

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VT-49 (b) Based on or at USS SAN JACINTO (c) Report No. 23
 (d) Take off: Date 25 July 1945 Time (LZT) 0732(-9) (Zone); Lat. 2-05 N Long. 136-15 E
 (e) Mission Strike Naval Warships, Kure, Honshu (f) Time of Return 1214(-9) (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-3	VT-49	7	0	7	1-2000# G.P.	Mk. 243-Nose .24 delay-Tail

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
Flights from all TF 38 carriers were launched on this mission, but dispersed to targets of opportunity by the target coordinator, who led the planes of TG 38.1							

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 encountered						

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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 None				
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	
TBM-3	175	190	4.7	401	205	---	450	---	---	7

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

None encountered

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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) **Towns in S.W. Shikoku.** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1030(-9)** (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target **1st Div--9/10ths below 13,500 feet. 2nd Div--scattered.**
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target **Partially obscured/clear** (e) Visibility **10 to 15**
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) **2 Mk. VIII**

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Level / glide** Bomb Sight Used **None / 2-Iron**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run **--** Spacing **--** Altitude of Bomb Release **14,000/4,000**
(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 Factories in Ochi Shikoku	Don't know	3 VT-49	3-2000# G.P.	Cloud prevented observation.	Destroyed 2 bldgs.
2 Bridge in Hiromi, Shikoku	200 ft long	1 VT-49	1-2000# G.P.	None	4 damaged.
3 Unid. Bldgs Komame, Shikoku	"	2 VT-49	2-2000# G.P.	1	Destroyed 3, damaged 6.
4 Town bldgs at Otsu, Shikoku	"	1 VT-49	1-2000# G.P.	1	Damaged 2, Destroyed 1.
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).

- Village located 33°-32' N., 133°-15' E. 1st Division target.
- Town located 32°-51' N., 132°-43' E and other two 3 miles south and 8 miles Southeast, respectively Second divisions targets.

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

No value

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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

The seven flyable Avengers of this squadron were catapulted at 0730 on 25 July, loaded with one-tonners intended for finishing touches to Japanese combat shipping anchored at Kure, which had been attacked by large strikes the previous day--a day in which the CVL Torpedo planes were used for A/A attacks however.

Following the coordinator across Shikoku, it became evident that he had not commenced climb for altitude early enough, and the flight went up through the clouds for about 6000 feet before coming out on top at 14,000. There, about 30 miles from Kure, with poor prospective target visibility, the coordinator advised the flight to disperse and hit targets of opportunity, dropping through the overcast on some enemy territory of necessary.

FORTY-NINE'S two divisions became separated in the "soup" and had considerably different experiences. Lieut. Peters, Lt(jg) Pruitt and Austin, heading south from the inland sea at 14,000 feet over 10/10 cover, spotted a small hole above Ochi and dropped their bombs in level flight at some factory building in the town. The hits were not observed.

Lt(jg) Richards and his division headed due South, finding no openings until they reached the southernmost tip. Pushover was made at 11,000 feet, and Lt(jg) Richards took as his aiming point a bridge. His bomb, dud, demolished 2 nearby buildings and damaged several others. Ensign Poulson and Schaub dropped on the coastal town of Komame, and, Ensign Seckinger to the eastward on Otsu. Dives were so long from above the clouds that it was difficult to hold an aiming point in the sights. The one-tonners all found buildings in these towns to pulverize and others were damaged.

The flight returned separately via the Tomcat to the carrier without having reached their primary target.

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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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Charles N. Fuller, Lt(jg), USNR., ACIO

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

Carl H. Peters, Lieut(A1), USNR., Comdg.

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE

26 July 1945.

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