

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. **VF-12-48**

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Buildings, WAN A/F, KIKAI SHIMA (b) Time Over Target(s) 0800 (I) (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 7000 ft. base; cumulus; 2/10 cover
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target light haze (e) Visibility 7 mi. in haze
15 mi. above haze
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Dive Bomb Sight Used MK 23 gunsight
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 2 Spacing 0 Altitude of Bomb Release 2000
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed _____ Probably Destroyed _____ Damaged _____

(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)
<u>Buildings, Area SE of main taxi- 2way</u>	<u>200'x200'</u>	<u>6 VF-12</u>	<u>12 x 500# G.P.</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>Serious and destroyed</u>
3					
4					
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).

1. These buildings lay in a quadrangle, of which the eastern structure had already been razed. The six HELICATS each attacked separate units with highly successful results.

(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.)

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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

Immediately after takeoff two fighters were recovered by another carrier of the group in emergency landings. A replacement plane without bombs was launched before rendezvous was completed (This accounts for the odd number of planes and irregular armament indicated under paragraph II). The remaining flight consisting of eight armed HELLICATS, two photo planes, two photo-escort, and one odd aircraft, proceeded to KIKAI SHIMA to attack a quadrangle of buildings thought to be either military headquarters or barracks, located southeast of the main taxiway about half a mile east of WAN Airfield.

All twelve bombs fell within the quadrangle; the first four were observed to score direct hits upon two of the buildings, clouding the target so that the accuracy of successive drops could not be seen. The eastern structure of the area had already been razed by previous attacks. Photographs show the entire area, with the exception of the northern buildings, to have been completely leveled. Edifices further south, both above and below the athletic field, are shown as rubble by the same photographs. Pictures acquired two days previously indicate that all of these buildings were intact at that time. It is both possible and probable that elements from other ships caused a large part of the destruction described. On the intervening day (between the two sets of photographs) this task group was engaged in refueling. Pilots participating in this flight assert that the quadrangular area under consideration was undamaged before their arrival, and were of the opinion before they had had an opportunity to see the pictures that this was the best dive-bombing they had ever accomplished.

From KIKAI the patrol crossed to ANAMI O'SHIMA on a search for small craft along its shores. Several were strafed in the southern finger of SUMIYO WAN, and others in a cove just north of this bay. Others, well camouflaged, were located on the western coast - two luggers of thirty or forty feet, of which one burned and the other smoked.

Just below the northeast tip of ANAMI are two sets of five towers, evidently of concrete constructions. These were presumed to be radio antennae. A small building at the base of the more southerly group was strafed and burned.

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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

No comments.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

10 May 1945

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