

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

I. GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-91 (b) Based on or at USS MAKIN ISLAND (CVE-93) (c) Report No. VC-91 #53
 (d) Take off: Date 9 May 1945 Time (LZT) 1515-I (Zone); Lat. 25° 18' N. Long. 128° 01' E.
 (e) Mission Ground Support, Okinawa (f) Time of Return 1840-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)		
TBM-3	VC-91	4	0	4	10 - 100# G.P. AN-M-50 8 - 5" H.E. ARs.	Inst. AN-M-103A1 & .025 AN-M-100A2. .02 base MK 157.

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
TBM-3	VC-94	4	USS SHAMROCK BAY				
TBM-3	VC-83	4	USS SARGENT BAY				

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 _____ (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						

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)
CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. VC-91 #53

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)
TBM-3	VC-91	Shrapnel (From own rocket)	Windshield	Failed to break through.
TBM-3	VC-91	20MM (Apparently)	propeller, cowling, & windshield.	Windshield: 12 inch hole in top section; three lower sections cracked. (Replaced Cowling: Small hole. Prop: Deep cut (Replaced).
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	60	55	3.25	301	180	185	1125			4

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	X		
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	X			

X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (use check list at left).

- SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes
- TURNING
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

None.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. **VC-91 #53**

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) **Command Posts & Buildings, Okinawa.** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1615-I** (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target **None.**
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target **Bright** (e) Visibility **Unlimited**
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

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

Bombs Dropped per Run **2 to 5** Spacing **Manual 20-50'** Altitude of Bomb Release **2000-3000**
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

Rockets " " " **2-4-6** Slant Range **1500-1000 Yds.** Angle **35-40°**
(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 Two Command Posts under trees TAB364 M4	----	4 VC-91	38 - 100# G.Ps. 28 - 5" H.E. APs.	10AR-12 GP in area	Probably destroyed.
2 Bldgs, road intersection, Toyama, XTA 8463 V.	----	4 VC-91	12 - 5" H.E. ARs. 1125 - rds. 50 cal. 185 - rds. .30 cal.	Majority	Minor
4					
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. A clump of trees reported by CASCU to conceal two Jap Command Posts were blasted by 10 rocket and 12 100-pound GP bomb hits; results could not be determined definitely, but if so located probably were destroyed. Most of the remaining 14 rockets and 24 bombs were long and lanced in Ita Kazu village, starting several fires, including two large ones of several houses each.

Target #2. Two rockets hit a road intersection, causing minor damage. A majority of the remaining 10 rockets hit and damaged buildings (mostly houses). One large fire, involving several houses, was still burning 45 minutes later.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? **No** Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. **VC-91 #53**

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

Two Command Posts probably were destroyed in a bomb and rocket attack by four VT from VC-91 and three from the SHAMROCK BAY on Okinawa on 9 May. The Jap posts were reported as under a clump of trees, and so many bombs and rockets blasted the spot and the adjacent area that the Air Observer for the Army expressed satisfaction the targets had been eliminated.

VC-91's third group of four TBM-3's on support missions that day took off at 1515 from the MAKIN ISLAND, and joined with four each from the SHAMROCK and SARGENT BAY. Unable to establish radio communication with the Marines' CASCU, they were taken over by the Army unit. Our four and one from the SHAMROCK, which had 100-pounders, were directed to knock out the Command Posts. Four SARGENT and one SHAMROCK planes, with 500-pound bombs, were assigned another target.

There were no clouds and the target area was clear, but the posts themselves could not be seen. Nor could the results of the dropping by the VC-91 planes of 38 bombs and 28 rockets, of which 12 and 10 respectively were said positively to have landed amidst the tree area. Most of the rest were long and landed in the village of Itakazu, starting several fires, including two large ones of several houses each.

As a target for their remaining 12 rockets the VC-91 pilots were told to hit buildings and a road intersection in the town of Toyama. Two rockets blasted holes in the intersection, and the rest damaged several buildings, probably houses. The pilots also made a half-dozen strafing runs, using 50 and 30 calibre guns, and started several fires, including one large one apparently sweeping several houses, which was seen still burning 45 minutes later.

Anti-aircraft fire was seen ~~seen~~ in the distance, around the city of Naha, but it was unseen AA which damaged one plane. On one rocket run Lt. (jg) McNeela's plane was apparently hit by anti-aircraft, possibly 20 mm, at about 2000 feet altitude. A 12-inch hole was knocked out of the top forward section of his windshield, and three lower ~~panels~~ panels were cracked. Inspection after his return to the carrier showed a deep cut in the prop and a small hole in the cowling. The pilot suffered only a superficial scratch on the forehead from the flying glass. He saw no tracers.

Bombs were dropped from two to five per run, spaced manually from 20 to 50 feet, from 2000 to 3000 feet. Rockets were fired in pairs, at 35 to 40 degrees and 1000 to 1500 yards slant range.

Pilots participating were:

- Lieut. J. M. Fletcher
- Lt. (jg) J. F. McNeela
- Ens. H. E. Vieau
- Ens. S. E. Ulmer.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL
REPORT No. VO 91 #53

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

None.

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:

APPROVED BY:

E. H. SPENCER, LT., USNA.C.I. OFFICER

F. M. BLANCHARD, LT., C.O.

9 May 45

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE