

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

## CONFIDENTIAL

### I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VT-33 (b) Based on or at U.S.S. SANGAMON (c) Report No. 5  
 (d) Take off: Date 28 March 1945 Time (LZT) 1331(I) (Zone); Lat. 25°42'N Long. 127°30'E  
 (e) Mission Support-Attack Gun Positions (f) Time of Return 1745(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)		
<b>TBM-3E</b>	<b>VT-33</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10 X 100 G.P. 8 HVAR</b>	<b>Nose Inst. AN-M103A1 Tail .1 sec. AN-M100A2 Nose Inst. Mk. 149 Base .02 sec. Mk. 157</b>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<b>FM-2</b>	<b>VOC-2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>U.S.S. FANSHAW BAY</b>	<b>TBM</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>Support Carrier Unit</b>
<b>FM-2</b>	<b>VC-85</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>U.S.S. LUNGA POINT</b>				<b>51.1.2</b>
<b>TBM</b>	<b>VC-84</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>U.S.S. MAKIN ISLAND</b>	<b>FM-2</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>"</b>

### 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
<b>N-o-n-e</b>			(ZONE)			
			(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	GUNS USED		
<b>N-o-n-e</b>						



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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 5

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Naha Airfield, Okinawa (b) Time Over Target(s) 1415(I) (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target Base 2500 feet, cover 7/10, strato, cumulus  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 12 miles  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used Mk. VIII  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 4 Spacing 100 Altitude of Bomb Release 1500  
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(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)
<sup>1</sup> 3 Gun Positions - - - -		4 VT-33	40 X 100 G.P. 31 HVAR R.P.	Unobserved	Unobserved
2			1250 X .50 cal. 1185 X .30 cal.	" "	" "
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).

1. These gun positions were located within 500 yards of the east side of Naha Airfield, Okinawa, and were firing medium AA, moderate and accurate. The positions are - well hidden and/or camouflaged. Pilots and crewmen were not able to assess damage, especially for two reasons; they were not visually sure whether or not they had hit a gun position and because of dirt and debris from preceding planes' hits, they could not be sure as to the effectiveness of bombs and rockets expended.

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

**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

**Air Group Commander, as Air Coordinator, and three other pilots took off as part of group of 24 FM-2's and 15 TBM's. The group was for support work (pre-landing date). They were given AA positions around Naha Airfield, Okinawa.**

**With 2500 ft. cloud base it was very difficult to come down through the clouds and get any bombing accuracy. Also, the positions were so well camouflaged and/or hidden that pilots were unable to effectively identify a pinpoint target. Also, where several planes are diving in column, after the first two planes have dropped, smoke and debris obscure the target from vision of succeeding planes in the dive.**

**In his fourth dive, Ensign EBERLEY's plane received a direct hit on the underside of his port wing, just outboard of the stub wing. He returned to base and landed.**

**EBERLEY informed base that the plane stalled out at 125 knots (with wheels and flaps up). He made several passes at this speed but was waved off. He was told to get some altitude and experiment. After an hour, he called in that he could approach more slowly. He then came in again and received a cut at about 90 knots. He was brought in a little high and when he got the cut, he nosed over a little and brought the stick back rather severely. This resulted in a whip stall and just as the port wing started to fall off, the hook caught and straightened out the plane into a good landing.**

**No other planes were damaged. The wing was changed and the plane received an up within twelve hours.**

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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

The projectile which damaged the wing of Ensign EBERLEY's plane appeared to be a 40 mm in size with contact fuze. It penetrated the under side of the wing, exploded inside, and came out the topside in about 25 pieces, making holes from the size of a fingernail to 2 1/4" in diameter. The leading edge of the wing, directly forward of the hit, buckled in as if it had hit a tree at taxi speed.

No jolt was felt by the pilot or crew when the hit was received, but they heard a crack like that of a whip.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

28 March 1945

**A. W. SWARNER, Lieut. (A) U.S.N.R.**  
A.C.I. Officer VT-33

**F. B. GILKESON, Lieut. Comdr.,**  
Comdg Officer VT-33 U.S.N.  
Commander CVEG-33

SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

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DATE