

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

VF-45 REPORT No. 80

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Minami Daito Jima, Kita Daito Jima (b) Time Over Target(s) 0900-0905(1) (Zone)

(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 2000, alto-stratus, 10/10ths

(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target hazy (e) Visibility 5

(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.)

(MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type X Bomb Sight Used X

(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE)

(TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run X Spacing X Altitude of Bomb Release X

(NUMBER)

(FEET)

(FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed X Probably Destroyed X Damaged X

(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					
2					
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).

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

VF-45

REPORT No. 80

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

Eight F6F-5's of VF-45 were launched from the USS SAN JACINTO at 0750 (1) 5 April 1945 for a fighter sweep of Misaki Daito Jima. The sweep planes were under the leadership of Lieutenant C.W. Wilson. The pilots were briefed to search for and destroy any enemy aircraft on Misaki, and alternately to destroy any military installations which they might find on the island.

After arrival at the objective area the pilots reconnoitered the airfield from beneath the solid overcast and Lt. Wilson was heard to transmit the report that there were three aircraft parked northwest of the airfield, but that they were unflyable. The fighters then made a flat rocket and strafing run from north to south over the western half of Misaki, firing at barracks buildings approximately 3000 feet west of the field. The majority of the pilots withheld their fire, since they observed no worthwhile targets. No anti-aircraft fire was encountered at Misaki, although it had been present on previous flights by VF-45 planes over the same objective.

Lieutenant Wilson then directed the planes to make an attack from north to south on Kita Daito Jima, lying 4.2 miles NE of Misaki, to expend their remaining rockets. The Hellcats proceeded to make a minimum altitude run over Kita. All hell, in the shape of automatic weapons fire, broke loose from the ridge running down the northwestern and western edge of the island. All planes on the left flank of the formation attempted to rocket and strafe the anti-aircraft positions but their runs were so flat it is doubted that their fire accomplished much damage. A camouflaged fuel dump was set afire by Ens. Stapleton and Ens. Schultz in the northeastern corner of the island.

Lieutenant Wilson's belly tank caught fire while the planes were receiving the most intense amount of anti-aircraft, and he proceeded to fly far out to the north of Kita. He finally jettisoned his belly tank, but by then the under part of his fuselage was a mass of flames. Approximately 8 miles north of the island Lt. Wilson (who had not responded to repeated radio instructions from several of the other Hellcat pilots), made a very hard water landing. Opinion among the pilots was divided as to whether Lt. Wilson got out of his plane, but in any event, a careful search for the pilot by the pilots who had accompanied Wilson on the sweep was without avail. The pilots of a subsequent sweep from the SAN JACINTO searched from the coast of Kita northwest to a distance of fifteen miles, but this search was likewise negative.

After the search by the pilots of this sweep the remaining planes reconnoitered and returned to base without incident.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

17-45

REPORT No. 80

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

All material and equipment functioned satisfactorily.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

SIGNATURE

R. H. LAUCH, Jr., Lt(jr), USNR
ACI Officer

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

L. S. FINKER, Lt., USNR
Commanding Officer

RANK AND DUTY

4-13-45

DATE

ACTING