

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No 5-45

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Koniya Town & S/S base, Amami-O-Shima (b) Time Over Target(s) 1100-1130 I(29)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target CAVU (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Hazy (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility 10 (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide (VT), Dive (VF) 600 Bomb Sight Used VF: Mk. 8 gun sight
(LEVEL, SLIDE OR DIVE) VT: Mk. 8 Torp. Director
(TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run (VT) all Spacing 100 (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 2000 (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 1 Probably Destroyed - Damaged -

(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 Koniya Town and war installations	2000' x 1500'	6 TBM-3c VF-34	10,440 incendiaries	7800+	Multiple fires and smoke
2 Koniya S/S base	800' x 900'	3 TBM-3c VF-34	5,220+ "	3150+	Multiple fires and smoke
3 Koniya Town	7000' x 1500'	2 F6F-5 VF-34	8 x 5" HVAR 2 napalm tanks	8 2	Multiple fires and smoke, 3 expl. in A/C
4 Warehouse and storage. N/Koniya	800 x 900'	2 F6F-5 VF-34	6 x 5" HVAR 2 napalm tanks	6 2	Multiple fires and smoke
5 Koniya S/S and beach area S/E	800 x 900'	1 F6F-5 VF-34	6 x 5" HVAR 2200 rds...50 cal.	2	Explosion from hit on probable ammo stor. 1 hit, unident. bldg.
6 beach area to Bano B. Zerk, Shodon Wan		3 F6F-5 VF-34	500 rds...50 cal.	numerous	Serious, start. fires with heavy smoke.
7 Kakeroma Shima		1 F6F-5 VF-34	400 rds...50 cal.	"	1 small fire in 1 bldg. from strafing.
8 Bks. S/E Koniya Gun replac. on tip Kaitzu Zaki, Amami Shima.		1 F6F-5 VF-34	2 x 5" HVAR	1	slight

(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).

In a run from N to S and retirement out O-Shima channel, (1) and (2) were simultaneously hit with incendiaries (VT) and napalm (VF) from altitude of 2000 feet and less, against no A/A defense. % of bombs in target area seemed good to excellent with 15-20 fires burning briskly before striking group returned. Four Hellcats preceded VF into the target area, three of them releasing their napalm tanks and rockets at varying altitudes from 5000 - 1000 ft, after having shaved over at 10,000 ft. for a north-south run. Hits were registered in Koniya Town (3) and in the warehouse-barracks area north of the town (4) starting multiple fires in the area and causing three explosions in the northeast corner of the town. The remaining single fighter fired two rockets at the only two buildings still remaining erect at the seaplane station. One hit was obtained on one building (5). During this pass the angle plane noticed a camouflaged floatplane moored in the water several hundred yards southwest of the seaplane station.

Several minutes later, after regrouping and circling the area while the VF photo team was taking damage assessment pictures, another run was made from the same direction. The lone Hellcat that had attacked the seaplane station on the first run, dropped its napalm on Koniya (3) and fired four rockets at the northern warehouse-barracks area (4) with all missiles registering hits in the target area. Another plane fired four rockets at the seaplane station causing a larger explosion in the ammunition storage area along the waterfront, while the other two Hellcats, plus the 4-plane photo team which had joined up, viciously strafed the town and its waterfront, concentrating on small craft tied up alongside the seawall and piers. A single plane went after the enemy floatplane and made a strafing run. It was identified as a Suwa. It flared and exploded a few

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

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seconds later from multiple .50 cal hits. The same plane was tied up several feet from the beachline and was covered with branches.

On the returning course to the south-east the four VF strike planes strafed and rocketed targets of opportunity. One hit a building in the barracks area just southeast of Koniya Town starting a fire from tracers (7), and another rocketed a gun position (probably coastal defense) on the top of Kaitzu Zaki and obtaining one hit (8), while the two others strafed the area at the extreme north end of Shoden Wan and along the back at To Bana on KaKeroma Shima, just south of Amami Shima (6). This last strafing produced 2 or 3 heavy fires suggesting fuel storage along the shore at Shoden Wan, and several fires at To Bana among buildings located on the shore line and under the cover of trees.



