

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

~~RESTRICTED~~
 (Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-84 (b) Based on or at USS MAKIN ISLAND, at sea (c) Report No. VC-84 #151
 (d) Take off: Date 16 April 1945 Time (LZT) 0745 I (Zone); Lat. 28° 21'N Long. 127° 40'E
 (e) Mission Target Combat Air Patrol, L plus 15, Okinawa Jima. (f) Time of Return 1146 I (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)		
FM-2	VC-84	4	0	4		

III. OTHER U. S. OR ALLIED AIRCRAFT EMPLOYED IN THIS OPERATION. None

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE

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
Zeke	1	1	0650 I (ZONE)	5 miles west of south end of Tokuno Shima	2 20 MM	mottled green and brown with usual red meatballs
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Attack, probably suicide
 Did Any Part of
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? No If so, Describe Clouds _____
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance
 (j) of Sun or Moon Day, clear (k) Visibility 20
(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (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:			(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER		
Zeke	FM-2	VC-84	Lt. George Shaw- Corthorn, USNR	4 x 50 cal.	cockpit, wings, behind slightly above 8 - 5 o'clock.

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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

On 16 April 1945, L plus 15, at 0745 I, 4 FM-2 took off from USS MAKIN ISLAND for target combat air patrol at Okinawa Jima. The CAP took station over the northern part of the island. At 0850 it tallyhoed a Zeke off Iheya Shima which went down low on the water and headed northeast. The FM-2 followed and a chase of some 60 miles took place low on the water starting through friendly AA, an air attack then being in progress. Indicating 247 knots with both wing tanks the FM-2 were falling behind. Lt. Shaw-Corthorn dropped 1 wing tank and found he could hold his own in the pursuit but not gain. He dropped the other tank and was able at 257 IAS to close to 800 feet. During the pursuit he fired short bursts at the Zeke which jinxed. Lt. Shaw-Corthorn kept inside it during these maneuvers getting hits in the cockpit and wings from slightly above and from 8 to 5 o'clock as the Zeke jinxed. Finally at a point about 5 miles west of the southern tip of Tekuno Shima the Zeke which had not flamed pulled up tightly from its position at 20 feet over the water to the right and then fell off on its wing into the water. The maneuver at that altitude appeared to be on which the Zeke could not complete. As it pulled up Ensign Hobson got bursts into the Zeke. The flight returned aboard at 1146 I.

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

Performance of equipment was normal.

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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
ACI Officer, VC-84

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SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
Commanding Officer, VC-84

5-4-45 DATE