

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VF-94 (b) Based on or at USS LEXINGTON (c) Report No. VF-94-18
 (d) Take off: Date 30 July 1945 Time (LZT) 0430 (-9) (Zone); Lat. 33°-30'N Long. 137°-52'W
 (e) Mission Sweep of Yaloz Airfield, Honshu (f) Time of Return 0900 (-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>F6F-5</u>	<u>VF-94</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>1 - 500# G.P. 6 - 5" HVAR</u>	<u>Inst. Nose/.01 Tail Inst. Nose/.015 Base</u>
<u>F6F-5</u>	<u>VF-94</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>F6F-5P</u>	<u>VF-94</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>-</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
	<u>H</u>						
	<u>O</u>						
	<u>H</u>						
	<u>B</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>H</u>			(ZONE)		
	<u>O</u>			(ZONE)		
	<u>H</u>			(ZONE)		
	<u>B</u>			(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 _____ (k) Visibility _____
(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (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>H</u>					
	<u>O</u>					
	<u>H</u>					
	<u>B</u>					

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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REPORT No. **VF-94-15**

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 F6F-5	VF-94	Probable 20 mm Ground Gun	Unknown	BuNo 78720
2 F6F-5	VF-94	Not known, but probably enemy "AA"		BuNo 77626
3 F6F-5	VF-94	20 mm "AA" gun	Right horizontal stabilizer.	
4 F6F-5	VF-94	20 mm "AA" gun	Belly tank & underside.	
5 F6F-5	VF-94	20 mm "AA" gun	Wheel well - starboard punctured hydraulic line.	
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
2	VF-94	Lt. Larson E. BAYLIS, USNR	Unknown	Missing

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	
F6F-5	90	90	4.5	400	300	-	15700	-	0	10

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

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

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

SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

None encountered.

- TURNES
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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REPORT No. **VZ-94-18**

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Yokohama Airfield, Honshu (b) Time Over Target(s) 0530 (-9) (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target None
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target None (e) Visibility 0
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type 12 01140 (Drops & Bombs) Bomb Sight Used 12: 8
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 1 Spacing - Altitude of Bomb Release 2500
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 11 Probably Destroyed 4 Damaged 11

(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 Hanger North side	100' x 75'	4 VZ-94	5 - 500# G.P. 24 - 5" HVAR	2 8	Destroyed
2 15 shops area North side	200' x 250'	4 VZ-94	4 - 500# G.P. 18 - 5" HVAR	3 10	4 Shops destroyed 3 Damaged
3 A/G West side	5 - S/S	6 VZ-94	6 - 5" HVAR	0	6 A/G Damaged
4 A/G South side	1 - S/S	9 VZ-94	3000 Bds. 50 cal.	200/ A/G	1 A/G destroyed
5 Revetted A/G North	1 - S/S	6 VZ-94	300 Bds. 50 cal.	250/ A/G	4 A/G Damaged
6 East side field A/G possible train area	2 - S/S Cub size	2 VZ-94	6 - 5" HVAR	0	2 A/G Damaged
7 7 mi N. of field Locomotive	-	4 VZ-94	500 Bds. 50 cal. 6 - 5" HVAR	50/ A/G 2	4 A/G Damaged
8 Center of field 40mm AA position	30' diameter	4 VZ-94	1200 Bds. 50 cal. 4 - 500# G.P. 500 Bds. 50 cal.	650 0 300	Destroyed Damaged slightly

(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).

9. 4 mi. North
Mikitigahara A/F
Dispersal area
4000' x
1500'
12 S/S A/G
4
VZ-94
6000 Bds. 50 cal.
300 rds. 10 A/G Burned
per A/G & Destroyed

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

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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

This 16 plane fighter sweep, made up of 3 four plane divisions equipped with 500# G.P.'s and HVAR, and one photo division, arrived over their target, Taisan Airfield about 8000 feet. Here the photo division broke off and proceeded east to Fuji Airfield to begin their photographic coverage of airfields from Fuji West to Hamamatsu.

After circling the field, the first division of the attacking flight, made a bombing attack from 7000 feet on the hangar scoring 2 hits. The second division split into sections and bombed and rocketed two AA positions. The third division stayed up for cover and at completion of the above two attacks, bombed the shop area. Three hits were registered and 4 shops were demolished. Lieut. Brock was hit in his dive but succeeded in ditching his plane 4 miles off the coast and was picked up by the rescue sub 12 hours later.

Fourteen A/C were parked on taxiways and runways and all were subjected to division strafing runs. None burned however, but all planes seemed to be in an operational condition. The engine of one twin engine craft fell to the deck from 50 caliber hits. Each division then took a sector from the field to search for dispersed aircraft distant from the field. Although this proved fruitless one division sighted a train underway and were successful in destroying the locomotive. The flight remained in the area approximately 2 hours and although there were four airfields in the vicinity no enemy aircraft were airborne.

Meanwhile, the photo division made its photographic coverage of assigned airfields and were over an area 5 miles north of Hitogahara. Lieut. Baylies, one of the two photo pilots in the division, had been over this area on the 26th of July and believed that enemy planes were well camouflaged and dispersed at this position. In order to pin point the location so as to make good use of what little film he had remaining, Lieut. Baylies went down to 1500 feet and strafed. Immediately, beneath the camouflage within the wooded area a fire burst out. Seeing this his wingman, Ensign Moore opened up with his guns and succeeded in starting three fires. At this point, Ensign Neilson, the other photo pilot and his escort Lieut. Best came down from 5000 feet to investigate and photograph the fires. They too strafed the area, Best burning 4 aircraft and Neilson, three. As the fires burned, the burning planes were identified as Bettys and Oscars. Short on fuel, the division prepared to depart the area. In joining up, however, Lieut. Baylies was missing. No one had seen him in trouble, nor had he given any indication that he had been hit or otherwise in difficulty. Immediately, a thorough search was made of the area but to no avail. With barely enough fuel to make their base, the rest of the division departed, Ensign Neilson running out of gas on the elevator.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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7-31-45