

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting **VF-94** (b) Based on or at **USS LEXINGTON** (c) Report No. **VF-94-20**
 (d) Take off: Date **30 July 1945** Time (LZT) **1000 (-9)** (Zone); Lat. **33°-30'N** Long. **137°-52'E**
 (e) Mission **Reconnaissance of Suruga Wan, Honshu and bombing of factories at Fuji, Honshu** (f) Time of Return **1430 (-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)		
F6F-5	VF-94	12	0	9 *	6 - 5" HVAR 1 - 500# G.P.	Inst. Nose/.015 Base Inst. Nose/.01 Tail

* 3 planes returned 1 - engine trouble; 1 - loss of belly tank - 1 escort

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
		H O N S H					

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
		H		(ZONE)		
		O		(ZONE)		
		H		(ZONE)		
		H		(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		
		H				
		O				
		H				
		H				

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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) **4 Factory sites; Fuji, Honshu** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1200 (-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 **Easy** (e) Visibility **25**
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type **9 Glide - (Bombs & Rockets)** Bomb Sight Used **Mk 8**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run **1** Spacing **-** Altitude of Bomb Release **4000**
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed **-** 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 Factory - west	1000' x 800'	9 VF-94	9 - 500# G.P. 8 - 5" HVAR	8 4	Serious damage
2 Factory - north	700' x 700'	5 VF-94	16 - 5" HVAR 1000 Rds. 50 cal.	10 800	Damaged
3 Factory - east	700' x 700'	4 VF-94	12 - 5" HVAR 800 Rds. 50 cal.	9 600	Damaged slight
4 Factory - south	700' x 700'	7 VF-94	14 - 5" HVAR 1500 Rds. 50 cal.	10 1000	Damage slight
5 Mine layer	100'	4 VF-94	2500 Rds. 50 cal.	1800	Damage serious
6 3 Fox Tare Dogs	800 GT	4 VF-94	1500 Rds. 50 cal.	1000	Damage slight
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? **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

Three four plane divisions departed base for the purpose of reconnoitering shipping at Suruga Wan preparatory to a night shipping attack by DD's to be detached from the task force. Two planes and one escort were forced to return to base because of mechanical difficulties.

A thorough search of the bay revealed about 25 ships larger than 50 gross tons and 12 of that number in excess of 700 gross tons.

The flight, having accomplished its mission proceeded to Fuji at which point a factory had been designated as the target for the 500# bombs carried. Both divisions circled the target and pushed over at 9000 feet from the north. Releasing at 4000 feet, eight hits were observed in the factory area, one bomb going short by about 100 feet. The area on retirement appeared well gutted and smoking considerably. A reconnaissance of Fuji airfield showed no planes and no acceptable ground target installations. The flight then broke into one four plane and one five plane division and sought targets of opportunity for their rockets. Three other somewhat smaller factory installations (one possibly a power plant) formed a 3 mile rectangle with the bombed plant and rocket attacks were made on these by sections. Many rocket hits were scored and while some ^{caused} fires, each area was giving off some smoke. The divisions rendezvoused and proceeded south to Suruga Wan. Here a small "net tender mine layer" was well strafed and was forced to beach itself at Fuji. Hugging the west coast of the bay, shipping targets were sought and at Shimizu three "Fox Fare Dogs" were heavily strafed. Just before leaving the coast to set course for base, it was noted that the Fuji factory area was filled with smoke up to 5000 feet.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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