

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VF-9, VF-9 (b) Based on or at U.S.S. LEXINGTON (CV16). (c) Report No. 13
 (d) Take off: Date 1 March 1945 Time (LZT) 1315 K (Zone); Lat. 25°41' N Long. 129°07' E
 (e) Mission Strike Shipping, ANAMI OSHIMA (f) Time of Return 1615 K (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)		
F6F-5	VF-9	11	0	11	5 a/c 1 500# G.P. Mk 64 6 a/c 1 500# G.P. Mk 64, &	ANM101A2 - .025 delay
F6F-5	*VF-9	4*	0	4	4 5" R/P. Mk 148 Nose and 1 500# G.P. Mk 64	Mk 157 Base Fuze ANM101A2 - .025 delay
F6F-5(P)	VF-9	1	0	1	All 16 F6F-5's had 2400 X .50 cal.	

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
TBM	VT-9	13	U.S.S. LEXINGTON	F6F-5	VF-45	8	U.S.S. SAN JACINTO
SB2C-3	VB-9	11	U.S.S. LEXINGTON	TBM	VT-45	9	U.S.S. SAN JACINTO

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						

*Includes Air Group Commander - Lieut. Condr. HOUCK

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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	F6F-5	VBF-9	20 MM "AA"	Port Stabilizer-from below	Slight
2	F6F-5	VBF-9	12.7 MM "AA"	Wind shield broken just right of bullet proof glass	Slight
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
	none			

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	5" ^{MM} rockets	
F6F-5	150	155	3	400	260		12000		24	16

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"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

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

SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

- TURNES
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

No opportunity.

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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) Shipping, Naze Ko, AMAMI OSHIMA (b) Time Over Target(s) 1500 K (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 2000' Cumulus 3/10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target clear (e) Visibility unlimited
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type 500 Bomb Sight Used none
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run one Spacing - Altitude of Bomb Release 2500
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

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

(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 FTC	3500 tons	2 F6F 7 F6F VF-9 VBF-9	8 500# G.P. 4 5" R/P & strafing	one hit two hits	Serious
2 S - 2 stacks	14,000 tons	2 F6F 4 F6F VF-9 VBF-9	3 500# G.P. 2500 X .50 cal	no hits 75%	Moderate
3 SC (?)	175' length slim lines	2 F6F 4 F6F VF-9 VBF-9	2 500# G.P. 2000 X .50 cal	one hit 75%	Serious
4 7 luggers	60 tons	8 F6F-5's VBF-9	20 5" R/P's 5500 X .50 cal	75%	3 probably destroyed 4 damaged
5 Pier	300' X 50'	1 F6F-5 VBF-9	1 500# G.P.	1(?)	Moderate
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.)

- The FTC situated at the berth on the south westerly, or outer part, of the harbor was hit with a 500# G.P. bomb by Lieutenant R.E. DIBBLE of VBF-9. This ship was also attacked by other units of the strike. This target is believed to have been beached previously altho it was maned and put up "AA" fire when attacked. It was smoking after the hit and concentrated strafing.
- The S - 2 stacks was moored in the inter southeastern cove and was thoroughly strafed by 6 F6F's. It's bow was high in the water indicating a possible previous beaching or extreme lack of ballast or cargo. It was however maned and returned fire.
- The SC is described as having trim lines and a superstructure toward Aft. It may be a large ICI or a small auxiliary. It did not return fire. It was well strafed and suffered 1 direct hit with a 500# bomb dropped by Lt. (jg) W.E. EMERSON of VF-9. It was anchored in the stream in the center of the inter harbor and was emitting smoke and flame when last seen.
- The 7 luggers were seen south of the entrance of the Naze harbor heading SW hugging the west coast of AMAMI OSHIMA. They were strafed and later flights in the same area reported 3 luggers still burning and several showing oil slicks.
- Lieutenant G.S. SMITH put his 500# G.P. in the docks area and other members of the flight recall smoke and debris from that general vicinity giving some indication of an effective hit.
- CF. report of VB-9 and VT-9 for additional details.

(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

STRIKE 2 EASY took off from the U.S.S. LEXINGTON at 1315 K and completed rendezvous with 8 VF and 8 VT from U.S.S. SAN JACINTO. Climb was begun to 11,000', speed 150 knots, course generally north east with a view to intercepting a convoy reported heading north east from Amami Oshima. No contact being made the flight approached Naze Ko on the north west side of the above island. Units from the U.S.S. SAN JACINTO were ordered to attack shipping and land facilities around Satsukawa Ko and Koniya Wan on the southern end of the island by Lieutenant Commander HOUCK the strike leader.

The U.S.S. LEXINGTON aircraft (16 VF, 11 VB, and 13 VT) attacked shipping in Naze Ko with VF and VBF results tabulated on page 3 of this report. The VB went in first - then 2 divisions of F6F's, then VT and were followed by the remaining F6F's. VF and VBF initiated their attacks from 8000', angle 50°, speed 340 knots, south to north with pull out at 1000', retirement out to sea. Following this attack 8 VBF rocketed and strafed the 7 luggers as described on page 3 of this report.

A small amount of "AA" of all types was present in the harbor, mainly unaccurate. One F6F was nicked by 20 MM on pull out in the attack on the S-2 stacker, the other by 12.7 during a dive on the FTC.

After this series of attacks the flight effected rendezvous and returned to base landing aboard without incident at 1615 K.

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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

All material performed satisfactorily.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

J. P. MURPHY, Lieut., USNR. ACT

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

Frank L. LAWLER, Lt. Cdr., USNR. CO

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

1 March 1945.

DATE