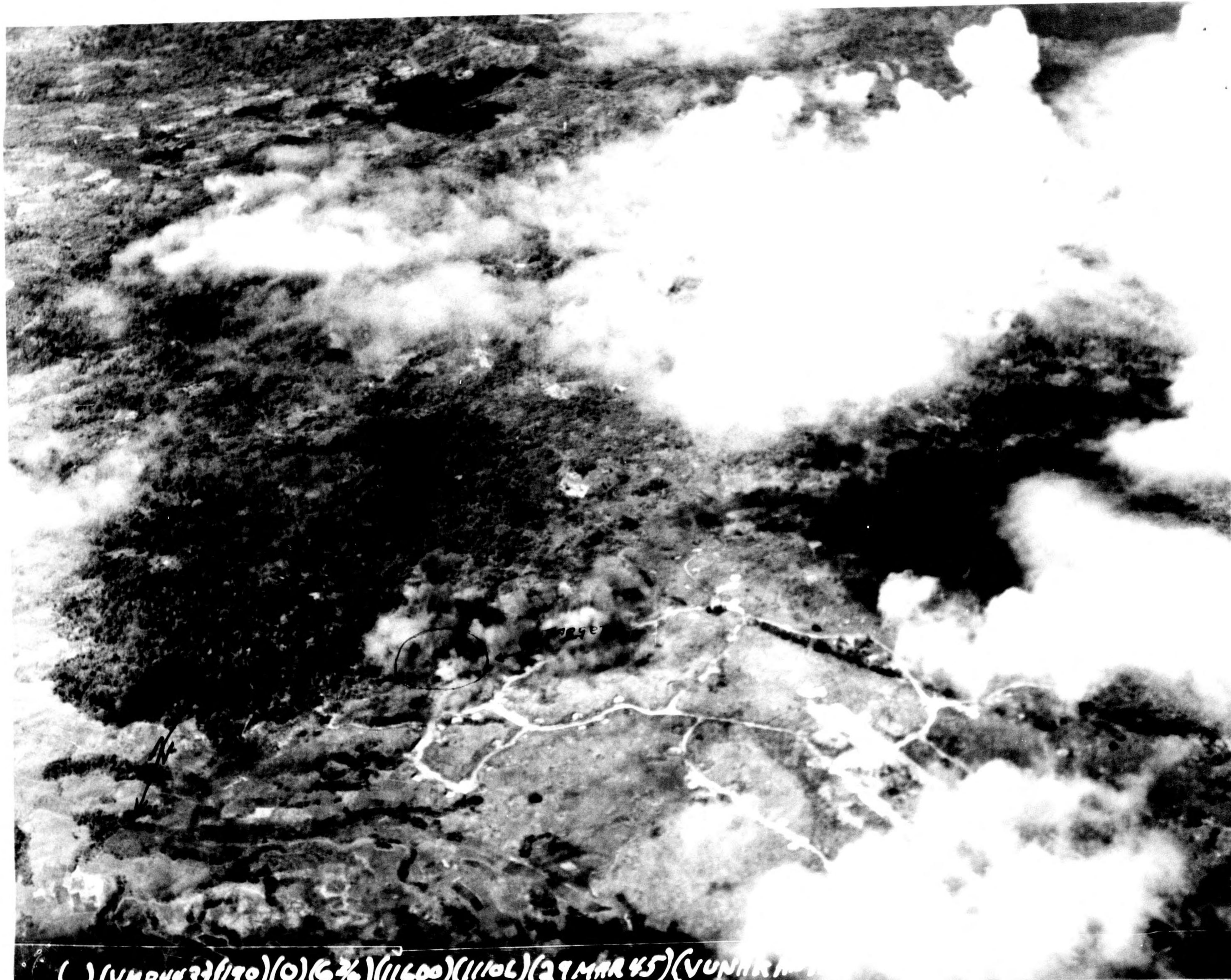
SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE



() (VMB4437) (190) (0) (6 7/8) (11600) (11106) (29 MAR 45) (VUNIKI)





(XVMB433)(100)(0)(20)(11000)(1110L)(29MAR)(VUMMANAV)

2



TARGET

2

(VMB413-668) (20") (12,800') (10106) (3-29-75) (HONOLULU #12)