

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

I. GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(a) Unit Reporting VF - 34 (b) Based on or at U.S.S. MONTEREY (CVL26) (c) Report No 4-45
 (d) Take off: Date 17 May 1945 Time (LZT) 1000 I(-9) (Zone); Lat. 26° 00' N Long 129° 05' E
Fighter Patrol - Asami Shima to Yokote Shima.
 (e) Mission Strike targets of opportunity. (f) Time of Return 1440 I(-9)(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>PGE-5</u>	<u>VF - 34</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>2 x 100# G.P.) 6 x 5" HVAR } 7 planes 1 x 100# G.P.) 6 x 5" HVAR } 1 plane 3 x 100# G.P.) 3 x 5" HVAR } 1 plane 6 x 5" HVAR } 3 planes</u>	<u>Bombs: tail .025 delay, nose - instantaneous.</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
			<u>None</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>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			

(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		
			<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			NONE	
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	
P6F-5	Patrol	Patrol	4.75	400	360	-	4500	-	-	13

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

URNS

DIVES

CEILINGS

RANGE

PROTECTION

ARMAMENT

No enemy 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) **Targets of opportunity Amami Shima** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1400-1415 I-9** (one)
(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 plus**
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Glide (50°)** Bomb Sight Used **Mark 8 gunsight**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run **all** Spacing **Salvo** Altitude of Bomb Release **4000'**
(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 (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 Radio station in-st. Akoagi, Amami Shima	1 large bldg. 8-10 bks.	VF-34 12	65 x 8" HVAR 2000 rds. .50 cal	15 rcts. many 50s	Serious
2 Misc. bldgs. Mitoriya Town, Amami Shima	Pop. area 1000' x 500'	VF-34 8	9x100# G.P. 1700 rds. .50 cal	6 bomb many 50s	Slight
3 5 bldgs. Tatsugo, Amami Shima	100' x 50' 1 story high	VF-34 4	8x100# G.P. 800 rds. .50 cal	2 bomb many 50s	Slight
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).

1. The radio station rocketed and strafed was the easternmost of two identical installations located at Akoagi. Pilots observed at least three rocket hits on the main concrete building, while a dozen rockets hit among the small barracks or shop buildings located just west of the concrete building. Dust and smoke from the hits prevented accurate pin pointing but it is believed that serious damage was inflicted from hits or near misses in these installations. Strafing was severe and many hits were scored.

2. Two 4 plane divisions bombed and strafed the waterfront area of Mitoriya Town, located at the head of a narrow inlet approximately 5 miles N.E. of Akoagi. At least 6 bombs were observed to hit in the town, but damage is believed to be slight although extensive smoke was seen rising as pilots orbited to leave the scene. .50 cal fire was accurate and went directly into the town.

3. The division that attacked an apparent warehouse or storage area, located on top of hills on the west side of Kasari Wan at Tatsugo, observed a hit on each of two buildings however smoke and dust from near misses made damage assessment impossible. All buildings were thoroughly riddled by .50 cal bullets.

(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

The flight covered by this report was a fighter patrol composed of 12 VF-34 Hellcats launched from the U.S.S. MONTARBY. It was led by Lt. Comdr. R. W. CONRAD, USN, GAG-34. The purpose of the flight was to patrol from the northern tip of Amami Shima 40-miles N.W. to Yokote Shima stacked at three different altitudes and to be on the alert for enemy aircraft southbound to attack Okinawa or Task Force 58. No enemy aircraft were encountered, and following instructions, the pilots struck at targets of opportunity on their return trip to the carrier. These targets were located in the Akongi section of Amami Shima with most attention being directed to a radio station located at Akongi itself.

No installations whatsoever were observed on Yokote Shima which was orbited several times. Pilots were on the lookout for small enemy craft of the suicide boat type but none were located, or was any anti-aircraft fire encountered.

It is felt that instead of being issued orders to strike "targets of opportunity" that certain targets being given priority so that there won't be any conflict with other strikes in same area and also so that efforts won't be wasted against areas that have been previously struck and destroyed. Latest available intelligence of this area did not reveal recent damage inflicted at various installations, and as a result pilots could not properly be briefed as to up to the minute condition of the most likely targets of opportunity.

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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

Routine, no special data.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

J. O. Branch

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

AGI Officer VF-34

APPROVED BY:

R. W. Coward

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

Commanding Officer VF-34

19 May 1945

DATE