

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**ROUTING SLIP**

**U. S. NAVAL AIRCRAFT, SOUTHWEST PACIFIC FORCE**

01 032

DATE REC. \_\_\_\_\_ FILE No. A16-3(6) INC. No. \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ SERIAL No. \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ENCL. OR No. COPIES: -1-

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	3	B	[Signature]	
05 Flag Secretary	1	B	[Signature]	
06 Administrative Asst.				
11 Operations Officer	4	B	[Signature]	
12 Asst. Oper. Off.				
15 Flag Lieutenant				
20 Communications Off.				
21 Asst. Comm. Off.				
22 Comm. Watch Offs.				
25 Intelligence Off.	2	A	[Signature]	<b>REMARKS</b>
40 Supply Officer				
50 Materiel Officer				
51 Aircraft Eng's. 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	5	B	[Signature]	
91 Training Officer				
Flag Util. Unit				



PATROL SQUADRON FIFTY TWO

VP-52/A16-5

Serial: 64

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

From: Commander Patrol Squadron FIFTY TWO.  
To : Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.  
Subject: Action Reports, Submission of.  
Reference: (a) Cominch Rest. ltr. Serial 5085 of  
August 2, 1943.  
Enclosure: (A) Action Report # 37.

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (A) is forwarded herewith.

H. A. SOMMER.

c.c.

ComAir 7th Flt. ✓  
DC FAW - 17  
Allied Air Intelligence Center,  
ComSouWesPacFor.



Care of Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, California.

March 24, 1944.

01 032



# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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(Reclassify when filled out)

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VP 52 (b) Based on or at U.S.S. San Pablo, Langemak Bay, New Guinea (c) Report No. 37  
 (d) Date of Action 11 Feb. '44 (e) Take off: Time 0830 (GCT); Lat. 06 35 S Long 147 51 E  
 (f) Mission Radar search (g) Time of Return 2000 (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				1	4 Army-Navy G.P. 250 lb. bombs	1/10 second tail Contact nose

## 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
Single engine	8		1515 (GCT)	Wewak		
			(GCT)			
			(GCT)			
			(GCT)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Landing at Wewak  
 (i) Weather and Clouds at Location of Encounter(s) 1500 feet- 6/10 squally  
Moon half full 60 degrees above  
 (j) Sun or Moon western horizon (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.
				1250	3000			000		

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

SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes

- TURNING
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT



# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

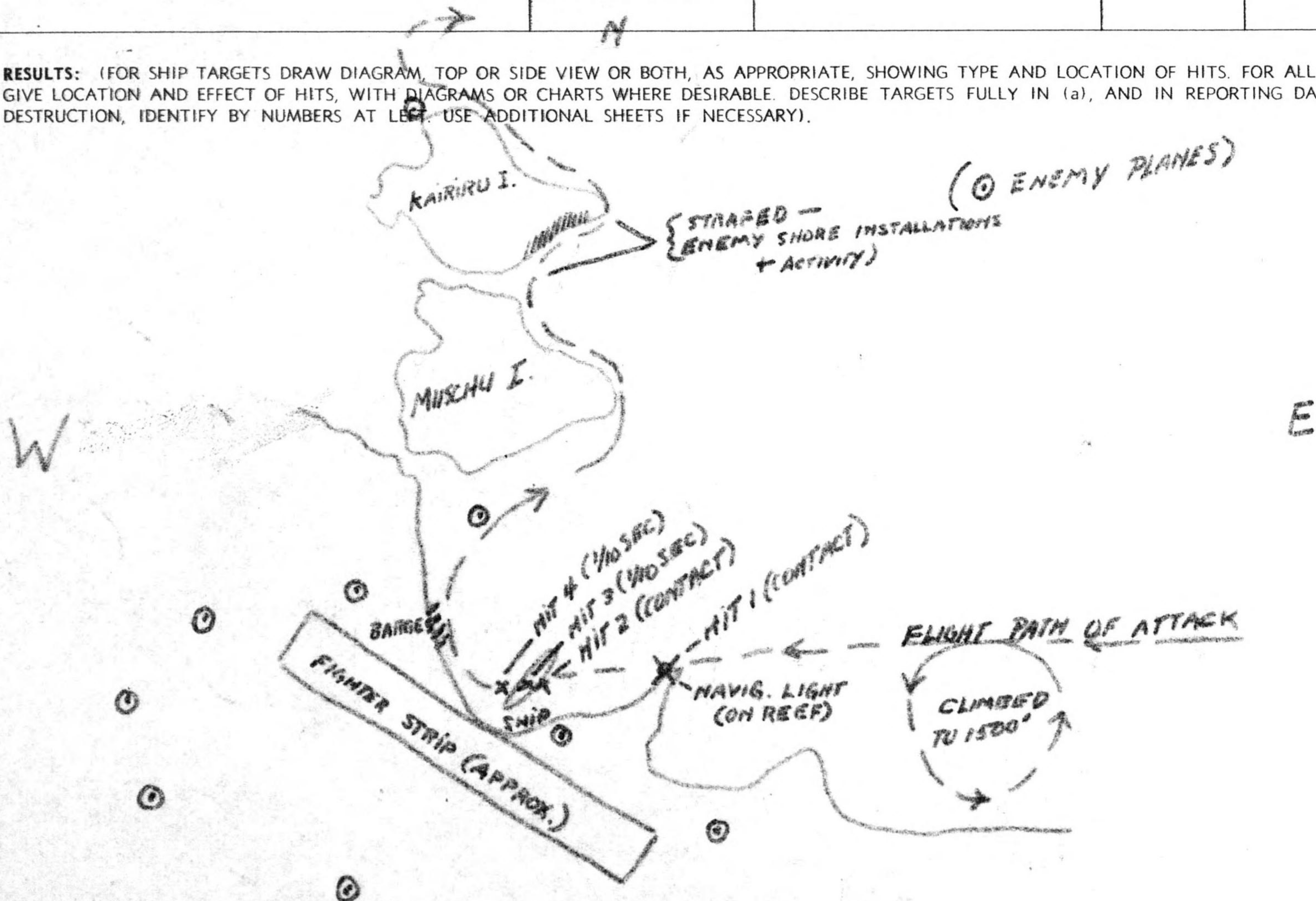
## X. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only),

