

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

TORPEDO SQUADRON NINETY-FOUR **USS LEXINGTON (CV-16)** **VT94-9**
 (a) Unit Reporting _____ (b) Based on or at _____ (c) Report No. _____
 (d) Take off: Date **10 Aug 1945** Time (LZT) **1330 I** (Zone); Lat. **38-26 N** Long. **144-00 E**
Destroy Aircraft - Manurogawa (2902), Obanzawa (464)
 (e) Mission **and Jimmachi (2901), Honshu** (f) Time of Return **1745 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)		
TBM-3E	VT-94	10	0	10	4x500 lb. GP. Mk-AN 101A2 -.01 - Tail	Mk-AN103A1 - Inst. Nose

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
F6F-5	VF-94	8	USS LEXINGTON				

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)	None		
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) **XXX**
 Did Any Part of _____
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? **XXX** If so, Describe Clouds _____ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 (YES OR NO)
 Time of Day and Brilliance _____ (k) Visibility **XXX** (MILES)
 (j) of Sun or Moon _____ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.)

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			
			N o n e			

CINC PAC (3)

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C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

INA) (OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE) be a

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

JIMMACHI (2901) MAMUROGAWA (2902)

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) OBANAZAWA (464) (b) Time Over Target(s) 1515-1605 (Z)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 3000, Cumulus 7/10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Hazy and partially obscured by clouds (e) Visibility 10
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used None
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 1-4 Spacing 25 Altitude of Bomb Release 1500-2500
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 8 Probably Destroyed 6 Damaged 2

(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 Dispersed a/c in trees NE of 2902.	800x300	8-TBM-3E VT-94	13x500 lb. GP	10	5 Probably destroyed
2 Hangars - 2901	800x300	7-TBM-3E VT-94	14x500 lb. GP	8	3 Hangars destroyed
3 Parked Aircraft 2901		5-TBM-3E VT-94	10x500 lb. GP	5	8 destroyed 1 prob. destroy
4 Railroad yard near 2901	400x100	3-TBM-3E VT-94	3x500 lb. GP	2	2 damaged. Destroyed bldg. Damaged track.
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. This area reconnoitered at very low altitude and several twin engine planes were seen covered with branches of trees in the dispersal area. The area was well covered with bombs.

2. The hangars, adjacent to the field, were left burning.

3. The field was fairly well covered with bi-plane trainers. Principal parking areas were adjacent to the hangars.

(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
Operations
and Tracking
Operations
ice

Own Attack

10 VT and 8 VF effected rendezvous with other air groups of TG 38.1 and set course for the target area with own VT leading. Crossed the coast at 1450, 40 miles ~~west~~ ^{northeast} of Sendai. The first target airfield was Manurogawa. Before reaching that field, the other air groups turned south, and did not rejoin until after the LEXINGTON group had commenced attack.

The first attack was begun by sending 4 VF down on a dummy run to locate targets hidden around the perimeter of the field. Strike group joined up at 5000 feet, south of the field, and attacked. Released at 2,000 feet in fairly shallow glides. Joined up northwest of the target.

The Target Coordinator ordered the Group to proceed to other target airfields, as the entire central valley was clear of clouds by this time. Flew to Obanagawa at 3000 feet, made dummy runs finding no aircraft and finding the field practically deserted.

The next target field was Jimmachi. Having been there the previous day, the group made an immediate attack from west to east, hitting parked aircraft on the field and near the hangar area. Without a join-up the groups returned and made individual bombing attacks on the same targets from east to west. One division of VF proceeded to Yamagata - the remainder of the flight returned to the ship.

Comments and Recommendations

Despite the number of fields visited, the lack of opposition, and the individual bombing runs, all 10 planes remained together throughout the flight. Usually at least one or two planes fail to rendezvous and either return alone or with other groups.

Five air groups were far too much power to be sent against this target area.

500 lb. bombs were the wrong loading. It added to the weight to be taken to the target, and at the same time reduced the effectiveness of the strike. 100 lb. bombs are preferred for this type operation.

The standard strike schedule provided 4 hours and 45 minutes for the morning composite strike of VF, VT, and VB, but only 4 hours for the afternoon strike identical in all other respects. The longer period was needed and should have been allowed where the launch position was such a great distance from the target.

REPORT PREPARED BY.

APPROVED BY:

18 Aug. 1945

W. W. GOODRICH, Lieut.,
USNR, A.C.I. Officer.

J. H. ROCKWELL, Jr., Lt. Cdr.,
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