

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

**SECRET**

(a) Unit Reporting VF-49 (b) Based on or at USS SAN JACINTO (c) Report No. ACA-1-11  
 (d) Take off: Date 14 May 1945 Time (LZT) 1514(I) (Zone); Lat. 30° 20' N Long 132° 27' E  
 (e) Mission Hitoyoshi airfield, Kyushu (f) Time of Return 1825(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>F6F-5</b>	<b>VF-49</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8 planes carried six 5" H.E. rockets per plane 8 500# G.P. bombs</b>	<b>MK 146 No delay .025</b>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<b>NONE</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</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>Franks</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>1610 (ZON)</b> <b>(ZONE)</b>	<b>near the coast below Miyazaki airfield</b>	<b>None observed</b>	<b>None observed</b>
<b>Two-engined</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>1120 (ZON)</b> <b>(ZONE)</b>	<b>Hitoyoshi</b>	<b>None observed</b>	<b>None observed</b>

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Interception  
 Did Any Part of  
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? No If so, Describe Clouds X (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)  
 Time of Day and Brilliance  
 (j) of Sun or Moon Day - slight haze but visibility was good. (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON, DAY, OVERCAST, ETC.) (k) Visibility 10 (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>						

ENCLOSURE K

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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 <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) NO.	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NAME, RANK OR RATING	(d) CAUSE	(e) CONDITION OR STATUS
<b>NONE</b>				

## 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	
<b>F6F-5</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>3hrs. 11min</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>200</b>			<b>100 rounds (average per pilot)</b>		<b>16</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>X</b>			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	<b>X</b>			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	<b>X</b>			

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

SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes

- TURNES
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

**There is not sufficient data to make a comparison between the enemy aircraft and ours.**

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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) Hitoyoshi, Kyushu (b) Time Over Target(s) 1630(I) (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target Not below 14,000 feet.  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear, except for smoke (e) Visibility 8 - 10  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Dive Bomb Sight Used MK 8 reflector gun-  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE) sight.

Bombs Dropped per Run 1 Spacing X Altitude of Bomb Release 2500 feet.  
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

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

(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					
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).

(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

Sixteen Hellecats were launched from the USS SAN JACINTO at 1514(I), 14 May 1945 for a fighter sweep against Hitohoshi airfield, Kyushu. Landfall was made just south of Miyazaki and a northwesterly course was held from that point until the flight was in the target area.

Five Franks were observed by Ens. D.C. OREWILER trailing behind and about 5,000 feet above his flight. The enemy planes were on an overtaking course and Ens. OREWILER signaled Ens. E.K. MacDONALD to take up the weave formation. Before this defensive maneuver could be executed a "high side" attack was made on the Japs by a flight from the USS HORNET which destroyed two of the enemy planes, probably destroyed the three others. While the enemy planes had been within gun range of our flight they apparently had not opened fire.

Two runs were made on the field. The course of the first attack was from east to west. A steep dive was made on the field and the dispersal area to the south and the building units to the northwest of the strip were rocketed and bombed. A large saw-toothed building at the north boundary of the building area was set afire on this run. The second run was from west to east and was much flatter. The building areas and revetments were heavily strafed. A twin engined plane just south of the runway was set on fire and a single-engined plane in a revetment was heavily attacked, but did not burn. A number of large boxes, which appeared similar to our aircraft engine packing crates were scattered about the field. One large pile was located near the center of the runway. They did not burn although they were strafed. The strip looked operational.

The installations at this field were so badly damaged from previous raids that new damage was hard to assess. The pull-out on each run was very low and although the planes were not over a hundred feet off the deck in most instances, the pilots were unable to see any enemy planes on the field or dispersed around the field, other than as reported. The return to base was completed at 1825(I).

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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 functioned satisfactorily.**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

**R. A. SMYTHE, Lt(jg), USNR**  
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY  
**ACI OFFICER.**

**G. M. ROUZEE, Lt. Comdr., USN**  
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY  
**Commanding Officer, VF-49**

DATE