

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VT-94 (b) Based on or at USS LEXINGTON (c) Report No. VT-94-5  
 (d) Take off: Date 20 June 1945 Time (LZT) 1455(-11) (Zone); Lat. 14-03N Long. 166-07E  
 (e) Mission Bombing, rocket and strafing attack vs. Wake Island (f) Time of Return 1730(-11) (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)		
VBZ-5	VT-94	11	0	10	1 - 250# FRAG 6 - 5" HYAB	VT-50B1; AN-M100-A2 Mk 149 MOD. 0. INST. M.D. 159 MOD. 0. -.015 Delay
VBZ-7	VT-94	1	0	0	50 cal. amm. only	

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
VBZ-5	VT-94	8	USS LEXINGTON	VBZ-5	VT-50	9	USS COMPTON
VBZ-7	VT-94	5	" "	VBZ-5	VT-6	16	" BANGCOCK
VBZ-5	VT-94	6	" "	VBZ-6	VT-6	12	" "
VBZ-5	VT-50	6	" COMPTON	VBZ-6	VT-6	15	" "

## 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) \_\_\_\_\_  
 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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			
None						

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REPORT No. **VR-94.5**

## 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)
<b>1 P52-5</b>	<b>VR-94</b>	<b>Medium "AA"</b>	<b>Not known</b>	<b>Destroyed 78752</b>
2				
3				
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
<b>1</b>	<b>VR-94</b>	<b>1st Lt (jg) Newby Hale POPE (A1), USNR (145605)</b>	<b>Crashed with plane</b>	<b>Killed in action</b>

## 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	
<b>P52-5</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1200</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11</b>

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over		<b>X</b>		
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm				

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

SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes

TURN  
DIVES  
CEILINGS  
RANGE  
PROTECTION  
ARMAMENT

**No enemy aircraft engaged.**

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. VT-945

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) See Jinsen Bulletin 80-44  
WA - 2 12pm (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) 1500(-11) (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 2000' - Cumulus - 1/10  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Partially obscured by clouds (e) Visibility 25  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type 10 Slide Bomb Sight Used NR 8  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run one Spacing \_\_\_\_\_ (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 4000'  
(NUMBER) (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	(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 WA - 2 - 19	Medium "AA" Emplacement	2 VT-94	2 - 250# TRAC 6 - 5#VAR - 9/10 rds 50 cal.	0	none
2 WA - 2 - 22	Medium "AA" Emplacement	2 VT-94	"	0	"
3 WA - 2 - 12	"	2 VT-94	"	2 Rockets	Slight
4 WA - 2 - 10	Heavy "AA" Emplacement	2 VT-94	"	"	"
5 WA - 2 - 35	Medium "AA" Emplacement	2 VT-94	"	"	"
6		* Includes plane that was destroyed.			
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).

\* 3; 4; 5 - Hits observed by pilots. No photo evidence.

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

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

REPORT No VF-94-5

**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

VF rendezvoused with VBF, VB and VT and proceeded to target providing escort for VI. Arrived at target at 12,000' and VT made attack first from South to North. At 9000' push-over was made and a diving speed of 360 knots T.A.S. was reached. Bombs were released at 4000' and pull out at 2500'. Retirement was made to North and rendezvoused with VB, VT and VBF effected. Second attack was led in from West and South of island by VT. Each section as in the first attack., broke away toward respective targets for rocket and strafing run. VT pushed over at 9000' and made a 50° dive releasing rockets at 3500'. It was during this attack that Lt.(jg) Pope was hit. His plane appeared to come apart and spun crazily toward the reef north of the west tip of Wake. His plane was seen to explode upon impact and no survivor was noted. 3 squadrons rendezvoused and retired to base.

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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

VF rendezvoused with VBF, VB and VT and proceeded to target providing escort for VT. Arrived at target at 12,000' and VT made attack first from South to North. At 9000' push-over was made and a diving speed of 360 knots T.A.S. was reached. Bombs were released at 4000' and pull out at 2500'. Retirement was made to North and rendezvoused with VB, VT and VBF effected. Second attack was led in from West and South of island by VT. Each section as in the first attack, broke away toward respective targets for rocket and strafing run. VT pushed over at 9000' and made a 50° dive releasing rockets at 3500'. It was during this attack that Lt. (jg) Pope was hit. His plane appeared to come apart and spun crazily toward the reef north of the west tip of Wake. His plane was seen to explode upon impact and no survivor was noted. 5 squadrons rendezvoused and retired to base.

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REPORT No. 77-94-5

**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

Although all pilots were alerted to observe the effectiveness of the 250# FRAG with VT fusing, no one was able to note a bomb hit. In two or three instances this was due to partial cloud cover.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

J. C. BRIDMAN, Lieut. (A), USN  
A.S.I. Officer, VP-94

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

R. J. MORGAN, Lt. Comdr. USN  
Commanding Officer, VP-94

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

6-21-45

DATE