

C O N F I D E N T I A L

I. GENERAL.

(a) Unit Reporting VC-87 (b) Based on or at USS MARCUS ISLAND (CVE-77)
 (d) Take off: Date 29 March 1945 Time (LZT) 0500I (Zone); Lat. 25-34N Long 127-33E
 (e) Mission Target Combat Air Patrol - Direct Support (f) Time of Return 0915I(ZOT)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

Type	Squad.	Number			Bombs and Torpedoes	Fuze, setting
(a)	(b)	Taking Off	Engaging Enemy A/C	Attacking Target	Carried (per plane)	(g)
		(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	
FM-2	VC-87	12	2	10	-	-

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

IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only)

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
Type	No. Observed	No. Engaging Own A/C	Time Encountered	Location of Encounter	Bombs, Torpedoes carried; guns observed	Camouflage & Marking
OSCAR	1	1	0650I	YONTAN AIRFIELD VICINITY, OKINAWA ISLAND	2x100 lbs.	Greenish Blue, Red Meatballs.

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Attack upon surface Units (i) Did Any Part of Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? No (j) Time of Day and Brilliance of Sun or Moon Early Morning (k) Visibility 15 Miles

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

(a)	(b) Destroyed or Damaged By:			(c)	(d)	
Type Enemy A/C	Type A/C	Squad.	Pilot or Gunner	Guns Used	Where Hit, Angle	
					Damage Claimed	
OSCAR	FM-2	VC-87	Lt.(jg) J.T.ISELY Ens. W. K. SMITH	4x.50 cal. 4x.50 cal.	Fuselage, Primarily from tail with slight deflection	Destroyed

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VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those listed in II Only).

None.

VII. PERSONNEL CASUALTIES (in aircraft listed in II Only; identify with planes listed in VI, by Nos. at left).

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 Ammo. Expended			(h) No. of Planes Returning	
						.30	.50	20MM	MM	
FM-2	-	-	4.25	240	149	-	6350	-	-	12

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

Caliber	None	Meager	Moderate	Intense
HEAVY - Time-fused shells, 75mm and over				X
MEDIUM - Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm			X	
LIGHT - Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm				X

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

FM-2s out performed OSCAR in every department. During attack the enemy, using virtually no evasive tactics, was repeatedly over-run by the WILDCATS. However, the OSCAR evidenced ample protection both in armor for pilot and protective fuel tank installations.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) YONTAN and NAHA AIRFIELDS, OKINAWA ISLAND (b) Time
Over Target(s) 0550-0815I (Zone) (c) Clouds Over Target 6000-7000 feet - solid

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 12 Miles (f) Bombing Tactics:

Type _____ Bomb Sight Used _____ Bombs Dropped per Run _____ Spacing _____

Altitude of Bomb Release _____ (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground:

Destroyed ONE Probably Destroyed None Damaged None

(h) _____ (i) _____ (j) _____ (k) _____ (l) _____ (m) _____ (n) _____ (o) _____

(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.)

Destruction of one airborne enemy aircraft and one on the ground resulted from sweeps over YONTAN and NAHA AIRFIELDS. Upon relief from Target Combat Air Patrol in the objective area. The twelve VC-87 fighters were directed to attack the two airfields on the west coast of OKINAWA ISLAND. At 0650I, Lt.(jg) J. T. ISELY and Ens. W. K. SMITH began a run on YONTAN AIRFIELD. SMITH spotted a plane several miles away at four o'clock above as he pushed over to follow ISELY in the attack on the airfield. Pulling out, they went after the plane which turned out to be an OSCAR at 6,000 feet on a heading of 270 degrees toward surface units operating west of the Island. ISELY closed fairly rapidly. The Jap jet-tisoned two one-hundred pound bombs from his wing racks but used few evasive tactics and never exceeded 150 knots. ISELY opened fire at 800 feet on the OSCAR's port quarter, his burst striking the fuselage and producing traces of smoke or vapor.

The OSCAR turned moderately to starboard and into SMITH, who turned him back with an accurate burst. The OSCAR pilot lost altitude in easy turns. As one of the attackers would over-run the Jap, the other would move in on another pass. Despite the amount of .50 caliber fire received from the two FM-2s, the OSCAR failed to burn and although it appeared the pilot had been wounded, he still managed to control the Jap fighter as he hit for YONTAN AIRFIELD, coming in at 50 feet across the coast-line still under alternate attacks by ISELY and SMITH. The maximum speed indicated by the FM-2s during the attack was 150 knots and they over-ran the OSCAR at that speed. The only variation from his attempts to escape was made by the pilot when, in turning away from ISELY and toward SMITH, he held his turn, pulling around head-on to SMITH who pulled up sharply to avoid collision.

The plane was riddled when YONTAN AIRFIELD was reached, where the pilot apparently attempted a wheels-up crash landing. The starboard wing of the plane broke off as it cracked up in the middle of the field. SMITH then gave the airplane a precautionary strafing.

Lt.(jg) B. W. KENLEY flamed a NELL parked on NAHA AIRFIELD during a strafing run. Several buildings along the edge of the NAHA AIRFIELD were strafed with unobserved results.

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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.)

Pilots participating in this mission were:

Lieut. F. J. BRAZIL
Lieut. T. A. MOORE
Lt.(jg) J. T. ISELY
Lt.(jg) B. W. KENLEY
Lt.(jg) V. W. GROVES
Lt.(jg) G. F. BOMELY
Ensign F. "L" CHAPMAN
Ensign R. B. WILLIAMS
Ensign J. BIELAGUR
Ensign S. J. LEHN
Ensign W. K. SMITH
Ensign E. J. LEINWEBER

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XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left. Use additional sheets if necessary).

No Comment.

Report Prepared By:

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ACI Officer

Approved By:

H. N. HEISEL, Lt. Cdr., USN.
Squadron Commander

3-30-45.
Date