

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**I. GENERAL**

(a) Unit Reporting VMO-251 (b) Based on or at PIVA NORTH BOUGAINVILLE (c) Report No. 35  
 (d) Take off: Date Week 1-7 Oct. 1944 Time (LZT) Varying times; Lat. 6°13'S Long 155°7'E  
 (e) Mission Sweeps, patrols and minor bombing missions against NEW BRITAIN and BOUGAINVILLE targets (f) Time of Return \_\_\_\_\_ (Zone)

**II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.**

TYPE (a)	SQUADRON (b)	NUMBER			BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE) (f)	FUZE, SETTING (g)
		TAKING OFF (c)	ENGAGING ENEMY A/C (d)	ATTACKING TARGET (e)		
<u>F4U-1</u>	<u>VMO-251</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>Total : 21 tons of bombs 74,200 rds. 50 Cal. ammunition</u>	

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>None</u>							

**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
<u>None</u>			<u>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			<u>10 04048</u>
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Did Any Part of \_\_\_\_\_  
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, Describe Clouds \_\_\_\_\_  
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)  
 Time of Day and Brilliance \_\_\_\_\_  
 (j) 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:				(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER	GUNS USED		
<u>None</u>						

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# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

**CONFIDENTIAL**

REPORT No. **35**

**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 F4U-1	VMO-251	Enemy AA fire	Top of starboard wing.	One 2" hole.
2 "	"	"	Port wing	6-7 bullet holes of 25 caliber.
3				
4				
5	In both instances the plane returned safely to base.			
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
	<b>None</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	
F4U-1	215	215		344	187	74,200				100
FG-1A	215	215		344	182					

**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				
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm		<b>X but accurate</b>		
		<b>X " "</b>		

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

- SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes

TURNS

DIVES

CEILINGS

RANGE

PROTECTION

ARMAMENT

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

REPORT No. 35

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) NEW BRITAIN and BOUGAINVILLE (b) Time Over Target(s) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target \_\_\_\_\_  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target \_\_\_\_\_ (e) Visibility \_\_\_\_\_  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type \_\_\_\_\_ Bomb Sight Used \_\_\_\_\_  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run \_\_\_\_\_ Spacing \_\_\_\_\_ Altitude of Bomb Release \_\_\_\_\_  
(NUMBER) (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)
<sup>1</sup> Village at center of BUKA ISLAND		4	4x500 lb. bombs 3200 rds. 50 Cal.	4	Unobserved.
<sup>2</sup> Jap bivouac at NUMA NUMB PLIN.		5	5x1000 lb. bombs 1600 rds. 50 Cal.	5	Two 700 foot columns of smoke
<sup>3</sup> Supply area NUMA NUMA PTN. UMUM ROVER		3	3x500 lb. bombs	3	Destroyed one hut.
<sup>4</sup> Experimental gardens, KERAVAT, N.B.		4	4x500 lb. bombs 2200 rds. 50 Cal.	3	Cratered gardens
<sup>5</sup> Road intersection and huts at WATINAE PLIN. N.B.		3	3x500 lb. bombs 2000 rds. 50 Cal.	3	" roads
<sup>6</sup> WAITAVALO, N.B. medical depot		7	7x500 lb. bombs 1000 rds. 50 Cal.	3	Unobserved
<sup>7</sup> South BOUGAINVILLE patrol targets: Huts at LIU LUAI		2	1400 rds. 50 Cal.		Smoked one hut
<sup>8</sup>					

Cont'd on next page.

(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).

