

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

I. GENERAL

~~SECRET~~

(a) Unit Reporting VP-49 (b) Based on or at USS SAN JACINTO (c) Report No. ACA-1-66
(d) Take off: Date 13 Aug. 1945 Time (LZT) 1143(I) (Zone); Lat. 35°01'N Long. 142°14'E
(e) Mission Sweep - ISHIOKA; ISHIOKA; TSUKUBA N.; SHINODOTE; KOGA airfields (f) Time of Return 1620(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)		
					8 planes carried 2-500/ GP bombs apiece.	Sk.103A-1 Inst. Nose no tail.
7GP-5	VP-49	15		13	6 planes carried 2-250/ frags. each	Sk.103A-1 Inst. nose Sk.100A-2 Non delay tail

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) X
Did Any Part of
(i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? X If so, Describe Clouds X
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
Time of Day and Brilliance
(j) of Sun or Moon X (k) Visibility X
(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						

Enclosure (MM)

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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 P6Z-5	VP-49	Medium Flek	Prop and starboard wing	Prop nicked; small tear in wing. Both can be repaired aboard ship.
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	
P6Z-5	159	159	4hrs 37min	400	310	1200(average per plane)				16

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

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

SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

- URNS
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

No airborne enemy aircraft were seen.

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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) Koga & Imbaba I. airfields (b) Time Over Target(s) 1250(I) (Zone)
(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 Slightly obscured by haze (e) Visibility 10
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Minimum altitude Bomb Sight Used 22.8 Illuminated gunsight
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 1 Spacing 2 Altitude of Bomb Release 1,000
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 40 Probably Destroyed 0 Damaged 13

(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 <u>See Narrative</u>					
2					
3					
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).

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes 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

Fifteen Hellcats left the USS SAN JACINTO led by Lt. W.A. MacKinnon on a fighter sweep against airfields on the north Tokyo plain. The flight proceeded, by the recommended anti-flak course to KOGA airfield, the westernmost target assigned to the group. Two divisions made a low level strafing and bombing run on the field while the other two divisions remained above as top cover. At the conclusion of this run it was decided, in view of the lack of anti-aircraft opposition, to detach the top cover for a mission against Tsukuba West airfield, with the first two divisions remaining at Koga. Many planes, both single and twin engined, all heavily camouflaged, were found in the wooded areas around the edge of the field. A few un-camouflaged planes, mostly dud, were seen on the edge of the field. More than fifteen minimum altitude runs were made against the parked planes and when the target was left, at least fourteen planes were burning and it is believed that another six were destroyed. The individual members of the two divisions racked up the following scores. Lt. MacKinnon strafed and burned two twin-engined planes; he dropped his bomb on a cluster of five single engined planes, destroying two and damaging the others. Lt(jg) D. C. Crewler burned one single engined plane and exploded a twin by strafing; also burning a twin and damaging a single by frag bomb hits. Lt(jg) C. Szolsky burned two twins and damaged another by repeated runs. Lt(jg) E.K. MacDonald burned three twin engined planes by strafing. Lt. F.J. Fols (leader of the second division) got a bomb hit on two singles, destroying both, and burned one twin by strafing. Lt(jg) A.B. Hampton was handicapped after the first run by a sick engine and, after notifying Lt. MacKinnon, was accompanied to the coast by Lt(jg) W.A. Yancy who bombed and burned three single engined planes at Koga before leaving and destroyed two more singles at Hokoda on the coast by strafing. A total of twenty planes destroyed and five damaged for the first two divisions of the sweep. While all of this was going on at Koga, Lt. L.A. Gundert led the remaining two divisions, consisting of seven planes on numerous low level attacks against the dispersed planes, again in wooded areas and heavily camouflaged, at Tsukuba West airfield (approximately seven or eight miles east of Koga). The totals run up at this field were equally satisfying - twenty destroyed and eight damaged. Lt. Gundert was high scorer. He burned three singles and four twins and helped burn or destroy five other singles. His wingman Lt(jg) Christensen burned three twins. Lt(jg) E.F. Mangelsdorf burned one single and smoked a twin and another single. Lt(jg) S. Jamouzian burned three single engined planes and damaged another. On retirement he exploded a locomotive about ten miles south of Tsukuba West. Lt(jg) R.W. Millbourn's division of three planes tagged in behind and furthered the destruction by accounting for two planes by bombing and strafing; by his wingman Lt(jg) C.A. Bricknell, burning two twins before his plane was hit by medium flak; and by Lt(jg) N. Goldson destroying three planes in a single bombing run. As indicated above, moderate medium and light automatic anti-aircraft fire was encountered at Tsukuba West. A few bursts of heavy flak were seen at Kasunigaura airfield, but they were inaccurate. Return to base was completed at 1700(I).

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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

One plane engine continually cut out over the target.
Otherwise all equipment performed normally.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

A. C. I. Officer
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

Commanding Officer, VF-49
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

13 August 1945
DATE