

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VB-94 (b) Based on or at USS LEXINGTON (c) Report No. VB-94-1
 (d) Take off: Date 20 June 1945 Time (LZT) 0442 (-11) (Zone); Lat. 18:03 N Long. 166:36E
 (e) Mission Dive Bombing WAKE ISLAND Installations (f) Time of Return 0800(-11) (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)		
SB2C4E	VB-94	14	0	14	2x500 lb SAP	A-N-M103 .1 (Nose) A-N-M101 .01 (Tail)

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
*All	CVG-6		USS HANCOCK	F6F	VF-94	12	USS LEXINGTON
*All	CVGL-50		USS COMPENS	TBM	VT-94	9	USS LEXINGTON
VF-VT	CVG-94	12VF-94	USS LEXINGTON				
		9VT-94	USS LEXINGTON				

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 observed.			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____
 Did Any Part of _____
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? _____ If so, Describe Clouds _____ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 (YES OR NO)
 Time of Day and Brilliance _____
 (j) of Sun or Moon _____ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (k) Visibility _____ (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			
None engaged.						

* Refer Operations Order:

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(Reclassify when filled out)

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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)
SB2C4E	VB-94	Spun in on wave-off		#2115 - Lost at sea
SB2C4E	VB-94	Enemy Small arms 13M/M	1 slug - horizontal stabilizer	82980 - patch - damage negative.
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
1	VB-94	Ens. James W. SWEENEY, USNR	Spun in on wave-off	Slight injuries - lacerations about face - shock - condition not serious
1	VB-94	MAGUIRE, James J. Jr. USNR 817 94 75, ARM3c, (CA)	Spun in on wave-off	No injuries - condition good.

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	
SB2C4E	85	85	3.	320 gals	210	---	---	500	---	13

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over		Inaccurate		
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

TURNS

DIVES

GEILINGS

RANGE

PROTECTION

ARMAMENT

No enemy aircraft encountered.

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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) WAKE ISLAND: Bldgs, plants, bivouac area (b) Time Over Target(s) 0550 (-11) (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target .3 2000' - 8000' - cumulus
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Partially obscured (e) Visibility Unlimited
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Dive bombing Bomb Sight Used MK-8
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 2 Spacing 0 Altitude of Bomb Release 3000'
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed --- Probably Destroyed --- Damaged ---

*	(h) AIMING POINT S	(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	Bivouac Area	1300' dia.	5 A/C VB-94	7-500 lb G/P	3	
2	Medical stores	30' x 160'	3 A/C VB-94	6-500 lb G/P		No results observed.
3	Power plant	2 bldgs 50 x 50	3 A/C VB-94	6-500 lb G/P	0	0
4	Distillation plant	2 bldgs 50 x 50	3 A/C VB-94	6-500 lb G/P		1 near miss
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).

- 1(h) Three hits were registered in this area, one building was seen to explode as a result of Lt(jg) W. M. KNOBLES, USNR, accurate bombing.
- 4(h) A near miss on this target is credited to Lt(jg) C.R. MESTER, USNR on this target.

* Refer JICPOA Bulletin No. 80-44
Targets WA-2; 02, 34, 05, 27

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes, forwarded with photographic assessment. 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

None observed.

None ~~AK~~ encountered.

A/A fired only when our planes were definitely within range.

 Targets were located visually with difficulty due to the atoll's natural topography and make up. The attack group, composed of 12 VF, 14 VB and 9 VT approached the target area from the northwest at an altitude of 10,000 ft, using evasive tactics during the approach. A high speed break-up was made over the lagoon and 70° dives were made. The release altitude was 3000 ft and recovery was made at 1500 ft. A little strafing was done during the dive. Retirement from the target area was made in all cases in a direction normal to the beach. Evasive tactics were employed during retirement, and rendezvous of the group was made ten miles north of Toki Point. -----

Extensive use of revetments and sand covering and covered buildings.

It is felt that the photos provided for this strike were very poor and positive target identification very difficult as a result. Photos taken by VFP-94 planes were excellent and if our squadrons had possessed photos as good as these, results would have been much better.

Satisfactory.

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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

Satisfactory. 3 bombs not dropped on target area due to pilot error.

COMMUNICATIONS

Radio, Radar
Homing Devices
Visual Signals
Codes, Ciphers

Satisfactory.

RECOGNITION

IFF
Signals
Battle Lights
Procedures

Satisfactory.

PROTECTION

Armor; Points and Angles
of Fire Needing Further
Protection
Leak Proofing

No comment.

EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

Parachutes
Life Belts, Life Rafts
Safety Belts
Emergency Kits
Rations, First Aid

Satisfactory.

NAVIGATIONAL EQUIPMENT

Compasses
Driftsights
Octants
Automatic Pilots
Charts
Field Lighting

No comment.

INSTRUMENTS

Flight
Power Plant

Satisfactory.

OXYGEN SYSTEM

Not used.

**CAMOUFLAGE AND
DECEPTION DEVICES**

No comment.

STRUCTURE

Airframe
Control Surfaces
Control System
Dive Flaps
Landing Gear
Heating System
Flight Characteristics
At Various Loadings

No comment.

POWER PLANT

Engines
Engine Accessories
Propellers
Lubricating System
Starters
Exhaust Dampers

No comment.

HYDRAULIC SYSTEM

No comment.

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

Auxiliary Plant
Lights

No comment.

FUEL SYSTEM

No comment.

FLIGHT CLOTHING

Satisfactory.

MAINTENANCE

Satisfactory.

BASE FACILITIES

Plane Servicing Equipment
Personnel Facilities

Satisfactory.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

J. A. PATTERSON, Lieut, (S)A, USNR
SIGNATURE A.C.I. Officer RANK AND DUTY

Charles H. MESTER, Jr. Lt. Comdr. Al, USNR 6/22/45
SIGNATURE Commanding Officer RANK AND DUTY DATE