

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VT-45 (b) Based on or at U.S.S. SAN JACINTO (c) Report No. 21
 (d) Take off Date 1 March 1945 Time (LZT) 1315 ⁻¹⁰ (Zone); Lat. 25 - 45 N Long 129 - 05 E ⁻¹⁰
 (e) Mission Bomb military installations, Anami Gunto. (f) Time of Return 1645 (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) | | |
| TBM-3 | VT-45 | 8 | 0 | 8 | Twelve 100# G.P. | .025 Nose |
| TBM-3 | VT-45 | 1 | 0 | 1 | Ten 100# G.P. | .025 Nose |

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

| TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE | TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE |
|-------|----------|--------|--------------------|------|----------|--------|------------------|
| B6F-5 | VF-45 | 8 | U.S.S. SAN JACINTO | B6F | VF-9 | 16 | U.S.S. LEXINGTON |
| TBM | VT-9 | 13 | U.S.S. LEXINGTON | | | | |
| SB2C | VB-9 | 11 | U.S.S. LEXINGTON | | | | |

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 |
|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| NONE | | | (ZONE) | | | |
| | | | (ZONE) | | | |
| | | | (ZONE) | | | |

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____
 Did Any Part of _____
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? _____ If so, Describe Clouds _____ (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 | | |
| 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 (List armor, self-sealing tanks, equipment hit) | (e) EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE, (Give Bureau serial number of planes destroyed) |
|---------------------|-----------------|---|--|---|
| 1 | TBM-3 VT-45 | One 100# G.P. bomb hung up on bomb shackles - plane not allowed to land aboard with it - made water landing near Destroyer. | | Plane lost - intentional water landing. |
| 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 |
|------------|-----------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 | VT-45 | Ensign John L. Mason # 337118 | Intentional water landing. | Picked up by Destroyer and reported "in good shape". |
| 1 | VT-45 | Melvyn G. Brackett, ARM3e # 225 28 54 | Intentional water landing. | Picked up by Destroyer and reported "in good shape." |
| 1 | VT-45 | Leroy A. Bourque, ARM3e # 648 93 98 | Intentional water landing | Picked up by Destroyer and reported "in good shape." |
| | | | | |
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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 | |
| TBM-3 | 150 | 155 | 3Hrs.30M | 300 | 192 | | | | | 8 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |

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 | | | ▼ | |

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

- SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

URNS

DIVES

CEILINGS

RANGE

PROTECTION

ARMAMENT

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

SECRET

REPORT No. **21**

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

Koniya, Amami O Shima Military Installations

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) _____ (b) Time Over Target(s) **1540** **-10** (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 **Clear** (e) Visibility **20 Miles** (MILES)

(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Glide Bombing** Bomb Sight Used **Mark 8** (TYPE)

(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE)

Bombs Dropped per Run **10 or 12** Spacing **Select** Altitude of Bomb Release **3500-4000** (FEET)

(NUMBER)

(FEET)

(FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed **None** Probably Destroyed **None** Damaged **None**

| (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 Barracks-storage area north side of Koniya. | 600' X 600' | 3 VT-45 | 32 | 30 | 1 barracks destroyed 2 or more damaged. |
| 2 Barracks and Administration Bldgs. NE edge of Koniya. | 500' X 1200' | 3 VT-45 | 30 | 30 | 2 buildings destroyed - 1 blew up - 4 or more damaged. |
| 3 Barracks area 1500' east of Koniya | 500' X 400' | 3 VT-45 | 32 | 32 | 1 barracks destroyed - 2 or more damaged |
| 4 1 lugger 150' off shore east barracks area | 60-75 Ft. | 1 VT-45 | 3 | 1 | Sunk |
| 5 Warehouses and pier west end Koniya | 100 Ft X 150 Ft. | 1 VT-45 | 4 | 4 | Direct hits on warehouses at base of pier |
| 6 | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | |
| 9 1 lugger 250' off shorefront of Koniya, | 50 - 60 Ft. | 1 VT-45 | 4 | 0 | Near miss - probably none. |

(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).

Three planes hit barracks storage area north of Koniya. One building about 35' by 60' was seen to be directly hit by at least two bombs and two others were in area covered by smoke and debris from exploding bombs. Thirty bombs fell right in this area and more damage was undoubtedly done but results could not be seen as the explosions occurred and no fighter photo plane followed this strike for damage assessment. This area is encircled and marked "A" on the attached K-20 photographs, but they do not give satisfactory coverage of this area. One of these three planes retained four of its bombs and dropped them on the warehouse area at base of pier. The explosion of these bombs is shown on attached photographs in circle "B". Exact damage cannot be assessed as the smoke of the explosion still hung over area.

Three planes hit the barracks and administration area NE of Koniya accurately with thirty bombs. This area was heavily damaged as the attached photographs show. This area is encircled and labelled "C". At

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

XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES (CONT'D.)

least six buildings in this area were directly hit - one of them blew up when hit and another burned vigorously. As the photograph shows smoke resulting from the bomb explosions and fire made it impossible to determine full extent of damage. One of these planes retained four of its bombs and dropped them on a lugger about 60 feet long laying 250' off the shore front of Koniya. The lugger was not hit, but one of the bombs was a near miss.

Three of the planes attacked the barracks area on the waterfront 1500 feet east of Koniya. One barracks about 30 feet by 120 feet was directly hit by several bombs and appeared to disintegrate. Another one the same size and one about 200 feet long were hit with unobserved results. Further damage may have been done as thirty two bombs were dropped in this concentration. One of these planes, retained three of its bombs and dropped them on a lugger about 70 feet long laying 150 feet off in front of this barracks area. The lugger was hit and sunk.

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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

The reason for the failure of one of the twelve bombs in Ensign Mason's plane to release is not known, but difficulty has been experienced continually with the Mark 4 bomb release shackle which is installed in this squadron's TBM-3 planes.

In view of the fact that a single hung bomb can result in a water landing dangerous to the pilot and his two crewmen and in the loss of an operational torpedo bomber which is otherwise in perfect condition, it is highly recommended that an emergency bomb release for TBM's be devised and installed that will guarantee a successful jettisoning of hung bombs. This is not the first time that bombs have been hung up in VT-45 planes, nor is it the first time that every emergency release mechanism and maneuvering has failed to work. But the problem has become much more serious since some carriers have adopted the rule of refusing to take planes aboard with bombs hung up, whether safe or armed.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Malcolm I. RUDDOCK, Lt.(jg) USNR,
SIGNATURE **A.C.I. Officer**

RANK AND DUTY

J. G. PIEGARI, Lieut., USNR,
SIGNATURE **Commanding Officer.**

RANK AND DUTY

3-2-45

DATE



Not checked

for comments