

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED

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(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

SECRET

(a) Unit Reporting VF-49 (b) Based on or at U.S.S. SAN JACINTO (c) Report No. ACA-1-30
 (d) Take off: Date 10 July 1945 Time (LZT) 0707(I) (Zone); Lat. 34°10'N Long. 142°30'E
 (e) Mission Strike & Photograph TSUKUBA WEST (f) Time of Return 1102(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)		
F6F-5	VF-49	8		8	3 planes carried 6 5" HVAR rockets.	MK159
					4 planes carried 2 260# frag bombs.	Base Fuze .015 delay
					1 Photo plane carried only ammo.	MK 100A 2 non delay Tail fuze only

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
TBM-3	VT-49	8	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) **X**
 Did Any Part of
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? **X** If so, Describe Clouds **X**
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance
 (j) of Sun or Moon **X** (k) Visibility **X**
(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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			
None						

Enclosure (c)

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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	170	170	3hrs.55min	400	300			None		8

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

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

No airborne aircraft encountered.

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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) Taukuba West airfield 36°10'N - 140°02'E (b) Time Over Target(s) 1739(I) (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target None (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 15
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Dive Bomb Sight Used Mk-8 Illuminated gun sight
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 2 Spacing 1 second Altitude of Bomb Release 4500
(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	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO. HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
		(k) SQUADRON			
1 AA positions northwest of Taukuba West airfield	3000 lbs	2 VF-49	4	* Unobserved	
2					
3 AA position Southeast of Taukuba West airfield		2 VF-49	4	Unobserved	
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).

* Three photographs are attached marked Exhibits A, B, & C.
Exhibit "A" shows the Anti aircraft defenses North of the field.
Exhibit "B" shows the Anti aircraft defenses Southeast of the field.
Exhibit "C" shows Numada airfield.

