

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

SECRET

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

VF-45

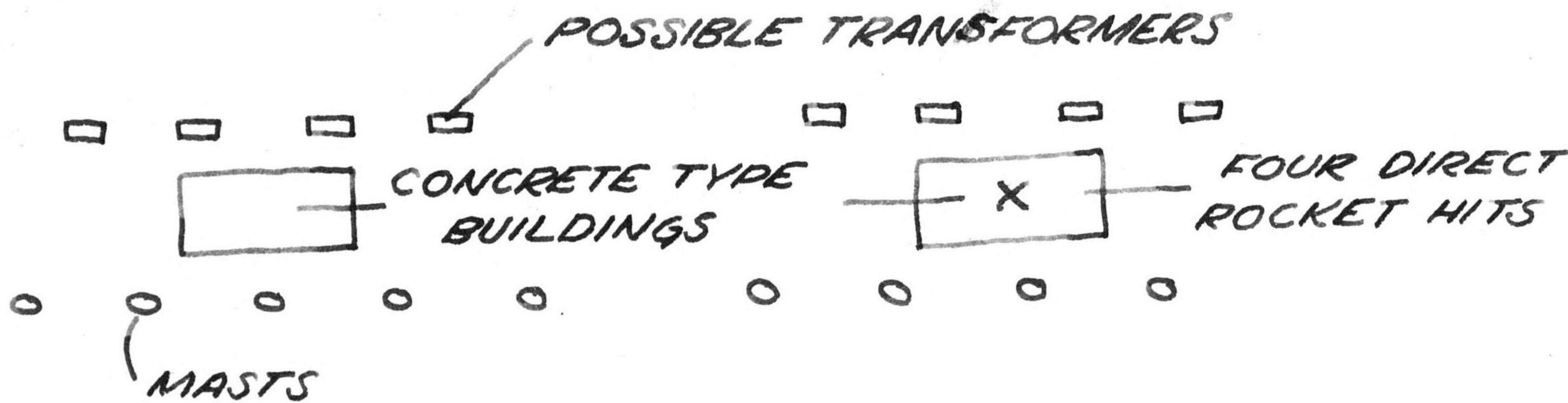
REPORT No. **70**

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Man Airfield, Kikai Shima, Radio station, Isthmus, Akaogi Town, Amami O Shima (b) Time Over Target(s) 1415-1505(1) (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target Kikai Shima - 1500, cumulus, 7/10ths. Amami O Shima - 1000, cumulus, 7/10ths (Base down to tops of hills)
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear under cloud cover (e) Visibility 12
(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 (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)



Yes, of Kikai Shima. Shows no damage. Used for reconnaissance.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? _____ 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

Twelve F6F-5's (including one photographic plane) were launched from the USS SAN JACINTO at 1515 (L) 31 March 1945, for a sweep against Kikai Shima, Azami Gunto. Previous reconnaissance had established the small likelihood of the presence of enemy aircraft on either of the island's two airfields, Wan and Shitoko Airfields. Therefore, by the use of photographs, the pilots were briefed to rocket and strafe a camouflaged building and probable fuel dump immediately south of Wan Airfield.

After arriving in the objective area, four of the planes made a rocket and strafing run through the broken overcast from the northeast, and concentrated upon the target which had been pinpointed for them. The smoke and dust of the rocket explosions, and the necessity for pulling back up into the overcast prevented accurate assessment of the damage done. The remainder of Kikai Shima was reconnoitered for satisfactory targets, but without success. The flight then proceeded to Azami O Shima, where the pilots searched both the eastern and western coasts for shipping. The only craft seen was a large beached freighter (Fox Yare Baker - JAF) on Kaze No.

It was so obviously out of commission that the flight leader decided not to waste the remaining rockets and ammunition on the vessel. Finally, at the town of Akaogi, on the narrow isthmus near the northern tip of Azami O Shima, a substantial radio or radar station, consisting of two units (See diagram page 3) was taken under attack by the planes. The fighters expended their remaining rockets and about half of their fifty calibre ammunition in this attack. At least four direct rocket hits were registered on one of the control buildings, and it is believed that the remaining facilities under went substantial damage from rocket bursts and the heavy strafing.

The planes then reassembled and returned to the USS SAN JACINTO without further incident.

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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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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DATE *4-6-45*

ACTING