

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

**CONFIDENTIAL**

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VT-94 (b) Based on or at USS LEXINGTON (CV-16) (c) Report No. VT-94-7  
 (d) Take off: Date 9 August 1945 Time (LZT) 1340 I (Zone); Lat. 38-08 N Long. 144-19 E  
 (e) Mission Attack shipping - Onagawa Wan (f) Time of Return 1740 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)		
TBM-3E	VT-94	11	0	11	4 x 500 lb. GP	Mk-AN103 - .025 Nose Mk-AN102A2 - .025 Tail

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
SB2C-4E	VT-94	14	USS LEXINGTON	AG-6			USS HANCOCK
FGP-5	VF-94	4	USS LEXINGTON	AG-51			USS SAN JACINTO
	AG-1		USS BENNINGTON	AG-49			USS BELLEAU WOOD

## 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
			(ZONE)	N O N E		
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) None  
 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 Afternoon, very hazy (k) Visibility 8  
(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			
			N O N E			

CINC. PAC







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REPORT No VI-94-7

**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

**NARRATIVE:**

When briefed and almost ready to man planes to attack grounded aircraft in Northern Honshu, this flight was made part of a Task Group strike against shipping targets found in the many coves in the vicinity of Onagawa Wan. Target Coordinator was from Air Group One on USS BENNINGTON.

Rendezvoused group of 14 VB, 4 VF, and 11 VT, proceeded to coast gaining altitude to 10,000 feet. Upon arrival at the coast, three small naval ships were found tied up to dock in the Onagawa Wan. Excellent coordination, own Air Group being the third to attack, with VT diving behind VF and VB, two divisions of VT diving on the larger vessel and one division diving on the smaller DE. VT used 40 degree glides from 10,000 feet, maximum speeds 315 knots, release 2500. Dived from NW, rendezvoused to the SE and returned to the ship.

**COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

This was a very smooth attack. However, too many groups were put on these small targets. Final rendezvous was delayed by pilots making strafing runs on miscellaneous small craft in the harbor area. Two VT returned alone when unable to rendezvous in the haze after several strafing runs.

Radio discipline unusually bad, primarily because of using personal names rather than established calls. Because of the short time for briefing in the ready room, there was considerable briefing over the air.

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No VT-94-7

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) One Kaibokan #2 and two DE Onagawa Wan (b) Time Over Target(s) 1530 I (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target None  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear sky, very hazy (e) Visibility 8  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used None  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 4 Spacing 25 Altitude of Bomb Release 2500  
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 0 Probably Destroyed 0 Damaged 0

(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 Kaibokan #2	1000 tons	8 - TBM-3E VT-94	32 x 500 lb. GP	4	Left smoking. Down by stern & listing.
2 DE	900 tons	2 - TBM-3E VT-94	8 x 500 lb. GP	2	Gutted.
3 Sugar Dog	150 tons	1 - TBM-3E VT-94	4 x 500 lb. GP	0	None
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).

- This ship was hit by VB-94 and VF-94 as well. It did not sink at once, but may be considered a total loss due to the number of hits. When last observed it was smoking from the stern and appeared to be in process of turning over.
- This small ship suffered several hits and may be considered destroyed.
- One plane dived on the DE, but was told not to drop on it by Target Coordinator while in dive. Selected another target, but missed.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.



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W. W. [unclear], Lt. Col., [unclear]      J. H. [unclear], Lt. Col., [unclear]  
 [unclear]      [unclear]  
 [unclear]      [unclear]