

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

CVEG 33-23
VF 33-71
VF 33-41

(a) Unit Reporting **CVEG 33** (b) Based on or at **U.S.S. SANGAMON** (c) Report No. **VF 33-41**
(d) Take off: Date **30 April 1945**. Time (LZT) **0400(I)** (Zone); Lat. **24-42 N.** Long. **126-51 E**
(e) Mission **Pre-dawn Intruder Strike** (f) Time of Return **0730(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)		
TBM-3E	VT-33	4	0	4	2x500 G.P. Nose 4x100 G.P. Tail 7 A.R.-5 in. Head Mk. 157 .02 sec.	AN M219 Inst. AN M101A2 .1 sec. AN M100A2 .1 sec.
F6F-5N	VT-33	4	0	4	Flares in 2 VF 1x500 Tail 1x100 (in 2 VF) Tail	AN M101A2 .1 sec. AN M100A2 .1 sec.

III. OTHER U. S. OR ALLIED AIRCRAFT EMPLOYED IN THIS OPERATION. **6 AR-5 in. Head Mk. 157 .02 sec.**

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
N-O-N-E							

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
SE	1	0	0530(Z)	1 1/2 mi. off S.E. coast Miyako	Not observed	Not observed

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) **Unknown, possible picket.**
Did Any Part of _____
(i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? **No** 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 **Night, Brightmoon** (k) Visibility **6 to 7**
(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		
N-O-N-E						

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VF 33-71
VT 33-41

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 TBM-3E	VT-33	25 mm. and 40 mm AA	Starboard landing flap, 6 o'clock below.	New flap, new glass in cockpit hatch, metal-smith patching.
2			Fuselage 2 o'clock below,	
3			cockpit glass.	
4				
5				
6 TBM-3E	VT-33	12.7 mm.	Leading edge port wing, 12 o'clock below.	Skin patch and later will replace rib.
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
1	VT-33	Ensign John F. HAYES, Jr.	AA shrapnel & glass from cockpit enclosure	Minor multiple plexi-glass puncture wounds right arm and forearm. Condition excellent.
1	VT-33	JENNINGS, Louis V., ARM3c	AA shrapnel which went through tunnel	Minor multiple shrapnel puncture wounds of right leg and left thigh. Condition excellent.

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-3E	84	204	3½	330	237	25	1220	--	--	4
P6F-5N	84	204	3½	400	296	-	4460	--	--	4

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

TURNS
DIVES
CEILINGS
RANGE
PROTECTION
ARMAMENT

N-O-N-E

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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) **Airfields, Miyako & Ishigaki** (b) Time Over Target(s) **0510(I)** (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target **4000, cumulus, 2/10**
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target **Clear** (e) Visibility **6 to 7**
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Glide** Bomb Sight Used **Mk. VIII VF-Nite**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE) **Reticule**

Bombs Dropped per Run **VF-1, VT-2** Spacing **2025, 2060** Altitude of Bomb Release **2000, 1VF @ 1000** **1500 yds.**
(NUMBER) (FEET) **Rockets S/R 1500 yds.** (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed **0** Probably Destroyed **0** Damaged **0**

(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 Ishigaki air field & revetments	300' x 5500'	2 VT-33	2x500, 4x100 7 AR	6 0	Slight
2 " " "	" "	2 VT-33	1x500, 1x100 11 AR	2 11	"
3 Miyara air-field & revetments	300' x 5200'	1 VT-33	1x500, 3x100 7 AR	4 7	"
4 " " "	" "	2 VT-33	Strafed	-	"
5 Hirara air-field & revetments	5500' x 5000'	1 VT-33	2 x 100 G.P. 5 AR	2 5	"
6 AA positions	- - -	1 VT-33	2 x 500 G.P. 4 x 100 G.P.	2 4	"
7 Nebara airfield & revetments	5200' x 300'	1 VT-33	2 x 500, 2x100 GP	4	"
8 " " "	" "	2 VT-33	1x500, 1x100 GP 12 AR	2 12	"
9. 10 small boats	50'	1 VT-33	2 AR & strafe	-	"

(p) 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 & 3 Airfields on Ishigaki Jima. Most of rockets and bombs were expended before fully daylight so full extent of damage could not be assessed. A fire was started at each target.

5 On Miyako Jima. Hits were on runway and adjoining revetment area. No fires.

6 Is a ridge east of Target #7 on which are numerous AA positions & reported storage areas. Intense AA was firing during the runs & it had subsided appreciably by the time of the last run.

7 Is on Miyako Jima south of Target #5. Most of the drops were on the revetment area where planes have been reported. It is not known whether or not any planes on the ground were hit.

9 Boats were on beach in harbor on south coast Ikema Shima, south of Miyako.

(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 of 4 TBM's and 4 F6F-N's were launched as a pre-dawn intruder strike on airfields of Ishigaki Jima and Miyako Jima. 2 VT and 2 VF went to each target. During darkness, bombs and rockets are released in the general area of the runways. Accuracy of hits and exact extent of damage usually cannot be observed.

For this type work the best results are obtained by launching planes in pairs from the two catapults. Each pair proceeds independently to its assigned target. Rendezvous points for use during entire flight are previously designated.

Free use of the radio (VHF) is found necessary at targets and it is believed that this type work produces extremely valuable results.

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

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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

Starboard cockpit hatch was hit and penetrated by light AA bullet, which passed just forward of pilot and lodged at base of port panel of cockpit enclosure. Bits or flakes of plexiglass penetrated pilot's khaki flight suit causing numerous minor punctures of right arm.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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F.B. GILKESON, LtGdr., U.S. Navy, 30 April 1945.

A.C.I.O., VF-33.

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