16-223
Form CA-1
Sheet 1 of 5

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

055526)

Confidential

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VPB-27 (b) Based on or at USS YAKUTAT (c) Report No. 4-45

(d) Take off: Date 11 May 1945 Time (LZT) 0535 (Zone); Lat. 26-12N Long. 127-18E

(e) Mission Armed reconnaissance along South Korea (f) Time of Return 1705 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	VPB-27	2	-	2	4-1000 lb. G.P. 4- Mk. 54 D.C.	4-5 sec. delay 25 ft. hydrostatic

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 PBM	VPB-27	7.7 mm	1 hit in deck turret	No real damage
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
		None		

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	550	550	11.5	2,500	2100		1500			2

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) Sugar Charlie Sugar 35-03N 126-20E (2) 3 Sugar Dogs at 34-21N 126-05 E (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) (1) 1120 I (2) 1220 I (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target Scattered high cumulus (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target clear (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility 30 miles (MILES)

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

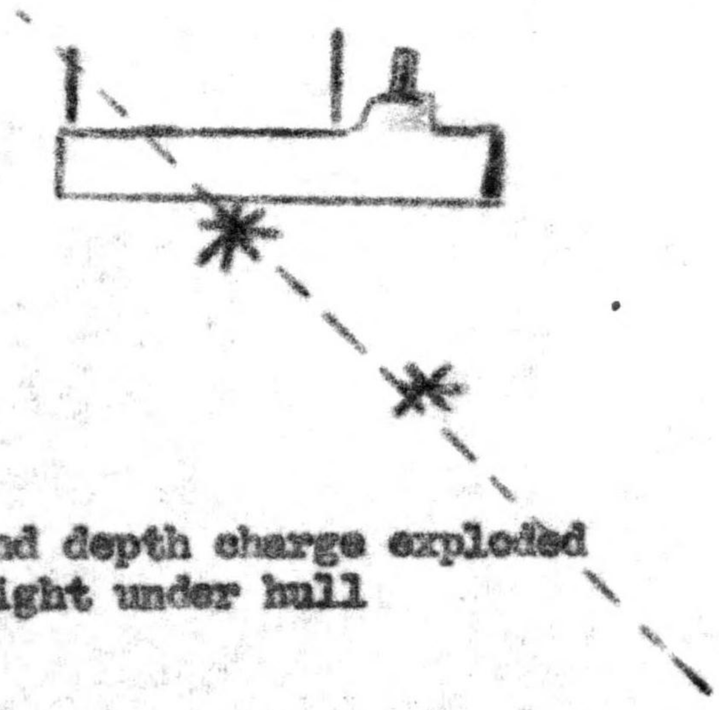
Bombs Dropped per Run 2 (NUMBER) Spacing 40' (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 75-100 feet (FEET)

(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	Beam to quarter	2,000 tons	two VPB-27	Two depth charges 1500 rounds	2	Sunk
2	3 Sugar Dogs	80 tons ea.	Two VPB-27	Two depth charges 2100 lbs. 1-500	3 or 4	2 sunk, one left burning
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						

