

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

**CONFIDENTIAL**

## I. GENERAL

9 02397

(a) Unit Reporting VMO-251 (b) Based on or at PIVA NORTH BOUGAINVILLE (c) Report No. 8  
 (d) Date of Action 30 August, 1944 (e) Take off: Time 0930 L (~~GCT~~); Lat. 4°25'S Long 154°10'E  
 (f) Mission Bomb and strafe (g) Time of Return 1130 L (~~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. ATTACK- ING TARGET	(f) BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE)	(g) FUZE, SETTING
F4U-1	VMO-251	7	None	7	1x500 Mag. clusters	No fuse.
FG-1A	"	1	"	1	"	"

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
None							

## 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
None						
			(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		
None						

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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 <b>None</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
<b>None</b>				

## 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.
<b>F4U-1</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>1,000</b>	

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

- SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes
- URNS
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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

- (a) Location of Target(s) TALILI BAY, NEW IRELAND (b) Time Over Target(s) 1015 ~~1000~~  
 (c) Weather and Clouds Over Target 10/10 at 8,500 ft. over N.I. 8/10 at 3-10,000 ft. between here and N.I.  
 (d) Sun or Moon \_\_\_\_\_ (e) Visibility Unlimited.

## 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 Jap supply area, RATAVAL 128. East shore of TALILI BAY west of RABAU town.	8 VMO-251	7x500 lb. mag. clusters.	2,500	6 damaging 1 area
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).

At least 12 fires with flame and smoke going in area when the last planes went in. 4 or 5 were putting up 1,000 ft. columns of smoke. Five planes strafed area on pull out with 1000 rounds of 50 cal.

(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

This attack was staged through GREEN ISLAND where planes loaded mag. clusters.

Six damaging hits were obtained by using the following tactics: Pushover 10,000 feet; Angle of dive 75°; Dive brakes used; Speed 300-310 indicated; Release 2-3000 feet; Cowl sight used.

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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.

<u>PLANE NO.</u>	<u>MISSION LOG</u>		<u>REMARKS</u>
	<u>PILOT</u>		
036	BACHELER		Hit in area.
942	PIRAGES		Jettisoned bomb over the water.
221	SPINDLER		Damaging hit.
157	JOHNSON, A.		"
895	HART		Damaging hit.
032	ERDMANN		"
912	CRUTCHER		"
387	FLICKINGER		"

REPORT PREPARED BY:

*H. B. Welch*

H. B. WELCH, 2nd Lt., A.C.I.O.

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

*W. L. Bachelor*

W. L. BACHELER, Major, 30 August, 1944.

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE

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