

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

## I. GENERAL

**CONFIDENTIAL**

(a) Unit Reporting VC-91 (b) Based on or at USS SAVO ISLAND (CV278) (c) Report No. 34  
 (d) Take off: Date ~~20 April 45~~ 20 April 45 Time (LZT) 1130/1530-I (Zone); Lat. 25° 16' N. Long. 128° 02' E.  
 (e) Mission Ground Support work and Air Observers over Okinawa (f) Time of Return 1545/1845-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)		
SBM-3	VC-91	4	0	4	8 - H.I. Rockets; 10 - 100# G.P. Bombs	None Inst. - Tail .02 Tail - No Delay
SBM-3	VC-91	2	0	2	4 - 500# G.P. Bombs	None Inst. - Tail .01

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
SBM-2	VC-91	4	USS SAVO ISLAND (CV278)				

## 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
None			(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 \_\_\_\_\_ (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		
None						



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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 None				
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
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 AMMUNITION EXPENDED				(h) NO. OF PLANES RETURNING
						.30	.50	20MM	MM	
TBM-3	55	55	4.25	330	240	--	--			1
TBM-3	56	55	3.25	330	175	--	--			1
TBM-3	70	80	3.25	233	160	--	--			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
- URNS
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

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) Gun Emplacements & Underground (b) Time Over Target(s) 1515/1625/  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) 1815-1 (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target Overcast - 7000 & 3000 - 7/10 & 1/10  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Very Hazy (e) Visibility 6  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Slide Bomb Sight Used \_\_\_\_\_  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run Varying Spacing Manual Altitude of Bomb Release 2000' / 1000'  
(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 Gun Emplacement & Direction Finder	40' x 40'	1 VC-91	8 - H.E. Rockets	8	Demolished
2 Gun Revetments, RT.A. 7459 *U & *V	-----	1 VC-91	3 - H.E. Rockets	3	Serious
3 Underground Hangar RT.A. 7361 *R	350' long	4 VC-91	5 - 500# Bombs 2 - 100# Bombs	1 Several Near Misses	Slight
4 AA Positions, RT 7874 P, 7774 P	-----	4 VC-91	1 - 500# Bomb 16 - H.E. Rockets	1 6	Probably Demolished
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).

Target #1: The gun emplacement and Direction Finder, (probably 105mm), were hit by eight rockets and completely demolished. Also a small truck standing close by was demolished.

Target #2: Two revetments constituted the target in this case, and they were seriously damaged by three hits. Guns in the revetments, if any, could not be seen.

Target #3: The underground hangar appeared to be reinforced concrete, and the 500# bomb hit did not seem to do a great deal of damage. The same is true of the near misses of 500# bombs and 100# bombs.

Target #4: Several anti-aircraft installations in Sakashi Town constituted this target. They were adjacent to each other, and the entire area was saturated with six rockets and one 500# bomb, as well as strafing. Serious damage was inflicted to the installations and at least two or three of them were surely destroyed.

(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

At 1130-I Eas. Griesinger was ~~XXXXXXXX~~ launched with an Army Air Observer. At 1530 Eas. Hancock was also launched carrying an Army Air Observer, and at the same time four additional TBM's took off for ground support work over Okinawa Shian.

Eas. Griesinger flew his observer on patrol without event, and after the job was done, obtained permission from Commander Air Support, Control Units to make a strike on a target about which the Army Air Observer knew.

Permission was granted, and the pilot proceeded to the target in the area designated. They found the target, a gun, probably 105mm, a direction finder, and proceeded with two runs on it. Both runs were from northeast to southwest, and altitude of release was about 3000 feet. On the first run, Eas. Griesinger fired his eight rockets at an angle of dive of 25° with a slant ~~RM~~ range of 1200 yards. He scored a direct hit with all eight rockets and succeeded in completely destroying the gun emplacement. A truck was noticed close by, and one run was made destroying it.

After Eas. Hancock has completed his patrol with his Army Air Observer, CASCU likewise gave him permission to ~~XXXXXX~~ make ~~RM~~ a strike on targets of opportunity. Here also the observer knew of a target, and directed him to some gun revetments in the area designated.

He made three runs from north to south on these revetments, firing two rockets each on the first two runs and four rockets on the last run. He was successful in scoring hits and did considerable damage to the revetments. Neither he nor the observer could be sure as to whether there were any guns in the revetments.

Four TBM's on support work joined up with four FM's from U.S.S. MAKIN ISLAND (CV893), and reported in to CASCU. They were given a target by CASCU and arrived over it about 1625. The flight leader reports:

"The designated target was suspected of being an underground hangar. I went down and looked at the target while the remaining TBM's orbited at 5000 feet. I rejoined them and started the attack at 4000 feet. One pilot scored a direct hit with a 500# bomb while the other pilots scored near misses with both 500# and 100# bombs. The target seemed to be very strongly built, and the damage could not be ascertained but was thought to be slight.

"Our second target was in target area 7874 and 7774, consisting of AA gun emplacements, and the four MAKIN ISLAND FM's joined us in our strike on this target. We made high-speed break-up over the target and dove down from 5000 feet at angles from 30° to 40°. Direct hits were scored by all of the pilots. The FM's strafed, and the emplacements were completely worked over and ~~RM~~ saturated with rockets, bombs and strafing."



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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

The AA positions referred to above were in the town of  
**Xi Sakochi.**

No enemy planes were noted on any of the above strikes, and only  
one pilot received any anti-aircraft fire. It was medium fire and mod-  
erate and his plane was not hit.

The first Air Observer plane was piloted by:

**Mrs. D. F. Griesinger**

The second by

**Mrs. W. F. Hancock**

The support group consisted of the following pilots:

- Lt. J. H. Fletcher**
- Lt.(jg) J. P. McKeala**
- Lt.(jg) E. E. Harrah**
- Mrs. E. E. Vianu.**

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**None.**

REPORT PREPARED BY:  
**E. H. SPENCER, LT., A.G.I. OFFICER.**

APPROVED BY:  
**F. M. BLANCHARD, LT., C.O.**

**20 April 45**

SIGNATURE **A. W. PARKER, LT., A.G.I. OFFICER** RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

DATE