

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VFP-12 (b) Based on or at USS RANDOLPH CV-16 (c) Report No. 45  
 (d) Take off: Date 13 May 1945 Time (LZT) 1451 I (Zone); Lat. 30-30N Long. 132-42E  
 (e) Mission Ozora - Sanabo - Sweep (f) Time of Return 1850 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>VFP-5</u>	<u>VFP-12</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8 planes - 2x250 Frag. Inst./RD</u> <u>8 planes - 6x3.25/6.00 RP</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>Frank</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1725 I</u> (ZONE)	<u>near Ozora</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Did Any Part of \_\_\_\_\_  
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? X 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (k) Visibility X  
(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>						







**CONFIDENTIAL**

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 45

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Machine shops S. of Ocura A/P (b) Time Over Target(s) 1700 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 Haze (e) Visibility 10-15  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used M: 23  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 6 Spacing salvo Altitude of Bomb Release 2500 yds. slant range.  
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed X Probably Destroyed X Damaged X

(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					
2					
3					
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).

Four divisions, diving from north to south with some variation for tactical reasons, were briefed on and took as their targets machine and/or replacement shops south of the A/P. Photos taken by Bom Com III revealed some undamaged. Direct hits were made and one building known to have caught fire. The planes however did not hang around to observe results.

Sugar Able Sugar left burning and PT boats left dead in water.  
(See Narrative).

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



**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

Omura A/P, assigned to AG-12 among others to be covered by fighter sweeps, presents a controversial issue. The fighter sweep herein reported observed three planes S/E near the hangars and five Bettys in revetments East of the field. Photo coverage made the same day but not available for this flight revealed some 200 planes in all, some 40 being on the field. The pilots were briefed to make one dive only, fire their rockets, rendezvous and return. The reasoning behind the briefing was that according to orders they were first to observe Sasebo and then proceed to Omura. It was thought that with a radius of 250 miles and a long return over the Japanese homeland at dusk a reserve of gas was wise in case opposition was encountered. Sasebo was duly observed and 2 large unidentified warships reported, there being a smoke screen over the entire harbor. After the dive on Omura, shipping was observed, one Sugar Baker left burning furiously aft from a strafing and 4 large (75'-100') and 4 small (25'-40') out of 26 fast torpedo boats left dead in the water. A/A at Omura was intense and accurate and reported by pilots as worse than Rabaul or Truk.

The criticism was made by some not in authority that there was no excuse for only one dive being made and for not observing the planes that were there, and that intense A/A was the determining factor which pointed to dereliction of duty or was at least no excuse. It is suggested by this ACI Officer that due to the length of the hop, location, time of day, and lack of knowledge that the briefing was not faulty. It is a well known fact that when firing rockets a pilot gets his target in his piper and sees little else. It is interesting to note that a flight of 18 fighters the following day, from WF-12, knowing exactly where the planes were made but one run and destroyed not more than 10 planes. It has also been indicated unofficially from higher echelons, that Omura with all its installations is not a target for carrier based fighters on a sweep.



# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when  
filled out)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REPORT No. 45

**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

No Comments.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

**T. W. HERDMAN, Lt., USNR**  
**A. C. I. Officer.**

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

**R. H. DENOFF, Lt., USNR**  
**Commanding Officer.**

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

**13 May 1948**

DATE