

MG-61

149  
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Report # 128

HC(4)

7



# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

## I. GENERAL

Ref: **WR-413 321**  
**433 211**  
**443 173**

(a) Unit Reporting 18 June, 1945 (b) Based on or at Hairau Island (c) Report No. 126  
(d) Take off: Date NAG-61 Time (LZT) 0940-1015L (Zone); Lat. 01°36' S. Long 150° E.  
Coordinated medium altitude bombing attack against  
(e) Mission Yunokanau #26, Yunokanau #3, & Kabagada #6, H.B. (f) Time of Return 1200-1315L (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)		
PRJ-1	WR-413	6	None	6	3 x 1000# GP M-104.	Nose:AN-M-103Inst. Tail:AN-M-102AInst.
PRJ-1	WR-413	6	None	6	12 x 100# GP M-30	Nose:AN-M-103Inst. Tail:AN-M-100AInst.
PRJ-1	WR-413	6	None	6	12 x 100# GP M-30	Nose:AN-M-103Inst. Tail:AN-M-102AInst.

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
PRY	BRZA #26	1	Hairau Island				
F1U	BR #25	2	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 \_\_\_\_\_  
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)  
Time of Day and Brilliance \_\_\_\_\_  
(j) 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 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 <b>None</b>				
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
<b>None</b>				

## 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	
<b>F4U-1</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>2hrs.33'</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18</b>

## 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) **Vunakanau #26, Vunakanau #3 and Kabagada #6, New Britain.** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1039L, 1058L, 1145L** (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target **clear** (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target **clear** (e) Visibility **10** (MILES)

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

Bombs Dropped per Run **All** Spacing **20'** Altitude of Bomb Release **10,400', 11,500', 11,000'**  
(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, serious, destroyed or sunk)
1 Vunakanau #26, N.B.	900' x 900'	6 WR-433	15 x 1000# GP's		
2 Vunakanau #3, N.B.	2700' x 1200'	6 WR-413	72 x 100# GP's		See #1
3 Kabagada #6, N.B.	1900' x 1400'	6 WR-443	72 x 100# GP's		
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).

- 15 x 1000# GP's cleared a large area of vegetation 1000' southwest of the target but no important wreckage was revealed in post-strike photographs.
- 36 x 100# GP's made a few holes in that part of the plantation that was the target, future post-strike photographs revealed no apparent damage.  
 36 x 100# GP's fell to the west of the assigned target for unobserved results.
- 50 x 100# GP's fell in the northwest corner of the target.  
 22 x 100# GP's fell 200' north of the same corner.  
 As a result of this seven or more huts were destroyed and one or more huts damaged. There also is a good probability that more huts were destroyed or damaged that were hidden under trees. A large revetment whose use is unknown was uncovered.

**Photographs attached:**

- (3) (WR-413 - 716) (0) (20") (11,500') (1056L) (18 June 45) (Vunakanau #3).
- (1) (WR-433) (1-50) (0) (20") (10,400') (1039L) (18 June 45) (Vunakanau)
- (3) (WR-443 - 242) (0) (20") (11,350') (1144L) (18 June 45) (Kabagada #6, N.B.)

(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
- Defensive 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
- Defensive Tactics, Own
- 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
- 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	Smith	279B21	Anderson
255B21	Ingberg	267B21	Coleman	280B21	Carter
256B21	Newland	268B21	Woodward	281B21	Wilson
257B21	MacLean	269B21	Manner	282B21	Stewart
258B21	Monard	270B21	Swimford	283B21	Neeks
259B21	Bouscaren	271B21	McLaughlin	284B21	Busby

Three squadrons took part in coordinated medium altitude strikes today. VMB-433 was off first at 0940 to attack Funakanau #26 which was marked with a smoke marker by Smoky Joe. The smoke marker fell somewhat west of the suspected truck hide and the 6 PBJs dropped 18 x 1000# GP's about 1000' south west of the target clearing vegetation without revealing any important wreck age. Aiming at Funakanau #3, six Mitchells of VMB-413, dropped 72 centurions over the target area, 36 being hits for no apparent damage and the balance flew southwest of the target proper for unobserved results. Smoky Joe was scheduled to mark the target for the 6 PBJs of VMB-443 in its run on Kabagada #6. Smoky Joe called the flight leader and advised him that the target had been smoked. However, the bombardier saw that the target had not been smoked correctly and the flight made a second run and dropped 50 x 100# GP's in the northwest corner of the target without the aid of smoke identification. The 50 bombs destroyed 7 or more huts and damaged others as shown by post-strike pictures. 22 bombs fell 200' wide and north of the target. A large revetment, the utility of which is unknown, was uncovered by the bomb blasts.

Major Smith led VMB-433 over Selapui, to the Duke of York Group, to the initial point at Bukbuk. Formation for the entire route was a column of sections in vee. The run was made over Funakanau #26 at 155 knots, altitude of 10,400' on a magnetic heading of 195°. The break was to the right to rally over the Duke of Yorks from which point the squadron took the northeast coast of New Ireland route to base, landing safely by 1212.

