

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VP34 (b) Based on or at Samarai, N.G. (c) Report No. 11  
 (d) Date of Action 9 Jan. 1944 (e) Take off: Time 0700 (GCT); Lat. 10° 37' S Long 150° 40' E  
 (f) Mission Search and attack (g) Time of Return 1930 (GCT)

## II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

(a) TYPE	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NO. OF SORTIES	(d) NO. ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	(e) NO. ATTACKING TARGET	(f) BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE)	(g) FUZE, SETTING
PBY-5	VP34	1	-	1	2x500 lb GP Mk. 43 2x1000 lb GP Mk. 44	Tail; 4-5" delay

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE

## IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (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
			(GCT)			
			(GCT)			
			(GCT)			
			(GCT)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) \_\_\_\_\_

(i) Weather and Clouds at Location of Encounter(s) \_\_\_\_\_

(j) Sun or Moon \_\_\_\_\_ (k) Visibility \_\_\_\_\_

## 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		

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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	(e) EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE, REMARKS
1 PBX-5	VP34	.20 mm AA	Hull, wings	1x20 mm shell through bottom and out stbd. side of hull; 1x20 mm shell through port wing; shrapnel in both wings.
2				
3				
4				
5				
6		.30 or .50 cal MG	Starboard wing	8 or 10 bullet holes.
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

## VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA

(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, PLANES RETURNING				
						NO. OF PLANES	.30	.50	20MM	MM.
PBX-5	750	600	12.5	1450	1000					

## IX. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (use check list at left).

SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes

TURNS  
DIVES  
CEILINGS  
RANGE  
PROTECTION  
ARMAMENT

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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

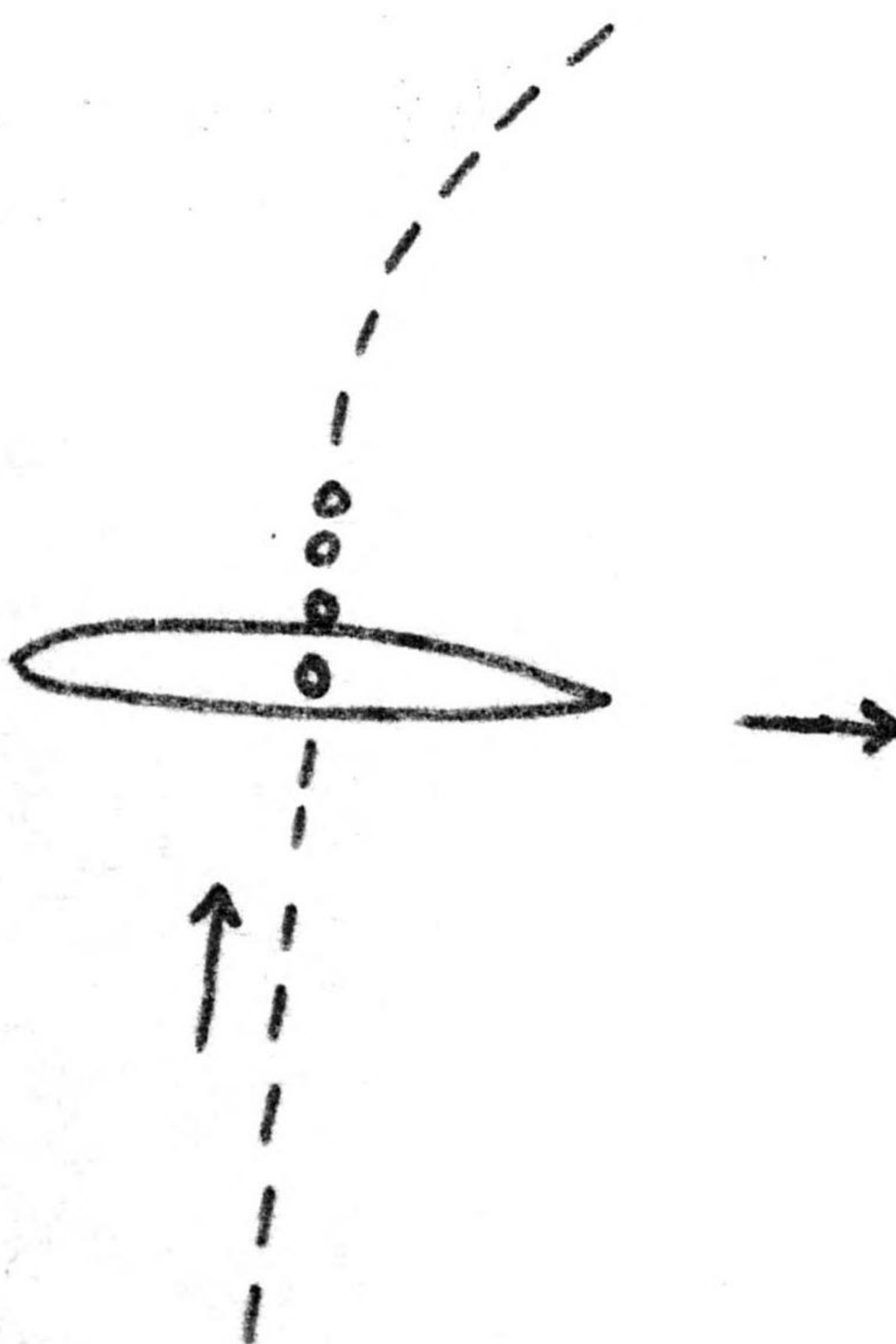
(a) Location of Target(s) 03° 25' S, 151° 20' E (b) Time Over Target(s) 1250-1340 GCT  
 (c) Weather and Clouds Over Target Weather good; light 7/10 cumulus at 3000'  
 (d) Sun or Moon 3/4 moon (e) Visibility 10 miles

