

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 5

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Tokuno Airfield, Anami Gunte (b) Time Over Target(s) 0700(-9) (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target Overcast Stratocumulus at 4,500 feet; 10/10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 12
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used 1-None
7-all (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) 7-Mark VIII (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 1-44 Spacing 75 to 150 Altitude of Bomb Release 700-1500
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

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

No operational aircraft observed.

(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 Inboard taxi strip & revetments.	500 ft X 2000 ft	4 VT-49	32-100# G.P.	All in area.	Moderate
2 New outboard strip.	100 ft X 1500 ft	5 VT-49	40-100# G.P.	All in area.	Moderate
3 25 yds E. of field-2500 ft from N. end.	50 ft X 50 ft	1 VT-49	Strafed. .50 cal. fixed	Don't know	Slight
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? _____ Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

S-E-C-R-E-T

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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

After three days of combat inactivity this squadron was assigned to a strike aimed at further reduction of airfield facilities used by the enemy in moving planes down the Ryukyus. The eight Avengers were piloted by Lieut. Peters, Lieut. Livingston, Lts(jg) Pruitt and MacCollister, and Ensigns Ferbert, Milburn, Coffey and Seckinger.

The target selected was Tokuno Shima, satellite of the Anami Gunto only 75 miles from the launch point at 0630(I). Weather enroute to the target was unfavorable, a low ceiling and frequent squalls being encountered. The strike force reached Tokuno with only 2,000 feet of altitude and the torpedo planes circled the island's southwestern tip for approximately twenty minutes, climbing meanwhile to 6,000 feet.

In an effort to select suitable targets it had been decided to have the fighter cover make reconnaissance runs and pinpoint the bombing targets. No aircraft were found on the field itself, so runs were directed along the circling taxiways and revetments.

Forced down by a lowering ceiling, approaches were made at 4000 feet seaward, around the field and runs made by sections generally at glide angles of 30 or 35 degrees and speeds of considerably under 300 knots. Bombs were dropped (four on a second run after a check revealed the pilot's string were not all away) in the revetments and taxi strips Northeast of the field. A newly constructed strip east of the original taxiways was liberally holed and blasted. Drops were made as low as 700 to 1000 feet, and Lt(jg) MacCollister's plane was damaged slightly by shrapnel.

Only three crews saw AA machine gun and A/W fire, east of the field and both sparse and inaccurate. Two gun emplacements were strafed, and one stopped firing as a result.

On return to the carrier, Ensign Coffey's prop governor froze at 2000 R.P.M. He fortunately was able to get a cut on his first pass, as he could not have taken a wave-off with safety.

On this strike, the usual perimeter airfield installations were lacking as bombing targets. Low runs over the area and careful scrutiny revealed only damaged planes, which were strafed.

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XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.
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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:

Charles N. FULLER, Ensign USNR., ACIO
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

Carl H. Peters, Lieut (A1), USNR, Comdg. 19 May 1945.
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY DATE