Huts and Buildings:

Destroyed 7  
Smoked 13  
Fired 4  
Probably damaged Undetermined number

GARDENS CRATERED: 2

ROADS CRATERED: 2

JAP PERSONNEL:

Probable 3

Sure: 0

JAP BIVOUAC AREAS:

Caused one to put up two 700 foot columns of black smoke.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No. Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

<u>AIMING POINT</u>	<u>NO. A/C</u>	<u>BOMBS/AMMO.</u>	<u>HITS</u>	<u>DAMAGE</u>
Bridge at TAURAUVA RIVER plus huts N of KAHILI	2	1800 rds. 50 Cal.		Fired two huts.
Huts inland from KOROMIRA MISSION	2	2200 " "		Unobserved.
Blégs. at NE end of EXPER- IMENTAL GARDENS.	4	4x500 lb. bombs.	2	Believed damaged several huts.
Huts from TOBERA to KABANGA BAY	4	5000 rds. 50 Cal.		Unobserved
TAMALILI PLTN.	4	4x500 lb. bombs	4	Unobserved
Huts between CAPE GAZELLE and LEMINGI	4	4000 rds. 50 Cal.		Smoked 12
Native village on DUKE OF YORK Island	4	4x500 lb. bombs.	4	Damaged an unknown number of huts.
Huts on DUKE OF YORK and on CAPE LAMBERT	4	4400 rds. 50 Cal.		Fired on each
TALILI BAY SUPPLY AREA	12	12x1000 lb. bombs. 2000 rds. 50 Cal.	11 area	Unobserved except for one small fire among coconut palms
Five huts SE corner of EXPERIMENTAL GARDENS	2	2x500 lb. bombs 2000 rds. 50 Cal.	1	Destroyed 2 huts.
Huts at PUT PUT PLTN.	2	2x500 lb. bombs 2000 rds.	1	"
Houses west of HAMBUNG RIVER	4	4x500 lb. bombs	1	Destroyed 2 blégs.
Native villages at WATOM plus the villages of HALIWAN and URUI on the DUKE OF YORK	4	4000 rds. 50 Cal.		Unobserved
Hute at MOKURAPAU	3	3x500 lb. bombs.	3	Damaged several
Huts at TOPO MISSION	1	1x500 lb. bomb		Unobserved.
Huts and blégs. at WAT WAT and PUT PUT PLTNS.	4	3200 rds. 50 Cal.		Unobserved
Japs in various gardens at PUK PUK and N of KAHILI, plus various huts on S BOUGAIN- VILLE	6	8000 rds. 50 Cal.		3 probable Japs. Unobserved on other targets.

4

<u>AIMING POINT</u>	<u>A/C</u>	<u>BOMBS&amp; AMMO.</u>	<u>KIT</u>	<u>DAMAGE</u>
8-10 bldgs. at BUTCH KOMBO S. of TINPUTS, N.E. BOUGAINVILLE	4	4x500 lb. bombs 6000 rds. 50 Cal		Unobserved.
Bldgs. on NE coast of DUKE OF YORK ISLAND	2	2x500 lb. bombs.	2	Unobserved.
Bldgs. on S. side of DUKE OF YORK	2	2x500 lb. bombs.	1	"
Various villages on DUKE OF YORK	2	6000 rds. 50 Cal.		"
Bldgs. at CAPE HATSIA east coast of BUKA IS.	4	4x500 lb. bombs 7000 rds. 50 Cal.		"
Huts at BALU PLTN., GAZELLE PENINSULA	2	2x500 lb. bombs 1200 rds. 50 Cal.		None
Garden at EXP. FARMS	1	1x500 lb. bombs 300 rds.	1	Cratered the garden.
URUKUK VILLAGE, DUKE OF YORK and huts from VUN* APALDIG to CAPE LAMBERT	5	5x500 lb. bombs 2000 rds.		Unobserved.
Bridge of PUT PUT HARBOR N.E.	3	3x500 lb. bombs 1900 rds. 50 Cal.	1	Unobserved
Trench system north of WARANGOI ROVER	1	1x500 lb. 500 rds. 50 Cal.	1	Cratered road.

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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

**Nothing unusual in this weeks operations. The usual fighter - bombing and strafing attacks were employed.**

6

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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

**No comment.**

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REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

**H. B. WELCH, 2ndLt., A.C.I.O.**

**W. C. HUMBERD, Major,  
Commanding Officer.**

**8 October, 1944.**

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

RANK AND DUTY

DATE

7