

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL
RESTRICTED
Reclassify when
filled out

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. **CVIC 55-45**

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Hirara airfield, Miyako Jima (b) Time Over Target(s) 1015 I (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 1000' 9/10 cover
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 20
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBTSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type VF - glide VF - dive Bomb Sight Used VF - Mk 8 gunsight
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run VF - one VF - all Spacing - - Altitude of Bomb Release VF - 2500' VF - 3000'
(NUMBER) (FEET) (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 VF Runways | Hirara | 8 VF-24 | 32 - 500# bombs ✓ | - | - - |
| 2 VF Suicide Boat Pens | Miyako | 7 VF-24 | 7 bombs-strafted | 5 bombs | - - |
| 3 Buildings | Miyako | 8 VF-24 | Strafted | - | - - |
| 4 Cable Station | Miyako | 4 VF-24 | Strafted | - | - - |
| 5 2 coastal boats | 70' long | 4 VF-24 | Strafted | - | - - |
| 6 A/A positions | Hirara | 7 VF-24 | Strafted | Many | Silenced |
| 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).

- VF - 1** 16 hits were observed on the NE-SW and E-W runways. The results of the balance of the bombs could not be observed because of cloud cover.
- VF - 2** The suicide boat pens on the north peninsula of Miyako were bombed and strafted. Two large fires were started in the camouflaged buildings and a long section of the covered tunnels was burned out.
- VF - 3** Seven fires were started in various buildings in north Miyako from the straffing runs.
- VF - 4** No visible damage, although many hits observed.
- VF - 5** The two boats were hit repeatedly but exact damage unknown.
- VF - 6** A/A strafted and silenced in support of VT bombing attack.

(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

This strike group, led by Lieutenant P. N. CHARBONNET, Jr. arrived over the target to find weather conditions most unfavorable. Few small breaks were seen in the cloud cover through which an attack could be made.

A coordinated attack on Hirara airfield was started, the planes approaching the target area from the north-east at 8000-9000 feet. The VF went down through a slight break in the overcast, strafing A/A positions adjacent to the field. The VT followed closely, releasing their bombs at 3000' with delay fuzes armed. Very meager light and medium A/A was encountered on this initial run.

Northern Miyako offered better weather for succeeding attacks, so while the VT made strafing attacks on targets of opportunity, the fighter dive bombed the boat pens on the west coast of the island. This proved to be a most successful strike. Two of the camouflaged buildings, believed to house fueled boats, burst into flames and sections of the grass covered tunnels were also burned.

Next, the fighters went searching for further targets. Several groups of buildings were set afire and two coastal craft strafed. Lieutenant (junior grade) BALLARD, the photo pilot, was unable to obtain the desired photographs due to clouds so he participated in strafing attacks with the other fighters.

Meanwhile, the VT straffers started three fires on the northern part of the island.

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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:

R. F. WELLS, Lt(jg) AS1 Officer
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

R. H. CHARBONNET, Jr. Lieut. U.S.N.
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

11 July 1945
DATE