

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)
CONFIDENTIAL

30219

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting 1st Group 388th (b) Based on or at U.S.S. LEXINGTON (c) Report No. 11-20 1100
 (d) Take off: Date 22 January 1945 Time (LZT) 0800 (-9) (Zone); Lat. 22-50 N. Long. 122-30 E.
 (e) Mission Search fighter sweep, southern Formosa (f) Time of Return 1030 (-9) (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>F4U-7</u>	<u>17-30</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3 A/C - 0 rts. 5" M</u>	<u>Base II 143 - No delay</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE

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>None observed</u>			(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 _____ (k) Visibility _____
(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:				(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER	GUNS USED		

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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REPORT No. 22-02 7100

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) (20) (21) (22) (23) (24) (25) (FOR SHIPS, INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) 0800 - 0900 (Zone) (-2)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 2500 - Cumulus - 3/10 (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear to haze (e) Visibility 10 to unlimited (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Rocket-dive (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used Compass (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 0 rockets (NUMBER) Spacing - (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 2000 - 1500 (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 7 Probably Destroyed 0 Damaged 0

(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 A/C at (18) Allen A/P 2/1	S/E	2 VF-20	1200 rds. .50 cal.	-	Destroyed
2 A/C at (24) Tate A/P 2/1	S/E	2 VF-20	2000 rds. .50 cal.	-	Destroyed
3 Hangars S. of (20) Tama A/P		7 VF-20	24 rockets 1400 rds. .50 cal.	Not certain	Serious
4 Lighthouse, S/E west Formosa		7 VF-20	300 rds. .50 cal.	-	Slight
5 LA - Apo Hill near Toshian-Tamao		1 VF-20	200 rds. .50 cal.	-	Unknown
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).

1. Dashed.
2. Riddled. Two to three runs each, pull-outs between 200 and 500 feet, since AA was engaged--but no fires.
3. Fire started in one hangar; others hit.
5. In company with Hornet VP.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? _____ 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

Eight fighters were launched for a sweep of airfields in southern Formosa. One plane became separated during the rendezvous in the dark and joined Hancock fighters. The remaining 7 arrived over Takao at approximately 0000 and finding no enemy fighters in the air went down in a strafing and rocket attack. Only 2 planes were observed and these too late to make a run on them. Rocket hits on hangars and buildings on the south side of the field touched off several violent explosions, starting visible fires.

After making one run at Takao the planes worked their way north to Gayama Airfield and, finding no planes on the ground, turned northwest to Alian field where two unidentified planes were observed in a revetment. Three runs were made on them through a light fog, setting both afire.

The next field to be inspected was Faite on the east coast. Here 5 unidentified planes were found on the west side of the "Y" runways, but although all seven fighters made two or three strafing runs apiece, recovering practically on the ^{ground}, the planes would not burn. Two additional planes were discovered west of the new parallel strips and once again all 7 fighters strafed from minimum altitude without being able to burn them. However, all 5 planes were so badly riddled as to justify the claim of destruction.

On the return trip the pilots took time out to strafe the lighthouse on the northwest tip of Lasho To, causing slight damage.

AA fire at Takao was medium and light, of moderate intensity, and at Faite only meagre light fire was encountered. No planes were hit.

The pilot who joined up with the Hancock fighters strafed AA positions on Apo Hill with unobserved results.

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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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

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DATE