

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

SECRET

(a) Unit Reporting VT-49 (b) Based on or at U.S.S. SAN JACINTO (c) Report No. 3
 (d) Take off: Date 14 May 1945 Time (LZT) 0615(-9) (Zone); Lat. 30°-39'N Long. 132° 59' E
 (e) Mission Tachiarai Airfield Kyushu, Japan (f) Time of Return 1035(-9) (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>TBM-3</u>	<u>VT-49</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>12-100# G.P.</u>	<u>.025 Tall</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>F6F-5</u>	<u>VF-49</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>USS SAN JACINTO</u>	<u>12-F6F-5</u>	<u>5 SB2C</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>TBM-3 Air Group SIMANTON</u>
<u>F6F-5</u>	<u>VF-30</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>USS BELLEAU WOOD</u>	<u>USS HORNET</u>	and	<u>12 F6F-5</u>	<u>6 TBM-3 and 6 SB2C</u>
<u>TBM-3</u>	<u>VF-30</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>USS BELLEAU WOOD</u>	<u>from USS BENNINGTON, AC-82.</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>Single engine unidentified.</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>0800 (-9) (ZONE)</u>	<u>Seen at three places around the field.</u>		
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(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		
<u>None</u>					

Enclosure (C)

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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 (List armor, self-sealing tanks, equipment hit)	(e) EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE, (Give Bureau serial number of planes destroyed)
1 <i>None</i>				
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
	<i>None</i>			

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	
<i>TBL-3</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>190</i>	<i>4.25</i>	<i>353</i>	<i>230</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>8</i>

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

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

- SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes
- TURNING
- 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) Tachiarai Airfield (b) Time Over Target(s) 0815(-9) (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target No cover
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 10
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used 5-Mark VIII
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 7 Planes 12 Spacing 3-50 Altitude of Bomb Release 3000-4000
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed None Probably Destroyed None Damaged Not observed.

(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)
1 Hangars and machine works along N.W. side of field.	1000 ft X 400 ft	4 VT-49	48-100# G.P.	All in area	One building blasted, one fired.
X 2 Dispersal area S. of field	3000 ft X 3000 ft	2 VT-49	20-100# G.P. and 100 rds strafing	Bombs not seen	Two planes hit by gunner.
3. Barracks & shop areas.	1500 ft X 500 ft	2 VT-49	24-100# G.P.	All in area	Not observed No fires started
6					
7					
8					

(o) RESULTS: Field installations badly chewed up before attack.
(For all hits claimed on ship targets and for land 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, and

1. Enclosure "A" is going away shot from one of the planes in (3) above, showing strike at hangar and machine works area. Most of the bombs of this strike were laid in this part of the air facility.



(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes •Photo SAN TAC 33K MAY 14-45 0815(-9) K20 648 ALT-VAR TACHIARAI A/F KYUSHU CONF

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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

Lieutenants PETERS, LIVINGSTON, Lt(jg) RICHARDS, and Ensigns HESTER, BARTLETT, PCULSON, AUSTIN and SECKINGER participated in this strike.

launching was completed by 0630, and the flight from the SAN JACINTO, after rendezvous with the others, headed North northwest, crossed the coastline of Iyochu at Nebooka, then flew Northwest toward Tachiarai airfield, in the north central section of the island. The striking force approached the airfield, which lay four miles north of the prominent Chikuga Kawa, and circled to make runs out of the North.

Initial break off was made at 13,000 feet, where heavier heavy AA was seen, accurate as to altitude but poor on deflection. There were no planes apparent on the field and 4 pilots dropped on extensive buildings bordering the Northwest edge of the field.

Glide runs up to 50° and 350 knots were used and drops between 3000 and 4000 feet. One building was seen to take a direct hit which blasted it, and several fires sprang up. Most of the strike planes chose this area for their drops.

Two VT-49 pilots dropped in the South revetments, where 2 planes were strafed by a tail gunner without flaming. Three more single engine planes were seen in another revetted area and five on a sodded parking apron.

Two pilots dropped farther from the field, in a shop and barracks area, but results were unobserved. Moderate light AA was observed by two, in the pullout, but no hits were scored.

All planes returned to base without damage and again, no airborne enemy planes were seen.

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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:

Charles H. FULLER, Ensign USNR, AGLO
SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

Carl H. PETERS, Lieut., USNR, Comdg.
SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

17 May 1945.
DATE

SECRET