

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)  
**CONFIDENTIAL**

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-33 (b) Based on or at USS BARGENT BAY (CVE-35) (c) Report No. 139  
 (d) Take off: Date 17 June 1945 Time (LZT) 0518 (T) (Zone); Lat. 24°-37' N. Long. 123°-49' E.  
 (e) Mission Fighter sweep and strike over Miyara Airfield, Ishigaki, Sakishima Gunto (f) Time of Return 0342 (T) (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>PL-2</u>	<u>VC-33</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4 - 5" (HS) AR</u>	<u>Noose plug - .02 base</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>TBI</u>	<u>VC-3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>USS NESHOTA BAY</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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			
			<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		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	
<b>F4U-7</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>155</b>		<b>5300</b>			<b>4</b>

## 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

SPEED, CLIMB, at various altitudes  
 TURNS  
 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) Miyara Airfield, Ishigaki (b) Time Over Target(s) 0615 (1) (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 2000 ft. - cumulus - 5/10ths  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 20  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type \_\_\_\_\_ Bomb Sight Used \_\_\_\_\_  
(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 None Probably Destroyed None Damaged 4

**(These aircraft may or may not have been operational).**

(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 Dispersal area east of runway	200 X 1000 yds.	2 FM-2 VC-83	Strafing	All	Slight
2 Possible AA posit. near runway.	200 yds.sq.	3 FM-2 VC-83	4 - 5"(HE) AR Strafing	Possibly 2 AR	Not observed
3 Possible AA posit. near road junction.	100 x 200 yds.	4 FM-2 VC-83	6 - 5"(HE) AR Strafing	Possibly 6 AR	Not observed
4 Dispersal area west of runway	200 x 1000 yds.	2 FM-2 VC-83	4 - 5"(HE) AR Strafing	All	Slight
5 Possible AA posit. w.s. of runway.	50 yds. Dia.	1 FM-2 VC-83	2 - 5"(HE) AR	Possibly 1 AR	Not observed
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. A Betty at the north end of the field was peppered with strafing hits. The plane looked to be operational but it did not burn and therefore may have been inoperational. No other damage in the dispersal areas could be observed.

2. The strafing was right on the spot where the AA fire had been coming from and 2 AR were observed to hit in the same spot. However, no damage was observed.

3. The strafing and 6 AR were right on the spot where the AA had been coming from but no damage could be observed.

4. Three 5/8 aircraft in revetments were hit by strafing. They appeared to be operational but the pilot couldn't be sure. The four AR started a fire but the pilot was not sure whether the fire was in a revetment or just outside of it.

5. The strafing and 2 AR were right on the gun position but except that the guns stopped firing, no damage could be observed.

(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

Four VF launched for fighter sweep against Miyara Airfield on Ishigaki, in preparation for strike against same airfield by same four VF in company with 6 VT from VC-8.

One run only was made on the sweep, with 2 planes strafing right down the dispersal area west of the strip and the other 2 planes doing the same thing on the east side. During the run a moderate amount of medium AA was encountered. The tracers were fairly close and followed the planes in their dives. The firing seemed to be concentrated in a spot near the southwest corner of the strip and appeared to be 20 MM. The four planes retired and orbited east of Miyara while awaiting the VT planes.

On the next run the VF went in ahead of the VT, strafing where the AA position appeared to be, while the VT bombed the airfield. This time, AA fire came from a new source, a ridge along the road leading from the airfield to the town of Shirako. This position was also strafed and rocketed. Three more runs were made and each time the planes were fired upon. They were also fired upon while orbiting between runs. On the last run the planes were fired upon by what appeared to be a battery of about fifteen guns. One of the planes got the gun flashes in his sights and poured the lead into them until they ceased firing. Two rockets were also put in the same place with unobserved results.

The AA would probably be classified as inaccurate but to the pilots it appeared to be uncomfortably close. All of it seemed to be 20 MM. but some of the guns seemed to be twin mounts.

Pilots: Lt. D. O. McNICH; Lts. (jg) W. E. FLANNEY, R. J. BURNS,  
Ensign J. S. GREGORY.

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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:

**H. VERNON ENEY, Lt., USNR, A.C.I. Officer.**

**H. S. WHELAN, Lieut., USNR.**

**8/18/45**

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

**Squadron Commander.**

RANK AND DUTY

DATE