

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

~~RESTRICTED~~
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 26

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Northern half of Wan town on KIKAI (b) Time Over Target(s) 1430 (I) (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target None
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear but slight haze at low altitude (e) Visibility 10
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used Mark VIII
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 6 x 12 Spacing 200 Altitude of Bomb Release 2000
(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 North end of town of Wan	500' x 1000'	11 VT-12	101 incendiary clusters 12 x 250# frags	all in area	Fairly serious
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).

Specific damage was difficult to observe since the objective of the raid was just to burn out an area. At least a dozen bush fires were started as a result of the raid and they are believed to have destroyed concealed enemy installations.

(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

Fighters, dive bombers and torpedo planes of Air Group TWELVE were joined by similar units from the USS BUNKER HILL for this coordinated attack against the town of Wan, adjoining the Wan airfield on Kikai.

From previous flights the island was known to be quite heavily infested with AA so speed and carefully timed group tactics were employed. A high speed run in was started from 12,000 feet and the torpedo planes nosed over into a 30 to 35 degree glide at 8000 feet.

Fighters went in first strafing and shooting rockets, followed very closely by the dive bombers and the torpedo planes coming in just as the last bomber was pulling out. The strike was well timed and coordinated.

Possibly pilots should have an opportunity during training to drop the new incendiary cluster since they are light and have a different trajectory than CP bombs. There was a marked tendency to drop short of the point of aim.

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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

Aarmor; 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

Two Mark IV bomb shackles failed to release but
otherwise all material functioned satisfactorily.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

H. M. BERRY, Lt(jg), USNR

SIGNATURE

AGI Officer

RANK AND DUTY

THOMAS B. HILLISON, Lt-Comdr., USN

SIGNATURE

Commanding

RANK AND DUTY

9 May 1945

DATE

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VT-12 (b) Based on or at USS RANDOLPH (c) Report No. 27
 (d) Take off: Date 10 May 1945 Time (LZT) 1645(I) (Zone); Lat. 24-38N Long. 131-50E
 (e) Mission Special Strike Misaki Daito Airfield (f) Time of Return 1820(I) (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)		None	Tail
<u>TBM-3</u>	<u>VT-12</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>4 x 500 /GP</u>	<u>.1</u>	<u>.025</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>F6F-5</u>	<u>VT-12</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>USS RANDOLPH</u>				
<u>F6F-5(P)</u>	<u>VT-12</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>USS RANDOLPH</u>				
<u>TBM</u>		<u>7</u>	<u>USS BATAAN</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>			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(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 _____ (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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE, HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			
<u>None</u>						

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REPORT No. 27

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)
10M-3	VT-12	Enemy medium AA	P Wing & Elevator	Replace wing & elevator
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	
10M-3	30	70	1 1/2	320	90	1000	225	-	-	10

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
- TURNS
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT.

No opportunity for comparison

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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) 1-3 runways on Hanoi (b) Time Over Target(s) 1735 (Zone) _____
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target None (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 25 (MILES)
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Slide Bomb Sight Used Mark VIII
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 4 Spacing 300 Altitude of Bomb Release 2000
(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 Western runway	100' x 3000'	5 VT-12	16 x 500 /GP	16	runway cratered
2 Eastern runway	100' x 3000'	5 VT-12	20 x 500 /GP	20	runway cratered
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).

One plane failed to release over the target, but all other bombs fell in the target area leaving deep craters in and alongside the runways.

(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

Ten torpedo planes of VT-12, ten fighters and two photographic planes from VF-12 and seven VT from the CVL BATAAN participated in this coordinated attack against the airfield on Misaki Daito Shima. Although it had been the subject of numerous previous bombings, reconnaissance planes had reported the runways as possibly operational and several planes on the field.

It was an unscheduled strike - ordered out just one hour before take-off time - but it went smoothly and was well coordinated. The three runways were assigned to separate groups of planes and the attack timed to provide the maximum dispersal of AA fire.

Of the 22 planes from Air Group TWELVE participating only two were hit by AA - one fighter and one torpedo- and only minor damage was done to these. As far as was known none of the planes from the BATAAN was hit.

Torpedo planes came down in a high speed glide, nosing over from 9000 feet and dropping their bombs at 2000. They followed the fighters down and their attack was timed to the point where they were in their glide half way down to the target just as the fighters bombs were exploding.

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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

No material failures were encountered.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

H. H. HENRY, Lt(jg), USN
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
AGI Officer

THOMAS B. ELLISON, Lt-Comdr., USN
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
Commanding 10 May 1945

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VT-12 (b) Based on or at USS RANDOLPH (c) Report No. 28
 (d) Take off: Date 11 May 1945 Time (LZT) 1153(I) (Zone); Lat. 26-25(N) Long. 129-28(E)
 (e) Mission Okinawa Support #2 (f) Time of Return 1525(I) (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)		
<u>TBM-3</u>	<u>VT-12</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>4 x 500 GP</u>	<u>4-5 sec. delay tail</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>T62-5</u>	<u>VT-12</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>USS RANDOLPH</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>			(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 _____ (k) Visibility _____ (MILES)
 (j) of Sun or Moon _____ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.)

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			
<u>None</u>						

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REPORT No. 28

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Mortar positions on ridge S. Central Okinawa (b) Time Over Target(s) 1415-1450 (Zone) (T)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 3500 cumulus 8/10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target slightly hazy and smoky (e) Visibility 5
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used Mark VIII
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 1 Spacing 3000 Altitude of Bomb Release 600-800
(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 ridge west of Yonakana grid 3071 D-E-I-J	400' x 900'	8 VT-12	32 x 500 ACP	32 in area	Extensive.
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).

About 40 percent of bombs dropped fell directly in the cave area on the ridge and all fell in the assigned target area. One large fire was started which the ground troops reported as probably an ammunition storage dump.

(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

The attack followed standard support procedure with planes reporting in to CASCU and orbiting until directed to a target.

Low level attacks were made and one bomb was dropped at a time. The assigned target area was a ridge with caves and revetted positions concealing mortars. The attack was pressed home low enough that individual installations could be used as aiming points and several of the mortars were believed to have been put out of use.

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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

Some difficulty was observed with Mark IV bomb shackles but otherwise no material failures were reported.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

H.M. RUDY, Lt(jg), USNR
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
ACI Officer

THOMAS B. ELLISON, Lt-Comdr., USN
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
Commanding

11 May 1945
DATE

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. 29

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Installations S. Cent. Okinawa (b) Time Over Target(s) 0815(T) (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target None
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 10
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Anti-sub low level glide Bomb Sight Used Mark VIII
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 1 Spacing select Altitude of Bomb Release 300-1000
(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 area contain- ing supposed ammo dump.	100' x 300'	5 VF-12	15 x 500 802	15 in area	not observed
2					
3 artillery in caves.	150' x 150'	8 VF-12	17 x 500 802	17 in area	extensive
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).

Although all of the bombs fell in the requested area for the first target no damage was observed other than the bomb blast. On the second target a number of direct hits were observed on the caves - some of them closing the entrances and others going inside before detonating.

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

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. 29

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

Planes reported to CASCU and then orbited until targets were designated. They were first directed to grid area 8072 but did not bomb because of lack of suitable targets. Next they were sent to 7869 L-N-S-T to bomb the location of a supposed ammunition dump and five planes dropped a total of 15 bombs here. The balance of the bomb load was dropped on artillery positions in caves in 8564 u/3

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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(Reclassify when
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CONFIDENTIAL
REPORT No. 29

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

No material difficulties were experienced.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

H. M. BERRY, Lt(jg), USNR
SIGNATURE **AGI Office**

RANK AND DUTY

THOMAS B. ELLISON, Lt-Comdr., USN
SIGNATURE **Commanding**

RANK AND DUTY

12 May 1945
DATE

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED (Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VT-12 (b) Based on or at USS RANDOLPH (c) Report No. 30
 (d) Take off: Date 12 May 1945 Time (LZT) 1145(I) (Zone); Lat. 25-58N Long. 129-20E
 (e) Mission Okinawa Support #5 (f) Time of Return 1530(I) (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)		
<u>TBM-3</u>	<u>VT-12</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>4 x 500 /GP</u>	<u>4-5 sec. delay tail</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>F6F-5</u>	<u>VF-12</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>USS RANDOLPH</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>			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(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:				(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER	GUNS USED		
<u>None</u>						

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. 30

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Troop concentrations north of Gushiehan (b) Time Over Target(s) 1400-1425 (Zone) (I)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target None
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Slightly obscured by smoke (e) Visibility 15
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used Mark VIII
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 2 Spacing 60 Altitude of Bomb Release 1200
(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 installations and area on	150' x 150'	8 VF-12	32 x 500 /GP	32 in area	Extensive
2 ridge 8171 M-N					
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).

All bombs dropped in the designated target area but results of each hit could not be observed. Damage that could be observed included 1 pill box knocked out, several caves closed and numerous hits in a small area known to have a concentration of enemy troops.

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

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. 30

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

Torpedo planes approached the island from the east and reported in to CASCU who designated the target to be hit. The attack was slow and deliberate with pilots pin pointing specific installations. Also planes circled the target area for a long time before attacking so there was plenty of opportunity to select worthwhile points of aim.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. 30

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:

H.M. REEDY, Lt(jg), USNR

SIGNATURE **ACI Officer**

RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

THOMAS B. ELLISON, Lt-Comdr., USN

SIGNATURE

Commanding

RANK AND DUTY

12 May 1945

DATE

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VT-12 (b) Based on or at USS RANDOLPH (c) Report No. 31
 (d) Take off: Date 13 May 1945 Time (LZT) 0527(I) (Zone); Lat. 30-01 N Long. 132-30E
 (e) Mission Strike Abel-Tanana Airfield on Kyushu (f) Time of Return 0930(I) (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)		
<u>TBM-3</u>	<u>VT-12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>none</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>12 x 100 #GP</u>	<u>Instantaneous</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>F6F-5</u>	<u>VBP-12</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>USS RANDOLPH</u>				
<u>SB2C-4E</u>	<u>VB-12</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>USS RANDOLPH</u>				
<u>Plus 8 VT</u>	<u>and 8 VT</u>	<u>from</u>	<u>USS BATAAN</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>			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____

(i) Did Any Part of Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? _____ If so, Describe Clouds _____
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(j) Time of Day and Brilliance 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			
<u>None</u>						

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

~~RESTRICTED~~
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. 31

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Tumana airfield on Kyushu (b) Time Over Target(s) 0720-0735 (Zone) (I)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target None
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Slight haze (e) Visibility 20
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type High speed glide Bomb Sight Used Mark VIII
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 12 Spacing 60-80 Altitude of Bomb Release 2000-2500
(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)
<u>Southwest corner of airfield</u>	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>13 VT-12</u>	<u>142 x 100 /GP</u>	<u>142 in area</u>	<u>Believed serious</u>
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).

Large hangar, administration building and barracks area were well saturated with bombs. Assessment of damage during the attack was difficult, however, because the area was obliterated by smoke, dust and debris, and the attacking planes did not remain in the immediate area until the smoke cleared away.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
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CONFIDENTIAL
REPORT No. 31

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

Fifty nine planes participated in this strike against the Tamana airfield, 13 VF, 14 VB and 16 VF from the USS RANDOLPH and 8 VF and 8 VF from the USS BATAAN. It was conducted in support of advance on Okinawa and was part of a two day series of strikes on airfields in Kyushu.

After rendezvousing the group proceeded north to a point just north of the Tomitake airfield on the east coast of Kyushu and then turned inland, crossing the island on an almost East-West line rather than a diagonal to shorten the time over land. A gradual climb was started right after rendezvous and continued until an altitude of 14,000 feet was reached and this altitude was maintained across the mainland until starting a high speed approach on the target.

After skirting to the south of Kumamoto, the group turned north to make their dives on the target from the northeast and their recovery over a bay east of the mainland. The attack order was fighters, torpedo planes and then dive bombers.

During the approach heavy caliber AA was encountered of moderate intensity from Kumamoto and Tamana. Although one plane was hit just before starting the dive, fire in general was inaccurate.

The main hangar, administration buildings and barracks area southeast of the landing field were thoroughly saturated with bombs and it is believed damage was extensive. Minor damage was also done to the runway by a few bombs.

After the attack all planes rendezvoused over Shinobara Wan where fighters strafed a few small boats. The group then turned back across the mainland and returned to the ship without mishap.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

REPORT No. 31

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

Regulator valves on the oxygen equipment failed in
a few of the planes and caused them to run out of oxygen.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

H.M. NEEDY, Lt(jc), USNR
SIGNATURE **ACT Officer**

RANK AND DUTY

THOMAS B. ELLISON, Lt-Comdr., USN 13 May 1945
SIGNATURE **Commanding**

RANK AND DUTY

DATE

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 32

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Hangers & Bldgs SW edge of airfield Kikuchi (b) Time Over Target(s) 1315-1330 (Zone) (I)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target None
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Hazy (e) Visibility 8
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type GLIDE Bomb Sight Used Mark VIII
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 12 Spacing 100 Altitude of Bomb Release 2500-3500
(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	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO. HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
		(k) SQUADRON			
<u>Hanger and building area</u>	<u>unknown</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>131 x 100 GP</u>	<u>all in area</u>	<u>Fairly serious</u>
<u>2</u>					
<u>3</u>					
<u>4</u>					
<u>5</u>					
<u>6</u>					
<u>7</u>					
<u>8</u>					

(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).

Two large hangers and one small building were left burning briskly and several buildings were damaged by blast.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
Reclassify when
filled

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. 32

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 functioned satisfactorily.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

E. M. DEEDY, Lt(jg), USNR
SIGNATURE
ACI OFFICER

RANK AND DUTY

THOMAS R. ELLISON, Lt-Comdr., USN
SIGNATURE
Commanding

RANK AND DUTY

13 May 1945

DATE

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 33

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Bldg Hangers - Usa Airfield (b) Time Over Target(s) 0725-0800 (Zone) (I)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 1400 Stratus 6/10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Hazy (e) Visibility 10
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used Mark VIII
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 12 Spacing 100 Altitude of Bomb Release 2000-2500
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed unknown Probably Destroyed unknown Damaged unknown

(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 Bldg in area east central part of air-field.	Unknown	13 VT-12	155 x 100 /GP	155 in area	See (o) below
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).

Air Group TWELVE planes arrived over the target just as planes from the USS ESSEX were completing their attack. As a result, proper credit for damage was virtually impossible. Pilots claimed extensive damage, and this was verified by photographs not available to this squadron.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. 33

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

Sixteen fighters, fourteen dive bombers and thirteen torpedo planes from Air Group THIRTE were joined by eight fighters and nine torpedo planes from the USS BATAAN for this attack, which was staged in support of advance on Okinawa.

The torpedo planes climbed to 12,000 feet for a high speed glide bombing attack during the approach to the target and went into echelon to commence their runs. As they approached the vicinity they found that planes from the Essex through error in selection of target had already started an attack on this airfield so the RANDOLPH planes circled until this attack was over.

They then made one run from South to North, dropping all bombs in train and retiring out over water. Bombs were released between 2000 and 2500 feet.

No planes from this squadron were lost but one VT from the BATAAN went down without visible survivors and one VB from VB-12 made a forced landing in the Inland Sea. Pilot and crewman from the latter were picked up in an efficient rescue operation and returned to the ship.

Enemy medium and light AA was accurate and of moderate intensity but no heavy AA was encountered. Most of the fire seemed to come from the area west of the field.

