

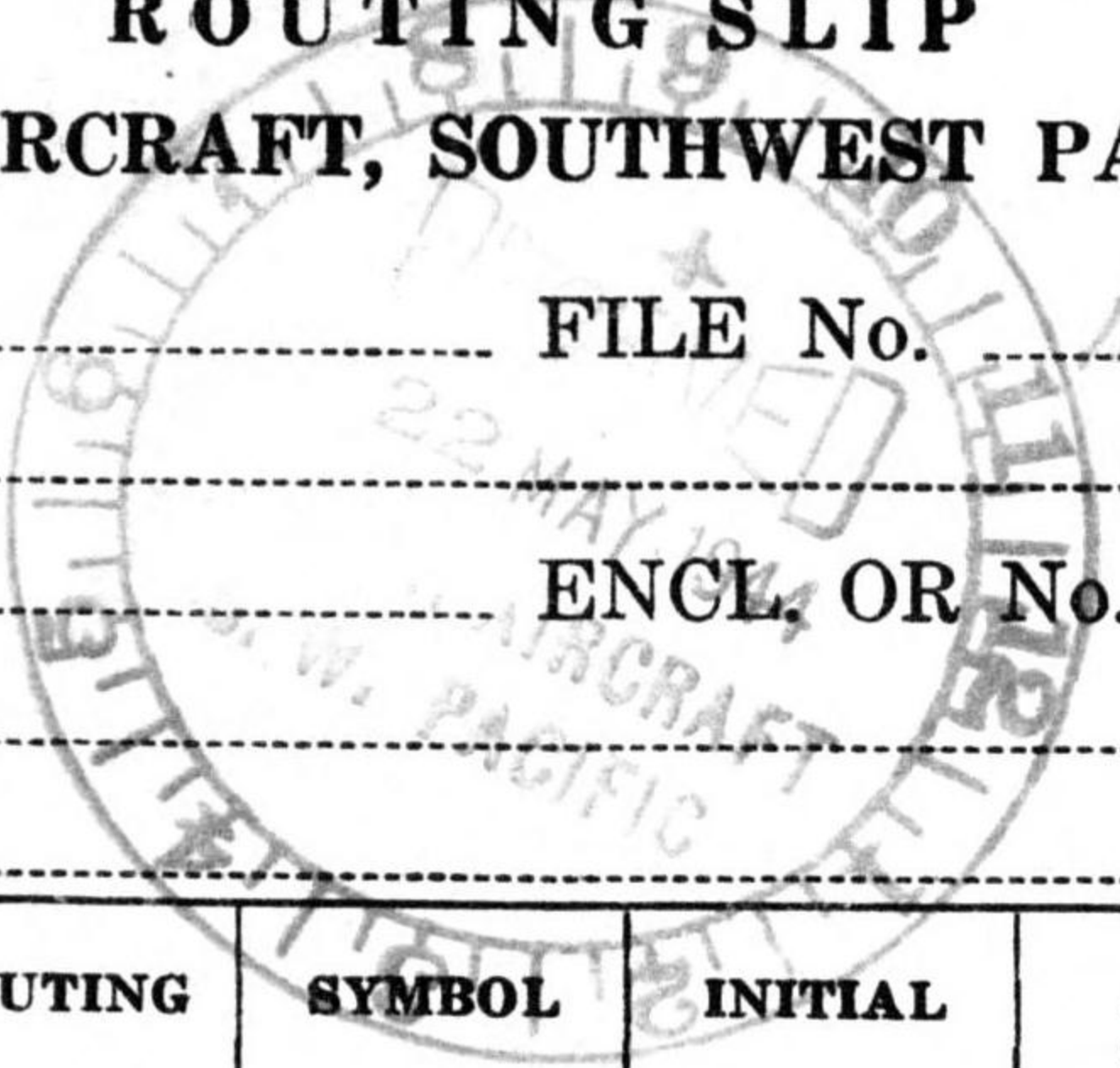
CONFIDENTIAL

ROUTING SLIP

U. S. NAVAL AIRCRAFT, SOUTHWEST PACIFIC FORCE

01 502

DATE REC. _____ FILE No. 916 3(7) INC. No. _____
 FROM: _____ SERIAL No. _____
 DATE: _____ ENCL. OR No. COPIES: 1
 SUBJECT: _____



OFFICER	ROUTING	SYMBOL	INITIAL	
00 Admiral				A — Action. B — Information. C — For Recommendation. D — Prepare Draft Reply. E — Retain Copy. F — Consult C. of S. K — Distribute (As Necessary). L — File. M — Make Changes.
01 Chief of Staff	1	B	[Handwritten Initial]	
05 Flag Secretary				REMARKS
06 Administrative Asst.				
11 Operations Officer	2	B	[Handwritten Initial]	
12 Asst. Oper. Off.				
15 Flag Lieutenant				
20 Communications Off.				
21 Asst. Comm. Off.				
22 Comm. Watch Offs.				
25 Intelligence Off.	4	A	[Handwritten Initial]	
40 Supply Officer				
50 Materiel Officer				
51 Aircraft Eng's. Off.				
52 Aircraft Struct. Off.				
55 Aerological Officer				
60 Personnel Officer				
65 Photographic Off.				
66 Photo Intrep. Off.				
70 Engineering Officer				
75 Medical Officer				
90 Gunnery Officer	3	B	[Handwritten Initial]	
91 Training Officer				
Flag Util. Unit				

A16-3(7)

