

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

SECRET

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

VF-45

REPORT No. 42

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

Fighter sweep, Okinoyerabu Shima, Tokuno Jima, Amami O Shima,

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Nansei Shoto (b) Time Over Target(s) 0850-1000(K) (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target 2000, alto-cumulus, 2-10ths at Tokuno, 5/10ths at Okinoyerabu.
4500, alto-cumulus at Amami, 2/10ths.
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 10
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

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

Bombs Dropped per Run X Spacing X Altitude of Bomb Release X
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed X Probably Destroyed X Damaged X

(h) AIMING POINT	(i) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(j) NO. A/C ATTACKING	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO. HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
		(k) SQUADRON			
1					
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).



(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes 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

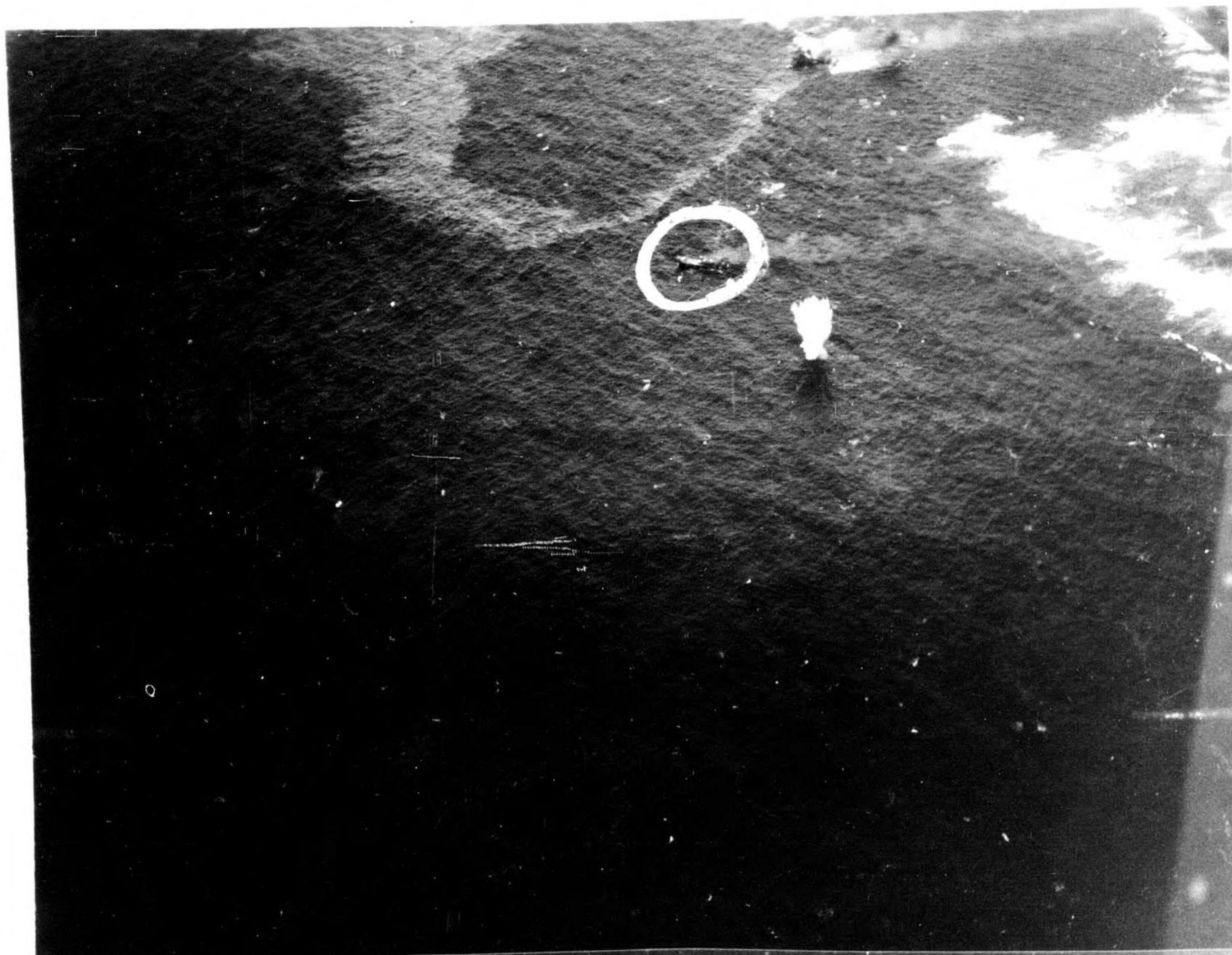
COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 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

