

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. **VF-12-34**

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) **WAN Airfield, KIKAI SHIMA** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1230(I)** (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target **400 to 600 feet; stratus; 10/10 cover**
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target **Hazy, largely obscured by clouds** (e) Visibility **2**
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Glide** Bomb Sight Used **MK 23 gunsight**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run **1** Spacing **0** Altitude of Bomb Release **350**
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed _____ Probably Destroyed _____ Damaged _____

(h) AIMING POINT	(i) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(j) NO A/C ATTACKING	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
		(k) SQUADRON			
1 Dispersal Area WAN A/P		8 VF-12	26 HVAR 8 x 500# G.P.	26 8	None
2 KONIYA Seaplane Station, AMAHI		4 VF-12	strafed		None
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)

The weather and concealment of the target turned the attack into an area bombing of the supposed vicinity of the dispersal area. No damage could be observed.

KONIYA Seaplane Station was strafed with no damage.

(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.)

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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

Primarily a CAP, the KIKAI SHIMA attack was an abortive mission. Two divisions took off, one going immediately to KIKAI, the other proceeding via KONIYA Seaplane Station at the southern tip of AMAMI O'SHIMA. At KONIYA the cloud base was settled at 1000 feet, 10/10 cover. One strafing run was made; no activity or aircraft facilities were observed. Our planes were taken under attack at extreme range by accurate, heavy AA from a small island, southwest of AMAMI, and by automatic weapons at the seaplane station.

At KIKAI, the attack against the dispersal area immediately NE of WAN Airfield was undertaken despite the ceiling of 400 to 600 feet. No targets could be pin pointed or damage observed. It is doubtful whether any telling hit was scored.

Just after his pull out, at about 200 feet, Ensign T.J. NORTHCUTT's plane was hit by 40mm AA on the underside of the fuselage at the tail. He was aware of the hit, but not of the damage and made another run to loose his bomb. It soon developed that his radio and hydraulic system were out, and that his tail hook and wheel had been shot away. Escorted by his division leader, Lt.(jg) J. M. FRANKS, he made an emergency landing at YONTAN Airfield, OKINAWA. It is a credit to the durability of the HELLCAT that his plane clung together for the trip; 150 shrapnel holes were counted in the vicinity of the hit. Upon landing the F6F was scrapped and assigned as a source for repair parts. NORTHCUTT returned aboard the following day in a TBM despatched from the ship.

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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

It is repeated again (see ACA-1 Report #VF-12-33) that rockets and 500# G.P.'s are inadequate weapons of attack against such targets as WAN Airfield, KIKAI SHIMA. This flight, as those proceeding and following, is considered a waste of such armament, and an unnecessary exposure of both pilots and planes to enemy anti-aircraft fire.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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

F.M. Michaelis
F.M. MICHAELIS, Lt.Cdr., USN, CO

1 May 1945

DATE