

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

SECRET

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VT-45 (b) Based on or at U.S.S. SAN JACINTO (c) Report No. 41
 (d) Take off: Date 3 April 1945 Time (LZT) 1345 (Zone); Lat. 24 - 20 N Long. 126 - 40 E
 (e) Mission Strike Miyako Jetto, Hangei Shoto (f) Time of Return 1700 (Zone)
Strike I Fun

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) | | |
| TB-3 | VT-45 | 6 | 0 | 6 | Four 500# G.P. | None - .10 Ball - .025 |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

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

| TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE | TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE |
|-------------|--------------|----------|---------------------------|------|----------|--------|------|
| TB-3 | VT-45 | 8 | U.S.S. SAN JACINTO | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

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 _____ (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 TBM-3 | VT-45 | Hit by enemy anti-aircraft fire over target area and crashed in ocean about 200 yards off the shore of Miyako Jim. | Unknown | Plane destroyed. |
| 2 (Dale 6073) | | | | |
| 3 | | | | |
| 4 | | | | |
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| 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 |
|------------|-----------------|---|---|----------------------------|
| 1 | VT-45 | Lt.(jg) Carl Hilber Dymart A-1, USNR #325530 | Plane hit by enemy anti-aircraft and crashed | Unknown |
| 1 | VT-45 | Richard Eugene Bufford ADM3a(CA) V-6 USNR #723 06 25 | Plane hit by enemy anti-aircraft and crashed | Unknown |
| 1 | VT-45 | Harry Clinton Bush ADM3a(CA) USN-I #087 16 56 | Plane hit by enemy anti-aircraft and crashed | Unknown |

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 | |
| TBM-3 | 70 | 70 | 3hrs. 15m. | 300 | 190 | | | | | 5 |

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

| CALIBER | NONE | MEAGER | MODERATE | INTENSE |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------|---------|
| HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | |

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) Suzara, Miyako and Ikematsyo, Yonabu (b) Time Over Target(s) 1530 (Zone) 9
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 4/10 at 1500 feet (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Partially obscured by clouds (e) Visibility 15 Miles
(CLEAN, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type 0110 Bomb Sight Used Mark 8
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 4 Spacing Select Altitude of Bomb Release 4500
(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 Dock and water-front, Hirara Town, Miyako. | Dock about 450 feet long. Water-front 1500 yards by 100 yards. | 3 VT-45 | 12 500# G.P. | 9 | Serious |
| 4 Barracks area on east side of northern peninsula, Miyako Jima | 300 Yds. by 400 Yds. | 1 VT-45 | 4 500# G.P. | 4 | Serious |
| 6 5 luggers, Ikematsyo, Yonabu Jima. | 40-50 ft. long. | 2 VT-45 | 4 500# G.P. | 3 | Sunk 3 luggers |
| 8 Waterfront area Ikematsyo, Yonabu by 100 Yds. | 1000 Yds. by 200 Yds. | 2 VT-45 | 4 500# G.P. | 4 | Serious |

(o) None: (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. First attacking plane scored a direct hit on the dock causing it to collapse in area hit. Photograph attached shows this hit. Eight other bombs hit waterfront area causing large fires. Eight separate buildings were observed burning. The attached photograph was taken before this damage was inflicted.
2. Barracks area was bombed by one plane. A large fire was seen in area after this attack. As the plane did not return it is not known how many separate buildings were hit.
3. Two planes discovered five luggers close to the waterfront at Ikematsyo Town, Yonabu Jima and sunk three of them. The other two may have been damaged.
4. Large fires were started in the Ikematsyo waterfront region and six buildings were burning as the planes withdrew.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes. 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 strike set out to attack Hirara Airfield, or shipping, or docks or installations in the Miyako Rotto area. Another strike of VT-45 planes had very effectively attacked Hirara Airfield earlier in the day and its attack had been followed by an attack on the field by another Air Group. As a result of these attacks the airfield was found to be sufficiently cratered to be unworthy of further attention. This strike, therefore, set out to find other targets in the area. The six planes were piloted by Lieutenants Fiegari, Van Haven and Bertoglio, Lieutenant (j.g.) Dycert, and Ensigns Leman and Michell. Three planes attacked the dock and waterfront area at Hirara Town, Miyako Jima setting the waterfront area ablaze and scoring a direct hit on the dock which caused it to collapse in the middle. Two other planes attacked five luggers and the waterfront at Ikenasaye Town, Yonabu Jima, sinking three of the luggers and setting the waterfront there ablaze. The sixth plane, piloted by Lieutenant (j.g.) Dycert attacked the barracks area on the eastern side of the northern peninsula of Miyako Jima. He dropped his bombs accurately from about 4000 feet causing a large fire. There were black bursts of anti-aircraft in the vicinity of his plane and one of the accompanying fighter pilots reported that he saw a IJ plane in that area at about that moment hit by anti-aircraft. The hit caused a few pieces of the plane to fly off and the plane dove down and landed in the water about 200 yards off shore on the western side of the northern peninsula about 3 miles north of Hirara Town. The proper air-sea rescue message was immediately given on the radio and all the planes began searching the area for survivors. A life jacket and dye marker were seen a few hundred yards off shore on the eastern side of the northern peninsula about 1 1/2 miles east of the spot where a IJ plane was seen to crash. This information was radioed back to base and two O2U planes with fighter escort were sent to the scene. In the meantime life rafts and additional dye marker were dropped near the life jacket although it could not be ascertained whether any person was in the jacket. When the O2U's arrived the jacket was lying on a small coral reef off shore and no person could be found. There had been rifle firing from shore and it was thought possible that a person might have been in the jacket and taken it off as soon as he reached the reef and moved away from it as it offered a conspicuous yellow target. No further trace of Lieutenant (j.g.) Dycert, his crew, or his plane has been found.

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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:

Malcolm I. BUDOCK, Lieut., USNR,
A.C.I., Officer.

J. G. FERRARI, Lieut., USNR,
Commanding Officer.

12 April 1945.

SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

DATE