(a) Location of Target(s) Wowak Harbor (b) Time Over Target(s) 1515 GCT.  
 (c) Weather and Clouds Over Target 6/10 at 1500 feet  
 (d) Sun or Moon Moon half full 60 degrees above western horizon (e) Visibility 10 miles

## 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	1 3000 ton cargo ship		3 x 250 lb.	1000'	2, and 1 near miss
2	Navigation light on reef		1 x 250 lb.	1000'	1
3					
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

1. This plane, equipped with radar counter-measures devices, was making one of a series of special search flights with the object of ascertaining the location of enemy radar installations in the Bismarck Sea area. After several of these missions the pilot was permitted, at his request, to carry a load of bombs for shipping targets of opportunity. Having completed his regular mission, the pilot decided to make a barge sweep along the east side of Mushu and Kairiri Islands (his plane has four forward-firing fifty caliber guns in the bow). He approached from the north, arriving about 0215 Love. No attempt had been made to black out the area. Two miles from the shore the pilot was able to pick out a 3000 ton cargo ship in Wewak harbor. He could also see 3 planes with running lights on circling a strip. He climbed into the clouds, then dived out of them to 1000 feet into the landing circle, where 9 planes could now be seen, all with running lights on. One was about a quarter of a mile ahead, and one close enough behind for its cockpit lights to be seen from the waist. It seemed to be cut out of the landing circle by the FBY, and flashed its landing lights in an apparent attempt to signal the FBY that its running lights were not showing. The FBY, which had approached from the east, continued toward its target at 1000 feet altitude. The first bomb, fuzed for contact, was released by the second pilot at the navigation light. It was seen from the waist to land 10 feet away from the light and put it out. About two seconds later the pilot dropped the remaining three bombs at the ship. It appeared to observers in the waist to be hit by one bomb fuzed for contact and by one fuzed for a 1/10 second delay, as they could see a blinding flash and a red glow. Both pilots sighted by eye, using no bombsight. Immediately after the attack the FBY, still followed by the plane from the landing circle, made a sharp right turn, losing altitude. The second pilot and observers in the waist could see the ship listing sharply to port, its decks awash, a mass of wreckage amidships.

Taking evasive action, the pilot proceeded toward the two islands. The lights of installations were seen on Kairiri Island and heavily strafed with the bow and port fifties. These lights were seen to go out. The plane then retired eastward.

**The crew of the plane was as follows:**

PFC	Lieut. Robert D. DILWORTH, A-V(N), USNR, 99828.
1st Pilot	Lieut. (jg) George W. BILLINGS, Jr., A-V(N), USNR, 130250.
2nd Pilot	Ensign Donald T. DONLEY, A-V(N), USNR, 251235.
Plane Captain	CANADA, Robert W., 290 71 81, AMMLc, (CAC), USN.
2nd Mechanic	CHASE, Morton A., 382 75 13, AMMLc, CAC, USN.
Gunner	KOHR, Thomas H., 651 50 90, ACM2c, (CAC), V-6, USNR.
Gunner	STONE, Edwin "D", 654 36 20, AMM2c, (CAC), V-6, USNR.
1st Radioman	CARLSON, John P., 385 83 16, ACRM(AA), (CAC), USN.
2nd Radioman	BRUSH, Ellsworth E., 654 04 68, AHM2c, (CAC), V-6, 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:

*N. S. McRowin*

SIGNATURE

APPROVED BY: *1s/ H.A. Sommer*

*LT.AVS, USNR., ACIO*

RANK AND DUTY

*Lt.Cdr., USN.CO, VP-52 20 March 1944*

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE