

MG-61

14/6
④

Report #81

IC(4)

7

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

REPORT No. _____

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	PJ-1	Accidentally set off IFF		Demolished one complete IFF unit (serial #07903)
2	PJ-1	Detonator. Survival		
3	PJ-1	kit on web belt caught		
4	PJ-1	under destructor switch		
5	PJ-1	and caused safety wire		
6	PJ-1	to be broken and switch		
7	PJ-1	thrown to the "on" position.		
8	PJ-1	Explosion occurred		
9	PJ-1	when radioman inserted		
10	PJ-1	detonator plug.		
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	
PJ-1	277	210	3hrs. 02"	974	485	8	0	8	8	21

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

URNS

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) Vanakana #12, New Britain (b) Time Over Target(s) 1057L (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 2 - 3/10 cu at 2000' with A.S. at 11,000'
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

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

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type level Bomb Sight Used Mk. 15 rot. 7
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run All Spacing 50-100' Altitude of Bomb Release 10,950-12,000'
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed None Probably Destroyed None Damaged one

(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 Vanakana #12		6 WR-413	34 x 500 GP		
2 Vanakana #12		6 WR-413	36 x 500 GP		
3 Vanakana #12		6 WR-413	33 x 500 GP		
4 North of Vanakana Strip.		2 WR-413	12 x 500 GP		See "e"
5 Northwest of Vanakana Strip.		1 WR-413	3 x 500 GP		
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.-34 x 500 GPs fell from the center section to the southern section of the target.
- 2.-36 x 500 GPs fell from the center section to the southern section of the target.
- 3.-33 x 500 GPs fell along the southeastern edge of the target.
- 4.-12 x 500 GPs hung over target and later released over land 2 miles north of the Vanakana Strip.
- 5.- 3 x 500 GPs failed to release over target due to equipment trouble, and were later released 5 miles northwest of Vanakana #12.

Due to the dense wooded area no assessment of the damage resulting from the bomb hits can be made. No after-strike photographs were taken. It can be assumed, however, that there was a considerable clearing of the suspected plane hide.

Photographs attached:

- (3) (WR-413 - 671) (0) (20") (12,000') (1057L) (1 April, 1945) (Vanakana #12)
- (5) (WR-413 - 104) (0) (8") (11,000') (1057L) (1 April, 1945) (Vanakana #12)
- (3) (WR-413) (194) (0) (20") (11,000') (1057L) (1 April, 1945) (Vanakana)

(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

413		433		443	
CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT
254821	Cox	266821	Reith	279821	Gould
257821	Boone	267821	Huston	280821	Graser
258821	Henry	268821	Fittner	281821	Ballou
257821	Finch	269821	Boble	282821	Kittaman
258821	Fay	270821	Watson	283821	Deo
259821	Gearhart	271821	Wilfong	284821	Gaman
		272821	Dehler		
		273821	Tyler		
		274821	Kranke		

Led by LtCol. Robert B. Cox, the group took off at 0915L on a coordinated medium altitude bombing strike at Vankanan #12, a plane hide area, on New Britain. Three PBV squadrons participated in two groups. WIL-413 and WIL-433 made up the first group and WIL-443 the second group, the squadrons taking off in that order.

Immediately after take off, the IFF Detonator was accidentally set off in one plane from WIL-433, causing the gear to explode. After jettisoning bombs in the water, the plane returned to base.

The three squadrons were airborne and on the way to target at 0940L in a vee of squadrons with squadrons javelined down. WIL-413 was in number one position, WIL-433 number two and WIL-443 number three.

From the base, the flight proceeded directly to Powell Harbor, on the west coast of Casselle Peninsula, turned left onto a course of 066° magnetic for 26 miles. The first group turned off first to a course of 005° magnetic for 6 miles to the initial point, where WIL-433 swung over to right echelon with the lead squadron. Both squadrons were in javelined down formation. The bombing run over the target was at an altitude of 12,000 feet and 150 kts, I.A.S. and on a course of 335° magnetic. Bombs were away at 1057L.

103 x 500 pound GP bombs, fused instantaneous, hit in target area for unobserved damage. One plane had three hung bombs and two others had six each also fail to release over target. These hung bombs were released over land at points two to five miles north of Vankanan #12 strip.

The groups all broke left from the target, rallied over Urova Island and then headed for home by way of Selaru Island. Enroute to base, one plane developed a gas leak due to broken fitting in fuel pressure transmitter line. Assorted by another plane, it left the formation and proceeded directly to base to land ahead of the formation. Pancake time for the group was 1219L.

