DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

3-53-45-2

Mission No. 146 Hiro Naval THUNDERHEAD 1
A/C Factory
5 May 1945

MISSION NO. 146 Hiro Naval THUNDERHEAD 1
A/C Factory
5 May 1945

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

SPECIFIC SUBJECT	TYPE OF MESSAGE	MESSAGE NO.	DATE AND TIME SENT	DATE AND TIME REC'D	INITIALS
Brief of Field Order	Telecon	FN-04-14		040945Z	BGR

2-5245-2

MISSION PLAN

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

C
O
P
Y

Telecon Message F[illegible]4-14 TOP SECRET SECRET [illegible]40845Z

FROM: LeMay COMGEN BOMCOM 21

TO : COMAF 20

INFO: DEPCOMAF 20

SUBJECT: Brief of Field Order for 5 May 45 Strike.

Strike against ENKINDLE scheduled 5 May 45 cancelled because of weather.

16 Squadrons are scheduled to attack Kure (Hiro Naval Aircraft Factory) on Honshu. 6 Squadrons are scheduled to attack airfields and installations on Kyushu. Date of attack 5 May 45, all operations are unescorted.

CODE NAME	PRIMARY VISUAL TARGET	FORCE REQUIRED
THUNDERHEAD	Hiro Naval Aircraft Factory	16 Squadrons
CAMLET	Oita Airfield	2 Squadrons
AGHAST	Tachiarai Airfield	1 Squadron
CHECKBOOK	Kanoya Airfield	1 Squadron
TREADLE	Chiran Airfield	1 Squadron
INFIRMARY	Ibusuki Airfield	1 Squadron

Route: Base, to Iwo Jima, to target, to Iwo Jima, to base.

Altitude: 18,000 feet

Bombing will be visual if possible, radar if necessary.

Bomb Load: Kure: 1000 lb. and 2000 lb. GP's fused 1/100 nose and non-delay tail. Airfields: 500 lb. GP's with instantaneous and delayed fusing.

Air-Sea Rescue facilities requested.

..END..

TOD:

040945Z DM

Classification Changed to
SECRET 5-8-46 By Authority of
C. G. AAF. by Ray L. Baker
Maj. Capt. A. C.

TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

SPECIFIC SUBJECT	TYPE OF MESSAGE	MESSAGE NO.	DATE AND TIME SENT	DATE AND TIME REC'D	INITIALS
1st a/c DM	Telecon	FN-04-20		04 8103Z	BGR
Take-Off Report	"	FN-04-25		052307Z	@

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

ROGER V WCR ELECON SG FN-04-20 OP OP SECRET 041511Z

T

SECRET

REC'D COPY #3

FROM BOMCOM XXI
TO COMAF 20

INFO DEPCOMAF 20 (POA)

SUBJECT: FIRST TAKE OFF REPORT ON THUNDERHEAD ONE

FIRST AIRCRAFT AIRBORNE AT 041715Z ON THUNDER HEAD ONE WEATHER SAME AS AGHAST AND CAMLET FIVE

...END..
TOD...~~1811~~0418105Z WW K
K

SECRET

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION:	C/S	DC/S Opr	DC/S TM&E	DC/S P&A	A-1	A-2	A-3 Tng	A-3 OC&R	A-4				
	A-5	Plans	Air Insp	PRO	Comm.	Op Anal	Stat Con	Anti-Acft	FSO				
	A.G.	Surg											
INFORMATION:	C/S	DC/S Opr	DC/S TM&E	DC/S P&A	A-1	A-2	A-3 Tng	A-3 OC&R	A-4				
	A-5	Plans	Air Insp	PRO	Comm.	Op Anal	Stat Con	Anti-Acft	FSO				
	A.G.	Surg											

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

TELECON MESSAGE FN-04-25 (SECRET) 042300Z (OPERATIONAL-PRIORITY)

FROM: COMGENBOMCOM21 TO: COMAF20

INFO: DEPCOMAF20(POA)

SUBJECT: TAKE OFF REPORT FOR MISSION NO. 146 TARGET HIRO NAVAL A/C FACTORY, KURE FLOWN 5 MAY 1945.

1.	UNITS:	XXI BOMCOM	58TH WG	3RD WING
2.	A/C SCHEDULED:	171	44	127
3.	A/C AIRBORNE:	165	42	123
4.	1ST A/C OFF:	041715Z	041724Z	041715Z
5.	LAST A/C OFF:	041830Z	041818Z	041830Z
6.	REMARKS:	46V608 OF THE 73RD WING CRASHED ON TAKE OFF. FOUR SURVIVORS RESCUED. THIS REPORT DELAYED DUE TO COMMUNICATIONS BEING OUT.		

END

TOD:-050423072/FER

ROGER FN-04-25 050423072/WCR (DAB)

SECRET

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION:	C/S	DC/S Opr	DC/S TM&E	DC/S P&A	A-1	A-2	A-3 Tng	A-3 OC&R	A-4		
	A-5	Plans	Air Insp	PRO	Comm.	Op Anal	Stat Con	Anti-Acft	FSO		
	A.G.	Surg									
INFORMATION:	C/S	DC/S Opr	DC/S TM&E	DC/S P&A	A-1	A-2	A-3 Tng	A-3 OC&R	A-4		
	A-5	Plans	Air Insp	PRO	Comm.	Op Anal	Stat Con	Anti-Acft	FSO		
	A.G.	Surg									

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

TELECON SERVICE MESSAGE (SECRET) Ø42325Z (OPERATIONAL-PRIORITY)

FROM: OIC, 21BOMCOM (YAMG) TO: OIC, 2ØAF (WCR)

INFO: OIC, DEPCOMAF2Ø(POA) (YAMF)

SECRET

SUBJECT: CORRECTION OF TELECON MESSAGE FN-Ø4-25, Ø423ØØZ.

