

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VP-49 (b) Based on or at USS SAN JACINTO (c) Report No. ACA-1-42
 (d) Take off: Date 24 July 1945 Time (LZT) 0752(1) (Zone); Lat. 31°39'N Long. 125°11'W
 (e) Mission Strike - KURE Naval Base (f) Time of Return 1236(1) (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>P6F-5</u>	<u>VP-49</u>	<u>8</u>		<u>8</u>	<u>7 planes carried 1-1000/</u> <u>0.5 bombs per plane</u>	<u>Mk-243 .025 nose delay</u> <u>Mk-102-4-3 .24 base delay</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>TBM-3</u>	<u>VP-49</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>USS SAN JACINTO</u>				
<u>Deckload strike by entire task force.</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>Frank</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1015(1)</u> (ZONE)	<u>Bunga Straits</u>	<u>Unobserved</u>	<u>White band about foot</u> <u>wide around fuselage</u> <u>just forward of hori-</u> <u>zontal stabiliser.</u> <u>Planes painted greenish</u> <u>brown with very glossy</u> <u>finish.</u>
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Interception
 Did Any Part of _____
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? No If so, Describe Clouds Clear
 (YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance _____
 (j) of Sun or Moon Bright Day (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON, DAY, OVERCAST, ETC.)
 (k) Visibility Unlimited (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>Frank</u>	<u>P6F-5</u>	<u>VP-49</u>	<u>Ens. W. A. YANCY</u>	<u>Fixed .50</u>	<u>Cockpit and engine</u>	<u>Splashed.</u>
<u>Frank</u>	<u>P6F-5</u>	<u>VP-49</u>	<u>Ens. W. A. YANCY</u>	<u>Fixed .50</u>	<u>Engine</u>	<u>Probably des-</u> <u>trayed.</u>
<u>Frank</u>	<u>P6F-5</u>	<u>VP-49</u>	<u>1st(jg) G. M. WILLIAMS</u>	<u>Fixed .50</u>	<u>Cockpit and engine</u>	<u>Splashed.</u>
<u>Frank</u>	<u>P6F-5</u>	<u>VP-49</u>	<u>1st(jg) J. A. GIBSON</u>	<u>Fixed .50</u>	<u>Cockpit and engine</u>	<u>Splashed.</u>
<u>Frank</u>	<u>P6F-5</u>	<u>VP-49</u>	<u>Lieut. A. W. LINDSAY</u>	<u>Fixed .50</u>	<u>Cockpit and engine</u>	<u>Damaged (Hits</u> <u>and smoke</u> <u>seen).</u>

Enclosure (0)

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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) KURE Naval Base (b) Time Over Target(s) 0930(I) (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 7500 feet and another layer 4000, strato cumulus 5/10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Partially obscured by clouds (e) Visibility 15
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Dive Bomb Sight Used Mk. 8 Illuminated gunsight.
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 1 Spacing - Altitude of Bomb Release 3,000
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 0 Probably Destroyed 0 Damaged 0

(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)
Center of Flight Deck CV moored south of	750' x 88'	3 VF-49	5-1000 GP	2	Not assessed.
Mitsuzo Jim. No. 12 Exhibit A hereto attached.					
3					
A large engine-aft freighter-probably Sugar Charlie Love (JMS)	2300 GT	1 VF-49	1-1000 GP	1 near miss	Observed and sank
Building area immediately southeast of Mitoko Jim. 7		1 VF-49	1-1000 GP	Unobserved	Unobserved
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? 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
- Offensive Tactics, Enemy
- Defensive Tactics, Own
- Defensive Tactics, 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

Eight Hellcats and nine Avengers of Air Group FORTY-NINE were launched from the USS SAN JACINTO at 0756(I), 24 July 1945 to join in a Task Force strike against the Japanese Naval base at Kure. The Fighter group was to act as top cover and fighter bombers on the mission. The course to the target was over Shikoku, with the entrance to the inland sea area being made below Matsuyama West airfield. The final approach to the enemy naval base was from the northeast, and the FORTY-NINE Fighter group was the last to go in on their assigned targets, which were two Jap CVs., of the Anagi-Katsuragi class. These ships, heavily camouflaged, were moored on the southern and northeast-ern extremities of Mitsuko Jima, which is just to the west of Kure harbor. The dive was started at 12,000 feet and the bombs were dropped from about 3,000 feet, with the average pull out being about 1,000 feet below that altitude. The attack was made through intense heavy and medium automatic flak. The northern half of the target was obscured by a cloud and all bombs were directed against the southernmost ship. Two direct hits were seen and great damage to the flight deck was caused by the explosions. Ens. E. A. Case was unable to release his bomb on the target and it was dropped on an industrial area to the southeast of Mitsuko Jima. A large explosion was seen at his point of aim, but damage was not assessed. Lt. A. W. Lindsay, the fighter group flight leader, also could not release on the target and finally dropped his bomb by manual control on a large engines-aft freighter, probably a Sugar Charlie Love (JMSF) about ten miles west of Matsuyama West airfield. His bomb struck close aboard on the port side of the freighter and the ship was seen to capsize and sink. On retirement the entire strike group ran into a vast number of enemy ships south of Kure. The situation became very confused with attacks being made on every enemy ship that could be found. The group from Fighting Squadron FORTY-NINE made the following sure kills: An engines-aft freighter (JMSF-Sugar Dog) set on fire and certainly sunk by Lt(jg) G.C. Pompeo just south of Yoko Shima; another Sugar Dog blown up and sank by Lt(jg) G. M. WILLIAMS south of Tsunaji Shima; a lugger destroyed by concentrated strafing of Lt. Lindsay's division just east of Sada Miaki. One Sugar Dog was set on fire and at least heavily damaged just off Kurabashi Shima by Ens. W. A. Yancy. A number of other ships which had already been brought under attack or damaged by other groups, were attacked by Forty-Nine's fighters. Among these were the following: A destroyer escort, which subsequently sank; A Sugar Charlie Love and at least two Sugar Dogs, attacked by the division headed by Lt. D. L. Hazelhurst, Jr.; and a large freighter just south of the target which was attacked by the flightleader's division. The two divisions were rendezvoused and started to retire down Bunge Straits when a number of enemy planes were sighted. (Lt(jg) J.A. GIBSON, of Big Boydell, Arkansas, who is reported to have said, "I'm fixin' to attack." described what then happened as follows: "We heard a call from some fighters ahead that they were jumped by enemy planes. We immediately joined up and started to their aid. As we approached the planes ahead, I noticed two planes coming toward us, and I went with my wing man, Lt(jg) G.M. Williams, to investigate. The planes had wing tanks and as we approached they dropped them and started to dive for the water. By now we could see that they were Franks and we started to close on them. Our section split and I followed one, while Lt(jg) Williams closed on the other. The P6F-5 had no trouble at all in closing on the Frank, with the addition of water injection. The Jap tried to turn inside of me, but every time he started a turn I would fire a short burst in front of him which would always bring him back straight and level. When I got in effective range my first burst knocked his wheels down. I overran him and had to pull up in a wing-over to drop back on his tail. He then tried skidding turns, without success, By this time I began to get my bursts in the cockpit and he commenced to smoke. He finally fell

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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 equipment performed normally.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

R. A. SMYTH, Lieut., USN

SIGNATURE

R. C. I. Officer.

RANK AND DUTY

G. M. ROUSE, Lieut. Comdr., USN

SIGNATURE

Commanding Officer, VP-49

RANK AND DUTY

24 July 1945

DATE