er—5-25-44—6M.

CONFIDENTIAL

# ROUTING SLIP
# AIRCRAFT, SEVENTH FLEET

Date Rec. 2D Aug 1944 File No. Inc. No. 02394

From: VP-34.

Date: 31 July 1944 Encl. or No. Copies: -1-

Subject: Aircraft Action Report No. 40.

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

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# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

om3544

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02394

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VP34 (b) Based on or at USS ORCA, Woendi Lagoon (c) Report No. 40

(d) Take off: Date 31 July 1944 Time (LZT) 1830 King (Zone); Lat 01° 15' S Long. 136° 25' E

(e) Mission Search and attack. (f) Time of Return 0800 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 | 4 x 500 lb. GP Mk. 43<br>8 x 20 lb. parafrags | Tail; 4-5" delay<br>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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## 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 | PBY-5 | VP34 | 20 or 40 mm. AA | Leading edge stbd wing | Large hole |
| 2 | | | do | Propellor | do |
| 3 | | | do | Stbd aileron cont. cable | Severed |
| 4 | | | do | Hull | Dents from shrapnel |
| 5 | | | .50 cal. MG | Struts and wing panels | Numerous holes |
| 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
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## 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 | 800 | 600 | 13.5 | 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

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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) 1 AK, 2 DE (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) 0200 K (Zone)

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

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility 10-15 miles (MILES)

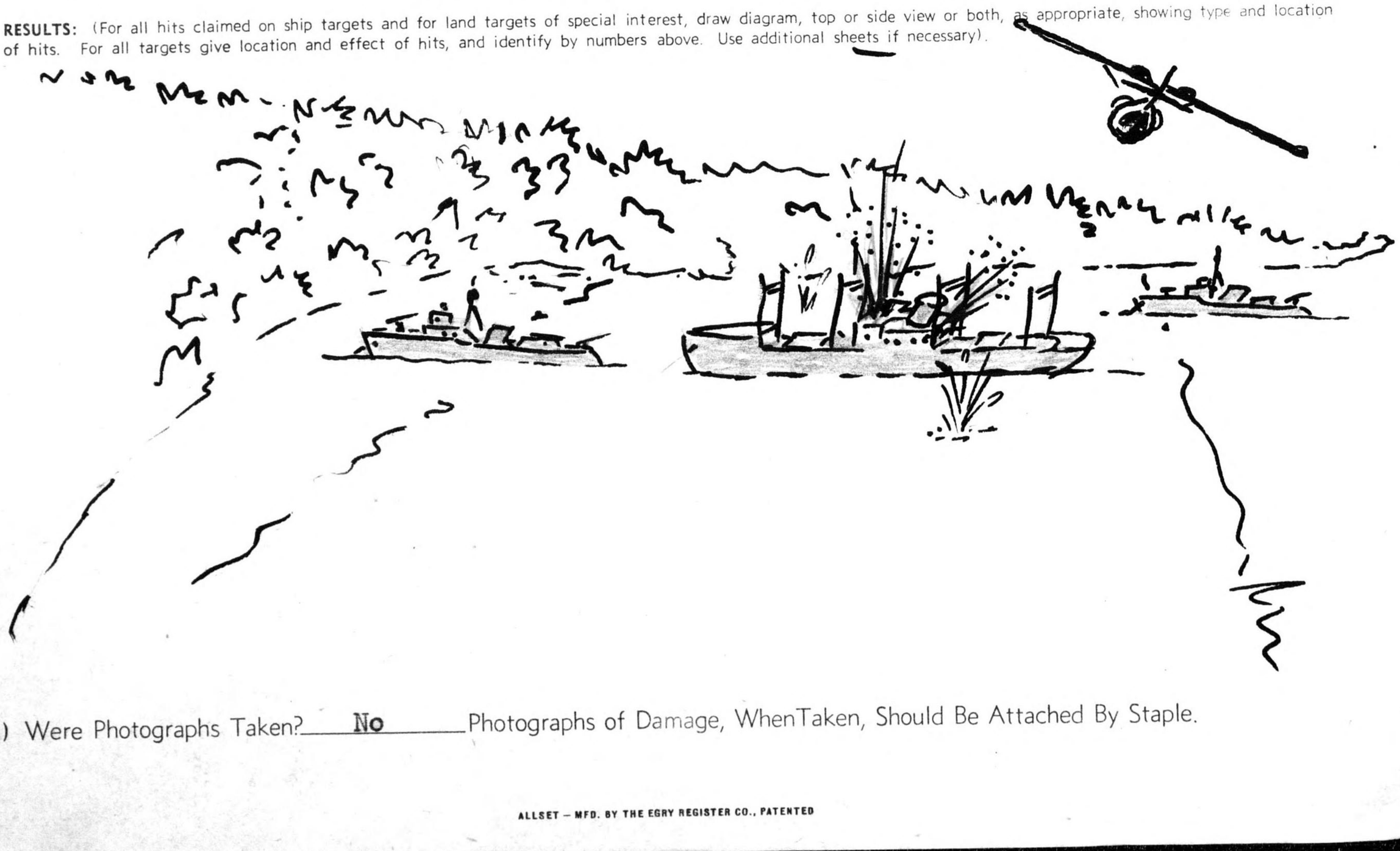
(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used None (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 4 (NUMBER) Spacing 40 (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 200 (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 Freighter-transport (FTA) | 7-8500 tons | 1 / VP34 | 4 x 500 lb GP, Mk. 43 | 2 | Destroyed; probably sunk. |
| 2 | | | | | |
| 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, 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

