

~~SECRET~~
ROUTING SLIP

Confidential

U. S. NAVAL AIRCRAFT, SOUTHWEST PACIFIC FORCE

DATE REC. _____ FILE No. _____ INC. No. _____
 FROM: _____ SERIAL No. _____
 DATE: _____ ENCL. OR No. COPIES: _____
 SUBJECT: _____

OFFICER	ROUTING	SYMBOL	INITIAL	
00 Admiral				A — Action. B — Information. C — For Recommendation. D — Prepare Draft Reply. E — Retain Copy. F — Consult C. of S. K — Distribute (As Necessary). L — File. M — Make Changes.
01 Chief of Staff	2	B	<i>JCS</i>	
05 Flag Secretary				
06 Administrative Asst.			<i>SB</i>	
11 Operations Officer	3	B	<i>SB</i>	
12 Asst. Oper. Off.				
15 Flag Lieutenant				
20 Communications Off.				
21 Asst. Comm. Off.				
22 Comm. Watch Offs.				
25 Intelligence Off.	1	A	<i>DRM</i>	
40 Supply Officer				
50 Materiel Officer				
51 Aircraft Eng. Off.				
52 Aircraft Struct. Off.				
55 Aerological Officer				
60 Personnel Officer				
65 Photographic Off.				
66 Photo Intrep. Off.				
70 Engineering Officer				
75 Medical Officer				
90 Gunnery Officer	4	B	<i>BJT</i>	
91 Training Officer				
Flag Util. Unit				

REMARKS

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VP34 (b) Based on or at Samarai (c) Report No. 1
 (d) Date of Action 12-31-43 to 1-1-44 (e) Take off: Time 0645 (GCT); Lat. 10° 37' S Long 150° 40' E
 (f) Mission Search and attack (g) Time of Return 2045 (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
<u>FBI-5</u>	<u>VP34</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4 x 500 lb G.P. - Mk 43 30x20 lb frags - Mk 41</u>	<u>10114-5" delay nose; instantaneous</u>

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		

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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

(1) 500° 17' S, 150° 27' E; (2) 500° 35' S, 150° 19' E; (3) 400° 40' S, 149° 32' E

(a) Location of Target(s) _____ (b) Time Over Target(s) (1) 1105
(2) 1305
(3) 1505 GCT

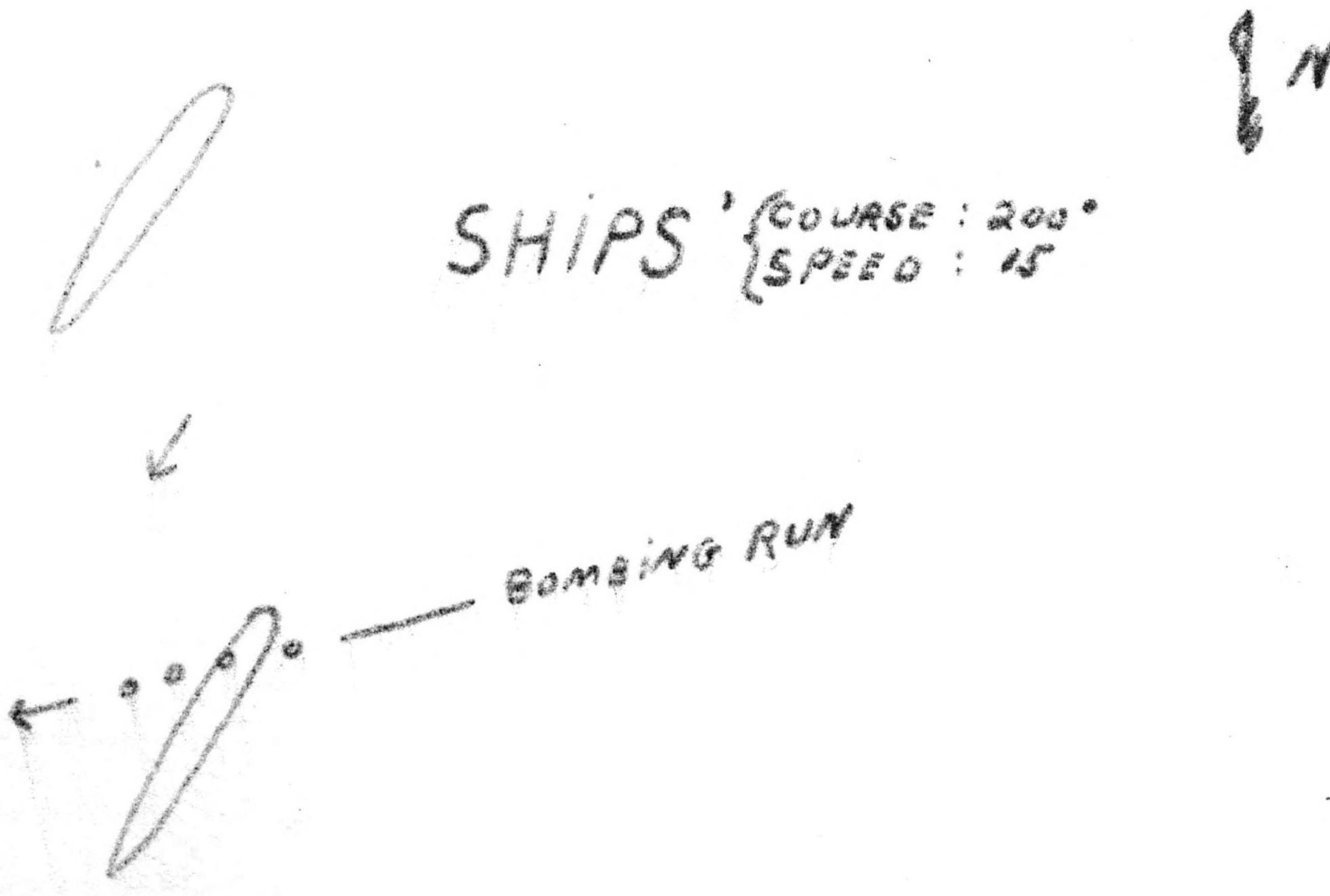
(c) Weather and Clouds Over Target Weather good; Clouds: base 2000', 7/10 Cumulus
8 miles; variable

(d) Sun or Moon One quarter moon. (e) Visibility in showers

XI. TARGETS, RESULTS OF ATTACK.

1	(a) DESCRIPTION OF TARGET (List All Ships in Group, Whether or Not Individually Attacked)	(b) A/C ATTACKING	(d) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH TARGET	(e) ALTITUDE OF RELEASE	(f) HITS
		(c) SQUADRON			
1	2 - stack destroyer	FBY-5 VP-34	4 x 500 lb. G.P. Mk. 43	200'	1
2	Installations at Rada, New Britain	do	30 x 20 lb. frags Mk. 41	9000'	Unobserved
3	Dock area in Peter Harbor, Carove Island.	do	100 x .50 MG	200-500'	Unobserved
4					
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).



(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

Target #1

The plane was on a search and attack mission against shipping in the Bismarck Sea, armed with 4 x 500 lb. G.P. bombs with 4-5 second delay tail fuses, 30 frags, and 4 x .50 caliber M.G. in the nose. At 2150 L, when 5 miles due north of Cape Hoskins on a course of 090°, 2 blips were picked up by search radar 10 miles on the port beam. The weather at the time of contact was good, with visibility 8 miles and 7/10 cumulus cloud cover under a one-quarter moon. Approaching from a down-moon direction, the plane sighted two 2-stack DD at position 5° 11' S, 150° 27' E in line of bearing about 150°, proceeding on course 200°, speed approximately 15 knots. The attack was launched against the lead DD. All 4 bombs were dropped by intervalometer with 60-foot spacing; they were released from an altitude of 150 feet, speed 160 knots, at a 45° angle of dive. The approach was made from port quarter to starboard bow. One bomb was observed to explode on the starboard quarter, two splashes were seen on the starboard side of the ship, and one splash short on the port quarter. During the approach the DD being attacked fired .50 caliber and 20 mm A/A guns at the plane, but all fire from the after batteries ceased immediately after the explosion. Fire from the second DD and from two or three points within a radius of two miles from the scene of the attack persisted. The area was searched carefully after the attack and several blips were picked up on radar, some of which were probably planes, but only one DD was sighted visually.

Target #2

At 1205 L 30 frags were dropped on installations along the beach at Rada, on Cape Hoskins, with unobserved results, from a height of 9000 feet. In the light of flares some explosions were observed along the shore area.

Target #3

At 0200 L 100 rounds of .50 caliber from the 4 fixed bow guns were fired in a low altitude strafing run over the dock area in Peter Harbor, Garove Island, with unobserved results. Batteries of light A/A opened up around the dock area.

Note

POC of the plane was Lieut. Comdr. T. A. Christopher, USN, Commanding Officer of the squadron. The above attacks were made on the night in which this squadron commenced its first operations in a combat area. On the same night another plane of the same squadron, commanded by Lieut. E. J. Fisher, USN, sunk a 9000 ton AK and possibly damaged a 5000 ton AK (See Action Report No. 2).

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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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:

APPROVED BY:

J. S. Kemper
 J. S. KEMPER, Lieut. AVS USNR
 SIGNATURE A.C.I. OFFICER RANK AND DUTY

T. A. Christopher
 T. A. CHRISTOPHER, Lt. Comdr., USN 12-31-43
 SIGNATURE Commanding RANK AND DUTY DATE

A

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XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comments)

a performance or suitability, following check list at left. Use additional sheets if necessary.)

ARMAMENT

- Guns, Gunsights
- Turrets
- Ammunition
- Bombs, Torpedoes
- Bomb sights
- Bomb releases

One bomb failed to release, but was released manually over target.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Radio, Radar
- Homing devices
- Visual signals
- Codes, Ciphers

Radio functioned normally, silence maintained over target.

RECOGNITION

- IFF
- Signals
- Battle lights
- Procedures

RADAR used to pick up target.

IFF used to point 150 miles out and turned on again at 200 mile point on return trip.

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:

APPROVED BY:

H.T. SHELLING, Lt. A-V(S), USNR
signature rank and duty
A.C.I. OFFICER VI-33

R.C. BANGSTON, Lt. Comdr. USN
signature rank and duty
Commander Patrol Squadron 33

22 Dec. 1943.
date

ENC.(C)