

VMF-113

⑥

Report # 97

HC (16)

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# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VFP-113 (b) Based on or at Charlie Airstrip, Ie Shima (c) Report No. 97  
 (d) Take off: Date 11 July, 1945 Time (LZT) 0940 (1) (Zone); Lat. 26° 43' N Long 127° 47' E  
 (e) Mission Combined Dive-bombing Mission to I Kenoya Airfield, Kyushu Time of Return 1037 (1) (Zone)  
Ie Shima Airfield, Ie Shima was used as alternate target.

## 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>F4U-1D</u>	<u>VFP-113</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>2 500 G.P. nose VT; tail ND</u>	
<u>FG-1D</u>	<u>VFP-113</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>2 500 G.P. nose VT; tail ND</u>	

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>F4U-1D</u>	<u>VFP-314</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>Ie Shima</u>	<u>TBM</u>	<u>VFPB-131</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>Ie Shima</u>
<u>F4U-1D</u>	<u>VFP-422</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>Ie Shima</u>				
<u>FG-1D</u>	<u>VFP-422</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>Ie Shima</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>None</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>None (ZONE)</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>None</u>
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) None  
 Did Any Part of \_\_\_\_\_  
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? No 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 None (k) Visibility None  
 (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>	<u>None</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>None</u>	<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	None	None	None	None
2				
3				
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
None	None	None	None	None

## 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	
FW-19	300	300	4.8	395	310	0	240	0	0	9
FW-19	300	300	4.8	395	250	0	160	0	0	7

## IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	0			
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
- TURN
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

**No enemy aircraft were encountered.**

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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) **Imajo Airfield, Tanaga, China** (b) Time Over Target(s) **0830 (1)** (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target **None** (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target **Clear** (e) Visibility **20** (MILES)  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Dive** Bomb Sight Used **AN MK 8 Mod. 6**  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run **2** Spacing **0** Altitude of Bomb Release **5000**  
(NUMBER) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed **0** Probably Destroyed **0** Damaged **0**

(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) <sup>1</sup> <b>Shop, warehouse, storage</b>	<b>hanger area at southern end of the field.</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>22 500 G.P.</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>Undetermined</b>
<sup>2</sup>		<b>VMS-113</b>			
(2) <sup>3</sup> <b>Antiaircraft area just north of above area on the eastern side of the airfield.</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>8 500 G.P.</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Undetermined</b>
<sup>4</sup>		<b>VMS-113</b>			
<sup>5</sup>					
<sup>6</sup>					
<sup>7</sup>					
<sup>8</sup>					

(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 results of the bombing could not be determined due to the altitude and speed, but there was good coverage of the two areas.**

(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

(11 July, 1945) Sixteen (16) planes of this squadron took off from Charlie Airstrip at 0540 Item as part of a combined dive bombing mission against H. Kanoya A/F, Kyushu.

Upon arriving over Kyushu, a front was encountered, with 10/10 coverage from 1,000 to above 10,000 feet, completely obscuring the target. When it became evident that the formation would be unable to strike the original objective the course was changed to Inajo Airfield, Tanaga Shima, which had been designated as the alternate target.

The four (4) VME-113 divisions, led by Major Ramlo, approached Tanaga Shima from the west, swung around the southern tip of the island and up the east coast to a point over the eastern coast line opposite the airfield at 0830 Item and made a diving 90° turns, from 12,000 feet, into the target. The average dive angle was 60°, speed 350 knots, release elevation 5,000 feet and pull out at 4,000 feet.

Twenty-two (22) bombs were evenly distributed across the shop-warehouse-storage-hanger area at the southern end of the field. Eight (8) bombs were dropped just north of this area at A/A positions on the eastern edge of the field. One direct hit was observed on the central of a row of three (3) warehouses. Further results could not be clearly determined, due to altitude and speed, except that there was a good coverage of the two areas.

Two (2) bombs exploded high, one (1) at about 3,000 feet and one (1) at 1,000 foot altitude.

Two (2) bombs failed to release and were jettisoned over the water.

Weather over Tanaga Shima was CAUS.

A/A observed was both light and medium, meager and inaccurate, continuously pointed.

All squadron planes arrived safely at base at 1037 Item.

The following VME-113 pilots participated:

Maj. O.H. RAMLO - Division leader  
2nd Lt. S.G. HASLER - Wingman  
2nd Lt. J.E. WELLMAN - Section leader  
2nd Lt. J.W. SMITH - Wingman  
2nd Lt. E.B. BARDT - Division leader  
2nd Lt. S.C. WILARD - Wingman  
2nd Lt. C.H. JONES - Section leader  
2nd Lt. F.S. VAUGHN - Wingman  
Capt. Robert Dalley, Jr. - Division leader  
2nd Lt. J.L. SCOTT - Wingman  
1st Lt. B.J. MUNRO - Section leader  
1st Lt. A.B. ANTON - Wingman  
1st Lt. E.G. DICK - Division leader  
1st Lt. J.J. KISSELL - Wingman  
1st Lt. J.B. JOHNSON - Section leader  
1st Lt. S.L. SCHARF - Wingman

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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:

*V.H. Jordan*  
SIGNATURE **V.H. JORDAN**

**Capt., ACIO**  
RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY

*Hensley Williams*  
SIGNATURE **HENSLEY WILLIAMS**

**Maj., CO**  
RANK AND DUTY

**11 July, 1945.**  
DATE