

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

# CONFIDENTIAL

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting CVG-24 (b) Based on or at USS SAUTER (CVE-29) (c) Report No. 40-45  
 (d) Take off: Date 8 June 1945 Time (LZT) 1000(I) (Zone); Lat. 24° 51' N Long 126° 30' E  
 (e) Mission Attack Air Facilities, Miyako Jima (f) Time of Return 1300(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)		
<u>TBM-3</u>	<u>VF-24</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8 - 5" H.E. Rockets</u> <u>10 - 100# 3/2 Bomb</u>	<u>205 delay fuze.</u> <u>Instant nose-.01 tail</u>
<u>F4U</u>	<u>VF-24</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4 - 5" H.E.</u> <u>1 - 500# 3/2 H.E. Bomb</u>	<u>Ins fuze only</u> <u>Instant nose-.01 tail</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>TBM-3</u>	<u>VF</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>USS GILBERT ISLANDS</u>				
<u>F4U</u>	<u>VF</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>USS GILBERT ISLANDS</u>				

## 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
<u>None</u>						
			(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	GUNS USED		
<u>None</u>						

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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				
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

## 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	
<del>100-5</del>	99	99	3	395	230	900	1200			4
<del>100-5</del>	99	99	3.9	325	215	200	200			4

## 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

TURNING  
DIVES  
CEILINGS  
RANGE  
PROTECTION  
ARMAMENT

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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) Hoburn and Hoburn Airfields (b) Time Over Target(s) 1055(1) (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 2000' (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 12 (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type VT-214s Bomb Sight Used VT-214s/1000' Dive Sight
- Bombs Dropped per Run VT-411 Spacing --- Altitude of Bomb Release 2000'
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed None Probably Destroyed None Damaged None

(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 H-S Runway	Hoburn	4 VT-214	40 - 100# Bombs ✓	30	Controlled
2 Storage Area	Hoburn	4 VT-214	32 - Rockets		
3 H-S Runway	Hoburn	4 VT-214	4 - 500# Bombs ✓	4	Controlled
4 Storage Bldgs.		4 VT-214	Strafing 14 - Rockets		
5 Small Bldgs	40'-50'	4 VT-214	Strafing	None	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).

- VT-2. Slightly south of Hoburn airfield in TA 1995. Hits were scored in the area, but damage is unknown.
- VT-4. Five separate runs were made with rockets and strafing on these buildings. At least 6 direct rocket hits and many strafing hits were seen. Two buildings melted. Two others caught fire and burned.

(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

This was a combination strike consisting of planes from this ship and the USS GILBERT ISLAND, with the strike leader being a member of the latter group. He assigned the SATEM Hirara airfield as a bombing target.

The W division led by Lt(jg) L. MARIANI, pushed over from 10000' in a 70° dive and released their quarter tonners at 3000', seeing them strike the H-H runway a bit north of the intersection. The VT attacked the H-H runway with 40 - 100' bombs, letting down from 8500'-9000', and releasing with tail fuse armed, at 3000'. It was a good run, and they scored approximately 30 hits. The VT then made a run on the storage area south of H-H airfield where they fired their rockets in glides of 30° and at a slant range of 2000 yards, scoring unknown damage. After its attack on Hirara airfield, VT attacked a series of medium sized storage buildings located near the coast southwest of Hirara airfield. Six division rocket and strafing runs were made at 30° glide angles against these targets. The rockets were fired in pairs from 1000 yards slant range. Two buildings burned fiercely, and another two were smoking as the flight left the area. They also strafed 4 small boats near Hirara town.

Before returning to base the VT made runs on a couple of smaller islands in the vicinity of H-H, where they strafed warehouses and other targets of opportunity, with unknown results.

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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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

**W. A. HALPER, Lieut., S(A), USNR**  
SIGNATURE **W. A. HALPER**

RANK AND DUTY

**F. E. GARDNER Jr., Lieutenant, USN,**  
SIGNATURE **F. E. GARDNER Jr.**

RANK AND DUTY

DATE