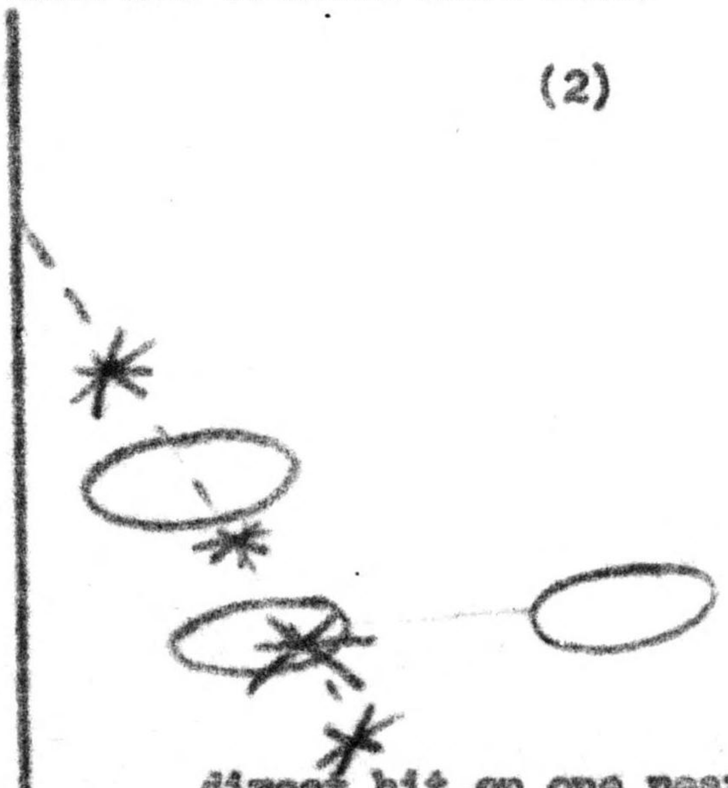
(o) RESULTS: (For all hits claimed on ship targets and for land targets of special interest, draw diagram, top or side view or both, as appropriate, showing type and location of hits. For all targets give location and effect of hits, and identify by numbers above. Use additional sheets if necessary)

(1)



2nd depth charge exploded right under hull

(2)



direct hit on one near miss. Damage and others.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? YES Photographs of Damage, When Taken, 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

Early the morning of 11 May 1945, Lieut. Comdr. E. N. Chase 2nd, commander of VPB-27, and Lieut. (j.g.) H. E. Hushbeck, took off in their PBM-5's from Kerama Retto to team up against enemy shipping hiding in coves and inlets off the Korean coast. Before the day was ended they had excitement aplenty, which included chasing enemy transport planes, slipping a depth charge under a ~~ix~~ Sugar Charlie Sugar and blasing a trio of Sugar Dogs caught sneaking around the islands.

The trip north from the Okinawa area was uneventful until the pilots were off the west coast of Saishu. Then Lieut. Comdr. Chase spotted two Tess slipping along through the high scattered cumulus clouds about five miles off his port bow. Adding throttle and RPM both PBM's gave chase but the Japs poured on power and headed for Saishu. After a few minutes the PBM's abandoned the chase after remembering Saishu sheltered a couple of enemy fighter bases and realizing fuel wouldn't last long at that pace.

A few minutes further along on course they had a peek at a Fox Tare Dog which was circling but three angy AA bursts near the planes ended the thought of any closer investigation. Heavily armed picket boats are not good PBM targets, the squadron had already learned.

On up the Korea coast a short ways, came the first real target of opportunity. In a little cove the big chart calls Chi-Do, was a juicy looking Sugar Charlie Sugar. It sat at anchor a little less than a mile offshore from a sleepy village, where the crew might have stopped in for a shot of sake and a snack of rice. In any event, it was an ideal target. So, a coordinate attack was launched with Lieut. Comdr. Chase making an approach from about 30 degrees off the beam on the port side and Lieut. (j.g.) Hushbeck coming across from starboard. The squadron skipper dropped a pair of hundred pounders, which turned out to be a perfect straddle except for the fact that they were too far off the bow. Lieut. (j.g.) Hushbeck tried to drop depth charges, but his bomb bay was on the blink and only one released. It missed by 100 feet.

This unsatisfactory attack roused the ire of the PBM pilots so they swung around to work over the target again. With his bomb release system fouled up, Lieut. (j.g.) Hushbeck concentrated on straffing from the starboard bow. Lieut. Comdr. Chase came across the port beam to slip the Sugar Charlie Sugar two depth charges spaced at 40 feet with hydrostatic fuses set for 25 feet. That drop turned out to be a honey. The first depth charge exploded about 35 feet short of the ship but the other went right down under the keel. When it erupted the ship buckled in the middle, belched abig puff of black smoke from its stack and started to burn. A few rounds of 7.7 machine gun fire were tossed at the attacking planes as they retired, but no damage was done.

The planes circled a few minutes to take pictures, snapped some good shots of the hunchbacked ship with smoke pouring from all hatches, and then headed south along the coast. Just around the corner, so to speak, from the sinking ship they passed over a village at about 300 feet and all the natives dashed out to wave at the planes with great enthusiasm and excited grins. There was no way of knowing whether the villagers were aware of what had been going on but in any event they acted mighty friendly for people in a hostile land.

