

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)
CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-83 (b) Based on or at USS SARGENT BAY (CVE-83) (c) Report No. 51
 (d) Take off: Date 26 March 1945 Time (LZT) 0659 (I) (Zone); Lat. 25°-24' N Long. 127°-32' E
 (e) Mission Direct aircraft support of Invasion of Kerama Retto (f) Time of Return 1002 (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)		
FM-2	VC-83	4	0	4	1 - Napalm 6 - 5" (HE) AR	Inst. Nose plug-.02 delay base
TBM-3	VC-83	4	0	4	8 - 5" (HE) AR 10 - 100 lb. GP	Nose plug-.02 delay base Inst. -.025 or .010

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
FM-2	VC-83	8	USS SAGINAW BAY	FM-2	VC-9	8	USS NATOMA BAY
FM-2	VC-96	4	USS RUDYERD BAY	TBM	CVEG-33	4	USS SARGAMON
FM-2	VC-2	4	USS FAIRHAWK BAY	TBM	VC-18	4	USS ANZIO

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
		None	(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		
			None		

NO. R2-N3 DATE 26 March 1945
 UNIT VC-83 U.S.S. SARGENT BAY
 MADE FOR VC-83 ACA-1 Report #51
 SUBJECT: Photo taken during bomb-
ing run by Lt. E. PARKER.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL
RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. **51**

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) **(2) Target area 3474 J- 3574 K** (b) Time Over Target(s) **0800 (I)** (Zone)
(3) Target area 2771
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target **3000 feet. - cumulus - 6/10ths.**
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target **Hazy** (e) Visibility **5**
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Glide** Bomb Sight Used **Mark 8 gunsight**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) TYPE
Slant range 1500 yds.

Bombs Dropped per Run **3 planes - 5** Spacing **50** Altitude of Bomb Release **1500 ft.**
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed **None** Probably Destroyed **None** Damaged **None**

(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 CD gun		4 FM-2; 4 TBM VC-33	25 - 5" (HE) AR 10 - 100 lb. GP		Serious
2 Group of 21 boats	20 feet boats	4 FM-2 VC-33	4 - Napalm 12 - 5" (HE) AR		7 destroyed
3 Targets of opportunity	200 yd. sq. area	4 FM-2; 4 TBM VC-33	15 - 5" (HE) AR 25 - 100 lb. GP		Serious
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. Although the coastal defense gun was well camouflaged and could not be observed by the pilots, it was marked by the Air Coordinator who reported a number of rocket hits and some bomb hits right on the gun. The CD gun was either very seriously damaged or also destroyed.

2. The napalm bombs and the rockets hit right in the midst of the group of boats which were about the size of LCVP's. At least seven of the boats were completely destroyed by fire. Many of the others were hit and seriously damaged, some probably being beyond repair.

3. Small power plant, several other buildings and groups of small boats damaged by fire, explosion and strafing hits. Thick smoke made accurate observation of damage impossible. See photographs attached.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? **Yes** 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

4 VF and 4 VT of VC-83 were launched as part of a direct support group of 24 VF and 15 VT to make attacks in support of the invasion of the islands of Kerama Retto. The group was split into smaller units by the Air Coordinator and each unit assigned to a different target.

VC-83's 4 VF and 4 VT plus an additional 4 VF were instructed to attack a camouflaged coastal defense gun close to the shoreline on Zamami Shima. The gun position was so well camouflaged that none of the pilots was able to spot it but the exact location of the gun was marked by the Air Coordinator and the planes did an excellent job of hitting the exact spot designated. The Coordinator reported many direct hits.

VC-83's 4 VF were then instructed to attack a group of 21 small boats located in one of the coves of Zamami Shima. A vigorous attack with Napalm, rockets and strafing was made with excellent results. At least 7 of the boats were completely destroyed by fire and many, if not all of the rest were seriously damaged.

All 24 VF and 15 VT then combined into one group, and since the remaining time on station was very short, the pilots were instructed to expend all remaining armament on targets of opportunity in area 2771 on Yakabi Shima.

During the course of the first attack the flight was suddenly met with a barrage of rockets fired from rocket boats. No previous warning of the rocket barrage had been given by CASCU and the flight narrowly averted disaster as they were compelled to fly right through the barrage.

VF Pilots: Lieut. H.C. COOK; Lieuts. (jg) J.R. McDONALD, R.R. THURSDALE, P.L. PAGE.

VT Pilots: Lieut. E.A. PARKER, Jr.; Lieuts. (jg) C.H. BOWEN, V.M. SCHUHART, R. FOREHAND.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL
RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

REPORT No. 51

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:

APPROVED BY:

H. VERNON ENEY, Lt., USNR, AGI OFFICER

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

4/8/45

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE

Squadron Commander