## XI. TARGETS, RESULTS OF ATTACK.

	(a) DESCRIPTION OF TARGET (List All Ships in Group, Whether or Not Individually Attacked)	(b) A/C ATTACKING (c) SQUADRON	(d) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH TARGET	(e) ALTITUDE OF RELEASE	(f) HITS
	1	Destroyer	PBY-5 VP34	2x500 lb GP Mk.43 2x1000 lb GP Mk.44	150'
2	Convoy consisting of 5				
3	merchant vessels and				
4	5 escorts.				
5					
6					
7					
8					

(g) RESULTS: (FOR SHIP TARGETS 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, WITH DIAGRAMS OR CHARTS WHERE DESIRABLE. DESCRIBE TARGETS FULLY IN (a), AND IN REPORTING DAMAGE OR DESTRUCTION, IDENTIFY BY NUMBERS AT LEFT. USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY).

1 x 500 LB. BOMB HIT



(h) Were Photographs Taken? No Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached.

**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  
Release  
Pull-Out  
Dive Angle  
Strafing  
Retirement  
Defensive Tactics

**DEFENSE, ENEMY**

Evasive Tactics, Ships  
Concealment  
Anti-aircraft  
Searchlights  
Night Fighter Tactics

**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

The Catalina, commanded by Lieutenant (jg) G. D. Michel, USNR, was on patrol of the southwest coast of New Ireland in search of a reported enemy convoy. The weather was excellent, with scattered cumulus clouds at 3000 feet and a 3/4 moon. At 1150 L, while proceeding in a southeasterly direction about 10 miles off the New Ireland shore, heavy firing was seen about 20 miles ahead of the plane, and by following the same course it soon arrived over a large convoy, in position 03° 25' S, 151° 20' E. The ships were scattered about and it was difficult to determine composition, but the crew definitely saw a very large cargo ship with two destroyers flanking her, plus several smaller merchantmen also closely escorted. The Catalina circled for a half hour at 1500 feet, while the ships continually fired light and medium caliber guns overhead and parallel to the water. Singling out a vessel about 3 miles astern of the main body of ships, the plane approached to attack, and while so doing observed a destroyer dead in the water training its searchlights on a small dark object in the water, as a second warship approached at high speed. The object is believed to have been a Catalina of this squadron commanded by Lieutenant (jg) A. J. Wright, USNR, which was in the same area that night and apparently attacked the same convoy. The plane and crew are missing in action.

Lieutenant (jg) Michel commenced his run on the ship he had picked out, and as he did so he identified it as a destroyer heading in an easterly direction at a speed of 20 knots. The moment he began his steep glide from an altitude of 1500 feet, distance 1/2 mile, the ship opened up with intense fire from several light and medium caliber guns. All four bombs were dropped on the intervalometer from 150 feet, and the first in the string (500 pounds) hit amidships and was seen to explode. Heavy clouds of smoke were observed as the aircraft retired, flying 30 feet from the water to evade the fire which followed it.

After returning to the spot where the destroyer had been observed shining its searchlights on the water, and finding nothing, the plane returned to base, damaged by two 20 mm. shells, 8 or 10 bullet holes, and a number of fabric tears from shrapnel.

**Squadron assessment:** destroyer, hit and damaged by 500 pound bomb.

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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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

**T. A. CHRISTOPHER,**  
**Lieut. Comdr., USN, Commanding**

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

**9 Jan. 1944**

DATE