# CONFIDENTIAL

### ROUTING SLIP AIRCRAFT, SEVENTH FLEET

Date Rec. 20 Aug 13	4	File No.		Inc. No. 02398			
From: VP-34.				Serial No			
Date: 30 July 19	944	Encl. of	r No. Copies	:-1-			
Subject: Aircrat Action Report No. 39.							
OFFICER	ROUTING	SYMBOL	INITIAL	A — Action.			
00 Commodore				B — Information. C — For Recommendation.			
01 Chief Staff Officer				D — Prepare Draft Reply.			
05 Flag Secretary	/	B	M	E — Retain Copy. F — Consult Ch. Staff Off.			
06 Administrative Asst.				K — Distribute (As necessary)			
11 Operations Officer				L — File.  M — Make Changes to reference			
12 Assistant Operations				publications, etc.			
15 Flag Lieutenant				T — Make Tickler.			
20 Communications Officer				REMARKS			
21 Radar Officer							
22 Assistant Comm. Officer							
25 Information Officer	2	F7	14				
40 Supply Officer							
50 Material Officer							
51 Aircraft Eng. Off.							
52 Aircraft Struct. Off.							
55 Aerological Officer							
60 Personnel Officer							
61 Legal Officer							
65 Photographic Officer							
75 Medical Officer							
90 Gunnery Officer							
91 Training Officer							

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED (Reclassify when filled out)

CHADENTIAL

## I. GENERAL

Mission .			nd attack		HIS REF	ORT.		r) Time of	Return_0800	( Z.OI IE
TYPE (a)	SQUADRON (b)	TAKING OFF (c)	NUMBER ENGAGING ENEMY A/C (d)	ATTACKING TARGET (e)			ND TORPEDOE: (PER PLANE) (f)		FUZE, SET	TTING
PBY-5	VP34	1		1	4 x	500 lb.	GP, Mk.	43	Tail; 4-5"	delay
			ALDCDAFT	FLADLOVE	D INI T	UIC ODED	ATION			
TYPE	SOUADRON	OR ALLIED	AIRCRAFT	BASE	D IN I	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BAS	E
ITPE	SQUADRON	NOMBER								
IV. Et	NEMY AIR	CRAFT OBSI	ERVED OR E	NGAGED (	By Own	Aircraft	Listed in 11	Only).		
(a) TYPE	(b) NO. OBSERVED	NO. ENGAGING OWN A/C	(d)		(e) ATION OF COUNTER		BOMBS, TORPE GUNS C		D; CAMOI	(g) JFLAGE AND ARKING
			(ZON	E)						
			(ZON	(E)						
							-			
			(ZON							
Apparo	nt Fnomy	Mission(s)								
	ent Enemy /		(ZON	(E)						
Did An Encour	y Part of hter(s) Occ	ur in Clouds	(ZON	(E)	cribe CI	ouds	(BASE I	N FEET, TYPE	AND TENTHS OF CO	VER)
Did An Encour	y Part of hter(s) Occ	ur in Clouds	(ZON	If so, Desc			(BASE I		sibility	
Did An Encour Time o of Sun	y Part of hter(s) Occ f Day and B or Moon.	ur in Clouds Brilliance	(ZON	If so, Desc	Y, OVERCA	AST; ETC.)		( <b>k</b> ) Vis	sibility	VER)
Did An Encour Time o of Sun V. EN	y Part of Iter(s) Occ If Day and B or Moon	ar in Clouds Brilliance CRAFT DEST	(YES OR NO)  (NIGHT, BRIG	If so, Desc	Y, OVERCA	AST; ETC.)		( <b>k</b> ) Vis	sibility	MILES)
Did An Encour Time of Sun  V. EN	y Part of other (s) Occurred to Day and Bor Moon. —  NEMY AIRC  (b) DESTR	ur in Clouds Brilliance	(ZON) (YES OR NO) (NIGHT, BRICANO) (NIGHT, BRICANO) (ROYED OR AGED BY:	If so, Desc	Y, OVERCA	AST; ETC.)	Aircraft L	(k) Vis	Only).	MILES)
Did An Encour Time of Sun  V. EN	y Part of other (s) Occurred to Day and Bor Moon. —  NEMY AIRC  (b) DESTR	ar in Clouds Brilliance CRAFT DEST	(ZON) (YES OR NO) (NIGHT, BRICANO) (NIGHT, BRICANO) (ROYED OR AGED BY:	If so, Descent Moon; DA	Y, OVERCA	R (By Own	Aircraft L	(k) Vis	Only).	MILES) (d) DAMA(
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39 REPORT No. VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those listed in II only). CAUSE: TYPE ENEMY A/C, TYPE GUN, OR OPERATIONAL CAUSE (d)
WHERE HIT, ANGLE (List armor, self-sealing tanks, equipment hit) (a) (b) (e)
EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE,
(Give Bureau serial number of planes destroyed) TYPE OWN A/C SQUADRON 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). (b) (a) (c) (d) (e) SQUADRON NAME, RANK OR RATING CAUSE CONDITION OR STATUS VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA FOR PLANES RETURNING (b) (a) (d) (g) TOTAL AMMUNITION EXPENDED (h) AV. HOURS AV FUEL AV. FUEL NO. OF PLANES RETURNING LOADED CONSUMED 20MM MM PBY-5 600 700 12.5 1450 1000 200 300 IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	**			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	77			
_IGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm		×		