When the planes returned to the ship they found the Task Group under enemy attack and once more had to circle in waiting but the gasoline supply proved adequate and all landed aboard safely.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

~~RESTRICTED~~
(Reclassified when filled out)
CONFIDENTIAL
REPORT No. 33

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

Two gasoline gauges stuck and indicated half full when in reality the tank was dry - causing some anxious moments when the motors sputtered and died.

One plane also experienced difficulty with the oxygen regulator valve and ran out of oxygen sooner than it should.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

H. H. REEDY, Lt (jg) USNR
SIGNATURE **ACI Officer**

RANK AND DUTY

THOMAS B. ELLISON, Lt-Comdr., USN
SIGNATURE **Commanding**

RANK AND DUTY

14 May 1945

DATE

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VT-12 (b) Based on or at USS RANDOLPH (c) Report No. 34
 (d) Take off: Date 14 May 1945 Time (LZT) 1209(I) (Zone); Lat. 30-21N Long. 132-40E
 (e) Mission Strike Baker - Kusanota A/C factory (f) Time of Return 1635(I) (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)		Nose	Tail
TBM-3	VT-12	12	None	12	4 x 500 /GP	.1	.025

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
P6F-5	VBF-12	11	USS RANDOLPH				
SB2C-4E	VB -12	12	USS RANDOLPH				
8 VF and 7 VT from			USS BATAAN				

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 _____
(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:			(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER		
None					

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 34

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Waifu airfield in Kyushu (b) Time Over Target(s) 1430-1455 (Zone) (I)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 8000 cumulo-stratus 10/10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear except during rain squalls (e) Visibility 10
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used Mark VIII
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 4 Spacing 200 Altitude of Bomb Release 2000
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed Unknown Probably Destroyed Unknown Damaged Unknown

(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 <u>Revetment area</u>	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>12</u> <u>VT-12</u>	<u>48 x 500 #GP</u>	<u>48 in</u> <u>area</u>	<u>Unobserved</u>
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).

The revetted area south and east of the air strip was bombed in this attack but observation of bomb hits and damage was impossible.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)
CONFIDENTIAL
REPORT No. 34

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:

All material functioned normally.

APPROVED BY:

H. M. REEDY, Lt(jg), USNR
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
ACT Officer

THOMAS B. ELLISON, Lt-Comdr., USN 14 May 1945
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY DATE
Commanding.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
lifted out)
CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VT-12 (b) Based on or at USS RANDOLPH (c) Report No. 35
 (d) Take off: Date 18 May 1945 Time (LZT) 0830(I) (Zone); Lat. 26-06N Long. 129-35E
 (e) Mission Special Strike I on Kakoroma Island (f) Time of Return 1230(I) (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)		Nose	Tail
TBM-3	VT-12	9	None	9	12 x 100 #GP	.1	.025

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
F6F-5	VBF-12	6	USS RANDOLPH				
F6F-5 (P)	VF-12	2	USS RANDOLPH				
SB2C-4E	VB-12	8	USS RANDOLPH				

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 _____
(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:				(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER	GUNS USED		
None						

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 35

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Storage area on Kakeroma (b) Time Over Target(s) 1005-1015 (Zone) (I)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target None
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target slightly hazy (e) Visibility 5
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used Mark VIII
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 12 Spacing 80 Altitude of Bomb Release 2500-3000
(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 Cluster of buildings	2000' x 1000'	9 VT-12	105 x 100# /GP	Not known	See (o) below
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).

Interpretation of photos made after the attack indicated that in the primary target area one building was demolished and 5 other buildings sustained varying degrees of damage. Some of the bombs fell in an area adjoining the principal buildings (there were two small coves side by side on the waterfront and just one had been specified as the target but both were bombed) and apparently set off a small ammunition storage.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. 35

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 attack was made on a storage and military staging area on the north shore of Kakakoma, just south of Anami O'Shima. Participating from Air Group TWELVE were nine torpedo planes, eight dive bombers, six fighters and two photographic planes.

Torpedo planes attacked first, followed in order by dive bombers and fighters. A high speed approach was started from 12000 feet, nosing over into a 35° glide at 8000 feet. The run was made from north to south so retirement could be effected over water. The VT came in in two divisions, one of 5 planes and one of 4.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

~~RESTRICTED~~
Reclassify when filled out
CONFIDENTIAL
REPORT No. 35

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

**Two planes had trouble with Mark IV bomb shackles
failing to release but other material functioned
satisfactorily.**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

H.M. REEDY, Lt(jg), USNR
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
ACI Officer

TEDMAS B. ELLISON, Lt-Comdr., USN
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
Commanding

18 May 1945
DATE

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filed out)

I. GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(a) Unit Reporting VT-12 (b) Based on or at USS RANDOLPH (c) Report No. 36
 (d) Take off: Date 20 May 1945 Time (LZT) 1312(I) (Zone); Lat. 26-21N Long. 129-17E
 (e) Mission Okinawa Support #6 (f) Time of Return 1635(I) (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)		Nose	Tail
<u>TBM-3</u>	<u>VT-12</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>3020</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>4 x 500 /GP</u>	<u>.1</u>	<u>.025</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>P6F-5</u>	<u>VT-12</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>USS RANDOLPH</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>			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(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 _____ (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		
<u>None</u>					

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)
CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. 26

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Hanagusuku in S/E Okinawa (b) Time Over Target(s) 1500-1535 (Zone (I))
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 1500 Cumulus 9/10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear below clouds (e) Visibility 10-12
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used Mark VIII
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 1 Spacing Select Altitude of Bomb Release 1000
(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)
<u>Grid areas 8060 S-T-X-Y & 8159 F</u>	<u>1000' x 800'</u>	<u>9 VT-12</u>	<u>36 x 500 /GP</u>	<u>36 in area</u>	<u>Extensive</u>
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).

Pilots were told to bomb targets of opportunity in grid areas 8060 S-T-X-Y and 8159F, which were in the southeastern corner of the town of Hanagusuku. Planes circled at a low altitude, dropping one bomb at a time, so that it was possible to determine extent of damage to various buildings. Among the more sensational hits scored were on a fairly large ammo dump by Lt. Brizzee, a smaller ammo storage area by Lt(jg) N."R" Smith, and a direct hit on a power plant by Lt(jg) Newby. These hits were confirmed by CASCU.

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

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

~~RESTRICTED~~
CONFIDENTIAL

(Reclassify when filled out)

REPORT No. 36

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 functioned satisfactorily.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

H. M. REEDY, Lt(jc), USNR
SIGNATURE **ACT Officer**

RANK AND DUTY

THOMAS B. ELLISON, Lt+Comdr., USN
SIGNATURE **Commanding**

RANK AND DUTY

20 May 1945
DATE

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 7-10

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Airfield on Minami Daito Shimu (b) Time Over Target(s) 1500-1530 (Zone) (I)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 2000 stratus 10/10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Slightly hazy (e) Visibility 10
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Level - radar Bomb Sight Used Mark VIII (Radar)
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run VT 4 & 8 Spacing 80' Altitude of Bomb Release 7500
(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 Central area of island	3000' x 900'	12 VF-12	16 x 500 /GP 84 x 100 /GP		Unknown
2 Central area of island	3000' x 900'	3 VF-12	6 x 500 /GP 12 x 3.25 RP		Unknown
3 Air strip	3000' x 300'	16 VF-12	14 x 500 /GP 42 x 5" HVAR		
4			40 x 3.25" RP		Not observed
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).

Damage was impossible to observe because of the solid overcast. Fighters dove down through the overcast dropping bombs and rockets and then climbed back up through the cloud cover. Dive bombers and torpedo planes stayed above the clouds and bombed by radar. Photographs showed a number of hits in the area but not much damage to the runways.

- (p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Rec. by who
filled out)

OPNAV 16-4
Form AG-5
Sheet 5 of 5

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. 7-10

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:

One TBM-3 had trouble with Mark IV bomb shackles and had to jettison his bombs but other material functioned satisfactorily.

Two TBM-3's were forced down and made water landings, one of these planes was ditched 8 miles from target, the other near own force after return. A third plane TBM-3 barely escaped a water landing when the engine quit at 8000 feet and did not catch again until an altitude of 3000 feet had been reached. A post inspection of this plane revealed a large quantity of water in the fuel tanks and strainers, several other TBM-3's had contained water in the fuel tanks but to a lesser degree.

All of these planes were fueled just prior to launching.

E. H. BREW, Lt(jg), USNR
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
ACT Officer

THOMAS B. HILLISON, Lt-Contr., USN 23 May 1945
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY DATE
Commanding.



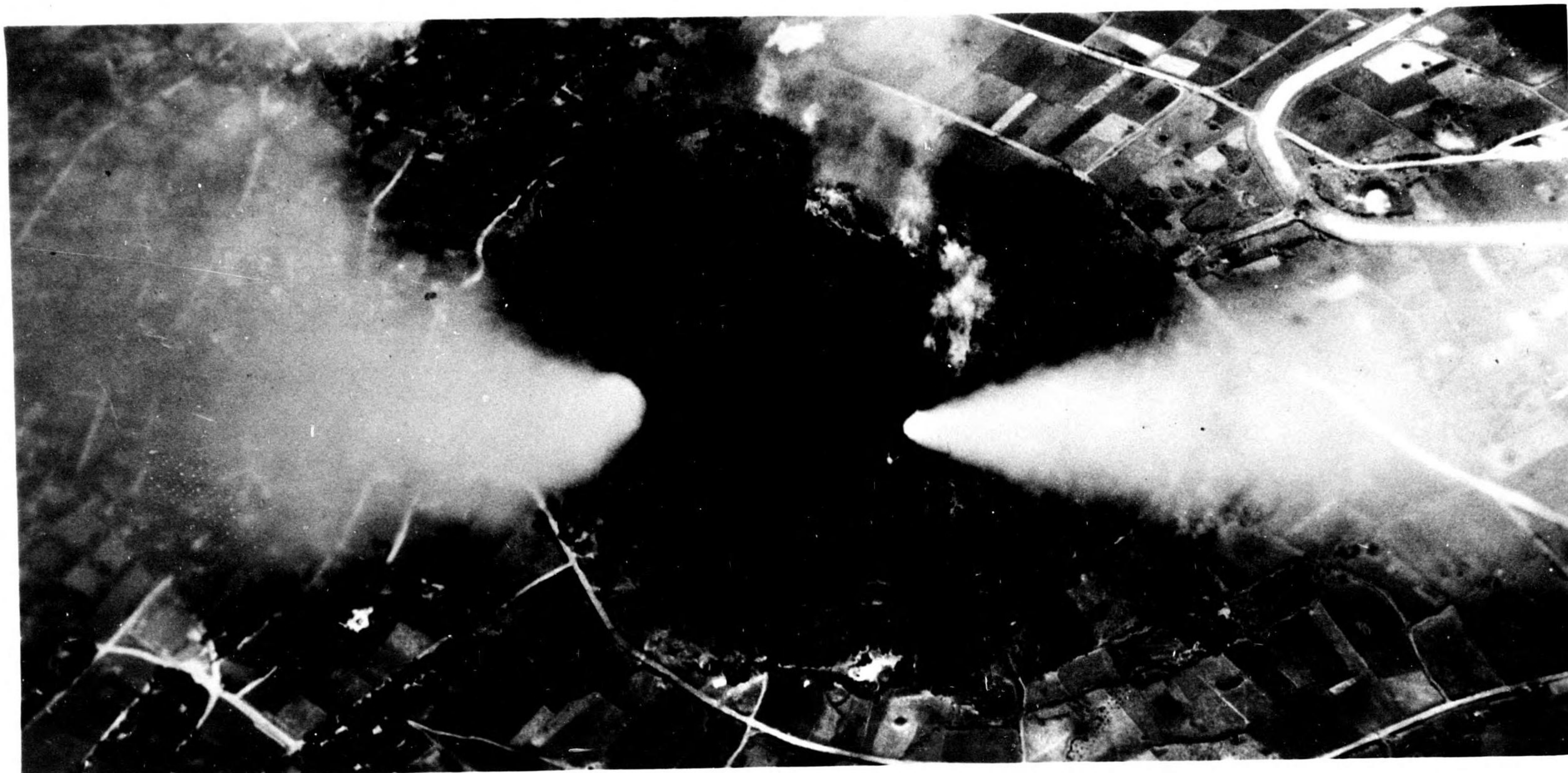
U.S.S. RANDOLPH CV-15

14626

ACTION REPORT

5 April 1945 through 31 May 1945

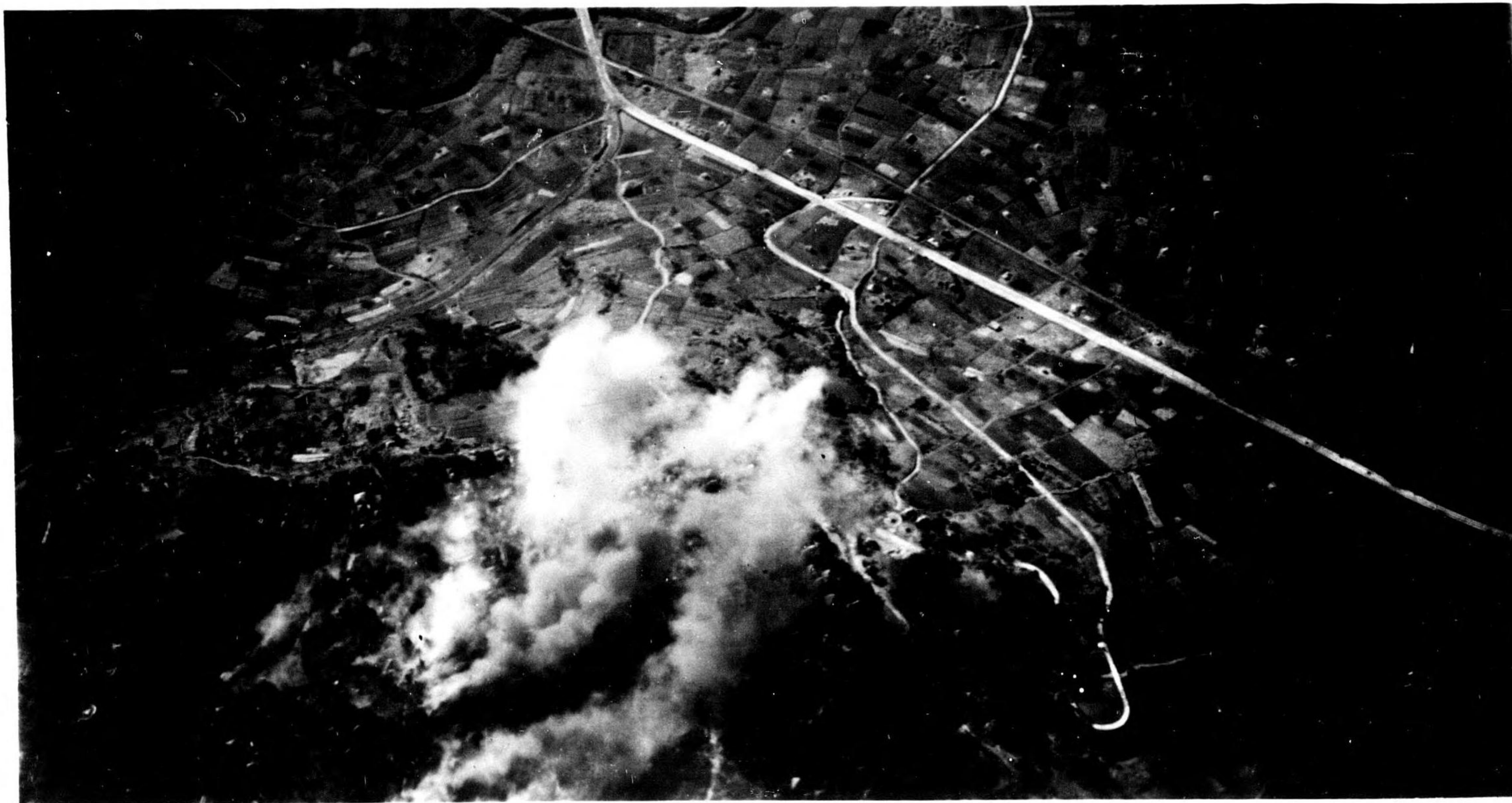
YAWA SUPPORT & ASSOCIATED OPERATIONS



1. IE SHIMA, OKINAWA GUNTO: Support strike 14 April 45. Rocket attack on IEGUSUGU YAMA enemy strong point. (933 CV-15)



2. KAKEROMA SHIMA, AMAMI GUNTO: Strike 14 April 45. Bombing buildings at suspected submarine base near MIURA TOWN. (1022 CV-15)



3. SHINCHINA TOWN, SOUTHERN OKINAWA: Support strike 20 April 45.
Bombing artillery positions. (5 CV-15 23)



4. AWACHA TOWN, OKINAWA: Support strike 20 April 45. Bombing large area.
area. (13 CV-15 22)



5. SHINCHINA TOWN, OKINAWA: Support strike 20 April 45. Area bombing of town. (24 CV-15 21)



6. SHINCHINA TOWN, OKINAWA: Support strike 20 April 45. Area bombing of town. (13 CV-15 21)



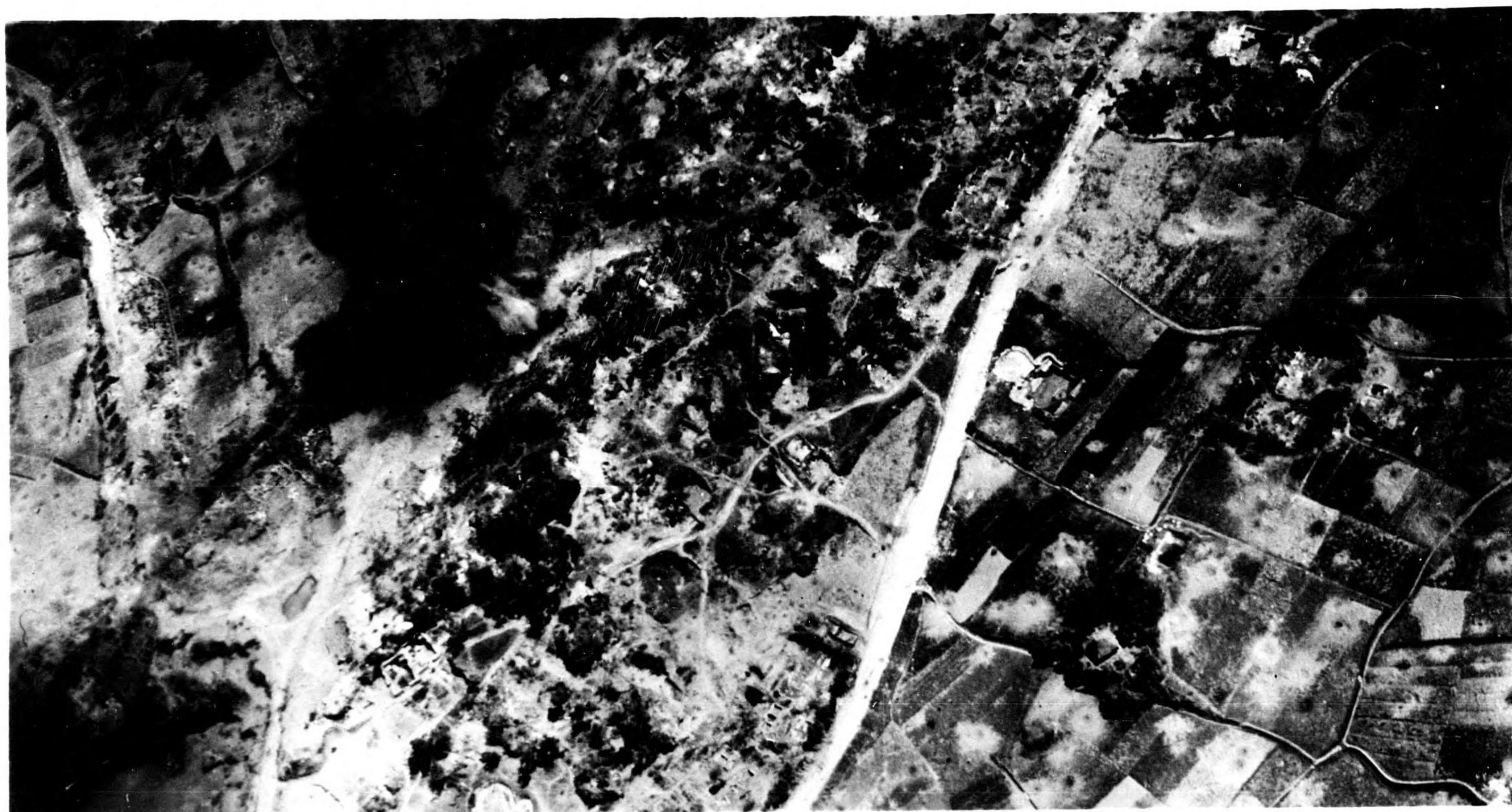
7. EAST OF DAKESHI TOWN, OKINAWA: Support strike 29 April 45. Bombing of gun positions. (11 CV-15 28)



8. EAST OF DAKESHI TOWN, OKINAWA: Support strike 29 April 45. Bombing of transportation area. (12 CV-15 28)



9. DAKESHI TOWN, OKINAWA: Support strike 28 April 45. Bombing of command post. (3 CV-15 26)



10. EAST OF DAKESHI TOWN, OKINAWA: Support strike 29 April 45. Bombing of troop concentrations. (10 CV-15 28)



11. East of SHURI TOWN, OKINAWA: Support strike 30 April 45. Bombing of troop concentrations. (4 CV-15 29)



12. East of SHURI TOWN, OKINAWA: Support strike 4 May 45. Bombing of troop concentrations. (5 CV-15 33)



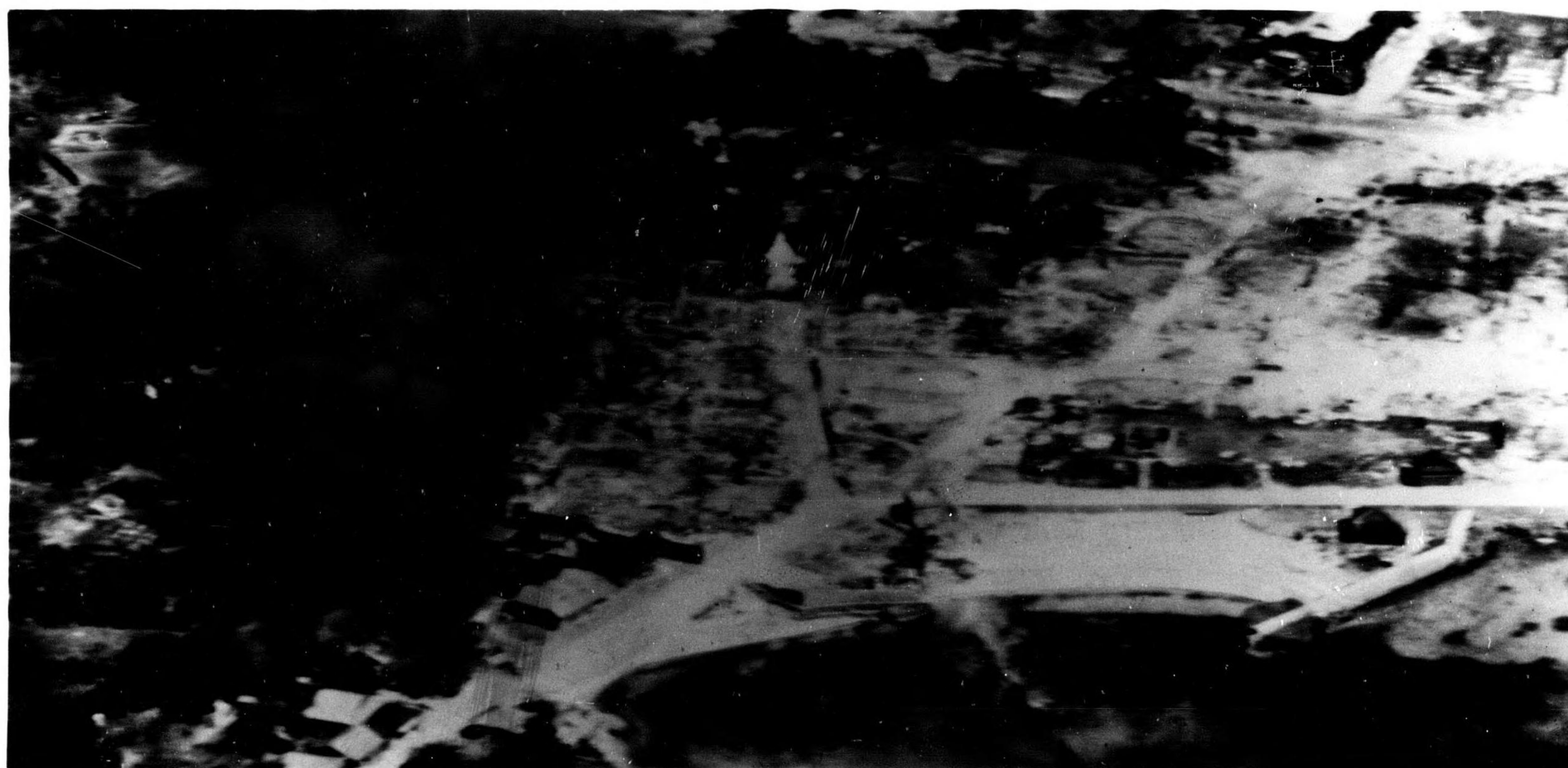
13. KAKEROMA SHIMA, AMAMI GUNTO: Shipping strike 7 May 45. Rocket attack on luggers. (4 CV-15 42 FO)



14. WAN A/F, KIKAI JIMA: Fighter bomber patrol 7 May 45. Bombing and incendiary attack on military headquarters. (5 CV-15 40 LO)



15. WAN TOWN, KIKAI JIMA: Strike 9 May 45. Bombing and incendiary attack on buildings and installations. (27 CV-15 48 LO)



16. WAN TOWN, KIKAI SHIMA: Strike 9 May 45. Direct hits on warehouses by boat basin. (45 CV-15 48 LO)



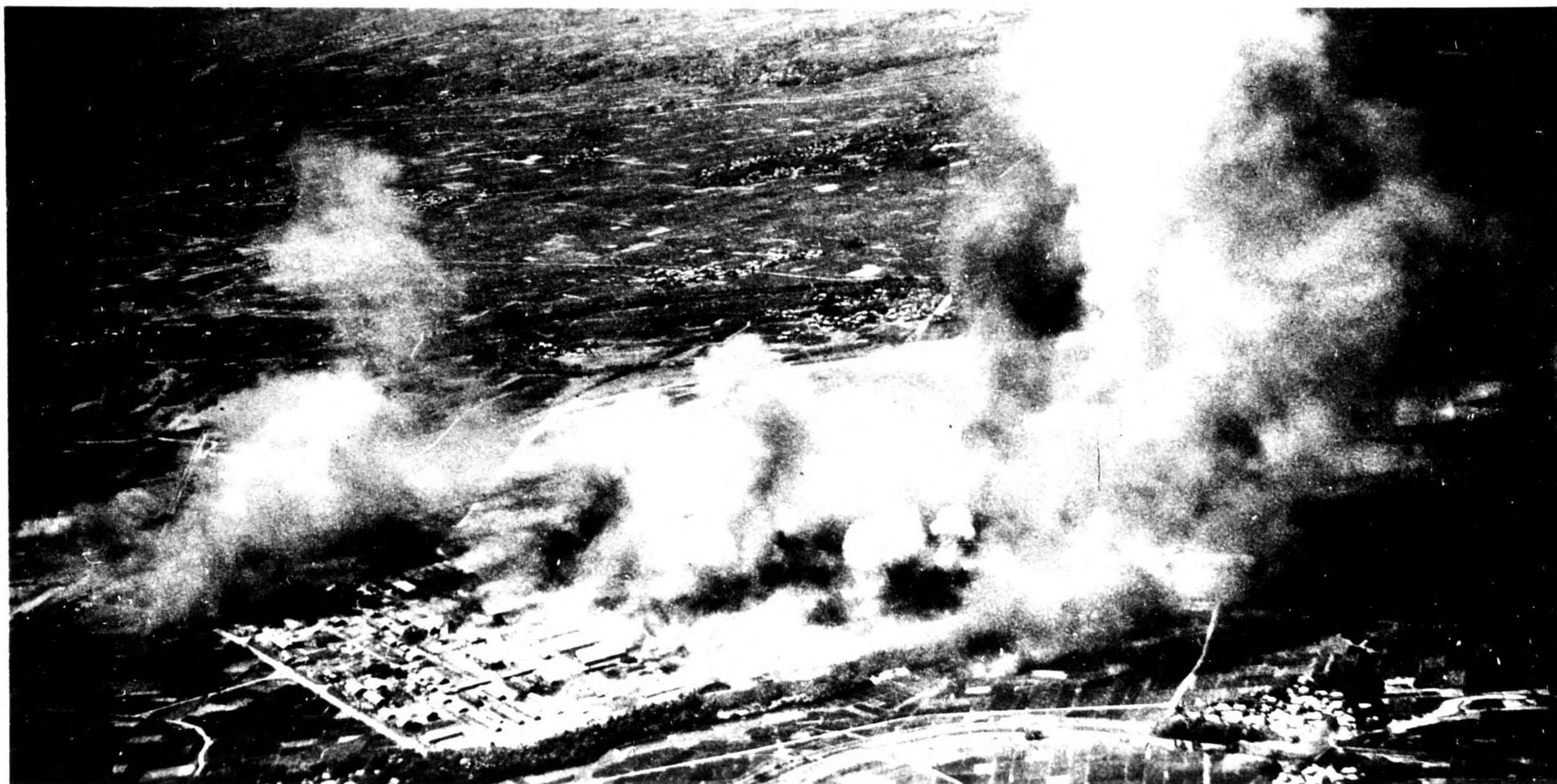
17. KIKUCHI A/F (T-2518), KYUSHU: Fighter sweep 13 May 45. Strafing attack on planes in revetments. (3 CV-15 52 VF)



