

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. **5-45**

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	-	----	----	----
2	F6F-5	A/A A.N.	Belly tank 1 o'clock below.	Minor
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	160	4.0	400 gal.	320 gal.			5700			8

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

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

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

- SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

URNS

DIVES

CEILINGS

RANGE

PROTECTION

ARMAMENT

NO ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED

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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) Tokuno A/F, Tokuno Shima
Was A/F, Kikai Shima (b) Time Over Target(s) **0700 I(-9)** (Zone)
0815 I(-9)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target None
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

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

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide (500) Bomb Sight Used Mk. 8 gunsight
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run all Spacing salvo Altitude of Bomb Release 4000
(NUMBER) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 0 Probably Destroyed 0 Damaged 13-15, had been damaged previously.

(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 Revets. W side Tokuno Shima A/F.	---	8 VF-34	4 x 100# G.P. 2000 rds..50 cal.	0 Many	Slight
2 Storage area SW cor. Tokuno A/F.	----	1 VF-34	6 x 5" HVAR 200 rds..50 cal.	1 Many	1 bldg. hit by 1 rocket, slight.
3 2 AA posits. NE & E Was A/F, Kikai.	----	2 VF-34	12 x 5" HVAR 4x100# G.P.-500 rds.	2 0 & many destroyed-serious.	1 med. weapon posit. 1 bldg. left burning
4 Miscel. bldgs. in trees E of Was A/F.	----	5 VF-34	22 x 5" HVAR 8x100# GP-1800 rds.	0 & many destroyed-serious. 1 bldg. left burning	
5 Revets. E side of Was A/F.	----	3 VF-34	8 x 5" HVAR 900 rds..50 cal.	2 Many	1 small fire, slight.
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).

- The revetment area struck at Tokuno was severely strafed with many hits being observed on already damaged and burned aircraft inside the revetments. No operational aircraft were seen of the 12 to 15 planes found in the revetments.
- One rocket hit was seen on a rectangular shaped storage building (100 ft. x 50 ft.). Other near misses may have caused additional damage.
- The AA positions attacked were active so that the pilots could readily spot them firing from among trees. Two rockets hit on one medium weapon position causing an explosion, possibly from ammo storage. The other position was violently strafed and ceased firing.
- Buildings clustered under cover of trees were rocketed, bombed, and strafed. Upon retirement the pilots observed one fire burning from one building in the area. Tree cover made further damage assessment impossible.
- Revetment area on the East side of Was A/F was strafed and rocketed, starting a small fire in an unidentified building on the edge of the A/F.

(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

An 8-plane fighter patrol was launched from the USS MONTEREY at 0505 I(-9), 18 May 1945. The purpose of the mission was to intercept any South bound enemy aircraft on their way from Japan to the Okinawa area, and if none were encountered, to strike targets of opportunity in Amami Gunto. The patrol station was Amami Gunto, covering the distance from Tokuno Shima to Kakai Shima. The flight leader, Lt. D. R. HESTER, USNR, of Fighting Squadron 34, singled out enemy airfields in this area as the targets of opportunity to be struck.

Tokuno A/F on Tokuno Shima was first on the list, and the 8 Hellcats shoved over at 10,000 feet to make an E to W run. All planes severely strafed the revetments on the West side of the field, while two also dropped their 100# G. Ps. One of the 8 fighters fired six 5" HVARs into the storage area at the extreme SW corner of the airfield, getting a hit on one building. Many .50 cal. hits were observed in the revetments where already-damaged aircraft were present. However the pilots were unable to determine the effect of their attack since previous strikes had inflicted so much damage that the field was already a shambles with wrecked planes, bomb-pocked runway, and skeleton buildings. For this reason they moved up to Wan A/F on Kakai Shima where most of their armament was expended with better results.

Wan A/F was hit on a southeast-northwest run after the planes had shoved over again at 10,000 feet. At this target all attention was directed in the revetment and headquarters area East of the airfield. This area had been designated as a possible Baka bomb storage site. 5" rocket, 100# G.P. bomb, and .50 cal. ammo hits were scored on AA positions, buildings, and revetments. After completion of the attack, an explosion was noted at the extreme NE end of the field where apparent ammo storage had been hit. There was a fire in an unidentified building hidden under the coverage of trees to the East. AA fire was meager but not effective.

Although on a strike of this type it is practically impossible to evaluate and pin-point actual damage it is felt in this case that damage undoubtedly was more severe than could actually be seen. This is based on the amount of armament expended into a compact and many-installation area. Since planes spread out in their run, to prevent lining up for enemy AA, no chance is given to observe each other's bomb and rocket hits, since all planes are down and over the target together in a space of only a few seconds. Photographic coverage would be the only sure means of appraising damage accurately.

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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

Routine, no special data.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

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RANK AND DUTY

25 May 1945

DATE