





# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

**SECRET**

REPORT No. 27

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

Tokashiki Jima, Takah Jima and Koba Jima.

0950 - 1050

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) \_\_\_\_\_ (b) Time Over Target(s) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zone) \_\_\_\_\_  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 20/30 at 2,000 feet.  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility 20 Miles (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glides (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used Mark 8 (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 1 - 6 (NUMBER) Spacing Select (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 600-900 ft. Incendiaries (FEET) 1000 ft. - 100/ G.P.

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed None Probably Destroyed None Damaged None

(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 <u>WOODS SLOPES</u>	<u>Several acres at each beach on W. coast</u>	<u>2 VT-45</u>	<u>24 Incendiaries</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>Serious</u>
2 <u>FACING BEACHES</u>	<u>on W. coast</u>				
3 <u>TAKAH JIMA</u>	<u>10 small buildings in town</u>	<u>1 VT-45</u>	<u>6 Incendiaries</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>Serious</u>
4 <u>FACING BEACH</u>	<u>including radio station.</u>				
5 <u>WOODS AREA</u>	<u>and about an acre of woods adjacent to beach</u>	<u>2 VT-45</u>	<u>17 100/ G.P.</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>Serious</u>
6 <u>CAVES</u>	<u>10' x 35' entrances</u>	<u>2 VT-45</u>	<u>11 100/ G.P.</u>	<u>3 or 4</u>	<u>damaged</u>
7 <u>KOBA JIMA</u>	<u>15 or 20 small buildings.</u>	<u>2 VT-45</u>	<u>16 Incendiaries</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>Serious</u>
8 <u>OVERLOOKING BEACHES</u>	<u>and NE beaches</u>	<u>2 VT-45</u>	<u>12 100/ G.P.</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>Serious</u>

(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).

Caves 10' to 35' x 1 entrance 1 VT-45 1 3 100/ G.P. 2 or 3 slight damage

1. Large fires were started which swept the small pine forests and underbrush on slopes flanking beaches.
2. Buildings in town were heavily bombed and the destruction of possible hiding places for defenders which had been started by other planes earlier was substantially completed. Attached photograph "A" taken at the conclusion of this attack shows several buildings burning and most others destroyed.
3. Caves were discovered and bombed in several places especially on west side of island and at southern tip. One bomb was seen to explode within the mouth of one cave and probably seriously damaged it as well as anything that might have been in it.
4. Town overlooking beaches heavily hit. Most of them landed in center of town and the attached photograph "B" shows fires and bomb bursts in this area. This photograph was taken at conclusion of attack.
5. Caves were bombed with undetermined results.

(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
- Flight Operations
- Search and Tracking
- Base Operations
- Maintenance

**This strike was sent out for the purpose of destroying hidden defense positions and to burn away natural cover in areas flanking beaches on which landings were scheduled the next day. Four of the planes were loaded with incendiaries and four with 100/ G.P. bombs to accomplish this purpose. Lieutenants Osborne, Bertoglio, Rieck and Van Hoven, Lieutenants (j.g.) Dyserf and Laughlin and Ensigns Leman and Robertson participated in this strike.**

**Very thorough incendiary bombing of the wooded slopes flanking the beaches at Takashiku and Arusa on Takashiki Jima and the beaches on east side of Yama Jima and north end of Koba Jima was accomplished. These slopes were covered chiefly with fir trees which burned very readily and the odor of burning pine permeated the air over the area. These incendiary bombs were dropped at altitudes ranging from 600 feet to 900 feet. The planes dropping them also heavily strafed the buildings in towns facing the landing beaches on successive runs. The 100/ G.P. bombs were dropped on towns facing the landing beaches, especially on sections sufficiently adjacent to beaches to offer cover to enemy forces opposing the landings. The two pictures attached hereto show the completeness with which this preparation for the landing was carried out. There was no anti-aircraft opposition and the bombs were dropped accurately a few at a time from an average altitude of 1000 feet. Pilots unanimously reported after this strike that nearly every building or wooded area from which landings on the specified beaches could be opposed had been eliminated.**

**All planes engaged in this strike strafed the areas adjacent to the landing beaches heavily with both fixed and turret .50 calibre guns and with their .50 calibre tail guns, using 2550 rounds of .50 calibre and 1660 rounds of .50 calibre ammunition. This was done in carrying out instructions to use saturation tactics in order to soften the area as much as possible for the next days landings. These strafings were not aimless, but were concentrated on all structures on the beaches, on all caves and suspected storage area and into areas under trees to which paths lead.**

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**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

**Both .50 and .30 calibre guns worked well and did not jam in spite of the large number of rounds fired within a half hour period of time.**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

