

IMG-41

149
④

Report 1410

ITC (4)

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

Ref: WR-413 336
423 364
433 224A
443 185

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting NAG-61 (b) Based on or at Enfau Island (c) Report No. 140
 (d) Take off: Date 7 July, 1945 Time (LZT) 0658-0940L (Zone); Lat. 01° 36' S. Long. 150° E.
 (e) Mission Coordinated medium altitude bombing attack against Rabaul #54, Umakanau #17, Rabaul #44, & Tobra #10, New Britain. (f) Time of Return 1033-1110L (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-1	WR-423	6	None	6	12 x 260 Frags.	Nose: AN-M-103 inst. Tail: AN-M-100A2 .025 sec.
PBJ-1	WR-413	9	None	9	12 x 260 Frags.	Nose: AN-M-103 inst.
PBJ-1	WR-433	6	None	6	12 x 260 Frags.	Tail: AN-M-100A2 inst.
PBJ-1	WR-443	9	None	9	12 x 260 Frags.	Nose: AN-M-103 inst. Tail: AN-M-100A2 inst.

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
PBY	BHZA-706	1	Enfau Island				
F4U	BZ-405	2	same				
PBJ-1	Hq. Sq.	1	same				

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	GUNS USED		
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	
F4U-1	97	87	1hr. 35'	974	287	0	0	0	0	30

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"/>	<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

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) Kavieng Town, Kavieng A/A, NW of Strip, Panapai, Kavieng A/A, New Ireland. (b) Time Over Target(s) 1002-1045L (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target Kavieng A/A, NW of Strip 3-5 tenths cu. bases 2500' tops to 4000', all others clear. (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Kavieng A/A, NW of Strip partially obscured by clouds, all others clear. (e) Visibility 10 (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Level (GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used Mk.15, Mod.7.
- Bombs Dropped per Run All (NUMBER) Spacing 20'-50'. Altitude of Bomb Release 10,200-11,000'. (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 Kavieng Town,		6			
2 New Ireland.		WR-423	72 x 260# Frags.		
Kavieng A/A, NW		0			
3 of Strip, N.I.		WR-433	None		See "e".
Panapai A/A,		9			
4 New Ireland.		WR-413	108 x 260# Frags.		
Kavieng A/A,		9			
5 New Ireland.		WR-443	108 x 260# Frags.		
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.-72 x 260# Frags. walked from about 500 yards south to 200 yards of target, dusting roads but apparently leaving target undamaged.
2. No bombs dropped.
- 3.-12 x 260# Frags. hit approximately 100 yards southeast of target.
32 x 260# Frags. hit in target.
64 x 260# Frags. walked from 200 yards NW of target to edge of target. Later photo coverage indicates that guns are undamaged while small gardens in vicinity have been damaged.
- 4.-12 x 260# Frags. hit approximately 200 yards south of target.
22 x 260# Frags. hit in target covering two gun positions.
74 x 260# Frags. covered area immediately south of target. No apparent damage to target but gardens in area were damaged.

Photographs attached:

- (2) (WR-423) (236) (0) (20") (10,500') (1010L) (7 July 45) (Kavieng A/A Positions.)
- (2) (WR-413 - 725) (0) (20") (11,200') (1020L) (7 July 45) (Panapai A/A Positions.)
- (2) (WR-443) (252) (0) (20") (10,950') (0945L) (7 July 45) (Kavieng A/A Positions.)

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

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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
Excellent 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
Fuzeing
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		423		433		443	
CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT
254B21	Mac Lean	242B21	Lowell	266B21	Butler	279B21	Lemarie
255B21	Conant	243B21	Keith	267B21	McLaughlin	280B21	Johnson
256B21	Newland	244B21	Rice	268B21	Maher	281B21	Kleiner
257B21	Brueggestrass	245B21	Beard	269B21	Sadkin	282B21	Kozlowski
258B21	Olsen	246B21	Jobe	270B21	Creeker	283B21	Johnson
259B21	Appel	247B21	Bubanka	271B21	Butler	284B21	Sieben
260B21	Ulrich					285B21	Stewart
261B21	Smith					286B21	Wilson
262B21	Sanford					287B21	Straley

Three coordinated medium altitude strikes were scheduled against New Britain targets on 7 July. Weather prevented runs on all primary targets. Medium A/A gun positions near Kavieng were attacked by all three flights.

Taking off at 0858 with 6 FBWs in the formation WB-423 set out for Rabaul #54. Major Lowell was flight leader. The formation consisted of two three-plane sections, javelin down. After flying about 70 miles on a magnetic course of 120° from the base it became obvious that the primary target would be weathered in so the formation turned to attack the medium A/A positions in Kavieng coord. 073084. The bombing run was on a course of 005° magnetic. Bombs were away at 1002 from 10,750' while indicating 155 knots. 72 x 260 Frags walked from 500 yards south of the target up to within 200 yards of it. The guns were not damaged. A direct run from Kavieng to Emirau put all planes safely on deck by 1035.

Captain Mac Lean led 9 Mitchells from WB-413 on a proposed raid on Vunakanau #17. Adverse weather interfered and the flight was ordered by Group Operations to hit the A/A positions NE of Panapai Strip. Taking off at 0927 the Squadron took a vee formation, javelin down. Djaul Island was reached before the flight was ordered to Panapai. The bomb run was made on a 340° magnetic course from 11,200', speed 157 knots IAS. The drop was at 1020. 108 x 260 Frags scattered over the area, 12 landed about 100 yards SE of the positions, 32 were in the target while the balance walked from the edge of the assigned area to 200 yards NW. Later pictures showed the guns undamaged. Breaking right the flight headed for home where all landed at 1056.

