









# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

**SECRET**

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

VF-45

REPORT No. 41

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

(K)

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Tokuno Jima (b) Time Over Target(s) 0850-0900 (Zone)

(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 2000, Alto-cumulus, 2/10ths

(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 10

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

(MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type X Bomb Sight Used X

(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE)

(TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run X Spacing X Altitude of Bomb Release X

(NUMBER)

(FEET)

(FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed X Probably Destroyed 4 Damaged X

(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					
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.





60 (SANJAC 55) (1 MAR 1945 0905-10) (K17 12" VERT 4000-8000) (TOKUNO AMAMI SHIMA, NANSEI SHOTTO) (CONF)



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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

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.

Lt. 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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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**3-1-45** DATE