## AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

I. GENERAL

| ,00E 11  | -                | -  | -  | -        | -   |
|----------|------------------|----|----|----------|-----|
| <b>.</b> | Es 4             | 22 | 0  | E        | 8.0 |
|          |                  |    | П. | E-1      | L   |
| THE .    | Private Contract |    |    | MINUTE B | =   |

| (a) F6F-5                | SQUADRON (b)           | TAKING<br>OFF<br>(c)    | ENGAGING                            | ATTACKING                       | BO                       | MBS AL | ND TORPEDOES             |                              |          | FUZE, SETTI                    | NG            |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| F6F-5                    |                        |                         | ENEMY A/C                           |                                 | CA                       |        | (PER PLANE) (f)          |                              |          | (g)                            |               |
|                          | VF-45                  | 8                       | None                                | 8                               | None                     |        |                          |                              |          |                                |               |
| III. OTH                 | IER U. S.              | OR ALLIED               | AIRCRAF                             | T EMPLOYED                      | D IN THIS C              | PERA   | TION.                    |                              |          |                                |               |
|                          | SQUADRON               | NUMBER                  |                                     | BASE                            |                          | PE ·   | SQUADRON                 | NUMBER                       | ****     | BASE                           |               |
| TBM-3<br>TBM-3<br>SB2C   | VT-45<br>VT-9<br>VB-9  | 12                      | USS LED                             | N JACINTO<br>KINGTON<br>KINGTON | F.6.                     | F-5    | VF-9                     | 16                           | USS      | LEXINGTO                       | N             |
|                          |                        |                         |                                     | ENGAGED (                       | By Own Airc              | raft L | isted in 11              | Only).                       |          | •                              |               |
| (a)<br>TYPE              | (b)<br>NO.<br>OBSERVED | NO. ENGAGING<br>OWN A/C |                                     | LOCA<br>ERED ENC                | (e)<br>TION OF<br>OUNTER | E      | BOMBS, TORPED<br>GUNS OF | )<br>DOES CARRIEI<br>BSERVED | D;       | CAMOUFL<br>MARK                | AGE AND       |
| Tojo                     | 1                      | No<br>airborne<br>enemy | 0855-09<br>(K) (Z                   | 915<br>ONE) Tokuno              |                          | No     | ne obser                 | ved                          |          | Dark gree<br>brown<br>Light, a |               |
| Oscar                    | 2                      | aircraft                | ; 11 (2                             | IONE) Tokuno                    |                          | No     | ne obser                 | ved                          |          | silver c                       | olor          |
| S.E.                     | 1                      | 11                      | ** (2                               | ZONE) Tokuno                    |                          | No     | ne obser                 | ved                          |          | roundels                       |               |
| h) Apparent              | ,                      | Mission(s)              |                                     |                                 |                          | X      |                          |                              |          |                                |               |
| i) Did Any F<br>Encounte | er(s) Occu             | ir in Clouds            | YES OR N                            | If so, Desc                     | ribe Clouds_             |        | X<br>(BASE IN            | FEET, TYPE                   | AND TE   | NTHS OF COVER                  | )             |
| i) of Sun or             |                        |                         |                                     | X                               |                          |        |                          | (k) Vis                      | ibility_ | X                              |               |
| •                        |                        |                         | and the second second second second | RIGHT MOON: DAY                 |                          |        | Aircraft Lis             | ted in 11 (                  | Only)    | (MIL                           | ES)           |
| (a)                      |                        | OYED OR DAMA            |                                     | DAMAGLD                         | III AIR (D)              | OWII   | All Clair Lis            |                              | (c)      |                                | (d)<br>DAMAGE |
| TYPE<br>ENEMY A/C        | TYPE A/C               | SQUADRON                | PI                                  | LOT OR GUNNER                   |                          | GUNS L | JSED                     | WHER                         | E HIT, A | ANGLE                          | CLAIMED       |
| None                     |                        |                         |                                     |                                 |                          |        |                          |                              |          |                                |               |
| •                        |                        |                         |                                     |                                 |                          |        |                          |                              |          |                                |               |
|                          |                        |                         |                                     |                                 |                          |        |                          |                              |          |                                |               |
|                          |                        |                         |                                     | ,                               |                          |        |                          |                              |          |                                |               |
|                          |                        | _                       |                                     |                                 |                          |        |                          |                              |          |                                |               |
|                          |                        |                         |                                     |                                 |                          |        |                          |                              |          |                                |               |
| 1 .                      |                        |                         |                                     |                                 |                          |        |                          |                              |          |                                |               |
|                          |                        |                         |                                     |                                 |                          |        |                          |                              |          |                                |               |

