

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-88 (b) Based on or at USS SAGINAW BAY (c) Report No. 132
 (d) Take off: Date 14 April 1945 Time (LZT) 0500(I) (Zone); Lat. 23-30N Long. 125-45E
 (e) Mission Special strike and reconnaissance Ishigaki Shima (f) Time of Return 0830(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-88	8	0	7	6-5 th HE rktts, Mk 7 utr	Mk 157

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
FM-2	VC-97	4	USS MAKASSAR STRAIT				
TBM-3	VC-97	9	USS MAKASSAR STRAIT				

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)	NONE		
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____
 Did Any Part of _____
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? _____ 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 _____ (k) Visibility _____
(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	GUNS USED		
			NONE			

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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) Airfields, Ishigaki Shima and Kobama Jima (b) Time Over Target(s) 0845-0740(I) Zone _____
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 3000 ft .7 stratus
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 10
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Rocket Bomb Sight Used _____
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run _____ Spacing _____ Altitude of Bomb Release _____
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 1 Probably Destroyed _____ Damaged 7

(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 4 A/C Ishigaki Airfield		2 FM-2	4 rkts	4 rkts	1 destroyed
4 A/C Mijara Airfield		VC-88	1200 rds .50 cal	strafed	7 damaged (slight)
2 Camouflaged revetments		5 FM-2	8 rkts	4 rkts	1 destroyed
		VC-88	1000 rds .50 cal	strafed	several damaged
3 AA positions		1 FM-2	4 rkts	4 rkts	Two destroyed
		VC-88	600 rds .50 cal	strafed	One serious
4 Two barges	100'	2 FM-2	2 rkts	2 rkts	1 destroyed
		VC-88	500 rds .50 cal	strafed	1 damaged
5 Two luggers	50-70'	2 FM-2	6 rkts	2 rkts	1 destroyed
		VC-88	600 rds .50 cal	strafed	1 damaged
6 Small boats		3 FM-2			
		VC-88	600 rds .50 cal	Strafed	Several damaged
7 Buildings, trucks, Ishigaki		4 FM-2	12 rkts	Unknown	
		VC-88	800 rds .50 cal	strafed	Extent unknown
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 One S/E plane, southeast of Ishigaki Field blew up when hit by 4 rockets. Three planes on same field, one T/E and three S/E and 4 S/E planes on Mijara field were strafed and hit, slightly damaged.
- #2 One camouflaged revetment along Ishigaki field destroyed by 4 direct rocket hits, several damaged.
- #3 One AA position on Kobama Jima struck with 4 rockets, destroyed. Two others near Ishigaki field strafed heavily; one destroyed, one seriously damaged.
- #4 One 100 ft. barge off southern coast Ishigaki, loaded with oil drums blew up when hit with two rockets. Another, west of Kobama Jima, strafed.
- #5 One lugger, 50 ft., off southern coast Ishigaki, blew up when hit by two rockets. Another in same area damaged by strafing.
- #6 Small boats off southern coast of Ishigaki and near Kuro Jima strafed, several damaged.
- #7 Hits on buildings and one truck, Ishigaki Airfield. Extent of damage unknown..

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(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

On 14 April 1945 eight F4U-7s of VC-88, piloted by Lt. P. V. MOTT, Lt(jg) D. L. SIMS, L. D. HARRIS, J. H. O'CONNOR, F. A. O'BRIEN, G. J. MCCLARD and Ensign L. O. PARTNER and H. C. MANN, took off at 0500 for a special strike against Ishigaki Shima and a reconnaissance of smaller islands to the southwest of that island. 4 F4U-7s and 9 VEs of VC-97 participated in the mission. Lt(jg) O'CONNOR returned to base before reaching the target due to mechanical failure.

Lt. Mott's division, consisting of Harris, Sims and Partner in addition to himself, preceded the VE in attacking Ishigaki and Hijara fields, rocketing and strafing various aiming points, including planes on the ground and revetments. Lt. Sims destroyed a B/E plane at Ishigaki, it blowing up when struck by 4 of his rockets. He strafed and damaged three other planes at this field, 4 others at Hijara, being joined by Lt(jg) Harris in this.

The three other fighter pilots, O'Brien, Mann and McClard, provided cover during the initial attack, and were ordered to reconnoiter the smaller islands to the southwest for possible airfields and other installations. At Taketama they observed two camouflaged AA positions, no field, no AA; at Kuro and Aragusuku no installations were found; at Kobama there was no field, no AA fire but two AA positions were seen and one emplacement was destroyed when hit by Mann's four rockets. Mann also damaged a 100 ft. barge west of Kobama; McClard strafed small boats near Kuro.

Returning from reconnaissance these three planes joined the attack on the airfields at Ishigaki, hitting AA positions, camouflaged revetments buildings along the runways, a truck, boats off shore, the towns of Ishigaki and Shima. Mann observed at least 12 AA positions by their firing. He selected two of them and using their flashes as aiming points he dove on them, strafing until both ceased firing. One was believed definitely destroyed, the other seriously damaged or destroyed. McClard destroyed a camouflaged revetment with 4 rocket hits.

These attacks were made under AA fire consisting of heavy severe, medium intense and light moderate. The medium was extremely accurate.

The attack began at 0645; prior to 0720 it was reported over the air that a TBM might have to make a water landing to the south of the island. Hearing this, Mott led his division in attacks against boats and small craft along the south coast to prevent their use by the enemy in going after the crew forced to make the water landing. Mott blew up a 100 foot barge, loaded with oil drums with 2 rocket hits and strafed luggers and small boats, Sims on his wing; Harris and Partner in the second section hit luggers and small boats; one 50 ft lugger was destroyed by 2 direct rocket hits by Harris, another damaged. These runs were made low just south of a heavy concentration of AA fire. Apparently Mott was hit by AA in retiring from one of these boat attacks; his plane was suddenly seen to flame, explode and crash into the water approximately 100 feet off shore, south of Ishigaki Airfield. The remains burned on the water. His division carefully inspected the wreck and immediate area but saw no sign of a survivor.

Several parachute type bombs were observed with heavy shell suspended; one seen at 5000 ft. altitude but no explosion; two others at 2000 feet, one exploded.

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XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.
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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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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APPROVED BY:

A. D. SCHWAB, LT. USN, AGO

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

E. L. KNOPP, LT. USN, Commanding

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

23 April 1945

DATE