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# U.S.S. MONTEREY



**ACTION REPORT**  
9 May To 1 June '45

**CONFIDENTIAL**

CVL26/A9-8  
Serial: 070  
C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

U.S.S. MONTEREY CVL26

11/h1  
2 June 1945

From: The Commanding Officer.  
To: The Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.  
Via: (1) Commander Carrier Division One.  
(2) Commander Task Group Fifty-Eight point Three.  
(3) Commander First Carrier Task Force.  
(4) Commander Fifth Fleet.  
(5) Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet.


Subject: Action Report of U.S.S. MONTEREY for period 9 May to 1 June inclusive; Action against Enemy Aircraft and Installations in Nansei Shoto and Ryushu.

Reference: (a) U.S. Navy Regulations, 1920, Art.-712, 874(6).  
(b) PacFlt Confidential Letter CL 1-45.  
(c) C.T.G. 38.3 Dispatch 300425 of May 1945.

Enclosure: (A) Action Report of U.S.S. MONTEREY for period 9 May to 1 June, inclusive.

1. In accordance with references (a), (b), and (c), enclosure (A) is forwarded herewith.

2. Times used in this report are Item (-9); dates are east longitude.

  
J.B. LYON.

Advance Copies direct to:  
Cominch (1)  
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ACTION REPORT

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ENCLOSURE (A)

ACTION REPORT

9 MAY to 1 JUNE 1945 INCLUSIVE - U.S.S. MONTEREY

Part I Brief Summary.

A. General Narrative of the Action.

This report covers the period 0800, 9 May to 1200, 1 June 1945. During this time U.S.S. MONTEREY operated in the combat zone off Okinawa and Kyushu from 13 May to 27 May. Her air group shot down two enemy aircraft and destroyed two seaplanes on the surface, as well as destroying or damaging several luggers and many ground installations. On the morning of 14 May this ship's guns shot down 2 ZEKES and assisted in shooting down two additional ZEKES which were making suicide attacks against the Task Group.

Part II Preliminaries.

A. Reporting Command.

U.S.S. MONTEREY with CVLG 34 embarked, sortied Ulithi 9 May and operated as part of T.U. 58.1.1 composed of HORNET (F), BENNINGTON, BELLEAU WOOD, SAN JACINTO and MONTEREY. R.Adm. J.J. Clark in HORNET was Commander Task Group. 12 May MONTEREY was detached from T.G. 58.1 and joined T.U. 58.3.1 composed of ESSEX (F), RANDOLPH (FF), BATAAN, and MONTEREY. R.Adm. F.C. Sherman in ESSEX was Commander Task Group 58.3. At 2400, 27 May the designation of Task Group Fifty-Eight point three was changed to Task Group Thirty-Eight point three.

B. Account of Operations from time of leaving Port to beginning of Action - Training Conducted.

MONTEREY sortied Ulithi at 0816 (0916 King) 9 May. Exercise Flights and CAP were flown 9, 10, and 11 May. Anti-aircraft, bombing, strafing, and rocket firing drills were conducted each day.

One TBM with pilot and two aircrewmembers from CVLG 34 was lost when the plane crashed during a simulated attack upon a target towed astern of HORNET. After investigation it was determined that this accident was due to structural failure probably resulting from a snap pull out

C. Mission.

MONTEREY'S mission as part of T.G. 58.3 was to attack enemy aircraft airborne and on the ground, airfields, facilities, and targets of opportunity, such as suicide boats or their havens. The desired primary objective was to forestall enemy air attacks against our operations on Okinawa, either by destroying aircraft, or rendering useless airfields on Kyushu and in the Ryukus.

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Part III Chronological Account of the Action including Action by own Aircraft.

13 May:

CVLG 34, aboard MONTEREY, consisted of 24 VF, 9 VT, 1 VFP on 13 May, the first day of action. First strike, launched at 0530, was composed of 8 VF and 8 VT who joined 16 VF, 15 VB and 15 VT from Air Group 83 based on ESSEX. A second strike of the same composition was launched at 1115. Target for each of these strikes was Saeki airfield and seaplane station on Northeastern Kyushu. Details are to be found in Annex Able. One TBM from this ship was shot down over the target by A/A fire during the second strike. The plane was seen to crash in flames in the water and pilot and crewmen are believed to be lost. Details are to be found in Part VI, Table 3.

14 May:

The variety of action in which this ship and her air group participated on 14 May was noteworthy. MONTEREY launched 8 VF at 0445 to join 8 VF from BATAAN and 12 VF from RANDOLPH providing CAP number one. (At 0530 MONTEREY launched 8 VF and 8 VT to attack Tsuiki airfield together with 16 VF, 15 VB, and 15 VT from ESSEX. The assigned target was not reached, but Usa field was struck - see Annex Able for details).

The screen had shown six bogies at different times during the night at from 80 to 25 miles. Two twin engine planes had been splashed and this ship had intercepted Jap 150 mc airborne radar. Shortly after 0600 bogies were noted to the northwest and west at about 80 miles. At 0637 the ship went to General Quarters for the fourth time since midnight, when bogies began to close from 120 degrees T. From this time on CAP was active and is believed to have shot down 8-10 enemy. One Hamp was splashed by a MONTEREY VF during this melee. (See Annex Able). At 0654 bogies were sighted over the force and ships able to bring guns to bear commenced firing at the first Kamikaze to attack. He was not deterred and crashed his plane into ENTERPRISE at 0658. ENTERPRISE was then about 5000 yards on MONTEREY'S port quarter (see track chart Annex Charlie). Shortly thereafter, visual identification was made of other enemy planes bent on suicide attacks. There was no standardized approach or attack procedure, although all came in at about 8000 feet. The enemy pilots seemed more concerned with their beau geste than with the business at hand. Of four ZEKES which came into range of this ship's guns, one engaged in aerobatics prior to entering his dive. Two ZEKES were splashed by 40 mm fire from this ship. Two additional ZEKES were seen to be hit by this ship's fire and that of other ships, they also were splashed. Detailed Gunnery Report will be found in Annex Baker. Track Chart of this period is Annex Charlie.

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Part III Chronological Account of the Action including Action  
by own Aircraft- continued  
14 May continued:

At 1018 the radar screen was clear of bogies and the ship secured from General Quarters. It was believed that all enemy aircraft in the vicinity were destroyed.

A photo mission of 3 VF and one VFP was launched at 0800. By error and coincidence they also failed to reach the assigned target, Tsuiki, but found Usa. Near the target two DINAHS were sighted airborne. The division leader with his wingman attacked one of the DINAHS, shooting it down in flames for a witnessed kill. The second enemy plane disappeared.

Strike Baker of the day was launched at 1205. Eight VF and four VT from MONTEREY were joined by the ESSEX Group to attack Omura. Weather prevented reaching the target so the flight split in order to cover Izumi Airfield, and also to bomb the Nitrogen Fertilizer Plant at Minamata, a military target which produced many chemicals. Photos made by MONTEREY'S photo mission over the chemical plant two hours after the strike confirmed reports of many bomb hits and of fires. Although photographs were adequate to make damage assessment, haze prevented sharp details. Consequently photographs are not enclosed. See Annex Able for details.

15 May:

Fueled, CAP was flown.

16 May:

Completed Fueling. Rearmed. No flight activity due to weather.

17 May:

Launched 8 VF at 0510 to reconnoiter Tokuno and Amami. At close of patrol, bombs and rockets were released over targets of opportunity on Kikai and Tokuno. 1000 launched 12 VF to patrol from north tip of Amami to Yokoate; warehouses in Akaogi town were bombed and one radio tower at Akaogi was hit by rockets.

18 May:

0505 launched 8 VF to patrol from Kikai to Tokuno. Southern field on Kikai was bombed; rockets were placed in area of many A/A mounts to east of field.

