





# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 59

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Naha Airfield  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (b) Time Over Target(s) 1700 (I) (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 4500 ft. - strato-cumulus - 10/10ths  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Hazy  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.)
- (e) Visibility 10  
(MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type \_\_\_\_\_ Bomb Sight Used \_\_\_\_\_  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run \_\_\_\_\_ Spacing \_\_\_\_\_  
(NUMBER) (FEET)
- Slant range 1500 yds.  
Attitude of Bomb Release  
(FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed None Probably Destroyed None Damaged One

(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 Naha airfield	2000 yds. X 3000 yds.	8 FM-2	VC-83	48 - 5" (HE) AR Strafe - 4650 rds.	All	Slight
2 S/E plane		1 FM-2	VC-83	Strafe	Many	Slight
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).

- The primary targets were the AA positions around the edge of the airfield. These were extremely difficult to see except when they fired. At least one was definitely destroyed by rockets and another stopped firing after a strafing attack, possibly because the gun crew had all been killed or wounded.
- One S/E plane was strafed on one run by one plane. It was hit but did not burn.

(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

8 VF launched as part of direct support group of 24 VF and 15 VT to support pre-invasion naval operations against Okinawa Jima. This group was divided into two smaller groups and 12 VF and 8 VT were directed to strike the Naha Airfield and endeavor to knock out the AA positions which surrounded the field.

There were numerous gun positions surrounding the airfield but most all of them were camouflaged and very difficult to see from the air except when they fired. At the time of the attack there was a solid overcast at 4500 feet and the AA fire, particularly from the heavies, was intense and also accurate. Several of the planes were bounced around by near-by explosions of heavy AA. Three runs were made from just beneath the overcast with the VF leading the way, strafing and firing rockets. Pull out was at about 1500 feet with rapid straight-away retirement. None of the planes was hit by AA.

It was difficult to observe results of the attack but at least one gun position was destroyed and others were damaged.

**Pilots:** Lieuts. H. C. COOK, D. O. McNINCH; Lieuts.(jg) R. R. TRUESDALE, V. E. FULLER, W. E. FLANKEY, P. C. HOTZ; Ensigns J. J. MEAGHER, Jr., B. H. HUNT.

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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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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**B. V. GATES, Lt. Comdr., USN.**

**4/10/45**

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

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DATE