

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

**SECRET**

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting **VT-45** (b) Based on or at **U.S.S. SAN JACINTO** (c) Report No. **51**  
 (d) Take off: Date **20 April 1945** Time (LZT) **1015** (Zone); Lat. **26 - 08 N** Long. **128 - 45 E**  
 (e) Mission **Strike Southeastern Anami O Shima** (f) Time of Return **1310** (Zone)  
**Strike Baker**

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

| TYPE<br>(a)  | SQUADRON<br>(b) | NUMBER               |                              |                            | BOMBS AND TORPEDOES<br>CARRIED (PER PLANE)<br>(f) | FUZE, SETTING<br>(g)                             |
|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|
|              |                 | TAKING<br>OFF<br>(c) | ENGAGING<br>ENEMY A/C<br>(d) | ATTACKING<br>TARGET<br>(e) |   |  |
| <b>TBM-3</b> | <b>VT-45</b>    | <b>8</b>             | <b>0</b>                     | <b>8</b>                   | <b>Four 500# G.P.</b>                             | <b>Nose - Instantaneous<br/>Tail - Non-delay</b> |
|              |                 |                      |                              |                            |   |  |
|              |                 |                      |                              |                            |   |  |

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

| TYPE       | SQUADRON     | NUMBER   | BASE                   | TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE |
|------------|--------------|----------|------------------------|------|----------|--------|------|
| <b>F6F</b> | <b>VF-45</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>USS SAN JACINTO</b> |      |          |        |      |
|            |              |          |                        |      |          |        |      |

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

| (a)<br>TYPE | (b)<br>NO.<br>OBSERVED | (c)<br>NO. ENGAGING<br>OWN A/C | (d)<br>TIME<br>ENCOUNTERED | (e)<br>LOCATION OF<br>ENCOUNTER | (f)<br>BOMBS, TORPEDOES CARRIED;<br>GUNS OBSERVED | (g)<br>CAMOUFLAGE AND<br>MARKING |
|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| <b>None</b> |                        |                                | (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)<br>TYPE<br>ENEMY A/C | (b) DESTROYED OR DAMAGED BY: |          |                 | GUNS USED | (c)<br>WHERE HIT, ANGLE | (d)<br>DAMAGE<br>CLAIMED |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------|-----------------|-----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
|                          | TYPE A/C                     | SQUADRON | PILOT OR GUNNER |           |                         |                          |
| <b>None</b>              |                              |          |                 |           |                         |                          |
|                          |                              |          |                 |           |                         |                          |
|                          |                              |          |                 |           |                         |                          |
|                          |                              |          |                 |           |                         |                          |
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## VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those listed in II only).

| (a)<br>TYPE OWN A/C | (b)<br>SQUADRON | (c)<br>CAUSE: TYPE ENEMY A/C,<br>TYPE GUN, OR OPERATIONAL CAUSE | (d)<br>WHERE HIT, ANGLE (List armor,<br>self-sealing tanks, equipment hit) | (e)<br>EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE,<br>(Give Bureau serial number of planes destroyed) |
|---------------------|-----------------|---|--|---|
| 1                   | <b>None</b>     |   |  |   |
| 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)<br>NO. | (b)<br>SQUADRON | (c)<br>NAME, RANK OR RATING | (d)<br>CAUSE | (e)<br>CONDITION OR STATUS |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
|            | <b>None</b>     |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
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|            |                 |                             |              |                            |

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

| (a)<br>TYPE<br>A/C | (b)<br>MILES<br>OUT | (c)<br>MILES<br>RETURN | (d)<br>AV. HOURS<br>IN AIR | (e)<br>AV. FUEL<br>LOADED | (f)<br>AV. FUEL<br>CONSUMED | (g) TOTAL AMMUNITION EXPENDED |     |      |    | (h)<br>NO. OF PLANES<br>RETURNING |
|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----|------|----|-----------------------------------|
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             | .30                           | .50 | 20MM | MM |                                   |
| <b>TBM-3</b>       | <b>128</b>          | <b>124</b>             | <b>2hrs. 55m.</b>          | <b>300</b>                | <b>182</b>                  |                               |     |      |    | <b>8</b>                          |
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             |                               |     |      |    |                                   |
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             |                               |     |      |    |                                   |
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             |                               |     |      |    |                                   |
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             |                               |     |      |    |                                   |
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             |                               |     |      |    |                                   |
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             |                               |     |      |    |                                   |
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             |                               |     |      |    |                                   |
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             |                               |     |      |    |                                   |

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

| CALIBER                                   | NONE     | MEAGER | MODERATE | INTENSE |
|---|----------|--------|----------|---------|
| HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over  | <b>▼</b> |        |          |         |
| MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm   | <b>▼</b> |        |          |         |
| LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm | <b>▼</b> |        |          |         |

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

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

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

(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) **Radio or Radar Station, Akaoga Town** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1150** (Zone) **-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 **Considerable Haze** (e) Visibility **4 to 5 Miles**  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Glide** Bomb Sight Used **Mark 8**  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run **4** Spacing **Select** Altitude of Bomb Release **3000-5000 feet**  
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed **None** Probably Destroyed **None** Damaged **None**

| (h)<br>AIMING POINT  | (i)<br>DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE | (j) NO. A/C ATTACKING<br>(k) SQUADRON | (l)<br>BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT | (m)<br>NO. HITS On Aiming Point | (n)<br>DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk) |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 <b>Radio or radar station with 4 to 6 towers and several buildings in between.</b> | <b>300 Ft. X 700 Ft.</b>     | <b>8 VT-45</b>                        | <b>32 500# G.P.</b>                                     | <b>25</b>                       | <b>Serious</b>   |
| 2  |                              |                                       |   |                                 |  |
| 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).

**This installation consisting of 4 to 6 radio or radar towers and several moderate sized buildings at the base of the towers was attacked by all 8 planes. 25 bombs landed in the target area. Two small flat 30 feet square buildings were seen to be hit. There was some smoke coming from the area as the planes withdrew, though the towers were still standing. A thick ground haze prevented specific damage assessment.**

(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 strike was directed to discover and attack targets on the southeastern coast of Amami O Shima. Lieutenants Piegari, Osborne, Riley and Bertoglio, Lieutenants (j.g.) Robinson, Mason and Laughlin and Ensign Nickell participated in the strike. The planes searched the coast of Amami O Shima from the O Shima Kaikyo area at the south up the southeastern coast without finding any worthwhile targets in the southern portion. A previous strike had discovered a probable radio or radar station on the narrow neck of land at Akaoga Town at the northern end of the southeastern coast and the strike proceeded finally to that point. A heavy haze which covered the entire island of Amami O Shima up to 6000 feet hindered the pilots in their search for a worthwhile target, but they were able to see the radio or radar towers at Akaoga and to discern a group of small buildings at their bases. These towers were about 60 feet high and had an enclosed protuberance at the top. There were probably at least 6 of them in a line although some pilots reported seeing only four. The planes pushed over at 10,000 feet, attained a glide angle of 40° and an average speed of 310 knots, and dropped their bombs select at altitudes ranging from 3000 to 5000 feet. 25 of the bombs dropped landed in the tower area on or close to the small 30 foot square buildings at the base of the towers. Two of these buildings were seen to be hit and more of them may have been hit. These buildings may have been constructed of cement though the heavy haze prevented a positive appraisal of the construction material.**

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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:

APPROVED BY:

**Malcolm I. RUDDOCK, Lieut., USNR,**

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

**A.C.I. Officer.**

**J. G. FIGARI, Lieut., USNR,**

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

**Commanding Officer.**

**22 April 1945.**

DATE