

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VF-33 (b) Based on or at USS SANGAMON (CVE-26) (c) Report No. 60
 (d) Take off: Date 26 April 1945 Time (LZT) 1615 (I) (Zone); Lat. 24 28 N Long. 126 43 E
 (e) Mission VF Sweep SAKISHIMA GUNTO Airfield Small Boats (f) Time of Return 1845 (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-5E	VF-33	8	0	8	2 100 G. P. 6 AR 5" Head	Tail AN MK 219 .01 MK 157 Base

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
F6F-5	VF-40	4	USS SUWANNEE				
F6F-5	VF-24	4	USS SANTEE				

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 _____ (k) Visibility _____
(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:				(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER	GUNS USED		
None						

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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) **ISHIGAKI Airfield Area** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1700 (I)** (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target **Cumulo Stratus 100 ft solid**
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target **Obscured by clouds** (e) Visibility **0**
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Glide (by Radar)** Bomb Sight Used **MK 8 Illuminated**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
Rockets fired **2** **Slant Range - unknown**
Bombs Dropped per Run **0** Spacing **0** Altitude of Bomb Release **5000**
(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)
1 ISHIGAKI Field Area	-	8 F6F-E VF-33	16 100 G. P. 48 A. R.		Unknown
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).

1. Location ISHIGAKI JIMA - target completely closed in load dropped by Radar over approximate locality of airfield: Results unknown.

(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

All targets were completely closed in, so rather than jettison load at sea the flight leader decided to find ISHIGAKI field by Radar and drop in that area.

He picked up the Island on Radar AN-APS-4 saw the coast line south of ISHIGAKI field visually and figured out the angle and distance inland from his map to hit the field area. Pushing over at 8000 feet in about a 30° glide the flight followed Lt-Cmdr PAUL the flight leader, and dropped their entire load and fired their rockets at the spot he estimated as being over the target.

The flight leader feels sure that the bombs and rockets hit somewhere in the vicinity of ISHIGAKI Field and was much better than "killing fish".

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XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.
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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

The flight leader feels that the AN-APS-4 radar gear is a wonderful thing to have in weather such as he ran into- mainly is a weapon against weather and an aid in navigation.

Though the gear when working properly and handled by a person trained in its use is a valuable asset it still has its disadvantage when it comes to speed and rate of climb. Actual combat test are planned to determine the extent of these two disadvantages.

This particular flight ran into some difficulty in following the F6F-5's from the SANTEE and SUWANNEE. Though both type planes had approximately the same ordnance load, the flight leader of the "5-E's lost 15 miles in 130 going to the target. During these 130 miles he had to maintain 34" manifold pressure and 2200 RPMs to avoid loosing more than he did. One other plane in the flight had to use 37" and 2100 RPMs.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Oden F. GOSHORN, Lt(jg), USNR,
SIGNATURE **ACI Officer, VF-33.** RANK AND DUTY

Paul C. ROONEY, Lt-Cdr, USN, 26 April 45
SIGNATURE **Commanding Officer, VF-33.** RANK AND DUTY DATE