



# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VF-60 (b) Based on or at U.S.S. Saratoga, at sea. (c) Report No. VF-60. 163-44  
 (d) Take off: Date 24 October, 1944 Time (LZT) 1435 I-9 (Zone); Lat. III Long. III  
Escort for VF Planes on Anti-shipping Sweep.  
 (e) Mission Leyte I. Philippine Islands. (f) Time of Return 1800 I (Zone) -9

## 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)		
<u>P6F-3</u>	<u>VF-60</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>None.</u>	

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE

## 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
<u>Jabs</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1650</u> <u>I-9 (ZONE)</u>	<u>09°-05' N.</u> <u>124°-55' E.</u>	<u>None observed.</u>	<u>Greenish-brown color.</u> <u>Red balls on wings.</u>
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Search or patrol.  
 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 Day, Hazy (k) Visibility 5 Miles.  
(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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			
<u>Jabs</u>	<u>P6F-3</u>	<u>VF-60</u>	<u>1st. (jg) Kenneth H.</u> <u>Montgomery, USNR.</u>	<u>6x .50 Cal.</u>	<u>Left wing tank. Left</u> <u>wing and cockpit</u> <u>caught fire. 6 o'clock</u> <u>level.</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>



**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

The fighters were escorting VF planes on an anti-shipping sweep on a course of 090 degrees when the Japs was sighted below on a course of about 110 degrees and about 100' off the water. All four VF started after the Jap who was able to make only one turn of about 20 degrees to the left. One VF pilot pulled up on the Jap's tail and fired three short bursts, hitting him in the fuselage and in the left wing, apparently hitting the tank. The Jap caught fire immediately and both the pilot and rear seat man tried to climb out. The gunner jumped without using a parachute, but the pilot apparently could not get out and crashed in the plane which exploded when it hit the water.

**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

**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

1. All Aircraft functioned in a normal manner.
2. There was no return fire observed coming from the Jap plane.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

H.E. Richmond, Lieut. USNR, ASIO VP-60      H.O. Feilbach, Lt. Cdr. USNR, CO, VP-60      2 November, 1944

SIGNATURE

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SIGNATURE

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DATE

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AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VF-40 (b) Based at or on U.S.S. Intrepid (c) Report # VF-40 103-44  
 (d) Take Off: Date 25 October 1944 Time (LZT) 0900 1-3 (Zone); Lat. 22 Long. 158  
 (e) Mission Combat Air Patrol over Leyte Island. (f) Time of return 1200

II OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

(a) Type	(b) Squadron	(c) Taking off	(d) Engaging enemy A/C	(e) Attacking Target	(f) Bombs and Torpedoes Carried (per Plane)	(g) Fuze setting
<u>VF-3</u>	<u>VF-40</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>None.</u>	

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

Type	Squadron	Number	Base	Type	Squadron	Number	Base

IV ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (By own aircraft listed in II only)

Type	No. Observed	No engaging own A/C	Time Encount.	Location of Encounter	Bombs, Torpedoes Carried, Guns ob.	Camouflage and marks.
<u>Info</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0900 1-3</u>	<u>Over time Bay area.</u>	<u>None observed.</u>	<u>Greenish brown color. Red balls on wings.</u>

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Patrol

(i) Did any part of Encounter(s) occur in clouds? No If so describe clouds

(j) Time of Day and Brilliance of Sun or Moon Day, bright sun. (k) Visibility 25-30 miles.

V ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR ( By own aircraft listed in II only)

Type Enemy A/C	Destroyed or damaged Type A/C	By? Squadron	Pilot or Gunner	Guns Used	Where hit	Damage Claimed
<u>Info</u>	<u>VF-3</u>	<u>VF-40</u>	<u>Lt. (jg) Kenneth H. Montgomery</u>	<u>60.50cal.</u>	<u>Fuselage</u>	<u>Destroyed.</u>
<u>Info</u>	<u>VF-3</u>	<u>VF-40</u>	<u>Ens. S.S. Tira</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>Destroyed.</u>
<u>Info</u>	<u>VF-3</u>	<u>VF-40</u>	<u>Ens. John F. Smith</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>Fuselage</u>	<u>Destroyed.</u>
					<u>Engines and left wings.</u>	
					<u>40' above.</u>	

