

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. **140**

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Gun emplacements, revetments, buildings, southern Okinawa (b) Time Over Target(s) 0915(1) (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target Smoky 3000 .3 Stratus (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Smoky (e) Visibility 1-2 (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Varied - Slide & Rocket Bomb Sight Used 10: 8 (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run Varied Spacing Varied Altitude of Bomb Release 3500 (FEET)

(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 Gun emplacements, revetments, buildings		5 TBM; 4 PW VC-33	50-100# bombs GP; 64 rockets; 550 rds .50 cal.	All in area	Unknown no. of gun emplacements, revetments hit. Small ammo dump or mine destroyed.
2					
3					
4					
5 Town of Kahana		1 TBM-3 VC-33	10-100# bombs 3 rockets	All	Town set afire. Extent of destruction and damage unknown.
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 A massive area attack was made on gun emplacements, revetments, buildings in target areas 7368 K L G H M I N and 7468 K L. Bombs, rockets and strafing hit in area but no estimate can be given except that several buildings were set afire, a small ammo dump or mine destroyed.

#2 Eight rockets and 10 bombs hit the town of Kahana in target area 7366 G and L, setting it afire. Exact amount of destruction and damage unknown.

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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.)

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
- " " " " " " "
- Defensive Tactics, Own
- " " " " " " "
- 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

On 19 April 1945 thirty six TBMs and thirty two PB-2s took off at 0715 (I) from one unit of carriers for a special strike on southern Okinawa, opening the big push which the army was scheduled to make that morning. 6 TBMs of WC-88 piloted by Lt. J. D. MITCHELL, Lts(jg) E. J. SCHLUTER, W. C. WERFORTH and C. S. HUMPHREYS and Ensigns W. E. STEPHENS and four PB-2s, flown by Lt. G. MCELROY, Lt(jg) J. C. RYLANDS and Ensigns H. C. JOHNSON and R. D. CARRITHERS participated in the strike. The flight leader was an PB-2 from HOC-1. Lt. Mitchell was the WC-88 flight leader, all other squadrons joining up on him in a running rendezvous to the right.

At 0915 the group, joined by 10 other planes hit areas 7468 K L and 7368 K L G H M I H where gun emplacements, revetments and buildings were located. One run only was made, VF preceding VI, from northeast to southwest. The areas were saturated but no specific estimate of damage or destruction can be made other than setting afire several buildings, and exploding a small ammunition dump or mine.

One TBM pilot, unable to get on the target areas dropped 10 bombs and 8 rocket run. The explosion blew and over his plane, the windshield was broken and his face and neck lacerated. He was flying above 300 feet at the time he was struck. No AA fire was noted.

The VT began their runs at about 7500 ft. shallow until 5000 ft, then began their dives at 7000 ft. shallow until 5000 ft, then steepening the dive to 45-50 degrees, firing rockets at approximately 1000 feet and pulling out generally at 700 feet, although some did go down to 300 feet.

The group rendezvoused following the attack and returned to base. VI-88 pilots were unanimous in their praise of the efficient and effective manner the PB-2 of WC-1 had led the flight. It was believed that a real contribution had been made to the big push.

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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

No comment.

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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APPROVED BY:

REPORT PREPARED BY:

H. D. SCHMIDT, Lt. USNR, ACTO

K. L. KEMP, Lt. USNR, Commanding

27 April 1945

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

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DATE