

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
 (Reclassify when filled out)
CONFIDENTIAL
 VF-60 #5-14

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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

AA Positions in Target Area 220, sections H & O.

- (a) Location of Target(s) Saipan I. Marianas Islands. (b) Time Over Target(s) 0625 GCT
- (c) Weather and Clouds Over Target Cumulus, 2/10 Covered at 3000'
- (d) Sun or Moon Sun, 50 deg. Bright. (e) Visibility 20 Miles.

XI. TARGETS, RESULTS OF ATTACK.

	(a) DESCRIPTION OF TARGET (List All Ships in Group, Whether or Not Individually Attacked)	(b) A/C ATTACKING	(d) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH TARGET	(e) ALTITUDE OF RELEASE	(f) HITS
		(c) SQUADRON			
1	AA positions in target area 220 Sections H & O.	12xVF-3 VF-60	12x100# G.P.	av. 2000'	?
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

(g) **RESULTS:** (FOR SHIP TARGETS 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, WITH DIAGRAMS OR CHARTS WHERE DESIRABLE. DESCRIBE TARGETS FULLY IN (a), AND IN REPORTING DAMAGE OR DESTRUCTION, IDENTIFY BY NUMBERS AT LEFT. USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY).

1. All bombs were dropped in the general area, eight along the south edge of sections H and O and the other wide, results unobserved. No major explosions occurred.

(h) Were Photographs Taken? No. Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached.

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VF-60 75-44

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
- Release
- Pull-Out
- Dive Angle
- Strafing
- Retirement
- Defensive Tactics

DEFENSE, ENEMY

- Evasive Tactics, Ships
- Concealment
- Anti-aircraft
- Searchlights
- Night Fighter Tactics

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

1. There were no enemy aircraft nor anti aircraft fire observed.

2. This flight took off originally as a Combat Air Patrol and was armed with 100% G.P. bombs in case it was needed for a support mission after the C.A.P. was completed. After arriving on station the flight leader reported to the controlling base, but no attempt was made to refer the flight to the controlling Fighter Director until repeatedly requested by the flight leader. This took one and one half hours from the time of take off.

3. The actual target was difficult to locate because it was in one corner of the grid chart with few landmarks and no man-made objects visible on the chart. It is the opinion of the pilots that these grid charts should overlap more and the Saipan charts have enough space wasted as water areas to permit one and sometimes two squares of overlap.

CONFIDENTIAL

VF-60 #5-44

XIII. MATERIAL DATA.

1. All aircraft on this mission operated in a normal manner.

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I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VF-60 (b) Based on or at U.S.S. Sumner, At Sea. (c) Report No. 6-44
 (d) Date of Action 22, June, 1944 (e) Take off: Time 2247-2255 (GCT); Lat. XXXX Long. XXXX
 (f) Mission Special Strafing Mission, Tenuian I. Marianas Islands. (g) Time of Return 0310-0320 (GCT)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

(a) TYPE	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NO. OF SORTIES	(d) NO. ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	(e) NO. ATTACKING TARGET	(f) BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE)	(g) FUZE, SETTING
<u>F6F-3's</u>	<u>VF-60</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>None</u>	

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>None</u>							

IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (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>(GCT)</u>			
			<u>(GCT)</u>			
			<u>(GCT)</u>			
			<u>(GCT)</u>			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) None
 (i) Weather and Clouds at Location of Encounter(s) Overcast Clouds, 3/10 Covered at 3000'
 (j) Sun or Moon Sun 90 deg. Bright (k) Visibility 20 Miles.

V. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

(a) 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	(e) EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE, REMARKS
F6F-3	VF-60	12.7 mm.	Entered lower part side tail cone came out upper starboard side and through right elevator.	Easily repairable; plane flew next day.
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2				
3				
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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

VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA

(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, PLANES RETURNING				
						NO. OF PLANES	.30	.50	20MM	MM.
F6F-3	2300	2300	4:23	400 gal.	300 gal.	12		15000		

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

- SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes
- TURNS
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

No enemy aircraft seen.

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

Gun Positions and Targets of Opportunity.
Tenian Island, Marianas Islands.