18. KIKUCHI A/F (T-2518), KYUSHU: Fighter sweep 13 May 45. Plane fired by fighter sweep. (5 CV-15 51 FO)



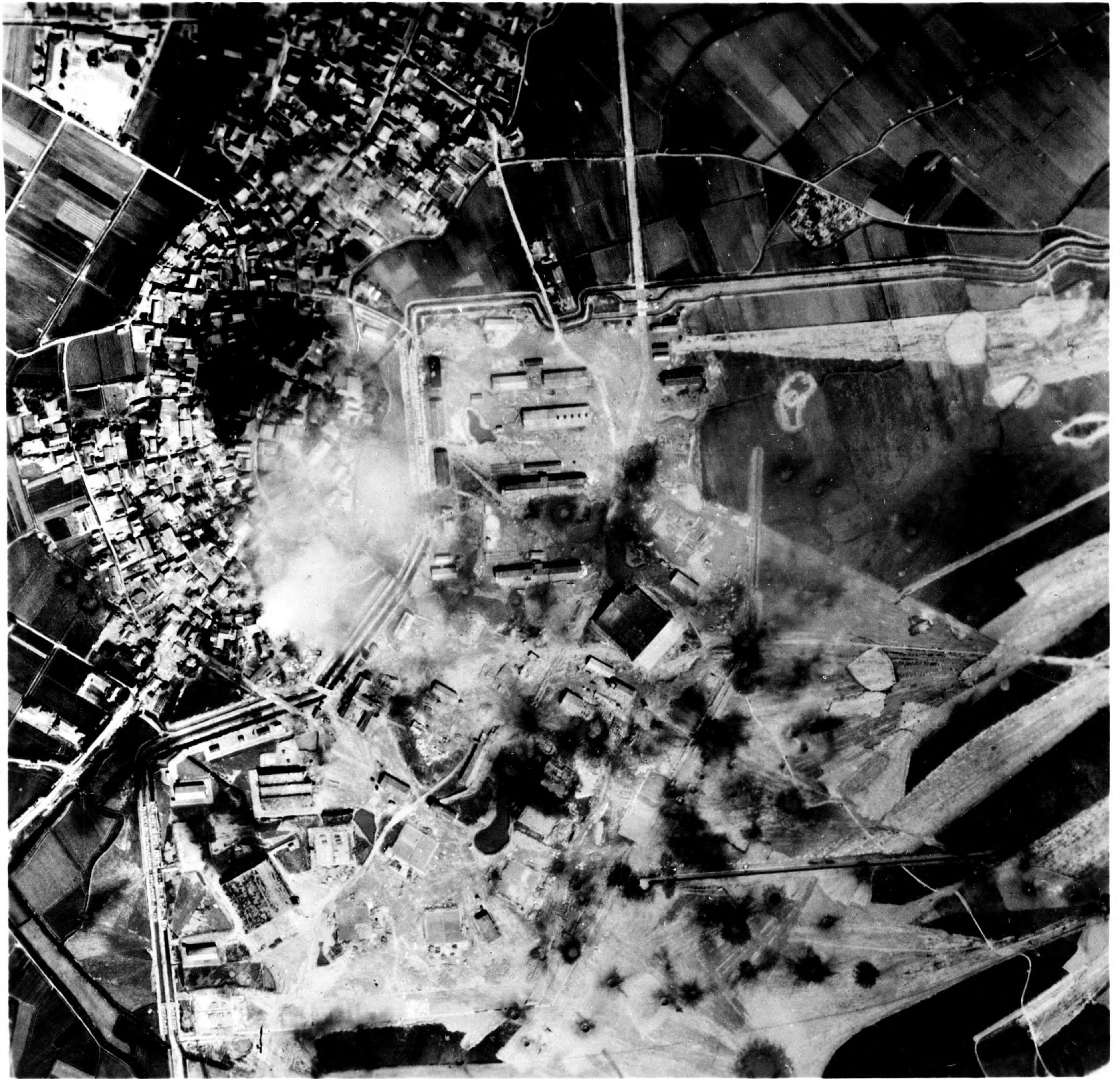
19. KUMAMOTO AREA, KYUSHU: Fighter sweep 13 May 45. Locomotive exploded by strafing attack. (5 CV-15 56 FO)



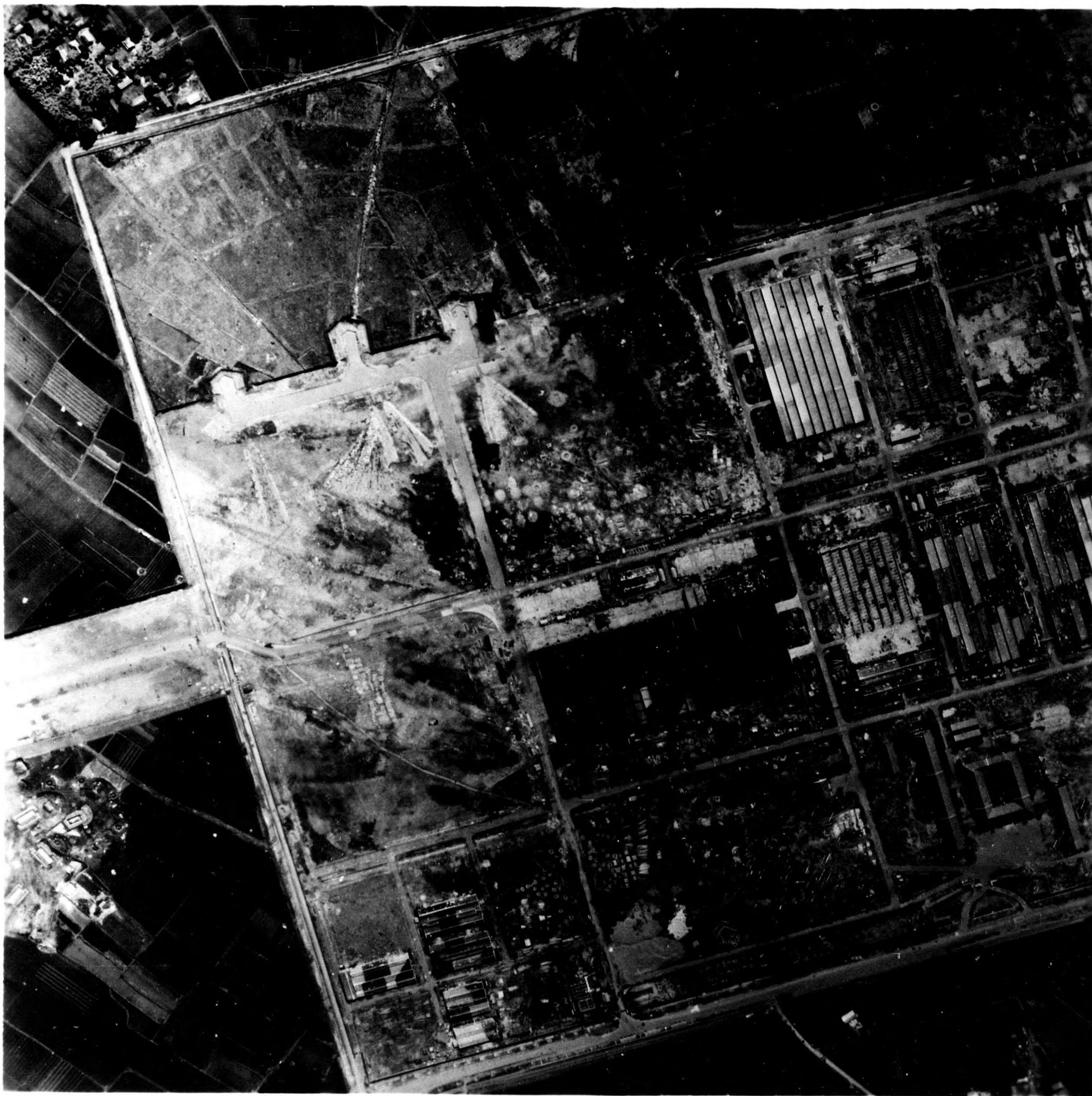
20. KIKUCHI A F (T-2518), KYUSHU: Strike 13 May 45. Destruction of hangars and other facilities. (4 CV-15 62)



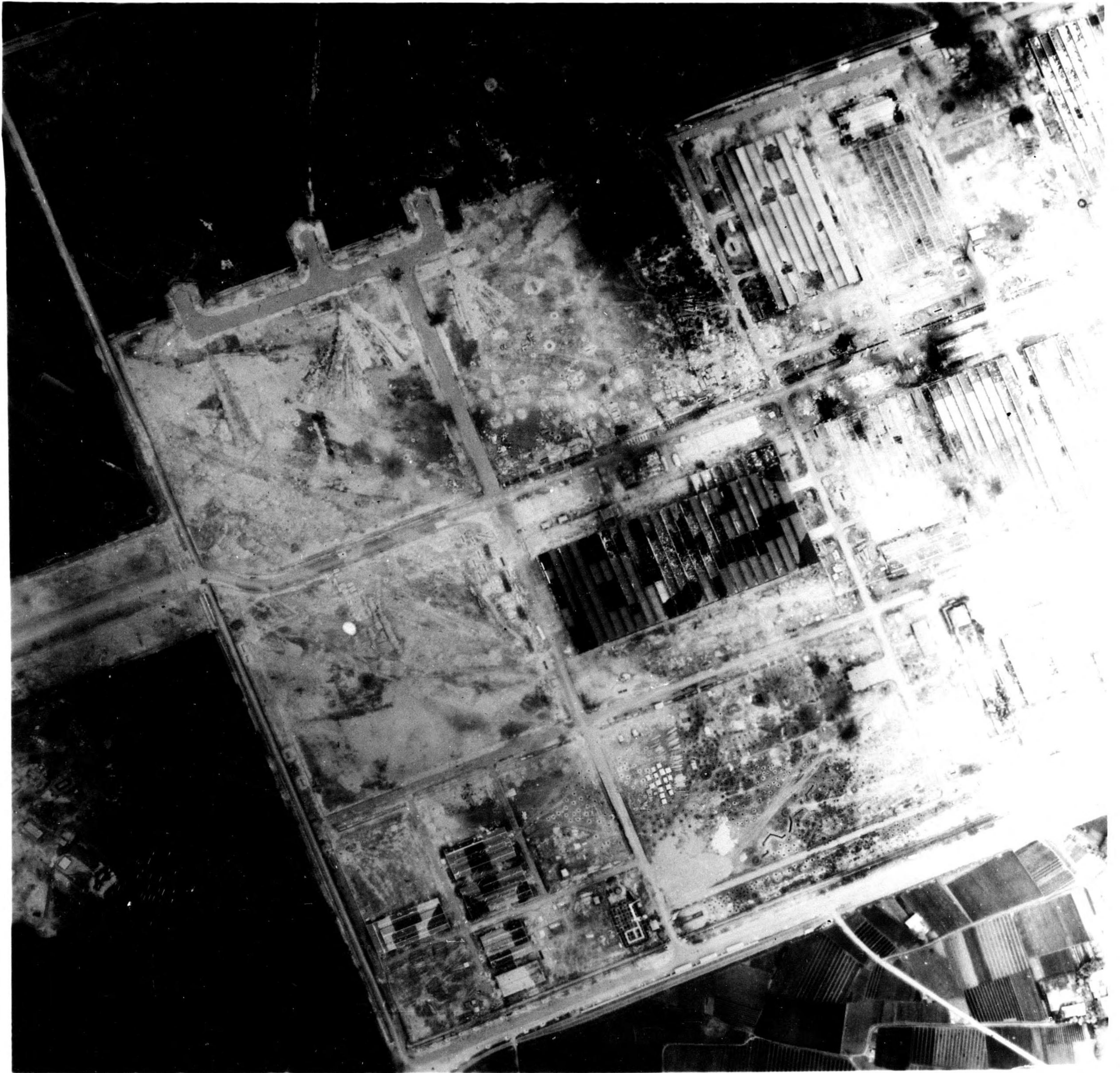
21. KIKUCHI A/F, KYUSHU: Strike 13 May 45. Post-strike photo showing extensive damage in building area. (7 CV-15 59 LO)



22. TAMANA A/F (T-2544), KYUSHU: Strike 13 May 45. Bombing of buildings southwest of field. (9 CV-15 52 VF)



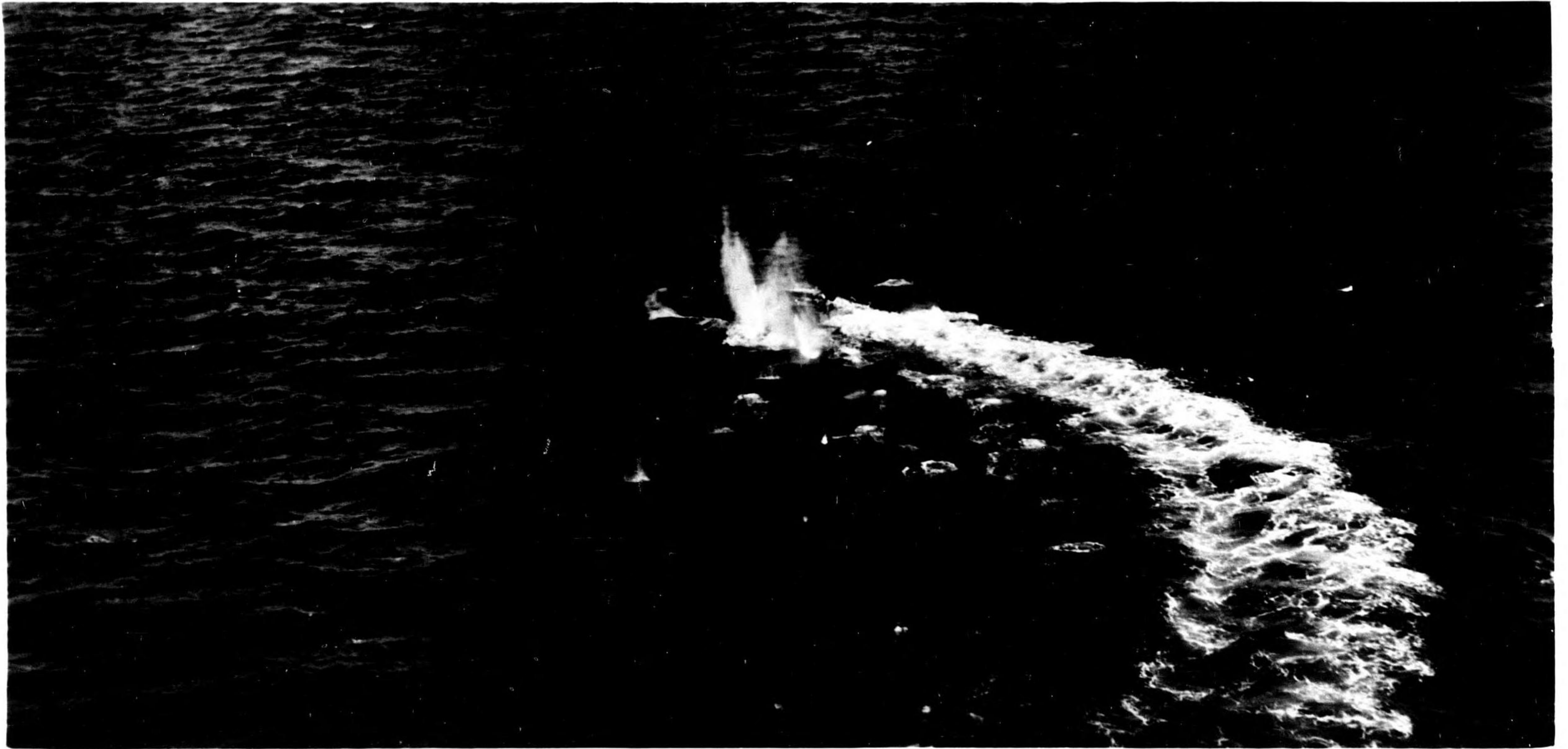
23. MITSUBISHI KUMAMOTO Engine Plant (P-531), KYUSHU: Pre-strike reconnaissance photo 13 May 45. (35 CV-15 52 VF)



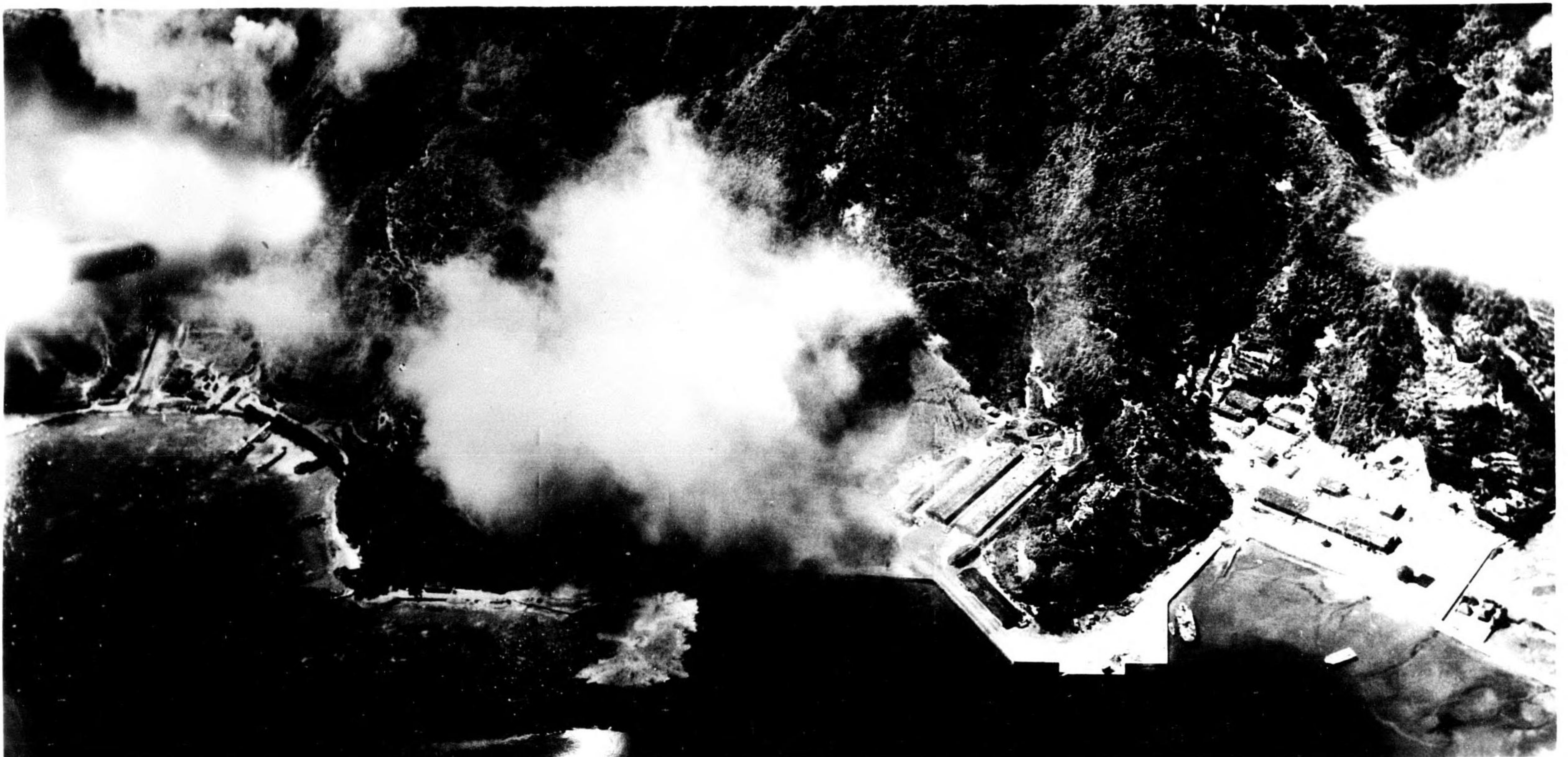
24. MITSUBISHI KUMAMOTO Engine Plant (P-531), KYUSHU: Strike 14 May 45.
Bomb damage to buildings. (19 CV-15 69 VF)



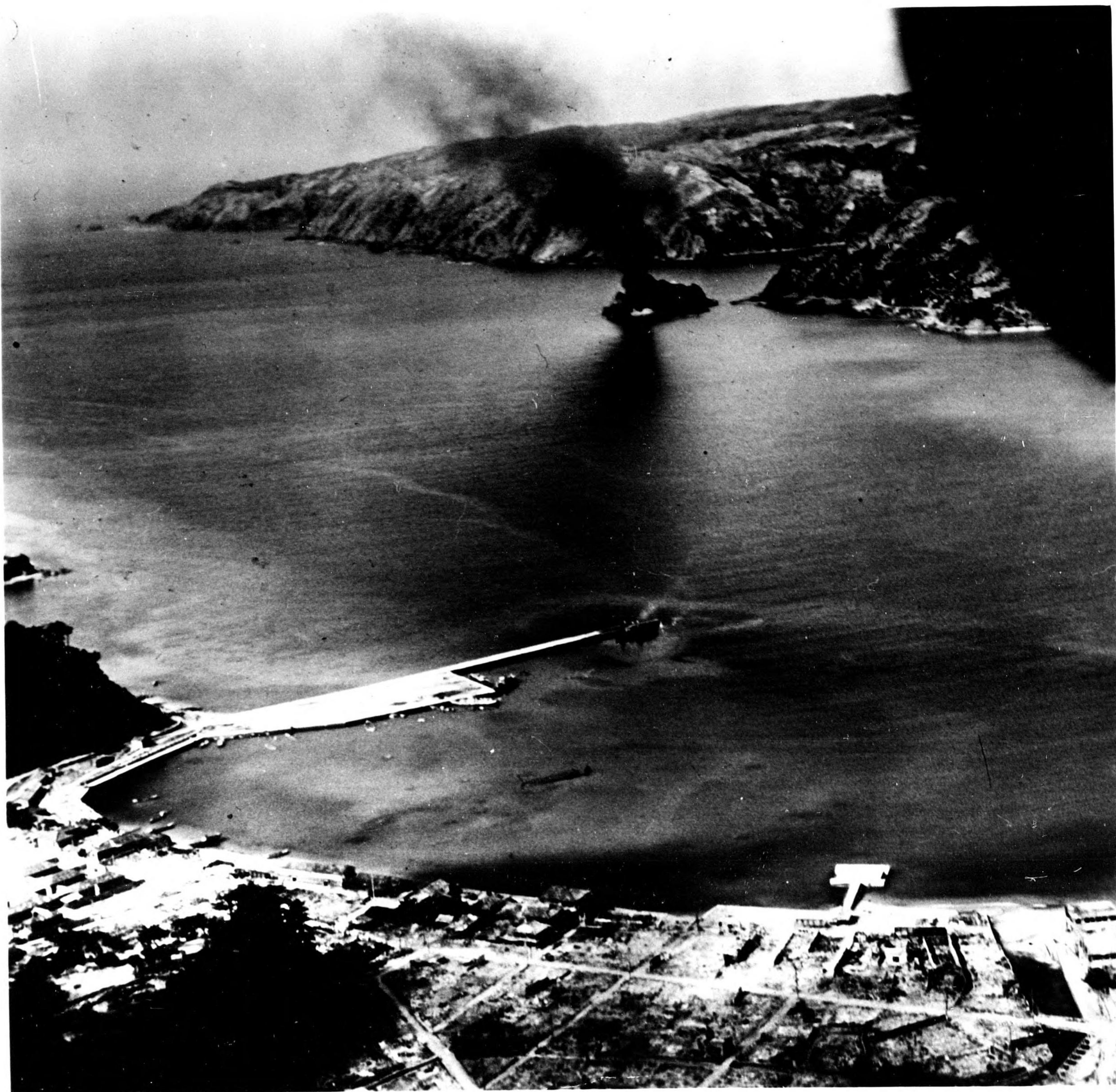
25. AMAKUSA NADA, KYUSHU: Fighter sweep 13 May 45. Motor torpedo boats maneuvering against rocket and strafing attack. (40 CV-15 60 FO)



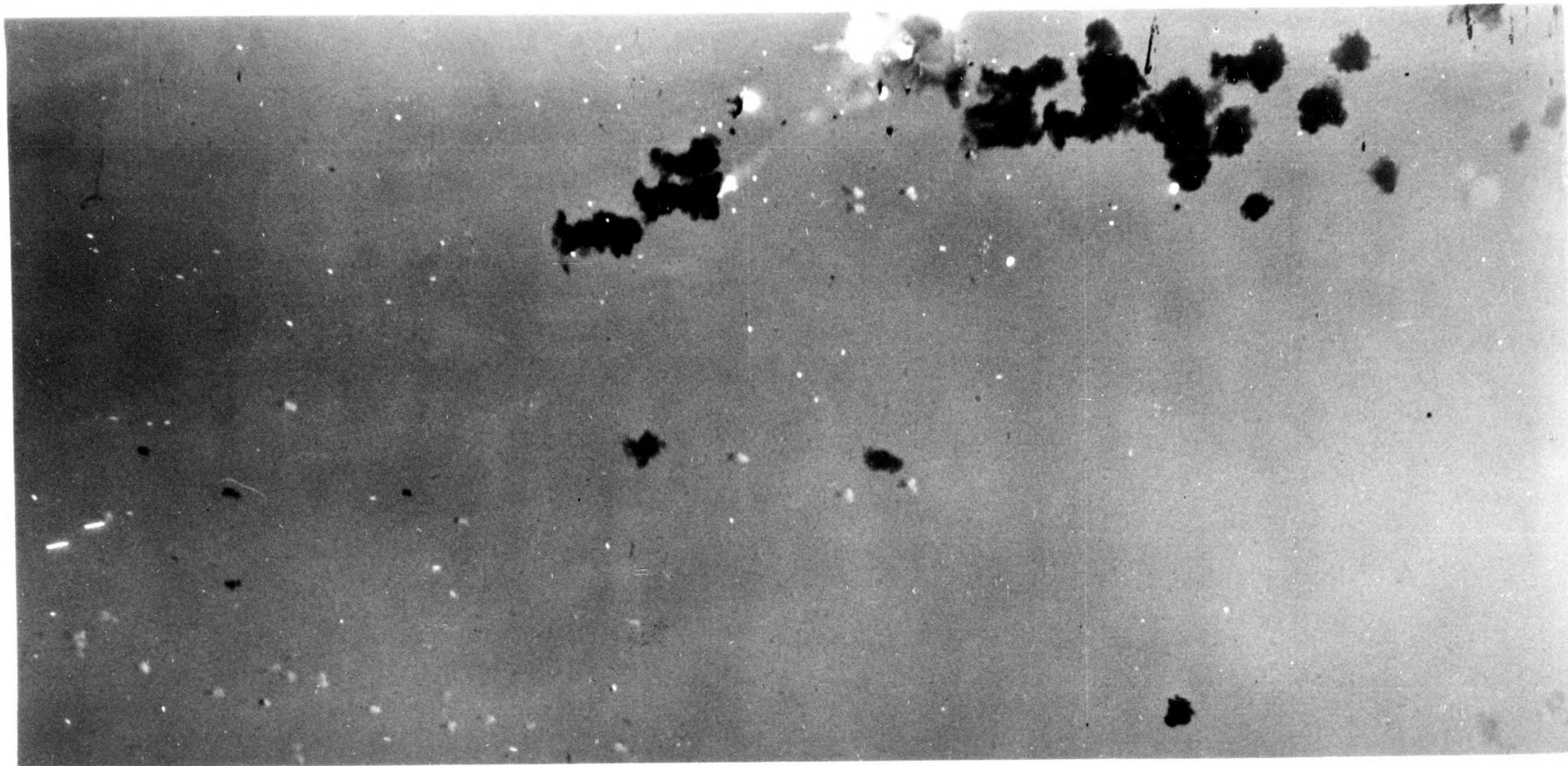
26. AMAKUSA NADA, KYUSHU: Fighter attack on motor torpedo boat 13 May 45.
(43 CV-15 60 FO)



27. SESO TOWN, KAKEROMA SHIMA: Strike 18 May 45. Attack on storage depot. (13 CV-15 83 FO)



28. NAZE KO, AMAMI O SHIMA: Fighter patrol 18 May 45. Fuel dump aflame after rocket and strafing attack. (4 CV-15 84)



29. Off OKINAWA 17 April 45. Direct hit on enemy suicide plane. (969 CV-15)



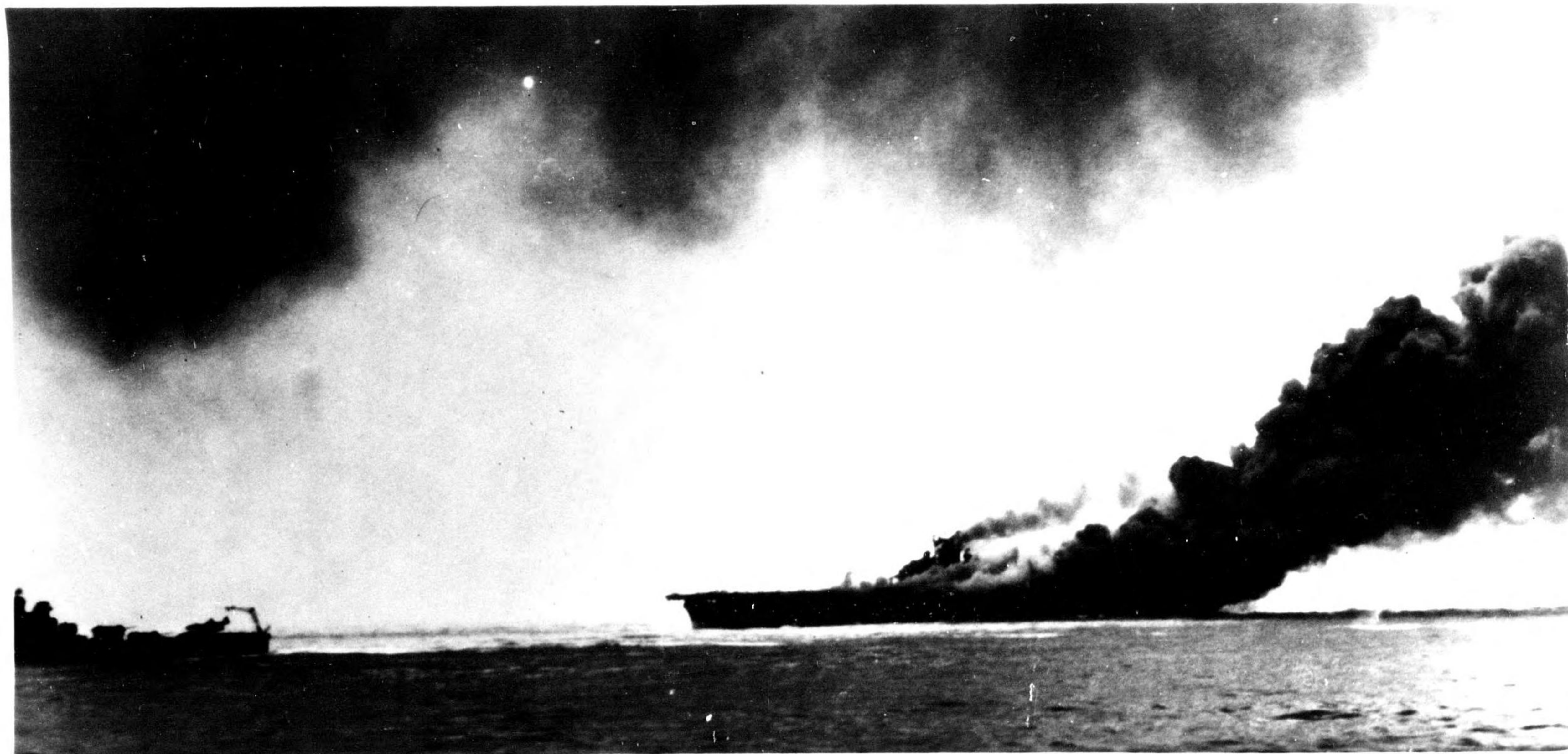
30. Off OKINAWA 17 April 45. Wing and tail assembly gone from direct hit - enemy pilot bails out. (953 CV-15)



31. Off OKINAWA 17 April 45. Enemy suicide plane hit and crashing to water after dropping bomb near RANDOLPH. (973 CV-15)



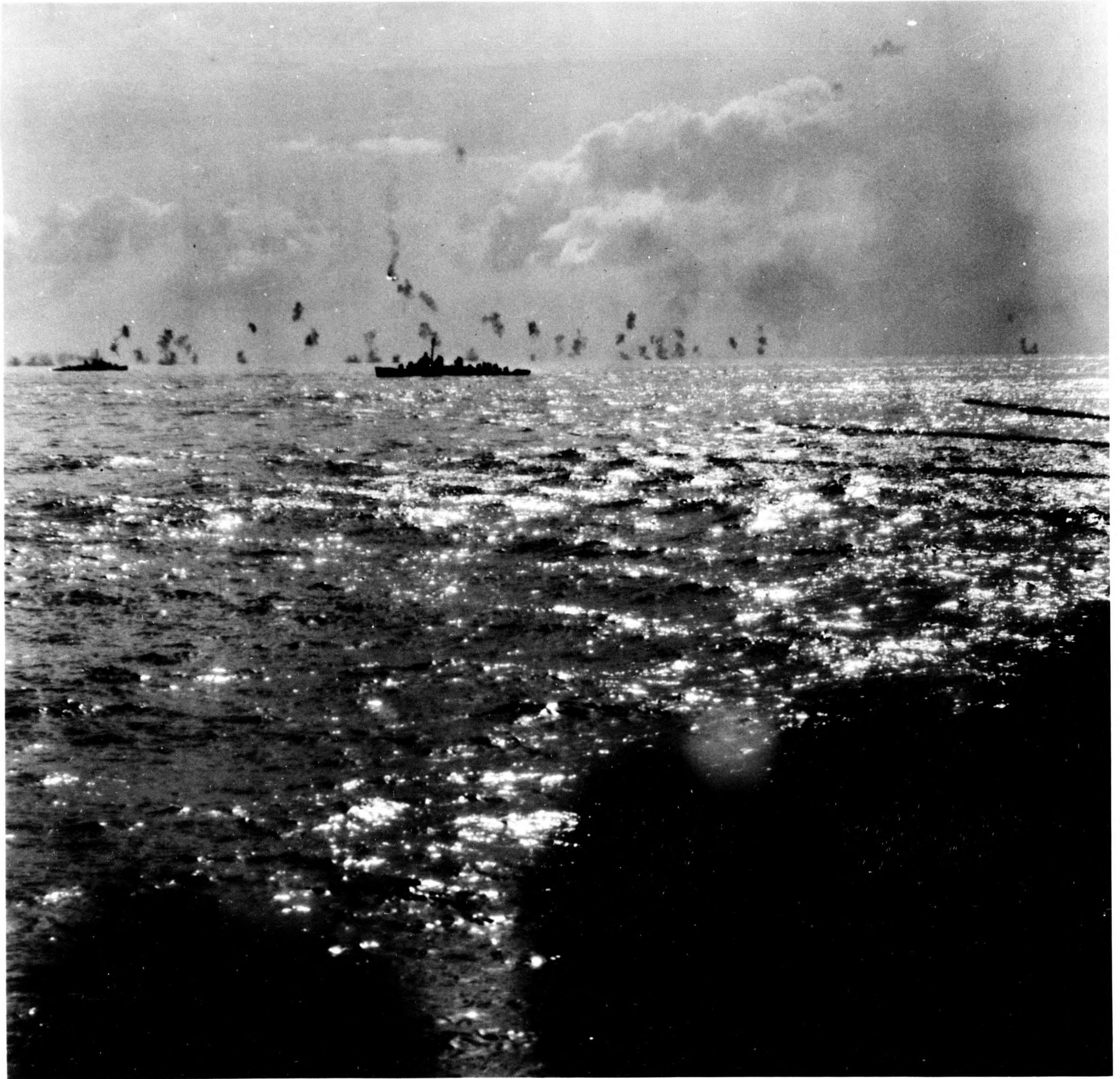
32. Off OKINAWA 17 April 45. Enemy suicide plane splashes close to Pasadena CL- 65 after direct hit from Task Group guns. (957 CV-15)



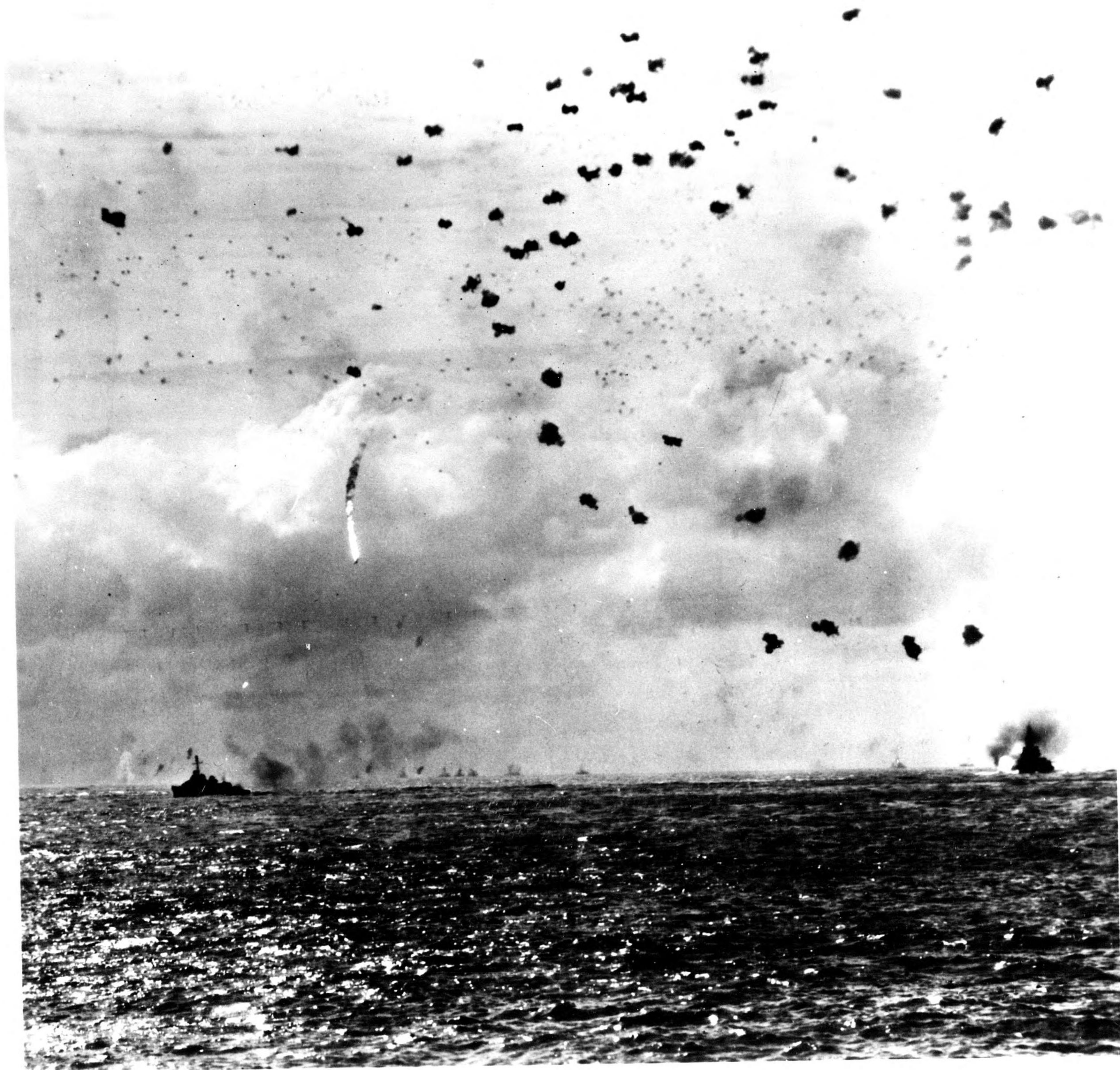
33. Off OKINAWA 11 May 45. BUNKER HILL afire after surprise crashes by two enemy suicide planes. (1131 CV-15)



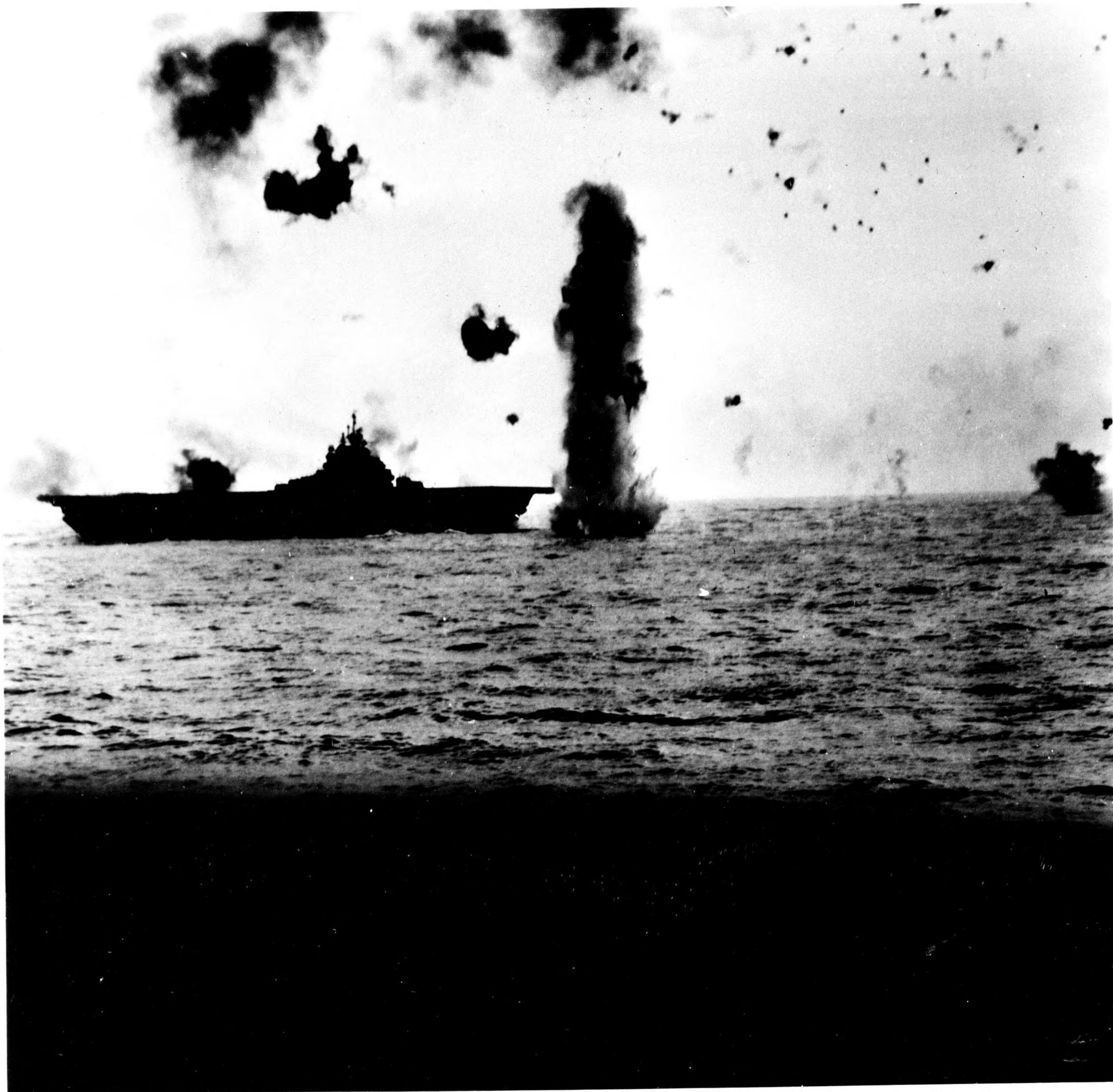
34. Off KYUSHU 14 May 45. Explosion of enemy suicide plane on ENTERPRISE. Number one elevator at top of explosion. (1096 CV-15)



35. Off KYUSHU, 14 May 45. Enemy plane shot down near screen. (1108 CV-15)



36. Off KYUSHU 14 May 45. Enemy plane shot down by ship's AA within formation. (1110 CV-15)



37. Off KYUSHU 14 May 45. Splashes from three crashing enemy suicide planes, hit by Task Group gunfire, bracket ESSEX. (1103 CV-15)

CV-15/A16-3
Serial 0018

U. S. S. RANDOLPH (CV-15)
c/o Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, Calif.

95/aa

12 JUN 1945

S-E-C-R-E-T

From: Commanding Officer.
To: Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Fleet.
Via: (1) Commander Task Group 58.3.
(2) Commander Task Force 58.
(3) Commander FIFTH Fleet.
(4) Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas.

Subject: Action Report - OKINAWA Support and Associated Operations, for period 5 April 1945 through 31 May 1945.

Reference: (a) CinCPac Conf. ltr. LCL-45.

Enclosure: (A) Subject action report.

1. In compliance with reference (a) and the directives referenced therein, Enclosure (A) is forwarded herewith.

2. Transmission by registered guard mail or U. S. registered mail is authorized in accordance with article 76(15)(e) and (f), U. S. Navy Regulations.

FELIX BAKER.

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USS BATAAN
USS MONTEREY
USS INDEPENDENCE



SECRET

U. S. S. RANDOLPH (CV-15)

PART I - BRIEF SUMMARY

1. This report covers operations against the enemy from 5 April 1945 through 31 May 1945, during which period the U. S. S. RANDOLPH (CV-15) participated in strikes, sweeps, and patrols against enemy positions in the NANSEI SHOTO, KYUSHU, and MINAMI DAITO JIMA.

2. The primary purpose of the operation was to assist our amphibious forces in the occupation of OKINAWA, NANSEI SHOTO. Therefore, much air activity, particularly during the early half of the period, was devoted to strikes in direct support of ground troops on Southern OKINAWA. Of equal and perhaps greater importance, however, were the fighter sweeps and patrols regularly flown over the island chain, extending northward as far as KYUSHU airfields. These, plus interdiction strikes against enemy airfields, were designed to prevent the enemy from completing successfully his constant and aggressive airborne attacks against our ships and ground forces in the OKINAWA area. Destruction of the suicide bomber, multiplied manyfold over past appearances, was a paramount objective. For the first time, the piloted, or "BAKA", bomb was seen in action.

3. In spite of bad weather which interfered frequently with scheduled operations, a large amount of successful photographic reconnaissance was completed in all operating areas.

PART II - PRELIMINARIES

1. At 0800/K 5 April 1945 departed ULITHI ATOLL in TG 58.2 (Rear Admiral G. F. BOGAN), a group of TF 58 (Vice Admiral M. A. MITSCHER). RANDOLPH, Flagship, accompanied by DD's OWEN, THE SULLIVANS, STEPHEN POTTER, TINGEY, and LEWIS HANCOCK, cleared swept channel at 0810. Remainder of Task Group sortied about two hours later.

Composition of the Task Group:

CV Group 58.2.1 (Rear Admiral G. F. BOGAN)

RANDOLPH
ENTERPRISE

Screen (Captain J. P. WOMBLE)

DESDIV 103

OWEN (F)

MILLER

THE SULLIVANS

STEPHEN POTTER

TINGEY

DESDIV 104

HICKOX

HUNT

LEWIS HANCOCK

MARSHALL

2. Upon departure from ULITHI the destroyers formed a bent-line screen and the group proceeded on a northwesterly course. Routine combat air and anti-submarine patrols were conducted, together with practice air operations and anti-aircraft firing. At 1800/K time was changed to Zone Minus 9(I). All times hereafter are Item time.

3. At 0615 6 April ENTERPRISE, HUNT, MARSHALL, and MILLER joined. The Task Group assumed formation Five Roger conducting routine combat air and anti-submarine patrols and engaging in air training exercises.

4. On 7 April the Task Group fueled and replenished gasoline from CHICOPEE in approximate Latitude 23° 30' N; Longitude 132° 30' E. INDEPENDENCE, FLINT, and OAKLAND joined. Routine combat air and anti-submarine patrols were conducted. In addition a special 325-mile 18-plane fighter search covered six sectors between 340° and 040° with negative results.

5. The mission of the RANDOLPH was to participate in the support of the amphibious landings on OKINAWA. Heavy enemy air attacks and submarine attacks were expected; preparations within the ship were made accordingly.

6. Own forces were TF 58, composed of a carrier striking force, supported by BB, CA, CL, and screened by DD. TF 58 operated usually in formation 5-W with axis into the wind, individual TG's operating in formation 5-R or 5-V as the situation dictated.

SECRET

U. S. S. RANDOLPH (CV-15)

PART III - CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNT OF ACTION (Times used throughout are Minus 9 Zone Time)

8 April 1945 (Sunrise: 0605; Sunset: 1840)

1. At daylight Task Group 58.2 joined Task Force 58 and operated throughout the day in the vicinity of Latitude $26^{\circ} 00' N$, $129^{\circ} 45' E$. Weather was overcast with a slight sea. Operations consisted of VF target combat air patrols over TOKUNO and KIKAI ISLANDS, over radar pickets, and over own Task Group.

9 April 1945 (Sunrise: 0606; Sunset: 1840)

2.. Operations in the vicinity of Latitude $26^{\circ} 00' N$, Longitude $130^{\circ} 00' E$. Consisted of target combat air patrols over TOKUNO and KIKAI ISLANDS, radar pickets, and own Task Group. In addition, anti-snooper anti-submarine patrols were conducted. Weather was cloudy with a slight sea.

Results of this day's operations:

Enemy planes destroyed on ground - 1

10 April 1945 (Sunrise: 0606; Sunset: 1834)

3. Operating area remained in the vicinity of $26^{\circ} 50' N$; $130^{\circ} 00' E$. Combat air patrols over own task group, radar pickets, and with a Dumbo rescue search were conducted, together with anti-snooper anti-submarine patrols. BENHAM and STEPHEN POTTER were fueled.

4. ENTERPRISE and OAKLAND with screening destroyers left Task Group 58.2 formation. Task Group retired on a southeasterly course during the night to fueling rendezvous. Sea calm, sky partly cloudy.

11 April 1945 (Sunrise: 0554; Sunset: 1837)

5. Weather overcast with rain squalls and moderate sea. Fueled and replenished gasoline from CACHE in approximate Latitude $23^{\circ} 30' N$, Longitude $132^{\circ} 30' E$. An anti-submarine patrol was conducted. During night proceeded on northwesterly course to join Task Force 58.

12 April 1945 (Sunrise 0559; Sunset: 1840)

6. Operating in vicinity Latitude $26^{\circ} 30' N$, Longitude $130^{\circ} 00' E$. At 0829 many enemy planes reported to northwestward. Additional fighters were launched to augment the combat air patrol. One bogey was pursued and shot down north of MINAMI DAITO SHIMA. Throughout the day several other bogeys were reported but none approached within 25

ENCLOSURE (A)

Page 3.

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U. S. S. RANDOLPH (CV-15)

miles of the ship.

7. Dawn and dusk combat air patrols were maintained over the Task Group with VF(N), as well as regular combat air patrols throughout the day. The one target CAP which flew over OKINAWA brought down one enemy plane.

Results of this day's operations:

Enemy aircraft destroyed in air - 2

13 April 1945 (Sunrise: 0558; Sunset: 1841)

8. Friday the 13th was clear, calm, cloudless, and uneventful. Combat air patrols and a VF(N) dusk patrol were flown over own Task Group. Two destroyers were topped off. The area of operations remained as for the previous day.

14 April 1945 (Sunrise: 0558; Sunset: 1844)

9. Weather clear and cloudless, sea calm. Operations remained in the same area as on previous several days. A VF(N) dawn combat air patrol shot down an enemy float plane near the Force. During the day, combat air patrols were maintained over the task group, one of which shot down six enemy planes which attacked the Force destroyer screen in the early afternoon. The VF(N) dusk patrol accounted for one additional enemy plane.

10. At 0522 an air support strike of 8 VFB and 7 VT was launched to hit mortar installations on Southern OKINAWA as directed by the target coordinator. Good results were reported.

11. At 0845 a strike of 8 VFB, 6 VB, with 2 VF(P) was launched against a suspected midget submarine base on KAKEROMA ISLAND, south of AMAMI JIMA. No indications of submarine activity were detected but buildings 300 feet inland from the suspected position were hit heavily with bombs and rockets.

12. At 1310 another air support mission to OKINAWA, consisting of 8 VF and 8 VT, was launched to hit enemy artillery positions on IE SHIMA. Accurate target coverage was reported.

13. At 1945 enemy aircraft were reported. A single plane closed to about six miles and showed a red light which remained burning until a string of about ten closely bunched flares had been dropped. No attack developed while these flares were burning. At about 2020 another plane showing a red light dropped similar flares in about the same relative position. In both cases the red light was extinguished as soon as flares were dropped. At about 2025 an enemy plane made

ENCLOSURE (A)

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what appeared to be a torpedo attack from the side of the formation opposite the flares, evidently against the silhouetted ships. The plane, at about 150 feet altitude, crossed about 500 yards forward of RANDOLPH under heavy fire, but escaped unscathed. As it crossed over a destroyer on RANDOLPH's starboard quarter it was hit, burst into flames, and crashed. Shortly thereafter a destroyer of the screen in that position reported a heavy underwater explosion close aboard. It is presumed that this was the enemy torpedo exploding at the end of its run. A third string of flares was dropped in about the same area as the first two but no attack developed. At 2115 the screen was clear.

14. Results of this day's operations:

Enemy aircraft destroyed in air - 8

15 April 1945 (Sunrise: 0554; Sunset: 1843)

15. Operations were continued in the same area where a VF(N) dawn patrol was flown and Task Group combat air patrols were maintained throughout the day.

16. At 0530 an air support mission of 8 VF, 5 VB, and 5 VT was launched to support ground forces on OKINAWA as directed by the target coordinator. Several areas were hit with emphasis on mortar positions, buildings, and caves.

17. At 1315 a 20-plane fighter (VFB) sweep was launched against KUSHIRA Airfield, KYUSHU. Little airborne opposition was encountered and few planes were found in the target area. All planes returned safely. Fires were started in a large double hangar at the field.

18. At 1825, WASHINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, and one destroyer division departed from the formation. Formation axis was rotated to 180° (T), new stations were assumed in formation 5-V, and at 1911 the Task Group set course 180° (T) for the fueling rendezvous.

19. Results of this day's operations:

- (a) Enemy planes destroyed in air - 1
- (b) " " damaged " " 1
- (c) " " destroyed on ground - 2
- (d) " " damaged on ground - 10/12
- (e) Fire started in large double hangar, KUSHIRA

16 April 1945 (Sunrise: 0550; Sunset: 1835)

19. Weather clear, sea calm. At 0645 effected rendezvous with logistics group in Latitude 23° 45'N, Longitude 132° 30'E. Fueled and replenished gasoline from ATASCOSA and replenished 5" projectiles

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and aircraft rockets from FIREDRAKE. Combat air and anti-submarine patrols were maintained.

17 April 1945 (Sunrise: 0555; Sunset: 1842)

20. Weather clear, sea calm. Task Group proceeded on a north-westerly course to rendezvous with Task Force 58. At 0512 Task Group was directed by CTG 58.2 to proceed with DesRon 52 and report to CTG 58.3. Task Group 58.2 was thereby dissolved. INDEPENDENCE and FLINT were detached to report to CTG 58.4.

21. At 0514 a bogey was reported bearing 340° (T), distance 10 miles, closing rapidly. At 0520 an enemy plane was sighted on the starboard quarter and taken under fire by the 5" batteries which were followed by the 40mm batteries as the plane closed in a fast glide. The plane headed for the stern strafing and apparently attempting a suicide attack. As the pilot missed the ship and proceeded along the port side, close aboard and about 50 feet above the water, he was taken under fire by the port 20mm batteries, crashing in the water about 100 feet off RANDOLPH's port bow.

22. At 0616 a target combat air patrol was scrambled and vectored to AMAMI GUNTO where it encountered about 20 enemy single-engine planes airborne, shooting down 14.

23. At 0645 RANDOLPH joined Task Group 58.3, taking station 2000 in formation 5-R, axis 010° (T).

24. At 0829 an air support mission of 10 VF, 2 VF(P), 9 VB, and 11 VT was launched to strike gun positions, buildings and tanks as directed by the target coordinator on Southern OKINAWA. Results were pronounced good by ground forces.

25. At 0855 bogeys were reported to the northward at a distance of 35 miles. At 0926 enemy planes were sighted. Two dived at RANDOLPH from about 6000 feet. They were in column and, as they passed through clouds at about 3000 feet proceeding at very high speed, were taken under very heavy fire. The leading plane exploded, the pilot bailing out. The second plane continued its run to a point very close to the ship where its right wing was shot off and it spun into the water. A bomb, estimated to have been of 250-kg. size, continued travel from the first plane, hitting the water and exploding about 100 yards off RANDOLPH's starboard beam. It is believed that 5" gunfire accounted for the first plane and 40mm for the second. Another enemy aircraft attempted a suicide dive on PASADENA. It was taken under fire by our starboard batteries and crashed, narrowly missing PASADENA's stern. It is not known whether or not this plane was hit. At 0928 a high-speed diving attack was made by a single plane on ships to southward of ESSEX. Taken under fire by all ships of the Group, it crashed into the water. Still another suicide run was made at 0931 on

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ships in the southern part of the formation. Heavy gunfire from all ships did not disturb a 20-degree high-speed dive but, when about 150 feet from the water and between two heavy ships, an apparent hit during a wingover caused it to crash in the water. Additional bogies were reported but none closed the formation and, at about 1100, the screen was clear.

26. At 1428 another support mission of 12 VF, 10 VB, and 12 VT hit gun positions and miscellaneous objectives on OKINAWA.

27. BATAAN left the Task Group at 1730 after which CV's assumed new stations and took departure for the fueling rendezvous.

28. Results of this day's operations:

(a) Enemy planes destroyed in the air -

By aircraft - 14

By ship's AA - 3

(b) Enemy planes probably destroyed on ground - 1

18 April 1945 (Sunrise: 0546; Sunset: 1836)

29. Fueled and replenished gasoline from PATUXENT and replenished 500-lb. bombs and fuzes from LAS VEGAS VICTORY in Latitude 24° 00'N, 132° 30'E. Combat air patrols were flown over the Task Group.

19 April 1945 (Sunrise: 0600; Sunset: 1850)

30. Partly cloudy, visibility excellent, sea calm. OKINAWA support operations continued in approximate area 25° 30'N, 128° 30'E. Army forces in Southern OKINAWA launched an "all out" attack against strongly fortified lines with support of naval surface and air units. Target, Task Group, and radar picket combat air patrols were flown throughout the day.

31. At 0526 a special support strike of 12 VF, 2 VF(P), 12 VB, and 12 VT was launched to hit targets designated by the target coordinator. Towns of ZAWA, SHINGAWAKU, and a small town between them were well covered with bombs, rockets, and strafing.

20 April 1945 (Sunrise: 0600; Sunset: 1852)

32. Partly cloudy, good visibility, sea calm. Support for Army "all out" offensive was continued from same operating area. A dawn combat air patrol of VF(N) was flown over AMAMI and throughout the day target, Task Group, and radar picket combat air patrols were maintained.

33. At 0656 an air support mission of 4 VFB, 11 VB, and 12 VT was launched to hit towns, artillery positions, barracks, and other enemy

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installations designated by the target coordinator on Southern OKINAWA.

34. At 1129 a similar mission consisting of 4 VF, 12 VB, and 11 VT supported OKINAWA ground forces with good results.

35. RANDOLPH broke her previous record of flight deck activity with 165 take-offs and 164 landings for the day.

36. At 2013 bogies were reported closing the Force from the North. During the night enemy planes scouted the formation almost continuously. Ensign E. G. HOWARD, VF-12, one of four night fighters launched during the night, shot down 2 BETTY's for which a "well done" was given by CTG 58.3.

37. Results of this day's operations:
Enemy planes destroyed in air - 2

21 April 1945 (Sunrise: 0555; Sunset: 1846)

38. Partly cloudy, good visibility, sea calm. Operations continued in same approximate area. Combat air patrols were maintained over the target and the Task Group.

39. At 1430 4 VFB, 12 VB, and 11 VT took off to hit targets on OKINAWA. OROKU and OROKU MURA were hit together with other small towns in the area. Results were good.

40. Results of this day's operations:
Enemy planes destroyed on the ground - 1

22 April 1945 (Sunrise: 0555; Sunset: 1846)

41. Partly cloudy, good visibility, calm sea; operations in approximate Latitude 26° 00'N, Longitude 130° 00'E. Dawn and dusk combat air patrols and four day patrols were flown over KIKAI. Target (OKINAWA) and Task Group combat air patrols were also maintained. One KIKAI patrol encountered an estimated 20 enemy planes, shooting down 7 certain, 1 probable, and damaging 1. One of the target combat patrols at OKINAWA shot down 4 of an unknown number of enemy planes north of the island.

42. At 1118 an air support mission of 4 VF, 2 VF(P), 10 VB, and 12 VT was launched to strike targets in Southern OKINAWA designated by the target coordinator. Cave entrances shielding guns, blockhouses, and buildings were well covered.

43. During the afternoon the Force was scouted by several enemy planes which dropped window as they circled the formation. One was

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shot down about 4000 yards astern of this Task Group by a combat patrol plane from another group.

