

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-88 (b) Based on or at USS SAGINAW BAY (c) Report No. 119
 (d) Take off: Date 8 April 1945 Time (LZT) 0530 (Zone); Lat. 25-02N Long. 131-05E
 (e) Mission Special strike, Minami Daito Jima and Kita Daito Jima (f) Time of Return 0830(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)		
FM-2	VC-88	8	0	8	6-5" HE rkts, Mk 7 mtr	Mk 157

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
			(ZONE)	NONE		
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____
 Did Any Part of
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? If so, Describe Clouds _____ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
(YES OR NO)
 Time of Day and Brilliance _____ (k) Visibility _____ (MILES)
 of Sun or Moon _____ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.)

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			
			NONE			

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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 F4U-2	VC-88	Enemy AA; probably medium calibre	Right aileron and flap, wing and gas tanks punctured, shrapnel in plane	Plane repairable
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	
F4U-2	35	50	3	233	133			6250		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

NONE

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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) Installations - Minami Kaito Jima, Kita Daito Jima (b) Time Over Target(s) 0615-0715 (Zone) _____
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target _____
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

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

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type _____ Bomb Sight Used _____
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run _____ Spacing _____ Altitude of Bomb Release _____
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

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

(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 Heavy AA gun emplacements		4 FM-2 VC-88	16 rkts 1500 rds .50 cal	8 hits strafed	seriously damaged or destroyed
2 Factory		4 FM-2 VC-88	10 rkts 1500 rds .50 cal	8 hits strafed	Serious
3 Hangars, repair shops, etc		2 FM-2 VC-88	10 rkts 1000 rds .50 cal	10 hits strafed	Serious
4 Med. AA positions		4 FM-2 VC-88	3000 rds .50 cal	strafed	Two destroyed
5 Boathouse		2 FM-2 VC-88	250 rds .50 cal	strafed	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).

#1 Two to four heavy AA guns were firing from a small clump of trees southwest of Minami Daito Jima airfield. 8 hits on the clump were registered; the guns were not seen to fire again.

#2 Scattered fires were started in a factory at Minami following rockets and strafing attacks.

#3 Numerous AA positions, marked by flashes, were heavily strafed. Two medium positions on Kita were silenced definitely.

#4 Boathouse on northern tip of Kita was strafed and hit. No fires were started.

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(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

At 0530(1) on 8 April 1945 eight FM-2s of VC-88 made pre-dawn take-off from their carrier on a special strike against Minami Daito Jima and Kita Daito Jima. The pilots were Lts. G. MUELLER, J. G. SANFORD Lt(jg) W. J. ARMSTRONG, E. A. WHITE, C. J. RYLANDS and Ensigns F. D. TAYLOR, G. S. ADAMS and E. W. CARRITHERS. The carrier was south of the islands and it has been planned to skirt the islands and approach them low from 330° and retire the same way, thus keeping secure the position of the carrier force. Due to inaccurate navigational information, however, the pilots ran directly into the islands as they were proceeding north instead of passing 30 miles to the west of the island. The planes were at 200-300 feet. Minami is somewhat bowl-shaped; to see what is in the middle altitude is needed so the planes started to climb. When Minami was recognized they continued to climb, making left turns past east of the island.

The first run was begun at 8000-7000 ft. altitude from south to north. AA fire of all types opened up immediately as the planes started in. Various aiming points were selected. A clump of trees, harboring 2 to 4 heavy AA guns was hit by rockets and strafing of Lt. Sanford and Lt(jg) Armstrong and was not seen to fire again. Long low buildings, probably hangars and repair shops along the runways, were hit and damaged. A large factory installation in the western part of Minami was damaged by rockets and strafing and fires started. AA fire continued, intense, from the planes started their approach until out of range after retirement. Lt. Sanford's plane, as he was pulling out from his run, was hit by medium AA fire which damaged his right aileron and flap, punctured wing and main gas tanks, spread shrapnel throughout fuselage; he retained control but was forced to return to base, Lt(jg) Armstrong accompanied him. They wisely used a deceptive method of retirement, proceeding due west for 5 minutes, then a course of 180° until they picked up YE.

The other six planes, after their second run on Minami, moved up to Kita Daito Jima. Again they were greeted by intense heavy, medium and light AA fire as they approached. Principally, steep dives of 60° from about 10,000 feet were made on the flashes of AA fire which were banging away. Many were strafed; two medium AA positions were silenced by Lt. Mueller who held them in his sights until they no longer fired. Pill-boxes and flashes of fire were sprayed by other pilots. A boathouse in the northern part of the island was hit but not fired. The group retired toward the west, then turned south until they could pick up YE of carrier.

In general, the AA fire on these two islands was accurate; when there was obvious error it was in deflection rather than altitude. Some heavy guns might have stopped firing at times to hide their position but medium and light AA continued throughout the approach, attack and retirement until hit. At one time Lt. Mueller estimated there were over 100 puffs of heavy and Med. fire over Kita. Many were close but no damage was received except by Lt. Sanford.

No operational aircraft were observed on the ground at the airfield at Minami, no enemy airborne aircraft were encountered.

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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

No comment.

COMMUNICATIONS

Radio, Radar
Homing Devices
Visual Signals
Codes, Ciphers

RECOGNITION

IFF
Signals
Battle Lights
Procedures

PROTECTION

Aarmor; 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:

H. D. SCHWAAB, Lt. USNR, ACIO
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

E. L. KEMPF, Lt. USNR, Commanding
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

20 April 1945
DATE