

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

3

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. ACA-1- 51

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) HINAJI & KAKAGORA & MINATO airfields (b) Time Over Target(s) 0650(I) (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target CAVU (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility 15 (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used U.S. Illuminated gunsight (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 1 (NUMBER) Spacing 5 (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 2,500 (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 0 Probably Destroyed 0 Damaged 0

(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)
2 Hangar area, southwest of Hinaji airfield.		4 VF-49	3 - 500# G.P.	3	Not assessed
3 Hangar area, southwest of Akashi airfield.		4 VF-49	4 - 500# G.P.	4	Not assessed
4					
5 Hangar southeast of Minato		1 VF-49	1 - 500# G.P.	1	Not assessed.
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).

In addition to the bombs the flight discharged the following rockets:
 6 rockets at Kakagora field, all of which hit in the hangar area - damage not assessed;
 22 rockets along southern revetment and hangar area at Minato. All of them were seen to go into this area, but no damage was seen;
 18 rockets were fired into the hangars and revetments at Akashi and one building which was probably a supply depot was burned, and one plane in a revetment was destroyed;
 20 rockets were fired at a concentration of fishing boats and wharfs on I Shima, with unobserved results.

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

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4

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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

Lt. Comdr. G. M. Rousee led twelve Hellcats of Fighting Squadron FORTY-NINE from the USS SAN JACINTO on a sweep against airfields in the Kobe area. The primary mission of this flight was to obtain information about eight airfields in the area which had been assigned as targets to Air Group FORTY-NINE. To assist in the accomplishment of this end two photograph planes were sent on the mission. The course to the field was along the eastern shore of the Kii straits to the inland sea, and thence across Awaji Island to a point on south central Honshu just east of Shikama. The attack on Himeji, the first airfield to be struck, was made from the west, with the recovery over the hills to the northeast. Lt. L.A. Gundert's eighth division made the attack with the other two divisions remaining as top cover. Three bombs were dropped in the hangar area from about 2,500 feet and the field was strafed. Some operational planes were seen, but damage was not assessed. After division eight regained altitude it remained as top cover while similar simultaneous attacks were made on neighboring Kakagawa and Akashi airfields by the other two divisions. Division One under the leadership of Lt. Comdr. Rousee, made a sweep against Kakagawa. No operational planes were seen on the field, and the attack was directed mainly against the hangar area. The entire field had been badly beaten up on previous attacks and for this reason new damage could not be assessed. The revetments along the southern edge of the field were strafed at low level on retirement. The third division, led by Lt. Neil A. MacKinnon strafed and rocketed the southern revetment area and what remained of the badly battered hangars, along the west side of the field at Akashi. One plane was fired in a revetment, and a previously undamaged building, apparently a supply depot was burned by Ens. D.C. Crowler who scored a direct hit with two rockets. The entire mission rendezvoused over the water, northeast of Awaji island and after sufficient altitude had been regained, an attack was made on Minato airfield by divisions one and eight, with division three acting as top cover. The revetments and buildings to the southeast were rocketed and strafed, and special attention was given to the anti-aircraft positions which were largely concentrated in that portion of the airfield. Several operational aircraft were seen on the strip, but no report of damage was made. After leaving Minato, it was decided to determine whether the airfield or seaplane base which was believed to be on I Shima, a small island to the south in Kii straits, was actually in operation. The island was very carefully looked over at low altitude but no air installations were seen. All the remaining rockets were fired into a large number of fishing vessels bunched along the southern shore, and into the adjacent wharves. The entire island was also heavily strafed, but no fires or other damage were seen. Lt(jg) R.C. Wright and Lt(jg) E.K. MacDonald, the photographic pilots with division three, obtained complete coverage of the airfields assigned this mission. Lt(jg) Wright covered Himeji, Kakagawa, Kakagawa North and Minato fields, while Lt(jg) MacDonald photographed Himeji, Yahiro, Akashi and Hanjo. Meagre inaccurate automatic AA fire was encountered at Himeji and Kakagawa. No other flak was seen. The Flak Information furnished by the Task Group as usual was extremely sound. The suggested approaches to the area, and the attack and retirement courses were carefully followed and no effective opposition was encountered. Return to base was made at 1034(I).

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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

All equipment performed normally.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

R. A. SMYTHE, Lieut., USNR
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
A. C. I. Officer

G. M. ROUZEE, Lieut. Condr., USN
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
Commanding Officer, VF-49

30 July 1945
DATE