

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VBF-94 (b) Based on or at USS LEXINGTON (CV-16) (c) Report No. VBF-94 29  
 (d) Take off: Date 25 July 1945 Time (LZT) 1000 Item (Zone); Lat. 32° 05' N Long. 136° 15' E  
 (e) Mission Hannatsu A/C (f) Time of Return 1430 Item (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>F4U-4</u>	<u>VBF-94</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1 x 500# GP 4 x 5" HVAR</u>	<u>N&amp;T Inst/.01 tail N&amp;T Inst/.015 base</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
			<u>N</u>				
			<u>O</u>				
			<u>N</u>				
			<u>E</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
			(ZONE)	<u>N</u>		
			(ZONE)	<u>O</u>		
			(ZONE)	<u>N</u>		
			(ZONE)	<u>E</u>		

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) ---  
 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	GUNS USED		
			<u>N</u>			
			<u>O</u>			
			<u>N</u>			
			<u>E</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				
2		N		
3		O		
4		H		
5		E		
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
		N		
		O		
		H		
		E		

## 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	
F4U-4	230	230	4.75	385	285		4200			8

## 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

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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) Shimizu & Fuji (Targets of opportunity) (b) Time Over Target(s) 1145 Item (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target Base 2500 cumulus - stratus 8/10  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 10  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used MK 8 Gunsight  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 1 Spacing — Altitude of Bomb Release 2000  
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- Rockets: In pairs
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 0 Probably Destroyed 0 Damaged 2

(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 A/C			8	4 x 500/ GP 1 x 5" HVAR, .50 cal	1 Many	Damaged 2 S/R. Destroyed hangar.
2 Factory			1	1 x 500/ GP	0	None.
3 Factory			2	1 x 500/ GP 4 x 5" HVAR	1 4	Serious - fired.
4 Sugar Charlie	200 tons		6	11 x 5" HVAR .50 cal	0 Many	Slight.
5 Sheds - Onai Saki	150'		2	4 x 5" HVAR .50 cal	4 Many	Damaged 2
6 Factory	700x200		2	2 x 500/ GP	2	Serious - fired.
7 Radio Station			1	4 x 5" HVAR		Unobserved.
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. NW end of Fuji airstrip.
2. North of Fuji.
3. 1 mile NE of Fuji airstrip.
5. SW of Fuji airstrip.
6. 2 miles SW of Fuji A/F. Large fire and black smoke.
7. West end Shimizu A/F.

Note: 5 rockets returned.

- (p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes, but none suitable for damage assessment. 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

**NARRATIVE**

8 VBF and 4 VF proceeded to Suraga Wan over solid overcast. First identifiable check point sighted through the clouds was Fukiai Misaki. Course was held to a large hole over Fuji A/F. Jinking approach and attack from SE (bombs) were made on Fuji A/F and a large industrial installation a quarter mile to the south. Retirement to east and SE was made and rendezvous effected 5 miles SE of Fuji. A second attack with bombs, rockets, and machine guns was made from the SE over Yoshimara and the A/F. Retirement was made again to the SE. During the second attack moderate, medium, continuously pointed AA fire was received. Rendezvous was effected 5-6 miles SE. Flight proceeded on a course of 225° and when 5 miles off shore at Fukiai Misaki at 6500' was met by intense heavy AA - predicted concentration. It was accurate as to range and altitude, bursting directly in front of Lt.Cdr. Wall's division, but no A/C was hit. Upon receiving fire, the flight took advantage of cloud cover to seaward, making 90° changes in direction. Flight then proceeded on a course of 150° to Omai Saki where rocket and strafing runs were made on targets of opportunity.

**COMMENT**

1. To date, gun camera photos have been practically valueless, and it is fortunate there have been no claims of destruction of enemy airborne aircraft to be substantiated. Whether the fault is due to the camera and type of film being used or whether it is due to the neglect of the photographic personnel, the fact remains that inevitably the film is either overexposed or underexposed, usually the former. The question has been raised as to whether the photo men always check the weather to be expected and set the cameras correspondingly.
2. The flight found heavily industrialized concentrations all along the coast from Yaizu to Fuji. It is felt that this area would be an excellent target for ship bombardment if Suraga Wan is not too heavily mined.

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

No comment.

**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:

P.L. GUILBORD, LT.(JG), USNR

L.S. WALL, JR., LT. CDR., USN

26 July 1945

SIGNATURE

ACI OFFICER

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

COMMANDING OFFICER

RANK AND DUTY

DATE