

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(a) Unit Reporting VFP-9 (b) Based on or at U.S.S. ILLINGTON (CV16) (c) Report No. 2
 (d) Take off: Date 16 February 1945 Time (LZT) 0915 K (Zone); Lat. 34 N Long. 142 E
 (e) Mission Sweep Airfields OSHIMA & CHIBA Peninsula, JAPAN. (f) Time of Return 1230 K (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>VFP-9</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>2400 X 50 cal.</u> <u>2 Mk 148 Port wing</u> <u>2 Mk 157 Stbd wing</u>	<u>-</u> <u>Inst.</u> <u>0.02 delay</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE

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>Zeko 52</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1100 K</u> (ZONE)	<u>KATORI</u>	<u>normal</u>	<u>slick brown</u>

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Unknown, was in landing circle wheels down.
 Did Any Part of
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? NO. If so, Describe Clouds _____ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance
 (j) of Sun or Moon Day (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (k) Visibility 10 (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>1/3 Zeko</u>	<u>F6F-5</u>	<u>VFP-9</u>	<u>Lieut. R. B. PORTER</u>	<u>6 X 50 cal.</u>	<u>Engine, cockpit, 10 low</u>	<u>Destroyed.</u>
<u>1/3 Zeko</u>	<u>F6F-5</u>	<u>VFP-9</u>	<u>lt. (jg) R.L. BOWER</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>Engine 10 low</u>	<u>Destroyed.</u>
<u>1/3 Zeko</u>	<u>F6F-5</u>	<u>VFP-9</u>	<u>lt. (jg) A.W. VALIQUET</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>Engine, cockpit, 11 low</u>	<u>Destroyed.</u>

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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) see below (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) 1015-1115 K (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target see narrative (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target - (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility - (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type - (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used - (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run - (NUMBER) Spacing - (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release - (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)
1 OSHIMA A/F		10 F6F-5's VF-9	500 x 50 cal. 30 R/P	75%	see below
2 OSHIMA Radio Sta		"	500 x 50 cal. 4 R/P	100%	"
3 Hangers OSHIMA		"	1000 x 50 cal. 4 R/P	75%	"
4 NOBARA A/F		"	1000 x 50 cal.	75%	"
5 Hanger NOBARA		"	500 x 50 cal. 2 R/P	75%	"
6 Hanger NARUTO		"	1500 x 50 cal.	75%	"
7 KATORI A/F		"	5000 x 50 cal.	75%	"
8 Hangers KATORI		"	5000 x 50 cal.	75%	"

(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).

- Field at OSHIMA rocketted and torn up. One (1) V/B destroyed on field by .50 cal. by Ens. HARRIS.
- Radio station on north tip of island hit directly with four (4) rockets by Ens. K. I. HULSE and Ens. J. H. WEYBANDT and fired.
- Hanger, barracks area on south side OSHIMA strip strafed by flight and fired by four (4) direct rocket hits by Lt. Comdr. F. L. LAYLOR.
- Airfield NOBARA. One single engine fighter type aircraft destroyed on deck and one single engine bomber type aircraft left burning (probable) by Lieut. H. C. JACOBS.
- Hanger on East side of field strafed and rocketted by Ens. K. I. HULSE. Facilities strafed by entire flight.
- Hangers at NARUTO strafed and left burning. No aircraft observed.
- Airfield KATORI. About 45 aircraft chiefly single engine and twin engine bomber type, seen about the field. Lt. Cdr. LAYLOR destroyed two single engine medium bombers and fired one more (probable). HARRIS destroyed one HELEN and probably one OSCAR. HULSE fired one BETTY (Probable) and damaged two other BETTYS. PORTER fired (probable) one Zeke. WEYBANDT damaged one BETTY. W. ARTHUR fired two BETTYS (probable) and damaged one BETTY. NO RISON destroyed one ZEKE and burnt one BETTY (probable). VALIQUET put a burst into a parked Zeke (damaged) plus damaging two U/D single engine aircraft. BOWER destroyed one HELEN and damaged two single engine bombers.
- Entire flight strafed hangers and facilities at KATORI and observed smoke on departure.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? - 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

Sweep 2 C took off at 0915 K for a sweep of OSHIMA. Immediately after setting out for target one aircraft had its belly tank drop down to a vertical position necessitating his release of tank and return with escort. The other ten F6F-5's proceeded to the assigned target alone, the scheduled rendezvous with U.S.S. HANCOCK VF planes not having been achieved. Approach was made to OSHIMA under a cloud base 10/10 at 1000 feet all the way to the target. The flight swept in over the island, course 270°, pulling up to 400 feet to pass over the cliff on the extreme north easterly tip of the island, speed 255 knots. A sweep was made of the single strip where the one aircraft observed was destroyed. The retirement was made to the north and another on the deck approach made from that direction. A radio station on the north east tip of the island was rocketted and the field and installations hit with .50 cal. and rockets.

The strip at OSHIMA is a single one 5000' X 600' NE-SW. Facilities appear meager and the hangers and other buildings were characterized as "ramshackle". Because of the poor weather further recon of the island was unpractical and Lt. Cdr. LARSON headed the flight for the CHIBA Peninsula. "AA" at OSHIMA was light meager and inaccurate.

Approach was made to CHIBA Peninsula on the deck, the flight entering from the east just south of MORARA. The flight swept over that field at tree top level observing only a few aircraft on the field and strafing facilities. The flight continued to NARUTO where no aircraft were seen and facilities strafed. Approach to KATORI was high speed on the deck from the ocean over the tree tops from SE to NW. About 45 aircraft, chiefly single engine and twin engine bombers were seen about the field. Grounded aircraft were hit as well as facilities. See page 3 section (c) for results. "AA" at MORARA, moderate medium, pointed fire. NARUTO, none. KATORI, medium and light and moderate to intense, pointed fairly accurate.

Box score:

	<u>DESTROYED IN AIR</u>	<u>DESTROYED ON THE GROUND</u>		
		<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Probable</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
OSHIMA		1		
MORARA		1	8	7
KATORI	1	5	8	9
Total	1	7	8	9

On entering KATORI and ZEKE was caught in the landing circle at 400 feet with its wheels down and destroyed by EDNER, VALLIQUET, and PORTER.

Retirement made over ocean and return to ship completed without incident at 1230 K.

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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

**Altho belly tank of F6F-5 fell down to a vertical position
after take-off. Squadron engineering officer does not believe
it was a material failure.**

All material performed satisfactorily.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

J. F. SHARPHY, Lieut., USNR.

SIGNATURE

ACI

RANK AND DUTY

Frank L. LAWTON, Lt. Comdr., USNR. CO

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

16 February 1945.

DATE