

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
Declassify when
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CONFIDENTIAL

COPY 1

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting CVEG-33 (b) Based on or at U.S.S. SANGAMON (c) Report No. CVEG-33 #5
(VF-33 #13)
(VT-33 #15)
 (d) Take off: Date 8 April 1945 Time (LZT) 0415(I) (Zone); Lat. 24°43'N Long. 127°10'E
 (e) Mission Predawn Intruder Sakishima Gunto (f) Time of Return 0900(I) (Zone)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

TYPE (a)	SQUADRON (b)	NUMBER			BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE) (f)	FUZE, SETTING	
		TAKING OFF (c)	ENGAGING ENEMY A/C (d)	ATTACKING TARGET (e)			
TBM-3E	VT-33	2	0	2	10 x 100 G.P. (In 1) 8 HVAR (In 2)	HVAR-Base Mk 157 Nose AN M 103A1 Tail AN M 100A2	.02 sec. Inst. .1 sec.
F6F-5N	VF-33	5	0	5	6 HVAR (In 4)	Base MK. 157	.02 sec.

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) _____
 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 _____ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (k) Visibility _____ (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						

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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	TBM-3E VT-33	Medium AA, probably 40 mm	Port wing- Below 5 o'clock	Large hole in underside of port wing. Port ail- eron control cables severed. Wing change.
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
N-o-n-e				

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	
TBM-3E	265	165	4 3/4	330	290	0	735	-	-	2
F6F-5N	265	165	4 3/4	375	300	-	3860	-	-	5

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	X			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm		X		
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm				X

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

- SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes
- URNS
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

N-o-n-e

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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) Ishigaki Airfield on Ishigaki Jima Target(s) 0740(I) (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 1500 ft. base, stratus, solid
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Hazy (e) Visibility 4 miles
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used MK. VIII
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 4 Spacing 100 Altitude of Bomb Release 1000
(NUMBER) (FEET) (TYPE) Rockets S/R 1000 yds.

(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 Revetment Area	200 x 2000 ft.	1 VT-33	8 HVAR	8	Slight
2 " "	" "	1 VF-33	2 HVAR	Unobserved	Unobserved
2 Gun Positions	-----	2 VF-33	11 HVAR	Unobserved	Unobserved
3 Landing Strip		1 VT-33	8 x 100 G.P.	4	Slight
5 " "		2 VF-33	4 HVAR	2	Unobserved
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).

1. This area is alongside Ishigaki Airstrip. The revetments appeared to be for planes, some for stores and equipment. Rockets caused good sized explosions. Full extent of damage not determined.
2. These gun positions were located only by sighting flashes from guns. Were located near crossing of the two runways.
3. Landing strip on southern edge of the island near town of Ishigaki. Effects of rocket hits were unobserved. 100# G.P. hits caused small craters in runway.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No 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

Dispatch ordering the strike arrived at such a late hour, launching was tardy. Incorrect point option data was given the pilots and consequently the flight arrived at the target during daylight instead of pre-dawn as scheduled. One of the TBM's was launched without bombs and one F6F was launched only with ammunition. Both planes were standby and were launched even though there were no duds. The flight went about 100 miles extra because of the misinformation. This resulted in unanticipated use of fuel and only two runs were made on the target.

Lt.(jg) M. H. MC GANN's TBM received a 40mm hit on the underside of his port wing. This resulted in no control of port aileron, no air speed indicator and severance of electrical circuit by which rockets are launched. The H. E. projectile knocked off one rocket and knocked another loose from the after launcher stud. All but one of the rockets were brought back aboard without incident and the pilot made a good landing even though he had one rocket dangling from the forward launcher stud and no left aileron control.

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XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.
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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

The AA hit was apparently on the rocket itself. All eight HVAR were still on the launchers at the time. The hit apparently broke the rocket case as fragments of the case were found inside the wing. However, it is believed that the rocket did not expend or detonate until contact with the ground. Pilot of another plane saw two red balls of fire sort of suspend from the launcher, then one ball dropped, giving the appearance that it was being propelled only by gravity. The other red ball disappeared but was not seen to drop. Lt.(jg) McGANN said that he saw fire in the wing. The projectile or a fragment thereof completely severed the aileron torque tube.

A second and adjacent rocket was broken loose from the after stud and left dangling from the one stud. The AA hit put the electrical rocket launcher circuit out of working order and none of the remaining seven rockets could be jet-tisoned. Although the dangling rocket swayed back and forth on the arrested landing, it did not drop from the stud holding it.

Lt. KAGEY's bombsight was of no use to him as the illuminating bulb was loose in its socket.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

A.W. SWARNER, Lieut.(A)U.S.N.R.

F.B. GILKESON, Lieut.Comdr., USN 8 April 1945

A.C.I.O. VT-33
C.P. GOSHORN, Lieut.(jg), (A), U.S.N.R.

Commander CVEG-33

A.C.I.O. VF-33