

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(a) Unit Reporting VP34 (b) Based on or at Samarai, N.G. (c) Report No. 19
 (d) Date of Action 18 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 2030 (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. ATTACKING TARGET	(f) BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE)	(g) FUZE, SETTING
PBY-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)			
			(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.
PH-5	900	600	14	1450	1125					

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)

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

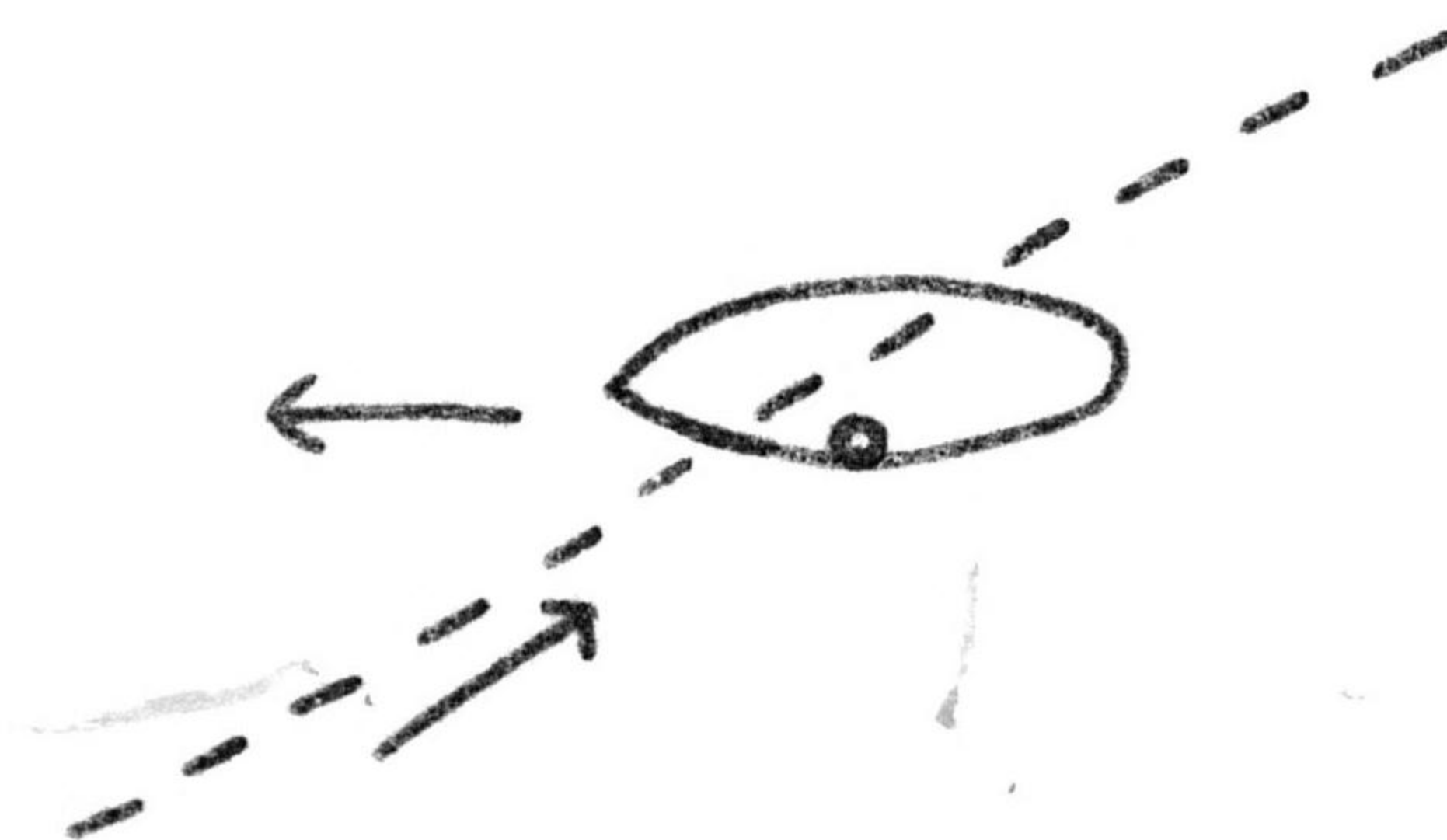
- (a) Location of Target (x 03° 55' S, 144° 50' E) (b) Time Over Target (x 1505) GCT
 (c) Weather and Clouds Over Target Weather good; hazy; no clouds.
 (d) Sun or Moon 1/8 moon (e) Visibility 5 miles

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	3000 ton freighter-transport (JST Class: Fox Tare Charlie)	PBY-5 VP34	2x500 lb GP Mk.43	200'	1 or 2
2					
3					
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).

EN



**ONLY 1 BOMB
OBSERVED**

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

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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
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

While on a search of the northwest coast of New Guinea, the aircraft, commanded by Lieutenant (jg) J. M. Busker, USNR, picked up a ship on radar at a distance of 5 miles, in position $03^{\circ} 55' S, 144^{\circ} 50' E$. It was a very dark night, with a hazy atmosphere, and the moon had not yet risen. Four runs were made at an altitude of 600 feet in an endeavor to get in position for attack. Each time the blip faded off the radar screen at one mile and the ship could not be seen visually until the aircraft was too close to alter its course in time to attack. The pilot finally decided to wait until the 1/8 moon came up over the horizon, which it did at 0205 L, about 20 minutes after the first contact. A run was commenced as soon as the ship could be seen in the moonlight, the plane flying up the moon-path at an altitude of 500 feet, nosing over at 1/4 mile to an angle of 45° , and dropping two 500 pound bombs salvo from 200 feet. The ship was then on a course of 270° , proceeding slowly, and the run was made from port bow to starboard quarter. One bomb hit the port side amidships, causing a blue-white explosion which was followed by a larger orange explosion. When the plane returned to the scene of the attack the only sign of the ship was a patch of burning debris and oil.

Just before the plane passed over the ship, two anti-aircraft machine guns - one on the bow and one on the stern - opened fire, but scored no hits.

The ship could be plainly identified in the moon-path as a freighter-transport of the Fox Tare Charlie classification, and was estimated by all hands at about 3000 tons.

Squadron assessment: 3000 ton freighter-transport sunk.

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XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.
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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, AGI Officer.

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

18 Jan. 1944

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

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DATE