

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

(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) Kairiru Island, off Wewak (b) Time Over Target(s) 1630
1730 GCT
1740

(c) Weather and Clouds Over Target .3 Alto-stratus

(d) Sun or Moon Full Moon (e) Visibility 25 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	<u>2 or 3 Barges</u>		<u>400 rounds .50 caliber</u>	
2	<u>Barge Repair Depot area</u>		<u>250 rounds .50 caliber</u>	<u>3000'</u>	
3	<u>Village southeast side of island</u>		<u>2 X 100# Fragmentation</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).

(h) Were Photographs Taken? _____ 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

Lieut. Comdr. Sommer's mission was a night search for a submarine in the Nowak area. Visibility from a full moon was excellent, but the sub was not found. After a thorough search of possible sub tracks and positions, he decided to strafe and bomb with frags targets in the area before returning to base. At 0230K, 3 barges were found at the barge depot on the south central shore of Kairiri Island. 2 had reached the cover of the trees along the shore and the third was about 50 yards offshore headed for cover when a strafing run was made toward the shore. The four .50 caliber guns in the bow jammed after 150 rounds, but fire from these guns and the port waist gun was seen to go into the targets. One barge directed small caliber machine gun fire at the plane during its approach and retirement, but no hits were received.

At 0330K Lieut. Comdr. Sommer returned to the barge repair depot area after making another sweep for the submarine. He then made a steep diving run from 9000 feet releasing at 3000 feet, and hit the personnel area with two 100 pound frags. Then after a circle around the harbor at 3000 feet, Lieut. Comdr. Sommer returned and strafed the village on the southeast side of the island, expending about 250 rounds with his waist fifties.

The jamming of the four forward firing fifties (described in paragraph XII above) was caused by defective armor piercing ammunition. Armor piercing balls on about 3% of the ammunition separated from cases and jammed in the barrels, spilling powder in the breeches. This ammunition was from lot #18224.

The crew of the plane was as follows:

PFC	Lt. Cdr. H. A. SOMMER, USN.
1st Pilot	Lt. (jg) H. W. IRWIN, A-V(N), USNR.
2nd Pilot	Ens. W. ABBE, III, A-V(N), USNR.
Plane Captain	MUSIER, R. E., AM1c, (CA), USN.
2nd Mechanic	BLAKE, J. R., AM1c, (CA), V-8, USNR.
1st Radioman	BYBEE, C. M., AM1c, (CA), V-6, USNR.
2nd Radioman	WEBER, R. G., AM2c, (CA), USN.
Gunner	LACKEY, E. L., AM1c, (CA), USN.
Gunner	WHITELLY, R., AM2c, (CA), V-6, USNR.
Gunner	WOLCOTT, R. L., AM2c, (CA), V-6, USNR.
Bombardier	ROBERTS, J. S., AM2c, (CA), USN.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

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

See paragraph XII - 3, page 4.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

N. S. McGOWIN, Lieut. USNR ACIO

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

H. A. SOMMER

SIGNATURE

Lieut. Comdr. USN

RANK AND DUTY

JUN 2 1944

DATE