

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL
Strike 23

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VF-9 (b) Based on or at USS LEXINGTON (CV-16) (c) Report No. 14-45
 (d) Take off: Date 1 March 1945 Time (LZT) 0710 K. (Zone); Lat. 25°-45'N. Long. 128°-59'E.
 (e) Mission Strike against Tokuno Airfield - Shipping at Suji Bay. (f) Time of Return 1040 K. (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)		
<u>F6F-5</u>	<u>VF-9</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>5 planes-1000 G.P. 9 planes-500 G.P. 1 photo plane-F56-20"</u>	<u>AF-1101-A2 - .025. AN-1101-A2 - .025</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>TBM</u>	<u>VB-9</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>USS LEXINGTON</u>				
<u>SB2C</u>	<u>VB-9</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>USS LEXINGTON</u>				

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
<u>T/B</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0845 K. (ZONE)</u>	<u>Tokuno A/F</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>None</u>
<u>S/B</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0845 K. (ZONE)</u>	<u>Tokuno A/F</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>None</u>
<u>Kate</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0845 K. (ZONE)</u>	<u>Tokuno A/F</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>None</u>

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Planes were on ground.
 (i) Did Any Part of Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? --- If so, Describe Clouds ---
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance ---
 (j) of Sun or Moon --- (k) Visibility ---
(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			
			<u>None</u>			

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CONFIDENTIAL
REPORT No. 14-45

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 F6F-5	VF-9	Medium A/A	Belly tank blown off	Minor
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
		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	MM	
F6F-5	180	180	3	400	250	- -	15,000	- -	- -	15

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

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

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

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

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. **24-45**

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) **Tokuno Airfield, Tokuno O Shima**
Shipping at Kuji Wan - Amami O Shima (b) Time Over Target(s) **0845 E.** (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target **Base 3000' cumulus cover 4/10 (Tokuno)**
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target **Clear** (e) Visibility **20 miles**
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

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

Bombs Dropped per Run **one** Spacing **- -** Altitude of Bomb Release **3000'**
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed **1** Probably Destroyed **2** 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 A/F - Tokuno	4000' x 400'	15 VF-9	9 x 500 G.P. 5 x 1000 G.P.	All	Slight
2 2 SB's, AO, 2 DE's or frigates	2000 tons each	15 VF-9	13,000 x 50 cal.	75%	Moderate
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).

All bombs were dropped on or in the area of Tokuno Airfield. Few targets for heavy bombs were seen so pilots dropped on best available target. The runway was cratered by three 500 lb., one on each end and one in the center, a small building near the runway was demolished by a direct hit, two T/E planes were probably destroyed and one S/E plane damaged. A cluster of houses southeast of runway was hit by a 1000 lb., revetments were hit, as well as an A/A position north of the runway and a village to the south.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? **No** Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

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 REPORT No. 24-45

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

Strike 2 Baker was launched at 0715 to attack Tokuno Airfield on Tokuno O Shima and secondary, shipping or targets of opportunity. Rendezvous with VI and VB effected, and climb began to 10,000'. At Tokuno, bombing run was begun from that altitude with a pull-out at 3000', bombs being dropped on the runway, revetments and barracks area. Sayer and Lawrence each probably destroyed a T/S plane and at least one S/R was damaged. In the dive, light, meager, and inaccurate A/A fire was met from the north end of the runway.

Immediately following the attack Lt(jg) Hartwig made five strip runs over the airfield for damage assessment, but found afterwards that his cameras were not functioning, then went down to strafe and destroy a Kate.

From Tokuno the strike proceeded north to Anzai O Shima and found eight ships in the harbor of Kuji Wan. LtComdr. Bouck's division strafed and smoked a medium sized Sugar Baker, Lt. Eckard's division strafed and smoked an AO, while Lt. Bonneau's division strafed and smoked another Sugar Baker. Two Jap warships, DE's or frigates, were also strafed and damaged by Lawrence, Rainer, Sayer and Dooling, and another merchant ship north of the anchorage was seen to be smoking heavily from a previous attack.

A/A fire, medium, meager, and inaccurate came from the ships and heavy, intense, and inaccurate fire was met on retirement down the Bay of O Shima Kaikyo. Ensign Cushing during his dive on the SS was turned over on his back by an A/A burst (probably 40 MM.) and his belly tank blown off. He rolled back and recovered and made another run.

No airborne opposition was seen at anytime. Following the shipping attack, Ensigns Lawrence, and Sayer, before rendezvousing strafed the seaplane base at Keniya, setting one oil storage tank afire, and then strafed the barracks or a across the bay. All planes rendezvoused and returned to base at 1045 H.

Weather at the target areas was good, with scattered clouds and a visibility of 20 miles.

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REPORT No. 14-45

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

All material reported satisfactory.

Strike 2B

* LtCond'r Houck	Lieut. Bonneau
Ensign Cushing	Lt(jg) Cartledge
Lt(jg) Emerson	Lt(jg) Andrews
Ensign Larson	Ensign Kummer
Lieut. Eckard	Ensign Smyer
Ensign Kaelin	Lt(jg) Reiner
Lt(jg) Lawrence	Ensign Dooling
Lt(jg) Hartwig	

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:

R. C. MURPHY, Lieut., USNR

J. "S" KITCHEN, Lieut., USNR

2 March 1945

SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
Combat Information Officer

SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
Commanding Officer

DATE