

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VF-33 (b) Based on or at USS SANGAMON (c) Report No. 5
 (d) Take off: Date 1 April 1945 Time (LZT) 0340 (Zone); Lat. 24-50N Long. 127-12 E
 (e) Mission Night Heckling of OKINAWA SHIMA Airfields (f) Time of Return 0705 (Zone) (I)

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)		
F6F-5N	VF-33	2	0	2	6-5" HVAR	MK 149 Instantaneous

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
VT	VC 92	4	USS TULAGI				

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
S.E. VF (unidentified)	1	1	0435(I) (ZONE)	1/4 mile N.W. NAHA Field	Not observed	Not observed
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Attack on our night intruders (possible friendly)
 Did Any Part of
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? Yes If so, Describe Clouds Base 1500 ft. up 200 ft, stratus: cover
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance
 (j) of Sun or Moon Night - bright moon (k) Visibility 2
(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	GUNS USED		
None						

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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	
F6F-5N	50	40	3 hrs 25 Min.	400	294	-	2470rds.	-	-	2

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

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

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

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

None - encounter consisted of only one dry run on the F6F-5N.

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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).

(I)

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Airfields of OKINAWA SHIMA (b) Time Over Target(s) 0430-0610 (Zone) _____
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target Upper stratus 5000 ft., lower scattered stratus 500 ft, .3 to .8
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Hazy to clear (e) Visibility 2
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- Rocket run: shallow glide Rocket sight MK 8 - illuminated.
Bomb Sight Used None
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type None Bomb Sight Used None
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Rockets fired 1 fired singly slant range 5000 yards
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- Bombs Dropped per Run - Spacing - Altitude of Bomb Release -
(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 NAHA Airfield Runways, revetments & control facilities	2000 yds by 2000yds	2 VF-33	5- 5" HVAR strafed	5 in area	Slight (dark)
2 YONTAN Airfield runways & N. W. revetment area.	2000yds by 2000yds	1 VF-33	2 - 5" HVAR Strafed	1 in area	not observed (dark)
3 KADENA Airfield runways & revetments	1500 yds by 1000yds	1 VF-33	1 - 5" HVAR strafed	1 in area	Not observed
4 MACHINATO Airfield Runways	4500 ft., by 150 ft.	1 VF-33	2- 5" HVAR strafed	2 in area	Not observed
5 ITOMAN Town	2000 yds by 8000 yds	1 VF-33	1 - 5" HVAR strafed	1 in area	Slight
6 Roads along So. West Coast	-	1 VF-33	strafed	-	Slight
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).

The purpose of this flight being to cover general area rather than specific targets, their results were excellent. No aircraft activity of any nature was observed on any of the Air fields of OKINAWA SHIMA during the period. These two planes were over the target area.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? _____ 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

The two night fighters entered the objective area at 0430 (I) and separated one covering the Southern Fields and the other the Northern two airfields. They alternated attacking first one airfield and then another. Their interval between hitting fields assigned them was kept to a minimum.

Shortly after the two planes separated Ensign BRIGGS, flying at 3000 feet about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile northwest of NAHA Airfield, looked into his rear view mirror and saw a plane closing on him from 6 o'clock level. He turned around to see an unidentified Single Radial Engine Fighter about 200 yards astern approaching as if in a run on him. However, the plane was blinking a red light from the left wing and apparently did not fire on BRIGGS. BRIGGS immediately pushed over in a dive and pulled up into a wing over to the left but was unable to establish further contact either visually or on his Radar.

BRIGGS says the plane did not look like an allied plane to him, but he only got a quick glance at it.

It is possible that the unidentified plane was a Jap single engine plane used as a Night Fighter. It attacked as if it were using Radar, as it would be pretty hard for the plane to get into such a position on BRIGGS's tail at night without the use of Radar.

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XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.
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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

One rocket failed to fire due to failure of the electric firing circuit in the rocket launchers.

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SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

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4-6-45

DATE