

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VF-34 (b) Based on ~~report~~ U.S.S. MONTEREY CVL-26 (c) Report No. 3-45  
 (d) Take off: Date 17 May 1945 Time (LZT) 0510 I-9 (Zone); Lat. 26°00' N. Long. 128°55' E.  
**Fighter Patrol - Tokuno Shima to Kikai Shima**  
 (e) Mission Reconnoiter Amami Gunto & strike targets of opportunity (f) Time of Return 0900 (I-9) (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)		
<b>F6F-5</b>	<b>VF-34</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2x100# G.P. (8 planes) 6x5# HVAR</b>	<b>Bombs: tail .025 delay nose - instantaneous</b>

## III. OTHER U. S. OR ALLIED AIRCRAFT EMPLOYED IN THIS OPERATION.

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
			<b>NONE</b>				

## 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
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)	<b>NONE</b>		
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Did Any Part of \_\_\_\_\_  
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, Describe Clouds \_\_\_\_\_  
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)  
 Time of Day and Brilliance \_\_\_\_\_  
 (j) of Sun or Moon \_\_\_\_\_  
(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (k) Visibility \_\_\_\_\_  
(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:				(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER	GUNS USED		
			<b>NONE</b>			



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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).**

**Targets of opportunity Amami Gunto**

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) **(Kikai Shima)** (b) Time Over Target(s) **0700-0800I-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 **8 - 10 miles**  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Dive (60°)** Bomb Sight Used **Mark 8 gunsight**  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run **All** Spacing **Salvo** Altitude of Bomb Release **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 Piers & whse. Somachi town Kikai	Unknown	8 VF-34	48 5" HVAR 2000 rds. .50 cal	30 rkts. many	Slight
2 Suspected suicide boat hideouts 2 mi.	Unknown	8 VF-34	2400 rds. .50 cal	Unknown	None
3 Kitoku town on E. coast Tokuno.					
4 Whse. area at Kametoku town, Tokuno		8 VF-34	16 x 100# G.P. 1900 rds. .50 cal	3 bombs many 50s	Slight
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).

1. The first target of opportunity was the waterfront warehouse area at Somachi on Kikai Shima. Returning pilots estimate that 30 rockets hit in the area with effective results, setting fires among waterfront buildings of varying sizes. However the piers were not damaged. The remainder of the rockets hit west of the waterfront in the residential section of the town. Smoke which enveloped the target area made it impossible for pilots to determine exactly how many and what buildings were hit. 2000 rounds of .50 cal bullets were fired with numerous hits.

4. At Kametoku town on the east coast of Tokuno Shima, the 8 VF made a bombing run, concentrating again on warehouses near the waterfront. The aiming point was an L-shaped tin warehouse located about 100 yards inland from the shore. This was missed but three nearby small buildings of unknown nature were hit each by one bomb. Damage has been estimated to be slight although strafing was accurate and well placed with many hits.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? **No** 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

The flight covered by this report was a fighter patrol of 8 VF-34 F4U's launched from the U.S.S. MONTEREY. It was led by Lt. Com. Rupert USNR. and was planned as a patrol to prevent the enemy from sending aircraft down to Amami Gunto for staging or for attacks against our forces. Since no airborne enemy aircraft were encountered. The flight devoted most of the attention to reconnoitering Tokuno Shima, Amami Shima, and Kikai Shima, the three islands that were located in their patrol area which ran from Tokuno to Kikai and return. The two divisions struck at targets of opportunity as ordered, and selected water-front areas at Somachi on Kikai for rocket attack, and at Kametoku on Tokuno for bombing attack. A constant lookout was maintained for small camouflaged boats of the type that the enemy makes use of for suicide attacks against shipping. None of these craft were observed but violent strafing runs were made on the coastline two miles south of Kitoku town on the east coast of Tokuno, where several small waterways running inland suggested small camouflaged boat hideouts. However no definite observations were made as to whether these were ~~such~~ definite positions. One pilot noticed new construction 1/2 mile from the beach approximately a mile south of Kitoku. He evaluated it as construction of pillboxes or gun emplacements from the 4 mounds of recently piled earth.

At no time was enemy AA encountered and except for striking targets of their own selection, the pilots experienced no unusual incidents.

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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

**Routine, no special data.**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

*J. O. Branch*

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

**AGI Officer VF-34**

APPROVED BY:

*R. W. Coward*

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

**Commanding Officer VF-34**

**19 May 1945**

DATE