See attached sheets



2-4
(SAN JAC 58)(MAR 1945 0900-10)(K25 6 3/8" DBL VAR)(OKINOYERABU TOKUMO NANSI SHOTTO)(CONF)



2-1
(SAN JAC 58)(MAR 1945 0900-10)(K25 6 3/8" DBL VAR)(OKINOYERABU TOKUMO NANSI SHOTTO)(CONF)

Twelve (12) P6F-5's of Fighting Squadron FORTY FIVE were launched from the USS SAN JACINTO at 0800 (K), 1 March, 1945, to sweep Okinoyerabu Shima and Tokuno Jima, Nansai Shoto. Commander Schacter, Air Group Commander, led the flight and the first division, as well as flying a photographic plane. Lt. Cain and Lt. Wilson led the second and third divisions respectively.

Approximately 10 minutes from the first target island, Okinoyerabu Shima, Ensign Mollard, Lt. Wilson's wingman, developed a severe oil leak and Wilson's entire division turned around to return to Base. The Air Group Commander ordered Lt. Wilson alone to return to Base with Mollard, and instructed the second section to rejoin the other two divisions at the northeast tip of Okinoyerabu Shima.

Landfall was made at Okinoyerabu Shima at approximately 0850 (K) at which time the Air Group Commander sent Lt. Cain's division down the east coast while he led his division to the west coast. On the west coast in a cove about in the middle of the island, a single, beached lugger was strafed by the Air Group Commander's four planes in a single pass from west to east. The planes got down to 100 feet. The lugger was a short while later observed to be afire. These four planes then continued up the beach as Lt. Cain was heard to report two (2) luggers under way and one (1) beached in a small bay on the east side of Okinoyerabu. Lt. Cain's division asked and was granted permission to attack these luggers, and had completed one strafing and rocket run by the time the Air Group Commander's division joined them to continue the attack. Two more strafing and rocket runs were made on the luggers which were afire and smoking, with no signs of life aboard, when the attack was broken off (See Photo).

After joining up the second section of Lt. Wilson's division, the Air Group Commander led the 10 Hellcats to Tokuno Shima where another flight was heard preparing to attack Tokuno Airfield on the northwest coast. The flight therefore crossed over the island going east, reaching Kametsu Harbor on the east coast, where ten luggers were all aken under repeated rocket and strafing attacks but only one was finally made to burn (See photo).

At Kametsu were observed several bursts of apparent mortar fire which exploded at approximately 700-800 feet altitude, and which upon explosion released a small (3 foot) parachute from which suspended an object resembling a dark colored mortar shell. The suspended object hung about four feet below the parachute. Lt. Cain ran into one of these objects, but it did not detonate. The surrounding area was carefully searched for the gun positions and gun flashes without discovering the source of the parachute projectiles. (This was the only "anti-aircraft" fire that was encountered at Tokuno Shima). It was observed that all of the bursts were in the same approximately area about one-half mile northwest of the town. At no time did the bursts get down over Kametsu Harbor or in the vicinity of any lanes except those making runs from the northwestern side of the town.

The flight then proceeded to Kakeroma Shima, where as soon as the planes started over the east-west ridge on the island they were taken under fire by heavy anti-aircraft emplaced in quite prominent positions on the tops of the ridges. A considerable number of small craft were seen in the bay lying between Kakeroma Shima and Amami O Shima, and one small engines aft freighter at anchor (Sugar Charlie - JMSF) was spotted in a cove across the bay from the town of Koniya, Amami O Shima. The freighter was strafed and repeated hits were scored with unobserved results.

The planes, after they crossed the Kakeroma ridge going north, ran into a fairly intense concentration of medium and light anti-aircraft coming from the vicinity of the PT Base (in the cove just westward of the little bay sheltering the Sugar Charlie). Notwithstanding this anti-aircraft, the entire flight made a single strafing pass at the installations at the PT Base, consisting of long, low storehouses and other facilities. The flight then rendezvoused over the southeast tip of Uke Shima, where after picking up a lone LEXINGTON torpedo plane the flight set course for Base. Enroute, some of the VF which had not expended all their rockets fired them at the remaining luggers in Kametsu Harbor. The lugger which had been set afire on the earlier attack had exploded and was by this time fiercely burning.

The flight then returned to Base without further incident.

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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

All material and equipment functioned satisfactorily.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

S. W. PLAUCHE, Jr., Lt(jg), USNR

G. E. SCHECTER, Comdr., USN

3-2-45

SIGNATURE **ACT Officer**

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

Commanding Officer

RANK AND DUTY

DATE