

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VF-24 (b) Based on or at USS SAIZEE • At Sea (c) Report No. 55-45
 (d) Take off: Date 1 Jun 1945 Time (LZT) 0700 I (Zone); Lat. 24° - 40' N Long. 126° - 32' E
 (e) Mission T.C.A.P. - Ishigaki Jima & Miyako Jima (f) Time of Return 1045 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>VF-5</u> | <u>VF-24</u> | <u>8</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>8</u> | <u>1 x 500 lb. bomb G.P. (1 photo plane had no bomb)</u> | <u>Inst nose-.025 tail</u> |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

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

| TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE | TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE |
|-------------|----------|--------|------|------|----------|--------|------|
| <u>NONE</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> | | | <u>(ZONE)</u> | | | |
| | | | <u>(ZONE)</u> | | | |
| | | | <u>(ZONE)</u> | | | |

(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 | | |
| <u>NONE</u> | | | | | | |
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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 | 2090 | | | |
| 2 | | | | |
| 3 | | | | |
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| 10 | | | | |
| 11 | | | | |
| 12 | | | | |
| 13 | | | | |
| 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 |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| | 2090 | | | |
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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 | |
| F4U-7 | 344 | 344 | 3 1/4 | 325 | 218 | | 4000 | | | 8 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
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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

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TURNS
 DIVES
 CEILINGS
 RANGE
 PROTECTION
 ARMAMENT

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. **55-45**

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Ohsan, Ishigaki, Iriomote and Haderuna Jima (b) Time Over Target(s) 0830 I (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target Ishigaki 1000' .2 to .3 Ohsan 1500' 9/10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear Ishigaki - Hazy at Ohsan (e) Visibility 25 and 5 miles
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Dive Bomb Sight Used Mk 8 gunsight
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run One Spacing - Altitude of Bomb Release 3000'
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed One 3/8 Probably Destroyed -- Damaged --

| (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 Radio Station | Ishigaki town | 3 VF-24 | 3 bombs | - | Near misses Damage unknown |
| 2 Seven boats | Iriomote 50' to 75' | 4 VF-24 | Straffed .50 cal. | Hazy | Damage unobserved |
| 3 Camouflaged plane | Haderuna | 4 VF-24 | Straffed .50 cal. | Hazy | Destroyed - burned |
| 4 Storage bldgs | Ohsan Jima | 4 VF-24 | 4 bombs - Straffed | -- | Damage unobserved |
| 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).

3 - This plane was covered with brush and grass in a field on the tiny island of Haderuna Shima just north of Iriomote Jima. It had been spotted the previous day by a TBM aviator, J. E. BROOKBANK, ADM1c, VF-24 and reported as a possible seaplane. Lieut. COSTLER's REAP division straffed it and the plane burst into flames, burning fiercely. Subsequently, another flight confirmed the destruction when they made 6 passes over it at 90°. It was thought to have been a "TOJO" that had made an emergency landing.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? 10 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

This division, led by Lieutenant D. W. COSTLEY, patrolled Ishigaki Jima, then dive bombed the radio station at Ishigaki town. The attack was made in 60° dives from 10000 releasing at 3000'. The 3 bombs hit within 100' of the station but damage was unobserved.

Next, they flew to Kadorusa Jima, strafed the plane described previously, and proceeded to Iriomote Jima. There they located seven assorted coastal craft and subjected them to severe strafing attack. Since the boats were tied up near the shore, no damage could be noted except that one caught fire. These boats were well concealed against the coastline, covered with branches and weeds, making them difficult to see except at very low altitudes. Since that portion of the east coast, was not fortified the attacks were made at close range and low altitude.

Picture coverage was not obtained due to cloud cover.

Another division, led by Lieutenant (junior grade) James MAHER was assigned TGAP over Miyako Jima. That target was closed in so they dive bombed and strafed the building in the harbor at Ohsa Jima, through a small hole in the clouds. They patrolled the area until 0930, then returned to base.

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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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

E.T. WELLS, Lt(jg) A-1 Officer

P. N. CHARBONNET, Jr. Lieut. U.S.N.
Leading Corporal

7 June 1945

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

RANK AND DUTY

DATE