

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

I. GENERAL

~~SECRET~~
(a) Unit Reporting VF-49 (b) Based on or at USS SAN JACINTO (c) Report No. ACA-1-59
(d) Take off: Date 10 Aug. 1945 Time (LZT) 0608(1) (Zone); Lat. 38°09'N Long 143°50'E
(e) Mission Sweep, YAMADA SS, IMATE, TAYAYONOHARA airfields (f) Time of Return 0840(1) (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)		
PF-5	VF-49	8		8	3 planes carried 6-5" HVAR rockets & 1-500# G.P. bomb. 1 plane carried 1-500# G.P. bomb and 5-5" HVAR rockets. 1 plane carried 5-5" HVAR. 1 plane carried 6-5" HVAR. 2 planes, ammo. only.	Mk.149 Inst. nose & Mk.159 non delay base fuze. Mk.103A-1 Inst. nose, Mk.101A-2 non delay tail. Same fuzing as above. Same fuzing as above.

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
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 (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (k) Visibility X (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 (FF)

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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	147	147	4hrs 32min	400	310	1800(average per plane)				8

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 airborne enemy aircraft were seen.

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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) THATZ airfield (b) Time Over Target(s) 0545(I) (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 2500 feet High stratus 10/10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target visibility slightly obscured by haze (e) Visibility 8
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type 0144 Bomb Sight Used illuminated Sunlight
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 1 Spacing 2 Altitude of Bomb Release 3,000
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 9 Probably Destroyed 0 Damaged 11

(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>Wooded area NE of Ivate airfield</u>		<u>4</u> <u>VF-49</u>	<u>4 - 500# G.P.</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>Unobserved</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).

Three photographs are hereto attached marked Exhibits A, B and C. Exhibits A and B are a Stereo pair showing the north and eastern section of the field and the wooded areas. At least eight planes can be seen north of the field and ten planes south of the strip. These pictures were taken before the sweep. Exhibit C shows a burning Betty after the attack.

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



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SAN JAC III-AV-136 AUG 9-45 10001-9) K17/53.8mm 3000' IWATE A/F HONSHU 39°20'N 141°00'E

EXHIBIT A

IWATE AIRFIELD

SECRET



3 SAM JAC III-AV-136 AUG 9-45 10001-9)K17 153.8mm 3000 IWATE A/F HONSHU 39°20'N 141°00'E CONF

EXHIBIT B

IWATE AIRFIELD

SECRET



N

13-FV-141 AUG 10-45 0610(-9) K17-12" 1500' IWATE A/F HONSHU. 39°19'N 141°00'E CONF

EXHIBIT C

BURNING BETTY at IWATE

SECRET

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
Release
Pull-Out
Dive Angle
Strafing
Retirement
Defensive Tactics

DEFENSE, ENEMY

Evasive Tactics, Ships
Concealment
Anti-aircraft
Searchlights
Night Fighter Tactics

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

A fighter sweep of eight Hellcats from Air Group FORTY-NINE was launched from the USS SAN JACINTO at 0408(I), 10 August 1945. This group had been assigned as its primary targets three airfields in north central Honshu, Yamada SS, Iwate and Takayonohara. Little was known about these fields and full photographic coverage was also required. The first field to be attacked was Iwate. A hole in the overcast which extended from one side of Honshu to the other in this area gave sufficient ceiling to make a bombing, rocket and strafing sweep on this field. A great number of runs at minimum altitude were made over the airfield and at least fifteen operational planes were brought under fire, and either destroyed or damaged. Lt. H. A. MacKinnon, the flight leader, burned one Betty on the northern edge of the strip, and two other twins in the wooded area a short distance farther north. Lt(jg) D.C. Crewler burned one biplane single and damaged another. Lt(jg) G.M. Williams burned one twin engine plane on the southern edge of the field. Lt(jg) E.F. Mangelsdorf burned one twin-engine plane and destroyed two singles by a rocket hit. After completion of the attack on this field, Takayonohara airfield to the south was inspected at extremely low level, but no operational aircraft or other worthwhile military targets were seen. On retiring from this field two locomotives in a switching yard near Misusawa were heavily strafed by Lt(jg) J.A. Gibson and both were seen to explode. The eastern coast of Honshu was reached just below Yamada, and a strafing attack was made on this base from the landward side. Three netted aircraft on the ramp and two other camouflaged planes just west of the ramp were heavily strafed. While these planes did not burn it is believed they suffered major damage and are unoperational. No anti-aircraft was encountered during the entire mission. Full photographic coverage was made over all the assigned fields. No airborne enemy aircraft were seen. The flight returned to base at 0840(I). Score: 9 aircraft destroyed; 11 damaged; 2 locomotives destroyed.

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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

One plane's machine guns fired when switch turned to charge.
All other equipment performed normally.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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

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

10 August 1945
DATE