

# 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-12-11  
 (d) Take off: Date 25 February 1945 Time (LZT) 0729 K (Zone); Lat. 33-29 N Long. 143-06 E  
 (e) Mission Fighter Sweep vs HYAKURIGAHARA A/F, Honshu (f) Time of Return 1115 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>18</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>None</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>None</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>Oscar</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0900</b>	<b>HYAKURIGAHARA</b>		
<b>Zeke</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0915K (ZONE)</b>	<b>Airfield</b>		
<b>Oscar</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0920</b>	<b>TSUKUBA</b>		
<b>Zeke</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0930K (ZONE)</b>	<b>Airfield</b>		
<b>Tojo</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0923K (ZONE)</b>	<b>HYAKURIGAHARA Airfield</b>		<b>Dark Blue Paint</b>
<b>Oscar</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0850 K</b>	<b>MAWATARI A/F</b>		

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Interception

Did Any Part of

(i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? Yes If so, Describe Clouds 5000' Base; strato-cumulus; 5/100 cover  
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

Time of Day and Brilliance

(j) of Sun or Moon Day, hazy (k) Visibility 15  
(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:			GUNS USED	(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>FRANKS, J.M. Lt (jg) NR</b>	<b>4x.50cal</b>	<b>3 o'clock Hi Above-C'pit</b>	<b>Dest.</b>
<b>Zeke</b>	"	"	<b>FRANKS, J.M. Lt (jg) NR</b>	<b>4x.50cal</b>	<b>Fus. 5 o'clock-level</b>	<b>Damaged</b>
<b>Zeke</b>	"	"	<b>FRANKS, J.M. Lt (jg) NR</b>	<b>4x.50cal</b>	" "	<b>Damaged</b>
<b>Tojo</b>	"	"	<b>FURSE, L.E. Ens. USNR</b>	<b>4x.50cal</b>	<b>C'pit &amp; Eng. 7 o'-above</b>	<b>Destroyed</b>
<b>Zeke</b>	"	"	<b>MICHAELIS, F. Lt. USN</b>	<b>6x.50cal</b>	<b>Tail, Fus. Pt. Wg. 5 o' Hi</b>	<b>Damaged</b>
<b>Oscar</b>	"	"	<b>SMART, W.L. Ens. USNR</b>	<b>4x.50cal</b>	<b>Fus. 4 o'clock-above</b>	<b>Destroyed</b>
<b>Zeke</b>	"	"	<b>THOMPSON, L.E. Lt. USN</b>	<b>6x.50cal</b>	<b>Tail, Fus. 9 o' above</b>	<b>Destroyed</b>
<b>Oscar</b>	"	"	<b>MASON, Ens., USNR</b>	<b>6x.50cal</b>	<b>Tail, 4 o'clock</b>	<b>Destroyed</b>
<b>Oscar</b>	"	"	<b>GALLAGHER, J.E. En. NR</b>	<b>6x.50cal</b>	<b>Eng. 12 o'clock-1/2</b>	<b>Damaged</b>
<b>Oscar</b>	"	"	<b>GALLAGHER, J.E. En. NR</b>	<b>6x.50cal</b>	<b>Fus. 10 o' - Hi</b>	<b>Damaged</b>
<b>Zeke</b>	"	"	<b>MORGAN, R. Ens., USNR</b>	<b>6x.50cal</b>	<b>Eng. 12 o'clock lev.</b>	<b>Destroyed</b>
<b>Zeke</b>	"	"	<b>BARDEEN, Lt., USNR</b>	<b>6x.50cal</b>	<b>Fus. 5 o' - Hi above</b>	<b>Prob. Des.</b>
<b>Oscar</b>	"	"	<b>BARDEEN, Lt., USNR</b>	<b>6x.50cal</b>	<b>Fus. 7 o' - Hi above</b>	<b>Damaged</b>
<b>Zeke</b>	"	"	<b>COBB, Ens., USNR</b>	<b>6x.50cal</b>	<b>C'pit, 6 o'clock-lev.</b>	<b>Damaged</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) **Hangar, HYAKURIGAHARA A/F** (b) Time Over Target(s) **0930 K** (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target **5000' Base; Strato-cumulus; 5/10 Cover**  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target **Clear** (e) Visibility **15**  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) ~~Bombing~~ **Strafing** Tactics: Type **Dive** Bomb Sight Used **MK 23 Gun sight**  
(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 **16** Probably Destroyed **3** Damaged **4**