IT IS REQUESTED YOU CORRECT SUBJECT TELECON (TAKE OFF REPORT FOR MISSION NO. 146 TARGET HIRO NAVAL A/C FACTORY, KURE FLOWN 5 MAY 1945.) AS FOLLOWS:

REFERENCE NUMBER TO READ: TELECON H HHHHHHMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM

XXXX

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

SPECIFIC SUBJECT	TYPE OF MESSAGE	MESSAGE NO.	DATE AND TIME SENT	DATE AND TIME REC'D	INITIAL
Flash bombs away	Tele	FN-05-06k		0145k	@
Cons bombs away	"	FN-05-08k		050553k	@
Return Report	"	FN-05-27		051728z	RJR
Correction to Ret Rpt	"	FN-05-28		051708z	RJR

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

SPECIAL CONFERENCE: 051700Z

STATION YAMG

PRESENT HERE: LT. BACKUS

SUBJECT: 20TH AAF MATTERS

SAY WHEN UR READY K

SECRET

REC'D COPY

TELECON MSG FN-05-28 OP OP SECRET 051630Z

FROM BOMCOM XXI

TO COMAF 20

INFO DEPCOMAF 20 (POA)

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
1945 MAY 5 17 02

SUBJECT: RETURN REPORT, MISSION NO. 146 TARGET HIRO NAVAL A/C PLANT, KURE FLOWN 5 MAY 1945.

GR-40

CORRECT OUR MESSAGE, SAME SUBJECT AS ABOVE, AS FOLLOWS:

PARAGRAPH 10 (PRIM VIS) UNDER METHOD SHOULD READ VISUAL RPT VISUAL INSTEAD OF 122 VIS-25 RAD.

TOD...051705Z WW
K

REC'D COPY

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

ROGER V WCR

SECRET

Communique -1

TELECON MSG FN-05-27 OP OP SECRET 051540Z

FROM BOMCOM XXI

TO COMAF 20

REC'D COPY

INFO DEPCOMAF 20 (POA)

SUBJECT: RETURN REPORT, MISSION NO.146 TARGET HIRO NAVAL A/C PLANT, KURE, FLOWN 5 MAY 1945.

GR-400

1. UNIT:	XXI BOMCOM	58	73
2. A/C RETURNED:	96	38	58
3. A/C AWAY:	68 (IWO)	2 (IWO)	66 (IWO)
~~4. KNOWN LOSSES:~~	~~2~~	~~NIL~~	~~1~~
~~A.~~			
~~RPTIN ABOVE LINE~~			
4. KNOWN LOSES:	2	NIL	2
A. TARGET AREA:	1		1
B. DITCHED:	0		0
C. OTHERS:	1		1
5. A/C MISSING:	4	2	2
6. TIME DOWN FIRST:	050732Z	050810Z	050732Z
7. TIME DOWN LAST:	051028Z	051028Z	050948Z
8. A/C NOT BOMBING:	16	4	12
9. A/C BOMBS UNKNOWN:	6	4	2

SECRET

10. TARGETS ATKD:	NO. A/C	CLOUD	ALTITUDE	METHOD	RESULTS
(PRIM VIS) HIRO NAVAL A/C FACTORY	119	0-5/10	19-21,250 FT	~~122VIS-24~~ visual	
RPTING ABOVE LINE					
(PRIM VIS) HIRO NAVAL A/C FACTORY	119	0-5/10	19-21,250 FT	~~122VIS-2~~	
					GOOD TO EXCELLEN
(PRIM RAD) HIRO ARENAL	25	"	21,250FT	RADAR	UNOBSERVED
SUSAKE	1	"	"	VISUAL	UNOBS.
KUSHIMOTO	2	"	"	"	GOOD
NAGAOKA	1	"	19,000 FT	"	

11. E/A OPPOSITION: NIL TO WEAK.

12. FLAK:	CALIBER	INTENSITY	ACCURCACY
	HEAVY	MODERATE TO INTESE	INACCURATE TO ACCURATE

SECRET

13. OBSERVATIONS;

OBSERVATION	TIME	ALTITUDE	LOCATION
~~71, 3 NO 4 U/O~~			

~~A~~

~~XXXXX~~

REC'D

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

A/F, 3 OR 4 U/I A/C ON GROUND 050140Z 19,500 FT 34/20 N - 135/15 E.

60 U/I ON TAKAMATSU A/F 050215Z 19,500 FT 34/18 N - 133/47 E.

40

- 50 U/I A/C ON GROUND KOMATSU SHIMA A/F, 050140Z, 20,000, 34 N -

134/35 E.

4 SILVER FLYING BOATS, KURE HARBOR 050156Z, 19,500 FT.;

APPROX 100 U/I A/C ON APRON AND UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF REVETMENTS AT KANNONJI A/F AT 050124Z FROM 21,000 FT, 34/07 N - 133/41 E.

5 EMILYS IN WATER OFF SHORE AT ATAKOTSU, 050127Z, 21,000, 34/13 N - 133/42 E.

SECRET

CL OR DD ANCHORED 050140Z 19,500 FT 34/10 N - 132/41 E.

LARGE CARGO OR TRANSPORT SHIP, 050142Z 19,500 FT 34/04 N - 132/53 E.