On the night of 31 July, 1944, Lieutenant Norman L. Paxton, U.S.N.R. was in command of a Catalina searching the north coast of Mangole Island, one of the Soela group located in the south Molucca Sea. The night was clear, with a 3/4 moon, no clouds, and visibility in excess of ten miles. At approximately 0200 K while proceeding on a westerly course and carefully searching the shore-line, the pilot saw an escort vessel, believed to be of the DE type, lying in a small cove, at position 01° 49' S, 125° 30' E. The pilot made a complete right hand circle to put the plane in position for a run into the moon-path, the moon at the time being about 40° above the western horizon. While circling, the crew sighted two additional vessels in the cove, a large freighter-transport and a second escort. The ships were spaced at intervals of 1/4 mile, with the merchantmen in the center, approximately 1/4 mile off shore.

The plane commenced its run at an altitude of 800 feet, distance 1-1/2 miles, gliding to 200 feet and dropping four 500 pound bombs with 4-5 second delay fuses at a speed of 110 knots, with the intervalometer set for 40 feet, 100 knots. The run was perpendicular to the port beam. All three vessels opened fire a few seconds prior to the drop with machine guns and 20 or 40 mm. cannon - an estimated ten guns in all. This fire continued as the plane retired over a neck of land to the west, and ceased at a distance of one mile.

The bomb drops were plainly observed by members of the crew in the waist and tower. One hit about 30-40 feet short of the port beam; two bombs struck the superstructure and exploded; and the fourth landed a few feet off the starboard beam. As the plane made a wide circle and headed east, two large fires could be seen in the superstructure.

Heavy damage was received from the anti-aircraft fire: a shell exploded in the leading edge of the starboard wing; the starboard aileron control cable was severed; the struts, propellor, and both wing panels were holed; and the bottom was dented by shrapnel. Due to the condition of the aircraft it was not deemed advisable to remain in the area to observe further effects of the attack. The state of the fires which were blazing when the plane left the scene indicates, however, that the ship probably sunk.

The bright moonlight provided an excellent opportunity for estimating the class and size of the vessel attacked. It is believed to have been a Fox Tare Able of 7000 to 8500 tons, having the characteristics of that class: large superstructure and four sets of goal-posts.

Squadron assessment: One Fox Tare Able probably sunk.

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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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

J. S. Kemper, Jr.
SIGNATURE

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

APPROVED BY:

V. V. Utgoff
SIGNATURE

V. V. UTGOFF, Lieut. Comdr., USN,
Commanding.
RANK AND DUTY

20 AUG 1944
DATE