

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 1-45

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Sasaki Seaplane Sta., Kyushu, Japan. (b) Time Over Target(s) 0730 I(-9) (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 Hazy (e) Visibility 10
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide (90°) Bomb Sight Used TRM3: Mark 8 Torp. Director
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run All Spacing VT: 60 feet Altitude of Bomb Release VT 3000
(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 Seaplane hangars and shops	200 x 75	3 VF-5 VF-34	18 x 5" HVAR 1 x 100# GP	12 rocket 1 bomb	serious
2			1200 rds. .50 cal	(estimated)	
3 Ordnance Warehouses	200 x 75'	1 VF-5 VF-34	2 x 500 # G.P. 800 rds. .50 cal	0	None
4 Ammo. Storage & warehouses	150 x 150 200 x 75	3 VF-5 VF-34	9x5" HVAR 2x500# G.P. 900 rds. .50 cal	8 rockets 2 bombs	serious
5 Hangars S.W. corner of airfield	100 x 200	1 VF-34	6 x 5" HVAR	(estimated) Unknown	Unknown
6 Ordnance storage replacement shops					
7 hangars at Seaplane Sta. Base	2000 x 2000 Area	2 FM-1 VF-34	6x12x100# G.P. 1000 rounds .50 cal	46	serious to installations
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) 3 VF rocketed, strafed, and bombed seaplane hangars, shops, ammo storage, and warehouses at Sasaki Seaplane Station, Kyushu. Rocket hits were observed in seaplane hangars and shops grouped together along shoreline and also in warehouses and ammo storage buildings located 2000 feet south of Sasaki Wan. One particularly large explosion was observed in ammo storage area where one of the ammo storage buildings apparently blew up. Heavy smoke resulting from bombing by VF immediately ahead of N/S fighter glide run made it impossible for fighter pilots to accurately pin point their hits. However, pilots concur that because of concentration of targets, it would have been difficult to miss, and feel reasonably certain that 75% of the bombs and rockets hit installations in hangar and warehouses - ammo. areas. Later photo coverage should reveal extensive damage to seaplane area. One aircraft fired rockets at airfield hangars located in S.W. corner of air field and obtained possible hits.

(2) (3) (4) (5) (6) VT bombs were dropped with average intervalometer setting of 60 feet, in train, on a N/S glide run over the target. Smoke and dust from previous drops made area bombing necessary; but water's edge and knowledge of dimensions of target area allowed reasonably good aim. Target appeared to be well saturated. B-29 photos of 14th May show damage to at least 7 buildings in area.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No 1-45

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

Strike led by leader of group from U.S.S. ESSEX (CAG-83)

1. Target area was Saeki Airfield and Seaplane Station Base, Kyushu.
2. Target priority was A/C in air, on ground and installations.
3. Composition of strike was : CVL-34 (MONTREY) 8 VF & 9 VT (8 were OT) CAG-83 USS ESSEX 16 VF, 13 VB, and 15 VT all of Task Group 58.3.
4. No enemy A/C were encountered in combat.
5. CVL-34 observed 1 operational A/C on the ground and 2 - 3 duds about the field at S/S base that previous reconnaissance showed.
6. Escort tactics - standard close and high cover.
7. Due to good visibility and individual 8x8 pilot photo no difficulty found in locating target or effecting runs to gain maximum bomb coverage combined with proper AA evasive measures.
8. Enemy defense entirely AA. Heavy was meager, inaccurate. AA at field corners and 300 to 400 yards from field on anticipated glide and pull out courses, as usual. Concentration of medium and light AA was found on small island 2 miles east of target. Medium AA found on hills west of target. Not noted heretofore.
10. Task Force approach system with coinciding VB sectors used; and shows real promise of effectiveness
11. Communications discipline - poor; due to unnecessary transmission.
12. CVL-34 was commended by strike leader for its conduct of the strike.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

REPORT No. 1-45

CONFIDENTIAL

XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.
Use additional sheets if necessary).

*Routine in most aspects. Some difficulty being experienced
with weather stripping in turret coming out of its groove.*

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:

J. O. Branch

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

A.C.I. OFFICER

APPROVED BY:

Robert W. Conrad

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

15 May 1945

DATE

ALLSET - MFD. BY THE EGRY REGISTER CO., PATENTED

COMMANDER AIR GROUP THIRTY-FOUR

ANNEX ABLE