

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)
CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

Photo #2

(a) Unit Reporting VF-9 (b) Based on or at USS LEXINGTON (CV-16) (c) Report No. 11-45
 (d) Take off: Date 25 Feb. 1945 Time (LZT) 0730 K. (Zone); Lat. 33°-24'N. Long. 143°-15'E.
 (e) Mission Photograph Airfields in Tokyo Area (f) Time of Return 1130 K. (Zone)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

(a) TYPE	(b) SQUADRON	NUMBER			(f) BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE)	(g) FUZE, SETTING
		(c) TAKING OFF	(d) ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	(e) ATTACKING TARGET		
F6F-5	VF-9	4	None	None	None	- - -
F6F-5P	VF-9	2	None	None	Two 12" K-17 cameras per plane	- - -

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
Oscar	3	None	1000 K. (ZONE)	None	- - -	- - -

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Not determined, did not engage.
 Did Any Part of
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? _____ If so, Describe Clouds _____ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 (j) Time of Day and Brilliance 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		None		
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
		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	MM	
F6F-5	195	195	4	400	350	--	2400	--	--	6

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over		1 burst		
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	XX			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	XX			

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

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

No enemy A/C engaged.

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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) 3 Luggers 20 mi. E. Inubo Saib Time Over Target(s) 1020 K. (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 4000' base 10/10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Hazy (e) Visibility 10 miles
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Strafing Glide Gun Bomb Sight Used Mk VIII
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run -- Spacing -- Altitude of Bomb Release --
(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 <u>Amidships</u>	<u>50 tons</u>	<u>6 F6F-5</u> <u>VF-9</u>	<u>400 rds per plane</u>	<u>Numerous</u>	<u>Moderate</u>
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? No Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

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

Photo #2 was launched at 0730, rendezvoused, and proceeded to the mainland of Japan on course 330°. The purpose of the mission, four F6F-5's escorting two photographic F6F-5P's, was to photograph damage inflicted by a fighter sweep. The weather, both at base and target area, was poor.

After rendezvous, the planes climbed through the overcast breaking through at 25,500, and reached the coast ten miles south of Mita Airfield. The flight headed inland, descending to 13,000' to get below the cloud base, and on reaching the Tomobe area, the two photo planes became separated from the escort because of poor visibility and because approximately 100 other F6F's were milling around after an attack on Tomobe Field. Lt. Hudson and Lt(jg) Hartwig, photo pilots, then made a photo run on course 300°, alt. 10,000' across Tomobe Field and retired to the south to make a similar run on course 110°, alt. 6,000' over Hyakurigahara Airfield. At 1015 Hudson and Hartwig finally found a VP division from the San Jacinto, joined up with them, and proceeded to base. Enroute, 27-30 luggers were sighted 20 miles off Inube Saki, bearing 090° from that point, and on course 310°, speed approximately 5 knots. All planes, including divisions from San Jacinto and Randolph made a strafing pass, which stopped at least five ships dead in the water, and left about 15 others smoking. In strafing the luggers, three were hit by heavy fire. Lt. Franger's division worked on one, while Hudson and Hartwig each took one apiece. All pilots report pieces flying off, but no other damage. Lt. Phillips of Frangers division, reported an additional 10 luggers and many sampans on Hi Numa Lake. No further runs were made since both VP-9 planes were low on gas, and Hudson landed at this base, while Hartwig was taken aboard the Belleau Wood because of fuel shortage.

Lt. Franger's division, escorting, after becoming separated provided additional cover for the fighter sweeps on Mito and Tomobe Airfields. On returning to base, this division, at 4000' also saw the luggers and made one strafing pass, with 3 of the 4 planes getting hits on one ship. This strafing preceded the runs made by Hudson and Hartwig.

The only A/A fire observed was seen by Lt. Hudson two miles north of Hyakurigahara, and that was one inaccurate burst of heavy fire.

Three enemy planes were sighted, believed to be Oscars, midway between Tomobe and Hyakurigahara. The Japs were at least 8 miles from our planes and made no attempt at interception.

Lt. Franger observed three or four single engine planes burning on Tomobe Field, but was too high to note further details.

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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

All material reported satisfactory.

Photo #2

Lieut. Franger
Lt(jg) Reiner
Lieut. Phillips
Lt(jg) Prior

Lieut. Hudson
Lt(jg) Hartwig

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

R.C. MURPHY, Lieut., USNR

J."S" KITCHEN, Lieut., USNR

25 Feb. 1945

SIGNATURE **Combat Information Officer** RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE **Commanding Officer** RANK AND DUTY

DATE