

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

~~SECRET~~

(a) Unit Reporting VF-49 (b) Based on or at U.S.S. SAN JACINTO (c) Report No. ACA-1-31
 (d) Take off: Date 10 July 1945 Time (LZT) 0900(I) (Zone); Lat. 34° 10' N Long. 142° 30' E
 (e) Mission Sweep - KAGA and HUNADA airfields (f) Time of Return 1330(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) | | |
| F6F-5 | VF-49 | 13 | | 13 | Each plane carried 2 260# frag. bombs | MK 100A 2 Non delay tail fuses |
| | | | | | | |

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

| TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE | TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE |
|------|----------|--------|------|------|----------|--------|------|
| None | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

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 |
|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| None | | | | | | |
| | | | (ZONE) | | | |
| | | | (ZONE) | | | |
| | | | (ZONE) | | | |

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) X
 Did Any Part of
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? X If so, Describe Clouds _____ (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: | | | | (c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE | (d) DAMAGE CLAIMED |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------|-----------------|-----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| | TYPE A/C | SQUADRON | PILOT OR GUNNER | GUNS USED | | |
| None | | | | | | |
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Enclosure (A)

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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 | | | | |
| 2 | | | | |
| 3 | F6F-5 | VF-49 | heavy flak fragment. | Leading edge port stabilizer, one foot in from outboard edge. Small hole, about two inches in diameter. Repairs made on ship and plane used in a later flight on same day. |
| 4 | | | | |
| 5 | | | | |
| 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 |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| | None | | | |
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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 | |
| F6F-5 | 190 | 190 | 4hrs. 38min | 400 | 365 | 200 (average per plane) | | | | 13 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |

IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

| CALIBER | NONE | MEAGER | MODERATE | INTENSE |
|---|----------|----------|----------|---------|
| HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over | | | x | |
| MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm | | x | | |
| LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm | x | | | |

X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (use check list at left).

SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

No airborne enemy aircraft observed.

- TURN
- DIVE
- CEILING
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

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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) KUDA, TSUKUBA WEST airfields (b) Time Over Target(s) 1027 (I) (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 Clear (e) Visibility 15
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Dive Bomb Sight Used Mk. Illuminated gun sight
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 2 Spacing 1 sec. Altitude of Bomb Release 4,000
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 3 Probably Destroyed 0 Damaged 0

| 1 | (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>Koga Dispersal area</u> | | <u>9</u> <u>VF 49</u> | <u>18- 260# Frags</u> | <u>unknown</u> | <u>3 TB planes destroyed</u> |
| 2 | | | | | | |
| 3 | <u>Yasukubi West airfield</u> | | <u>4</u> <u>VF 49</u> | <u>8-260# Frags</u> | <u>unknown</u> | <u>Unobserved</u> |
| 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).

(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

Thirteen Hellcats from Fighting Squadron FORTY-NINE were launched from the USS SAN JACINTO for a sweep against Koga and Tsukuba West airfields, at 0900(I), 10 July 1945. The flight crossed the Jap coast near Minami-Kawakishi and flew on a northwesterly course to the Koga area. Nine of the planes in the flight struck Koga airfield from South to North, with one division remaining at an altitude of 18,000 feet as top cover. The attack was started at 12,000 feet, after a rapid let down to that altitude and the bombs were dropped at 4,000 feet. The aiming point was the eastern edge of the field, on which a number of parked planes were observed, and at the Northeastern dispersal and parking area near the hangars. A plane which was identified as a Betty, exploded from a bomb hit, on the Eastern side of the field. Two twin engined planes were seen to burn immediately in front of the hangars. Retirement was made toward the hilly area to the North, where rendezvous was made with the planes of the top cover at 10,000 feet. The planes of the top cover made an effort to find Numada airfield but were unable to do so and a bombing run was made from the Northeast to Southwest, on Tsukuba West air strip. The bombs were dropped in the southern revetment and the dispersal area immediately north of the hangars. No damage was observed. The entire group retired to the south along the route followed on the approach to the first target. A search was made for bogies or other aircraft targets without success. When Miyakawa airfield was passed a number of planes were observed and a strafing run was initiated from the sea side of the target. The planes on the field were heavily strafed, but most of them appeared unoperational when seen from the pull out level. One plane attacked by machine gun fire was identified by the majority of the flight as a B-24, painted with the characteristic Jap brown-green paint. No planes were seen to burn, and no other damage was observed. A great deal of heavy flak was encountered at Koga, mostly fired from the North of the field. The fire was continuously pointed and was very close both in range, and deflection. No anti aircraft was seen at Tsukuba West, but there was meagre medium automatic aa fire at Miyakawa airfield, which was high and behind. No airborne enemy aircraft were seen. Return to base was made without incident.

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XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.
Use additional sheets if necessary).

All equipment performed normally.

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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

R. A. SMYTHE, Lieut. USNR
A.C.I. Officer

RANK AND DUTY

G. M. ROUZEE, Lieut. Condr. USN
Commanding Officer, VF-49

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

10 July 1945

DATE