0210-0240

- (a) Location of Target(s) _____ (b) Time Over Target(s) _____ GCT
 (c) Weather and Clouds Over Target **Cumulus Clouds, 3/10 Covered at 3000'.**
 (d) Sun or Moon **Sun 90 Deg. Bright.** (e) Visibility **20 Miles.**

XI. TARGETS, RESULTS OF ATTACK.

	(a) DESCRIPTION OF TARGET (List All Ships in Group, Whether or Not Individually Attacked)	(b) A/C ATTACKING (c) SQUADRON	(d) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH TARGET	(e) ALTITUDE OF RELEASE	(f) HITS
	1	Enemy Installations Tenian I.	12 F4U's VF-60	None.	
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

(g) **RESULTS:** (FOR SHIP TARGETS 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, WITH DIAGRAMS OR CHARTS WHERE DESIRABLE. DESCRIBE TARGETS FULLY IN (a), AND IN REPORTING DAMAGE OR DESTRUCTION, IDENTIFY BY NUMBERS AT LEFT. USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY).

These three divisions of fighters were ordered to begin at the north end of Tenian Island and work south strafing gun positions and any other military installations that may be of value. AA gun positions and a two story building at Ushi point airfield were strafed and the building set afire. Buildings and installations were strafed in Target Areas 602 and 607. Two buildings, one large, were strafed and set afire in area 564, at the west end of the Gurguan airfield. AA positions in areas 555 and 565 were thoroughly strafed and a position of four heavy AA guns in area 556 were put out of action. These guns appeared to be 5 inch Dual Purpose guns. Two twin engine aircraft in revetments were strafed and two single engine planes on the parking strip at the west end of the field were set afire. At Tenian town one pilot strafed a group of barges in the harbor, results unobserved. Grass and sugar cane fields were set afire east of the Gurguan Point airfield.

(h) Were Photographs Taken? No Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached.

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
Release
Pull-Out
Dive Angle
Strafing
Retirement
Defensive Tactics

DEFENSE, ENEMY

Evasive Tactics, Ships
Concealment
Anti-aircraft
Searchlights
Night Fighter Tactics

**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

*There were no enemy aircraft seen in the air.
Anti aircraft fire was meagre and inaccurate although one
plane was hit, but the damage was negligible.*

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

All aircraft operated in a normal manner, radio
communications being particularly good.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

H.R. Richmond, Lieut. USNR, AC1, OZF, VP-60 H.O. Feilbach, Lt. Cdr. USNR, CO, VP-60 22 June, 1944

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE

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 CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VP-60 (b) Based on or at U.S.S. Swannoe, at sea. (c) Report No. 7-44
 (d) Date of Action 22 June, 1944. (e) Take off: Time 0645-0646 (GCT); Lat. 11-53 N Long. 146-14 E.
 (f) Mission Combat Air Patrol. (g) Time of Return 0820-0822 (GCT)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

(a) TYPE	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NO. OF SORTIES	(d) NO. ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	(e) NO. ATTACKING TARGET	(f) BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE)	(g) FUZE, SETTING
<u>P6F-3</u>	<u>VP-60</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1x500/ Torped 00, th Bomb.</u>	<u>25' Hydrostatic.</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>P6F-3</u>	<u>VP-37</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>U.S.S. Swannoe</u>				

IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (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>July</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0645</u> (GCT)	<u>75 Miles from base</u>	<u>One small size bomb.</u> <u>Free gun in after cockpit.</u>	<u>Mottled dark brown color with red discolor both wings and fuselage</u>
				<u>bearing 200 deg.</u>		

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Snooper
 (i) Weather and Clouds at Location of Encounter(s) Cumulus clouds, 5/10 Covered at 1500'.
 (j) Sun or Moon Sun 10 deg. Late afternoon. (k) Visibility 20 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		
<u>July</u>	<u>P6F-3</u>	<u>VP-60</u>	<u>Ens. Gordon G. Finley</u> <u>A-7(n) USNR.</u>	<u>6x.50 Ga.</u>	<u>Fuselage, 6 level.</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>

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	(e) EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE, REMARKS
1				
2 H				
3 O				
4 H				
5 B				
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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
	H			
	O			
	H			
	B			

VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA

(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, PLANES RETURNING			
						NO. OF PLANES	.30	.50	20MM MM.
F6F-3	XXX	XXX	3:35	400	275	2		1100	

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

- SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

There was not much of a chance to observe any comparison in performance between this plane and our own as the whole action was carried out in a long dive from about 10000' on down. However at one time during the descent one of our pilots reported that he was indicating 320 kts. and was just barely overtaking the Jap.

There must have been good armor plating behind the pilot as he apparently was never hit whereas his rear seat gunner must have been killed very early in the action as neither of our pilots saw any gunfire from the rear cockpit at any time.

This plane must have some sort of self-sealing gas tank as the plane was smoked two or three times, each time the fire burning out quickly.