

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

C O N F I D E N T I A L

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VF-94 (b) Based on or at USS LEXINGTON (c) Report No. VF-94-8
 (d) Take off: Date 15 July 1945 Time (LZT) 0400 (-9) (Zone); Lat. 40-42 N Long. 144-35 E
 (e) Mission Sweep over airfields at Bihoro, Memambetus, Nohoroko and Yubetsu; Hokkaido. (f) Time of Return 0830 (-9) (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)		
F6F-5	VF-94	10	0	8	6 - 5" HVAR 1 - 250# G.P.	Inst. Nose/.015 Base Inst. Nose/.01 Tail
F6F-5P	"	1	0	0	-	-

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 - (k) Visibility -
(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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			
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	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			

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	
F6F-5	200	200	4.5	400	300	0	13000	-	-	11

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

- TURNES
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

No enemy aircraft engaged.

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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) **Saw Mill, Shibetsu; Shipping at** (b) Time Over Target(s) **0645 (-9)** (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
43°-20'N; 145°-20'E; Warehouse, Nemuro **0710 (-9)**
- (c) Clouds Over Target **None**
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target **Clear** (e) Visibility **40**
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type **8 - Glide; 8 - Glide (Rockets)** Bomb Sight Used **Mk 8**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run **1** Spacing **-** Altitude of Bomb Release **4300' - 4100'**
(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 Shibetsu - Saw Mill (1 Story)	100' x 100'	8 VF-94	8 - 5" HVAR 2000 Rds. 50. cal.	2 HVAR 1000 50. cal.	Slight damage.
2 43°-25'N; 145°-30'E Fox Tare Charlie	2500 G.T.	4 VF-94	6 - 5" HVAR 1000 rds. 50 cal.	2 HVAR 500 rds.	Destroyed bow of ship.*
3 43°-20'N; 145°-20'E 20 Landing Craft	50' each	4 VF-94	4 - 5" HVAR 800 rds. 50 cal.	400 rds.	Not observed.
4 43°-20'N; 145°-20'E 15 Landing Craft	50' each	4 VF-94	1200 rds. 50 cal.	800 rds.	Not observed.
5 Nemuro Dock Warehouses (14)	600'x600'	4 VF-94	16 - 5" HVAR 2400 - 50 cal.	16 HVAR 2000 rds.	Probable serious Damage
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).

* # 2 - This Fox Tare Charlie had been attacked just prior to this attack, and while underway, was burning fiercely at bow, amidships and aft. Two rocket hits at the bow completely tore off the bow and it is highly doubtful that the ship could make the beach.

(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

This sweep was the second attempt, in as many days, to reach the Bihoro, Memambetus Airfield area. As was the case on 14 July, the planes reached Abashiei only to be turned back by a zero ceiling. Retracking their course around Shiretoko Misaki, the two divisions sought targets of opportunity. (The photo plane and its 3 VF escort had detached at Kushiro to cover damage in that area rendered the day previous, before proceeding to the target area). At Shibetsu, a saw mill was spotted and both divisions made a bombing and strafing attack from 8500'. Two hits were scored and two very near misses. While the bombs tore through the roof, no fire was started and definite damage was not ascertained. The flight then proceeded to a concentration of landing craft in a cove West of Nemuro. A rocket and strafing attack was executed and while most 50 caliber found their mark no fires were started and damage unknown. The first division then proceeded to a burning "Fox Tare Charlie", the flight leader placing two rockets at the bow which tore that part of the ship away.

The second division proceeded to Nemuro where a strafing and rocket attack was made upon the warehouse and dock area. One run was made North to South from 7500' down to 1500' and a second on a reverse course from about the same altitude. All rockets hit the target as did a goodly amount of 50 caliber. However, no fires were caused and definite damage could not be estimated. (Later in the day this area was afire). The division then rendezvoused with the first division and proceeded to base.

The photo division, after photographing damage at Kushiro, found it impracticable to proceed to target area due to weather. However, a photo reconnaissance was made of four airfields in the Shibetsu plain area before returning to base.

The absence of enemy aircraft, both airborne and on the ground left few desirable targets for VF. Such targets of opportunity that were engaged were scattered and in many instances not destroyable with the armament carried.

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