

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

RESTRICTED
CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. 6

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Tokuno Airfield installations and aircraft. (b) Time Over Target(s) 0855 K (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 2,000 ft. Cumulus 1/10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

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

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Dive Bomb Sight Used Mk. 8 Gun sight
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run Four Spacing Salvo 2 250# - 1 500# Altitude of Bomb Release 2,500 ft.
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 2 Probably Destroyed 1 Damaged 4

(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 Airfield		13 SB2C VB-9	2 250# GP 2 500# GP		See below.
2 1 DE, AK 1 SB, 2 unidentified ships.	No estimate	9 SB2C VB-9	Strafed with 20 mm.		Undetermined but ships seen burning
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).

- Bombs landed alongside of 2 twin-engine, one probably destroyed, one damaged.**
Bombs landed in middle of 3 Zekes, two damaged - one of which was seen to have tail blown off.
Bombs landed on 1 single-engine and near a second that was probably previously damaged. The first single-engine was seen burning and destroyed; the second was damaged.
Bomb seen to land along side of a Frances. Wing and engine were seen to be destroyed. 1 Frances destroyed.
One anti-aircraft emplacement was observed destroyed by one of the succeeding VT pilots.
Two buildings around airfield were destroyed and one partially destroyed.
- Ships could not be positively identified by photographs but appeared to be from 150 ft. to 250 ft. long. As they were worked over by many planes actual damage by any one flight is questionable.**

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

(Photographs not released by ship to squadron).

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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

Rendezvous was affected with all squadrons at 0752 and strike group led by Lt. Comdr. HOUCK, USN, Commander Air Group NINE, proceeded to Tokuno Shima on course 006°. Ensign BELL could not retract right wheel so remained at task group and circled until returning aircraft were landed. Upon arrival at the airfield the target coordinator ordered the bomber attack preceded by 8 VF strafers. Lieut. T. F. SCHNEIDER, USN, led the attack in a steep dive from 9,000 ft. releasing at 2,500 ft. Course across field was from south to west.

Each pilot picked his own target resulting in two buildings destroyed by Lieut. WORLEY and Lieut. WIEZOREK and one building partially destroyed by Ensign HANAWALT. The nature of buildings was undetermined.

Lt(jg) BAILANS ~~probably destroyed~~ ^{destroyed} a Frances. Lt(jg) MAY damaged 2 Zekes, Lt(jg) HELLER probably destroyed 1 twin-engine and damaged one twin-engine, and Lt(jg) DANCE ~~probably destroyed~~ 1 single-engine and damaged one single-engine. One anti-aircraft position was seen destroyed and a fire similar to a small oil storage dump was observed in the southwest corner of the field. Only meager light anti-aircraft was encountered during the attack.

Aircraft seen were painted grey or black and mottled brown.

Rendezvous was made southwest of field and group was ordered to proceed to Amami O Shima to attack shipping. Flight skirted the northwest coast of Kakeroma Shima where heavy and medium anti-aircraft was encountered from the Yeniya Banare & Utsu Saki. The latter was fairly accurate. Puffs were brown and about 3,500 ft. The weather was good and visibility excellent.

At Kugi Wan one DE, 1 AK, 1 SB and two unidentified ships were seen and at 0930 Lieut. SCHNEIDER led the bombers in a 45° strafing dive from 6,000 ft. from the north. No visible damage was seen on any ships. Strafing was fairly ineffective as many of the guns jammed after short bursts. Moderate, medium and light anti-aircraft fire was encountered and black, brown and white bursts were observed. About 5 parachutes with a hanging object suspended thereto were seen over the cove between 2,000 and 3,000 ft. but their source was undetermined.

Ensign BEATY was hit in the port stub wing which caused some ammunition to explode and hydraulic fluid to burn.

All the aircraft rendezvoused and returned to base at 135 knots indicated air speed.

Ensign BEATY could not lower one wheel and made a successful crash landing on deck with no injuries to personnel.

Ensign WATSON's tail hook was pulled off at the ramp and he made a no hook landing resulting in a barrier crash.

All aircraft returned on deck.

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

Eleven of the 22 mm. cannon used in the strafing attack jammed after a few bursts or were inoperative. It is suggested that these guns be checked carefully before any operation that may require strafing or firing. Exposure to enemy anti-aircraft fire is not commensurate with minor damage inflicted by a partial number of operative cannon in the flight.

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:

I. S. KORACH, Lieut. (A), USNR,
SIGNATURE **Air Combat Information Officer.**

TONY F. SCHNEIDER, Lieut., USN, 3 March 1945.
SIGNATURE **Commanding Officer.** DATE