

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

056333

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

19051

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VBF-94 (b) Based on or at USS LEXINGTON (c) Report No. VBF-94 #11
 (d) Take off: Date 14 July 1945 Time (LZT) 0335 (Zone); Lat. 41° 00' N Long. 143° 24' E
 (e) Mission Destroy A/C Bihoro A/F Hokkaido (f) Time of Return 0745 I (Zone)
152

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)		
BU-4	VBF-94	16		14	4 x 5" HVAR (4 planes) Nose MK 149 Inst. 8 x 5" HVAR (10 planes) Tail MK 159 .015 Det.	

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
			N				
			O				
			N				

IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

(a) TYPE	(b) NO. OBSERVED	(c) No. ENGAG. OWN A/C	(d) TIME ENCOUNTERED	(e) LOCATION OF ENCOUNTER	(f) BOMBS, TORPEDOES CARRIED; GUNS OBSERVED	(g) CAMOUFLAGE AND MARKING
	N		(ZONE)			
	O		(ZONE)			
	N		(ZONE)			
	E		(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) None
 Did Any Part of
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? None If so, Describe Clouds _____
 (YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND PERCENT OF COVER)
 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			
			N			
			O			
			N			
			E			

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK IS MADE)

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

Otsu to Kushiro

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) General Area Ashiyorobuto to (b) Time Over Target(s) 0545 I (Zone)

(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target Layers 500-1000' thick from deck to 13000', Main base 6000' 9/10

(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Good - overcast (e) Visibility 30

(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBTSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.)

(MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used MK 4

(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE)

Rocket

(TYPE)

Rockets Dropped per Run in pairs Spacing -- Altitude of Bomb Release 3000'

(NUMBER)

(FEET)

(FEET)

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

(h) AIMING POINT	(i) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(ii) 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 Armed Trawler	300 tons	3 VBF-94	1AC-4x5" HVAR 3AC-50 Cal MG	4	Beached & fired. See note below.
2 Factory W side of river center of Kushiro	200x200	14	22 x 5" HVAR .50 Cal MG	12	Serious
3 Factory E side of river on shore Kushiro	Large	14	26 x 5" HVAR .50 Cal MG	18	Seriously fired & expl, prob. dest.
4 Factory at Shiranuka	Large	8	20x5" HVAR .50 Cal MG	3	Slight
5 Train and RR Shops at Ikeda	--	14	20 x 5" HVAR .50 Cal MG	8	Exploded train Damaged shops
6 Fishing boats	Small	14	4 x 5" HVAR .50 Cal MG	Many MG's	All flamed, 3 left sink. 6 Prob. sunk.
7 Factory at Ikeda	Small	2	.50 Cal MG	Many	Fired
8 Higgins type craft in side anchorage - Kushiro		2	.50 Cal MG	Many	Sunk

(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 location of hits. For all targets give location and effect of hits, and identify by numbers above. Use additional sheets if necessary.)

1. Later strike confirmed ship as beached, afire, and half submerged. Ship beached 100 yds off shore SHIRANUKA sunk by Lt.(jg) ADAMS. See attached photo.
2. Train exploded - smoke to 3000'. See photo.

Note: 3 rockets fired accidentally.
1 dud - returned aboard.

Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

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NARRATIVE: VBF Fighter Sweep approached Hokkaido at 13000' between Shiranaku and Kushiro. They continued to fly north by navigation, letting down to 6000' and proceeding 30 miles out into Abashiriwan. Unable to penetrate the cloud cover over target, a SSW course to Ashiyorobuto was taken. From there south to the coast at Otsu targets of opportunity were attacked in 40° diving attacks from 4000', releasing at 2000' down to 1000' and strafing down to 500'.

Flight proceeded up coast from Otsu attacking targets at Shiranuka and Kushiro. All attacks on factories and ground installations were made with same general tactics as previous. Shipping attacks were made from 4000' in 30° dives with rockets being released from 1000' to 500'. It was in this type of attack Lt. (jg) M.L. ADAMS scored hits on a FOX TARE CHARLIE 1500-2000 tons; fired and beached craft which was seen by later flight beached, burning, and half submerged. Lt. (jg) Adams' release was at 200' altitude. Flight rendezvoused 5 miles south of Kushiro after attack and returned to base.

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COMMENTS:

1. Rockets were excellent weapon for type of targets attacked.
2. As in Tokyo strike of 10 July 1945, once again, Air Group SIX is guilty of entirely too much unnecessary talking over the radio. Other pilots found it difficult to get a communication across.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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Signature Rank & Duty
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APPROVED:

DeWaele

JUL 19 1945

Signature

L. Rank & duty
LT. CDR., U.S. NAVY

Date

Commanding Officer