

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

~~RESTRICTED~~
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-84 (b) Based on or at USS MAKIN ISLAND, at sea (c) Report No. VC-84 #131
 (d) Take off: Date 8 April 1945 Time (LZT) 0525 I (Zone); Lat. 25° 28'N Long. 128° 55'E
 (e) Mission Target Combat Air Patrol, L plus 7, Okinawa Jima (f) Time of Return 0950 I (Zone)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

(a) TYPE	(b) SQUADRON	NUMBER			(f) BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE)	(g) FUZE, SETTING
		(c) TAKING OFF	(d) ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	(e) ATTACKING TARGET		
FM-2	VC-84	4	4	4		

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
Val	1	1	0635 I (ZONE)	2 miles south west of Kerama Retto	1 bomb under fuselage	mottled brown and green, usual red meatballs
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Attack, probably suicide, on ships at Kerama Retto or Okinawa
 Did Any Part of

(i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? No If so, Describe Clouds _____
 (YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

Time of Day and Brilliance of Sun or Moon Morning twilight (k) Visibility 5
 (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		
Val	FM-2	VC-84	Lt. George Shaw-corthorn, USNR	4 x 50 cal	Cockpit and starboard wing root behind, 6-7 o'clock
"	"	"	Lt.(jg) Duane C. Miller USNR	"	Same for both
			Above pilots share credit for Val		

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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) Area of huts, Ie Shima, about 2000 yards east of airfield (8934 Dog Jig 8934 King Queen William). (b) Time Over Target(s) 0810 I (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target 2000, strato cumulus, .8
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear under cloud cover (e) Visibility 25
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBTSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

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

Bombs Dropped per Run _____ 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	(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 Huts area, above	550 x 250 yards	4 FM-2 VC-84	unknown number rounds 50 cal.	All in Area	Unknown
2					
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).

Strafing of the huts started fires in the area.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.
Insufficient light for gun camera film.

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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

On 8 April 1945, L plus 7, 4 FM-2 took off at 0525 I from USS MAKIN ISLAND for Target Combat Air Patrol at Okinawa Jima. They were vectored after reporting on station in the direction of bogeys near a force of our ships. They were then advised that salvos would be fired by our ships in the direction of the bogey. A Val was Tallyhoed at 0635 I, 3 miles away at the same altitude as the CAP, 900 feet. The Val climbed for clouds which was at 2000 feet; it carried a bomb under its fuselage and was a mottled brown and green in color with the usual red meatballs. The FM-2s chased and easily caught the Val which fired inaccurately at them. Bursts from Lt. George Shaw-Corthorn and Lt.(jg) Miller into the cockpit and starboard wingroot resulted in the Val's bursting into flame, nosing over and going into the water. The encounter took place about 2 miles southwest of Kerama Retto. Val's sole evasion was an attempt to reach the cloud cover above. After being relieved on CAP the flight was given permission to attack targets of opportunity on Ie Shima. An area (8834 Dog Jig 8934 King Queen William local grid) containing huts was strafed and fires were started. The flight returned to base at 0950 I.

Pilots - Lt. George Shaw-Corthorn, Lts.(jg) Duane C. Miller,
Alfred E. Monahan, Raymond B. Howard

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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

Equipment performed normally.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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5-4-45

SIGNATURE

AOJ Officer, VC-34

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

Commanding Officer, VC-34

RANK AND DUTY

DATE