44. At dusk Task Group 58.3 departed the area for fueling rendezvous.

45. Results of this day's operations:

- (a) Enemy planes destroyed in air - 12
- (b) " " probably destroyed in air - 3
- (c) " " damaged in air - 2

23 April 1945 (Sunrise: 0555; Sunset: 1840)

45. Fueled and replenished gasoline from NANTAHALA; replenished bombs and rockets from VESUVIUS in approximate Latitude 25° 00'N; Longitude 132° 00'E. Flew combat air patrols over Task Group. At dusk took departure for operating area to northwest.

24 April 1945 (Sunrise: 0552; Sunset: 1843)

46. Operating in area about 26° 30'N; 129° 30'E. Overcast with mist and rain; visibility variable 1 to 6 miles, sea moderately rough. Scheduled operations cancelled except for 2 combat air patrols over radar pickets.

25 April 1945 (Sunrise: 0550; Sunset: 1850)

47. Operating in vicinity of 26° 50'N; 129° 00'E. Weather overcast with occasional heavy rain squalls. Scheduled operations cancelled except for combat air patrols over KIKAI JIMA and own Task Group.

26 April 1945 (Sunrise: 0549; Sunset: 1854)

48. Operating in vicinity of 26° 30'N; 129° 30'E. Weather overcast with frequent heavy rain squalls. A low ceiling and poor visibility rendered operations abortive. Combat air patrols were maintained at OKINAWA, over own Task Group, and in the KIKAI - AMAMI area. A strike and a sweep reached WAN Field at KIKAI but **were** unable to hit targets accurately or observe results.

27 April 1945 (Sunrise: 0541; Sunset: 1847)

49. Fueled and replenished gasoline from NECHES in vicinity 24° 30'N; 132° 30'E. Replenished 500-lb. bombs from MAUNA LOA. NORTH CAROLINA left the Task Group. Routine combat air patrols were flown.

50. At 2330 while on northwesterly course returning to the operating area, Task Group was scouted by an enemy aircraft which closed until

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taken under fire by other ships of the Group, then retired. Night fighters launched during the night reported negative results.

28 April 1945 (Sunrise: 0553; Sunset: 1850)

51. Operations resumed in vicinity 26° 30'N.; 129° 30'E. Weather fair with scattered clouds and moderate sea. Combat air patrols were maintained over own Task Group and over OKINAWA. Two patrols to KIKAI destroyed a grounded single-engine plane and damaged three others at WAN Field. Two support missions were over OKINAWA to hit a dock at YONABARU as well as bridges, railroad line, and road intersections between KUBAKURA and TAIRA. A special shipping sweep searched a 14-mile track for about 150 miles due north of AMAMI O SHIMA where an enemy transport had been reported but found no trace of the vessel.

52. At 2026 bogeys were reported closing the Task Group. Formation 5-V was assumed and the ships made smoke and maneuvered to meet the impending attack which did not develop. At 2125 the screen was clear.

53. Results of this day's operations:

- (a) Enemy planes destroyed on ground - 1
- (b) " " damaged " " - 3

29 April 1945 (Sunrise: 0546; Sunset: 1852)

54. Operating in vicinity 26° 30'N.; 129° 30'E., with fair weather, scattered clouds and calm sea. A dawn combat air patrol was stationed over KIKAI, target patrols were maintained over OKINAWA, and combat air patrols over own Task Group. Two support strikes, each consisting of 4 VF, 7 VB, and 8 VT, hit miscellaneous military objectives on Southern OKINAWA as directed by the target coordinator.

55. The late afternoon target CAP over OKINAWA assisted in intercepting an enemy attack and shot down 3 ZEKES and 1 TOJO in the air North and East of OKINAWA.

56. Refueled STEPHEN POTTER and AULT. While the latter was alongside at 1701, enemy planes were reported closing the formation. AULT was cast off and the enemy plane, which passed overhead at very high altitude, was taken under fire. No hits were scored and no attack was forthcoming.

57. During the evening one of 4 VF(N) which had been launched as a dusk CAP over KIKAI sustained damaging hits from enemy AA which precluded a carrier landing. Lt. HYPES was told to make a water landing within the formation, which he did safely, being rescued by TINGEY.

58. Results of this day's operations:

- Enemy planes destroyed in the air - 4

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30 April 1945 (Sunrise: 0546; Sunset: 1851)

59. At 0047 while in the vicinity of 26° 30'N.; 130° 00'E., a bogey was reported closing the Group. An enemy plane scouted the Group from about five miles but did not attack.

60. During the day two sixteen-plane target combat air patrols were over OKINAWA and one support mission hit mortar positions, caves, and enemy troops as directed. The target coordinator commended this mission highly. A CAP was maintained over the Task Group.

1 May 1945 (Sunrise: 0545; Sunset: 1849)

61. Fueled and replenished gasoline from AUCILLA in vicinity 23° 45'N.; 130° 30'E. Replenished 500-lb. bombs from VESUVIUS. Weather generally fair with occasional rain squalls and moderate sea.

62. One combat air patrol of 8 VF was flown over own Task Group. Sleeves were towed by 2 VT for 5" and 40mm firing practice.

2 May 1945 (Sunrise: 0545; Sunset: 1850)

63. Operating in vicinity 26° 30'N.; 129° 30'E., with low clouds, rain, restricted visibility, and moderately rough sea. Some scheduled mid-day missions cancelled by weather.

64. A KIKAI dawn patrol of 4 VF(N) shot down 1 TONY taking off at WAN Field. Another escaped. Two members of the patrol departed to search AMAMI and were not seen afterward. A special search encountered an extremely low ceiling with poor visibility and failed to find any trace of the missing pilots, Lt. J. WOOD and Ens. L. O. WOODS.

65. Combat air patrols were maintained over own Task Group. An OKINAWA support mission of 4 VF, 8 VB, and 8 VT hit caves and trenches under the direction of the target coordinator.

66. Results of this day's operations:
Enemy planes destroyed in air - 1

3 May 1945 (Sunrise: 0545; Sunset: 1855)

67. Operating in vicinity of 26° 30'N.; 129° 30'E., with low clouds, rain squalls, and a moderately rough sea. Early flights were cancelled. OWEN and LIND were fueled.

68. At 0830 a strike consisting of four fighters, eight bombers, and eight torpedo planes was launched against installations on WAN Field, KIKAI. Depth bombs were carried by the VT planes for purpose of blasting wooded revetment areas. Subsequent fighter patrol missions carried Napalm bombs which were effective in starting good fires in these areas.

69. Ensign L. L. COLIN on first KIKAI fighter patrol went in water after being hit by enemy A.A. Rescue facilities were set in motion, one of the SB2C pilots returning from the strike dropped a two-man raft accurately, and a Dumbo PBM from KERAMA picked him up about 3 hours after he ditched.

4 May 1945 (Sunrise: 0543; Sunset: 1855)

70. Operating in vicinity 26° 30'N.; 129° 30'E., with weather clear and cloudless and sea calm.

71. During the early morning hours bogeys were reported at extreme ranges from the Task Group. RANDOLPH's fighter director was successful in vectoring a YORKTOWN night fighter in a series of difficult interceptions resulting in the shooting down of 3 BETTYS. Commander Task Force 58 sent the following message, "YORKTOWN's accomplishments were made possible by RANDOLPH's excellent direction". STEPHEN POTTER sent the following, "The STEPHEN POTTER extends her congratulations and thanks for insuring a quiet and peaceful night".

72. An early air patrol to the AMAMI-KIKAI area intercepted about 15 enemy fighters near WAN Field, KIKAI, shooting down 10 and damaging 1. Two pilots of the next patrol ditched due to mechanical failures, both being rescued by radar picket destroyers. The second AMAMI-KIKAI patrol dropped Napalm bombs on revetment areas starting good fires.

73. A support mission over OKINAWA consisting of 8 VF, 11 VB, and 12 VT blasted troop concentrations. For the first time in many days enemy AA was intense from several positions, holing several planes and wounding a VT crewman seriously.

74. Combat air patrols were maintained over OKINAWA throughout the day.

75. Results of this day's operations:

- (a) Enemy planes destroyed in the air - 10
- (b) " " damaged " " " - 1

5 May 1945 (Sunrise: 0544; Sunset: 1857)

76. Operating in vicinity 26° 00'N.; 129° 00'E. Weather clear with scattered clouds, excellent visibility, sea moderate to moderately rough. MISSOURI joined Task Group.

77. A dawn combat air patrol of 4 VF(N) was launched at 0300 and patrols were maintained over the Task Group throughout the day. A support mission to OKINAWA, consisting of 8 VBF, 12 VB, and 10 VT, hit AA positions as directed. One patrol of 12 VF covered KIKAI and AMAMI dropping Napalm bombs on wooded areas near the taxiways at WAN Field. Fires were started which burned for more than an hour. One F6F-5 was hit by AA and was escorted to a safe landing at OKINAWA.

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78. A TBM-3 ditched on take-off for the OKINAWA support mission, staying afloat for 1 minute 40 seconds. All occupants were able to climb in a raft from which they were rescued expeditiously by ERBEN.

6 May 1945 (Sunrise: 0540; Sunset: 1843)

79. Fueled and replenished gasoline in vicinity 24° 00'N.; 130° 30'E., under cloudy skies with good visibility and moderately rough sea. ENTERPRISE joined the Task Group. Fuel and gasoline were taken from MILLICOMA, aviation lubricating oil from CHICOPEE, bombs, fuzes, 20mm and 50 cal. ammunition from VESUVIUS and WRANGELL. Replacement aircraft and pilots were received.

80. Operations consisted of one combat air patrol over Task Group and launching of tow planes for Group gunnery practice. RANDOLPH was unable to fire, being alongside logistic ships throughout the firing period.

7 May 1945 (Sunrise: 0542; Sunset: 1855)

81. Operating in vicinity 26° 00'N.; 129° 00'E., with cloudy weather, which deteriorated to light rains in the late afternoon, and a smooth sea.

82. At about 1045 a bogey was reported at a distance of 12 miles, cruising about the Task Group just out of gun range. A target combat air patrol returning from OKINAWA was vectored to intercept and reported promptly shooting down 1 FRANCES at a distance of 17 miles from the ship.

83. Combat air patrols were stationed over own Task Group and at OKINAWA. One support mission of 4 VF, 12 VB, and 12 VT was launched to hit supply buildings, troop and artillery positions, and other targets as directed by the target coordinator on Southern OKINAWA. Several buildings were blasted and others burned. NAMI-KIKAI patrols used Napalm bombs effectively in destroying buildings around military headquarters at WAN Field, KIKAI. 8 VF joined a special strike group from BATAAN to attack reported shipping at KAKEROMA but were unable to locate target.

84. Results of this day's operations:
Enemy aircraft destroyed in air - 1

8 May 1945 (Sunrise: 0544; Sunset: 1856)

85. Operating in vicinity 26° 30'N.; 129° 00'E., with weather rainy, low clouds, and rough seas. All flight operations were cancelled.

9 May 1945 (Sunrise: 0540; Sunset: 1858)

86. Operations were resumed in vicinity 26° 30'N.; 129° 30'E.,

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with weather partly cloudy.

87. Combat air patrols were maintained over own Task Group and over OKINAWA. Patrols of fighters to the AMAMI-KIKAI area attacked luggers and small boats in coves at KAKEROMA SHIMA burning a lugger and starting fires on others.

88. Four VF, 11 VB, and 11 VT accompanied by a photo section struck the northern half of WAN Town, KIKAI, with Napalm bombs, incendiary and frag clusters, and GP bombs starting good fires and causing considerable general damage.

89. At dusk the Task Group departed for the fueling rendezvous.

10 May 1945 (Sunrise: 0540; Sunset: 1843)

90. Fueled and replenished gasoline from GUADALUPE, obtained fresh provisions from ALDEBARAN, and replenished 500-pound bombs and rockets from WRANGELL, in vicinity 23° 30'N., 130° 30'E.

91. One combat air patrol was flown over own Task Group. In the afternoon a strike of 10 VF and 10 VT, with a photo section, was launched against MINAMI DAITO SHIMA. Runways were cratered extensively and one heavy AA position was believed destroyed.

11 May 1945 (Sunrise: 0540; Sunset: 1849)

92. Operating in vicinity 26° 15'N., 129° 00'E. While enroute to the operating area at 0203, a bogey was reported at 14 miles. Night fighters were vectored out but failed to make contact. The enemy plane closed to within about 6 miles scouting the formation, and was taken under fire by ships of the screen which failed to register a hit.

93. At 1010, without warning, two Japanese planes made suicide dives on BUNKER HILL, one hitting aft and one amidships on the flight deck. BUNKER HILL fell out of formation burning fiercely. Many men were observed in the water to whom life jackets and belly tanks were thrown with float lights to mark positions for destroyers engaged in rescue. Four F4U's and 2 F6F's from the damaged ship landed aboard.

94. During the day there were several alerts but no attacks on the Task Group. Combat air patrols over own Task Group were launched throughout the day, one of which was vectored to the radar picket area where it shot down 2 TONYS and 1 ZEKE. Combat patrols were also maintained at OKINAWA where a strike group of 4 VF and 8 VT hit caves and mortar installations and fired an ammunition dump in support of ground forces. One patrol of 16 VBF covered WAN Field, KIKAI, and strafed luggers at KAKEROMA. A dusk patrol of four VF(N) covered the Task Group.

95. At 1630 SOUTH DAKOTA left the Task Group.

96. Results of this day's operations:
Enemy planes destroyed in the air - 3

12 May 1945 (Sunrise: 0538; Sunset: 1859)

97. Operating in vicinity 26° 00'N.; 129° 15'E., with overcast skies and a morning drizzle, improving during the day to clear and cloudless conditions with calm sea.

98. Fueled HUNT, STEMBEL, and WALKER. MONTEREY and ALABAMA joined the Task Group.

99. Combat air patrols over own Task Group and at OKINAWA as well as KIKAI-AMAMI patrols were maintained. Two support strikes were launched to assist ground troops at OKINAWA by rocketing and bombing artillery positions, pill boxes, and troop concentrations.

100. Commander Ralph A. EMBREE, Air Group Commander, who was leading the afternoon support strike, was hit by heavy AA over the target area. His plane disintegrated and his parachute was seen to open partially at 300 feet from the ground approximately 3 miles behind the Japanese lines. Immediate inspection of the position by planes of the flight created grave doubt that he survived.

13 May 1945 (Sunrise: 0525; Sunset: 1853)

101. At 0332, while en route to attack KYUSHU airfields, the Task Group was scouted by an enemy plane which closed to six miles astern and was taken under fire by ships of the Group. The plane withdrew and disappeared from the screen.

102. The first fighter sweep was launched at 0443 from position 30° 01'N., 132° 30'E., with weather good, partly cloudy skies and calm sea. KUMAMOTO, KIKUTOMI, TAMANA, and KIKUCHI Airfields in West Central KYUSHU were strafed with particular attention to the few aircraft which were found in and around the fields. A locomotive near KIKUCHI was exploded.

103. At 0527 a strike was launched against installations at TAMANA Airfield. Sixteen VBF, fourteen VB, and thirteen VT conducted a very successful attack in which hangars and other buildings were almost completely destroyed.

104. The next 2 fighter sweeps returned to the area covered by the first sweep and also hit OMURA. Near NAGASAKI a number of motor torpedo boats were attacked, 4 large and 4 small boats being left dead in the water. A merchant ship, 1500 to 2500 gross tons, was set afire by rockets and strafing.

105. At 1115 the second strike, consisting of 15 VF, 15 VB, and 11 VT, was launched against KIKUCHI, where hangars and other buildings were hit effectively.