

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

# CONFIDENTIAL

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VP-24 (b) Based on or at USS SAREE - At Sea (c) Report No. 11-45  
 (d) Take off: Date 6 April 1945 Time (LZT) 1400 I (Zone); Lat. 25°-21' N Long. 128°-25' E  
 (e) Mission Direct Support - Okinawa (f) Time of Return 1720 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)		
<u>FG-5</u>	<u>VP-24</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1 - 500 lb G.P. Mk. A1-64</u>	<u>Instantaneous loss - 1/10 sec. delay tail</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>None</u>							

## 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
<u>JILL(TB)</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1540 I</u> (ZONE)	<u>25°-45' N</u> <u>127°-43' E</u>	<u>Not observed</u>	<u>Brown &amp; Green Hottle</u> <u>Red Roundels on wing</u>

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Suicide Bombers  
 (i) Did Any Part of Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? Yes If so, Describe Clouds 3400' Solid overcast  
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)  
 (j) Time of Day and Brilliance of Sun or Moon Day - overcast but clear (k) Visibility 10 miles  
(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (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			
<u>JILL(TB)</u>	<u>FG-5</u>	<u>VP-24</u>	<u>Lt. R.B. ELLERY</u>	<u>6x.50 cal</u>	<u>Engine-3 o'clock level</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>
			<u>Lt(jg) H.L. SMOOPE, Jr</u>	<u>6x.50 cal</u>	<u>Fuselage-4 o'clock above</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>
<u>JILL(TB)</u>	<u>FG-5</u>	<u>VP-24</u>	<u>Ens. Roy E. FARMER</u>	<u>6x.50 cal</u>	<u>Wing Roots-6 o'clock above</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>
<u>JILL(TB)</u>	<u>FG-5</u>	<u>VP-24</u>	<u>Ens. Roy E. FARMER</u>	<u>6x.50 cal</u>	<u>Wing Roots-6 o'clock above</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>
			<u>Ens. D.W. SEIBERG</u>	<u>6x.50 cal</u>	<u>Engine - 6 o'clock above</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>

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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	<del>None</del>			
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
	<del>None</del>			

## 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	
<del>T62-5</del>	<del>100</del>	<del>100</del>	<del>3 / 20</del>	<del>315</del>	<del>275</del>			<del>3100</del>		<del>4</del>

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over				
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

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

- SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes
- TURNS
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

**Not observed - The Jap VT3 were much slower than our VF but they took no evasive action other than shallow turns.**

**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
- Defensive 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

Lieutenant Robert B. ELLERY's division of 4 VF left the ship loaded with one 500 lb. bomb each, 6-5" rockets and full ammunition for a direct support mission with the Southern Support Group attacking Okinawa. After reporting to the Commander Air Support Control Unit, they made some reconnaissance flights in an effort to locate a suitable target. Suddenly they were ordered to report to the Fighter Director Base who asked them to jettison their bombs, rockets and belly tanks. Next, the division was vectored north to intercept a flight of Jap planes coming toward our fleet units.

The division was flying in right echelon at 2500 feet altitude 180 knots. They reached a point 22 miles north of Point Solo, Okinawa, locked down and spotted 3 JILLS flying on a nearly opposite course in "V" formation. The enemy planes were about 400 feet over the water, heading for a nearby DD.

Lieutenant ELLERY and Ensign Roy E. FARMER peeled off in section and immediately began the attack from 5 o'clock above, opening fire at 1500 feet. The Japs separated, one starting on easy turn to the right which Lieutenant ELLERY was attacking. The other veered to the left with Ensign FARMER closing rapidly, using full throttle and full R.P.M. Lieutenant ELLERY broke off and observed smoke beginning to stream from the engine of the enemy plane, but it continued to fly ahead as he climbed into position for a second run. Ensign FARMER closed the other JILL to approximately 400 feet when he saw his enemy burst into a ball of orange flame and splash into the sea.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant (junior grade) Henry L. SWOPE, Jr. made a run from above at 5 o'clock on the third plane. He saw his tracers penetrate the fuselage but it would not burn so he broke off, climbed to altitude and joined up with Lieutenant ELLERY. They bracketed the JILL that Lieutenant ELLERY had first started to smoke, Lieutenant (junior grade) SWOPE making runs from 4 o'clock above while Lieutenant ELLERY came in from 3 o'clock level. After two runs each, flames were streaming from the cowling and wing root. The Jap lost altitude and crashed afloat into the water.

In the meantime, Ensign Donald W. SEIBERG made a run from six o'clock above on the third JILL, opening fire at 2000 feet. He sprayed it with hits and the enemy was seen to trail white smoke as he broke away to begin another run. However, Ensign FARMER had pulled into position again by this time so he took over, starting a run from six o'clock above. Firing all six guns, he closed to 150 feet when the JILL exploded, disintegrating in a burst of orange flame and smoke. Ensign FARMER pulled up quickly to avoid the debris.

None of the enemy planes took any real evasive action or fired a shot. It is believed they carried only a single suicide pilot.

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

**Guns and other material performed very well.**

**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:

**E. T. WELLS, Lt(jr) A.C.I. Officer**

**R. J. OSTROM, Lieut. Comdr. U.S. Navy**

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

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DATE