

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting COMPROB EIGHT (b) Based on or at USS HENRIETTA BAY (CVB-74) (c) Report No. 38-45
 (d) Take off: Date 21 June 1945 Time (LZT) 0530 I (Zone); Lat. 24° 42' N Long. 127° 00' E
 (e) Mission Strike on Sakasa A/P - Miyako Shima (f) Time of Return 0830 I (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>TBM-3</u>	<u>VC-8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>10 (AN-M50) 100# G.P. Bombs</u> <u>7 HVAR Rockets</u>	<u>AN-M205A1 Inst. Nose</u> <u>AN-M100A2 .01 Delay Tail</u> <u>Mk-149 Instant. Nose</u> <u>Mk-159 .015 Delay Tail</u>
<u>F4U-2</u>	<u>VC-8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6 HVAR Rockets</u>	<u>Mk-149 Instant. Nose</u> <u>Mk-159 .015 Delay Tail</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>None</u>			<u>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) XX
 Did Any Part of
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? XX If so, Describe Clouds XX (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance
 (j) of Sun or Moon XX (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (k) Visibility XX (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		
<u>None</u>						

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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) Subway A/P, Hanoi Station (b) Time Over Target(s) 0623-0702 1 (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 3/10 at 7000 ft (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 10 (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type glide (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used None (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 6 (NUMBER) Spacing 40 APPROX (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 2000 (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 Runway & Taxi Strips	XX	14 VC-3	40 100# G.P. Bombs 5000 Rds. .50 Cal.	50 Many	serious
2 Revetments and Buildings in Tree Clumps	XX	14 VC-3	20 100# G.P. Bombs 91 HVAR Rockets 7000 Rds. .50 Cal.	? Many	Unknown
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).

1. Runways and taxi strips were bombed by all VT. These targets had already been seriously damaged but it is felt that thirty (30) additional craters were made. Fusing used was .01 on the bombs. ✓

2. The field has many revetments on all sides but all of them appear empty. There are also many small buildings all of which are damaged. Some of these revetments and buildings are hidden in clumps of trees. These positions were strafed, rocketed and bombed. This resulted in many hits within the tree clumps and other revetments but it seems doubtful whether any great additional damage was done. Fusing used on both bombs and rockets was delay. ✓

This field was struck by this squadron on 7 June 1945. The reports of that day stated that it was felt that the field was completely inoperable. The same opinion is still held. It is positive in the minds of the pilots that no repairs have been made since 7 June 1945. The buildings, control tower and other facilities are completely riddled; the one plane on the field has been long destroyed; the runway is a mass of craters but of course these could be refilled.

(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 left Task Unit 32.1.1 in company with other planes striking other targets on the same island. The individual attack groups separated as the island was approached.

Runs were made generally from the East and South but attempts to get as many aircraft in the dive as possible at the time resulted in many different directions of run. It is doctrine in this squadron to attempt "organized confusion" with no two planes coming from exactly the same point of the compass. Runs were started from between 6000 and 7000 feet; glide angle 40°-45°; bomb release and rocket firing at 2000 feet and pull out at 1500 feet. Strafing runs were carried much lower.

Three (3) rocket and four (4) strafing runs were made by the fighters. Two (2) bombing, one (1) rockets and one (1) strafing run were made by the VT.

The light AA fire noted in IX was seen to come from the village of Sugama, Target Area 0904 F and G. Four (4) bursts of medium AA were seen, one (1) of them quite close to one (1) VT.

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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

One (1) VF returned with two (2) HVAR rockets and another VF returned with one (1) HVAR. This was caused by electrical failure in the launchers.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

R. E. CONTHMAN, Lt.(jg), (A), USNR

SIGNATURE
ACI Officer

RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

H. D. HODSON, Lieutenant, U.S. Navy

SIGNATURE
Squadron Commander

RANK AND DUTY

24 June 1945

DATE