100 MONT-2 18 MAY 45 1125(-9) K-17 12"V 10,000 KONIA, NANSEI SHOTO, JAPAN CONF.



100 MONT-2 18 MAY 45 1125(-9)K-17 12" OBL. 5,000 KONIA, MANSET SHOTO, JAPAN CONF.

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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

CVLG-34 led a successful strike of 9 VF loaded with 12 x 145# incendiary clusters per plane, 4 VF with napalm and rockets and a photo team of 1 VF(P) and 3 VF escorts against Koniya Town and S/S base, Anami-O-Shima. Approaching target area from SSE strike reconnoitered target from 10,000 feet and circled to NNW. Run in, dive and glide were made from NNW to low over. The target in absence effective AA defense, and retirement on same course. Ordnance dropped from average of 1500 ft. Since reconnaissance revealed a portion of Koniya Town along the water had been previously burned out efforts were concentrated inland. Installations at the S/S base, both around the apron and inland were covered. Multiple fires were started in both area. Results were thought good to excellent.

Communications discipline was poor to bad on part of some pilots. Detail planning routes, run, cover and study of target paid good dividends. The recurrent difficulty of releasing clusters from TBM with damage to aft of bomb bay was again present.

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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

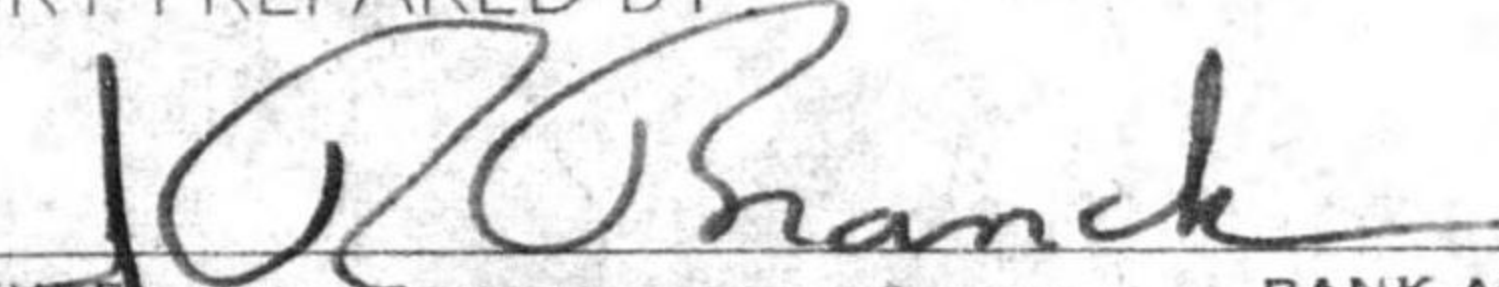
BASE FACILITIES

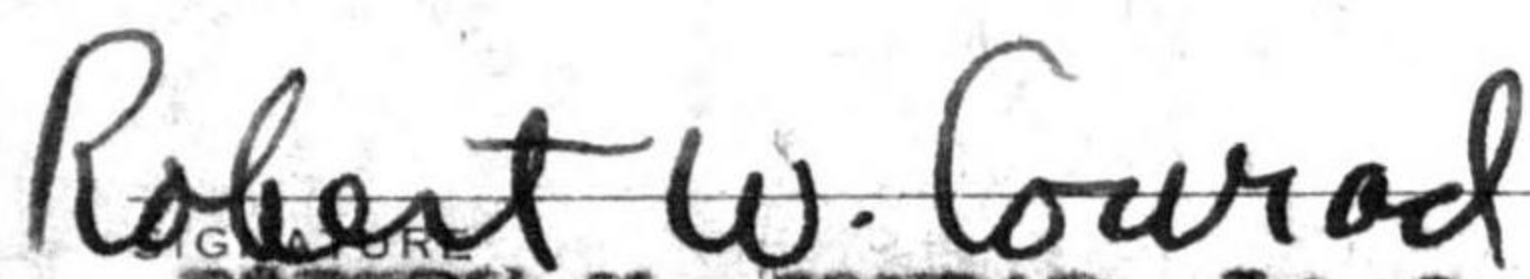
Plane Servicing Equipment
Personnel Facilities

Probably bombing runs were too fast (about 300 K.) for incendiary release; and probably also that release made in slight glide rather than completely level flight.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:


SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
A.O.I. OFFICER (OVLG-34)


SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
**ROBERT W. CONRAD, Lt. Comdr.
Commanding Officer.**

DATE