



# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when  
filled out)  
**Confidential**

REPORT No. **3-45**

## 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 <b>PBM-5</b>	<b>VFB-27</b>	<b>20 mm A-A 7.7 machine gun hole</b>	<b>just aft of bomber's window in bow (A-A) wing tank hit (7.7 mg)</b>	<b>holes in hull, galley, wing float, and bow.</b>
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
1	<b>VFB-27</b>	<b>HILLIGAN, J. J., ACOM</b>	<b>Shrapnel from 20 mm</b>	<b>treated and returned to duty.</b>

## 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	
<b>PBM-5</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2400</b>	<b>1800</b>		<b>3,000</b>			<b>1</b>

## IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

CALIBER				
	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over				
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm			<b>X</b>	
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm		<b>X</b>		

## X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (use check list at left).

- SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes
- TURNES
- 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. PC Boat**  
**2. Fox Tara Baker** (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) **1. 0540**  
**2. 0630** (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 **30 miles** (MILES)

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

Bombs Dropped per Run **1. two** (NUMBER) Spacing **30 feet** (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release **2. 50 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	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
		(k) SQUADRON			
1 <b>Stern</b>	<b>200 tons</b>	<b>1</b> <b>VPB-27</b>	<b>4-100</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>damaged and beached</b>
2 <b>Starboard</b>	<b>4,500 tons</b>	<b>1</b> <b>VPB-27</b>	<b>2-500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1 bomb hit 30 feet off quarter - damaged steering gear. Ship was still turning in tight circle when plane left.</b>
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? **Yes** Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

On an armed reconnaissance mission off the western Korea coast, Ensign Hans K. Kohler, a PFC of VPB-27, had the satisfaction of driving a well-armed Jap patrol craft onto a rocky beach and laying <sup>ed</sup> a couple of 500 pounders alongside a husky Fox Tare Charlie before AA fire wounded his chief ordnanceman and forced a return to base.

Ensign Kohler made a night takeoff at 0030 the morning of 7 May 1945 from his base at Kerama Retto and headed north from the Okinawa area. Daylight found the PBM-5 Mariner cruising off scenic southern Korea with the sun rising over the eastern hills into a cloudless sky. Scouting in and out of coves and inlets, Ensign Kohler spotted a drab gray PC boat prowling the coastal waters and started in for an attack from 1500 feet. The PC boat was hugging the shore and Ensign Kohler had to negotiate a narrow pass to press home the attack. On the first run across the target the Mariner took a 7.7 hit in the starboard wing tank but straffing from the PBM's bow gunner cleared the deck of gunners. There was no further defensive fire on any subsequent run. As Ensign Kohler passed over the PC at 50 feet he dropped two 100 GP's with 4-5 second delay fuses. Observers in the tail and waist reported seeing one bomb hit about 35 feet short of the ship but the other bomb splash was not seen, leading to speculation that it may have been a direct hit although none reported seeing an explosion.

Immediately after the first attack, the PC headed for the beach and on the second run across the target Ensign Kohler and his co-pilot, Ensign E. A. Webster, reported seeing the bodies of 7-8 men who had been manning machine guns, strewn over the deck. No fire was received ~~from~~ from the ship on the second run which resulted in two near misses. By the time Ensign Kohler was ready for the third run the PC was nearing the beach and to approach the ship, it was necessary to come down through the mountain pass. On this attack no bombs were dropped as only 500 pounders were left. However, the bow gunner straffed extensively. Coming around on the target a fourth time those in the plane found the PC aground and a single survivor in a rowboat pulling for the beach. With the PC boat beached and definitely out of the war, Ensign Kohler headed North Again. Up the coast a ways he swept over a hillside at 1500 feet and spotted two juicy transports steaming through a coastal passage some 5 miles distant. Swinging around to attack, he headed for the targets when two flak bursts appeared 2000 feet off his port wing. With such inaccurate fire at a range of 3 miles, Ensign Kohler headed for the ships with high hopes that the AA would continue to be ineffective. As the range closed some inaccurate 40 mm fire was seen but the tracers went wide and on the initial run over the target, two 500 pounders were dropped from so low that it was necessary to pull up to clear the mast of the ship. The first bomb was about 40 feet short but the second splash was not seen and crew members think it may have been a direct hit. In any event the Fox Tare Baker started a tight turn to port which kept up for the duration of the attack. The Sugar Baker which was alongside the freighter stayed right with its mother ship and circled to port. Both ships were straffed by all guns from the PBM on the attack.

On the second run over the target Ensign Kohler was jinking and using evasive tactics to such a degree that he was unable to maneuver for a satisfactory drop.

On the third trip across the pilot had instructed his chief ordnanceman to drop the bombs. As they came in low and fast a 20 mm burst caught the PBM in the bow and the burst blew Milligan, the AGOM who was manning the bombing panel, back into the galley. Shrapnel had ripped Milligan's flak suit to shreds and inflicted four wounds under his left arm. That terminated the bombing attack and with a wounded man aboard, it was decided to head for home. When last seen the two Jap ships still were turning in a tight circle with smoke rising from the hatches of the Fox fare Baker.

The course for home was barely plotted when a Jap VAL suddenly was spotted at 2,500 feet, about 1,000 feet directly over the PBM. The enemy plane remained directly overhead for about a minute, then suddenly started a dive for the Mariner. Ensign Kohler turned into the VAL, which apparently lost sight of the PBM. The Jap turned and twisted to regain visual contact and dropped a 3 phosphorous bomb which hit the water before exploding.

The VAL then dropped to about a mile astern, performed a series of acrobatics, and then headed for his home after the Mariner dropped to 500 feet and headed for base on a course of 180 degrees.

Aircraft Action Reports

2-d (50) USS Onslow

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**XIII. MATERIAL DATA.** (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.  
Use additional sheets if necessary).

**1. No Comment.**

**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:

**W. T. Bailey, Lt. USNR AGIO**

APPROVED BY:

**E. N. CHASE 2nd, Lt. Cdr., Commanding**

**7-2-45**

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE