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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 down the coast the foraging PBM's ran across three Sugar Dogs chugging along in a shipping channel between a couple of fairly large sized islands. One ship was towing another and the third was cruising just off the beam of the tow ship. An attack was launched with Lieut. (j.g.) Hushbeck going across first on a straffing run with all guns blazing. Lieut. Comdr. Chase followed close behind and emptied two depth charges and two 100 pounders among the small ships. One bomb appeared to be a direct hit on the tow ship, as it practically disintegrated and sank after burning only a short time. The other ship under its own power was hit and started to burn with great gusto. The third Sugar Dog escaped in the first attack but was a sitting duck for subsequent straffing runs as it drifted at the end of a tow cable. A couple of more passes at the ships and one was gone, another sinking and the third was burning furiously. Excellent pictures were obtained and then, with bombs expended, the prowling PBM's started for home.

The score: One Sugar Charlie Sugar sunk; two Sugar Dogs sunk and one Sugar Dog left burning furiously and a certain candidate for Davey Jones' locker.

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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

1. Lieut. (j.g.) Hushbeck had trouble with his bombing release system after the first depth charge dropped on his initial run over the Sugar Charlie [redacted]. When the first depth charge dropped, electric power failed to transfer from the first bomb release rack to the second one due to a faulty mallory release unit.

2. The bullet that hit the deck turret of Lieut. (j.g.) Hushbeck's plane passed through the plexi-glass, making a clear hole and splattered against the armor plate which protects the gunner. Protection afforted by the armor plate undoubtedly saved the gunner from serious injury.

3. The planes were carrying depth charges mainly because the squadron's primary mission at Kerama Retto as ASP work. Depth charges are part of the regular ASP armament, so when the reconnaissance mission was ordered on short notice, the only armament change was to add the 100 pouns bombs.

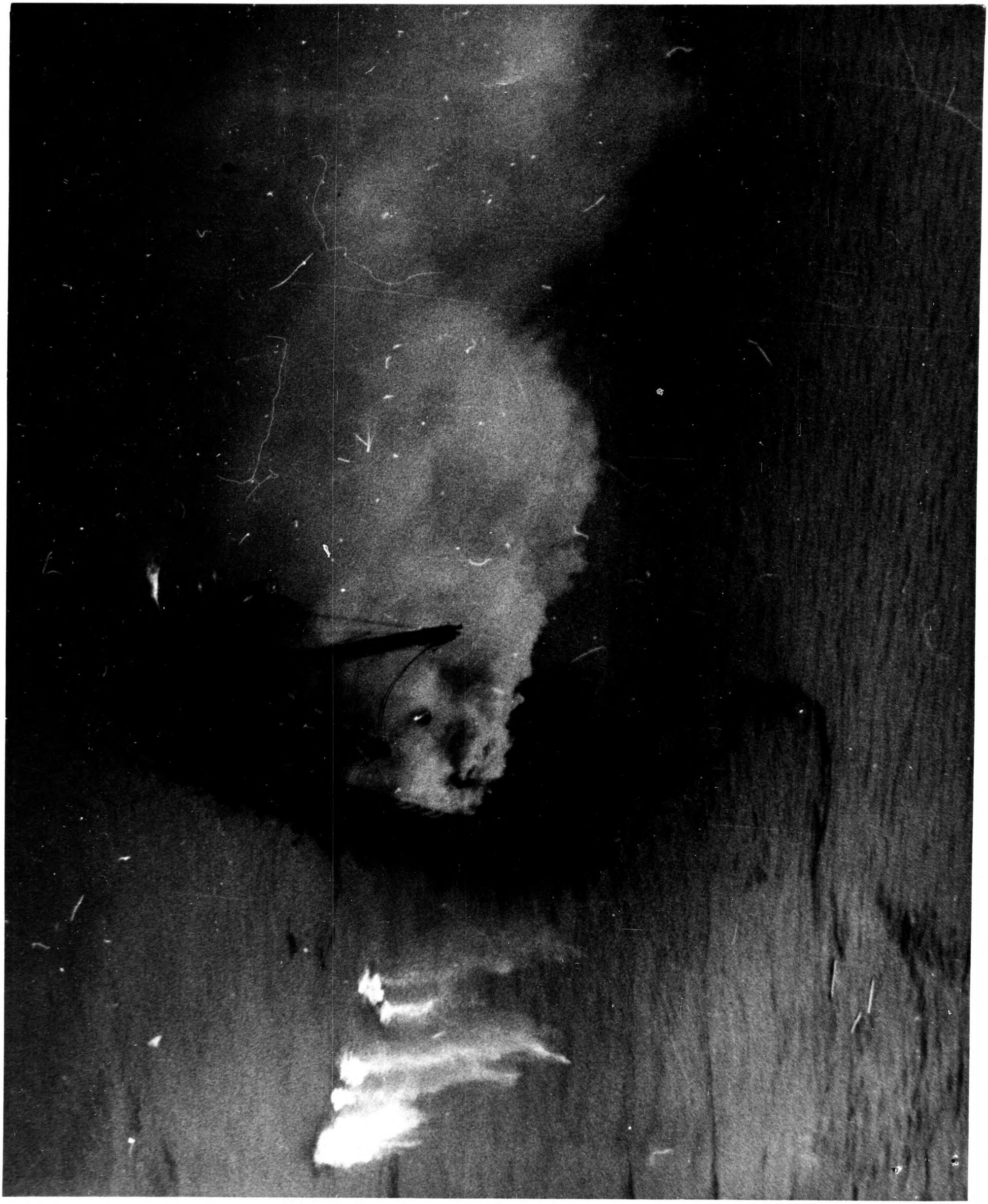
REPORT PREPARED BY:

