

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(a) Unit Reporting VF-12 (b) Based on or at USS Randolph (CV-15) (c) Report No. VF-12-56
 (d) Take off: Date 13 May 1945 Time (LZT) 0443(I) (Zone); Lat. 20-01N Long. 132-30E
 (e) Mission Fighter Sweep of Northern KYUSHU Airfields, JAPAN (f) Time of Return 0814(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)		
P6F-5	VF-12	8	0	8	2 x 260# frag.	Inst. nose
P6F-5	VF-12	8	0	8	6 x 3.25"/5.00" RP	Inst.

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
None							

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
None						
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(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:				(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER	GUNS USED		
None						

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. **VF-12-56**

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Airfields, Northern KYUSHU (b) Time Over Target(s) 0610 (I) (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 7000 ft. base; stratus; 7/10 cover
(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 & Dive Bomb Sight Used MK 23 gunsight
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 2 Spacing 0 Altitude of Bomb Release 2000 to 5000
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 3 Probably Destroyed 2 Damaged 2

(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 Hangar KIKUTOMI A/F		4 VF-12	2 x 260# frag.	1	Unobserved
2 Hangar Area KIKUTOMI A/F		4 VF-12	24 RP's	16	Slight
3 Hangars KIKUCHI A/F		4 VF-12	24 RP's	14	1 destroyed 1 damaged
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).

Rockets and bombs not expended against the hangars listed above were dropped in dispersal areas and various nondescript buildings at KIKUTOMI, WAIFU, and KIKUCHI.

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

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

REPORT No. **VF-12-56**

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.)

CONFIDENTIAL

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 report covers the first fighter sweep launched from the RANDOLPH against airfields in northern and northwestern KYUSHU during the two days operation of 13 and 14 May 1945. Sixteen HELLCAT's under the leadership of Lt. Commander F.H. MICHAELIS, Commanding Officer of the Fighting TWELVE, proceeded to four airfields: Waifu, Kikutomi, Kumamoto, and Kikuchi. No airborne enemy aircraft were encountered by attacking planes on this or any subsequent flights of the two day affair.

The furthest of these fields, Kikuchi, lay approximately two hundred miles in a straight line from the point of launch. Waifu was hit first. There, six twin-engine and ten single engine planes were strafed, of which two FRANCES's and a VAL (painted black) were destroyed and two single engine planes damaged. There were three or four dummy aircraft placed in conspicuous revetments at the northwest corner of the field which succeeded in drawing fire on the first pass. Intense and inaccurate medium and light anti-aircraft was encountered.

At Kikutomi, the second target, three yellow planes, presumed to be trainers, and four TOPY's were observed. Two fragmentation bombs were loosed against a hangar from which two yellow tails were protruding; results were undetermined. Two more fragmentation bombs were aimed at the Topsy's. It is believed damage was caused, but no fires were started. No AA was observed at this field.

From Kikutomi the flight continued to Kumamoto, adjacent to the large aircraft assembly plant. Again numerous yellow trainers were found along the west and south edges of the field in camouflaged and covered revetments. No attack was carried out against this field as the target did not appear to be worth the risk of approaching through the intense antiaircraft fire of all calibres brought to bear by guns placed primarily for the defense of the aircraft factory. Fire was issuing from the nearby town of Kumamoto, from the factory and the field, and the surrounding hills.

Kikuchi, the last field visited, held only five single engine, biplane trainers in revetments. This was the primary target of the mission and all remaining bombs and rockets were launched at the hangar and shop or warehouse area. Hangars appeared to be of flimsy and light construction; one was destroyed and a second seriously damaged.

All planes returned to base safely, having completed a round trip of approximately four hundred and fifty miles, more than half the distance over the hostile territory.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

REPORT No. VF-12-56

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

CONFIDENTIAL

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

No comments.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

H.W. Hewlett

APPROVED BY:

P.H. Michaelis

20 May 1945

SIGNATURE H.W. HEWLETT, Lt. (jg), USNR, ACIO, RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE P.H. MICHAELIS, Lt. Cdr., USN, CO RANK AND DUTY

DATE