

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
 (Reclassify when  
 filled out)

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VF-12 (b) Based on or at USS RANDOLPH (CV-15) (c) Report No. VF-12-5  
 (d) Take off: Date 17 February 1945 Time (LZT) 0635 K (Zone); Lat. 33-55 N Long. 141-50 E  
 (e) Mission Fighter Sweep vs Airfields in Tokyo Bay Area (f) Time of Return 1034 K (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)		
<b>F6F-5</b>	<b>VF-12</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>6 HVAR, MK V</b>	<b>AN-M-139-Nose-Inst.</b> <b>AN-M-159-Tail-.025</b> <b>Delay</b>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<b>Elements of TR 58</b>							
<b>USS RANDOLPH sweeps accompanied to target by similar units from</b>							
<b>USS YORKTOWN.</b>							

## 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
<b>Zeke</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0855 K</b> (ZONE)	<b>Tsukuba Air- field, Japan</b>	<b>Not Observed</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Zeke</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0920 K</b> (ZONE)	<b>West of Isioka airfield, Japan</b>	"	"
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Interception  
 Did Any Part of \_\_\_\_\_  
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? No If so, Describe Clouds \_\_\_\_\_  
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)  
 Time of Day and Brilliance Day, Bright  
 (j) of Sun or Moon \_\_\_\_\_ (k) Visibility Unlimited  
(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		
<b>Zeke</b>	<b>F6F-5</b>	<b>VF-12</b>	<b>VITA, H.E., Lt., USNR</b>	<b>6x.50cal. Tail, 6 o'clock, level</b>	<b>Destroyed</b>
<b>Zeke</b>	<b>F6F-5</b>	<b>VF-12</b>	<b>HARDIN, H.M. En., USNR</b>	<b>6x.50cal. Tail, 6 o'clock High/Above</b>	"



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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) **Hangars - Locomotive** (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) **0915 K** (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target **No** (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND PERCENTAGE OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target **Clear** (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility **15** (MILES)
- (f) ~~Bombing~~ Tactics: Type **Glide** (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used **MK 23 Gun sight** (TYPE)
- ~~Bombs~~ Dropped per Run **2 to 6** (NUMBER) Spacing (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release **1200-1500 yds. slant range** (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed **7** Probably Destroyed **7** Damaged **10**

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(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 Hangar		4 VF-12	16 HVAR	16	Serious
2 Hangar		4 VF-12	12 HVAR	12	Slight
3 Aircraft		2 VF-12	6 HVAR	4	Destroyed
4 Hangar		8 VF-12	34 HVAR	32	Serious
5 Hangar		8 VF-12	30 HVAR	30	Serious
6 Locomotive		3 VF-12	2 HVAR	2	Slight
7 SB Vessel	1500T	9 VF-12	Unexpended .50Cal.	-	None
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. Hangar at MAWATARI airfield left in flames.
2. Hangar at MAWATARI left smoking. Gaping holes, but not fire observed.
3. 2 twin engine aircraft at ISHIOKA airfield attacked; one was seen to explode, the other to burn.
4. Hangar at HYAKURIGAHARA airfield left burning after rocket and strafing attack.
5. Hangar at HYAKURIGAHARA airfield seemed to explode, then burn.
6. Locomotive strafed and hit by 2 rockets, between HYAKURIGAHARA and ISHIOKA airfields. Train stopped, no explosion or fire was visible. Target was partly obscured by trees, no accurate assessment of damage could be made.
7. SB vessel met about 15 miles off shore from HOKODA airfield while enroute to base. Nine HELICATS expended unused ammunition. Vessel seemed to be down at the bow, and headed toward beach. No further damage was observed.

\* Negatives forwarded to INTERPRON 2 at Guam, upon request. Above hanger damage confirmed.

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



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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

The hardy construction of Ensign R. L. HATCHER's HELLCAT saved him to fight another day. Caught as the target in a no deflection shot and badly hit, he was able to return to a friendly base. Vibration due to his chopped up "prop" was intense, and his radio was dead. Ensign H. M. BARRETT, his colleague in the adventure, accompanied him back to the USS WASP where necessary repairs were made. Lt. Comdr. F. H. MICHAELIS reported his radio receiver as failing during the sweep, attributable to no external causes. VF-12 carries ARC-1 equipment.

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REPORT PREPARED BY:

*Horace W. Hewlett, Jr.* **ACI**  
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

*F. H. Michaelis* **Lt. Comdr.**  
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY  
**Commanding**

*3 Mar 45*  
DATE