

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

## I. GENERAL

**SECRET**

(a) Unit Reporting VF-49 (b) Based on or at USS SAN JACINTO (c) Report No. ACA-1-39  
(d) Take off: Date 18 July 1945 Time (LZT) 1140(I) (Zone); Lat. 34°40'N Long 142°26'E  
(e) Mission Strike - TSUKUBA WEST airfield (f) Time of Return 1513(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-49</u>	<u>16</u>		<u>16</u>	<u>6 planes carried 6-5" HVAR) rockets; 1 plane carried 5- 5" HVAR rockets. 8 planes carried 2-500# GP bombs. 1 photo plane ammo. only</u>	<u>Mk-159 non delay tail- Mk-148 inst. nose, both .015 delay. Mk-103-A-1 inst. nose &amp; Mk-100-A-2 non delay tail fuze.</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>			<u>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			

(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			
<u>NONE</u>						

*Enclosure (L)*

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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 <u>P6Z-5</u>	<u>VP-49</u>	<u>Medium automatic A/A</u>	<u>Hole in speed ring.</u>	<u>Tear in skin about 4 inches</u>
2		<u>over Tsukuba West</u>		<u>long, one inch wide. Caused</u>
3		<u>airfield</u>		<u>no difficulty in planes</u>
4				<u>operation and can be repaired</u>
5				<u>on board ship.</u>
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
	<u>NONE</u>			

## 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		
<u>P6Z-5</u>	<u>146</u>	<u>146</u>	<u>3hrs 33min</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>330</u>					<u>900(average per plane)</u>	<u>16</u>

## 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
- TURNES
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

No airborne enemy aircraft were observed.

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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) TSUKUBA WEST; SHIMODATE; HOKODA and KIRATA airfields (b) Time Over Target(s) 1235(1) (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target TSUKUBA West-1500 cumulus 5/10 increasing to 10/10; Shimodate-1000 cumulus 7/10 increasing to 10/10; HOKODA and KIRATA - both clear (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 10 (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Dive and Glide Bomb Sight Used 2 Illuminated Sunlight
- Bombs Dropped per Run 2 Spacing 1 Altitude of Bomb Release 2500
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 2 Probably Destroyed 0 Damaged 0

(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					
<u>See Narrative XII</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).

- Four planes dropped 2 bombs at 1 second interval on Tsukuba West airfield.
- Four planes dropped 1 bomb each at Tsukuba West and 1 each at Hokoda airfields.

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

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REPORT No ~~104-1-39~~

**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

Lt. Comdr. Herman J. Trun, III, led a fighter sweep of sixteen Hellcats from the USS SAN JACINTO, at 1140(I), 18 July 1945 on a mission against airfields in the North Kanto plain. A landfall was made just south of Hokoda and the flight proceeded directly to the primary target, Tsukuba West airfield. Three high speed runs from an altitude of about 9,000 feet were made on this field, with the pull out averaging in each case less than 1,000 feet. A number of twin engined planes, heavily camouflaged with vegetation were seen in the revetment area. Five single engined planes were also reported immediately east of the north revetment area, about two hundred yards from a building under construction. These specific areas, as well as the entire northern revetment section were heavily attacked with bombs and rockets. Twelve bombs and about half of the rockets carried by the planes on the mission were dropped and fired, and the entire flight heavily strafed this target during the runs. Tsukuba West airfield had been heavily hit by previous attacks by Air Group FOKKY-SINE, and this fact, along with the excellent camouflage by the Japs made new damage impossible to assess. One explosion and a very bright fire was seen in a revetment, but it quickly died down and its cause was not discovered. The flight then made a single flat, low altitude strafing run on Shinadote. No operational planes were seen on the field and the two revetment and dispersal areas and the hangars were strafed with unobserved results. On retirement Hokoda was rocketed and the remaining bombs were dropped on the hangar area. A number of planes were observed on the field, but when the sweep planes got to an altitude low enough to strafe them they were discovered to be duds. On leaving the target a large fire was seen in the hangar area. A course was held directly south along the eastern shore of Kita-Ura, where the squadron had seen a number of camouflaged float planes on an earlier mission. When directly east of Kitaura seaplane base, a number of beached kufes were seen and heavily strafed. Two of these enemy float planes were set on fire and were destroyed. Only two bursts of heavy anti-aircraft fire were observed during the entire mission, and they were encountered by the photo planes when it was making a run directly over Tsukuba West airfield at low altitude and slow speed. These bursts were wide, although fairly close in altitude. No medium anti-aircraft fire was seen at any time. However, on his return to base, Ensign J. K. Herrie discovered that his plane had been hit by medium AA. He stated that he had remembered seeing a small white burst over the cooling of his plane when he was over Tsukuba West airfield, but he had thought at the time that it was smoke from one of his guns. No airborne enemy aircraft were seen. Return to base was made at 1513(I).

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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 equipment performed normally.**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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A. C. I. Officer.  
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

G. E. ROUZER, Lieut. Comdr., USN  
Commanding Officer, VF-49  
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

18 July 1945  
DATE