

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 27 March 1945 Time (LZT) 0730I (Zone); Lat. 25-20N ; Long. 127-27E
- (e) Mission Direct Support (f) Time of Return 1115I (Zone)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

Type	Squad.	Number			Bombs and Torpedoes	Fuze Setting
(a)	(b)	Taking Off	Engaging Enemy A/C	Attacking Target	Carried (per plane)	(g)
		(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	
FM-2	VC-87	4	-	4	1 x 250 lb. G.P.	Inst. nose fuze Inst. tail fuze

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

Type	Squad.	Number	Base	Type	Squad.	Number	Base
FM-2	VC-92	8	USS TULAGI (CVE-72)				
TBM-3	VC-	8	USS SARGENT BAY (CVE-83)				

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.

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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	
FM-2	60	68	3.75	185	140	-	2550	-	-	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	
LIGHT - Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	X			

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

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

(a) Target(s) & Location(s) Trenches, gun positions and caves near YONTAN Airfield,OKINAWA. (b) Time Over Target(s) 0820-1005 I (Zone).(c) Clouds Over Target 6000 feet, solid overcast. (d) Visibility of Target Clear.(e) Visibility 15 Miles. (f) Bombing Tactics: Type _____ Bomb Sight Used _____

Bombs Dropped Per Run _____ Spacing _____ Altitude of Bomb Release _____

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed None Probably DestroyedNone Damaged None.

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

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No. 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. Describe action fully and comment freely, following applicable items in check list at left. Use additional sheets if necessary.)

The four VC-87 fighters joined up with VT and VF from other squadrons and were directed to attack targets in the hills northeast of YONTAN airfield, OKINAWA ISLAND. Several runs were made on slit trenches, empty gun positions and caves. None of the VC-87 VF could release the 250 lb. bombs, and therefore conducted strafing attack with results undetermined. On retirement, the group strafed a fishing boat in KIMBU WAN, OKINAWA.

Pilots participating in this mission were:

Lt.(jg) E. L. EDWARDS
Lt.(jg) W. H. HERRICK
Ensign R. E. PREATOR
Ensign W. G. ALLEN

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

Failure of bombs to release was investigated, and cause was probably due to fact release mechanisms on airplanes had not been recently exercised. Steps were taken to prevent recurrence by insuring release mechanisms functioned properly prior to further operations. On subsequent flights fighter planes dropped 250 lb. bombs without trouble.

Report Prepared By:

Approved By:

R. E. JOHNSON, Lieutenant, USNR
ACI Officer

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

3-29-45
Date