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AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

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I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting Air Group 24 (b) Based on or at USS SANTEE - At Sea (c) Report No. 17-45

(d) Take off: Date 1 May 1945 Time (LZT) 1300 I (Zone); Lat. 23°-53' N Long. 126°-38' E

(e) Mission Attack Air Facilities, Miyako Jima (f) Time of Return 1630 I (Zone)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

TYPE (a)	SQUADRON (b)	NUMBER TAKING OFF (c)	NUMBER ENGAGING ENEMY A/C (d)	NUMBER ATTACKING TARGET (e)	BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE) (f)	FUZE, SETTING (g)
TBM-3	VT-24	8	-	8	2 - 500# G/P bombs 4 - 100#	4-5 sec delay tail Inst nose Instant nose
					6 - 5" H.E. rockets	.025 delay fuze
F6F-5	VF-24	8	-	8	1 - 500 lb. G.P. Mk 64 6 - 5" rockets	Inst nose-.01 delay tail Base fuze only

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
none							

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

(a) TYPE	(b) NO. OBSERVED	(c) NO. ENGAGING OWN A/C	(d) TIME ENCOUNTERED	(e) LOCATION OF ENCOUNTER	(f) BOMBS, TORPEDOES CARRIED; GUNS OBSERVED	(g) CAMOUFLAGE AND MARKING
none			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s)

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

(j) Time of Day and Brilliance 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: TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER	GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
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	VT	none			
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					

VII. PERSONNEL CASUALTIES (in aircraft listed in II only; identify with planes listed in VI by Nos. at left).

(a) NO.	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NAME, RANK OR RATING	(d) CAUSE	(e) CONDITION OR STATUS
	none			

VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA FOR PLANES RETURNING

(a) TYPE A/C	(b) MILES OUT	(c) MILES RETURN	(d) AV. HOURS IN AIR	(e) AV. FUEL LOADED	(f) AV. FUEL CONSUMED	(g) TOTAL AMMUNITION EXPENDED				(h) NO. OF PLANES RETURNING
						.30	.50	20MM	MM	
TBM-3	85	85	3.5	335	250	1200	1600	-	-	8
F6F-5	85	85	3 / 30	325	230		8500			8

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

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Hirara & Nobara airfields (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) 1350 I (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target 4000' cumulus .2 cover (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

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

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type VF dive, VT glide VF one (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used VT none VF Mk 8 gunsight (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run VT all (NUMBER) Spacing - - (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 2500' 3500' (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 VT E-W runway	Nobara	4 / VT-24	8 - 500# bombs 16 - 100#	-	-
2 VT NE - SW runway	Hirara	4 / VT-24	8 - 500# bombs 16 - 100#	-	-
3 VT Dispersal area	Nbara	8 / VT-24	48 rockets	-	-
4 VF Small shipping		8 / VF-24	Straffed	Many	Unobserved
5 VF A/A positions	Hirara	8 / VF-24	48 rockets 8 bombs - straffed	-	-
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).

VT 1 - 2 The majority of the bombs hit on the runways cratering them.

VT - 3 Numerous rocket hits were scored in this area which is a wooded section at the east end of the E-W runway on Nobara airfield. Results could not be observed.

VT - 5 The two main (and most troublesome) A/A concentrations at Hirara field were subjected to heavy bombing, rocket and straffing attacks. Several hits on the positions were scored and the guns silenced. Other results unobserved.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No Photographs of Damage, WhenTaken, 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

VT bombs runs begun at 7000'. Releases in salvo at 3500' VT rockets released in dives of 35° and 1500 yards slant range.

The Fighters split into two divisions, each making simultaneous attacks on the two concentrations of A/A at Hirara to keep them quiet while the VT attacks were in progress. Several runs were made on each area, approaching from various directions at high speed.

The VR rocket attacks were made in 45° dives, the dive bombing runs in 60° dives, from altitudes of 6000' and 9000' respectively.

A pool of small boats in a harbor of Ikema Shima, a small islet just north of Miyako, was strafed without visible result.

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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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

R.T. WELLS, Lt(jg) ACI officer
SIGNATURE — RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

P. N. CHARBONNET, Jr. Lieut. U.S.N.
Acting Commander
SIGNATURE — RANK AND DUTY

23 May 1945
DATE