

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VF-33 (b) Based on or at USS SANGAMON (c) Report No. 43
 (d) Take off: Date 21 April 1945 Time (LZT) 1725(I) (Zone); Lat. 24 10 N Long. 126 32 E
 (e) Mission Intruder Airfields, ISHIGAKI JIMA (f) Time of Return 2125(I) (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)		
F6F-5N	2	2	2	2	1 500 G. P. Nose AN 6 A.R. -"5 head Tail AN MK 157	M 103 A2 inst. M 100A2 .1 .02

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
None							

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
Zeke	2	0	1845 (I) (ZONE)	2 miles West of HEGINA Field	None	Grey Meat balls.
Zeke	1	1	1915 (I) (ZONE)	over NAGUAR WAN	None	Grey meat balls.
SE-Larger than VF	1	0	1845 (I) (ZONE)	Over ISHIGAKI town	None	Grey

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Land on ISHIGAKI JIMA Airfield or attack our intruder.

Did Any Part of
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? yes If so, Describe Clouds Scattered cumula stratus 2500-4000
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER) ft., .4

Time of Day and Brilliance
 (j) of Sun or Moon Evening twilight (k) Visibility 5
(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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			
Zeke	F6F-5N	VF-33	Lt. Charles E. PAUL	6 x .50	cockpit & mid fuselage 2:30 above	Probable

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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) Airfields ISHIGAKI JIMA (b) Time Over Target(s) 18 30 (I) (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target Scattered cumulo stratus 2500 to 4000 ft .4 cover
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 6
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Dive Bomb Sight Used MK 8 night recticle
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
Rockets fired 6 Slant range 1500 yds
Bombs Dropped per Run 1 Spacing 0 Altitude of Bomb Release 3000
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 1-Zeke Probably Destroyed None Damaged None

(h) AIMING POINT	(i) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(j) NO. A/C ATTACKING	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
		(k) SQUADRON			
1 Truck	18 x 5 feet	2 F6F-5N VF-33	strafed	Many hits	serious
2 HEGINA Airfield - mat	4000 x 4000 ft	1 F6F-5N VF-33	1 500 G. P. 6 A. R.	0 6	None
3 Zeke		1 F6F-5N VF-33	strafed	Many	destroyed
4 ISHIGAKI Airfield Area	5500 x 300 feet	1 F6F-5N VF-33	1 500 G. P.	0	None
5					
6					
7					
8					

(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).

1. Moving truck on road between ISHIGAKI Town and HIRAYE Town just outside HIRAYE. Riddled by strafing, stopped moving, not seen to have burned however.

2. Six rocket hits - bomb fell short. Results unobserved - could not do much damage to mat.

3. Plane taxiing along northern edge of HEGINA Airfield mat toward East corner. As result of strafing burst into flames and left burning.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No 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

On an Intruders mission of ISHIGAKI JIMA consisting of a two plane section of night fighters Lt. PAUL and Ensign BIGGART after strafing a truck just outside of HIRAYE, spotted three Jap planes between them. As BIGGART recovered from his strafing run at 3000 feet just off the coast East of HIRAYA he saw a grey single engine plane that appeared to be larger than a VF at 1:30 o'clock heading inland at 1500 feet.

In the meantime PAUL who recovered from his run over the coast line South and East of ISHIGAKI Field sighted two Zekes at 2:30 o'clock flying at about 1500 feet. The two Jap planes were blended in the background of a large wooded area west of HEGINA Airfield. As PAUL started after the closest Zeke BIGGART's attention was momentarily diverted to PAUL flying close to him and sight was lost of a plane he was after. BIGGART then climbed above the cloud cover to protect his section leader from attacks from above as PAUL closed on the Zeke who was heading for the nearest cloud cover. Although, PAUL had been unsuccessful in jettisoning his bomb load and was still carrying his rocket the F6F-5N was able to close fast. As the Jap dodged among the clouds PAUL was skeptical of following him for fear of a trap as he knew more than one enemy fighter was in the area. Finally, about mattress, as PAUL was about to get in range, the Zeke pulled up into a left wing over losing altitude as he completed the maneuver and heading back toward PAUL and to PAUL's left. PAUL chopped his throttle back and turned in the Zeke, getting a full deflection shot. Opening fire at about 800 feet at 9 o'clock above, hits were obtained in the cock pit and fuselage. The Jap dove into a large cloud smoking and PAUL followed but lost contact in the cloud.

BIGGART and PAUL joined up after this encounter and proceeded to circle the island in a slight weave. As the two crossed the neck of the most northern peninsula at about 6000 feet BIGGART was hit in the left wing by AA which caused his rocket and guns to fire. After a check of damage it was found that the guns were not operational and the air speed indicator was out. Continuing their circle BIGGART jettisoned his bombs and rockets over the general vicinity of ISHIGAKI Airfield. When they reached the west coast again over FUSAKI POINT PAUL decided to try to get rid of his load at HEGINA Field and headed that was leaving BIGGART to orbit over FUSURI POINT. Just before PAUL reached HEGINA he heard BIGGART yell over the radio that some one was shooting at him. Returning as quickly as possible PAUL saw a Zeke making a perfect high side run on BIGGART from about 3000 feet above shooting all the way down.

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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

Continued XII

The first BIGGART was aware of a run being made on him was when he received hits in the right wing from above and once again his guns and rockets commenced firing. BIGGART pushed over in a dive and the next time he noticed the Jap was at 3 o'clock about 700 feet above weaving. At the time PAUL approached, the Zeke dove into the cloud cover and contact was lost.

PAUL sent BIGGART to TARMA Island to orbit and once again proceeded to HEGINA Field to drop his load. Coming in from the North West PAUL released his bomb manually and fired his rockets into the field. The bomb falling north of the field. As he fired his rockets PAUL notified on Zeke parked at the N.E. edge of the mat and another taxiing easterly along the Northern edge of the field. Picking the moving Zeke PAUL began strafing from about 300 feet continuing to about 1500 ft covering the Zeke from one end to the other about midway through the run the Zeke burst into flames. PAUL left as he was worried about BIGGART.

The two pilots rendezvoused and returned to the carrier BIGGART landing aboard after dark without flaps, no air speed indicator, hydraulic system out and with badly damaged wing. On the landing he "two blocked" number 4 wire and hit the barrier. Pilot e.s.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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APPROVED BY:

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Commanding 4-27-45

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE