

VNF-118

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Report #87

DC(16)

7

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting **VFP-113**
VFP-314
VFP-422 (b) Based on or at **Charlie Airstrip Ie Shima, Okinawa Gunto, Nansei Shoto** Report No **VFP-113 #60**
VFP-314 #10
VFP-422 #93

(d) Take off: Date **19 June 1945** Time (LZ) **0515-0550(1)** (Zone); Lat. **26°43'** Long **127°47'**

(e) Mission **Dive Bombing & Strafing**
Mission to Chiran Airfield, Kyushu, Japan (f) Time of Return **0830-0930(1)** (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)		Nose:	Tail:
F4U-1D	VFP-113	8	0	8	1-500 #0.P.	Nose: Instantaneous	Tail: "
F4U-1D	VFP-113	8	0	7	1-500 #0.P.	Nose: "	Tail: "
F4U-1C	VFP-314	16	0	0	None	Nose: "	Tail: "
F4U-1D	VFP-422	9	0	7	1-500 #0.P.	Nose: "	Tail: "
F4U-1D	VFP-422	4	0	4	1-500 #0.P. (6 Hrs. Delay)	Nose: None	Tail: Anti-withdrawal
F4U-1D	VFP-422	4	0	4	1-500 #0.P.	Nose: Instantaneous	Tail: Instantaneous

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER
None	None	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	None	None	None (ZONE)	None	None	None
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) **None**

Did Any Part of

(i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? **No** 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	None	None	None	None	None	None

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No _____

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Installations on Okino-Rabu Shima (b) Time Over Target(s) 0830 (1) (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 1000' Strato Cumulus, 7/10.
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 15
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

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

Bombs Dropped per Run One Spacing None Altitude of Bomb Release 1500'
(NUMBER) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed None Probably Destroyed None Damaged None

(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	None	15 VMF-113	15 500 W.G.P.	15	Undetermined
2 Near Kagano Town			5600 rds. 50 cal.	Unknown	Undetermined
3 Near Kagano Town			5600 rds. 50 cal.	Unknown	Undetermined
4 None	None	None VMF-314	None	None	None
5 Small town on extreme South					
6 Shore Okino-Rabu Shima	None	15 VMF-422	15-500 W.G.P.	15	Undetermined
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.)

VMF-113: All bombs dropped (15) seemed to hit designated target area. Damage could not be determined.

VMF-314: No attack made.

VMF-422: All bombs dropped (15) were seen to fall in good pattern in the near vicinity of a three story building.

(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
Defense 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

VMP-113: (19 June, 1945) 16 Planes of VMP-113 took off from **Charlie's Airstrip** at 0530 Item as part of a combined dive bombing and strafing mission to **Chiran Air Field, Kyushu**. Targets on **Amami-O-Shima** and **Okino-Rabu Shima** were assigned as alternate targets.

A front was encountered at **Amami-O-Shima** which precluded attacks on any of the assigned targets. The flight, under command of Major **Chris LEE** of VMP-422 turned back to **Point Okie**, where Major **LEE** contacted **Handyman** and obtained permission to drop the bomb loads on targets of opportunity on **Okino-Rabu Shima**.

Major **RAMLO** and Capt. **HURLIN** led their divisions against the town of **Kagene**. A large concrete building was the immediate target. Seven bombs were seen to explode in the town, all in the vicinity of the building. Major **RAMLO's** bomb failed to release and was later jettisoned. Results of the hits were not observed.

Two planes of Lt. **Dick's** division dropped on the town of **Furusate**. Both bombs hit in the town near the eastern edge. Lt. **DICK** and Lt. **HOLLINGSWORTH** dropped at a barracks at the town of **Shima-Hirakawa**. Lt. **DICK's** bomb was a very near miss, striking among some smaller building. The strike of Lt. **HOLLINGSWORTH's** bomb was not observed.

Capt. **BAILLY's** division had already lost one plane when Lt. **SCOTT** was forced to turn back due to brake trouble. Their selected target was also **Shima-Hirakawa**. Two bombs struck in the confines of the town. Capt. **BAILLY's** bomb failed to release and was later jettisoned.

All planes used the same bombing tactics. The approach was from the south and east of the island at 4000 feet. Planes made a 180° left turn into the targets and executed glide bombing runs, (45° or less) releasing at 1000 feet and pulling out at 500.

No anti-aircraft fire was observed. All planes returned safely to base, arriving at 0920 Item.

The following VMP-113 pilots participated:

Major **O.H. RAMLO** - Division leader
2nd Lt. **W.H. SAULTER** - Wingman
2nd Lt. **J.E. WALLMAN** - Section leader
2nd Lt. **J. W. SMITH** - Wingman
Capt. **G.B. HURLIN** - Division leader
1st Lt. **D.F. HOLLINGSWORTH** - Wingman
2nd Lt. **F.B. SMITH** - Section leader
2nd Lt. **T.J. WHITE** - Wingman
Capt. **Robert BAILLY, Jr.** - Division leader
2nd Lt. **J.L. SCOTT** - Wingman
2nd Lt. **E.J. MUNRO** - Section leader
2nd Lt. **Kirkland FLYNN, Jr.** - Wingman
1st Lt. **E.G. DICK** - Division leader
2nd Lt. **J.J. KISSER** - Wingman
2nd Lt. **H.L. FAUSETT** - Section leader
2nd Lt. **M. HARKER** - Wingman

One of our aircraft had to return due to brake trouble. It was found to be a leak in the hydraulic system.

Two bombs were abortive and were jettisoned in the sea.

All other material and equipment performed in a satisfactory manner.

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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

VMF-314: Four (4) planes took off at 0515 and rendezvoused with Dumbo Escort. They proceeded to rally point. Just north of Amami-O-Shima a cold front was encountered which the Dumbo tried to go under. They proceeded into the front about 120 miles but did not break through. The Dumbo returned with the escort. The pilots reported that the Dumbo was not familiar with the secondary targets.

Twelve (12) planes took off at 0550 and rendezvoused with the other striking planes. Major R.E. CAMERON led the escort planes. He reported the same front which extended about 120° across the northern end of Amami-O-Shima. The planes probed the front in several places but were unable to penetrate it. The escort returned to base and pancaked at 0830.

Two (2) of the 12 planes returned early because one plane was unable to draw gasoline from its belly tanks. They pancaked at 0745.

The following VMF-314 pilots participated:

- Major R.E. CAMERON - Division leader
- 1st Lt. R.J. DUFFEY
- 1st Lt. F.P. GERALDS
- 1st Lt. W.E. YURS
- 1st Lt. F.P. ZUSPAN - Division leader
- 1st Lt. D.T. McLENNON
- 2nd Lt. R.E. POPKEN
- 2nd Lt. G.W. SANDER
- 1st Lt. J.C. RUFF - Division leader
- 1st Lt. E.L. LINDLEY
- 2nd Lt. K.M. GOODSSELL
- 1st Lt. A.R. PETRINO
- 1st Lt. A.J. BAILEY, JR. - Division leader
- 1st Lt. M.M. WESTOVER
- 1st Lt. W.E. LANERUM
- 1st Lt. M.M. MONBLEAU

Lt. BAILEY, the division leader of the Dumbo escort reported that the Dumbo did not have a very good radio. They could not contact him on any frequencies which were used by the rest of the flight or the Air Sea Rescue frequency. They did establish communications on Station 1 after a series of hand signals.

The plane which returned early was found to have a defective rubber seal in the fuel line from the siphon tank which broke the vacuum necessary to draw the gasoline through the selector valve. Minor repairs.

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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

VMP-422: Sixteen aircraft of VMP-422 were airborne at 0515 along with aircraft of VMP-113 and VMP-314 for the purpose of bombing and strafing aircraft and airstrip facilities at Chiran Airfield, Kyushu. Major LEE, Executive Officer of VMP-422, was the Strike leader. Shortly after take-off, Lt. SULLIVAN was forced to return to base due to difficulty in drawing fuel from the syphon tanks.

The remaining fifteen members of the squadron flight proceeded North until a heavy front was encountered extending Northwest to Southeast over the Southern end of Amami-O-Shima. Major LEE probed pockets in the front to the extent of 5-10 miles but was unsuccessful in finding an opening after flying eighty miles along the front. Since none of the scheduled targets could be reached, Major LEE was instructed by the fighter director to drop the bombs on Okino-Rabu Shima.

All fifteen 500 lb. bombs were dropped in the vicinity of a 3 story (50' X 80') building in a town on the South coast of the island.

A good pattern of hits was noted but damage done was unobserved. The pushover was at 3500', release at 2000', glide angle 30 degree, IAS 200 kts and the axis of attack was North to South.

The flight returned to base and landed at 0910.

The following VMP-422 pilots participated:

- Major C.C. LEE - Division leader
- 1st Lt. B.W. HENDERSON
- 2nd Lt. J.N. SNAPPER
- 2nd Lt. P.L. BARNES
- 2nd Lt. L.J. McGRATH - Division leader
- 1st Lt. L.C. KERR
- 2nd Lt. J. KIMBALL, JR.
- 2nd Lt. G.K. SMITH
- 1st Lt. R.F. MALE - Division leader
- 2nd Lt. E. McCOY, JR.
- 2nd Lt. H.S. SOLADAY
- 2nd Lt. R.J. SULLIVAN
- 1st Lt. R.H. BENTLEY
- 1st Lt. R.A. WRISBLY - Division leader
- 1st Lt. E.H. SPINAS
- 1st Lt. "E" C. HARPER
- 1st Lt. D.A. WESTON

The foregoing report covers action that was scheduled as MAG-2's first fighter bomber attack on the Japanese homeland Island of Kyushu. A solid front only 120 nautical miles from base forced diversion of the strike against targets of opportunity on Okino-Rabu Shima. The first strike by the MAG against Kyushu is yet to be made.

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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:

H.H. RIDDER
SIGNATURE USMCR

Capt.
T.C. COLT, JR.
RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

T.C. COLT, JR.
SIGNATURE USMCR

Major
Gr. Op. Cf.
RANK AND DUTY

25 June 194
DATE

VMF-113:

One aircraft had to return due to brake trouble. It was found to be a leak in the hydraulic system.

Two bombs were abortive and had to be jettisoned in the sea. All other material and equipment performed in a satisfactory manner.

VMF-314:

Lt. Bailey, the division leader of the Dumbo reported that the Dumbo did not have a very good radio. They could not contact him on any frequencies which were used by the rest of the flight or the Air Sea Rescue frequency. They did establish communications on Button 1 after a series of hand signals.

The plane which returned early was found to have a defective rubber seal in the fuel line from the synchro tank which broke the vacuum necessary to draw the gasoline through the selector valve. Minor repairs. All other material and equipment performed in a satisfactory manner.

VMF-422:

Lt. Sullivan was forced to return to base due to difficulty in drawing fuel from the pylon tanks. All other material and equipment performed in a satisfactory manner.