

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

I. GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(a) Unit Reporting CVG Air Group-2 (b) Based on or at USS SANTEE - At Sea (c) Report No. 11-45
 (d) Take off: Date 27 April 1945 Time (LZT) 0730 I (Zone); Lat. 24°-41' N Long. 126°-42' E
 (e) Mission Attack Air Facilities, Miyako Jima, Sakishima Gunto (f) Time of Return 1105 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)		
SBM-3	VF-24	8	-	8	2 - 500/ G/P bombs 4 - 100/ 6 - 5" H.E. rockets	Inst nose 7-5 sec delay tail Instant nose .025 delay nose fuze
F6F-5	VF-24	8	-	8	1 x 500 lb. G.P. Mk 64 6 - 5" H.E. rockets	Inst nose-.01 delay tail Base fuze only

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
None							

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						

(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 _____ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.)
 (k) Visibility _____ (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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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 TB-3	VF-24	A/A probably 40mm	Trailing edge of stabilizer	Minor repairs
2			elevator	
3 TB-3	VF-24	A/A probably 40mm	Port wing	Minor repairs
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
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
	VF-24			

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	
TB-3	80	80	3.5	335	240	800	1600	-	-	8
TB-3	80	80	3 1/2	325	220	800	1600	-	-	8

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
- TURNS
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

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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) **Hirara and Sobara airfields, Miyako Jima** (b) Time Over Target(s) **0830 I** (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target **None** (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target **Clear** (e) Visibility **20** (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **VT glide, VT dive** Bomb Sight Used **VT - Mk 8 gun sight**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run **All** Spacing **--** Altitude of Bomb Release **2500' - 3500'**
(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 (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 Oil storage VT area N	--	4 VF-24	8 - 500# bombs ✓ 8 - 100# ✓	-	-
2 Dispersal area N	--	4 VF-24	8 - 500# bombs ✓ 8 - 100# ✓	-	-
3 A/A positions H	--	8 VF-24	24 rockets ✓ Straffing	-	-
4 A/A positions H	--	8 VF-24	8 - 500 lb. bombs ✓	-	-
5 Dispersal area N	--	8 VF-24	48 rockets ✓ Straffing	--	-
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.)

- VT - 1 Numerous hits were scored in this area which is located between the runways on Sobara airfield but no explosions were observed.
- VT - 2 All bombs dropped landed in this area located at the east end of the B-3 runway on Sobara airfield, damage is unknown.
- VT - 3 This A/A position was located at the north end of the H-3 runway on Hirara airfield. Exact number of hits was unobserved but the battery was silenced.
- VT - 4 Bombs were released at heavy and medium a/a located west and south of the B - 3 runway at Hirara airfield. Damage unknown.
- VT - 5 All rockets and straffing were confined to dispersal area south of Sobara airfield. Although the area was well covered with explosives and bullets, damage is 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

VF - One 4 plane division of VF made a bombing run on an oil dump area located between the runways while the other 4 plane division dropped its bombs on the dispersal area at the east end of the B-7 runway on Hobaru. During the latter run the TBM piloted by Ensign D. GOODSMITH was hit in the trailing edge of the starboard elevator by 40mm A/A at 2500' after he had started his pullout. A portion of the elevator about 1 foot by 3 inches was chewed off and about 5 or 6 small shrapnel holes appeared in the rudder as a result of this hit. The plane was flown by to the carrier and landed without difficulty. Bombing runs were started at from 6000' - 7000' and releases made at 2500 - 3500'. Rockets were fired at an angle of 30° and an altitude of 3000' at an A/A position at the north end of the B-8 runway on Hobaru airfield. This position was silenced.

No enemy a/c was encountered but enemy a/a of varying types was met. The medium A/A was intense and accurate.

VF - The two division of VF led by Lieutenant R. B. HILSH, strafed and bombed the gun positions on Hobaru in conjunction with the VT attack. The dive bombing attacks were made from 11,000' in 60° dives, releasing at 3000'. Rocket and strafing runs were conducted on the semi-camouflaged area south of Hobaru airfield. Several previously damaged aircraft were further sprayed with hits and many suspicious covered revetments and clumps of bushes were hit. Damage could not be ascertained.

One plane returned with a jagged hole in the wing but he could not tell when the hit was suffered.

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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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

E. T. WELLS, 1st Lt (jg) AEC Officer

P. H. CHARBONNET, Jr. 1st Lt. U.S.N.
Acting Commander

23 May 1945

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

RANK AND DUTY

DATE