Striking the building, hut and storage area at Funakanau #3, VMB-413 was led by Major Mendenhall. Taking-off at 0944 in a vee of vees javelin down the squadron took the Selapui Island route to Ataliklikan Bay where the run started on a course of 050° magnetic, from 11,500' making 160 knots (IAS). Breaking right, the flight headed to Mumu Island and thence to Emirau on a heading of 295° magnetic, pancaking at 1203.

Major Anderson led the VMB-443 flight to the obscured hut area at Kabagada #6. The route was over Selapui to a point 10 miles northwest of Urara Island, then to the south shore of Talili Bay. From here the run was made on a magnetic heading of 138° at an altitude of 11,000' making 153 knots (IAS). Rally was made north of Tawai Point after breaking right from which point the return route was via Mumu Island up the northeast coast of New Ireland on a heading of 300° magnetic to base by 1315.

**R. R. CRUISE,**  
Capt., USMCR,  
Group Intelligence Officer.

**H. P. BOOKER,**  
Col., USMC,  
Group Commander.





(UAB-V31) (20) (0392) (18 June 45) (Uwakana)



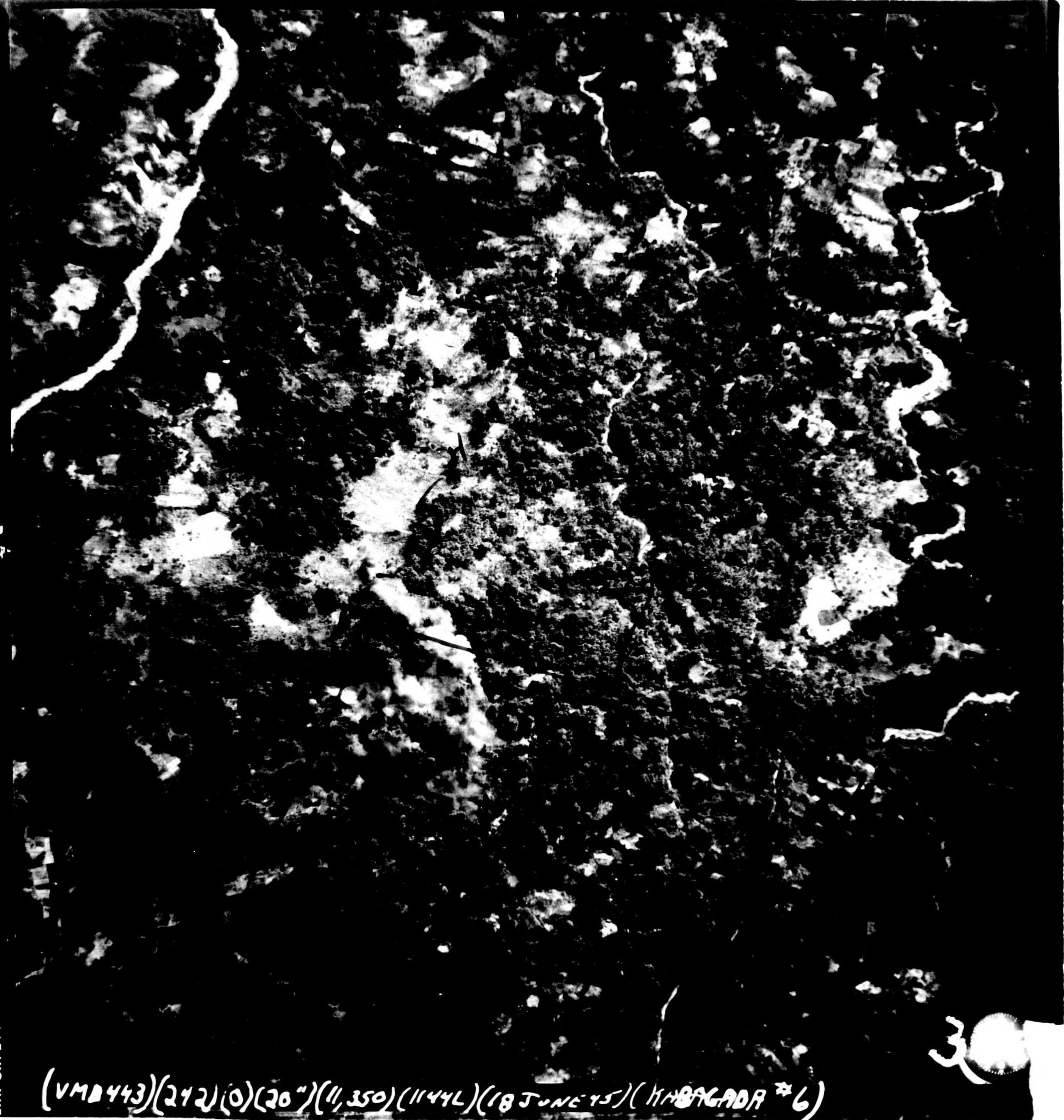




EASTMAN KODAK

EASTMAN KODAK SAFETY

SAFETY



(VMB443)(242)(0)(20") (11,350) (1144L) (18 JUNE 45) (HABAGAD #6)

30