

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

I. GENERAL.

(a) Unit Reporting VC-87 (b) Based on or at USS MARCUS ISLAND (CVE-77)
 (d) Take Off: Date 1 April 1945 Time (LZT) 0730I (Zone); Lat. 26-05N Long 129-05E
 (e) Mission Direct Support (f) Time of Return 1120I (Zone)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

Type Squad.	Number	Taking Off	Engaging Enemy A/C	Attacking Target	Bombs and Torpedoes Carried (per plane)	Fuze, Setting
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
TBM-3 VC-87	4	-	-	4	10x100 lb. G.P. 8x5" HE Rockets	Instantaneous Non-Delay Base
TBM-3 VC-87	6	-	-	6	4x500 lb. G.P. 6x5" HE Rockets	Inst.nose;.025 delay tail Non-Delay Base

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

Type Squad.	Number	Base	Type Squad.	Number	Base
FM-2 VC-88	12	USS SAGINAW BAY (CVE-82)			

IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

None.

V. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

None.

VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those listed in II only).

None.

VII. PERSONNEL CASUALTIES (in aircraft listed in II only; identify with planes listed in VI by Nos. at left).

None.

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 Ammo. Expended				(h) No. of Planes Returning
						.30	.50	20MM	MM	
TBM-3	55	65	3.8	330	193	-	370	-	-	10

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).

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

Report No. 37-45.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Gun Positions in YONTAN AIRFIELD Vicinity

(b) Time Over Target(s) 0845-1045I (Zone) (c) Clouds Over Target Unlimited Over

Immediate Target Area; Rest of Island Overcast at 2000-2500 ft. (d) Visibility

of Target Clear (e) Visibility 18 Miles (f) Bombing Tactics: Type

Glide Bombsight Used _____ Bombs Dropped per Run Varied Spacing Varied

Altitude of Bomb Release Varied (g) _____

(h) _____ (i) _____ (j) _____ (k) _____ (l) _____ (m) _____ (n) _____ (o) _____

(p) Were Photographs Taken? YES Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be

Attached By Staple.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA. (Narrative and comment).

The group attacked gun positions and other ground defense installations to the east, northeast and north of YONTAN AIRFIELD, OKINAWA ISLAND, in support of LOVE day landings.

As Air Coordinator, Lt. Comdr. H. N. HEISEL led attacks against several empty gun positions to the east of the airfield. A near miss with a 100 lb. G.P. bomb caused minor damage to a concrete artillery emplacement, and several direct hits by 500 pounders were made on empty anti-aircraft positions east of YONTAN AIRFIELD.

Three Jap tanks were observed retreating on a road from CACHINI village, well north of YONTAN AIRFIELD by Ens. M. E. WORTMAN, who saw them turn off underside trees alongside the road. He dropped two 500 lb. bombs in the clump of trees, causing probable destruction of the tanks.

Lt.(jg) W. L. NEAGLE spotted several enemy trucks, proceeding on a highway east of YONTAN. He strafed them and received light, inaccurate and meager anti-aircraft fire from a nearby cave position. Lieut. J. F. McGUIRE strafed another group of six trucks beside a road northeast of YONTAN with unobserved results. He had seen the trucks disperse under a small grove of trees and used the grove as his aiming point.

Four caves on ridges overlooking YONTAN AIRFIELD and the beaches were rocketed with unobserved results.

One FM-2 of VC-88 crashed into a ridge during a low strafing run and burned, its pilot having no chance for escape. VC-87 pilots observing the fighter just prior to its crash noted puff of smoke and pieces flying off the plane, indicating possibility it was struck by anti-aircraft fire.

Pilots, Technical Observer, and Aircrewmembers participating in this mission were:

Lieut. Comdr. H. N. HEISEL	Lt.(jg) M. L. FITCH
Lieut. J. F. McGUIRE	D. E. FINN, AMM3c
Lieut. J. D. CORNWELL	J. C. WOODS, ARM1c
Lt.(jg) W. L. NEAGLE	R. J. FELKER, AMM2c
Lt.(jg) V. H. LEINICKLE	W. J. E. BINSWANGER, ARM3c
Lt.(jg) E. M. ZIEGLER	O. H. LUITEN, AMM2c
Lt.(jg) G. T. BUTCHER	P. C. GLASS, AOM1c
Lt.(jg) S. E. LINK, Jr.	E. R. BUXTON, ARM2c
Ensign D. L. WARREN	J. D. SHUFELT, AM2c
Ensign M. E. WORTMAN	C. M. McLAUGHLIN, ARM2c
	F. V. McGUGGART, ARM3c
	R. L. McGREY, AMM3c
	J. FOLEY, AOM3c
	P. H. CLIFTON, ARM3c
	A. C. STULTS, AMM1c
	A. E. PEARSON, ARM2c
	T. L. PULLIAM, AMM3c
	D. B. SWACKHAMER, ARM3c
	T. J. SZPONT, ARM3c
	P. E. COOK, AMM3c

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability).

No comment.

Report Prepared By:

Approved By:

R. E. JOHNSON, Lieutenant, USNR.
ACI Officer

H.N. HEISEL, Lt. Cdr., USN.
Squadron Commander

4-2-45.
Date