Lieut. (jg) William T. Bailey ACIO
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

E. N. Chase, 2nd, Lieut. Comdr. USN 5-31-45
SIGNATURE Commanding Officer RANK AND DUTY DATE

Lieut. Comdr. E. N. Chase, Commanding Officer of Patrol Bombing Squadron 27, slipped a Mark 54 depth charge right under this Sugar Charlie Sugar off the coast of Korea and literally broke its back. Note the bulge amidships. The PBM-5 escaped unscathed. (Photo No. 1 from VPB-27 action report 4-45)

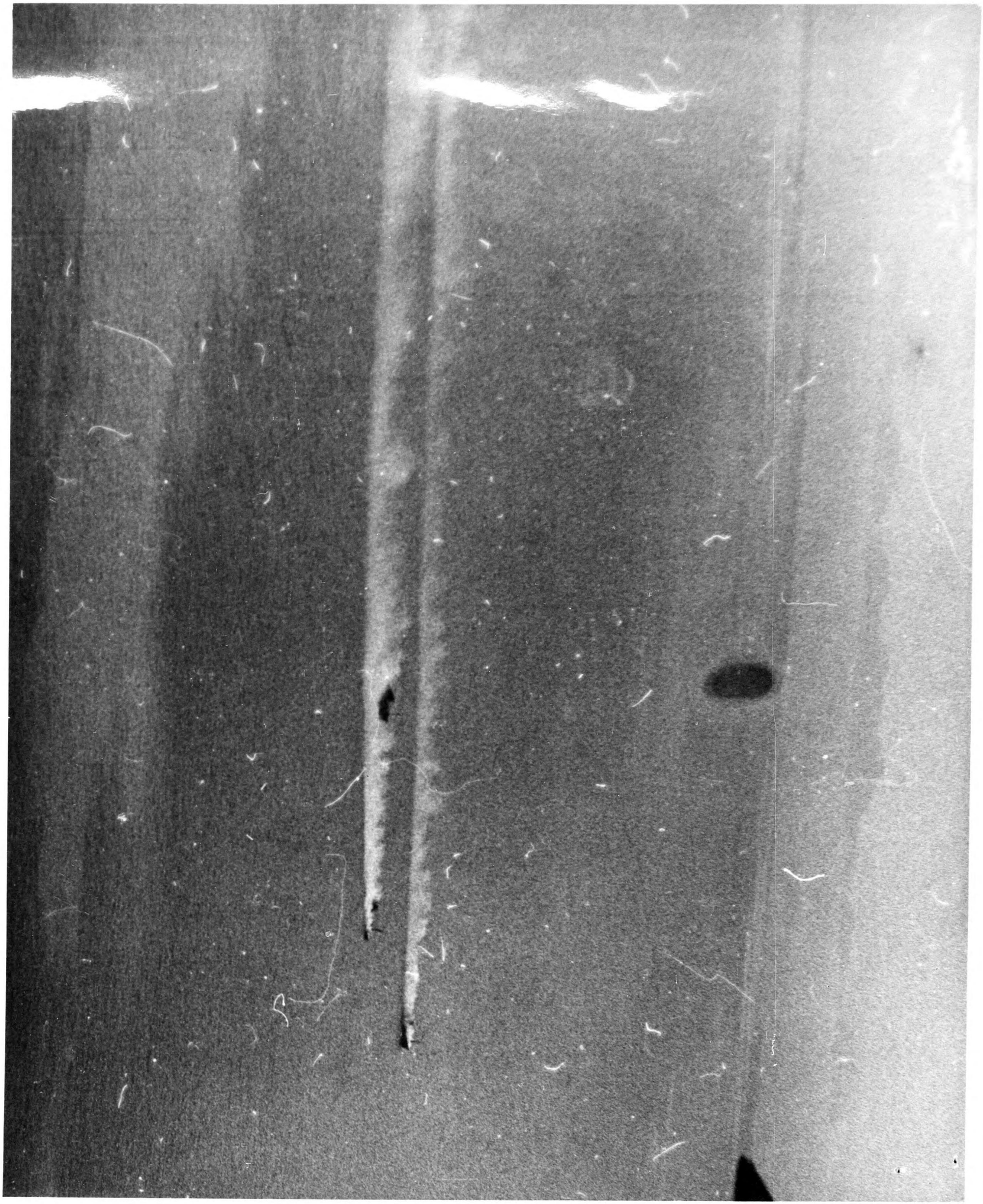


U.S.S. HAMLIN
(AV

Plenty of smoke and a split hull after a masthead attack by a PBM-5. This Sugar Charlie Sugar was attacked off the coast of Korea by Lieut. Comdr. E. N. Chase, skipper of Patrol Bombing Squadron 27, who slipped a Mark 54 depth charge beneath the keel and cracked the ship wide open. (Photo No. 2 from VPB-27 action report 4-45)

