

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

(1) 1230
(2) 1430
(3) 1530

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

(a) Location of Target(s) (1) 04° 47' S, 144° 50' E
(2) 03° 30' S, 144° 33' E
(3) 03° 56' S, 144° 50' E (b) Time Over Target(s) _____ GCT.

(c) Weather and Clouds Over Target s Weather good; scattered cumulus at 2000'

(d) Sun or Moon 3/4 moon (e) Visibility 20 miles

XI. TARGETS, RESULTS OF ATTACK.

	(a) DESCRIPTION OF TARGET (List All Ships in Group, Whether or Not Individually Attacked)	(b) A/C ATTACKING (c) SQUADRON	(d) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH TARGET	(e) ALTITUDE OF RELEASE	(f) HITS
	1	<u>Awar air-strip, Hansa Bay</u>	<u>PBY-5</u> <u>VP34</u>	<u>20x20 lb frags</u> <u>2 clusters incend.</u>	<u>2000'</u>
2	<u>100-200 ton lugger</u>	<u>do</u>	<u>1x500 lb GP Mk 43</u>	<u>75'</u>	<u>1</u> <u>80%</u>
3	<u>500 ton tanker (JMST class: Sugar Charlie)</u>	<u>do</u> <u>do</u>	<u>600x50 cal. MG</u> <u>150x.30 cal. MG</u>	<u>1000-50'</u>	<u>80%</u>
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).

(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, commanded by Lieutenant V. V. Utgoff, USN, was patrolling the northwest coast of New Guinea, on a bright moonlit night with good visibility and a layer of scattered cumulus clouds at about 2000 feet. During the course of the night three attacks were made on separate targets, each of which is described individually below.

Attack #1

At about 2330 L the plane approached Hansa Bay, flew inside Liang Island, and proceeded to the Awar air-strip on the north side of the bay. At an altitude of 2000 feet, just above scattered clouds, the pilot made two passes along the east side of the strip, dropping 20 frags and 2 clusters of incendiaries. Explosions were observed but exact results could not be determined. During the attack four searchlights north of the strip were turned on but did not succeed in catching the plane in their beams, and machine gun fire was observed from several positions around the target area.

Attack #2

The plane proceeded on its patrol, and at 0130 L a lugger-type craft with a small deckhouse aft was sighted in a cove on Blup Blup Island (03° 30' S, 144° 33' E). There were low hills protecting the vessel on three sides and it was extremely difficult to get in position for a strafing or bombing attack. The pilot finally dove sharply from the seaward side and dropped one 500 pound bomb in a banking turn from an altitude of 75 feet. It was a direct hit, and the lugger sank immediately. No opposition was encountered.

Attack #3

At 0230 L the aircraft had returned to the vicinity of Hansa Bay, and ten miles to the north in position 03° 56' S, 144° 50' E, sighted a small tanker of the Sugar Charlie class proceeding slowly toward Hansa Bay. Two strafing runs were made on the port and starboard beams, commencing fire at 1000 feet and descending to 50 feet, using the four fixed .50's in the bow and the bow turret .30's. On the second run the ship returned the fire with one machine gun. At the conclusion of this attack the ship had stopped dead in the water and her after hold was afire, with the fire rapidly spreading. The Catalina then left the scene and returned to base.

Squadron assessment: Awar strip bombed with unobserved results; 1 lugger sunk; 1 small tanker destroyed.

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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., AVS, USNR, ACI Officer

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

11 Jan. 1944

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

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DATE