

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VF-34 (b) Based on or at U.S.S. MONTEREY CVL-26 (c) Report No. 7-45
 (d) Take off: Date 20 May 1945 Time (LZT) 0505 I(-9) (Zone); Lat. 25°43' N. Long 129°30' E.
Fighter Reconnaissance Patrol - Anami Shima.
 (e) Mission Strike Targets of Opportunity. (f) Time of Return 0830 I(-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)		
F6F-5	VF-34	8	0	8	2 x 100# G.P. 6 x 5" HVAR.	Bomb: nose: instantaneous tail: .025 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
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)	NONE		
			(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 _____ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (k) Visibility _____ (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-5	VF-34	AA (approx. 40 mm)	Port wing, below 6 o'clock.	Shell exploded in mid section of wing necessitating wing change.
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-5	140	170	3.5	400	260	-	2500	-	-	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

No enemy aircraft 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) Wan A/F Kikai Shima
Sammura Town Tokuno Shima (b) Time Over Target(s) 0630-0635 I(-9)
0655-0700 I(-9)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target Cumulus base 9,500 9-10/10ths cover; scattered clouds at 2000 3-10ths cover.
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Hazy (e) Visibility 10
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide (55°) Bomb Sight Used Mark 8 gunsight
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run All Spacing Salvo Altitude of Bomb Release 3000
(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 A/A positions E. side Wan airfield, Kikai.	-	8 VF-34	12x5" HVAR 1500 rds. .50 cal	2 rkts.	1 automatic weapon many .50 cal AA position destroyed
2 Bridge over Minato Kawa. Populated area Town of Sannura Tokuno		8 VF-34	30x5" HVAR 12x100# G.P. 1000 rds. .50 cal	Unknown (See below)	Slight
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).

1. Solid overcast and intermittent squalls hampered the selection of targets of opportunity for the flight. Finding the ceiling at 9000 over Wan A/F at Kikai Shima, South to North strafing run was made on active AA positions located among trees and atop hills just east of the airfield. One medium weapon gun position got most of the attention from 6 rockets fired by each of two planes. Two very close hits, plus multiple .50 cal hits are considered to have put the gun out of commission, especially since a large flash was observed suggesting exploding ammo storage. Two other nearby gun emplacements were thoroughly strafed but damage on these is evaluated as negligible.

2. Results of the bombing, rocket, and strafing run on the town of Sannura are unknown because of heavy cloud cover which not only prevented pilots from estimating damage, but also hindered their aim during the dive. However pilots believe that 25% of bombs and ammo expended at the target were hits in the populated area and some smoke was seen to rise as the planes left the scene. The bridge across Minato Kawa was not damaged.

(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

The composition of this flight, whose purpose was to patrol over Amami Shima in search of enemy aircraft, consisted of 8 VF under the lead of Lt. D. R. Hester USNR. of VF-34. Finding Amami totally closed in by low lying clouds and thunderstorms, the flight went to Kikai and thence to Tokuno Shima to strike suitable targets of opportunity. Finding clearer weather over Kikai the 8 Hellcats made a single south to north rocket and strafing run on AA positions at Wen airfield. The enemy put up intense, medium and light AA, getting a single hit on one plane in the port wing, but although the hole was 3 feet square, the flying capabilities of the plane, luckily, were not hindered. Further AA hits were avoided by a steep dive and turn to seaward.

The two divisions proceeded down to Tokuno where again the weather was not conducive to dive bombing, but observing the town of Sammura thru a break in the clouds, it was selected for attack.

On the return to the Task Group, the pilot whose plane was hit by enemy AA, approached the DD picket line alone, having lost his wingman while climbing for altitude thru clouds several minutes before. One destroyer opened fire with about 15 bursts of heavy AA at the approaching head-on Hellcat which was flying the proper 3000 foot approach altitude. The pilot made all prescribed emergency recognition signals such as rocking wings, lowering landing gear, etc. and only after explaining his plight on the radio, did firing cease at the suggestion of the MONTEREY F.D.O. The pilot circled the picket line until he could join up with other returning strike planes and landed safely several minutes later. It was later ascertained that the planes IFF was damaged and non-operational. The position of the radar picket destroyers is fully understood, but it is felt that the DD was a bit too "trigger happy" on this occasion particularly when the pilot was making no threatening maneuvers. Fortunately no ill-effects resulted.

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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

Communication difficulties were encountered, with one of the division leaders planes' radio transmitter cutting out during the first attack and necessitating a switch of the lead to the section leader. The cause is unknown as it resumed normal operation 10 minutes later. It is felt that violent maneuvers may have jarred the installation. The IFF gear which was non-operational on one returning plane was attributed to a bad tube that broke as the result of excessive vibration probably caused by AA fire.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

J. O. Branch
SIGNATURE **ACI Officer VF-34**

RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

R. W. Conrad
SIGNATURE **Commanding Officer VF-34**

RANK AND DUTY

22 May 1945

DATE

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 (d) Take off: Date 20 May 1945 Time (LZT) 1000 I(-9) (Zone); Lat. 25°-58' N Long 129°-08' E
 (e) Mission Air-Ground Support, Okinawa Shima, Shuri Area (f) Time of Return 1330 I(-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)		
F6F-5	VT-34	4	---	4	---	---
TBM-3	VT-34	7	---	7	4 x 500 G.P.	Nose --- Inst. Tail --- .025

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
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)	NONE		
			(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 Day, Hazy (k) Visibility 10
(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						