

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

**I. GENERAL.**

- (a) Unit Reporting. VC-93 (b) Based on USS PIEROP BAY, CVE-80 (c) Report No. 86  
 (d) Take Off: Date. 25 May 1945 Time (LST) 1130-9(Zone) Lat. 25°12'N Long. 128°08'E  
 (e) Mission: Direct Support Strike on Okinawa. (f) Time of Return. 1545-9(Zone)

**II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.**

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER			BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE)	FUZE, SETTING.
		TAKING OFF	ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	ATTACKING TARGET		
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
TBM-3	VC-93	4	0	4	8x5" H.E. Rockets 4x500/SAP Bombs	Maximum delay set. 10 sec. delay.

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
TBM-3	VC-99	3	USS HOGGATT BAY, CVE-75

**VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA FOR PLANES RETURNING.**

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)		(h)	
TYPE A/C	MILES OUT	MILES RETURN	AV. HOURS IN AIR	AV. FUEL LOADED	AV. FUEL CONSUMED	TOTAL .50	AMMUNITION .50	EXPENDED 20MM MM	NO. OF PLANES RETURNING.
TBM-3	70	70	4.25	330	240				2

**IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED.**

Heavy	None
Medium	None
Light	Meager

**XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES.**

- (a) Target and Location. Fortified defense caves, Okinawa. (b) Time Over Target 1400-9(Zone)  
 (c) Clouds Over Target. Surface to above 5,000ft., Nimbo Stratus, 9/10  
 (d) Visibility of Target. Almost entirely obscured by rain and smoke.  
 (e) Visibility. 2 miles at surface.  
 (f) Bombing Tactics: Type. Glide. Bomb Sight Used. Mark 8  
 Bombs Dropped Per Run: 2 Spacing. 100 feet. Altitude of Bomb Release. 800 feet.

(h)	(i)	(j)&(k)	(l)	(m)	(n)
AIMING POINT	DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	NO. A/C ATTACKING SQUADRON	BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED EACH AIMING PT.	NO. HITS ON AIMING PT.	DAMAGE
Fortified Caves	100x200yds.	2 VC-93	16x5" H.E. Rockets 7x500/SAP Bombs (SAP)		Serious

Large caves or openings in south side of a hill were fortified with logs, being located at one mile south of Yonabaru. Several direct hits were obtained and substantial damage was done despite the very bad weather.

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(p) Were photographs Taken? No.

## XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA.

Special armament and procedure was used for this strike. The planes landed at Kadena field where a special briefing on mission, target location and procedure was received. A Marine Air Observer rode in the plane of the VC-99 flight leader. This was the second flight so handled. The pilots were advised that earlier in the week 325 men were killed in attempting to capture a hill such as the present objective. An especial air strike was then made after such a particular briefing. Following this the hill was taken with loss of only three lives.

The objective was a number of strongly fortified gun and personnel caves which were located on the southeast side of a 100 foot ridge, and 250 yards south of our troops. The weather was so bad that the group was once recalled to the field. During the attack a heavy rain was falling so that visibility through the water-drop covered windshields was extremely limited. The next succeeding strike was cancelled due to the weather. White phosphorous shells failed to correctly designate the target but reference to a luckily burning house made identification definite.

Runs were made from southeast to northwest, in daisy chain column, from 2400 to 600 feet, at 25 degree glide and 200 knots. No bombs were laid close to our troops and the strike was believed a success from the weather limited observations that were made.

Pilots participating in this strike were:

Ensign W. J. O'Heren, (A1) USNR  
Ensign W. H. Gawthrop, (A1) USNR

REPORT PREPARED BY

APPROVED BY

R. L. WINTER, Lieut. (A) L. USNR, ACIO. C. P. SMITH, Lt. Comdr. USN, CO, VC-93 23 May 1945