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

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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE

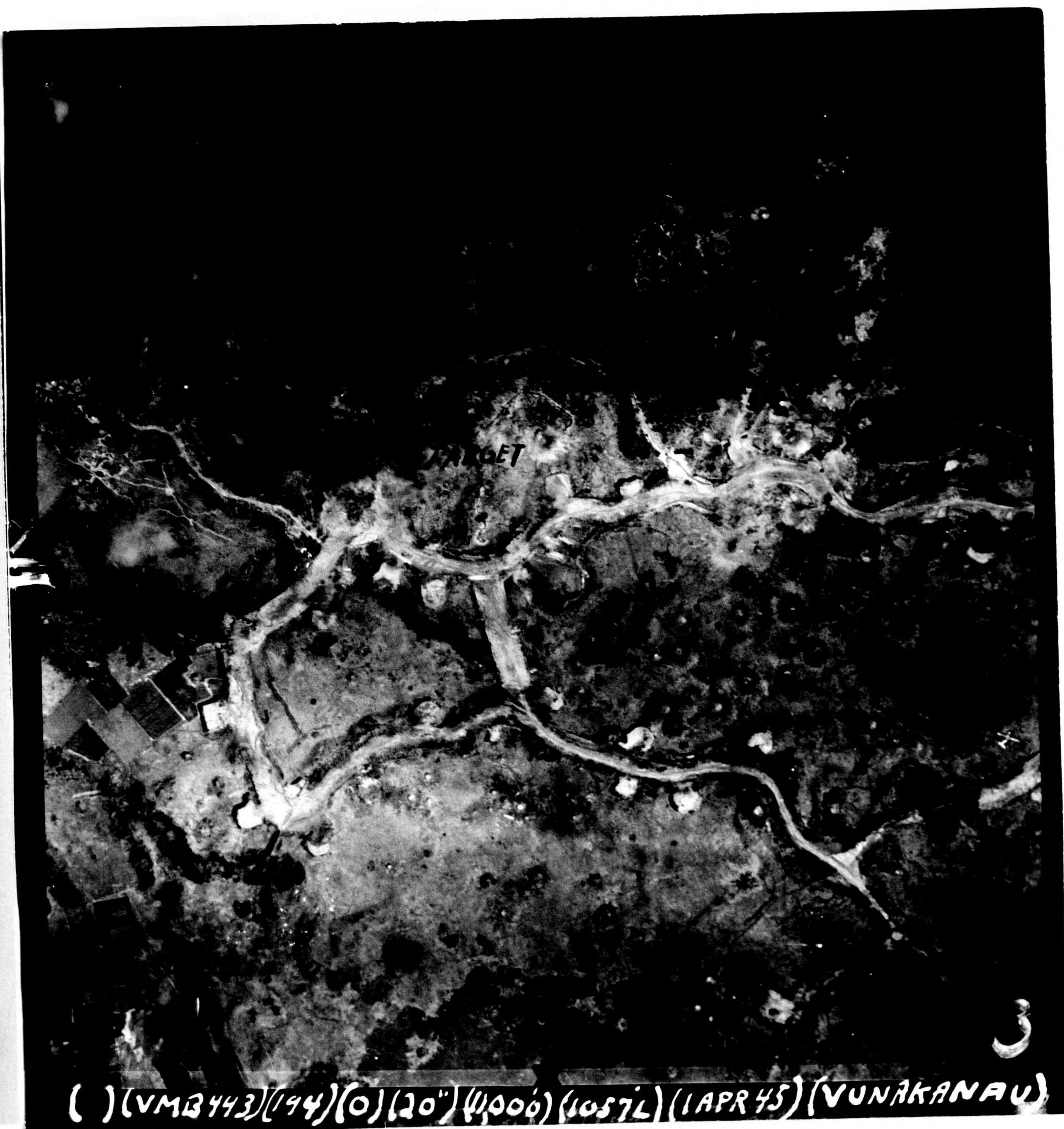


(VMB 413-671)(0)(204)(12,000)(10574)(APRIL, 75)(VONANAHAN 12)

3



() (VMB 433)(104)(0X8 $\frac{1}{4}$)(11000X105 72)(1 APRIL 45)(VUNAKAMAU 12)



() (VMB3443) (194) (0) (20") (4,000) (1057L) (1 APR 45) (VUNAKANAU)