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

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I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VP34 (b) Based on or at Samarai, N. G. (c) Report No. 8
 (d) Date of Action 6 Jan. 1944 (e) Take off: Time 0630 (GCT); Lat. 10° 37' S Long 150° 40' E
 (f) Mission Search and attack (g) Time of Return 2000 (GCT)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

(a) TYPE	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NO. OF SORTIES	(d) NO. ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	(e) NO. ATTACK- ING TARGET	(f) BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE)	(g) FUZE, SETTING
BY-5	VP34	1	-	1	4x500 lb GP Mk. 43	Tail; 4-5" delay

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE

IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (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
			(GCT)			01 502
			(GCT)			
			(GCT)			
			(GCT)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____

(i) Weather and Clouds at Location of Encounter(s) _____

(j) Sun or Moon _____ (k) Visibility _____

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

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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	(e) EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE, REMARKS
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

(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, PLANES RETURNING				
						NO. OF PLANES	.30	.50	20MM	MM.
PBY-5	800	650	13.5	1450	1100	1	150	175		

IX. 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)

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

- (a) Location of Target(s) 04° 40' S, 145° 40' E (b) Time Over Target(s) 1330-1400 GCT
 (c) Weather and Clouds Over Target Weather good; light scattered cumulus clouds
 (d) Sun or Moon None (e) Visibility 5 to 6 miles

XI. TARGETS, RESULTS OF ATTACK.

(a) DESCRIPTION OF TARGET (List All Ships in Group, Whether or Not Individually Attacked)	(b) A/C ATTACKING	(d) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH TARGET	(e) ALTITUDE OF RELEASE	(f) HITS
	(c) SQUADRON			
1 1000 ton tanker (JMST Class: Sugar Charlie)	PBY-5	175x.50 cal MG	500-100'	25%
	VP34	150x.30 cal MG	do	50%
2 1000 ton tanker (JMST Class: Sugar Charlie)	do	2x500 lb GP Mk 43	200'	1 Probable
3 5000 ton tanker (JMST Class: Unknown)	do	2x500 lb GP Mk 43	200'	2
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				

(g) RESULTS: (FOR SHIP TARGETS 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, WITH DIAGRAMS OR CHARTS WHERE DESIRABLE. DESCRIBE TARGETS FULLY IN (a), AND IN REPORTING DAMAGE OR DESTRUCTION, IDENTIFY BY NUMBERS AT LEFT. USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY).

TARGET # 2

BOMBS NOT SEEN. FLASH OBSERVED FROM DIRECTION OF SHIP



TARGET # 3

N



(h) Were Photographs Taken? No Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached.

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filled out)**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
Release
Pull-Out
Dive Angle
Strafing
Retirement
Defensive Tactics**DEFENSE, ENEMY**Evasive Tactics, Ships
Concealment
Anti-aircraft
Searchlights
Night Fighter Tactics**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 Catalina (PPC: Lieutenant (jg) J. M. Busker, USNR) was on patrol of the northwest coast of New Guinea between Karkar Island and Wewak. At 0030 L a small tanker was seen a few hundred yards off shore between Karkar Island and the mainland, in position 04° 40' S, 145° 40' E, proceeding at slow speed on a course of 075°. The weather was good, with no moon, scattered cumulus clouds, and visibility about 5 miles. The plane turned to strafe but lost the ship against the background of the shore. It was soon picked up again and a strafing run was made from an altitude of 500 feet down to 100 feet on the starboard beam. One hundred and seventy five rounds of .50 caliber and 150 rounds of .30 caliber ammunition were expended from the bow guns. As the plane pulled away the ship was seen to be smoking amidships, in addition to the smoke coming from its stack aft.

The aircraft then proceeded north about three miles and sighted another tanker of the same type (Sugar Charlie) about two miles off shore travelling slowly on a course of 100°. A run was commenced from starboard bow to port quarter, approaching from a distance of one mile, altitude 900 feet, to 200 feet, and dropping two 500 pound bombs salvo. Neither bomb was observed to hit, but both pilots and two crew members saw a bright blue-white flash. It is not known what could have caused this flash, with a bomb armed with a 4-5 second delay tail fuse, unless it were a direct hit.

Coming out of its glide, the plane was headed out to sea. Almost immediately a third ship identified as a tanker was observed dead ahead at about two miles. It was much larger than the first two and is estimated by the crew at 5000 tons. It was proceeding at slow speed on course 045°. A run from an altitude of 900 feet, distance one mile, was made on the port beam, releasing the remaining two 500 pound bombs salvo from 200 feet. At least one and probably both bombs hit the ship; there was a tremendous explosion throwing debris high into the air. The plane circled and returned to the scene. The ship had disappeared. The plane then returned to base.

No opposition was encountered from any of the three ships attacked.

Two nights later an aircraft of this squadron on patrol sighted a Sugar Charlie aground on a reef along the shore at the position in which the first attack described in this report occurred. It appeared abandoned. A day or two later Army aircraft reported strafing a Sugar Charlie aground in the same position. A perusal of Southwest Pacific Area intelligence summaries fails to disclose any report of an attack made by any other unit which could have caused this ship to be run aground. In view of the fact that it was aground for several days and evidently had been abandoned by the enemy, it is claimed destroyed.

Squadron assessment: 1 x 1000 ton tanker destroyed, 1 x 1000 ton tanker probably damaged by 5000 pound bomb hit, 1 x 5000 ton tanker 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:

APPROVED BY:

J. S. KEMPER, Jr.,
Lieut., AV3, USNR, AGI Officer

T. A. CHRISTOPHER,
Lt. Comdr., USN, Commanding.

6 Jan. 1944

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE