

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

Confidential
~~RESTRICTED~~
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-34 (b) Based on or at USS MAKIN ISLAND, at sea (c) Report No. VC-34 #137
1- 0944 I 2- 1125 I
 (d) Take off: Date 11 April 1945 Time (LZT) 3- 1334 I (Zone); Lat. 25° 17'N Long. 127° 45'E
4- 1523 I 1- 1345 I, 2- 1533 I
 (e) Mission Air Observer flights, L plus 10, Okinawa Jima (f) Time of Return 3- 1741 I (Zone)
4- 1830 I

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)		
<u>TH-3</u>	<u>vc-34</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8 rockets, Mk 1 body, Mk 7 motor.</u>	<u>Nose - none Base - instantaneous</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>None</u>							

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
<u>None</u>						
			(ZONE)			
			(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). None

(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		

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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REPORT No. **VC-84 #137**

VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those listed in II only). **None**

(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). **None**

(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	
T-28-3	50	45	3.8	330	250	1000	1045			4

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

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

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No **VC-84 #137**

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) See below (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) See below (1 one)

(c) Clouds Over Target 3000, cumulus, .5 (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Hazy (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility 15 (MILES)

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

Rockets _____ Bombs Dropped per Run 2 planes all; 1 plane 4 Spacing _____ Slant range _____ Altitude of Bomb Release 1000 - 500 (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 (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 Caves in area 1 below	100 x 75 yards	1 TBM-3 VC-84	5 rockets, Mk 1 body, Mk 7 motor, unknown no rounds 30 & 50 cal	2 rockets in cave	Unknown
2 Cave in area 2 below	100 x 75 feet	"	5 rockets & ammo as above	6 in cave	Unknown
3 Area containing tanks, possibly dummies, no. 3 below	200 x 150 yards	"	7 rockets and ammo as above	All in area	Unknown
5 18 small boats	15 - 10 feet long, 6 foot beam	1 TBM-3 VC-84	5 rockets and ammo as above	no rockets	4 destroyed 2 slight
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).

Targets -

- Area 2000 yards south of Naha airfield, Okinawa Jima, containing caves, possible underground storage, (7265 Love Mike Oboe local grid) 1230
- Cave 150 yards northeast of Makabe Town, Okinawa Jima. (7659 Uncle local grid).
- Area 300 yards south of Makabe Town, Okinawa Jima, containing tanks in revetments, possibly dummies (7557 Baker Charlie local grid)
- 18 small boats along southwest shore Okinawa Jima (7360 William 7258 Queen Victor local grid).

(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

Four Air Observer pilots taking off from USS MAKIN ISLAND on 11 April 1945, L plus 10, for Okinawa attacked targets in the course of their observation missions. Two attacked caves all getting hits with no specific results seen. Caves were located 150 yards northeast of Makabe Town, Okinawa Jima (7659 Uncle local grid) and 2000 yards south of Naha airfield (7265 Love Mike Obes local grid). An attack was made, rocket and strafing hits being scored, on an area 200 yards north of Makabe town (7557 Baker Charlie local grid) containing tanks, possibly dummies in revetments, without observable results. Lt. Holladay and his observer, 1st Lt. Brann, on the final observation flight of the day spotted about 18 small boats, 15 x 10 x 6 feet, along the southwest shore of Okinawa (7360 William 7256 Queen Victor local grid). Strafing hits destroyed 4 of these and slightly damaged 2 others. Rockets released by observers at slant range of 1000 - 500 feet.

Pilots -

- Lt. David J. Conroy
- Lt. (jg) Harry D. Anderson
- Ensign Terence B. McKams
- Lt. Brice Holladay

Observers -

- 1st Lt. Richard Brann, Batt. C. 902 Field Artillery APO 77
- 1st Lt. Mervin Liebowitz, Batt. C. 902 Field Artillery APO 77
- 2nd Lt. LeRoy Walters, Hdq. Batt. 306 Field Artillery APO 77
- 1st Lt. Richard Brann

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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

Except for 1 inoperative rocket rail equipment performance was normal.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
AO1 Officer, VC-84

Douglas K. ENGLISH, Lt., (A1), USNR
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
Commanding Officer, VC-84

5-4-45
DATE