

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VT-49 (b) Based on or at USS SAN JACINTO (c) Report No. 22
 (d) Take off: Date 24 July 1945 Time (LZT) 1422(-9) (Zone); Lat. 31°-40' N Long. 135°-13' E
 (e) Mission Neutralize A/A, Kure Naval Base, Honshu (f) Time of Return 1846(-9) (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-3	VT-49	8	0	6	8-260# Frags	Nose-T50 E-1 Tail-Non-delay

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
All carriers in TG.38 participated. VT and 2 CVL's in TG.38.1 were only ones assigned to land based A/A.							

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) _____
 Did Any Part of _____
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? _____ 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 _____ (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:			(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER		
None					

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

3

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 22

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) A/A positions, Kure Naval Base (b) Time Over Target(s) 1545(-9) (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target .2 stratus @ 6000 feet, Thin
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Slightly obscured by thin cover (e) Visibility Unlimited.
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) 4-Mark VIII MILES
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Slide Bomb Sight Used 2-None
(LEVEL, GUIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 2-4; 1-7 plus 1 Spacing 100 ft 300 fts Altitude of Bomb Release 7000 to 5000
(NUMBER) (FEET) (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 Medium A/A positions	4 emplacements	3 VT-49	16-260/ Frags	8-10	Not observed.
2 Dual purpose A/A positions	6 emplacements	3 VT-49	21-260/ Frags	About 17	Not observed.
3 Island town Hashiro Wan	Small *	3 VT-49	10-260/ Frags	Not known	Not observed.
4 SD's (4) M ⁰ -01'N 132°-28 E	70-80 ft. each	1 VT-49	Fixed .50 cal. strafing 125 rds.	Not known	1 burning. Serious damage.
5					
6					
7					
8					

* These were hung bombs dropped in retirement.

(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).

1 & 2 These attacks over a heavily defended target area are staged in "around the clock" dives, with bombs from all planes released at very close intervals and pullouts likewise in high speed retirement. Under such conditions, damage observation is not feasible and actual hits directly on the AA positions from VT fused bombs rarely seen.

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

3-2-4-2-2-2-2

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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5

REPORT No. 22

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ (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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

XII TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA.

In its second strike of the day on A/A installations at Kure, this squadron sent its eight available Avengers, which were launched at 1415 on 24 July, in company with deckload "Charlie" strikes from all Task Force carriers.

Before reaching the southern shore of Shikoku, Ensign Coffey's plane gave evidence of having fuel pressure trouble, and was sent back to base with Lt(jg) Pruitt. His engine cut out a number of times, with a final cough 5 miles from the Task Group at 1000 feet. An effective ditching with coordinated employment of the life raft, soon put them in the vicinity of a rescue destroyer, which picked pilot and crewmen out of their raft 15 minutes later, while Lt(jg) Pruitt orbited the position.

Meanwhile the six remaining Avengers had crossed the mountains of Shikoku Aki Nada, in approach to Kure from the Southeast, at 14,000 feet. Lieut. Peters had reassigned the A/A positions in view of there being only six planes. Visibility was much better than in the morning, and although a light cover lay over the target at about 6,000 feet, the target areas were distinguishable as the aiming dives were initiated at 10,000 feet. Lieut. Peters, and Lt(jg) MacCollister made their runs on a 4 gun Automatic weapons position while Lt(jg) Hester and Ensigns Milburn and Seckinger dropped on 6 Dual purpose guns known to be emplaced almost on the tip of the peninsula below the Naval Base. Flashes from these positions, not visible in the morning pinpointed the aiming points and many hits in the Two A/A areas were counted.

High speed, jinking retirement took the planes over several additional medium positions without casualty.

A Sugar Dog was violently strafed and left burning before rendezvous, and a lugger strafed and damaged.

The flight landed safely aboard 15 minutes before sunset.

XIII MATERIAL DATA

None

Charles N. Fuller, Lt(jg), USNR, ACIO
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

Carl H. Peters, Lieut.(A1), USNR, Comdg. 26 July 1945.
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY DATE