

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

Photo #1
Sweep 2C

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VP-9 (b) Based on or at USS LEXINGTON (CV-16) (c) Report No. 15-45
 (d) Take off: Date 1 Mar. 1945 Time (LZT) 0800 K. (Zone); Lat. 25°-44'N. Long. 128°-57'E.
 (e) Mission Photos of Kikai & Tokuna Islands Amani Gunto, and fighter sweep in support. (f) Time of Return 1215 K. (Zone)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

| TYPE (a) | SQUADRON (b) | NUMBER | | | BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE) (f) | FUZE, SETTING (g) |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|
| | | TAKING OFF (c) | ENGAGING ENEMY A/C (d) | ATTACKING TARGET (e) | | |
| F6F-5 | VP-9 | 12 | 0 | 12 | 3 planes-1 x 500 G.P. 3 planes-4 x 5" HVAR other planes 2400 x 50 cal. each. | AN-M101-A2 .025 (Mk.148 nose) inst. (Mk.157 base) |

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

| TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE | TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE |
|------|----------|--------|------|------|----------|--------|------|
| None | | | | | | | |

IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

| (a) TYPE | (b) NO. OBSERVED | (c) NO. ENGAGING OWN A/C | (d) TIME ENCOUNTERED | (e) LOCATION OF ENCOUNTER | (f) BOMBS, TORPEDOES CARRIED; GUNS OBSERVED | (g) CAMOUFLAGE AND MARKING |
|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| T/E | 1 | 0 | 1015 K (ZONE) | Tokuna A/F | - - - - - | Brush & netting over revetment. |
| S/E | 5 | 0 | 1015 K (ZONE) | Tokuna A/F | - - - - - | None |
| T/E | 3 | 0 | 0915 K (ZONE) | Kikai A/F | - - - - - | None |

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Planes on ground
 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 | | | | | |

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VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those listed in II only).

| (a) TYPE OWN A/C | (b) SQUADRON | (c) CAUSE: TYPE ENEMY A/C, TYPE GUN, OR OPERATIONAL CAUSE | (d) WHERE HIT, ANGLE (List armor, self-sealing tanks, equipment hit) | (e) EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE (Give Bureau serial number of planes destroyed) |
|---------------------|-----------------|---|--|--|
| 1 F6F-5 | VP-9 | 20 mm. A/A | Bullet-proff windshield | Shattered but intact. |
| 2 F6F-5 | VP-9 | Unknown | Wheels failed to come down. | Major-belly landing. |
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| 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 | | |
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VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA FOR PLANES RETURNING

| (a) TYPE A/C | (b) MILES OUT | (c) MILES RETURN | (d) AV. HOURS IN AIR | (e) AV. FUEL LOADED | (f) AV. FUEL CONSUMED | (g) TOTAL AMMUNITION EXPENDED | | | | (h) NO. OF PLANES RETURNING |
|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------|------|----|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | | | .30 | .50 | 20MM | MM | |
| F6F-5 | 190 | 190 | 4.2 | 400 | 340 | -- | 4800 | -- | -- | 12 |
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IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

| CALIBER | NONE | MEAGER | MODERATE | INTENSE |
|---|------|--------|----------|---------|
| HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over | | XX | | |
| MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm | | XX | | |
| LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm | XX | | | |

X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (use check list at left).

- SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes
- -- -- --
- TURNS
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) 1-SC - Somboshi Hakuchi Kikai Jima
7 Luggers - Kametsu, Tokuna Shima (b) Time Over Target(s) 0915-1015 K. (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target Kikai - 20000' - 5/10 Tokuna - 2000' Broken 7/10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

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

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Rocket & Strafing Dive Bomb Sight Used Mk. VIII Gunsight
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run One Spacing -- Altitude of Bomb Release 2000' - 3000'
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed --- Probably Destroyed 3 Damaged 2

| (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 SC-Kikai Jima | 3-400 ton | 6 VF-9 | 3 x 500 G.P.-50 cal. | 2 | Near Miss |
| 2 4 Luggers Kametsu, Tokuna | 90 tons | 8 VF-9 | 10 x 5" HVAR 2 x 5" HVAR | 2 | HVAR |
| 3 Tokuna A/P | Aircraft | 6 VF-9 | 50 cal. M.G. | 75% | 3 serious |
| 4 Town at Kametsu, Tokuna | Houses | 2 VF-9 | 50 cal. M.G. | 5 planes hit | 1 moderate 3 probably dest. 2 damaged. |
| 5 | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | |

(o) RESULTS: (For all hits claimed on ship targets and for land targets of special interest, draw diagram, top or side view or both, as appropriate, showing type and location of hits. For all targets give location and effect of hits, and identify by numbers above. Use additional sheets if necessary).

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

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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

3 photo planes with 3 VF as escort, accompanied by a 6 plane sweep took off to secure photographic coverage of Kikai & Tokuna Islands, Amami Gunto, Nansei Shoto. At Kikai photo runs were made with Valencia's division (3 planes) providing cover while the fighter sweep attacked a SC at anchor in the Somachi Bay at Kikai. Push over was at 10,000', 60° dive from W to E with release at 2000'. Three bombs were dropped. Lt. McGowan scoring a near miss within 25' of the ship - ship bouncing up and down in the water from the force of the explosion. The three planes with rockets fired two each getting no hits. A second run was made from E to W during which Kent and Brewer each scored rocket hits on the forward part of the SC. All planes in this attack strafed the SC getting a large number of hits. The SC was left with 2 columns of black smoke rising from it. 3 enemy aircraft had been observed at the A/F at Kikai and the planes in the sweep were about to return to attack there when the photo planes, having finished their work at Kikai called and said they were going to Tokuna. It having been agreed that all 12 planes would stay together, the flight proceeded to Tokuna Shima. As the planes passed over the S. end of Kikai a meager amount of heavy and medium A/A was fired at them, mostly inaccurate.

A low ceiling prevented photo coverage of Tokuna so Valencia division made a strafing attack on the A/F at Tokuna, the three planes strafing revetted planes, Valencia probably destroying a S/B aircraft and French damaging a T/B aircraft and Mitchell damaging an Oscar, all on the ground, the runs beginning at 8500' through holes in clouds, from E to W, retirement at 500'. During the dive the bullet proof windshield of Mitchell's plane was hit by a 20 mm. shell which shattered but remained intact.

In the meantime the 6 planes sweep attacked 4 of the 7 luggers at anchor in Kamatsu, Tokuna Island. Kent getting two rocket hits on one. This lugger along with 3 others were badly hit, 3 of them were left burning. McGowan and B. Hamilton also strafed the town. This attack was from E. to W. These 6 planes then strafed the A/F hitting some already well strafed planes and some buildings on the east and houses on the west of the A/F.

Following their attacks on the airfield Valencia's division strafed 3 of the 7 luggers previously attacked by the sweep. 3 luggers probably the same ones hit by the sweep were left burning badly. Powell, one of the photo plane pilots, strafed a Judy at the SW corner of Tokuna A/F and probably destroyed it having seen it smoking and also made a strafing run on the luggers at Kamatsu, and saw bullets bouncing or ricocheting off the deck of one. The 12 planes rendezvoused S. of Tokuna and returned to base. Valencia observed a previously unknown airstrip on Kikai just N. of Somachi Hakuehi. This strip was of grass, outlined with a white line, with a turning area at the NE end - estimated length of strip - 4000'.

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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

All material reported satisfactory.

Photo #1

* **Lieut. Valencia**
Lt(jg) Mitchell
Lt(jg) French

Lieut. Solberger
Lt(jg) Powell
Lieut. Hudson

Sweep 2C

* **Lieut. McGowan**
Lt(jg) Kent
Ensign B. Hamilton

Ensign H. Hamilton
Lt(jg) Finlayson
Ensign Brewer

* **Flight Leader**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

R.C. MURPHY, Lieut., USNR

SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
Combat Information Officer

APPROVED BY:

J. "S" KITCHEN, Lieut., USNR

SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
Commanding Officer

2 March 1945

DATE