Captain Lemarie led WB-443's 9 planes from the strip at 0940 with Tobera #10 as its primary. Before reaching the Nusa Archipelago the Squadron received orders to abandon the primary target and to hit the heavy A/A positions NW of Kavieng Airstrip. The flight swung around Kabilen Peninsula and took an evasive course over the SE portion of Balgai Bay to the target. The run was carried out on 025° magnetic, at 10,200' with a speed of 155 knots indicated. The 108 x 260 Frags were unloaded at 1045 with the following results: 12 were 200 yards south of the target, 22 covered two gun positions in the target and 74 covered the area immediately south of the target. Photos show no apparent damage to the target. The break was left over Nusa Archipelago to base by 1110 flying javelin formation throughout.

Six Mitchells of WB-433 led by Captain Butler took off from Emirau at 0930 for a medium altitude bombing attack on Rabaul #44. Adverse weather conditions over the primary dictated that the flight hit Sugar-1, the heavy A/A position located NW of Kavieng A/S. On the approach to the target the lead plane experienced mechanical failure and was unable to release his bombs. No one released due to this. No second run was attempted and all Mitchells returned to base with complete bomb load.

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

H. P. BECKER,
Col., USMC,
Group Commander.

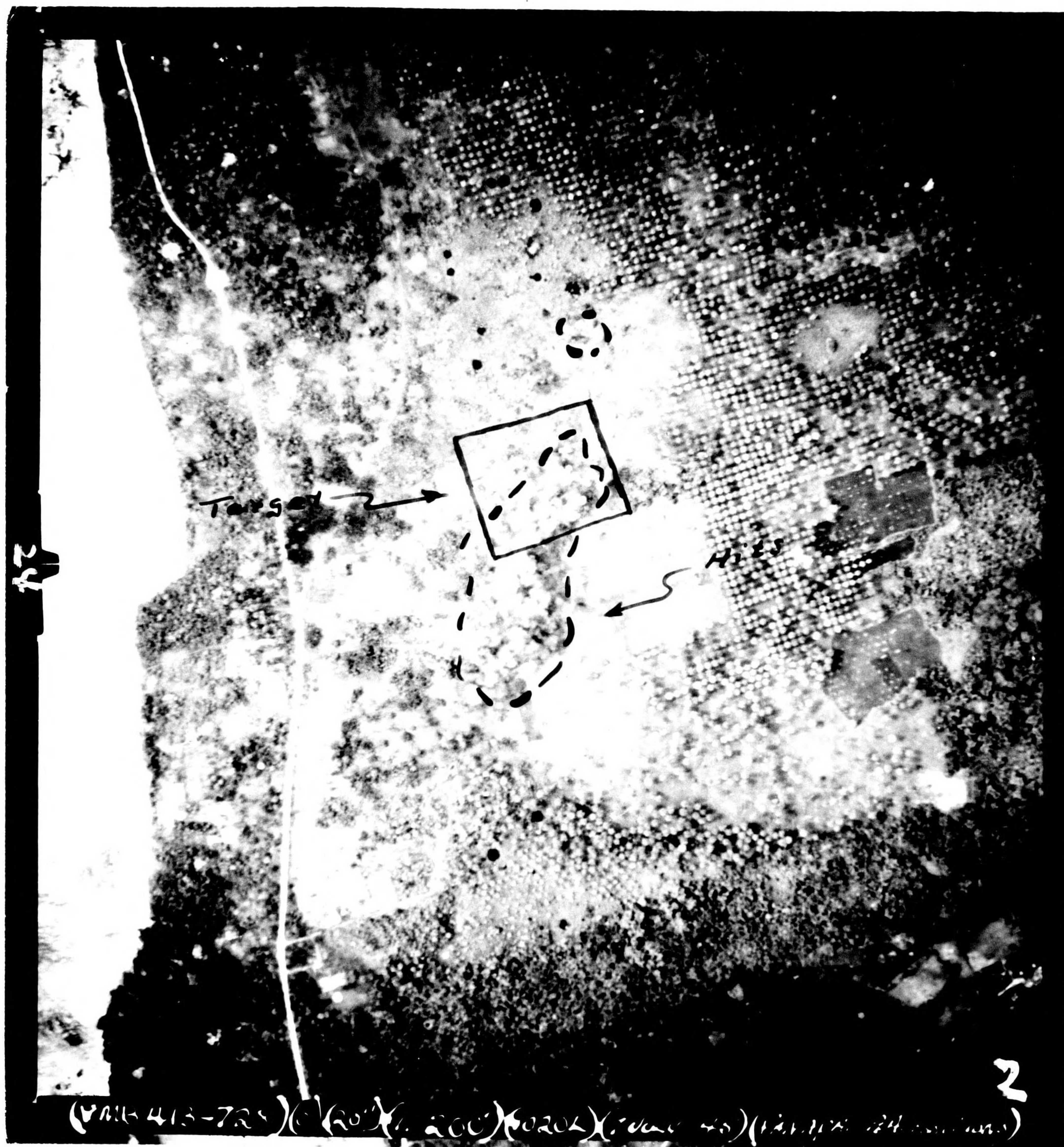


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MB

(VMB 423)(236)(0)(20°)(10500)(10(L))(7 JULY 45) KAVIENG AA Pbs.

2



24

2

(VRL-413-725) (R0) (200) (5020) (1000 40) (1000 24 1000 1000)



24

SAFETY

() (VMB443) (252) (20") (10950') (09454) (7 JULY 45) (KAVIENG AA POSITIONS)