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AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL
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I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-85 (b) Based on or at USS LUNGA POINT (CVE-94) (c) Report No. VC-85 - 104

(d) Take off: Date 31 March 1945 Time (LZT) 0545 (I) (Zone); Lat. 25° 34' N Long. 127° 31' E

(e) Mission Strike on Okinawa Shima (f) Time of Return 0945 (I) (Zone)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

TYPE (a)	SQUADRON (b)	NUMBER: TAKING OFF (c)	NUMBER: ENGAGING ENEMY A/C (d)	NUMBER: ATTACKING TARGET (e)	BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE) (f)	FUZE, SETTING (g)
TBM-3	VC-85	4		4	3 - 3 x 500# GP Inst.Nose:: 3 - 6 x 5" HE Rockets	.025 sec.Delay-Tail
					1 - 8 x 5" HE Rockets	

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
TBM-3	VC-91	4	USS SAVO ISLAND (CVE-78)				

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
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____

(i) Did Any Part of Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? _____ (YES OR NO) If so, Describe Clouds _____ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(j) Time of Day and Brilliance 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: TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER	GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED

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ENCLOSURE (A)

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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)
1				
2				
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

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	
TBM-3	57	54	4 hr	330	230		550			4

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).

SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

TURNS
DIVES
CEILINGS
RANGE
PROTECTION
ARMAMENT

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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) 1. Yontan Airfield 2. Kadena Airfield (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) 0630-0900 (I) (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target Solid at 2000' - Stratus 5/10 at 1000' (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility 10 (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) ~~Bomb~~ Gun Sight Used Mk VIII (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 1 and 2 (NUMBER) Spacing 50 (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 1500 (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 AA Positions Yontan Airfield		4 TBM-3 VC-85	2 x 500# Bombs 6 x 5" HE Rockets	All in Area	Not Observed
2 AA Positions Kadena Airfield		4 TBM-3 VC-85	6 x 500# Bombs 20 x 5" HE Rockets 550 x .50 cal	All in Area	Not Observed
3					
4					
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).

(p) Were Photographs Taken? YES 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

Lieutenant Commander Fred C. HERRIMAN, USN, VC-85 squadron commander, took off from USS LUNGA POINT (CVE-94) at 0545 (I) on 31 March 1945 to act as Air Coordinator on a strike on Okinawa Shima. He was accompanied by three TBM-3s from VC-85 and rendezvoused with four TBM-3s from VC-91.

Targets assigned by CASCU were anti-aircraft gun positions guarding Yontan and Kadena Airfields. On the first target, glide bombing runs were made through the overcast which extended down to 1000 feet. This prevented accurate bombing and only two bombs were dropped.

The flight then attacked AA positions on Kadena Airfield where the ceiling was 2000 feet. All remaining bombs and all rockets were expended in this area. No AA positions were observed by the pilots, due to excellent camouflaging.

All planes returned safely to base.

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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

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

One TBM-3 developed radio transmitter trouble, due to weak tube.

One TBM-3 had a faulty electrical bomb release,* but the manual release functioned satisfactorily.

One bomb failed to release at all and the pilot landed aboard with it.**

* The pilot tried to release bombs electrically on "safe". Pilot was given instruction in proper use of bomb release mechanism.

** Due to shackle being of improper size. When plane went into dive, bomb bay synchronization was thrown out of adjustment due to excessive motion of shackle.

FORWARDED: G. A. T. WASHBURN,
Captain, U. S. Navy,
Commanding Officer,
U.S.S. LUNGA POINT (CVE-94).

REPORT PREPARED BY:

W. H. KEARNS, Lieut., USNR ACIO
SIGNATURE — RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

FRED C. HERRIMAN, Lt.Cdr., USN, C.O.
SIGNATURE — RANK AND DUTY

31 March 1945
DATE

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