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(Reclassify when filled out)

SEBRET



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| VI. LOS                | (b)       | CAL        | (c)<br>ISE: TYPE ENEM<br>N, OR OPERATIO | Y A/C                    | WHERE HIT, self-sealing to | (d)<br>ANGLE (List a     | armor,          | EXTENT          | OF LOSS OR        | DAMAGE,<br>planes destroyed) |
|------------------------|-----------|------------|---|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| E OWN A/C              | SQUADRON  | TYPE GU    | N, OR OPERATION                         | ONAL CAUSE               | self-sealing to            | anks, equipmen           | nt hit)         | (Give Bureau se | erial number of   | planes destroyed             |
|                        |           | •          |   |                          |                            |                          |                 |                 |                   |                              |
|                        |           |            |   |                          |                            |                          |                 |                 |                   |                              |
|                        |           |            |   |                          |                            |                          |                 |                 |                   |                              |
|                        |           |            |   |                          |                            |                          |                 |                 |                   |                              |
|                        |           |            |   |                          |                            |                          |                 |                 |                   |                              |
|                        |           |            |   |                          |                            |                          |                 |                 |                   |                              |
|                        |           |            |   |                          |                            |                          |                 |                 |                   |                              |
|                        |           |            |   |                          |                            |                          |                 |                 |                   |                              |
|                        |           |            |   |                          |                            |                          |                 |                 |                   |                              |
|                        |           |            |   |                          |                            |                          |                 |                 |                   |                              |
|                        |           |            |   |                          |                            |                          |                 |                 |                   |                              |
|                        |           |            |   |                          |                            |                          |                 |                 |                   |                              |
|                        |           |            |   |                          | -                          |                          |                 |                 |                   |                              |
|                        |           | 1          |   |                          | 1                          |                          |                 |                 |                   |                              |
|                        | RSONNEL   | CASUAL     | TIES (in air                            | craft listed             | in II only; ide            | ntify with               | planes list     |                 | (e)               |                              |
| VII. PE  (b)  SQUADRON |           | (          | TIES (in air                            | craft listed             |                            |                          | planes list     |                 | Nos. at le        |                              |
| (b)                    |           | (          | (c)                                     | craft listed             |                            | d)<br>USE                | planes list     |                 | (e)               |                              |
| (b)                    |           | (          | (c)                                     | craft listed             |                            | d)<br>USE                |                 |                 | (e)               |                              |
| (b)                    |           | (          | (c)                                     | craft listed             |                            | d)<br>USE                |                 |                 | (e)               | STATUS                       |
| (b)                    |           | (          | (c)                                     |                          |                            | d)<br>USE                |                 |                 | (e)               | STATUS                       |
| (b)                    |           | (          | (c)                                     |                          | CA                         | d)<br>USE                |                 | CON             | (e)<br>NDITION OR | STATUS                       |
| (b)                    |           | (          | (c)                                     |                          | CA                         | d)<br>USE                |                 | CON             | (e)<br>NDITION OR | STATUS                       |
| SQUADRON None          |           | NAME, RANI | K OR RATING                             |                          | CA                         | d)<br>USE                |                 | CON             | (e)<br>NDITION OR | STATUS                       |
| None VIII.             | RANGE, FL | JEL, AN    | COR RATING  D AMMUN  (d)                | ITION DAT                | A FOR PLAN                 | USE  IES RETUR           | RNING           | CON             | (e)<br>NDITION OR | NO. OF PLA                   |
| SQUADRON None          | RANGE, FU | JEL, AN    | COR RATING  D AMMUN                     | ITION DAT                | A FOR PLAN                 | USE  IES RETUR           | RNING           | CON             | (e)<br>NDITION OR | NO. OF PLA                   |
| None  VIII.            | RANGE, FL | JEL, AN    | D AMMUN  AV. HOURS                      | ITION DAT  (e)  AV. FUEL | A FOR PLAN  (f)  AV. FUEL  | USE  IES RETUR  (g)  .30 | NING TOTAL AMMU | JNITION EXPEN   | NDITION OR        | STATUS                       |

| IX. LITERIT ATTITUTES                     | NONE | MEAGER | MODERATE | INTENSE |
|---|------|--------|----------|---------|
| CALIBER                                   |      |        |          |         |
| HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over  |      |        |          |         |
| MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm   |      | 77     |          |         |
| LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm |      | A      |          |         |

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

SPEED, CLIMB, at various altitudes

No encounter, enemy airborne aircraft.

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

TURNS
DIVES
CEILINGS
RANGE
PROTECTION
ARMAMENT

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED (Reclassify when

| 4 |  |
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|  |    |  |  |

|     | SECRET                 |                          | OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO              |                                     |                        | • •                         | REPORT No. 4                     | 1                   |
|-----|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
|     | XI. ATTACK ON EN       | EMY SHIPS OR             | GROUND OBJECTI                     | VES (By Own Airc                    | raft Listed i          | n II Only).                 | 0850-0900                        | - /                 |
| a)  | Target(s) and Location | (S) Toluno               | Jima<br>S INCLUDE ALL IN AREA U    | NDER ATTACK)                        | ) Time Over            | rarget(s)_                  | 00)0-0/00                        | (20110)             |
| c)  | Clouds Over Target 2   | 2000, Alto-c             | umulus, 2/10ths                    | TYPE AND TENTHS OF                  | COVER)                 |                             | *.                               |                     |
|     | Visibility of Target   |                          | Y, PARTIALLY OBSCURED I            |                                     | ( ) \ /:               | isibility                   | 10 (MILES)                       |                     |
|     | Bombing Tactics: Type  |                          | (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE)             | Bor                                 | mb Sight Use           | ed                          | (TYPE)                           |                     |
|     | Bombs Dropped per Rur  | X                        | Spacing                            | (FEET)                              | Altitude o             | of Bomb Rele                | ase(FEET                         | )                   |
| (g) | Number of Enemy Air    | craft Hit on Gro         | ound: Destroyed                    | X Probably                          | Destroyed_             |                             | _ Damaged                        | X                   |
|     | (h)<br>AIMING POINT    | DIMENSIONS OR<br>TONNAGE | (j) NO. A/C ATTACKING (k) SQUADRON | BOMBS AND AMA<br>EXPENDED, EACH ALL | MUNITION<br>MING POINT | NO. HITS On<br>Aiming Point | DAMAGE (None, serious, destroyed | slight,<br>or sunk) |
| 1   |                        |                          |                                    |                                     |                        |                             |                                  |                     |
| 2   |                        |                          |                                    |                                     |                        |                             |                                  |                     |
| 3   |                        |                          |                                    |                                     |                        |                             |                                  |                     |
| 4   |                        |                          |                                    |                                     |                        |                             |                                  |                     |
| 5   |                        |                          |                                    |                                     |                        |                             |                                  |                     |
| 6   |                        |                          |                                    |                                     |                        |                             |                                  |                     |
| 7   |                        |                          |                                    |                                     |                        |                             |                                  |                     |
|     |                        |                          |                                    |                                     |                        |                             |                                  |                     |

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, WhenTaken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

<sup>(</sup>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).



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OPERATIONAL DATA. (Narrative and comment. Describe action fully and comment freely, XII. TACTICAL AND 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 Tractics, 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

#### DEFENSE, ENEMY

Use of Jamming

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

Eight F6F-5's of VF-45 were launched at 0730 (K) 1 March, 1945, to fly escort for a combined bomber, torpedo plane and fighter strike at Tokuno Airfield, Tokuno Jima, Amami Gunto, Nansei Shoto. The first division led by Lt. C.R. Knokey, was composed of Ensign Coffin, Ensign Bunker and Ensign Wilcox. The second division, led by Lt. J.E. Perry,

consisted, for the remainder, of Ensign Krier, Ensign Kelley and Ensign Willis, the latter of whom flew an F6F-5 equipped with a K-17 camera

for damage assessment.

As the planes arrived at the target airfield on Tokuno Jima at 0855(K) the bombers and torpedo planes pushed over in their dives on the field, followed by the escorting fighters. Lt. Knokey's division pushed over from approximately 8000 feet, from East to West, in a 40 degree glide. The remaining division led by Lt. Perry remained with the photographic plane which continuously snapped pictures during the attack.

It. Knokey's four fighters made in all three runs, all initiated from the same direction and riddled four single engine fighters west of the airfield although the planes would not burn. (Photo) These planes were: a Tojo located on the western edge of the runway, and two (2) Oscars and an unidentified single engine fighter in revetments west of the strip. Magre light anti-aircraft fire was noted from a position a few hundred feet due south of the field.

After the attack the strike leader from the USS LEXINGTON took the LEXINGTON fighters, dive bombers and Lt. Perry's photo division to Amami O Shima for an attack upon shipping and installations there. Lieutenant Knokey's four planes covered all the torpedo planes which were ordered to orbit between Tokuno Jima and Amami O Shima. After the attack on Amami, all the planes rejoined and returned to Base without further incident.

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XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left. Use additional sheets if necessary). All material and equipment functioned satisfactorily

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

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3-1-45