

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

I. GENERAL

U.S.S. SAN PABLO (AVP30)

(a) Unit Reporting VP-52 (b) Based on or at Seeadler Harbor, Admiralty Islands. (c) Report No. 40

(d) Date of Action 30 March 1944 (e) Take off: Time 0745 (GCT); Lat. _____ Long. _____

(f) Mission Bomb Supply Areas and Air Strip, Noleai Island (g) Time of Return 2015 (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>PBY-5</u>	<u>VP-52</u>			<u>3</u>	<u>2-1000# AN M44 2-600# AN M43</u>	<u>101 A-2 1/100 Sec. Delay M103 8-2 (Daisy Cutter)</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
<u>SSF</u>	<u>1</u>		<u>1430</u> (GCT)	<u>Target</u>		
<u>SSF</u>	<u>1</u>		<u>1445</u> (GCT)	<u>Target</u>		<u>Running lights on.</u>
<u>SSF</u>	<u>5</u>		<u>1445</u> (GCT)	<u>Target</u>		
			(GCT)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Interception

(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				
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

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.
PBY-5			12.5	1450	1100				

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) Woleai Island (b) Time Over Target(s) 1815
1400 GCT.
(c) Weather and Clouds Over Target Scattered clouds 1200 foot base.
(d) Sun or Moon Night - No Moon (e) Visibility 4 - 5 miles.

XI. TARGETS, RESULTS OF ATTACK.

(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 <u>Woleai Air Strip and surrounding area.</u>	<u>#43</u> <u>VP-52</u>	<u>All Bombs</u>	<u>8000'</u>	<u>All Bombs</u>
2	<u>#89</u> <u>VP-52</u>	<u>All Bombs</u>	<u>3000'</u>	<u>All Bombs</u>
3	<u>#50</u> <u>VP-52</u>	<u>All Bombs</u>	<u>2000'</u>	<u>All Bombs</u>
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).

Four or five fires were started in the target area.

* #89 is assigned to VP-33, but was flown by a VP-52 crew.

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

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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
- 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

#43, #50 and #89 all made dive bombing attacks on Wolca Island between 0025K and 0100K on the night of 30 March.

#43 attacked first. It approached from the West, then dived in from 3000 feet and released 1-1000 pound and 1-500 pound bomb, encountering no anti-aircraft fire. Ten minutes later, at 0055K, the remaining two bombs were released at 5000 feet. This time intense light medium and heavy anti-aircraft fire was encountered. The pilot then went down to 1000 feet, from where two large fires could be seen in the supply area. Four medium automatic guns opened up on the plane when it was two miles offshore. An enemy fighter was sighted but not engaged.

#50 attacked next. It dived from 3000 feet and released all its bombs at 2000 feet, encountering the same intense anti-aircraft fire met by #43. The bombs landed in the supply area. A heavy jolt was felt in the plane from their explosion. The waist lookout report that one anti-aircraft position stopped firing after the attack. While over the target a plane with running lights on was seen.

#89 circled the island 3 times, encountering light and medium anti-aircraft fire. The bombs were released in a glide run at 3000 feet. Three incendiaries were dropped with the heavy bombs. All bombs landed in the target area, causing 3 fires. Just before the attack, 3 planes were seen from #89, but they did not close.

No bombsights were used, the pilots sighting by eye. None of the planes were hit by anti-aircraft fire.

The crews of the planes were as follows:

#43

PFC	Lt. W. J. Lahodney, USN.
1st Pilot	Lt.(jg) E. R. Stell, A-V(N), USNR.
2nd Pilot	Lt.(jg) E. M. Kalstad, A-V(N), USNR.
Plane Captain	Basier, R. E., AM1c, (CA), USN.
2nd Mechanic	Yuhos, J. P., AM1c, (CA), USN.
1st Radioman	Adamowski, M. C., AM1c, (CA), USN.
2nd Radioman	Schreier, J. A., AM2c, (CA), V-6, USNR.
Gunner	O'Connor, J. F., AM1c, USN.
Bombardier	Laur, E., AM1c, (CA), V-2, USNR.

#50

PFC	Lt.(jg) L. F. Kellerman, USN.
1st Pilot	Lt.(jg) H. J. Graham, A-V(N), USNR.
2nd Pilot	Ens. A. Fowler, A-V(N), USNR.
Plane Captain	Little, C. E., AM1N(AA), (CA), USN.
2nd Mechanic	DeSilva, R. F., AM1c, (CA), V-2, USNR.
1st Radioman	Stanski, C. S., AM1c, (CA), V-6, USNR.
2nd Radioman	Martin, E. H., AM2c, (CA), V-6, USNR.
Gunner	Campbell, W. E., AM3c, V-6, (CA), USNR.

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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:

H.S. McGOWIN, Lt., A-V(S), USNR, ACIO

H. A. SOMMER, Lt. Cdr., USN, Commanding

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE

JUN 2 1944