

MG-61

146  
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Report # 110

ITc(4)

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# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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).

110

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) New Rabaul #56, New Britain. (b) Time Over Target(s) 1251L-1315L (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target Scattered cumulus at 2000'  
(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 Mod. 7.  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run All Spacing 50' Altitude of Bomb Release 10800'-11700'  
(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) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO. HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
1 New Rabaul #56, N.B.	1100' x 900'	5 WR-413	1500 rds. .50 cal. 96 x 100 GPs		
2 New Rabaul #56, N.B.	same	8 WR-433	84 x 100 GPs		See "c"
3 New Rabaul #56, N.B.	same	9 WR-443	108 x 100 GPs		
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).

- 64 x 100# GPs fell in the target from the eastern edge diagonally across the southern half to the southern edge. The bombs made a pattern 300' wide through one of the concentrations of huts.  
32 x 100# GPs fell from the southern edge of the target to point 500' southwest of the target. 1500 rds. of .50 cal. ammo. was used on a boat, in good condition, right after the breakaway, leaving the boat well strafed.
- 21 x 100# GPs hit in target and tore a path 100' wide through a hut area for one-third of the distance south from northern edge of target.  
63 x 100# GPs fell from a point 3000' north of the target to the northern edge of the target.
- 77 x 100# GPs made an overall pattern in target from northwest corner through the middle of the target and ran out the southwestern corner. Two groups of huts were covered.  
20 x 100# GPs landed along the northwest outside edge of the target.  
10 x 100# GPs landed south of the target for a distance of 200'.  
1 x 100# GP hit the main road south of the target.

After strike photographs showed the following results: Of the 5 large huts and 1 small hut in the northwest section of the target all but one large hut were destroyed. Of the 15 large huts and 11 small huts in the southwest section of the target all huts were destroyed.

(4) (MAG-61) (57B) (V) (20<sup>th</sup>) (13700') (1131L) (27 May 45) (Nordup Pt. to Kabagala, N. B.)

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

(cont'd next page)

Photographs attached:

- (3) (WB-443 (224) (0) (20") (11700') (1250L) (21 May 45) (Rebail #56, H.B.)
- (4) (WB-433)(132) (0) (20") (11200') (1415L) (21 May 45) (Rebail #56, H.B.)
- (2) (WB-413-699) (0) (20") (11700') (1340L) (21 May 45) (New Rebail #56)

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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		433		443	
CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT	CALL	PILOT
254B21	Mendenhall	266B21	Long	279B21	Whitney
255B21	Mucholson	267B21	Mebustin	280B21	Palmer
256B21	Oslund	268B21	Fischer	281B21	Garton
257B21	Arsensault	269B21	Wilfong	282B21	Dee
258B21	Gilbert	270B21	Idman	283B21	Kozlowski
259B21	Ingberg	271B21	Haddon	284B21	Burt
260B21	Bouscaren	272B21	Pittner	285B21	McConnell
261B21	Boss	273B21	Menhannet	286B21	Bellou
				287B21	Graser

Three PBJ Squadrons went on a semi-coordinated raid on a new target at Rabaul, #56, a concentrated bivouac area near Hospital Ridge. Each squadron proceeded individually to the target and bombed at widely spaced intervals. The results assessed by photographs taken after the strike showed that 277 out of 300 x 100# GPs blasted the target from one end to the other. 20 large huts and 12 small ones were completely destroyed.

WR-443 led by Major B.O. Whitney, took off at 1115 and in a vee formation, javelin down, the 9 planes took a course along the eastern coast of New Ireland to Namatanai. From there a direct route was flown to the Duke of York Islands and a turn over the southern tip for an approach over the Gretna Islands. The run was begun off Praed Point and was carried out on 286° magnetic, at 10,800 feet, speed of 155 kts, IAS, with the squadron javelin down. 97 of the 108 x 100# GPs dropped blanketed the area. Breaking to the starboard a course was taken to Selapiu Island and hence a short leg to the base with all planes on the deck at 1409.

WR-413 led by Major H.V. Mendenhall, took off at 1220 and headed along the northern coast of New Ireland to Cape Namaranda, New Ireland. Turning to the right the squadron in a vee, javelin down, headed for Rabaul Town and the bombing run of 261° magnetic at a speed of 155 kts, IAS. Bombs were away from 11,700' at 1340. 96 x 100# GPs laid an excellent pattern from the eastern edge to the southern edge of the bivouac area. Breaking right the flight started on a 301° magnetic course for Selapiu Island. A 50 foot boat was spotted at the rally point off Waton Island and two planes received permission to investigate. The planes strafed the boat and returned to the formation. Upon reaching the Musa Archipelago, two other planes investigated a barge. Finding the barge beached the planes strafed a buoy floating west of Baulisain Island. Finally the formation headed for the base and all planes landed safely at 1503.

