





# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

REPORT No. **VC-91 #54**

## 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	<b>None</b>			
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
<b>None</b>				

## 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	
<b>TBM-3</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>970</b>			<b>8</b>

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	<b>X</b>			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	<b>X</b>			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm		<b>X</b>		

## 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) Artillery Positions, Okinawa. (b) Time Over Target(s) 0800-I (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target Cumulus - 3500 - 7/10  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 10  
(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 3-3-4 Spacing 50 Altitude of Bomb Release 3500  
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

Rockets " " " 4 Slant Range 800-1000 yds. Angle 45°

(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 Artillery Positions in caves onside X of hill TA 7568 F.	<del>XXXX</del> 150'x450'	4 VC-91	78 - 100# G.P. Bombs 61 - 5" H.E. ARs. 970 - rds. .50 cal. 405 - rds. .30 cal.	2/3 3/4 All in area	Undetermined Undetermined
3					
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).

This was an area saturation attack, in which bombs and rockets were dropped on the side of a hill reported as dotted with caves believed used as artillery positions. Pilots were unable to see caves, partly because of smoke from previous bombing and shelling of upwind area. A low-altitude observation hop by the flight leader (from SHAMROCK) was unable to determine the damage; but the area was thoroughly pounded, and some of the caves undoubtedly were closed.

(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

Ground support activities of VC-91 pilots over Okinawa on 11 May got underway at 0730 when eight TEM-3's were catapulted from the MAKIN ISLAND with loads of 10 100-pound GP's and eight 5-inch HE rockets. They joined four VT from the SHAMROCK BAY.

Lt.(jg) Howard, who with Lt.(jg) Butler led the two MAKIN divisions, describes the flight as follows:

"Arriving at an orbit point west of Naha, we circled for about 30 minutes waiting for a target assignment. After receiving it -- artillery positions at TA 7568F -- we had to wait another 30 minutes while another group finished an attack on a nearby target. Finally our target was clear and we got permission from CASCU to start our runs, from northeast to southwest, recovering over the water to the west.

"The target <sup>was</sup> a side of a hill reported to be dotted with caves believed used as artillery positions by the Japs, just to the west of the small inlet extending south from the big Naha lake. Visibility was good as far as the weather was concerned, but the target area itself was obscured by smoke from previous bombing nearby, and the caves could not be seen.

"Three bombing runs were made, dropping three-three-and-four, followed by two rocket runs, in column formation. For our bombing runs we pushed over at 3500 feet, just under the ceiling, into a 45 degree dive, releasing at about 1500 feet. We used a similar dive for our rocket runs, firing at 800 to 1000 yards.

"After the attack the Flight Leader (from SHAMROCK) flew low over the area and reported it thoroughly pounded, but said he otherwise could not tell what damage had been caused. CASCU released the group with a "Well Done".

A meager amount of light AA was seen coming from Naha but it was some distance from the planes. Lt. Smith and Lt. Kane landed at Yontan Field because of hydraulic trouble on the former's plane, then returned to base when it was corrected.

Pilots participating were:

- Lt.(jg) D. K. Butler
- Lt.(jg) A. L. Smith
- Lt.(jg) D. G. Kane
- Ens. D. F. Griesinger
- Lt.(jg) M. D. Howard
- Ens. L. L. Lundquist
- Ens. S. E. Ulmer
- Ens. H. E. Vieau.



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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

**Two bombs on one Plane (on stations 2 and 9) failed to release. The arming bell crank was broken on No. 9 shackle release mechanism. Cause of failure of No. 2 station release not determined.**

**One rocket failed to fire, apparently unplugged when plane catapulted.**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

**E. H. SPENCER, LT., A.C.I. OFFICER**

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

**11 May 45**

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE