

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

## I. GENERAL

**CONFIDENTIAL**

(a) Unit Reporting VC-93 (b) Based on or at USS PETROF BAY, CVE-80 (c) Report No. 18  
 (d) Take off: Date 31 March 1945 Time (LZT) 1530-9 (Zone); Lat. 28° 30' N Long. 128° 20' E  
 (e) Mission Direct Support, Okinawa (f) Time of Return 1710-9 (Zone)

## II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

(a) TYPE	(b) SQUADRON	NUMBER			(f) BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE)	(g) FUZE, SETTING
		(c) TAKING OFF	(d) ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	(e) ATTACKING TARGET		
TBM-3	VC-93	5	0	5	4 - 500# GP; 6 - 5" HBR	Inst. Nose & Tail; Base
TBM-3	VC-93	4	0	4	10 - 100# GP; 8 - 5" HBR	Inst. Nose & Tail; Base
TBM-3	VC-93	1	0	1	8 - 5" HBR	Base

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
FM-2	VC-93	3	USS TULAGI, CVE-72				
FM-2	VOC-1	4	USS WAKE ISLAND, CVE65				

## 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) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Did Any Part of \_\_\_\_\_  
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, Describe Clouds \_\_\_\_\_ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)  
 Time of Day and Brilliance \_\_\_\_\_  
 (j) 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:				(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER	GUNS USED		

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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	
<b>TB-3</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>300</b>			<b>10</b>

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over				
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm				
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

## 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) S.E. Promontory Storage area, Yontan Field, Okinawa (b) Time Over Target(s) 1430-1600-9 (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 2000 Cumulus 7/10  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Smoky (e) Visibility 10 miles at sea level  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used Mark 8  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 2 or salvo Spacing 40 Altitude of Bomb Release \_\_\_\_\_  
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 0 Probably Destroyed 0 Damaged 0

(h) AIMING POINT	(i) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(j) NO. A/C ATTACKING	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
		(k) SQUADRON			
1 Coast Defense Positions	Large	9	15 - 100# GP	8-100#	Destroyed
		VC-95	12 - 500# GP; 4-HBR	6-500#	
2 Revetted Storage Area	200 yds. dia.	5	19 - 100# GP	10-100#	Damage serious
		VC-95	4 - 500# GP; 22-HBR	2-500#	
3				14-HBR 4-100#	
4 Medium A.A. Positions	---	2	6 - 100# GP	2-500#	Damage serious
		VC-95	4-500# GP; 16 HBR	10-HBR	
5 Cave	---	1		2-HBR	Damage serious
		VC-95	2 - 5" HBR		
6 Underground hangar area	400 yds. dia.	3		1-500#	1 destroyed
		VC-95	2-500# GP; 18 HBR	4-HBR	
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).

- Hits abundant on and about target.
- Hits on explosive material. Fires commenced.
- Two rocket hits in position. Smoke obscured specific result observation.
- Two rockets into cave entrance slide of rock which closed entrance.
- Two rocket hits in revetment entrance. The following interior explosion broke open concrete enforcement and debris rose 70 feet into air.

(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
- " " , 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

# CONFIDENTIAL

The coast defense position was pin pointed by Commander Support Air. The flight effectively destroyed it by strafing, rockets, and bombing. Runs were made at 300 knots, from 6000 to 2000 feet, at a 45 degree angle.

The underground storage and revetment area, 200 yards north of Yontan Field was then designated. Runs from 3000 to 1500 feet, 30 degree glide and 250 knots were used.

The fighter support strafed ahead of the VT in a round robin type of attack. The fighter support was commended by VT pilots for well ordered and effective work.

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

## CONFIDENTIAL

### 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

The following pilots participated in this flight:

- Lieut. W. H. SKINNER, Al, USNR
- Lieut. J. J. OLIVER, Al, USNR
- Lt(jg) M. W. WILLIAMS, Al, USNR
- Lt(jg) J. H. SHARER, Al, USNR
- Lt(jg) L. S. DEVRIES, Al, USNR
- Lt(jg) B. H. BEAM, Al, USNR
- Lt(jg) R. M. REID, Al, USNR
- Ensign W. R. GANTHROP, Al, USNR
- Ensign R. C. AYLSWORTH, Al, USNR

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

R. L. WINTER, Lieut. SAL, USNR, ACIO

C. P. SMITH, Lt. Comdr. USN, CO, VC-93

31 March 1945

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

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DATE