

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-88 (b) Based on or at USS SAGINAW BAY (c) Report No. 124
 (d) Take off: Date 11 April 1945 Time: (LZT) 1515(I) (Zone); Lat. 25-26N Long. 133-02E
 (e) Mission Direct support and Air Coordinator (f) Time of Return 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)		
TBM-3	VC-88	3	0	3	2 BL: 10-100 GP Mk 80 3-5" HE rcts, Mk 7 mtr	Mk 100A2 (n.d.) Mk 157
					1 PL: 3-5" HE rcts, Mk 7 mtr	Mk 157
F4U-2	VC-88	4	0	4	3-5" HE rcts, Mk 7 mtr	Mk 157

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
			NONE				

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
			(ZONE)	NONE		
			(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		
			NONE		

CONFIDENTIAL

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 124

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Misc. targets - Northern Okinawa (b) Time Over Target(s) 1600-1730I (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 4000 .3 Stratus
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Obscured by sun and haze (e) Visibility 10
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used M: 8
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 1 Spacing _____ Altitude of Bomb Release _____
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed _____ Probably Destroyed _____ Damaged _____

(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 Lugger	50 ft.	3 TBM; 2 FM VC-88	20-100#: 26 rkts 200 rd.30; 950 rd .50	4 rkts strafed	Seriously damaged
2 Mine on beach		4 FM-2 VC-88	1375 rd .50 cal	strafed	Destroyed
3 Gun positions		2 FM-2 VC-88	12 rkts 2500 rds .50 cal	6 rkts strafed	6 destroyed
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).

- #1 A lugger in target area 4048, lying in shallow water, appeared to be lying on it side, definitely unseaworthy, following close hits by bombs, direct hits by rockets and strafing.
- #2 Mine on beach in target 4048 was finally exploded following intensive strafing.
- #3 Six gun position, firing machine guns from thatched huts in 9923 were hit by strafing, the huts were set afire and the guns silenced.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

REPORT No. 124

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

On 11 April 1945 three TBM-3s of VC-33 piloted by Lt. J. D. MITCHELL, E. L. KIMM and G. L. HENDERSON and four F4U-7s of VC-33 piloted by Lt. P. V. HOTT, Lt(jg) L. D. HARRIS, D. L. SIMS and Ensign L. O. FORTUNE, attacked targets of opportunity and gun positions in northern Okinawa. Lt. Mitchell was air coordinator at the target area at the time the rest arrived on a direct support mission. Mitchell spotted a group of men unloading boxes from a lugger lying in shallow water close to a cliff. A white pennant with a red circle in the middle was seen. The men ran, leaving the boxes lying on the narrow beach. In the ensuing bombing rocket and strafing attack the lugger was hit by rockets and strafing and barely missed by bombs; it ceased to be lying on its side at the conclusion of the attack, definitely unseaworthy.

Lt(jg) Harris exploded a beached mine in the same area.

Lt. Hott and Lt(jg) Sims meanwhile were working on gun positions located in thatched huts in 9023 P which were firing at them as they made their run. Six such thatched huts, housing machine gun nests were set afire and destroyed. Some of the runs were steep and some were absolutely flat, extremely low, occasionally these two F4U-7s approached the area 50 to 60 feet below the aiming points on a ridge then pulled up and just over the ridge and went in, guns blazing. Two other cleverly camouflaged positions located in dugouts, flat on ground, covered with brush, in target area 9023 C N H H were finally located but only after ammunition had been expended.

Pilots justifiably complained of the inadequacy of their charts for northern Okinawa. CASCOI referred them to target area by number and letter. No chart has been provided which would enable the pilot to find a 200 yard square in this particular area. The general area charts of the area do not give sufficient detail to permit pinpoint a target.

CONFIDENTIAL

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

REPORT No. 124

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

**Three FM-2s each brought back one rocket which could not be fired.
On one the pig tail had fallen out.**

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

H. D. SCHWAAB, Lt. USNR, AGIO

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

E. L. KEMPF, Lt. USNR, Commanding

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

22 April 1945

DATE