

MG-61

5

145
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Report # 59

IIC (4)

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No _____

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Tobera #23, New Britain (b) Time Over Target(s) 1115-1128L (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target .7 to .9 scattered cloud cover.
(BASE IN FEET TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Partially obscured (e) Visibility 20
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type level Bomb Sight Used Mk15 mod 7
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run all Spacing varied Altitude of Bomb Release 11,300-12,400'
(NUMBER) (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, or is destroyed or sunk)
1 <u>Tobera # 23</u>	<u>3000' x 3000'</u>	<u>6</u> <u>VMB-413</u>	<u>6 x 2000 GP</u>		
2 <u>Same</u>		<u>1</u> <u>VMB-413</u>	<u>6 x 300 GP</u>		
3 <u>same</u>		<u>7</u> <u>VMB-423</u>	<u>24 x 1000 SAP</u> <u>2 x 1000 GP</u>		<u>See "c"</u>
4 <u>same</u>		<u>6</u> <u>VMB-433</u>	<u>6 x 2000 GP</u>		
5 <u>same</u>		<u>6</u> <u>VMB-443</u>	<u>6 x 2000 GP</u>		
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.)

A dense cloud cover ruined any chances of visual or photographic observations during or after the strike.

(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

CALL	PILOT
254B21	Mendenhall
255B21	Powers
256B21	Conant
257B21	Arsenault
258B21	Brueggestrass
259B21	Helling
*260B21	Cunningham

433

CALL	PILOT
266B21	Bable
267B21	Kromka
268B21	Huston
269B21	Smith
270B21	Pittner
271B21	Loughran

*Led PV's of NZ#8.
**Led PV's of NZ#2.

423

CALL	PILOT
301B21	Pritchard
302B21	Hazlehurst
303B21	Taylor
304B21	Weaver
305B21	Clark
306B21	Meyer
**307B21	Wilhite

443

CALL	PILOT
279B21	Guillotte
280B21	Ballou
281B21	Hartman
282B21	Habig
283B21	Whittemore
284B21	Mueller

Tobera target #23 which is adjacent to Target #22 hit 13 February, is a continuation of the dense cocoa cultivation. It is roughly triangular in shape measuring 3000' x 3000'.

The strike was planned as a coordinated effort by two groups of planes approaching on separate courses. From Emirau 19 Marine Mitchells and 6 N.Z. Venturas flew to Powell Harbor for the rendezvous with 7 PBJ's and 8 PV's from Green. As the Venturas were not equipped with bomb sights their squadrons were led by PBJ's.

Leaving the rendezvous on a course of 083° the flight divided into two groups. The first group consisted of the 3 PBJ squadrons from Emirau; went east for 21 miles and then turned to a course of 021° for 28 miles. The planned approach at 056° was blocked by a heavy cloud formation so the leader made a sweep to the right and came in on a bomb run of about 340°. There was only a glimpse of the target and the release point was estimated from a view of part of the strip. Breaking in a wide circle to the left the flight rallied south of Duke of York Island.

The two squadrons from Green with NZ#8 formed the second group heading east from the rendezvous. They held the course 2 minutes after the lead group turned, and took a heading of 026°. Approaching the target 7 to 9 tenths cloud cover prevented sighting so the group leader made a wide swing to the right for a clearer approach at 240°. The formation had changed to left echelon of squadrons javelined down, for the bombing run. Clouds complicated the rally and return.

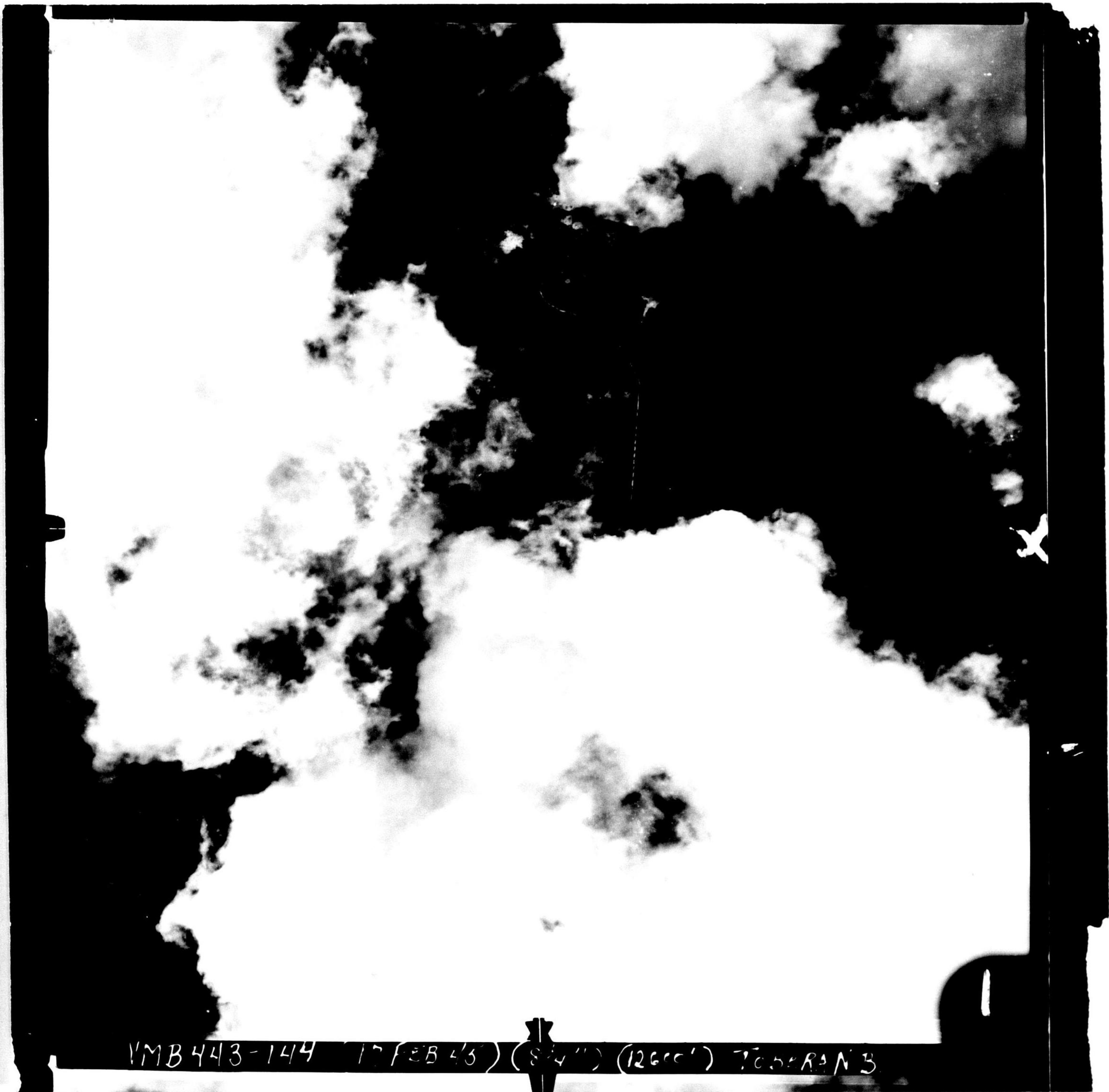
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SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY DATE



VMB 443-144 (17 FEB 43) (84") (12600') TOBERAN 3