

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(a) Unit Reporting VF-12 (b) Based on or at USS Randolph (CV-15) (c) Report No. VF-12-41
 (d) Take off: Date 29 April 1945 Time (LZT) 1730 (I) (Zone); Lat. 26-46N Long. 129-49E
 (e) Mission Dusk CAP, KIKAI SHIMA, NANSHI SHOTO (f) Time of Return 2139 (I) (Zone)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

| TYPE (a) | SQUADRON (b) | NUMBER | | | BOMBS AND TORPEDGES CARRIED (PER PLANE) (f) | FUZE, SETTING (g) |
|---------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| | | TAKING OFF (c) | ENGAGING ENEMY A/C (d) | ATTACKING TARGET (e) | | |
| F3P-5N | VF-12 | 4 | 0 | 2 | | |
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| | | | | | | |

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 |
|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| None | | | (ZONE) | | | |
| | | | (ZONE) | | | |
| | | | (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 _____ (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 | | | |
| 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 F6F-5N | VF-12 | Enemy 40mm A/A | Port stab. & elevator. | Ditched Bu. No. 72480 |
| 2 | | | | |
| 3 | | | | |
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| 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 | VF-12 | HYPES, D.M., Lt., USNR | Ditched plane after hit by enemy AA | Fair. No physical disability but under medical surveillance. Will be detached. |
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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 | |
| F6F-5N | 95 | 90 | 4hr. 20m. | 400 | 310 | | | 1200 | | 3 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |

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

TURNS

DIVES

CEILINGS

RANGE

PROTECTION

ARMAMENT

None encountered.

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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.)

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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

After orbiting south of KIKAI SHIMA, at 1950, Lt. D.M. HYPES and Ensign P. SULLIVAN were proceeding north along the island's east coast when Sullivan noticed lights on WAN Airfield. These were scattered at both the north and south ends of the runway, and one approximately half way between them. Both pilots peeled off at 8,000 feet and dove on the lights - Hypes to the north, Sullivan to the south. Whatever activity was in motion ceased. Hypes aimed at one light which remained on and burned his target. Sullivan did likewise at his end of the field; he followed a moving light, fired, and it burst into flames. It cannot be said definitely what the nature of these targets were, they could have been either aircraft or vehicles.

During their dive both nightfighters were met with moderate, medium and light automatic weapons. On his pullout Lt. Hypes' HELICAT received a hit from medium AA which demolished its port elevator and a large portion of its port stabilizer. For a few seconds following this point Hypes experienced what he thought were his last moments. He lost his oxygen mask due to the force of the shell's impact, and his vision was blurred. It was pitch black by this time. Since he was unable to observe from the horizon or to read his instruments he literally did not know "which end was up." After violent pushing, pulling and kicking he recovered control of his plane at about 200 feet and noted that it proceeded in spontaneous and erratic zooms. He was able to climb to about 6000 feet whence he started immediately for base, with Sullivan in a modified wing position.

The RANDOLPH and DZF 58 were advised of Hypes' condition. He was at first directed to bail out near the Task Force screen, then instructed to land in that vicinity and finally told to return to the heart of his Task Group and prepare for a water landing. On the return trip Hypes had to maintain an air speed of at least 140 Kts (indicated); when his speed fell below 140 Kts the F8F went out of control, following a crazy and unpredictable course. By the time he had reached base the moon had risen, and afforded him a clear view of the Task Group formation. All ships switched on their truck lights, Hypes turned into the space between the RANDOLPH and the BUNKER HILL, and made a good full-power water landing about two hundred yards ahead of the RANDOLPH. Before leaving the cockpit he removed a float light which he used to advantage along with .58 cal. tracer ammunition, a safety light, and a whistle. A group destroyer picked him up ten minutes after his landing and returned him aboard the following morning.

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XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.
Use additional sheets if necessary).

CONFIDENTIAL

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

No comments

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

10 May 1945

SIGNATURE

H.W. Hewlett
H.W. HEWLETT, Lt. (jg), USNR, ACIO

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

P.H. Michaelis
P.H. MICHAELIS, Lt. Cdr., USN, C.O.

RANK AND DUTY

DATE