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9 MAY to 1 JUNE 1945 INCLUSIVE - U.S.S. MONTEREY

Part III Chronological Account of the Action including Action  
by own Aircraft- continued.

18 May continued:

0830 launched 12 VF to patrol from Kikai to Yokoate and northward through Tokara Retto to Yaku. Small boats and luggers were strafed, rocketed and bombed. One JAKE moored in a cove at Kuchino was hit and seen to explode and burn.

1000 launched 4 VF and 9 VT, with additional 3 VF and 1 VFP for damage assessment photographs. The strike was ordered to burn the remainder of the town of Koniya and to bomb the seaplane base and military buildings inland and in valleys. (Photographs appended in Annex Able give some indication of the mission's success). One RUFÉ covered with tree limbs was strafed and exploded at its mooring off the seaplane station.

19 May:

Fueled, rearmed and provisioned. No flight activity due to weather.

20 May:

0505 launched 8 VF to patrol Amami Gunto. Rockets placed in an active A/A position on Kikai which had damaged one of our planes are believed to have silenced it. 0830 TCAP of 12 VF launched. Instructions from Cascu, Okinawa, sent them northwest to cover a force of small escort ships. There was no action.

1000 4 VF and 8 VT were launched to support ground troops on Okinawa. The Army Air Coordinator commended MONTEREY personnel for being "right on" the targets assigned - mortar and artillery emplacements South of Shuri.

21 May:

CAP - bad weather.

22 May:

CAP - bad weather.

23 May:

Fueled, rearmed and provisioned. CAP. Launched 4 VF to act as rescue CAP over downed RANDOLPH TBM near Minami Daito Shima. Rescue mission was successful.

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Part III Chronological Account of the Action including Action  
by own Aircraft- continued.

24 May:

All flights were negative except for 16 VF launched at 1200 to patrol from Kikai to Amami. A radio tower and buildings at Akaogi were strafed resulting in one fire.

25 May:

Bad weather prevented productive patrols although one flight was launched for Kikai patrol. The usual CAP missions were curtailed.

26 May:

Bad weather prevented a patrol of 12 VF, launched at 0505, from reaching the assigned area in the vicinity of Amami. One CAP mission was flown by MONTEREY planes.

27 May:

Fueled. CAP was flown.

28 May:

0001 change of command as noted above. Commander Third Fleet assumed overall command supplanting Commander Fifth Fleet. 8 VF TCAP over northern tip of Okinawa did not encounter enemy action.

29 May:

0505 12 VF launched for CAP. This was the last flight operation in combat waters. At 0950 T.G. 38.3 commenced retirement to Leyte Gulf.

30-31 May:

CAP and ASP were flown. Anti-aircraft exercises were conducted by all ships of the group, carriers shooting at drones.

1 June:

Standing in to Leyte Gulf. 1010 dropped anchor in berth 40, San Pedro Bay.

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ENCLOSURE (A)



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Part IV Ordnance.

A. Performance of own Ordnance Material and Equipment.

1. See Annex Baker for information on ships Gunnery.

2. Aircraft Bombs, Rockets and Ammunition performed in an entirely satisfactory manner. No unusual occurrences were noted.

B. Effect of Enemy Anti-aircraft fire is to be found in Annex Able.

Part V Damage.

A. None sustained.

Part VI Special comments and information.

A. Surface Gunnery Operations - None.

B. Air Operations.

Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4 follow, ACA-1 forms Annex Able.

C. Special Comment - contained in Annexes.

Part VII Personnel Performance and Casualties.

See Table 3, Part VI - B.

