

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting CVLG-34 (b) Based on ~~at~~ U.S.S. MONTEREY CVL26 (c) Report No. 2-45
 (d) Take off: Date 13 May 1945 Time (LZT) 1115 I(-9) (Zone); Lat. 30°00 N Long. 132°40'E
 (e) Mission Glide bombing attack A/C and installation - Saeki Nad and S/S Kyushu (f) Time of Return 1530 I(-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)		
TBM-3	VT-34	8	-	8	12x100# G.P. AN MK 30	Fail, AN MK 100 A Z, at .025
F6F-5	VF-34	8	-	8	2 x 500# G.P.	Nose .1 delay Fail .025 delay

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
TBM-3	VT-83	15	U.S.S. ESSEX				
SB2C	VB-83	15	"				
F4U-1	VF-83	16	"				
F6F-5							

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)	NONE		
			(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 _____
 (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	GUNS USED		
			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 TBN-3	VT-34	AA, during dive	Engine smoking	Crashed in water 1200' from target.
2				
3 TBN-3	VT-34	AA, light	Port wing	Holed & torque tube damaged.
4 TBN-3	VT-34	AA, light	" "	Holed
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
1	VT-34	Ens. Albert F. Powers	AA at target	Missing
1	VT-34	Fogal, Anos B. AOM3c(T)	"	"
1	VT-34	Kneeland, Kenneth H. AOM3c(T)	"	"

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	
TBN-3	172	175	3.8	330	200	-	1400	-	-	7
F6F-5	172	175	4.25	400	265	-	4300	-	-	8

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	2 or 3 bursts noted			
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

No observation

URNS
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) Saeki A/F & Seaplane Sta. Kyushu, Japan Time Over Target(s) 1250-1330 (Zone) I(-9)
(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 10
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type VT Glide (45°) Bomb Sight Used VT Mark 8 Torp. Director
VT Dive (60°) (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) VT Mark 8 Gunsight (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run All Spacing VT: 40 feet Altitude of Bomb Release VT 3000
(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)
1 SS hangars and shops	200'x75'	3 F6F-5 VF-34	3x2x500# G.P. 2000 rds. .50 cal	*Unknown	Believed serious
2 Ammo. storage & warehouses SS	ammo 100x100 whse. 200x75	5 F6F-5 VF-34	5x2x500# G.P. 2300 rds. .50 cal	*Unknown	Believed serious
3 Ordnance stores replacement shops	2000'x2000' area	8 TBN-3 VF-34	8x12x100# G.P. 1400 rds. .50 cal	61	Explosions and fires in area.
4 hangars at SS Base					*(see below)
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 of VF-34 & VF-34 were briefed to bomb the principle installations and facilities at the Saeki Seaplane Station. These included the hangars and shops located along the edge of Saeki Wan, and the ammo. storage and warehouse area 2000 feet south of the seaplane hangars. Actual hits were not observed since pilots were last ones down over target which had been hit immediately before and was obscured by smoke however all pilots concur that percentage of the hits on their aiming points was high as the result of the explosions smoke, and fire which was observed in these particular installations when they looked back at them a few seconds later from the rendezvous area. It is believed that later photo coverage will reveal seaplane and warehouses extensively damaged and destruction among the facilities at the target.

Target in smoke from previous strike and explosions of VB and VF bombs dropped ahead of VF. Visibility sufficient to see bombs going in target area, in effective range of installations. B-29 photos of 14 May 1945 are said to reflect at least 7 buildings hit in course of this strike.

(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

Strike led by Commander Air Group THIRTY-FOUR (U.S.S. MONTEREY)

1. Target area was Saeki A/F and S/S base, Kyushu.
2. Priority was A/C in air, A/C on ground and installations.
3. Composition of strike was: CVLG-34 MONTEREY 8 VF & 8 VT and CAG 83, ESSEX 16 VF, 15 VB, 15 VT all of Task Group 58.3.
4. No enemy A/C were encountered.
5. No operational A/C observed on ground.
6. Escort tactics were standard close and high cover, with VT of all carriers grouped under cover.
7. Prior to time a report was made over VHF that bogies had been sighted astern of the formation it was too loose and straggling for good protection.
8. As in the earlier strike of the day planes of CVLG-34 pushed over at approximately 3000 feet on glide bombing run averaging 45° for VT while VF made dives of about 60° from 11000 - 12000 feet. While the target became obscured by smoke and explosives it is thought bombing accuracy in the target area was high.
9. Picket system of return to the task force was reasonably well observed.
10. Enemy defence, same as in ACA-1 (1-45) of CVLG-34.
11. Initial ASB measures as specified in Task Force instructions were fully carried out when Ens. Powers plane crashed; and continued until it was established that no survivors could be found, in spite of fact there was AA fire at all times from nearby land, including small island east of target area. Two ships, thought to be CL or DD were observed by two of VF pilots at about time of push over; at anchor about 1 1/2 miles N.W. of Saeki S/S Base.

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XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.
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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

ROUTINE.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

J. P. Branch
 SIGNATURE **AGI Officer CVLG-34** RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

Robert W. Coward
 SIGNATURE **Commander CVLG-34** RANK AND DUTY

15 May 1945
DATE