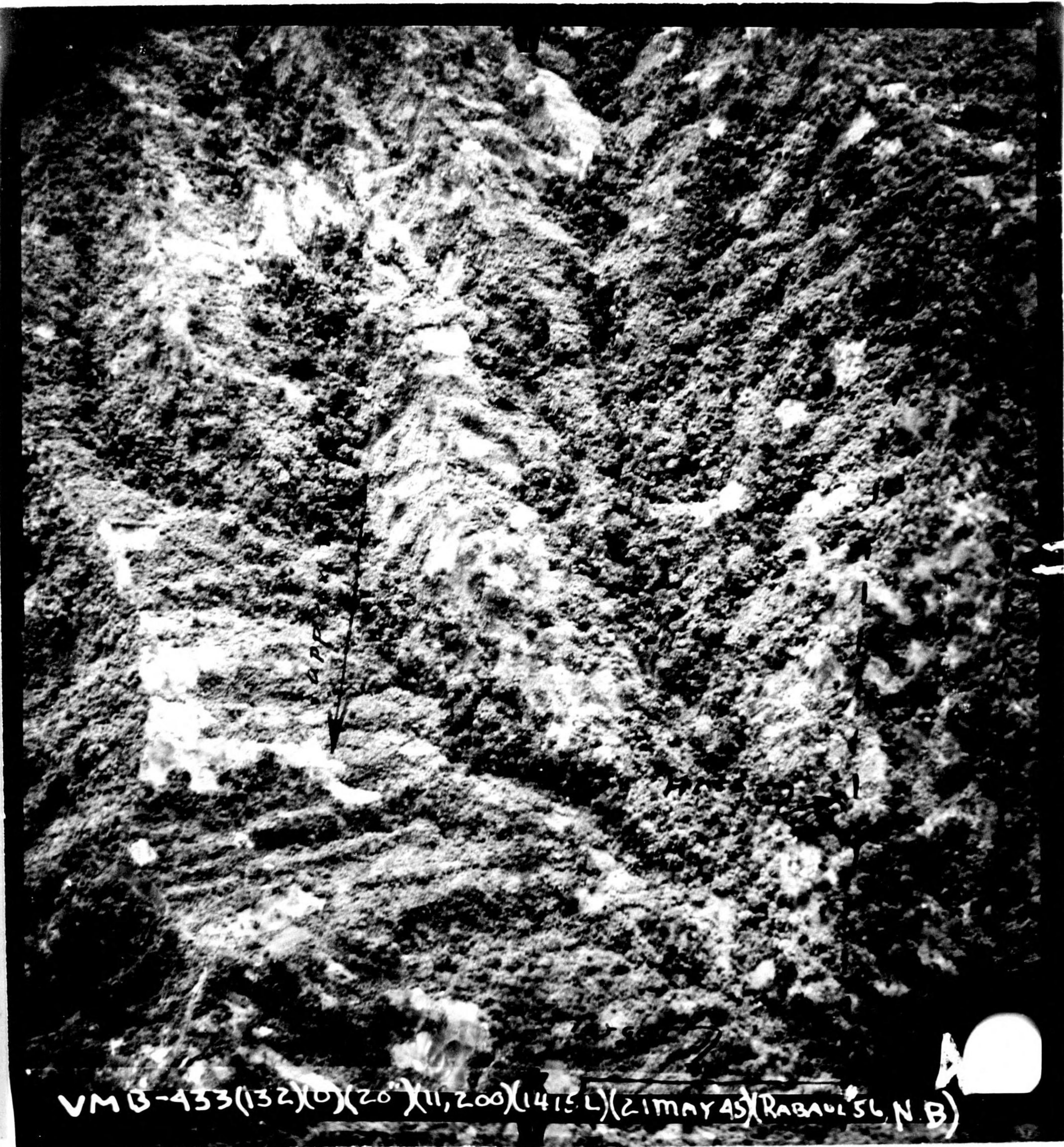
WR-433, led by Major Long, took off at 1246, headed on a direct course to Cape Namaranda, New Ireland and then direct to Tawai Point, New Britain. The flight, in a vee, squadrons javelin down, took a course of 150° magnetic on its run with bombs away at 1415. Seven planes dropped 84 x 100# GPs for a good coverage of the target. One plane had hydraulic trouble and couldn't open the bomb bay over the primary or over Panapai Bivouac on his second attempt so brought the 12 bombs back to base. Five medium A/A flashes were seen from southeast of Kavieng Strip on this run. The flight, after breaking right took a course to Selapiu Island and then to the base with all planes landing safely at 1528.

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

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

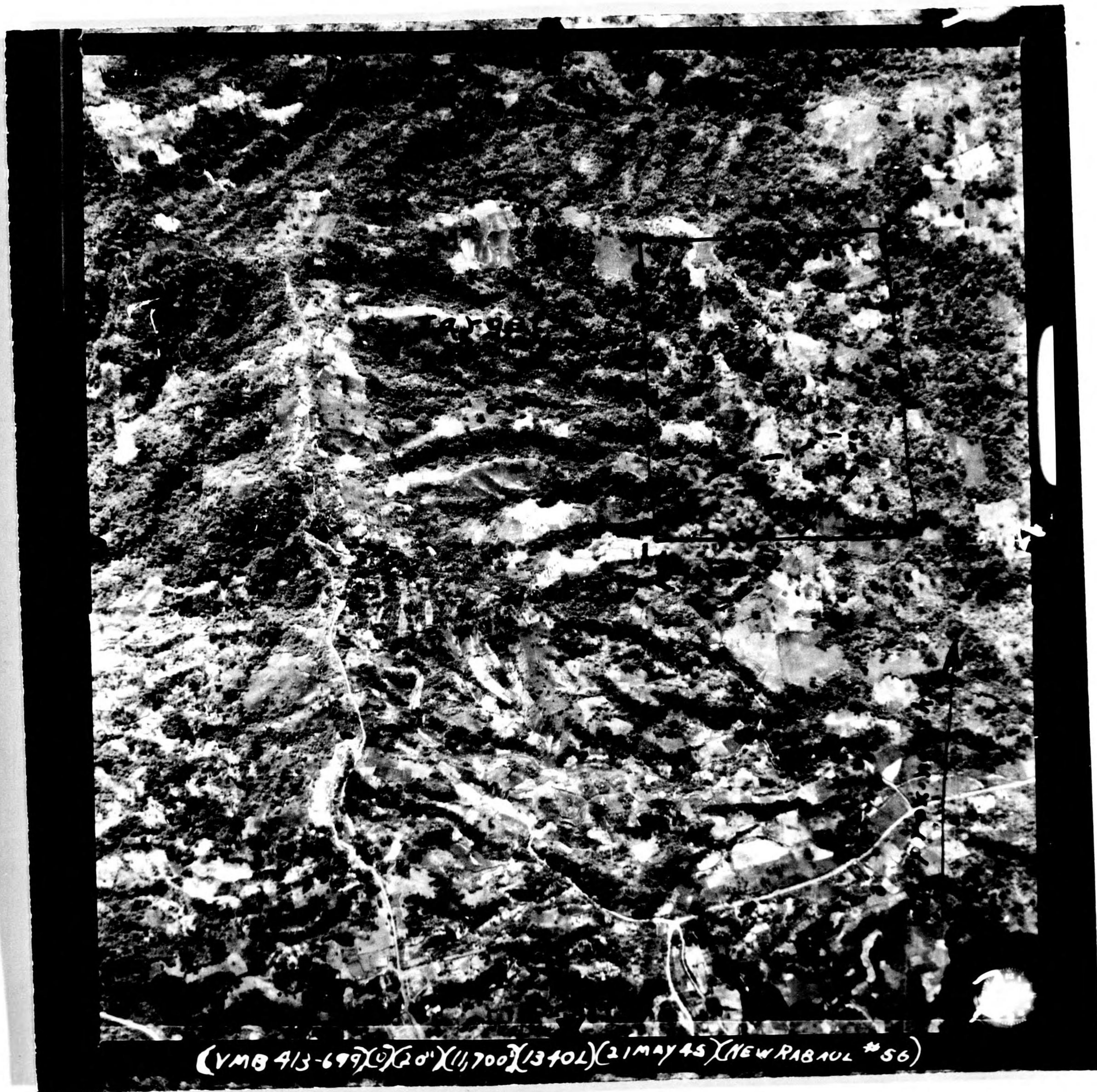


(XVMB 443)(225 X 0 X 20) 1700 (1250 X 21 MAY 45 X RABAU 756, NB)



VMB-433(132)(0)(20" X 11,200)(1415 L)(21 MAY 45)(RABAU 56, N B)





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★ (MAG-61)X578X20X3700X1131LX27MA Y45(NORDUP PT. T. KABAGADA, FB)