

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)  
**CONFIDENTIAL**

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting 0773-24 (b) Based on or at USS SAUTER - At Sea (c) Report No. 0773 37-45  
 (d) Take off: Date 3 June 1945 Time (LZT) 0630 I (Zone); Lat. 24°-29' N Long. 126°-44' E  
 (e) Mission Attack Air Facilities, Ichigaki Jima (f) Time of Return 0945 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)		
<b>TBM-3</b>	<b>VP-24</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4 - 500# G.P. bombs</b>	<b>Instant nose .025 delay tail</b>
<b>TBF-5</b>	<b>VP-24</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1 x 500 lb. G.P. Mk 64</b>	<b>Inst. nose-.025 tail</b>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<b>F4U</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>USS GILBERT ISLANDS</b>				
<b>TBM-3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>USS GILBERT ISLANDS</b>				

## 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
<b>None</b>			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) \_\_\_\_\_

(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)

(j) Time of Day and Brilliance 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			
<b>None</b>						



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## 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				
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

## 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	
<b>TB3-3</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>3 1/2</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>2000</b>			<b>8</b>
<b>F6F-5</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>3 1/2</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>220</b>		<b>7000</b>			<b>8</b>

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

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

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

SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes

TURNS

DIVES

CEILINGS

RANGE

PROTECTION

ARMAMENT

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) **Ishigaki airfield, Iriomote Jima** (b) Time Over Target(s) **0745 I** (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target **2500' cumulus 4/10 - 5/10 cover**  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

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

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **VT - dive** Bomb Sight Used **VT - Mk 3 gunsight**  
**VT - glide** **VT - none**  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run **VT - all** Spacing \_\_\_\_\_ Altitude of Bomb Release **3000'**  
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed **2000** Probably Destroyed **2000** Damaged **2000**

(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 <b>VT 2nd runway</b>	<b>Ishigaki</b>	8 <b>VT-24</b>	<b>32 - 500# bombs</b> ✓	-	--
2 <b>VT 4 boats</b>	<b>20' long</b>	8 <b>VT-24</b>	<b>Straffing</b>	-	--
3 <b>VT A/A positions</b>	<b>Ishigaki</b>	7 <b>VT-24</b>	<b>7 bombs</b> ✓	-	--
4 <b>VT 6 - 35' luggers</b>	<b>Iriomote &amp; Ishigaki</b>	7 <b>VT-24</b>	<b>Straffed</b>	-	--
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).

- VT - 1 About 255 hits were scored leaving craters in the runway.**
- VT - 2 This boats located at small island in the vicinity of Iriomote Jima were well straffed.**
- VT - 3 The A/A positions west of Ishigaki airfield and in the town nearby were bombed and silenced during the VT bomb runs.**
- VT - 4 A total of six luggers were found along the beaches of the islands. One caught fire and burned, another smoked, other damage unobserved.**

(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

This flight was composed of 16 planes from the USS **BLACK ISLAND** together with the **SANTRE VF and VT**. Lieutenant **P. E. CHARDONNET** led the attack on **Ishigaki** airfield, fighter division being assigned the problem of hitting the **A/A** positions while the **VT** made bombing runs on the runways. The flight approached from the **NE NE** at **8500'** to **10000'** in clear weather and excellent visibility. The fighters led off, pushing into a **70°** dive at **9000'**, releasing bombs at **3000'**. Their various targets were dispersed about the field and were well silenced as the **VT** began their bombing attack.

The **8 VT** dropped their bombs on the **2-7** runway pushing over at **3000' - 3500'** and releasing at **3000'**. About **25%** of the bombs hit the runway, the balance falling either short or long. One **500** pounder which fell short landed in a shop area located in a wooded section about **300** yards north of the **2-7** runway and started a fire.

One of the **VT** from the **BLACK ISLAND** was hit by **A/A** during this attack. The pilot was fortunate enough to fly his plane out over the sea and make a water landing. The pilot and one aircrewman were later rescued by the **DUMBO** from **Koromo Retto**.

**Lieut(jg) BALLARD**, flying his **F6F-5P** photo plane took pictures of the area. He flew at **10,000'** with a **24° K-17** aerial camera.

**VT** then made a reconnaissance run over **Iriozote** and the neighboring smaller island where they located and strafed **4 - 20'** boats.

Likewise, the fighters went on a patrol in search of shipping targets in the area. They found a total of six luggers, which were well camouflaged with grass and weeds against the coastline. These were strafed thoroughly before the flight returned to base.



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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:

**E. T. WELLS, Lt(jg) ADI Officer**

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

**P. N. CHANDONNET, Jr. Lieut. U.S.N**

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

**7 June 1945**

DATE