25 VESSELS, MERCHANT AND NAVAL 050142Z 20,000 FT 34/24 N - 133/15 E.

~~2 BB, 1 CV, 1 CVE~~

XXXXX 1CVE 050157Z TO 050203Z 19-20,000 FT 34/37 N

~~RPTING ABOVE LINE:~~

2 BB, 1CV, 1 CVE 050156Z 18,700 FT 34/11 N - 132/27 E.

2 POSSIBLE CRUSISER 050157Z TO 050203Z 19-20,000 FT 34/37 N - 132/~~30~~ 30E

~~132/27~~

XXXX

XXX

3 DD AND 3 FREIGHTERS 19,000 FT 34/55 N - 136/08 E.

1 CA 050147Z 21,800 FT 32/33 N - 134/11 E.

1, POSSIBLY 2CL & 2 MV 18,000 TO 20,000 FT 33/53 N - 133/08 E

SEVERAL DD'S AND AP'S " " " "

14. REMARKS: NAVAL VESSEL SIGHTINGS HAVE BEEN EVALUATED.

THIS REPORT IS FRAGMENTARY AND SUBJECT TO CORRECTION

TOD...051728Z WW

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SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

TELECON MSG FN-05-8 OP OP SECRET 050443Z

FROM: BOMCOM XXI

TO : COMAF 20

INFO: DEPCOMAF 20 (POA)

GR95

SECRET

SUBJECT: CONSOLIDATED BOMBS AWAY FOR MISSION NO. 146 TARGET HIRO NAVAL A/C FACTORY, KURE FLOWN 5 MAY 1945.

1. 19 A/C REPORTED BOMBS AWAY ACCOUNTING FOR:

2.

NO. A/C	TARGET	METHOD	RESULTS	TIME
44	HIRO A/C FACTORY	VISUAL	EXCELLENT	050135Z
61	"	VISUAL	GOOD	050142Z
13	"	VISUAL	POOR	050140Z
5	"	RADAR	GOOD	050245Z
23	"	RADAR	UNOBS	050209Z

3. A/C RETURNED EARLY: 10

4. REMARKS: TAKE OFF REPORT FOR A/C OF 73 WG AIRBORNE CORRECTED AS FOLLOWS: AIRBORNE 128 INSTEAD OF 123.

THIS REPORT IS FRAGMENTARY AND SUBJECT TO CORRECTION.

...END...

TOD 050553Z IK
ROGER WCR

SECRET

INFORMATION: C/S DC/S Opr DC/S TM&E DC/S P&A A-1 A-2 A-3 A-4
A-5 Plans Air Insp PRO Comm. Op Anal Stat Con Anti-Acft FSO
A.G. Surg

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

TELECN MSG FN-Ø5-Ø6 OP.SECRET Ø5Ø2Ø8Z

SECRET

FROM: COMGEN LEMAY XXI BOMCOM

TO : COMAF 2Ø

INFO: DEPCOMAF 2Ø (POA)

SUBJECT: BOMBS AWAY REPORT ON THUNDERHEAD NR 1.

FIRST AIRCRAFT BOMBED PRIMARY TARGET VISUALLY AT Ø5Ø146Z WITH EXXELLENT RESULTS ACCOUNTING FOR SEVEN AIRCRAFT.

END

TOD Ø145Z WL

SECRET

ROGER WCR

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION:	C/S	DC/S Opr	DC/S TM&E	DC/S P&A	A-1	A-2	A-3 Tng	A-3 OC&R	A-4	A-5 Plans	Air Insp	PRO	Comm.
	Op Anal	Stat Con	Anti-Acft	FSO	A.G.	Surg							
INFORMATION.	C/S	DC/S Opr	DC/S TM&E	DC/S P&A	A-1	A-2	A-3 Tng	A-3 OC&R	A-4	A-5 Plans	Air Insp	PRO	Comm.
	Op Anal	Stat Con	Anti-Acft	FSO	A.G.	Surg							

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Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

SPECIFIC SUBJECT	TYPE OF MESSAGE	MESSAGE NO.	DATE AND TIME SENT	DATE AND TIME REC'D	INITIAL
Prelim to DAAS	Typed		5 May		BSK

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH AIR FORCE

REPORT OF XXI BOMBER COMMAND

OPERATION NO. 146 5 May 1945
Date

Additional Preliminary Information

Targets: Primary: Hiro Naval A/C Plant and Arsenal, Hiro
~~Primary Radar:~~
~~xxxxxxxx~~ ~~Hiro Arsenal, Hiro~~
~~Other~~

Time Over Target: 051146 Theater Time

Aircraft: Total Bombing 148
Primary 119 visually, 25 radar
Secondary
Other 4

A/C Lost or Missing: 6 a/c (1 a/c crashed on take-off; 1 a/c lost in target area; 4 a/c missing)

Bomb Load: 1000 and 2000 lb. GP's fused 1/100 nose and non-delay tail

Tacting: Daylight bombing visually and by radar from an altitude of 19,000 to 21,250 ft.

~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~

Weather: 0 to 5/10 cloud cover

Fighter Opposition: Nil to Weak

Flak: Heavy caliber - Moderate to intense and inaccurate to accurate.

