

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

SECRET

6835

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VT-45 (b) Based on or at U.S.S. SAN JACINTO (c) Report No. 7
 (d) Take off: Date 9 January 1945 Time (LZT) 0700 (Zone); Lat. 22° - 37 N Long. 123° - 10 E
 (e) Mission Bomb Rokko S.E. A/F and Tsuina A/F, Formosa (f) Time of Return 1100 (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-1c	VT-45	2		2	Ten 100# G.P.	Instantaneous Nose, Non-Delay Tail.
TBM-3	VT-45	7		7	Ten 100# G.P.	Instantaneous Nose, Non-Delay Tail.

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
F6F-5	VF-45	12	U.S.S. SAN JACINTO				

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)			
			(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		

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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-1c	230	210	4 Hrs.	357	312		300			2
TBM-3	230	210	4 Hrs.	300	220	175	475			7

IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	V			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	V			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm		V Tsuina	V Rokko S.E.	

X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (use check list at left).

- SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

• SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

• SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

• SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

• SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

• SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

• SPEED, CLIMB,
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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) Tsuina A/F and Rokko S.E. A/F and New field, Formosa. (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) 0940 Tsuina & New Field 0950 Rokko (Zone) 9 S.E.

(c) Clouds Over Target 9/10 at 1500 Heavy stratus (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Partially obscured by clouds (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility 1 Mile (MILES)

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

Bombs Dropped per Run 10 (NUMBER) Spacing 25 Feet (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 1200-1500 Feet (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 2 By bombs Probably Destroyed - Damaged -
8 By strafing

(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) 1 2 Twin engine planes at N.W. corner Tsuina A/F	Twin Engine 75 Ft. apart	1 VT-45	10	6-8	Destroyed
2) 3 West runway and revetments, 4 Tsuina A/F	4000' X 2000'	3 VT-45	28	28	Serious
3) 5 Storage area N.E. of Rokko S.E. A/F	1000' X 500'	3 VT-45	30	24	Serious
4) 7 Planes on edge of New field near 8 Kagi.	1200' X 800'	2 VT-45	20	20	Not observed

(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) Two twin engine planes were sitting 75 feet apart just off N.W. corner of west runway at Tsuina A/F. One plane dropped 10 bombs from 2000 feet while in 30° angle glide directly on them. Six bombs were seen to explode on or between them. Later observation showed these planes destroyed. (Confirmed by photograph)

2) At least 5 planes were observed in revetments on west side of west runway at Tsuina A/F. Three planes dropped their bombs (except two which hung) in this revetment area from 1500 feet altitude and along runway adjoining it. Results were unobserved due to low clouds into which planes pulled out. Considerable damage was undoubtedly done to planes and runway but no destruction is claimed because of lack of observation.

3) Three planes attacked camouflaged storage building area just northeast of runway at Rokko S.E. Thirty bombs were dropped and all but 6 were seen to hit in building area. One camouflaged warehouse building about 75 feet long and 20 feet wide was directly hit and set afire and two small buildings about 30 feet by 20 feet were directly hit. Smoke, but no flame, was observed to issue from these last two buildings. Other damage may well have been done but the low cloud cover prevented further observation.

4) Two planes failed to find Tsuina A/F and finally saw an airfield about 5 miles north of Kagi Town through a hole in the clouds. The exact position of this field could not be

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

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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) _____ (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) _____ (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target _____ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target _____ (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility _____ (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type _____ Bomb Sight Used _____ (TYPE)
 Bombs Dropped per Run _____ Spacing _____ (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release _____ (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					
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).

determined under the heavily clouded over weather conditions. It was a grass surfaced strip running N.W. to S.E. and was about 4000 feet long and 250 feet wide. There were 10 to 12 single engine planes sitting around the edges of the field. There were no revetments. Both planes dropped bombs at 1200 feet, one on five planes grouped close together at the northern end of the field and the other on planes strung out along the eastern side of field. The weather was especially bad here and clouds closed in on the planes just about as soon as they had dropped bombs. The only further observation was of a fire which gave forth billowing smoke like gasoline burning in the area where the bombs had been dropped.

SPECIAL NOTE: In addition to the bomb damage at Tsuina A/F eight single engined camouflaged planes, identified as either Zekes or Oscars, were destroyed by strafing. These planes were in "U" shaped revetments in between the two runways at Tsuina and were camouflaged either with brownish netting or brown sugar cane stalks laid in criss-cross pattern over them. The planes were yellowish in color.

This strafing was done by Ensign Carlton L. Sharp, Jr.. After he had made his bombing run he sighted planes in the revetments in the area between the two runways. These runways are about 4500 feet apart. As the A/A fire had been very meager on his bombing run, he decided to go down and strafe the camouflaged planes. He went down and circled the revetment area three times at altitudes between 100 feet and 300 feet.

- 2 -

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

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- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) _____ (b) Time Over Target(s) _____ (Zone) _____
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target _____
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target _____ (e) Visibility _____
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type _____ Bomb Sight Used _____
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run _____ Spacing _____ Altitude of Bomb Release _____
(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	(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).

While doing this he was able to bring eight different previously undamaged planes within his sights and strafe them thoroughly with his .50 calibre wing guns. He continued this until he had expended all his ammunition. None of these planes was observed to catch fire, but several were seen to shudder from the impact of the bullets hitting them, pieces were knocked out of them and holes in wings and fabric were seen. Most of the planes were hit in and around the engine as well as elsewhere. These planes are claimed as destroyed. The destruction is confirmed by photographs taken by VF photographic plane.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? _____ 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

The weather made it impossible to locate some of the fields which were assigned as possible targets. Over the whole target area there was an almost solid ceiling at about 1500 feet and in many places there were considerable clouds below that altitude. Planes had to attack by going down through a hole in the clouds, and in most cases the pull out took them back into clouds immediately.

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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

An auxiliary wing gas tank was used on the two TBM-1c planes for the first time on this strike. Certain results cannot be determined as yet, but it is to be noted that for the first time in a strike that necessitated a climb over the 13,000 foot Formosan Range the TBM-1c planes landed with a safe amount of gasoline - 35 gallons. However, one flight is not condusive and it is not yet clear whether or not the drag factor which this tank adds will cause the use of about as much extra fuel as the auxiliary tank carries.

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SIGNATURE

A.C.I. Officer

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

Commanding Officer

RANK AND DUTY

Jan. 14, 1945

DATE