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Form ACA-1
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AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

055928

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VPB-26 (b) Based on or at USS NORTON SOUND, Kerama Retto (c) Report No. 7-45

(d) Take off: Date 23 June 1945 Time (LZT) 1748 I (Zone); Lat. 26-15N Long. 127-20E

(e) Mission Night Search - Call 92V464 (f) Time of Return 0555 I (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)
PBM-5	VPB-26	1		1	6 AN-M 30 100 lb. GP	A^N-M 115 4-5 seconds

III. OTHER U. S. OR ALLIED AIRCRAFT EMPLOYED IN THIS OPERATION. NONE

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE

IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only). NONE

(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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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 PBM-5	VPB-26	MG, and 20 or 25 mm	Hull, bow hit; hole in prop, in cowling of starboard engine and nacelle. ICS out, IFF damaged and out. Bow turret damaged. Radio slight damage. Shell exploded in galley. Hit from below, 12 o'clock.	Slight
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
3	VPB-26	James A. Clews, Lt.	Shrapnel	Slight injury
		Jack E. Landreth Lt(jg)	Ditto	Ditto
		VANACORE, Alfred P. AOM1c	Ditto	Ditto

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	
PBM-5	600	600	12.1	2700	2300		300			

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

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)
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XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Sugar Charlie Sugar -880 tons 35-15N; 129-35E (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) 2315 I (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target None (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target clear, but at night (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility 2 miles (MILES)

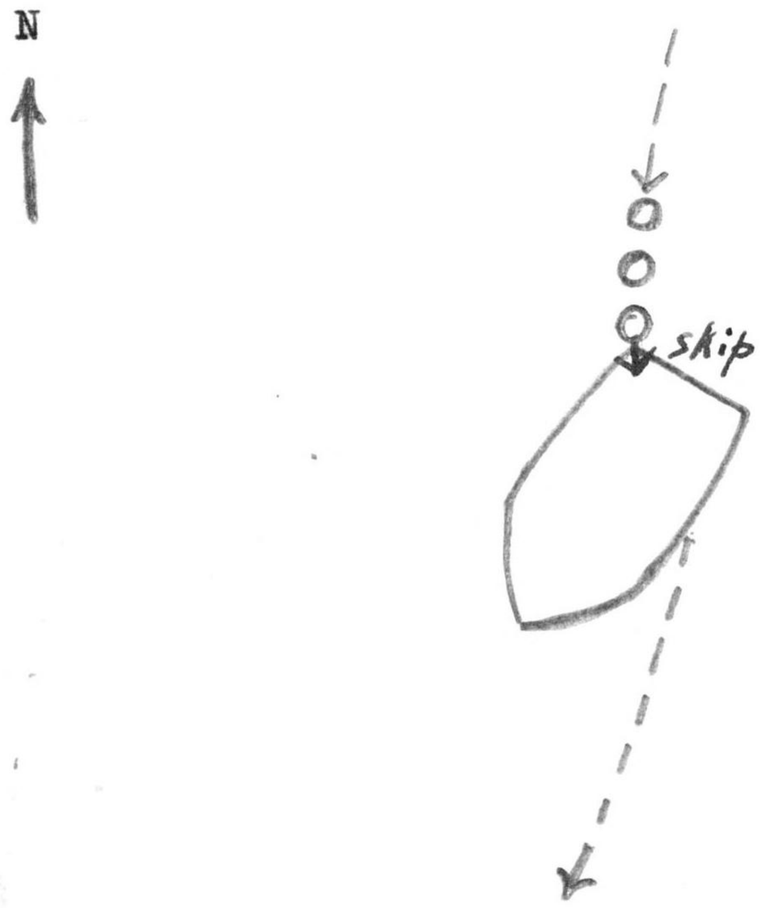
(f) Bombing Tactics: Type level (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used Seaman's Eye (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 3 (NUMBER) Spacing 25 (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 125 (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed _____ Probably Destroyed _____ Damaged _____

	(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	Sugar Charlie	880 G.T.	1 / VPB-26	3 X 100 G.P.	1	Moderate
2	Sugar					
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).



Moderate damage

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

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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
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

Before dark on 23 June 1945, Lt. J.A. Clews and crew took off from Kerama Retto on a night search and tracking mission, with the call of 92 Victor 464. The track carried them through Japan's vital Straits of Tsushima and into the Sea of Japam.

About an hour and a half before midnight at 34-15N, 129-35E, North of Tsushima and East of Korea, they came upon two large ships identified as a freighter transport (Fox Tare Baker, 5500 tons) and an oiler (Suagr Able Item) 7000 tons, on a course of 315 degrees, speed 12 knots. Some 5 miles West was a smaller ship, identified as a small stack-aft freighter (Sugar Charlie Sugar, 880 tons). After sizing up the situation, Lt. Clews decided that too much risk from anti-aircraft would be involved in attacking the larger vessels, since they were fairly close together and the moom was quite bright, and he hterefore decided to make an attack on the small one, which was then on a course of 210 degrees, speed 10 knots.

The attack was made at 2315 Item, from a position in which he considered that a cloud behind him would prevent the ship from seeing his approach. The moon was slightly off his starboard bow. As he closed on his bomb run, at an altitude of 125 feet and a speed of 160 knots, he met intense anti-aircraft fire. This did not deter him from dropping his bombs, three GP 100 pounders. The last of the stick landed alongside the hill of the ship. A big flash was seen on the stern on retirement, and it is believed that the ship was moderatley or seriously damaged.

The anti-aircraft coming from the ship was from a machine gun at the stern, and another machine gun and also a 20 mm or 25 mm gun at the bow. In addition, three large bursts were seen in the air before the plane reached the target, suggesting the probability of mortar fire.

The damage to the plane was not serious, and did not affect its flying characteristics. The PPC and co-pilot, Lt. Clews and Lt(jg) J.E. Landreth were injured slightly by shrapnel, receiving cuts about the face. The bow gunner, A.P. Vanacore, AOM1c, received somewhat greater wounds, likewise not serious, about the shoulder, left arm, neck and face.

The plane returned safely to base.

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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

NO COMMENTS

REPORT PREPARED BY: Frank Guittard

FRANK GUITTARD, Lt., USNR-ACI Officer
SIGNATURE — RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY: R. S. Null

R. S. NULL, Lt. Cdr., USNR-Cd'g.
SIGNATURE — RANK AND DUTY

7-18-45
DATE