~~xxxxxx~~

SECRET

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Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

Observations:

3 or 4 U/I a/c on ground on A/F (34/20 N - 135/15 E).
60 U/I a/c on Takamatsu A/F (34/18 N - 133/47 E)
40 to 50 U/I a/c on ground on Komatsu Shima A/F.
4 silver flying boats, Kure Harbor.
Approximately 100 U/I a/c on apron and undetermined number of revetments at Konnonji A/F (34/07 N - 133/41 E)
5 Emilys in water off shore at Atakotsu (34/13 N - 133/42 E)
CL or DD anchored at 34/10 N - 132/41 E.
Large cargo or transport ship (34/04 N - 132/53 E)
25 merchant and naval vessels (34/24 N - 133/15 E)
2 BB, 1 CV, 1 CVE (34/11 N - 132/27 E)
2 possible cruisers (34/37 N - 132/30 E)
3 DD and 3 freighters (32/33 N - 134/11 E)
1, possibly 2, CL and 2 MV, several DD and AP's (33/53 N - 133/08 E)

Note: Naval vessel sightings have been evaluated.

Results:

Visual - Good to Excellent
Radar - Unobserved

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

SPECIFIC SUBJECT	TYPE OF MESSAGE	MESSAGE NO.	DATE AND TIME SENT	DATE AND TIME REC'D	INITIAL
Mission Summary	Telecon	FN-06-13		061350	WT
Mission Rpt for PHS	—				

MISSION
REPORT

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH AIR FORCE

REPORT OF XXI BOMBER COMMAND

OPERATION NO 146 - 5 May 1945
Date

Targets: Primary: Hiro Naval Aircraft Plant & Arsenal, Hiro

Secondary:

Other:

Time Over Target: 051040 Theater Time

Aircraft: Total Bombing 152

Primary 123 - visual
25 - by radar

Secondary

Other 4

A/C Lost or Missing: 2 a/c (1 crashed shortly after take-off and 1 lost over target)

Bombs dropped: 449 x2000 lb. M-66 GPs and 296 x1000 lb. M-65 GPs

Tactics: Daylight bombing visually and by radar from an altitude of 19,000 to 21,250 ft.

Fighter Support:

Weather: At target: 3-4/10 low cloud, top 5,000 ft in the area and clear over the target with visibility 20 miles; winds at 23,000 ft were 240 degrees at 85 knots.

Fighter Opposition: None encountered by 58th Wing. 73d Wing encountered 10 e/a. 14 attacks were reported by Tojos, Zekes, Georges and Oscars. 1 a/c lost due to e/a between assembly point and departure point. Three possible rammings avoided by increasing altitude at last moment.

Flak: Heavy and medium caliber. Ranging from meager to intense, accurate to inaccurate with practically all types of control in use from shore and ship defenses over target. Eight different colored butsts were reported. Ineffective attempts at smoke screening on North shore of Skikoku.

Claims: 2 - 0 - 2

SECRET

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By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

Observations: Previously reported - (none additional)

Remarks: 72 a/c landed at Iwo Jima, the majority to refuel due to strong headwinds. One of a/c landing reported damage caused by weather in frontal zone between 25° N. and 28° N.

Results: 58th Wing reports good to excellent results with major buildings in W half of the target receiving multiple direct hits. Smoke obscures NE portion of target. Direct hit visible on the large U-shaped buildings of Hiro Naval Engine & Turbine Factory. One major building in SW section of Hiro Arsenal received a direct hit or hits. Photos indicate extensive damage to primary target. 73rd Wing reports excellent results with approximately 80 percent of the target destroyed. Smoke obscures NE portion of target. All other buildings except seaplane hangars at S end of target area gutted or destroyed. Major damage reported to Hiro Naval Engine & Turbine Factory and SW part of Hiro Arsenal.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

THIS S IS A LONG 4 PAGE OP

TELECON MSG FN-06-13 OPERATIONAL PRIORITY SECRET 06

OPNS

FROM BOMCOM XXI

TO COMAF 20 INFO: DEPCOMAF 20(POA)

SUBJECT: MISSION SUMMARY FOR MISSION NO. 146 TARGET HIRO NAVAL A/ C FACTORY, KURE FLOWN 5 MAY 1945.

1. UNITS:	XXI BOMCOM	58 WING	73 WING
2. TAKE OFF:			
1ST:	041715Z	041724Z	041715Z
LAST:	041830Z	041818Z	041830Z
3. A/C AIRBORNE:	170	42	128
4. BOMBS AIRBORNE	848	336	512
A. NO. AND TYPE:			
1000 LB M-65:	336	336	0
2000 LB M-66:	512	0	512
B. FUSINGS:			
100 SEC NOSE-ND TAIL:	336	336	0
.01 SEC NOSE-ND TAIL:	512	0	512
5. DISPOSITION OF BOMBS:			
A. TARGETS:	A/C- BOMBS	A/C BOMBS	A/C-BOMBS
HIRO NAVAL A/C:	183-565	37-288 I	86 - 337
HIRO ARSENAL:	25 - 100	0 - 0	25 - 100
NAGAOKA(OPP TGT):	1 - 8	1 - 8	0 - 0
KUSHIMOTO (OPP TGT):	2 - 8	0 - 0	2 - 8
KURI OPP TGT)	1 - 4	0 - 0	1 - 4
B. JETTISONED:	A/C-BOMBS	A/5: -BOMBS	A/C BOMBS
	18- 103	4 - 40	14 - 63
C. RETURNED:	0 - 0	0 - 0	0 - 0
D. UNACCOUNTED FOR :	NONE	NONE	NONE
6. A/C NOT BOMBING:	18	4	14
A. MECHANICAL:	17	4	13
B. PERSONNEL:	0	0	0
C. WEATHER:	0	0	0
D. OTHER:	1	0	1-E/A
7 AVERAGE BOMB ALTITUDE:			
AJ PRIMARY:	20125	19000	21,250
B. SECONDARY :	NONE	NONE	NONE
C. OTHERS:	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN
8. TIME BOMBS AWAY:			
A. PRIMARY:	050140Z TO 0146Z	050140Z	050146Z
B. SECONDARY:	NONE	NONE	NONE
C. OTHERS:	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN
9. METHOD OF BOMBING:			

