

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VF-94 (b) Based on or at USS LEKIBRON (c) Report No. VF-94-16  
 (d) Take off: Date 23 July 1945 Time (LZT) 1015 (-9) (Zone); Lat. 31°-47'N Long. 139°-05'E  
 (e) Mission Sweep over Hamamatsu, Mikatagahara & OI Airfields (f) Time of Return 1445 (-9) (Zone)

## II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

TYPE (a)	SQUADRON (b)	NUMBER			BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE) (f)	FUZE, SETTING (g)
		TAKING OFF (c)	ENGAGING ENEMY A/C (d)	ATTACKING TARGET (e)		
<u>362-5</u>	<u>VF-94</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>1 - 500 # G.P. 6 - 5" HVAR</u>	<u>Inst. Nose/.01 Tail Inst. Nose/.015 Base</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE

## 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
			(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		



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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 <b>F6F-5</b>	<b>72-94</b>	<b>25. mm</b>	<b>Inboard panel starboard wing self sealing tank. Locker box cover, punctured push rod housing. Starboard inboard flap.</b>	
2				
3 <b>F6F-5</b>	<b>72-94</b>	<b>20. mm</b>		
4				
5 <b>F6F-5</b>	<b>72-94</b>	<b>20. mm</b>		
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
		<b>H</b>		
		<b>O</b>		
		<b>H H</b>		

## 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	
<b>F6F-5</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>30000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16</b>

## IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

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

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

**None encountered.**



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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) Airfields at OI & Hananatu; Hananatu (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) 1200 (-9) / 1230 (-9) - 01 (Zone) Hananatu

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

(d) Visibility of Target Hazy (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility 0 (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type 16 Glides (Bombs & Rockets) (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used H.S. (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 1 (NUMBER) Spacing - (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 300 (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 17 Probably Destroyed 6 Damaged 20

(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 Hananatu East Hangar	150' x 100'	8 VR-94	8 - 500# G.P.	2	Destroyed
2 Hananatu South Hangar	150' x 100'	8 VR-94	8 - 500# G.P.	1 & 1	Very Near Miss - Slight Damage
3 Hananatu Shop	20' x 15'	2 VR-94	4 - 5" HVAR	3	Destroyed
4 OI Airfield A & B Hangar	125' x 50'	4 VR-94	22 - 5" HVAR	10	Destroyed
5 OI Hangar	150' x 100'	5 VR-94	1000 Rds. 50 cal.	500	Destroyed
6 OI - 5 Shops	20' x 15'	4 VR-94	28 - 5" HVAR	24	500 Serious damage
7 Nikitaghara 20 A/C	9 - S/E 11 - S/E	16 VR-94	1000 Rds. 50 cal.	2	En. Shop Serious damage
8 OI - 35 A/C	23 - S/E 22 - S/E	16 VR-94	400 Rds. 50 cal. per plane 400 Rds. 50 cal. per plane	200 Rds. on En. A/C 200 Rds. on En. A/C	Destroyed Destroyed

(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).

9. OI Power Plant 75' x 75' VR-94 16 - 5" HVAR 10 Damaged

\* 5 S/E & 2 T/E - Destroyed  
3 T/E Probably Destroyed  
3 S/E Damaged

\*\* 7 S/E & 3 T/E - Destroyed  
3 S/E - Probably Destroyed  
12 S/E & 5 T/E - Damaged

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



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**XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA.** (Narrative and comment. Describe action fully and comment freely, following applicable items in check list at left. Use additional sheets if necessary.)

### ENGAGEMENT WITH ENEMY

#### OWN AIRCRAFT

- Disposition
- Altitudes
- Speeds
- Approach Tactics
- Use of Cover, Deception
- Angles of Attack and Their Effectiveness
- Distance of Opening Fire
- Defense Tactics and Their Effectiveness

#### ENEMY AIRCRAFT

- Method of Locating, Distance
- Disposition
- Altitudes
- Speeds
- Approach Tactics
- Use of Cover, Deception
- Angles of Attack
- Distance of Opening Fire
- Defensive Tactics

#### COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Own Weaknesses
- Enemy Weaknesses
- Offensive Tactics, Own
- Enemy
- Defensive Tactics, Own
- Enemy
- Flexible Gunnery, Own
- Escort Tactics
- Fighter Direction
- Use of Radar
- Night Fighting
- Recognition, Aircraft

### ATTACK

#### OWN TACTICS

- Method of Locating Target
- Approach to Target
- Altitudes, Speeds
- Approach
- Dive
- Pull-Out
- Dive Angle
- Strafing
- Retirement
- Defensive Tactics
- Use of Jamming

#### DEFENSE, ENEMY

- Evasive Tactics, Ships
- Concealment
- Searchlights
- Night Fighter Tactics
- Use of Jamming

#### COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Bombing Tactics
- Torpedo Tactics
- Effectiveness of Bombs, Torpedoes
- Selection of Targets
- Fuzing
- Strafing Tactics
- Defensive Tactics
- Use of Radar
- Reconnaissance
- Photography
- Briefing

### OPERATIONAL

- Navigation
- Homing
- Rendezvous
- Recognition, Ships
- Communications
- Flight Operations
- Search and Tracking
- Base Operations
- Maintenance

This VF sweep departed base to cover airfields at Hamamatsu and adjoining Mikitagahara as well as OI some thirty miles further eastward.

Arriving at Hamamatsu at 10000 feet, two divisions made division bombing attacks against the installations, one taking the hangars on the south side while the other concentrated on the hangars at the east side. The remaining two divisions provided cover at 12000 feet. After their attack the covering divisions went in while the other two afforded protection. These attacks netted three hits in a hangar on the east side and a resultant fire and two hits on the one of two hangars on the south side. Using the same covering tactics, divisions then made three separate strafing runs on the parked aircraft on the fields. (Two runs on Mikitagahara and one on Hamamatsu). Two T/E aircraft were destroyed at Hamamatsu while five S/E and two T/E were estimated as destroyed at Mikitagahara. The bombing attack was made at 10000 feet with release point at 3000 and recovery at deck level. Strafing runs were made from 6000 feet down to deck level. Total planes on the two airfields were estimated at 80 with more than half dummies. Operational A/C were well camouflaged and dispersed in wooded areas and revetments.

The flight next proceeded to OI Airfield which had been a fruitful target for a previous fighter sweep four hours before. With two divisions staying at 12000 feet for cover, two divisions conducted a rocket attack against the fields, one remaining hangar and A & R shop. In turn the other two divisions made their attack. Damage inflicted at this point included a good fire burning in the A & R, several hits on the hangar and five small shops badly damaged. The flight leader then assigned divisions an area of responsibility at the field and all broke away to their separate targets, namely, parked and dispersed aircraft in their respective areas. Most all planes were able to make three to four strafing runs using 4 to 6 guns. The tally for the field at departure time 1310 was estimated at 7 S/E and 3 T/E destroyed with some 15 aircraft damaged.

All planes returned safely to base except one division leader, who was forced to make an emergency landing aboard the CVL-24 due to damage inflicted by 40 mm hit at OI.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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7-30-45