

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL
REPORT No. 8-42

VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those listed in II only).

(a) TYPE OWN A/C	(b) SQUADRON	(c) CAUSE: TYPE ENEMY A/C, TYPE GUN, OR OPERATIONAL CAUSE	(d) WHERE HIT, ANGLE (List armor, self-sealing tanks, equipment hit)	(e) EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE, (Give Bureau serial number of planes destroyed)
1 F6F-5	VF-24	A/A caliber unknown	Port elevator	Repaired on board.
2 TBM-3	VT-24	A/A Probably heavy	Hit in bomb bay	Crashed and burned. Bureau # 60698
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				

VII. PERSONNEL CASUALTIES (in aircraft listed in II only; identify with planes listed in VI by Nos. at left).

(a) NO.	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NAME, RANK OR RATING	(d) CAUSE	(e) CONDITION OR STATUS
2	VT-24	FLORENCE, Joseph Francis Ensign, A1, (382837)	Shot down	Missing
2	VT-24	BOLEY, Charles Edward ARM3e(CA), V6, (755 85 93)	Shot down	Missing
2	VT-24	MURPHY, Richard Joseph ARM3e(CA), USN, (258 60 91)	Shot down	Missing

VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA FOR PLANES RETURNING

(a) TYPE A/C	(b) MILES OUT	(c) MILES RETURN	(d) AV. HOURS IN AIR	(e) AV. FUEL LOADED	(f) AV. FUEL CONSUMED	(g) TOTAL AMMUNITION EXPENDED				(h) NO. OF PLANES RETURNING
						.30	.50	20MM	MM	
TBM-3	75	75	3.5	335	210	600	700			7
F6F-5	75	75	3.5	325	220		6500			8

IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over				
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm				
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm				

X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (use check list at left).

- SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes
- TURNS
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Nobara Airfield - Miyako Jima (b) Time Over Target(s) 0825 (1) (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 4000' Cumulus .3
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Hazy (e) Visibility 5
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type VF-Dive VT-Glide Bomb Sight Used VT-None VF-ik & Gunsight
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run VF-One VT-All Spacing - - - Altitude of Bomb Release 3500'
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(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 E-W Runway	200' x 4500'	8 VT-24	16 - 500# Bombs ✓ 32 - 100# Bombs ✓		
2		8 VT-24	8 - 500# Bombs ✓		
3 Dispersal Area		8 VT-24	42 - 5" Rockets ✓		
4		8 VT-24	48 - 5" Rockets		
5 A/A Positions		8 VT-24	6500 rds. .50 cal.		
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. Numerous VT bombs hit the runway causing craters.
2. All VF bombs hit the runway leaving craters.
3. All rockets were fired at the dispersal area located east and south of the E-W runway.
4. Results were unobserved.
5. VF strafed the A/A positions south of Hirara Field during the VT bombing attack.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No 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

VF strafed the A/A positions at the south end of Hirara airfield as VT commenced its bombing run from west to east on the E-W runway, on Nohara at about 6000'. Heavy A/A from Hirara was moderate to intense and releases were made at about 3500' by VT. During the run, a burst of red flame was observed to come out of the bomb bay of the TBM piloted by Ensign FLORENCE just after he released his bombs. The plane nosed over and the cockpit appeared to be on fire. At about 3000' one chute blossomed. The plane then leveled off somewhat and crashed into a hill about one mile east of Nohara airfield and exploded. Just before it crashed, another parachute was seen to stream, but it did not blossom. One pilot said that at the latter point, two chutes streamed out but did not blossom. At any rate, all witnesses agree that the plane at that point was too low for chutes to do anyone any good. The first man who got out at 3000' landed apparently safely about midway between Sukama and Nohara airfields. About half of the witnesses are of the opinion that the first parachute was a pilots chute, while the other half think it was the chest type. All three occupants of the crashed plane are listed as missing. It is believed that the A/A responsible for the loss of this plane was heavy and that it came from the south end of Hirara airfield.

VF then made its bombing run commencing at 9000' and 2 miles west of Nohara. Releases were made at 3500' and an angle of 60°.

All rockets were fired at angles of 40°-45°, and a slant range of 1000 - 1200 yards.

No enemy aircraft, but accurate A/A of all types, moderate in intensity, was encountered.

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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:

APPROVED BY:

W. A. HALPIN, Lieut. (jg), S(A), USNR
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
ACI Officer

P. N. CHARBONNET Jr., Lieut., U.S. Navy,
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
Acting Commander

DATE