SECRET

SECRET

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WAR DEPARTMENT CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
1945 MAY 6 13

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

KOKI OPP TGT)	1 - 4	Ø - Ø	1 -
B. JETTISONED:	A/C-BOMBS	A/S: -BOMBS	A/
	18- 103	4 - 40	14 - 63
C. RETURNED:	Ø - Ø	Ø - Ø	Ø - Ø
D. UNACCOUNTED FOR :	NONE	NONE	NONE
6. A/C NOT BOMBING:	18	4	14
A. MECHANICAL:	17	4	13
B. PERSONNEL:	Ø	Ø	Ø
C. WEATHER:	Ø	Ø	Ø
D. OTHER:	1	Ø	1-E/A
7 AVERAGE BOMB ALTITUDE:			
AJ PRIMARY:	20125	19000	21,250
B. SECONDARY :	NONE	NONE	NONE
C. OTHERS:	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN
8. TIME BOMBS AWAY:			
A. PRIMARY:	Ø5Ø14ØZ TO Ø146Z	Ø5Ø14ØZ	Ø5Ø146Z
B. SECONDARY:	NONE	NONE	NONE
C. OTHERS:	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN
9. METHOD OF BOMBING:			
A. PRIMARY:	25 - RAD 123 - VIS	37 - VIS	25 - RAD 86 - VIS
B. SECONDARY:	NONE	NONE	NONE
C. OTHERS:	VISUAL	VISUAL	VISUAL
10. TIME OF RETURN:			
FIRST:	Ø5Ø732Z	Ø5Ø83ØZ	Ø5Ø732Z
LAST:	Ø51Ø28Z	Ø51Ø28Z	Ø5Ø948Z
11. CLAIMS:			
A. DESTROYED	2	NONE	2
B. PROBABLES:	Ø	NONE	NONE
C. DAMAGED:	2	NONE	2
12. CASUALTIES:			
A. KILLED	7	NONE	7
B. WOUNDED:	8	NONE	8
C. MISSIONG:	11	NONE	11
13. NO. A/C LOST:	2	NONE	2
A. TO A/C	1	NONE	1
//// E/A:			
B. TO AA:	Ø	NONE	Ø
C. TO ACCIDENT:	1	NONE	1
D. TO DITCHING:	Ø	NONE	Ø
E. OPERATIONAL:	Ø	Ø	Ø
E. UNKNOWN:	Ø	Ø	Ø
14. A/C DAMAGED:	18	8	1Ø
A. MAJOR:	NONE	NONE	NONE
B. MINOR	18	8	1Ø

SECRET

SECRET

1945 MAY 6 14 15
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

PART B: NARRATIVE:

1. AIR OPPOSITION: NONE ENCOUNTERED BY 58TH WING. 73 WING ENCOUNTERED 1Ø E/A. 14 ATTACKS WERE REPORTED BY TOJOS, ZEKES, GEORGES AND OSCARS. 1 A/C LOST DUE TO E/A BETWEEN ASSEMBLY POINT AND DEPARTURE POINT. THREE POSSIBLE RAMMINGS AVOIDED BY INCREASING ALTITUDE AT LAST MOMENT.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

C. MISSIONG:	11	NONE	11
13. NO. A/C LOST:	2	NONE	2
A. TO A/C	1	NONE	1
//// E/A:			
B. TO AA:	Ø	NONE	Ø
C. TO ACCIDENT:	1	NONE	1
D. TO DITCHING:	Ø	NONE	Ø
E. OPERATIONAL:	Ø	Ø	Ø
E. UNKNOWN:	Ø	Ø	Ø
14. A/C DAMAGED:	18	8	10
A. MAJOR:	NONE	NONE	NONE
B. MINOR	18	8	10

