

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VT-12 (b) Based on or at USS RANDOLPH (c) Report No. 31
 (d) Take off: Date 13 May 1945 Time (LZT) 0527(I) (Zone); Lat. 30-01 N Long. 132-30E
 (e) Mission Strike Abel-Tanama Airfield on Kyushu (f) Time of Return 0930(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)		
<u>TBM-3</u>	<u>VT-12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>none</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>12 x 100 #GP</u>	<u>Instantaneous</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>VBP-12</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>USS RANDOLPH</u>				
<u>SB2C-4E</u>	<u>VB-12</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>USS RANDOLPH</u>				
<u>Plus 8 VT</u>	<u>and 8 VT</u>	<u>from</u>	<u>USS BATAAN</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>None</u>			(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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			
<u>None</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) Tumana airfield on Kyushu (b) Time Over Target(s) 0720-0735 (Zone) (I)
(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 Slight haze (e) Visibility 20
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type High speed glide Bomb Sight Used Mark VIII
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 12 Spacing 60-80 Altitude of Bomb Release 2000-2500
(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)
<u>Southwest corner of airfield</u>	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>13 VT-12</u>	<u>142 x 100 /GP</u>	<u>142 in area</u>	<u>Believed serious</u>
2					
3					
4					
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).

Large hangar, administration building and barracks area were well saturated with bombs. Assessment of damage during the attack was difficult, however, because the area was obliterated by smoke, dust and debris, and the attacking planes did not remain in the immediate area until the smoke cleared away.

(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

Fifty nine planes participated in this strike against the Tamana airfield, 13 VF, 14 VB and 16 VF from the USS RANDOLPH and 8 VF and 8 VF from the USS BATAAN. It was conducted in support of advance on Okinawa and was part of a two day series of strikes on airfields in Kyushu.

After rendezvousing the group proceeded north to a point just north of the Tomitake airfield on the east coast of Kyushu and then turned inland, crossing the island on an almost East-West line rather than a diagonal to shorten the time over land. A gradual climb was started right after rendezvous and continued until an altitude of 14,000 feet was reached and this altitude was maintained across the mainland until starting a high speed approach on the target.

After skirting to the south of Kumamoto, the group turned north to make their dives on the target from the northeast and their recovery over a bay east of the mainland. The attack order was fighters, torpedo planes and then dive bombers.

During the approach heavy caliber AA was encountered of moderate intensity from Kumamoto and Tamana. Although one plane was hit just before starting the dive, fire in general was inaccurate.

The main hangar, administration buildings and barracks area southeast of the landing field were thoroughly saturated with bombs and it is believed damage was extensive. Minor damage was also done to the runway by a few bombs.

After the attack all planes rendezvoused over Shinobara Wan where fighters strafed a few small boats. The group then turned back across the mainland and returned to the ship without mishap.

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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

Regulator valves on the oxygen equipment failed in
a few of the planes and caused them to run out of oxygen.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

H.M. NEEDY, Lt(jc), USNR
SIGNATURE **ACT Officer**

RANK AND DUTY

THOMAS B. ELLISON, Lt-Comdr., USN 13 May 1945
SIGNATURE **Commanding**

RANK AND DUTY

DATE