

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
photo #3

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VF-9 (b) Based on or at USS LEXINGTON (CV-16) (c) Report No. 16-45  
 (d) Take off: Date 1 March 1945 Time (LZT) 1500 K. (Zone); Lat 25°-44'N. Long 129°-14'E.  
 (e) Mission Photo Coverage - Kikai & Tokuna (f) Time of Return 1830 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)		
<u>F6F-5</u>	<u>VF-9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>2400 rds. 50 cal. M.G.</u>	<u>- - - -</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>None</u>							

## 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>T/B</u> <u>S/B</u>	<u>5-6</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1700 K.</u> (ZONE)	<u>Tokuna</u> <u>Airfield</u>	<u>- - -</u>	<u>Brush &amp; netting</u> <u>in revetments.</u>
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) On the ground  
 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		
			<u>None</u>		

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## 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		None		
2				
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
		None		

## 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	
<b>F6F-5</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>4200</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>7</b>

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

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

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

SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes

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TURNS

DIVES

CEILINGS

RANGE

PROTECTION

ARMAMENT

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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1700 R. (Zone)

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) 7 luggers - Kanetsu, Tokuna Jima  
Airfields - Tokuna Jima (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) 1700 R. (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target 2200' Cumulus 7-8/10  
(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 Strafing dive Bomb Sight Used Mk VIII Gunsight  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run --- Spacing -- Altitude of Bomb Release ---  
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

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

(h) AIMING POINT	(i) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(j) NO A/C ATTACKING	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
		(k) SQUADRON			
1 4 luggers	60' each	7 VF-9	2000 rds. .50 cal.	75%	Additional fires - serious
2 Sally - rev. Tokuna A/F	--	1 VF-9	2-300 rds. .50 cal	75%	Destroyed
3					
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).

**These luggers were smoking or burning previous to this attack - although an additional ugger was set ablaze by this 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

This flight took off to obtain photo coverage of Kikai and Tokuna Islands, Amami Gunto, Nansei Shoto. Mapping runs at 10,000' were made at Kikai with the 3 VF providing escort. The flight rendezvoused S. of Kikai encountering meager heavy inaccurate A/A at the south tip of the island, and then proceeded to Tokuna Jima. Low clouds prevented photo coverage so a strafing attack was made from 9000', N to S 50° dive on 4 of 7 luggers at Kanetsu, Tokuna, 3 of which were tied together. Before the attack one was burning and the balance were smoking. Hits were observed and another lugger was set afire. The flight rendezvoused, climbed to 9000' and then made a strafing attack on the Tokuna A/F, from N to S. Kent and Hamilton, B., strafed a warehouse at south end of the field, setting it afire. Young strafed buildings on east side of A/F, McGowan strafed buildings on west side, leaving buildings smoking. Solberger strafed a T/E plane he thinks was a Sally, silver colored without camouflage in a revetment. Hudson saw a big roll of flame and smoke arise from the spot Solberger was shooting at, indicating the destruction of the Sally. Hudson strafed a S/E and got hits and damage. Powell made a second run strafing buildings at N. end of strip - starting a fire.

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**XIII. MATERIAL DATA.** (Comment freely on performance, availability, following check list at left.  
Use additional sheets if necessary).

**All material reported satisfactory.**

Photo #1

• **Lieut. McGowan**  
**Lt. (Jg) Young**  
**Lt. (Jg) Kent**  
**Ensign B. Hamilton**

**Lieut. Salberger**  
**Lt. (Jg) Powell**  
**Lieut. Hudson**

## 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:

**R.C. MURPHY, Lieut., USNR**  
Signature **Combat Information Officer** Rank and Duty

**J. "S" KITCHEN, Lieut., USNR.**  
Signature **Commanding Officer.** Rank and Duty

**2 March 1945**  
Date