SECRET

PART B: NARRATIVE:
1. AIR OPPOSITION: NONE ENCOUNTERED BY 58TH WING. 73 WING ENCOUNTERED 10 E/A. 14 ATTACKS WERE REPORTED BY TOJOS, ZEKES, GEORGES AND OSCARS. 1 A/C LOST DUE TO E/A BETWEEN ASSEMBLY POINT AND DEPARTURE POINT. THREE POSSIBLE RAMMINGS AVOIDED BY INCREASING ALTITUDE AT LAST MOMENT.
2. FLAK: HEAVY AND MEDIUM CALIBER. RANGING FROM MEAGER TO INTENSE, ACCURATE TO INACCURATE WITH PRACTICALLY WITH ALL TYPES OF CONTROL IN USE FROM SHORE AND SHIP DEFENSES OVER TARGET. EIGHT DIFFERENT COLORED BURST WERE REPORTED. INEFFECTIVE ATTEMPTS AT SMOKE SCREENING ON NORTH SHORE OF SHIKOKU.
3. WEATHER: BASES AT TAKE OFF: 6/10 LOW CLOUD, BASE 1400 FT, TOP 12,000 FT WITH OCCASSIONALLY TO 25,000 FT; HEAVY SHOWERS AND LIGHTNING IN THE AREA.
ROUTE OUTGOING: TO 18N: SAME CONDITIONS AS THE BASES. 18 N TO 24 N 6/10 LOW CLOUD, BASE 1800 FT, TOP 6-8000FT. 24 N TO 28 N: 9-10/10 LOW CLOUD , BASE 1000FT; TOP 9000 FT; OCCASSIONAL TOPS TO 25,000 FT; 10/10 MIDDLE CLOUDS, BASE 10,000 FT AT 24 N RISING TO 14,000 FT AT 28N TOPS AT 22,000 FT; MODERATE TO SEVERE TURBULENCE: MODERATE ICING ABOVE 18,000 FT; MODERATE TO HEAVY SHOWERS; 7/10 HIGH CLOUDS. 28 N TO TARGET AREA: 3/10 LOW CLOUDS: TOP 5,000 FT; SQUAL LINE AT 31 N WITH TOPS TO 12-15,000 FT WITH SCATTERED SHOWERS.
TARGET: 3-4/10 LOW CLOUD, TOP 5,000 FT IN THE AREA AND CLEAR OVER THE TARGET WITH VISIBILITY 20 MILES: WINDS AT 23,000 FT WERE 240 DEG AT 85 KNOTS.
ROUTE RETURNING: SAME AS ROUTE OUTGOING:
BASES ON RETURN: 7/10 LOW CLOUD, BASE 1,000 FT; 7/10 MIDDLE CLOUD, BASE 10,000 FT; MODERATE SHOWERS IN THE AREA REDUCING VISIBILITY FROM 12 MILES TO 2 MILES.
REMARKS: ONE PLANE LANDED AT IWO JIMA AND REPORTED DAMAGE CAUSED BY WEATHER IN THE FRONTAL ZONE BETWEEN 25N AND 28 N.
4. AIR SEA RESCUE: TWO SUPERDUMBOS AIRBORNE BY 73RD WING. NO SEARCHES OR CONTACT WITH ENEMY. ONE A/C CRASHED INTO SEA LESS THAN FIVE MINUTES AFTER TAKE OFF. CRASH BOAT RESCUED FOUR OF CREW.
5 FIGHTER ESCORT: NONE
6. REMARKS: 72 A/C LANDED AT IWO JIMA, THE MAJORITY TO REFUEL DUE TO STRONG HEAD WINDS.
END

SECRET

TOD 061350Z
ROGER V WCR FOR FN-06-13 AT 061350Z

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

SPECIFIC SUBJECT	TYPE OF MESSAGE	MESSAGE NO.	DATE AND TIME SENT	DATE AND TIME REC'D	INITIAL

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Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

SPECIFIC SUBJECT	TYPE OF MESSAGE	MESSAGE NO.	DATE AND TIME SENT	DATE AND TIME REC'D	INITIAL
Press Flash	Tele	G-6-14HK		050314K	Q
Communique	"	6-6-6-HK		060207	BSC

PRESS
RELEASES

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

YES GA

TELECON MESSAGE G-6-6-H-K 052318Z RESTRICTED

SUBJECT COMMUNIQUE NO. 98

TO: COMGENBOMCOM 21 INFO DEPCOMAF 2Ø POA FROM: COMGENAF 2Ø

INFO COMGENBOMCOM 2Ø

OPR

RESTRICTED

THE FOLLOWING COMMUNIQUE WILL BE RELEASED HERE AT Ø5233ØZ

THE LARGE HIRO NAVAL AIRCRAFT PLANT IN THE KURE AREA ON THE MAIN JAPANESE ISLAND OF HONSHU WAS ATTACKED SUCCESSFULLY FRIDAY, 4 MAY (5 MAY JAPANESE TIME) BY B-29'S OF MAJOR GENERAL CURTIS E. LEMAY'S XXI BOMBER COMMAND. THE STRIKE WAS MADE AT MID-DAY JAPANESE TIME AND BOMBING WAS BY VISUAL MEANS, WITH RESULTS DESCRIBED AS GOOD. ENEMY AIR OPPOSITION WAS WEAK BUT FLAK RANGED FROM MODERATE TO INTENSE.

MEANWHILE ANOTHER FORCE OF B-29'S FROM BASES IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS AGAIN ATTACKED JAPANESE AIR BASES ON KYUSHU ISLAND. FIELDS AT OITA AND TACHIARAI WERE BOMBER WITH GOOD RESULTS BY VISUAL MEANS. A FEW HOURS LATER ANOTHER FORCE OF SUPERFORTRESSES STRUCK THREE OTHER KYUSHU AIR INSTALLATIONS, AT KANOYA, CHIRANA AND IBUSUKI, ALSO WITH GOOD RESULTS, IN THE KYUSHU ATTACKS FIGHTER ACTIVITY WAS WEAK EXCEPT AT TACHIARAI WHERE HEAVY OPPOSITION WAS ENCOUNTERED. ANTIAIRCRAFT FIRE WAS MEAGER.

A VERY LARGE TASK FORCE OF B-29'S MOUNTED THE THREE WAY ASSAULT AND FROM ALL OPERATIONS THREE OF OUR PLANES WERE LOST IN COMBAT.

(ATTENTION: REES FROM HADDOCK INFO WIPPOLD)

INFO: PRO'S ALL WINGS.

RESTRICTED

END

TOD ..Ø5Ø2Ø7(" Z

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Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

M

SECRET

TELECON MSG G-5-14-H-K RESTRICTED

SUBJECT PRESS FLASH

TO COMGENCOMCOM 21 INFO DEPCOMAF 20 POA INFO COMGENCOMCOM 20

FROM COMAF 20 (ATTENTION: GLASS)

THE FOLLOWING PRESS FLASH WILL BE RELEASED HERE AT 15/////

050345Z " A VERY LARGE FORCE OF B-29'S LAUNCHED A TWO-WAY STRIKE AGSINST RPT AGAINST TARGETS ON TWO MAJOR JAPANESE HOMELAND ISLANDS TODAY, 4 MAY EWT (5 MAY, JAPANESE TIME)). ONE FORCE OF SUPERFORTRESSES ATTACKED AN INDUSTRIAL TARGET AT KURE, ON THE MAIN ISLAND OF HONSHU, WHILE OTHER BOMBERS CONTINUED THE ASSAULT UPON AIR BASES ON THE ISLAND OF KYUSHU. BOTH PHASES OF THE DOUL// BOUBLE ATA// DOUBLE ATTACK WERE MOUNTED BY B-29'S OF THE XXI BOMBER COMMAND UNDER MAJOR GENERAL CURTIS E. LEMAY. FO// FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AFTER THE BOMBERS RETURN TO THEIR BASES IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS."

(ATTENTION: REES F// INO// INFO WIPPOLD FROM HADDOCK)

(INFO PRO'S ALL WNG/// WINGS)

SECRET

TOD 050314Z

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION:	C/S	DC/S Opr	DC/S TM&E	DC/S P&A	A-1	A-2	A-3 Tng	A-3 OC&R	A-4		
	A-5 Plans	Air Insp	PRO	Comm.	Op Anal	Stat Con	Anti-Acft	FSO			
	A.G.	Surg									
INFORMATION:	C/S	DC/S Opr	DC/S TM&E	DC/S P&A	A-1	A-2	A-3 Tng	A-3 OC&R	A-4		
	A-5 Plans	Air Insp	PRO	Comm.	Op Anal	Stat Con	Anti-Acft	FSO			
	A.G.	Surg									

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

SPECIFIC SUBJECT	TYPE OF MESSAGE	MESSAGE NO.	DATE AND TIME SENT	DATE AND TIME REC'D	INITIAL
Photo Intrep	Telecon	FN-06-15		6 May	BQR
Flash Report	"	" -07-17		7 May	BQR

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 760063
By MD NARA Date 5/26/10

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IN/Kn/6819

HQ TWENTIETH AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

EXTRACT OF TELETYPE CONFERENCE BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND GUAM

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DC/S OPR.	
AG	

TELECON MSG NO.	SUBJECT	DATE
FN-07-17	FLASH REPORT NO. 194	7 May 45

TO:	INFO:	FROM:
COMAF 20	DEPCOMAF 20 POA	COMGENBOMCOM 21

Target Area: Kure, Shimonoseki.
Kurume, mean time of photography: 1541Z. Quality good, date flown 7 May 1945. Ship Anchorage, Iwa Kuni Airfield (34/08N - 132/14 E) Naval vessels: 1 unident. CL, guns removed, poss. used as training ship. Kudamatsu Harbor (34/00N - 131/51E) 6 merchant vessels over 200 ft in length visible. Shimonseki Straits (33/57N - 130/57E) 21 merchant vessels over 200 ft in length visible. (Photo coverage of the Inland Sea entrance to Straits only) Hiro Naval Aircraft Factory, Target 90.30 - 660. Photos show an additional 400,000 sq ft of roof damage to Hiro Naval A/C Factory from XXI BC Mission 146, 5 May 1945. The target is now free from smoke. Visible damage totals about 75 percent (790,000 sq ft) of the roof area. All major buildings are severely or completely damaged with the exception of a multi-storied building of concrete construction reported as housing research. The building appears to have received three direct hits. Hiro Naval Engine and Turbine Factory, Target 90.30 - 730 Damage from XXI BC Mission 146, 5 May totals about 80 percent (870,000 sq ft) of roof area damaged or destroyed.

Kure Airfield (34/13/30 N - 132/37/00E) Target 656. Aircraft 48 S/E.
Kure S. S. (34/13/30N - 132/37/00E) Target 2620. A/C none.
Hiro S. S. (34/13/00N - 132/37/30E) Target 660. Aircraft: 4 F/E flying boats.
Iwa Kuni Airfield (34/08N-132/14E) Target 732. Aircraft: 74, 71 S/E, 3 T/E (90 percent coverage)
Iwa Kuni S. S. (34/08N - 132/14E) Target 2618. Aircraft none.
Tachiarai A/F (33/24N - 130/37E) Target 1236. Aircraft: 49, 37 S/E 12 T/E (70 percent coverage)
Kumanoto Airfield (32/48/30N - 130/48/00E) Target 2520. Aircraft 39, 7 S/E, 32 T/E. 1 S/E and 2 T/E inop, not counted in total.

Flash Report No. 193, Target Area: Hamamatsu, Takusaki, Mito. Date flown 7 May 45. Mean time of photography 070300Z. Quality Good. Toyohashi Airfield (34/43N - 137/19E) Target 2692. Aircraft 44, 19 S/E, 25 T/E. Koizumi Airfield (36/17N - 139/24E) Target 2772. Aircraft 128, 106 S/E, 21 T/E, 1 F/E. 3 S/E at target 1544 and 14 S/E and 1 T/E at target 1545 are included in total count. 1 F/E inop and 1 T/E dummy are not included in total. Utsonomiya (Koteyama) Airfield (36/30N - 139/59E) Target 2801. Aircraft 72, 59 S/E, 13 T/E. Shimodate (Sekimoto) Airfield (36/16N - 139/57E) Target 2796. Aircraft 107, 106 S/E, 1 T/E. Kasumigaura A/F (36/02N - 140/12E) Target 1466. Aircraft 154, 131 S/E, 22 T/E. Kasumigaura S. S. (36/03N - 140/14E) Target 1491. Aircraft 3 S/E land trainers. Yatabe A/F (36/01N - 140/07E) Target 1474. Aircraft 70, 69 S/E, 1 T/E. Shimazu S. S. (36/02N - 140/14 E) Target 2795. Aircraft none.

