

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

Confidential
~~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 #114
 (d) Take off: Date 28 March 1945 Time (LZT) 0515 I (Zone); Lat. _____ Long. _____
 (e) Mission Target Combat Air Patrol and Support, L-3, Okinawa Shima. (f) Time of Return 0741 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-84	8	4	8	6 planes 6 and 2 planes 5 rockets, Mk 1 body, Mk. 7 motor.	Nose - none Base - instantaneous

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
FM-2	VC-84	4	USS SAVO ISLAND				

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	0630 I (ZONE)	Yontan Airfield	Object about 10 feet long, with what appeared to be flam braces, carried under midsection, possible torpedo.	Olive drap, greenish, usual red neat-balls
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Unknown, apparently headed for Yontan airfield
 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 _____
 (j) of Sun or Moon Morning twilight (k) Visibility 10
(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		
Val	FM-2	VC-84	Lt. George Shaw-Corthorn	5 x 50 cal. (port in-board wouldn't fire)	Engine, cockpit, wing roots, below, 12 o'clock.	Destroyed

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VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those listed in II only). **None**

(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				
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). **None**

(a) NO	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NAME, RANK OR RATING	(d) CAUSE	(e) CONDITION OR STATUS

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	
FM-2	62	30	2.4	233	160		8020			8

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

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

X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (use check list at left).

SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

- ____ TURNS
- ____ DIVES
- ____ CEILINGS
- ____ RANGE
- ____ PROTECTION
- ____ ARMAMENT

Val turned inside FM-2 which carried 8 rockets and wing tanks indicating 120 knots at about 500 feet. FM-2 carrying above load easily closed Val at 200 knots.

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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) Planes on ground and installations, Yontan Airfield, Okinawa Jima. (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) 0805 I (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 2500 cumulus, 10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear below cloud base (e) Visibility 15
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type _____ Bomb Sight Used _____
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Rockets Bombs Dropped per Run 2 Spacing _____ Altitude of Bomb Release 1000 - 800
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 12 Probably Destroyed 0 Damaged 4

(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 Planes Yontan Airfield		8 FM-2 VC-84	(36) rockets, Mk1 body, Mk.7 motor.	All	12 destroyed 4 damaged
2			Unknown no. rounds .50 caliber.		
3 Underground installations	3 underground installations	6 FM-2 VC-84	(7) rockets as above	All	Unknown
4 north end Yontan Airfield, possible hangar, trenches, buildings.	100 x 75 ft. each.		unknown no. rounds .50 caliber.		
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).

Planes on ground destroyed were 2 Vals, 4 Oscars, 3 Tonys, 1 Zeke, 1 Nick, 1 Sally - this assessment is believed to be conservative. In addition at least 4 other planes were damaged. The above excludes damage attributable to 4 FM-2 of VC-91 who joined in the attack. The planes listed above all burned fiercely and many exploded. While the extent of damage to underground and other installations is not known, there were explosions from 2 direct rocket hits on the mouth of underground installations at 8194 Obee 2 on local grid, and fires were started.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes 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

On 29 March, L-5, at 0515 I, 8 FM-2 took off from USS MAKIN ISLAND for Okinawa Jima. The planes were to have been part of a support group but take off time was set earlier so they could first act as target combat air patrol. The divisions were split and assigned different stations, while proceeding south near Zaapa Misaki, Ensign Hobson tallyhoed a Val about a mile and a half off turning east around the cape in the direction of Yontan Airfield, CAP was at about 2000 feet and the Val at 200 over the water when sighted at about 0630, CAP immediately turned for the Val which completed its turn around the cape and headed south for Yontan Airfield. CAP closed rapidly to 500 feet and bracketed. The Val jinxed and made turn, easily turning inside the FM-2 which retained their rockets and wing tanks. Lt.(jg) Miller got on the Val's tail but overran when the Val turned; he got back on him again with a wingover and looking down observed that there was no gunner in the cockpit. Both Lt.(jg) Miller and Ensign Tietjen his wingman got hits on the Val. As the Val made another turn away from Lt.(jg) Miller, it turned directly toward Lt. Shaw-Corthorn who got in head on bursts from slightly below. The Val burst into flame from these hits, nosed over and was seen by the pilots to go straight in and crash southeast of the field (8492 on local grid).

Reports had been received during the previous night and early morning of probable landings of enemy planes on Yontan and Kadena throughout those periods. Pilots had been briefed accordingly just before take off. On being relieved from CAP and receiving instructions to strike targets of opportunity, Lt. Shaw-Corthorn proceeded to Yontan where he observed more than 20 planes on the ground, excluding wrecks and dummies. He called Lt. Sedaker and suggested that he bring his division over when relieved from CAP. Lt. Sedaker did so and the two divisions from 0805 I to 0850 I attacked the planes on the ground in many rocket and strafing runs. At least 12 planes in revetments were destroyed, all being operational, burning fiercely and many exploding. They were identified by the pilots as 2 Vals, 4 Oscars, 3 Tonys, 1 Zeke, 1 Fick and 1 Sally. The planes were clean and some were silver colored. Several dummies were spotted on the runways. At least 4 more operational planes were seriously damaged. 4 FM-2 of VC-91 joined the attack later and were observed to get good results but the above excludes their score. In addition trenches and buildings were strafed and rocketed, fires were started and explosions followed rocket hits and strafing into the entrances of underground installations at the north end of the field. The flight returned to base at 0741 I.

Pilots:

Lt. George Shaw-Corthorn, division leader, Lt.(jg) Duane C. Miller, Ensigns Bernard Hobson, Richard D. Tietjen.
Lt. Thomas S. Sedaker, division leader, Lt.(jg) Robert E. Hooks, Ensigns John R. Stroppel, Johan D.W. Hubbeling, Jr.

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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

3 defective motors prevented release of 3 rockets, a bowed coverplate stopped one gun from firing and ammunition jammed in the chute of another.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Robert C. FULTON, Jr., Lt., USNR
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
AC1 Officer, VC-84

Douglas K. ENGLISH, Lt., (A1), USNR
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
Commanding Officer, VC-84

5-3-45

DATE