

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)
CONFIDENTIAL
VF

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VF-33 (b) Based on or at USS SANGAMON (c) Report No. 16
 (d) Take off: Date 9 April 1945 Time (LZT) 0335 (I) (Zone); Lat. 24 41 N Long. 127 03 E
 (e) Mission Pre - dawn intruder, MIYAKO and ISHIGAGI (f) Time of Return 0740 (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)		
F6F-5N	VF-33	4	0	4	1 500 G.P. AN M64	AN 103 & AN 101 MK 157 .02 delay

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
None							

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
None			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(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		
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 F6F-5N	VF-33	25 mm	Radome, angle un- known. Belly tank through reserve tank into armor; left wing tank into cockpit - other folding mechanism.	Replace Radome and scanner unit.
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	100 170	80-150	4	325	265&255	-	3500rds	-	-	4

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
- TURNS
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

None

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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) (1) ISHIGOKI. (2) MIYAKO. (b) Time Over Target(s) 0445 (I) (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target Cumulo stratus; at (1) 500' 4/10 to overcast. At (2) 6000 ft; 9/10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER) 0 before dawn
- (d) Visibility of Target Hazy at (1) Clear at (2). (e) Visibility 5-8 miles after dawn
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used MK 8 night reticle
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Rocket S/R 1000 yds
- Bombs Dropped per Run 1 Spacing 0 Altitude of Bomb Release 700 1000
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed - Probably Destroyed - Damaged -

(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 Barracks area	unknown	2 VF-33	2 x 500 G.P. bombs 1 HVAR	1	unobserved
2 Searchlight area	Unknown	2 VF-33	4 HVAR		unobserved
3 AA Position	Unknown	2 VF-33	2 HVAR		unobserved
4 Runways HIRARA	7000 ft x 7000ft	2 VF-33	3 HVAR strafed	2	Slight
5 Barracks	Unknown	2 VF-33	strafed	-	unobserved
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. Barracks area near ISHIGAKI Airfield. One bomb was direct hit and caused large explosion that must have caused considerable damage but darkness and smoke prevented accurate assessment.
2. Lights at No. 1 area, turned off when being attacked so effect and accuracy of hits unobserved.
3. Because of darkness position of firing guns could not be pinpointed for subsequent run so effect and accuracy unobserved.
4. NOBARA Airfield MIYAKO HIMA revetment area between two runways 2 bomb and 4 rocket hits. Damage unobserved.
5. HIRARA Airfield MIYAKO JIMA - 3 rockets in inter section of runways - all runways strafed.
6. BARRACKS on N. E. tip of MIYAKO JIMA damaged unobserved.

(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 pre-dawn Intruder mission by 4 VF(N) was split so that two planes covered MIYAKO JIMA Airfield, while the other two denied the Japs the use of the Airfield of ISHIGAKI JIMA. They were successful in their purpose, but several safety factors were brought to the attention of the pilot in this type of mission. In the first place even though flying during darkness each pilot should still maintain safe altitude while roaming over the target area, as his purpose is not to pin point target but deny the enemy the use of his Airfield. This purpose can be accomplished from a safe altitude, especially when not involved in a specific attack. At day break night intruders when operating in target areas infested with flak should cease their attacks, maintain a safe altitude and become a combat air patrol, so to speak, holding all enemy aircraft in that area. In such a case attacks on ground targets after daylight should be made only in cases of extreme necessity.

The reason for the above supposition being that night intruders fly over an area for several hours alerting every AAbattery located there. These batteries lie in wait for daylight to come so that they can fire on the aircraft whose general location and altitude is known by them

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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

A/N-APS-6A used very successfully in locating the islands and the target area after finding islands. Also in finding the carrier on the return trip. It was used in making run on specific target and to keep the pilot well oriented.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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4-14-45

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

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DATE