DISTRIBUTION		
	ACTION	DC/S Opr (2)
	INFORMATION	C/S A-2 (14); DC/S P&A; TM&E; A-3 OC&R (7); A-5 Plans (2) Op. Anal; Stat Control (2); AA; A-2 Collection Div.

5-33, AF (REV 1 JAN 45)

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HQ TWENTIETH AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

EXTRACT OF TELETYPE CONFERENCE BETWEEN

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DC/S OPR.	
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TELECON MSG NO.	SUBJECT	DATE
FN-06-15	Mission 146 Photo Interpretation, 3PR5M 138, Flown 5 May 1945	6 May 1945

TO:	INFO:	FROM:
COMAF 20	DEPCOMAF 20 (POA)	COMGENBOMCOM 21

Mean time of photography: C 050301Z
Quality: Good, except as noted
Kure Naval Base (3413N-13232E) Naval vessels: 1 CV, unidentified; 2 BB, unidentified; 1 CA, U/N. 1 Poss. CVE; numerous smaller naval units present. Merchant Vessels: 2 MV's over 200' in length. (6" vertical photo coverage only).
Kudamatsu Harbor (3400N-13151E) 4 MV's over 200' in length. Photo quality indistinct.
Tokuyama Harbor (3402N-13148E) Naval vessels: 1 poss OCA, U/N; Merchant Vessels: 3 MV's over 200' feet in length; Photo quality hazy.
Ship anchorage, YA Island (3345N-13210E) Naval vessels: 1 CA, U/N; 4 DD, U/N; 1 U/N vessel, partially submerged, 1 C/L, U/N
Shimonoseki Straits (3357N-13057E) Approximately 87 MV's are present. (6" oblique photo coverage only.)
Kure A/F (341330N-132730E) Target 656 A/C visible: 31 S/E.
Kure S.S. (341330N-132730E) Target 2620. A/C visible: 20 S/E float planes.
Hiro S.S. (341300N-132730E) Target 660. A/C visible: 3 F/E Flying boats.
Matsuyama A. A/F (3349N-13243E) Target 2589. A/C visible: 81 total. 78 S/E, 3 T/E, 1 S/E damaged, 1 T/E damaged, 1 BAKA not included in total. 7 barracks-type buildings north of the A/F are destroyed as a result of XXI B C mission 143, 4 May 1945.
Sone A/F (3350N-13057E) Target 2543. A/C visible: 3 S/E. 2 S/E inop. Not included in total.
Saeki A/F (32/58N-13156E) Target 1306 . A/C visible: 52 total. 48 S/E, 4 T/E.
Saeki S.S. (325830N-1315500E) Target 2537. A/C visible: 2 S/E floatplanes.
Hiro Naval A/C Factory: Target 660. Post strike reconnaissance on the same day as XXI B.C. mission, X 146, 5 May 45, shows about 38 percent of the plant (400,000 sq ft) damaged or destroyed. Considerable damage is probably obscured by smoke which covers the N and central portion obscuring over 50 percent of the target. Among the visibly damaged buildings completely damaged are the Administrative Offices, two power plants, nine maintenance buildings and a forge shop. Engine test cells in the S portion of the plant are damaged. Extensive damage is visible to what is believed to be target 730, Hiro Naval Engine and Turbine Factory, situated to the immediate N of Target 660. The large, U-Shaped building in this target is completely damaged and at least nine other major buildings surrounding it are completely or severely damaged. Several buildings in target 794, Hiro Arsenal, are also damaged o r destroyed. Smoke obscures the E portion of this target. Severe or complete damage to major buildings in Target 660 is located as follows on print 3 PR 5M135-4R77:

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DISTRIBUTION		
	ACTION	1
	INFORMATION	C/S

5-33, AF (REV 1 JAN 45)

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HQ TWENTIETH AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

EXTRACT OF TELETYPE CONFERENCE BETWEEN
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TELECON MSG NO.	SUBJECT	DATE
FW-06-15	Photo Interpretation, 3PR5M 188, Flown 5 May 1945	6 May 1945

TO:	INFO:	FROM:

(Cont'd)

(Read horizontally, then vertically) 6.0-2.6; 6.3-2.6; 7.05-2.70; 7.3-3.4; 7.5-2.3; 7.35-2.45; 7.6-2.6; 7.7-2.9; 815-3.1; 5.9-4.0; 6.1-4.0; 6.2-4.1; 6.65-3.85; 6.9-3.8; 7.1-3.7; 7.2-3.8; 7.4-3.9; Severe or complete damage to major buildings in targets 794 and 730 is located as follows on the same print:
2.3-3.7; 2.5-3.3; 3.4-2.5; 3.6-2.5; 3.5-3.0; 3.7-2.8; 4.0-2.7; 4.6-3.4; 4.8-3.3; 5.1-3.1; 4.9-2.2; 5.1-1.8; 5.2-2.3.

---End---

Note: This message will be relayed to XX BOMCOM at next regular conference.

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DISTRIBUTION		
	ACTION	DC/S Opr (2)
	INFORMATION	C/S DC/S TU&E; DC/S P&A; A-2 (14); A-3 OC&R (7); A-5 Plans(2) OA; Stat Con (2); AA; A-2 Collection Div.

5-33, AF (REV 1 JAN 45)

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