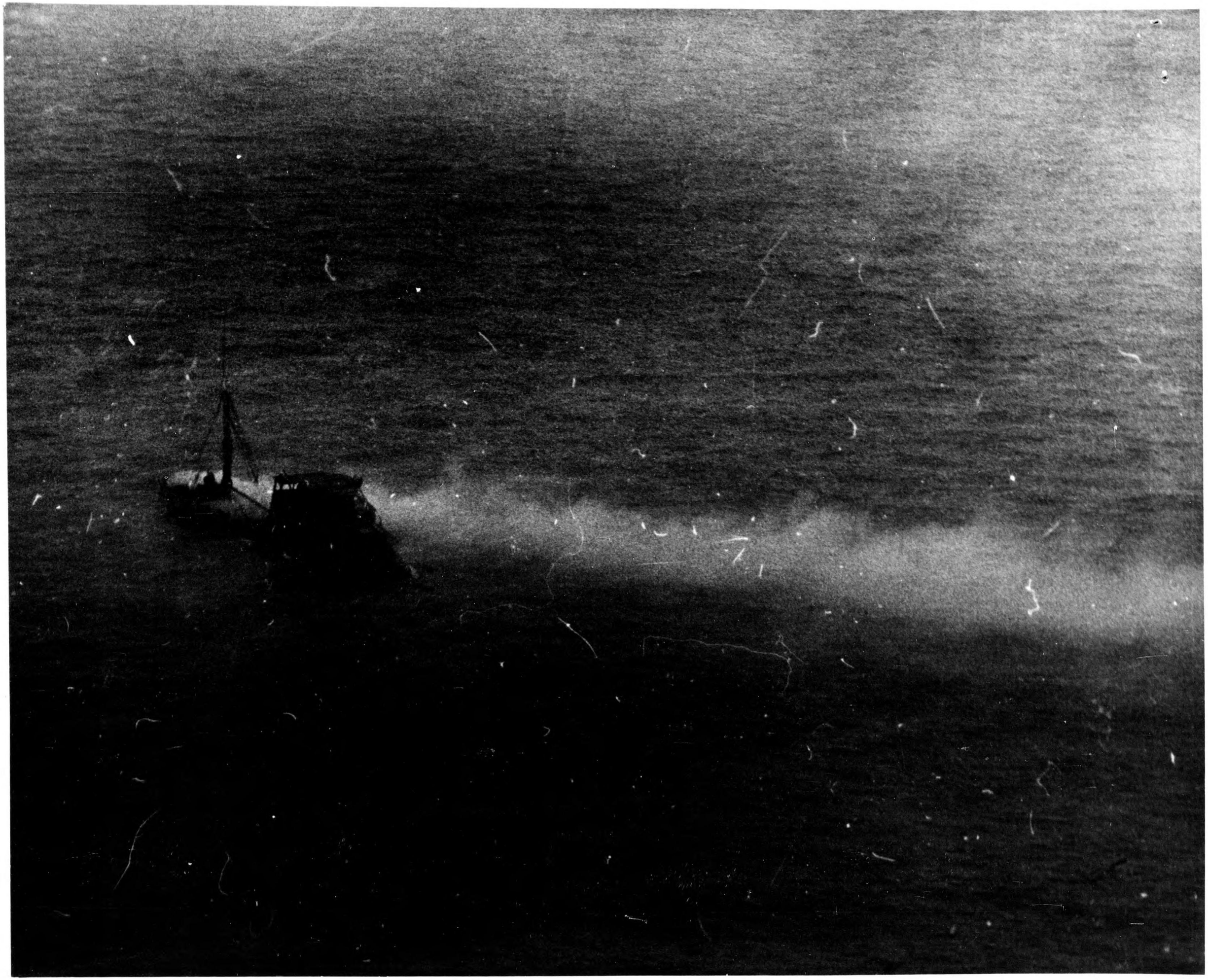
U.S.S. HAMLIN
(AV - 15)

This Sugar Dog was like s sleepy duck on a millpond when caught by Lieut. Comdr. E. N. Chase, skipper of Patrol Bombing Squadron 27, and Lieut. (j.g.) H. E. Hushbeck off the coast of Korea. A few minutes later it and two other Sugar Dogs were blazing fiercely, following a bombing and straffing attack by two PBM-5's.
(Photo No. 3 from VPB-27 action report 4-45)



U.S.S. HAMLIN
(AV - 15)

Funeral pyres of Jap coastal cargo. Two Sugar Dogs burn fiercely while a third is shrouded in the smoke of the No. 2 ship. The small ships were fired by Lieut. Comdr. E. N. Chase, skipper of Patrol Bombing Squadron 27, off the coast of Korea. On another run over the target the third ship was set afire by the mariner.
(Phote No. 4 from VPB-27 action report 4-45)



U.S.S. HAMLIN
(AV - 15)

Going down. There's not much left of this burned and blasted Sugar Dog which was attacked off the coast of Korea by Lieut. Comdr. E. N. Chase, commander of VPB-27, on 11 May 1945. Straffing and a 100 lb bomb from a PBM-5 did the trick.
(Photo No. 5 from VPB-27 action report 4-45)

Battered and broken, this Sugar Dog is sinking after a 100 lb. bomb hit and straffing attack from a mariner piloted by Lieut. Comdr. E. N. Chase, commanding officer of VPB-27, off Korea.
(Photo No. 6 from VPB-27 action report 4-45)

U.S.S. HAMLIN
(AV - 15)

Gunner's delight. These Sugar Dogs burn fast and furiously as evidenced by this shot taken during a straffing run by Lieut.Comdr. E. N. Chase 2nd, skipper of VPB-27. The attack was made 11 May 1945 off the coast of Korea in a PBM-5.
(Photo No. 7 from VPB-27 action report 4-45)