

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-91 (b) Based on or at USS SAVO ISLAND (CVE73) (c) Report No. 24
 (d) Take off: Date 2 April 1945 Time (LZT) 1830-I (Zone); Lat. 25° 30' N. Long. 127° 39' E.
 (e) Mission Air Coordinator & Direct Support work over Okinawa (f) Time of Return 1845-I (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)		
TBM-3	VC-91	3	0	3	4 - 500# G.P. Bombs 8 - 5" H.E. Rockets)	Nose Inst. - Tail .01
TBM-3	VC-91	3	0	3		10 - 100# G.P. Bombs)
TBM-3	VC-91	1	0	1	None.	

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
TBM-3	VC-90	6	USS STEAMER BAY (CVE87)				
FM-2	VC-9	4	USS NATOMA BAY (CVE62)				
FM-2	VC-13	8	USS ANZIO (CVE67)				

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			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(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 _____ (k) Visibility _____
(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						

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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 None				
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	
TB11-5	60	40	3.25	330	180	--	--			7

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over				
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm				
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm				

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

SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

None.

TURNS
DIVES
CEILINGS
RANGE
PROTECTION
ARMAMENT

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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) Okinawa Shima (b) Time Over Target(s) 1745-I (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target Cumulus - 1000 - 3/10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Poor (misty) (e) Visibility 1 MILES
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used _____
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 10x100 & 2x500 Spacing 100# - Salvo Altitude of Bomb Release 2500
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
Rockets " " " 4 & 8 - Slant Range 1500 yards - Angle 40°

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed --- Probably Destroyed --- Damaged ---

(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 Caves, Bldgs, boat T.A. 8361, L.O. R.	Boat - 30'	6 VC-91	30/100# & 10/500# 24 - Rockets	Majority	Boat Destroyed; other undetermined
2 Bldg (Possible Barrack, T.A.)	Large	1 VC-91	2 - 500#	One	Serious
3					
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).

The thirty-foot motorboat was destroyed by one rocket hit; and several bombs and rockets hit close to mouths of caves but exact damage could not be determined. Several fires were started by bombing and rocket hits among the buildings in Minatoga Village.

A large building, possibly housing troops, was demolished by one 500# bomb hit.

(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

Led by Lt. R. F. Richards as Air Coordinator, three TBM's with ten 100# bombs and eight rockets and three with four 500# bombs departed from base at 1530-I, and rendezvoused with six TBM's from U.S.S. STEAMER BAY (CVEB7), four FM's from U.S.S. NATOMA BAY (CVE62) and eight FM's from U.S.S. ANZIO (CVE57).

After orbiting off the west central coast of Okinawa Shima for over an hour, they were assigned as a target the village of Mintoga, located along the southeast coast of Okinawa, and caves and boats along the adjacent river bank. The Air Coordinator, Lt. Richards, who carried no bombs or rockets, flew over the target area and then directed the pilots of all four squadrons to make their attack, in column, led by the fighters, against caves in the west bank of the river, making runs from northeast to southwest.

However, the lead planes, which were from other squadrons, made three runs from southwest to northeast, and the VC-91 planes were forced to follow their course. This made hits in the mouths of the caves impossible, but some of the bombs landed close by. Others landed in the village close by starting several fires.

The three VC-91 TBM's carrying rockets fired their rockets first. Lt. Fletcher firing all eight of his rockets, destroying a 30-foot motorboat with one rocket hit. The other two pilots with rockets fired their rockets in two runs of four each scoring several hits near the caves and in the village. They then dropped their 100# bombs with similar results.

The three TBM's with four 500# bombs each dropped two on their initial run scoring hits near the caves and in the village, and two dropped their others on the second run. Lt. (jg) Kane, while retiring from his first run saw a large building in the open northwest of the village which he thought might possibly be in use as a barracks. He, therefore, dropped his last two bombs on this target, one of which was a direct hit, demolishing the building.

After the first runs, the VC-91 pilots made their runs from northeast to southwest as directed by the Air Coordinator so as to drop their bombs toward the mouths of the caves in order to cause more damage.

The pilots were hampered by poor target visibility due to the misty atmosphere.

No enemy aircraft or anti-aircraft fire were observed by the pilots.

The following TBM pilots participated in the strike:

Lt. R. F. Richards, Air Coordinator
Lt. J. M. Fletcher
Ens. L. L. Lundquist
Ens. D. F. Griesinger
Lt. (jg) D. G. Kane
Lt. (jg) E. E. Younglove
Ens. K. W. Neubauer.

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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

None.

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:

SIGNATURE **E. H. SPENCER, LT., A. C. I. OFFICER**

SIGNATURE **F. M. BLANCHARD, LT., C.O.**

2 April 45

RANK AND DUTY

RANK AND DUTY

DATE

A. W. PARKER, LT., A. C. I. OFFICER.