OPNAV-16-V-#S37
Form ACA-1
Sheet 1 of 5

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
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CONFIDENTIAL

Reg # 01490

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VP34 (b) Based on or at USS ORCA, Woendi Lagoon (c) Report No. 47

(d) Take off: Date 11 Aug. 1944 Time (LZT) 1820 K (Zone); Lat. 01° 15' S Long. 136° 25' E

(e) Mission Search and attack (f) Time of Return 0630 K (Zone)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

TYPE (a)	SQUADRON (b)	NUMBER: TAKING OFF (c)	NUMBER: ENGAGING ENEMY A/C (d)	NUMBER: ATTACKING TARGET (e)	BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE) (f)	FUZE, SETTING (g)
PBY-5	VP34	1	-	1	4x500 lb GP Mk 43 4x100 lb GP Mk 30 8x23 lb parafrags	Tail;4-5" delay do Nose;instantaneous

III. OTHER U. S. OR ALLIED AIRCRAFT EMPLOYED IN THIS OPERATION.

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE

IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (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
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____

(i) Did Any Part of Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? _____ (YES OR NO) If so, Describe Clouds _____ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(j) Time of Day and Brilliance of Sun or Moon _____ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (k) Visibility _____ (MILES)

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: TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER	GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED

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OPNAV-16-V-#S37
Form ACA-1
Sheet 2 of 5

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
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CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. 47

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 (List armor, self-sealing tanks, equipment hit)	(e) EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE, (Give Bureau serial number of planes destroyed)
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 FOR PLANES RETURNING

(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				(h) NO. OF PLANES RETURNING
						.30	.50	20MM	MM	
PBY-5	650	600	12.2	1450	1100					1

IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	X			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	X			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm		X		

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

SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

TURNS
DIVES
CEILINGS
RANGE
PROTECTION
ARMAMENT

ALLSET — MFD. BY THE EGRY REGISTER CO., PATENTED

OPNAV-16-V-#S37
Form ACA-1
Sheet 3 of 5

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 47

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) 01° 11' N, 127° 58' E (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) 0030 K (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target 1500', Cumulus, 6/10 (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear at 1/2 mile (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility 5 miles (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used None (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 4 (NUMBER) Spacing 30 (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 1st run-40' 2nd run-75' (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed None Probably Destroyed None Damaged None

(h) AIMING POINT	(i) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(j) NO. A/C ATTACKING / (k) SQUADRON	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO. HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
1 Medium AK (Type unknown)	2-5000 tons	1 / VP34	4x500 lb GP Mk 43 4x100 lb GP Mk 30	None None	None None
2			4x23 lb parafrags	None	None
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

(o) RESULTS: (For all hits claimed on ship targets and for land targets of special interest, 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, and identify by numbers above. Use additional sheets if necessary).

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

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AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
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CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. 47

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
  - Pull-Out
- Dive Angle
- Strafing
- Retirement
- Defensive Tactics
- Use of Jamming

DEFENSE, ENEMY
- Evasive Tactics, Ships
- Concealment
- Searchlights
- Night Fighter Tactics
- Use of Jamming

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

The plane (PPC: Lt.Comdr. V. V. Utgoff, USN) was searching for enemy shipping in the northern Halmaheras on a dark moonless night, with limited visibility. It entered Kaoe Bay by the northeastern passage, flying at 600 feet, and circled clockwise around the entire area, including Wasile Bay and other anchorages, until it reached the vicinity of Kaoe Town. At that point light inaccurate fire was received from one or two guns on ships beached near the town. As the Catalina headed for the entrance to the bay, radar picked up a blip at 5 miles dead ahead. Guided by radar to within ½ mile the pilot sighted a dark object on the water, with another nearby. The plane circled preparatory to attacking, and the pilot started his run from the direction of the harbor mouth, pushing over in a steep glide from 600 feet. Due to darkness the correct heading was misjudged and the plane passed 50 feet astern of the ship selected as target, two 100 pound and two 500 pound bombs being released from an altitude of 40 feet without damage. Two parafrags were also dropped but failed to explode due to the low release altitude.

Climbing to 600 feet, a second run of the same character was essayed, this time releasing the same bomb load from 75 feet. All bombs overshot - the nearest (100 pounds) by 30 feet.

The ships seemed dead in the water at all times, although the location is not a usual anchorage. It is considered probable that they were proceeding at very slow speed toward Wasile Bay. The darkness prevented accurate identification, but they had the size and general characteristics of medium merchantmen.

No return fire was encountered from the ships.

Squadron assessment: Medium merchant vessel (unidentified) attacked with no damage.

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OPNAV-16-V-#S37
Form ACA-1
Sheet 5 of 5

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

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REPORT No. 47

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:

J. S. Kemper Jr.

Lieut. J. S. Kemper, Jr., USNR
SIGNATURE — A.C.I. Officer — RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY: V V Utgoff

Lt. Comdr. V. V. UTGOFF, USN, Commanding.
SIGNATURE — RANK AND DUTY — DATE

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