

Aircraft Action Reports

2-d (51) USS Orca

UNITED STATES FLEET
PATROL SQUADRON FIFTY-TWO

7035 -
not needed
for Bulletin

VPB52/A9-4

4 October 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM TO: Lieut.-Comdr. Benjamin Warfield, USNR,
Staff Intelligence Officer,
Commander Aircraft, Seventh Fleet

Subject: Patrol Bombing Squadron Fifty-Two,
Report of Operations for September

1. VPB 52 was based on the U. S. S. TANGIER at WOENDI LAGOON from the first to the sixteenth of September, and for three more days at the Seaplane Base, WOENDI ISLAND. During this period 58 air sea rescue missions were flown, covering strikes on CERAM, AMBON, SAMATE, the HALMAHERAS, DAVAO AND PALAU. One rescue was effected. On September 5 Lieut.(j. g.) Philip Sheridan landed at 1730I to pick up two RAAF Mosquito pilots on the beach about 30 miles west of MANOKWARI. They had completed a photo reconnaissance mission to the PHILIPPINES the day before. They made a wheels up landing in the water near the beach after getting temporarily lost in very bad weather. A P-38 found them and led Lieut.(j. g.) Sheridan to the scene. At the time, the Catalina was returning to base after giving air sea rescue coverage to strikes on the HALMAHERAS. Lieut.(j. g.) Sheridan landed and taxied in close to the beach. The rescued pilots swam out to the plane after destroying the Mosquito by fire.

2. In addition to these rescue missions flown from WOENDI, the squadron flew three special missions to MOROTAI ISLAND, HALMAHERAS, on the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth of September to bring out news reporters and photographers who covered the landings made there on the fifteenth. The first of these flights was made by Lieut*Comdr. R. Isner, Jr., USNR, who relieved Lieut-Comdr. H. A. Sommer, USN, of command of ~~command~~ of VPB52 on September 4. The next two were made by Lieut. C. J. Schauffler and Lieut.(j. g.) M. V. Watts.

3. Since September 20 the squadron has based at MANUS ISLAND, ADMIRALTIES, with detachments at EMIRAU, GREEN and TREASURY ISLANDS. These detachments have done air sea rescue work for the Northern SOLOMONS Air Command. By the end of the month they had flown 12 such missions. On September 29 Lieut.(j. g.) M. V. Watts, based at EMIRAU, rescued a Marine F4U pilot who had landed in the water just off the beach about half way down the east coast of NEW IRELAND (02 55' S 151 15'E). The F4U was at 200 feet altitude when its motor suddenly quit, possibly because of machine gun fire encountered in its sweep down the coast. Another pilot in the flight saw the landing and summoned the Catalina. Lieut.(j.g.) Watts effected the rescue

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without incident. F4Us provided fighter cover.

4. Starting September 23, the squadron alternated with VPB 34 in flying two 300 mile search sectors to the northwest from MANVS. The eight of these missions flown by VPB 52 were all negative.

N. S. McGowin

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Intelligence Officer, VPB 52

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ROUTING SLIP
AIRCRAFT, SEVENTH FLEET

02288

Date Rec. 6 Aug. '44 File No. _____ Inc. No. _____

From: VP-52 Serial No. Rep.#53

Date: 7 Jul '44 Encl. or No. Copies: 1

Subject: Aircraft Action Report

OFFICER	ROUTING	SYMBOL	INITIAL
00 Commodore			
01 Chief Staff Officer			
05 Flag Secretary			
06 Administrative Asst.	1	B	P
11 Operations Officer			
12 Assistant Operations			
15 Flag Lieutenant			
20 Communications Officer			
21 Radar Officer			
22 Assistant Comm. Officer			
25 Information Officer	2	A	LI
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			
Chief Yeoman			

- A — Action.
- B — Information.
- C — For Recommendation.
- D — Prepare Draft Reply.
- E — Retain Copy.
- F — Consult Ch. Staff Off.
- K — Distribute (As necessary)
- L — File.
- M — Make Changes to references, publications, etc.
- T — Make Tickler.

REMARKS