

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

3

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 41-1-52

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Hiroji and Minato airfields (b) Time Over Target(s) 0945(I) (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 3500 foot Cumulus 7/10 at Hiroji; No clouds at Minato airfield.
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Hiroji partially obscured by clouds; Minato airfield clear. (e) Visibility 10
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used Dr-8 Illuminated Gunsight
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 1 Spacing 7 Altitude of Bomb Release 3000
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 0 Probably Destroyed 0 Damaged 1

| (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 Hanger & revetment areas at Hiroji airfield | Hanger 200' x 150' | 7 VP-49 | 7 - 500# G.P. | 7 | One plane damaged and one hanger set on fire |
| 2 | | | | | |
| 3 Factory or shop north of western end of air strip and adjoining NW revetment area at Minato airfield. | 200' x 200' | 1 VP-49 | 1 - 500# G.P. | 1 | Building left on fire |
| 4 | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | |
| 6 | In addition to the bombs dropped on ground objectives, rockets were fired at the following targets: | | | | |
| 7 | 12 rockets into the revetment and hanger areas at Hiroji, hits not assessed; | | | | |
| 8 | 12 rockets with six hits in revetment and dispersal areas at Minato airfield; medium sized freighter (JMSF Fox 1210), hit by four rockets of Hiroji; | | | | |
| | 12 rockets fired at fishing vessels just north of Minato on western coast of the island of Izuji, near Tsushi, results not observed. 4 rockets fired into Hiroji dispersal and the roof was destroyed; four rockets were fired into a small | | | | |

(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.)
factory on the southern coast of Honshu, (probably Susami) and it was left in flames.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

4

REPORT No ~~ACA-1-~~ 52

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

Lt. Comdr. H. J. Truss, III, led a strike group of eight Hellcats and nine Avengers, all of CVG 49, against Himeji and Minato airfields. The flight made its final approach to the target on a northerly course from the inland sea, crossing the Honshu shore to the west of Kakogawa airfield. Some heavy flak was encountered from the Marine arsenal area, but the meagre bursts seen were avoided by mild evasive action. Himeji airfield, which was partly obscured by clouds, was attacked from the north, with the recovery to the southwest. Both fighter divisions striking the field had been given specific objectives on that field which were located in the northwestern and southern revetment areas, and in the hangar section to the southwest. Some difficulty was found in taking a proper aiming point due to the overcast. However, most of the bombs and rockets were put in the assigned areas, and on retirement a large fire was seen in one of the hangars, and a near miss is believed to have damaged a plane on the hangar apron. Clouds over the target forced the flight to make shallow dives, and the average recovery was less than 1000 ft. The entire field was strafed in a saturation attack, but the extent of the damage inflicted was not observed. The division became split after the pull out. One section, headed by Lt(jg) W.B. Brock retired to the southwest, along the route originally planned for departing from the target. Ens. J. A. Shealy, wingman of this section, fired four rockets into the largest factory building at the Marine arsenal as the coast was crossed into Iriomote Nada and his hits ripped off the top of the building. Lt. Comdr. Truss, remained with the torpedo planes who had taken a course to the southeast.

The other division, led by Lt. A.W. Lindsay, retired to the south toward the island of Awaji. Just south of Himeji, Ens. Box, the flight leader's wingman, had his plane struck and badly damaged by medium automatic flak. Lt. Comdr. Truss was unable to sight the other fighters in the flight and remained with the crippled plane on its return to the fleet formation, after ordering the rest of the fighters by radio to cover the torpedo planes. Before departing for base, Ens. Box rocketed a medium sized freighter (JUST-Fox Uncle) off Kishima. This ship was also heavily strafed by the torpedo planes. Ens. Box was required to get rid of his rockets after the damage to his plane and did so very profitably into the side of this enemy ship. The freighter was left smoking and was fired and destroyed by a later VF-42 fighter sweep. Division Four struck Minato airfield, while the remaining fighters stayed above the bombers as top cover. Installations and revetments at the field were rocketed and strafed, and one bomb was dropped in a shop or factory building northwest of the landing strip. The building was left in flames. No other damage was observed although one pair of rockets was seen to explode in the immediate vicinity of a twin-engine plane on the landing strip. On the retirement through Kii straits, Lt. Lindsay fired four rockets into a factory in a sea coast town on southern Honshu (probably Susaki). This factory was left ablaze. Some inaccurate medium or heavy fire was seen at Himeji airfield. A great deal of medium AA was encountered on the retirement to the southeast of Himeji and its accuracy is shown by the fact that one plane was hit. No anti-aircraft fire was observed at Minato airfield. Return to base was completed at 1034(I).

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

5

REPORT No. ~~104-1-~~ 52

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

All equipment functioned satisfactorily.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

P. A. SMITH, Lieut., USNR
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
A. C. I. Officer.

G. H. BOWERS, Lieut. Comdr., USN
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
Commanding Officer, VP-49

30 July 1945
DATE