

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VP34 (b) Based on or at Samarai (c) Report No. 2
 (d) Date of Action 31 December 1942 (e) Take off: Time 0630 (GCT); Lat. 10° 37'S Long 150° 39' E
 (f) Mission Search and attack (g) Time of Return 2035 (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	2 x 500 lb. G.P. Mk 43 2 x 1000 lb G.P. Mk 44	Tail, 4-5" delay 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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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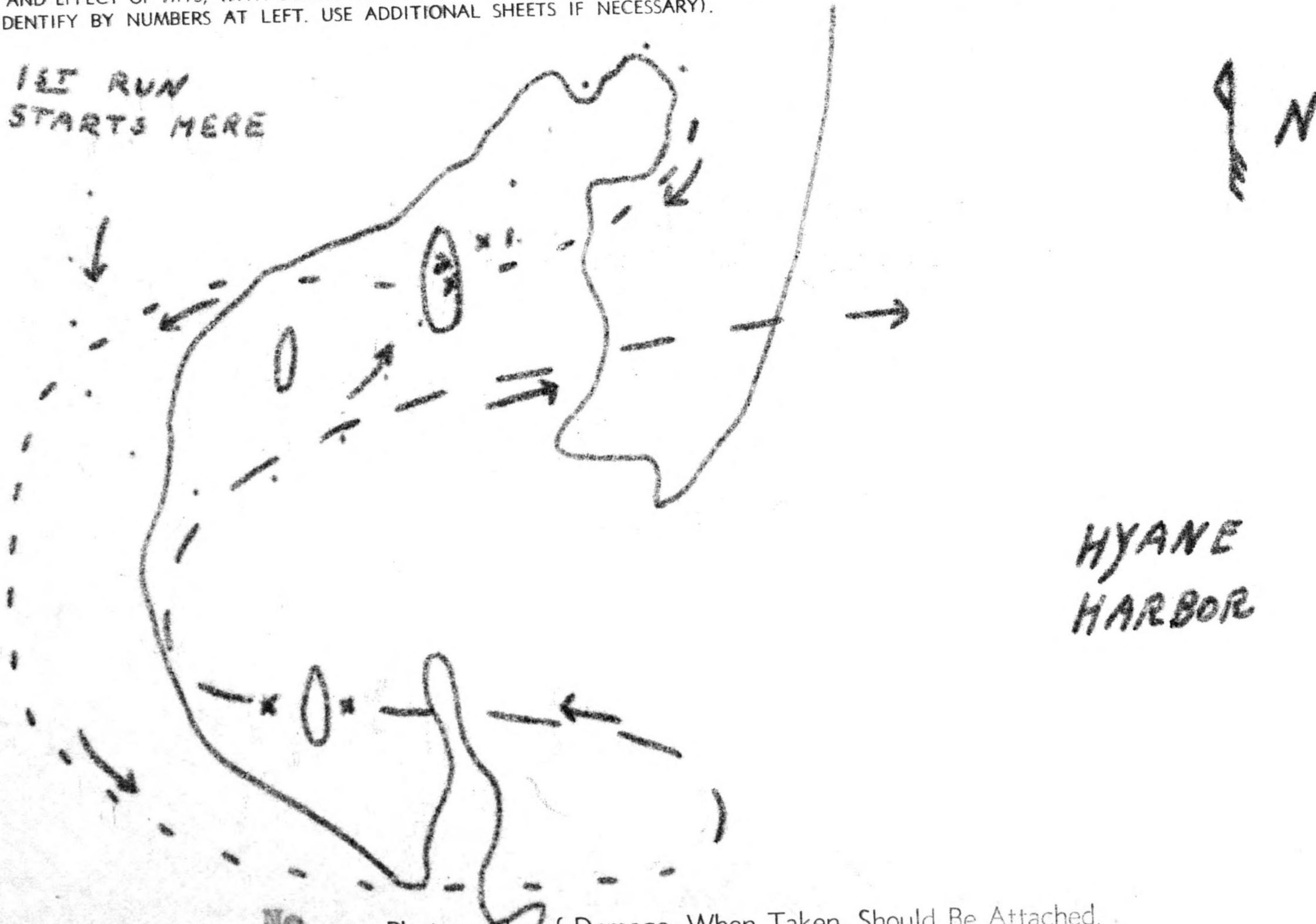
X. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only)

(a) Location of Target(s) 02° 03' S, 147° 27' E (b) Time Over Target(s) (1) 1500
(2) 1515 GCT.
(c) Weather and Clouds Over Target Weather good; no clouds
(d) Sun or Moon One quarter moon (e) Visibility Unlimited

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	9000 Ton AK	PBY-5 VP-34	Mk 44 2 x 1000 lb G.P.	100-150'
2	5000 Ton AK	do do	Mk 43 2 x 500 lb G. P.	150'	See (g)
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.

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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

Attack #1

The plane was conducting a search mission against enemy shipping in the Admiralty Islands area. At 0150 L it returned to make a thorough search of Hyane Harbor, Los Negros Island, after having looked over that area once before during the evening. The weather was excellent, ceiling and visibility unlimited, with a one-quarter moon. Three ships were found in the harbor, well separated from each other and hugging the shore-line to take advantage of the shadows. At the north end of the harbor was a 9000 ton cargo vessel, in the center a small escort, and to the south a 5000 ton cargo ship. All appeared preparing to get underway.

After circling around to the west of the bay, the plane at 0206 L made a run on the larger AK from port quarter to starboard beam, attaining a speed of 160 knots. One 1000 lb. bomb was released at 100-150 feet in a 45 degree dive. It hit 75 feet over the ship. A few minutes later a second attack was made on the starboard beam at the same speed, altitude and angle of approach, releasing a single 1000 lb. bomb which struck amidships on the starboard side. Two of the pilots and several enlisted crew members saw a huge explosion blow chunks of the bridge high into the air.

As soon as the second run was in progress the escort ship opened fire on the aircraft with 20 mm. and machine guns, but scored no hits.

Twenty minutes later the plane returned to the scene of the attack and saw the ship resting on the bottom in several fathoms of water, with her bow and stern the only portion of her hull visible.

Squadron assessment: sunk.

Attack #2

After completing its successful attack on the larger AK, the plane circled around from the west to the east side of the harbor and made a run on the second AK, which by that time had begun to back down to a position from which it could get out of the harbor mouth. A beam attack was made at a speed of 150 knots, releasing two 500 lb. bombs in a 30 degree glide at 150 feet. The pilot attempted to release both bombs individually in quick succession, but due to failure to take them with the pickle off the intervalometer which had previously been set for 50 feet the bombs -- which were placed first and last on the intervalometer -- fell 150 feet apart. The first bomb was 40 feet short and the second was 75 feet over the target

A near miss with a bomb carrying a 4-5 second delay fuse is not ordinarily considered by this squadron as sufficient basis for claiming possible damage; however, it is believed that damage may have been caused in this instance because the harbor is only 13 fathoms deep at the spot where the ship was

Page 4 - Action Report #2

Attack #2 (Continued)

attacked, and the forward travel of the first bomb would bring it to a point beneath the keel.

Squadron assessment: Possibly damaged.

PPC of the plane was Lieutenant E. J. Fisher, U.S.N. The above attacks were made on the first night's operations by units of this squadron in a combat area. On the same night the squadron C.O., Lieutenant Commander T. A. Christopher, U.S.N., scored a direct hit with a 500 lb. bomb on a destroyer. (See Patrol Squadron 34 Action Report #1).

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XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.
Use additional sheets if necessary).

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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:

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SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

31 Dec. 1943

DATE