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

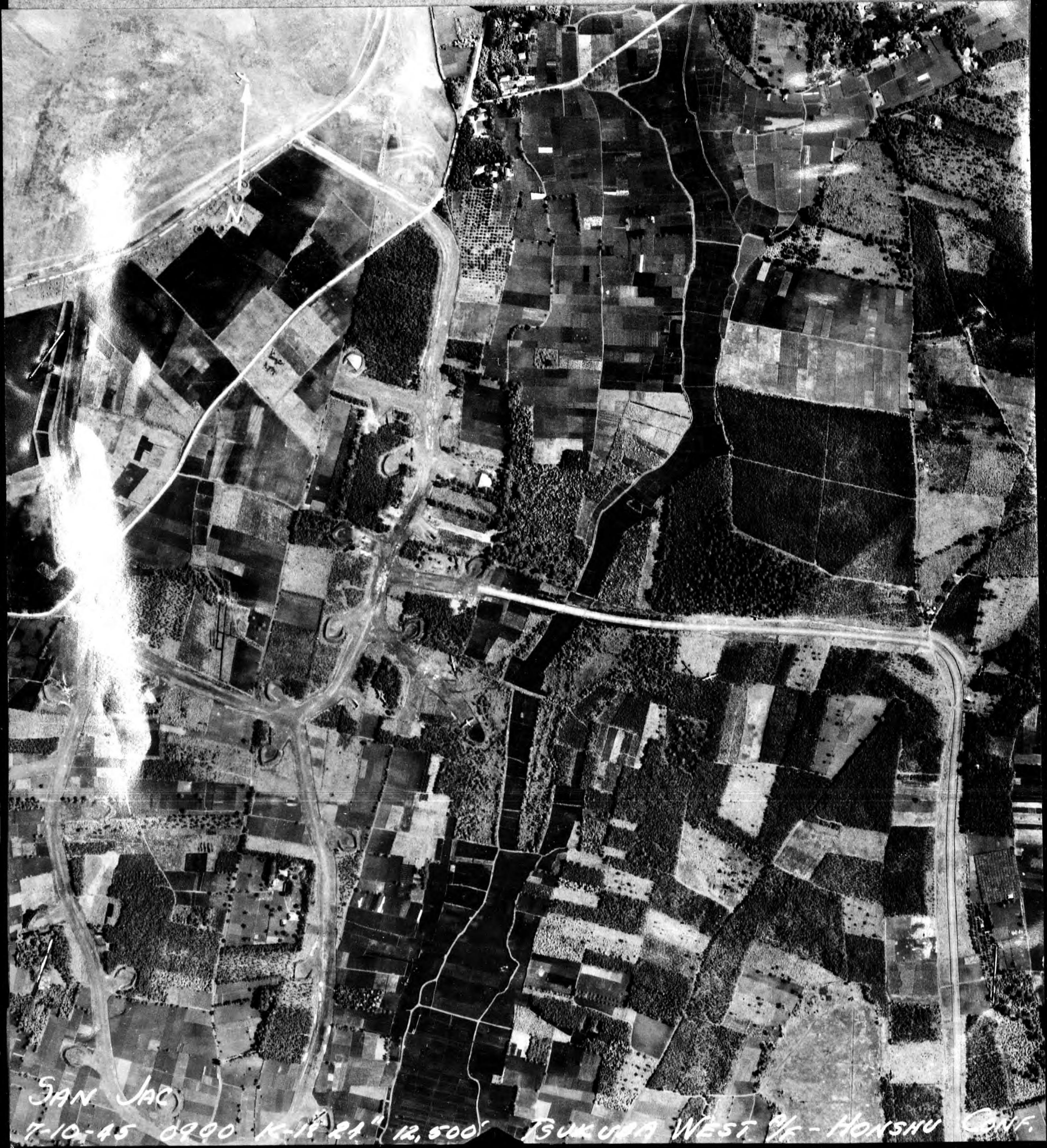


F 10 10 10 9) K17 12 13

EXHIBIT "A"

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER 1

SECRET



SAN JAC

7-10-45 0900 K-14 21" 12,500' TSUKUBA WEST 1/4 - HONSHU JAPAN

EASTMAN TOPOGRAPHIC SAFETY 2512

EASTMAN TOPOGRAPHIC SAFETY 2511

EXHIBIT "B"

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER 2

SECRET



SAN JAC

7-10-45 0900 K-18 24" 12,500' NUMADA W/ HONSNU

CONF
[36° 13']
[140° 02']

EXHIBIT "C"

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER 3

SECRET

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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

Eight fighter aircraft from Fighting Squadron FORTY-NINE left the USS SAN JACINTO, at 0707(I), 10 July 1945, for a strike against Tsukuba West airfield. A landfall was made just south of Miyakawa and a course was held to the northeast until the flight reached the vicinity of Yoshioka. The entire strike group then turned to the Northwest and proceeded to a point south of Tsukuba West. The target was approached at about 18,000 feet, and one division of fighters initiated an attack on the anti-aircraft defenses to the North and Southeast of the field, with one section bombing each position from about 3,500 feet. This division immediately gained altitude north of the field and joined up as top cover for the Torpedo bombers on their retirement to the coast which was made south of Tsukuba West. The second division followed the torpedo bombers and three of these fighters rocketed and strafed the revetment area north of the field, while the photographic plane made a run from south to north at about 12,000 feet. Four operational planes were seen in the revetment area north of the field. It was impossible to assess the results of these bombing and rocket runs as the explosions could not be seen on retirement. All bombs and rockets were placed in or near the aiming points. Some heavy flak was encountered over Tsukuba West, but it was meagre in intensity and inaccurate. The flight was also fired on as they crossed the shoreline on the way to the target, apparently from Katori airfield, but the bursts were very short. The approach and retirement course data furnished by the Flak Intelligence group with the carrier Task Force was very good. No airborne enemy aircraft were seen. Photographic coverage was obtained of Tsukuba West and Numada. Full photo coverage was had of Tsukuba West, and eighty per cent of Numada. See photograph XI P Exhibit A, B, C. The strike group pancaked at 1102(I).

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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 equipment performed normally.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

R. A. SMYTHE, Lieut., USNR
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
A.C.I. Officer

G. M. ROUZEE, Lieut. Comdr., USN
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
Commanding Officer, VF-49

10 July 1945
DATE