**Malcolm I. BUNICK, Lieut., USN,**  
SIGNATURE **A.S.I. Officer.** RANK AND DUTY

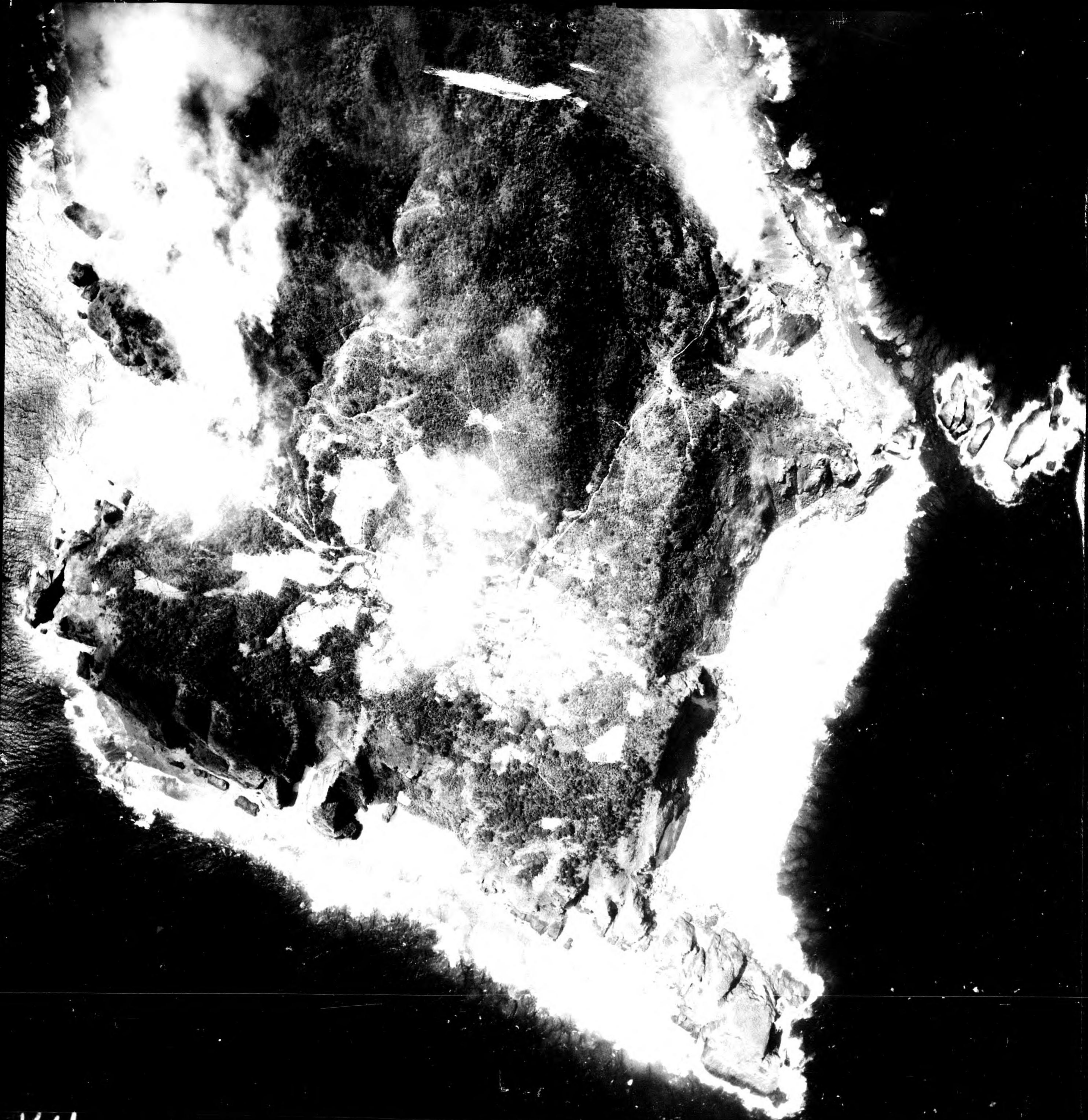
**J. G. FINEAN, Lieut., USN,**  
SIGNATURE **Commanding Officer.** RANK AND DUTY

**April 2, 1945.**  
DATE



A.

SAN JRC 66 TV MAR 24 45 1018(-9) K17 153.4mm. 3000' YAKAN JIMA (OKINAWA GUNTO) CONF



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SAN JAC 66 AV MAR 24-45 1018(-9) K17 153.4mm 3000' KUBA JIMA (OKINAWA GUNTO) COM