

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. 37

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Miscellaneous Installations over Okinawa (b) Time Over Target(s) 1000/1315/1815-1 (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target Scattered - 3200 - 5/10 (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Smoke haze (e) Visibility 7 (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used _____ (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run _____ Spacing _____ Altitude of Bomb Release _____ (NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 0 Probably Destroyed 0 Damaged 0

(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 Cave, T.A. 5060 *H*	----	1 VC-91	2 - Rockets	2	Undetermined
2 Railroad Passenger Car, TA 5066 *H*	----	1 VC-91	4 - Rockets	4	Serious
3 Cave, T.A. 7775 *H*	----	8 VC-91	17 - Rockets	12	Serious
4 Jap Troops, T.A. 7775	----	8 VC-91	2000 - Rds. .50 cal.	Numerous	Undetermined
5 Small Houses, T.A. 7775	----	8 VC-91	4500 - Rds. .50 cal.	Numerous	Destroyed
6 Two Artillery Replacements, T.A. 8172 *H*	----	1 VC-91	4 - Rockets	3	Serious
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).

Target #1: A small number of enemy troops were noticed in the cave on which a run was made. Two rockets were put into the mouth of the cave, and it is thought that serious damage followed as each rocket exploded.

Target #2: All four rockets which hit were placed either at the end of the passenger car which protruded slightly from a tunnel, or in the immediate vicinity. Flying wreckage and debris following the explosion of the rockets were noticed.

Target #3: Gunfire was coming from a cave prior to the runs on it. Several runs were made and at least 12 rockets hit inside the cave or at its mouth. The gun positions were demolished, and the Jap troops were forced ~~out~~ out the rear end of the cave on the other side of the hill.

Target #4: When the troops came out of the rear of the cave, several strafing runs were made on them, but the number of killed or wounded could not be ascertained.

Target #5: There were several small houses at the rear entrance to the cave, and two strafing runs ~~made~~ with incendiary bullets were made on them. All caught fire and burned rapidly.

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(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.)

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Target #6: Two small caves were located from which artillery fire, probably 105mm, was coming. One rocket hit was scored in one cave and two in the second. Artillery fire ceased, and it was thought that the guns were either demolished or seriously damaged.

At 0930 Lt. (jg) Kane took off in a TBM carrying 1st Lieut. Gaines, U. S. Army, as air observer. At 1130 eight FM's were launched for direct support work over Chinam. At 1530 Lt. (jg) Younglove was launched with a second Army officer for air observer work.

After the observer's patrol had been completed, Lt. (jg) Kane received permission from Commander Air Support, Control Units to strike targets of opportunity. The Air Observer directed him to a cave which was supposed to have contained certain enemy troops and guns, and in two runs on the cave, Lt. (jg) Kane was successful in landing two of his rockets in the cave and also in getting in some strafing. The amount of damage could not be determined.

The Air Observer also knew of a railroad passenger car which was partly hidden in the mouth of a tunnel and ~~was~~ they located that target. Several runs were made on the car, and four of the six rockets hit the car or directly in the mouth of the tunnel. The end of the car was demolished, but it could not be determined whether the car was inhabited or not.

Squadron Commander Blanchard, who with his group of FM's joined up with six TBM's and four FM's from U.S.S. ANZIO (CVE57), was directed by CASGW to work over an enemy artillery position in a cave on the west side of a hill just to the south of the front lines of our troops. The enemy guns were holding up the advancement of our troops, and it was desired to knock them out.

Several runs were made from northwest to southeast on the cave, the FM's going in first followed by the ANZIO TBM's. Lt. Blanchard and his division of FM's placed twelve rockets directly in the cave starting a violent fire. Smoke billowed out of the opening on the west side and also out of the air vent on the top of the hill and out of the entrance to the cave on the other side of the hill. Jap troops began to pour out of the rear entrance to the cave and all artillery fire ceased. The planes then shifted their attack from the front of the cave to the rear where the Jap troops were coming out and made several runs on the troops, completely dispersing them and killing or wounding many.

In addition there were several houses at the rear entrance to the cave which were completely demolished by strafing and fires were started. The Air Coordinator stated that it was the best attack for close support work that he had ever seen, and congratulated all of the pilots on their good work.

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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

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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

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Lt.(jg) Younglove on completing his patrol with the Air Observer was assigned by CASQU the job of knocking out two artillery emplacements in the target area designated. Lt.(jg) Younglove was joined by six TBM's and four FM's from U.S.S. HANSHAW BAY (CVE70), and proceeded to the target where he acted as Air Coordinator.

Reaching the target area, Lt.(jg) Younglove made a reconnaissance run, locating the gun emplacements, and made a second run marking the target by the fire of his rockets, three of which hit directly on the emplacements. The FM's and TBM's of U.S.S. HANSHAW BAY followed the second run of Lt.(jg) Younglove, and completed the total destruction of the artillery emplacements.

None of the VC-91 planes encountered any enemy anti-aircraft fire on any of these strikes, and no Jap planes were seen.

The following TBM pilots carried Air Observers:

- Lt.(jg) B. G. Kane
- Lt.(jg) A. E. Younglove

The following FM pilots made up the strike group:

- Lt. F. M. Blanchard, Flight Leader
- Lt.(jg) J. H. Wilson
- Lt.(jg) H. L. Ofer
- Lt.(jg) H. Sunshine
- Lt. W. E. Ryan
- Lt.(jg) J. T. Sippel
- Lt.(jg) C. A. Guster
- Lt.(jg) J. C. Habbersett

None.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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

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RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

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

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

21 April 45

DATE