(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 <b>Hangar</b>		<b>3</b> <b>VF-12</b>	<b>Strafed - 1200rd.</b>	<b>1200</b>	<b>Slight</b>
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

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(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, HYAKURIGAHARA Airfield. Strafed by three HELICATS during attack on aircraft on the ground. Seen to burn.**

(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

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Fighting Squadron 12 made the first sweep of the day from the USS RANDOLPH, against aircraft on or above HYAKURIGAHARA Airfield, Northeast of TOKYO BAY. The number of planes reported on the ground ranges from thirty to more than fifty; the variances results from the fact that all but a few planes were dispersed in a wide area about the field and heavily revetted. Subsequent study of photographs supplied before the mission's launch ten to confirm the higher figure with the possibility of many more being present. As a result of this sweep enemy aircraft totaling seven were shot down and sixteen destroyed on the ground.

Two HELLCATS were forced to return to base soon after being launched; one could not obtain suction on his belly tank, the other was unable to charge his guns. Both planes assumed CAP duties upon return. Over the target one F6F sprang an oil leak which covered the windshield and impeded the pilot's vision, and three F6F's orbited the area with him until the sweep was prepared to proceed to base, at which time both rejoined their division and landed aboard without incident. A fifth F6F was forced to make a water landing within the Task Force due to fuel exhaustion. He was rescued by DD 700.

The target action consisted of a series of strafing runs over the airfield, one division standing cover while the remaining planes made their attacks. Airborne aircraft were reluctant to join in combat. ZEKES, OSCARS and TOJOS maintained an altitude advantage of three to four thousand feet over the HELLCATS and refused to close except when able to acquire an absolute tail shot and when no other opposition was present. These attacks were made singly. They were prone to open fire long before they came into range. A ZEKE began an attack on the Sweep leader at a distance of approximately 3500 feet, then broke off before he could be engaged. Three ZEKES dove upon three HELLCATS flying a wide V upon another occasion; two dove ahead of and close to the formation while the third skirted wide and came up on the tail of the plane on the port side. By weaving, the aircraft on the starboard side successfully disengaged him. Lt. L. E. THOMPSON, Jr., USN, had one of the closest "calls" of the day. His description follows: "A ZEKE was observed 11 o'clock down about 500 feet. My section leader and his wing man covered while my wing man, Ensign R. C. SORMANTI, USNR, and I followed him in a dive. I fired as he started a gentle turn to the right and observed tracers hitting him. He turned sharply to the right in a tight wingover. I followed, almost going into the ground and recovered very low slightly ahead of the beam of the ZEKE - Pulled LOG's to keep from hitting the ground. I cut my throttle back and slid across and above him. He turned into me. I lost a little on this scissor and turned into him again, getting a good burst in, and observed one of his landing gear to drop down and smoke. He kept turning slightly into me at an altitude of 300 feet for approximately eight times and I put a small burst into him each time. Then he straightened out and I put a long burst into him. He starting smoking very badly and hit the ground. Pieces flew all over hell."

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Form ACA-1  
Sheet 5 of 5

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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

All pilots, especially Lt. THOMPSON whose experience is related under paragraph XII, are keenly appreciative of the "Z" suit. The only possible criticism is the apprehension in the minds of some lest it enable the pilot to withstand more "G's" than the plane

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REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

*Horou W. Hewlett*  
SIGNATURE

*Lt. (jg) ACT [Signature]*  
RANK AND DUTY SIGNATURE

*Lt. Comdr. [Signature]*  
RANK AND DUTY SIGNATURE

*3-3-45*  
DATE