

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting CVBG-24 (b) Based on or at USS SAUTER (CVE-29) (c) Report No. 6-45
 (d) Take off: Date 21 April 1945 Time (LZT) 1330 (I) (Zone); Lat. 24° 31' N Long. 126° 39' E
 (e) Mission Attack Air Facilities-Ishigaki Jima-Sakishima Gunto (f) Time of Return 1730(I) (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>TBM-3</u>	<u>VF-24</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>2 - 500/ G/P Bombs ✓ 4 - 100/ G/P Bombs ✓ 8 - 5" H.E. Rockets ✓</u>	<u>delay tail Inst. nose fuze-4-5 sec Inst. nose fuze. .025 delay tail fuze.</u>
<u>F6F-5</u>	<u>VF-24</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1 - 500/ G/P Bomb ✓ 6 - 5" H.E. Rockets ✓</u>	<u>Inst. nose-.1 delay tail. Base fuze only.</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>None</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>None</u>							
			<u>(ZONE)</u>				
			<u>(ZONE)</u>				
			<u>(ZONE)</u>				

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____
 Did Any Part of _____
 (i) 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>						

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL
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REPORT No. 6-43

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	None			
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	
TBM-3	135	135	4	335	270	800	800			8
F6F-5	135	135	4	325	245		3000			4

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

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 6-45

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Miyara Airfield - Ishigaki Jima (b) Time Over Target(s) 1445 (1) (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 3000' Cumulus .5 - .6
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 9 - 10
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type VF-Glide VF-Glide Bomb Sight Used VI-none VF-Mt 8 Gunsight
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run VF-One VF-All Spacing 75' Altitude of Bomb Release 2500' - 3000'
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed None Probably Destroyed Unknown Damaged Unknown

(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 Runways	200' x 5000'	8 VF-24	16 = 500' Bombs ✓ 32 = 100' Bombs ✓		
2 Dispersal Areas		8 VF-24	40 = 5" Rockets ✓		
3 NE-SW Runway	200' x 5000'	4 VF-24	4 = 500' Bombs ✓		
4 Dispersal Area		4 VF-24	1200 Rds. .50 cal. 24 = 5" Rockets ✓		
5 A/A Positions		4 VF-24	1800 Rds. .50 cal.		
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 VF bombs were dropped on the NE-SW runway. Quite a few hits were scored and craters resulted.
- VF rockets were let go at the dispersal areas around the field. Damage was unobserved.
- All VF bombs hit runway leaving craters.
- VF rockets were fired into dispersal area in a woods SW of runway with unobserved destruction. Some planes may have been hit, but none was seen to burn.
- VF strafed the A/A positions silencing them at least temporarily.

(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

The VT bombs were dropped in salvo in runs commencing at 6500' and releases being made at 2500' - 3000'. While the VT proceeded with its bombing attack, VF strafed the A/A positions silencing them for at least the duration of the attack. Then VF started its bombing attack 4 miles NE of the airfield at 9000', releasing in 45° dives at about 2500'. Rockets of both VT and VF were fired at angles of 40° - 45° and slant ranges of 1000 - 1400 yards. No enemy aircraft but severe and inaccurate light A/A was encountered.

Just prior to the take off of this flight, word was received in the ready room from airplot to the effect that a TBM from the British Task Force had gone down in the vicinity of Ishigaki on the previous afternoon. This flight was therefore instructed by Lt. D. W. COOPER, the Commander of the VT squadron, to keep an eye open for any possible survivors. After the attack, the VF and VT fanned out to search the area just south of Ishigaki. After a 30 minute fruitless search, the flight was rendezvousing for the trip home, when L. S. McCOY, ARN3c, advised his pilot, Ensign D. R. PETERSON, that he thought he saw a raft in the water just off the starboard wing. PETERSON looked at the spot indicated but could see nothing. However, relying on the information given to him by McCOY, he decided to go down and take a look. When they got down to fifty feet they could plainly see three men in a life raft waving frantically and wearing grins of relief which reached from ear to ear. The word was then passed, and within 20 minutes, Dumbo picked up the three men and transported them to Koram Retto. It was later learned that they were the 3 survivors of the downed British TBM from the FORNIDABLE, and that they were all physically ok when picked up.

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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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

W. A. HALPIN, Lieut. (jg), S(A), USNR
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
ACT OFFICER

P. H. CHARBONNET Jr., Lieut., U.S. Navy,
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
Acting Commander

DATE