

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when  
filled out)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**I. GENERAL**

(a) Unit Reporting CVBG-24 (b) Based on or at USS Santee (CVE-29) (c) Report No. 20-45  
 (d) Take off: Date 11 May 1945 Time (LZT) 1430(I) (Zone); Lat. 24° 46' N Long. 127° 17' E  
 (e) Mission Air Installations - Miyako Jima (f) Time of Return 1830(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)		
<u>F6F-5</u>	<u>VF-24</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1 - 500' G/P Hz. 64</u>	<u>Instant nose. .01 delay tail.</u>
<u>TBM-3</u>	<u>VT-24</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>4 - 5" H.E. Rockets 10 - 100' G/P Bombs</u>	<u>.025 delay base Instant nose-.01 tail</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>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 \_\_\_\_\_ (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		
<u>None</u>					



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REPORT No. **20-43**

## 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	<b>F6F-5</b>	<b>VF-24</b>	<b>Probably light or medium A/A.</b>	<b>Unknown - Oil system punctured.</b>
2				<b>Plane lost in water landing. Bureau #72726.</b>
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
		<b>None</b>		

## 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>F6F-5</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>9000</b>			<b>7</b>

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over				
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

- \_\_\_\_ TURNS
- \_\_\_\_ DIVES
- \_\_\_\_ CEILINGS
- \_\_\_\_ RANGE
- \_\_\_\_ PROTECTION
- \_\_\_\_ ARMAMENT



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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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REPORT No. 20-45

## XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Hirara & Nobara airfields - Miyako Jim (b) Time Over Target(s) 1530(I) (Zone)

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

(d) Visibility of Target Clear to haze (e) Visibility 20 (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type VF - Dive VT - 0144a Bomb Sight Used VT-None VT-IR: 8 Gunsight

Bombs Dropped per Run VT ALL VT One Spacing ••• Altitude of Bomb Release 3000'

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed None Probably Destroyed One Damaged None

(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 Runways	200' x 5000'	8 VT-24	8 - 500# Bombs I-01	8	Craters
2 Suspected Dispersal Areas	400 yds. sq.	4 VT-24	6000 rds. .50 cal.		
3 Aircraft		4 VT-24	2000 rds. .50 cal.	Many	Probably destroyed
4 Dispersal Area	Nobara	4 VT-24	40 - 100# Bombs I-01		
5 Dispersal Area	Nobara	4 VT-24	40 - 100# Bombs I-01		
6 Dispersal Area	Nobara	8 VT-24	32 - 5" Rockets 0588		
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).

- VF 1. Four direct hits each on Nobara and Hirara runways.
- VF 2. A suspected dispersal area on Nobara airfield was thoroughly strafed three times. No fires or other damage was observed under the trees.
- VF 3. One operational HMP was discovered. Many hits were scored but it would not burn.
- VT 4. Many hits were scored in the area which is located between the strips on Nobara, but damage is unknown.
- VT 5. This area is located at the east end of the E-W runway at Nobara. Hits were scored and a fire started.
- VT 6. Numerous rockets landed in this target area located SW of the E-S runway at Nobara. Results were unobserved.

(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

This strike, led by Lt. D. W. COOPER, USN, Commander of the torpedo bombers, proceeded to Miyake Jima with 8 VT and 8 VF. One division of fighters, led by Lt. D. S. COSTLEY, was directed to enter the NE-SW runway at Hirara airfield with their quarter ton bombs. The other fighters, led by Lt(jg) J. G. BARNES, stayed with the VT to attack Nobara airfield. They dive bombed the N-S runway in 60° dives from 9000', releasing at 3000'-2000', scoring four direct hits. Subsequently, the dispersal areas were strafed with four separate runs, during which, one HANF was sprayed with hits and probably destroyed.

The VT division led by Lt. D. W. COOPER, dropped its bombs from 3000' on the dispersal area between the strips at Nobara, with unobserved results. The VT division led by Lt. R. S. CHASE, released its bombs in a glide from 3000' - 3200' on the dispersal area east of the field, starting a fire in that area. Both VT divisions then combined in a rocket attack on the dispersal area southwest of the N-S runway. Releases were made at 2000 yards slant range in dives of 25°-30°. Results were unobserved.

Lt. COSTLEY's division, working on Hirara field to the north, pushed over at 9000' in 60° dive bombing runs, releasing their bombs at 3000' and scoring four direct hits on the NE-SW runway. During the retirement from this initial run, Ens. Alvin G. COOPER's plane was hit by A/A fire. His oil pressure dropped to zero and his plane began to smoke and lose power; so Ens. COOPER flew four miles off the NE coast of the island and made a water landing. He climbed clear of his plane inflated his life raft, and started paddling at top speed out to sea. Meanwhile the other members of the flight were notified of COOPER's predicament. Lt. Ralph S. CHASE of the VT unit, handled the communications with our air-sea rescue agency. A dumbo F4U arrived at 1725 and picked up Ens. COOPER, just one and one-half hours after he had made his water landing. Our planes orbited the life raft until the rescue was accomplished, then returned to base.



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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:

**W. A. HALPIN, Lieut(jg), S(A), USN**  
SIGNATURE **ACT OFFICER** RANK AND DUTY

**P. H. CHARBONNET Jr., Lieut., U.S. Navy,**  
SIGNATURE **Acting Commander** RANK AND DUTY DATE