TABLE OF SORTIES AND PLANE AVAILABILITY BY DAYS

DATE	AVAILABILITY		AT TARGET		SEARCH	SHIPS	EXERCISE		PHOTO
	VF	VT	STRIKES	CAP			VF	VT	
			VF	VT					VFP
May 9	21	7				16	4	6	
10	21	6				8	24	13	
11	20	6				16	16	5	
12	20	5				8			
13	22	9	16	16		16			8
14	23	7	16	12		16			8
15	20	5				8			
16	20	7							
17	23	8	20			8			
18	19	9	4	9		8			4
19	21	5							
20	22	8	24	7		16			
21	22	8				4			
22	23	9				12			
23	22	9				16			
24	21	9				12			
25	22	9				8			
26	23	9				16			
27	22	9				8			
28	23	9				24			
29	23	9				20			
30	20	9				8			
31	22	9				8			
June 1	24	7							

ENCLOSURE (A)

Part VI

Table 1

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TABLE OF BOMBS AND ROCKETS DROPPED AT TARGETS

STRIKE NO.	DATE (May)	TIME OF LAUNCH	TARGET ATTACKED		SORTIES AT TARGET		BOMBS AND ROCKETS		FUZING	
			GENERAL	SPECIFIC	VF	VT			NOSE	TAIL
1	13	0530	Saeki	Seaplane station facilities	8	8	5 96 27	500 GP 100 GP 5" HVAR	Inst. Inst.	.025 .025
2	13	1115	Saeki	"	8	8	16 96	500 GP 100 GP	.1 Inst.	.025 .025
1	14	0530	Usa	Airfield and facilities	8	8	16 96	500 GP 100 GP	Inst. Inst.	.025 .025
2	14	1205	Minamata	Nitrogen Fertilizer Plant	8	4	30	500 GP	.1	.025
1	17	0510	Kikai Tokuno	Targets of Opportunity	8		16 48	100 GP 5" HVAR	Inst.	.025
2	17	1000	Amami	"	12		17 69	100 GP 5" HVAR	Inst.	.025
1	18	0505	Kikai	"	8		16 6	100 GP 5" HVAR	Inst.	.025
2	18	0830	Yaku	"	12		24	100 GP	Inst.	.025
3	18	1000	Koniya	Seaplane station, town and barracks	8	9	108 4 22	145 Mk 5 Napalm 5" HVAR	Incen. Clust.	
1	20	0505	Amami	Targets of Opportunity	8		16 48	100 GP 5" HVAR	Inst.	.025
2	20	1000	Okinawa	Artillery and Mortar Posi- tions	4	7	28	500 GP	Inst.	.025

ENCLOSURE (A)

PART VI

TABLE II

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OWN LOSSES AND RESCUE OPERATIONS

DATE	TIME OF LAUNCH	TYPE AIRCRAFT	CIRCUMSTANCES, PLACE AND CAUSE OF PLANE LOSS	# PILOTS LOST	# AIRCREW LOST	# PILOTS SAVED	# AIRCREW SAVED
May 9	0900	TBM-3E	During exercises plane made practice dive on target towed astern of HORNET. Plane appeared to disintegrate as it came out of dive. Investigation concluded crash resulted from structural failure probably caused by snap pull-out. Position - Lat. 10-09N Long. 149-10E. Destroyer despatched to scene at once, found no survivors.	1	2	0	0
May 13	1115	TBM-3E	Plane hit by A/A over Saeki Airfield, Kyushu, was seen to crash in flames. One parachute and one MaeWest were seen on water, but orbiting planes saw no sign of survivors.	1	2	0	0
May 20	1145	F6F-5	Engine failure caused pilot to ditch plane inside screen. Quick rescue was effected by destroyer HICKOX.	0	-	1	-

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ENCLOSURE (A)

PART VI

TABLE III

DAMAGE TO ENEMY

STRIKE NO.	DATE	TIME OF LAUNCH	LOCATION	ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED	
				IN AIR	ON WATER
CAP-1	May 14	0445	Over force	1 Hamp	
Photo-2	May 14	1445	Saeki	1 Dinah	
Patrol-2	May 18	0830	Kuchino		1 Jake
2	May 18	1000	Koniya		1 Rufe

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ENCLOSURE (A)

PART VI

TABLE IV