

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VBF-9 (b) Based on board U.S.S. LEXINGTON (CV16) (c) Report No. 14  
 (d) Take off: Date 1 March 1945 Time (LZT) 1510 K (Zone); Lat. 25°40' N Long. 129°10' E  
 (e) Mission Sweep and Photo MIKAI SHIMA, AMAMI OSHIMA GUNTO (f) Time of Return 1815 (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)		
P6F-5	VBF-9	8	0	8	4 5" R/P Mk 148 nose fuze & Mk 157 base fuze 2400 X .50 cal.	-
P6F-5	VBF-9	4	0	4	1 500# G.P. Mk64 2400 X .50 cal.	A1111112 - .025 delay

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
P6F-5(P)	VP-9	3	U.S.S. LEXINGTON				
P6F-5	VP-9	4	U.S.S. LEXINGTON				
(These aircraft accompanied the sweep on Photo # 3)							

## 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
none			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Did Any Part of \_\_\_\_\_  
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds?  If so, Describe Clouds \_\_\_\_\_ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)  
 Time of Day and Brilliance \_\_\_\_\_  
 (j) of Sun or Moon \_\_\_\_\_ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (k) Visibility \_\_\_\_\_ (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		
none						

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
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REPORT No. 14

## 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 P6P-5	VBF-9	20 MM "AA"	Port horizontal stab.	50% shot off
2			Belly tank	shot in half but did not burn, it was jettisoned.
3				
4 P6P-5	VBF-9	75 MM "AA"	Strbd wing tip, flap & aileron	small holes from shrapnel.
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
		none		

## 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	5" rounds	
P6P-5	140	150	3	400	250			5500	32	12

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over		x		
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm			x	
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm		x		

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

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

No opportunity.

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 14

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) KIKAI SHIMA A/P; FTC & 8 luggers (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) northwest AMAMI OSHIMA (b) Time Over Target(s) 1620K & 1645K (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target K 3,000' scattered cumulus 3/10  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target clear (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility unlimited (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type 50° (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used - (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run one (NUMBER) Spacing - (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 3,000' (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 0 Probably Destroyed 0 Damaged 1

(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 KIKAI A/P	Airfields & installations	12 F6F-5's VF-9	16 5" R/P 2400 X .50 cal	75%	Moderate
2 FTC	3500 tons	10 F6F-5's VF-9	8 5" R/P plus 3 500# G.P. strafing	3 hits 1 hit	Serious
3 8 luggers	60 tons	9 F6F-5's VF-9	8 5" R/P 3000 X .50 cal	2 hits 75%	3 probably sunk 4 damaged
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).

- At KIKAI SHIMA airfield only one aircraft was noted and it was strafed and damaged by Lt.(jg) HALL, believed to be a single engine VF, probably a PONY. The remainder of flight rocketted and strafed what appeared to be shops or small hangars on the north end of the single runway. Field was unfinished appearing, the runway being of dirt and coral.
- FTC was attacked in YAMOTO BAMA WAN west central AMAMI OSHIMA and hit squarely on the number 3 hatch, just abaft the superstructure by Ensign HICKS. Three rockets hits and numerous .50 caliber hits made by remainder of flight. Ship was burning badly and listing when departure was taken.
- Outside of YAMOTO BAMA heading south along the coast 8 luggers were sighted. Several of these were already trailing oil and three of these were probably sunk by R/P's and .50 caliber fire from the entire flight. Four others were left smoking and barely underway.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes. Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

CP. D.A.R. U.S.S. LEXINGTON.

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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  
Fuzeing  
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

Sweep 2 Fox comprising of 12 F6F-5's of VBF-9 took off from the U.S.S. LEXINGTON at 1510 K, 1 March 1945. Join up was made with Photo # 3, 3 VF(P), and 4 VF escorts from VF-9.

Approach was made to KIKAI SHIMA at about 13,000', speed 150 knots. A 50° dive was initiated from 10,000', speed 350 knots down the runway from north to south with pull out about 3,000'. Rocket range from 1200/1500 yards, slant range. Installations were damaged by rocket projectiles and .50 caliber as indicated on page 3 of this report.

Ensign TICE's plane was hit by a burst of what apparently was 75 MM "AA" while in his pull out. No tracer at all was seen and it appears from other testimony that the Jap is running very little tracer in this vicinity. Only one or two black bursts were seen hence the inference of 75 MM fire.

Ensign TICE with escort returned to base and the ten remaining VBF-9 aircraft headed for the north end of AMAMI OSHIMA and conducted an anti-shipping patrol down along the west coast. About mid-way down they noticed a Fox Tare Charlie in the YAMOTO BAMA WAN. Attack was initiated from 10,000' from two directions using a 50° glide angle, bombs being released at 3,000'. Ensign NICKS was observed by several members of the flight to have obtained a direct 500# G.P. hit on this ship. The remainder of the flight secured three rocket hits and numerous .50 caliber hits on this ship.

It was observed by the members of this flight that this FTC held its antiaircraft fire until the planes were at the release point and they followed them down to the pull out point. This has happened in several other of such attacks that this squadron has carried out against similar vessels. The plane piloted by Lieutenant G.S. ARTHUR, Jr. was hit in the port horizontal stabilizer and belly tank by medium "AA" from this target on pull out.

Shortly after this attack a strafing and rocketing attack was carried out against the 8 luggers outside of YAMOTO BAMA WAN results outlined on page 3 of this report. After this attack the flight proceeded to base landing aboard without incident at 1815 K.

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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 material returned satisfactorily.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

J.F. MURPHY, Lieut., USNR, AGI

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

Frank L. LAYLOR, Lt. Comdr., USNR, CO

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

1 March 1945.

DATE