

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when  
filled out)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VF-12 (b) Based on or at USS Randolph (CV-15) (c) Report No. VF-12-43  
 (d) Take off: Date 3 May 1945 Time (LZT) 1502(I) (Zone); Lat. 26-50N Long. 129-37E  
 (e) Mission Target GAP, KIKAI SHIMA, NANSBI SHOTO (f) Time of Return 1821(I) (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)		
<b>P6F-5</b>	<b>VF-12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2 x 58 gal., Napalm wing tanks.</b>	<b>B3R-1 Nose Inst. E4R-1 Base</b>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<b>None</b>							

## 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
<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) 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		
<b>None</b>						







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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

On this flight an attempt was made to burn out a wooded area at the southwest corner of WAN Airfield, KIKAI SHIMA with NAPALM bombs. Two 58-gal. NAPALM wing tanks were launched with each HELLCAT. Fifteen of the sixteen bombs hit within the target area (presumed to conceal dispersed aircraft), starting large fires; four of these fires continued to burn till after the patrol had retired, an hour and a half later. The attack was started in a glide from 10,000 feet, with the push-over to about a 60 degree dive at 7500 feet, and release at 1500 feet. All sixteen bombs ignited.

As Lt.Cdr. F. H. MICHAELIS, Fighting TWELVE's skipper, dove at the area he noticed an operational plane thought to be an OSCAR on the edge of the taxiway adjacent to the target. He strafed during his dive, released his NAPALM, rendezvoused, and returned to attack the grounded aircraft. Upon his second dive he was surprised to see that the OSCAR had already been removed and concealed.



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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

**NAPALM bombs were given a chance to prove themselves on this hop. All sixteen of the wing tanks loaded ignited and burned. Dropped from an altitude of 1500 feet, fifteen of the sixteen released fell within the target area. Of the fifteen fires started, four were still burning when the HELLCATS retired to return to base. It can be assumed that some objects more substantial than thatched huts were set afire. In this instance NAPALM was the ideal armament for such an attack and proved itself successful.**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

*H.W. Hewlett*

SIGNATURE

**H.W. HEWLETT, Lt.(jg), USNR, ACIO**

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

**F.H. MICHAELIS, Lt.Cdr., USN, CO**

RANK AND DUTY

**10 May 1945**

DATE