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

SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

TURNS
DIVES
CEILINGS
RANGE
PROTECTION
ARMAMENT

RESTRICTED (Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

	20
DEDODT No	39

	Clouds Over Target Visibility of Target	None l Mile	Clear	TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)	Visibility	10 Miles
:)	Bombing Tactics: Type Glide  (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED  (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE)			By CLOUDS, ETC.)  Bomb Sight Us	(MILES)  None  (TYPE)	
	Bombs Dropped per Rui	n(NUMBER	Spacing	40 feet Altitude	of Bomb Rel	ease 200 feet
)	Number of Enemy Aire	craft Hit on Gro	und: Destroyed	Probably Destroyed_	-	_ Damaged
	(h) AIMING POINT	DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(j) NO. A/C ATTACKING (k) SQUADRON	BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO. HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk
	Three-masted schooner	75 feet	1 VP34	200 x .30 cal. 300 x .50 cal.	25% 25%	Serious
	Tare Baker Two Stacks	4-6000	VP34	4 x 500 lb GP Mk 43	4	Sunk
_						
-						
_						
/				•		

(p) Were Photographs Jaken? No

\_Photographs of Damage, WhenTaken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA. (Narrative and comment. Describe action fully and comment freely,

#### **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

Mavigation Homing Rendezvous Recognition, Ships Communications Flight Operations Search and Tracking Base Operations Maintenance

following applicable items in check list at left. Use additional sheets if necessary.)

The Catalina, commanded by Lieutenant (jg) Joe F. Ball, U.S.N.R., was on patrol of the Amboina-Ceram area on the night of 30 July 1944. Entering Piroe Bay from the north at 0200 K, the plane sighted and strafed a three-masted schooner in seven runs, with unobserved results. It then proceeded toward Amboina, and took up a southwesterly course about five miles off the north coast. A small lugger was sighted at 0250 K, at position 03° 30' S, 128° 06' E, and the pilot put the aircraft into a glide preparatory to a strafing attack. At that moment the radar operator reported three indications at two to three miles off the port beam. The attack on the lugger was immediately discontinued, and the pilot circled to approach the ships into the moon, which was just setting about five degrees above the western horizon. At one mile a large ship with a long superstructure could be seen in the moonpath, travelling slowly on course 070°. An escort was seen a mile astern of the merchantman, with two more located 1/2 mile and one mile off its starboard bow. At the same time the escort closest to the ship opened up with about fifty rounds of inaccurate machine gun fire.

Commencing its run from an altitude of 600 feet, the plane passed over the ship from bow to stern, dropping four 500 pound bombs from 200 feet at a speed of 120 knots, with the intervalometer set for 40 feet, 120 knots. The lookouts in the waist observed all four bombs hit the ship, and a few seconds later saw a huge explosion that reached over the masts. Throughout the actual attack and retirement no fire was directed at the plane.

The pilot made a wide circle and returned to the exact spot in which the attack had been made. The only sign of the ship was a frothing circle on the sea, with large bubbles erupting on the surface. The radar operator at this time was able to find only three small indications on his screen, located relatively in the previously noted positions of the three escorts. The plane then left the area, receiving further light inaccurate fire from one of the escorts as it departed.

Several crew members, including the pilot, were able to observe the salient features of the target vessel in the moonlight, and identify it as a Tare Baker Two Stacks, of 4000 to 6000 tons.

Squadron assessment: 4000 to 6000 ton transport sunk.

This action report records the resumption of activities on the part of Patrol Squadron THIRTY FOUR contributing to the attrition of the Japanese merchant fleet.

From December 31, 1943, until February 16, 1944, this squadron engaged in Black Cat operations from Samarai, New Guinea, under Commander Aircraft SEVENTH Fleet, carrying its search-and-attack missions into an area bounded roughly by New Britain on the south, Wewak on the west, the Equator on the north, and New Ireland on the east. The primary mission was to attack shipping. During this seven-week period the squadron, averaging slightly less than four missions per night, made fifty-one (51) attacks, thirty-four (34) of which were successful in

## AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA. (Cont'd)

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varying degree. It has been officially credited with the following results:

3 destroyers and 1 escort vessel damaged by 500 or 1000 pound bombs.

1 destroyer damaged by heavy strafing.

70,000 tons of merchant shipping sunk or destroyed.

50 to 75 barges destroyed or damaged.

The above actions have been described in Patrol Squadron THIRTY FOUR Action Reports #1 - 37.

On 17 July 1944 the squadron resumed Black Cat search-and-attack missions operating from a tender in the Biak area. During the intervening time, the squadron, in addition to conducting day searches, engaged in air-sea rescue operations in the New Guinea-New Ireland-New Britain-Admiralties area, rescuing a total of 77 individuals in open-sea landings, the great majority of these landings having been made in enemy territory, including Kavieng Harbor, Hansa Bay and Alexishafen. In addition numerous special missions were performed. In the course of these operations PBY's of this squadron were the first allied aircraft to land at Kavieng, the Admiralties (Los Negros Island), Hansa Bay, and Lake Sentani (Hollandia).

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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 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

APPROVED BY

V. V. UTGOFF, LtComdr., USN,

20 AUG 1944

SIGNATURE

A.C.I. Officer

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE Commanding

RANK AND DUTY

DATE