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Aircraft Action Report Report # VF-60 763-44

VI LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, 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 BuNo of plane destroyed)
<u>F4U-3</u>	<u>VF-60</u>	<u>Fire from Japs</u>	<u>Tail assembly.</u>	<u>Extent of damage not known as pilot landed at Tacloban and has not returned to base yet.</u>

VII PERSONNEL CASUALTIES (in aircraft listed in II only)

(a) No	(b) Squadron	(c) Name, Rank or Rate	(d) Cause	(e) Condition or Status
		<u>None</u>		

VIII RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA FOR PLANES RETURNING

(a) Type A/C	(b) Miles Out	(c) Miles Return	(d) Av. Hrs in Air	(e) Av. Fuel Load	(f) Av. Fuel Consumed	(g) Total 30	(g) Ammunition 50	(g) Expended 20mm	(h) No of A/C Returning
<u>F4U-3</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>5:00</u>	<u>325-2.</u>	<u>285 QL.</u>		<u>2100</u>		<u>4</u>

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

Caliber	None	Meager	Moderate	Intense
HEAVY-Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	<u>X</u>			
MEDIUM-Impact-fused shells	<u>X</u>			
LIGHT-Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm -13.2mm	<u>X</u>			

X COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT

The five Japs attacked were surprised and they did not have any time to use such evasive action in order to compare performances to any degree. However, one Jap managed to get on the tail of one of our three planes, but he was driven off by a couple of short bursts from another pilot. Using about 2500 R.F.M. and around 40 inches of manifold pressure, our planes were able to maneuver with sufficient speed to carry out the attack. One Jap pilot dropped his wheels trying to make one of our pilots overrun, but he was shot down before he had slowed down sufficiently. None of the Japs headed for cloud cover and after three were shot down, the other two disappeared.

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III. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA.

Report: # VF-60 #63-4A

1. These three planes had been flying on Combat Air Patrol over Camoc Bay on the west coast of Leyte Island and were letting down from 20000' to a lower level because of a lack of oxygen. When at 14000', 5 Zekes were seen at about 13000' one mile ahead on a course of about 090, apparently heading for the beachheads. Each of our three pilots picked out one plane in the formation and made his own individual attack, three being shot down almost immediately. One of the remaining two made an attempt to counterattack and did succeed in getting a short burst before he was driven off. There were numerous scattered clouds in the vicinity, but none of the Japs made any apparent attempt to use cloud cover. No violent maneuvers or evasive action was employed by any of the Jap pilots.

2. Two of the three pilots on this hop reported that it looked like the Japs were utilizing some type of tail gun firing directly aft. From behind, it looked as though muzzle flashes were issuing from the center of the tail section directly beneath the rudder. When questioned as to the possibility that they were seeing their own tracers, the pilots reported that it was an entirely different type of flash and very closely resembled flashes from the muzzle of a gun. This fact has not been noted at any other time by pilots from this air group.

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XIII. MATERIAL DATA.

Report: VF-60 #63-44.

1. All aircraft functioned in a normal manner.
2. It is not yet known what part of the plane which landed at Tacloban was damaged although it is believed that the tail hook mechanism was damaged, at least to a degree which precluded landing on a carrier.

H.E. Richmond, Lieut. USNR. AGIO.      H.O. Feilbach, Lt. Cdr. USNR. CO. VF-60 3 November, 1944

IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED.

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NO. OBSERVED</u>	<u>NO. ENGAGING OWN AIRCRAFT</u>	<u>TIME ENCOUNTERED</u>	<u>LOCATION OF ENCOUNTER</u>	<u>BOMBS, TORPEDOES CARRIED, GUNS OBS.</u>	<u>CAMOUFLAGE OR MARKS.</u>
Val	1	2	1725 I -9	NE tip of Samar Is.	None Observed.	Greenish Brown color no marks. Red balls on wings.
Zeke	2	2	1730 I -9	San Bernardino Straits.	Ditto	Ditto
JUDY	1	1	1730 I -9	Ditto	Ditto. Single gun in rear cockpit.	Ditto
Lily	4	2	1730 I -9	Ditto	None.	Ditto
Oscars	8	4	1000 I -9 26 Oct.	Ditto	None.	Ditto.