

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

~~SECRET~~

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

VF-45

REPORT No. 59

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

(I)

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Variable, see narrative (b) Time Over Target(s) 0940-1030 (Zone)

(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 3000, alto-cumulus, 10/10ths

(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear, under clouds (e) Visibility 8 - 10

(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.)

(MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type X Bomb Sight Used X

(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE)

(TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run X Spacing X Altitude of Bomb Release X

(NUMBER)

(FEET)

(FEET)

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

(h) AIMING POINT	(i) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(j) NO A/C ATTACKING	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
		(k) SQUADRON			
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

Six (6) F6F-5's and one F6F-5P of VF-45 took off from the USS SAN JACINTO at 0845 (L) 24 March 1945, to continue striking the Kerama Retto, Okinawa Gunto. Eight TBM's of VT-45 accompanied the fighters.

Targets of opportunity were designated by the Task Group Air Coordinator. The Air Group FORTY FIVE planes separated into two elements, one of fighters and the other of torpedo bombers, and proceeded to scour the islands of the Retto for military targets of importance.

The pilots of VF-45 had been briefed on the basis of photographs taken the previous day, wherein it appeared that on Tokashiki Shima there were an enemy amphibious tank concentration (Grid squares 3868, 3867) and probable fuel storage area (3666). The Hellcats made several low altitude, area strafing runs over these indicated positions, and thoroughly covered the objective. No amphibious tanks or fuel oil fires were observed however.

The Hellcats then proceeded to make a tour of the Kerama Retto, strafing and rocketing a boat building on the northeast coast of Tokashiki Shima (4069 L); a concrete block house on the north west coast of the same island (3870 H); houses and buildings on the east side of the coast of Kuba Shima (2666 B); and strafed and rocketed an already damaged radio station on Yakabi Shima (2771 F).

The planes then refueled and returned to base.

It should be observed that on this, the second days' massive carrier plane attacks on the comparatively lightly held Kerama Retto, the locating of lucrative targets to attack was becoming increasingly difficult. With large strikes and sweeps going in to blast these ill-defended islands in assembly line fashion, most worthwhile targets had been sought out and destroyed by the second day. The islands themselves seemed to be afire, and the pilots observed that when nearing the objective area at considerable altitude there was so much smoke in the air that "it swelled like an autumn day back home."

Grid References: Air Support Chart Okinawa, compiled and reproduced by 64th Engr. Top. Bn., USAFOTPC, No. 1210 - 1 Dec. 1944

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XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.
Use additional sheets if necessary).

All material and equipment functioned satisfactorily.

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

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4-1-45
DATE

ACTING