

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-91 (b) Based on or at USS SAVO ISLAND (CVE78) (c) Report No. 2
(d) Take off: Date 26 March 1945 Time (LZT) 1130-I (Zone); Lat. 25° 30' N. Long. 127° 30' E.
(e) Mission Direct Support over islands of Kerama Retto (f) Time of Return 1600-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)		
<u>FM-2</u>	<u>VC-91</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6 - H. H. Rockets</u>	<u>Tail - No Delay</u>
<u>FM-2</u>	<u>VC-91</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>None</u>	

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>TBM-3</u>	<u>?</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>USS PETROP BAY (CVE80)</u>				

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
<u>None</u>			<u>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____

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

(j) Time of Day and Brilliance 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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			
<u>None</u>						

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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) Bldgs. and Installations on (b) Time Over Target(s) 1430-I (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target Cumulus - 3000 - 6/10
Tokashiki Shima, and Mae Shima, Kerama Retto
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Hazy (e) Visibility 8
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type None 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 (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 Bldg. T.A. 3964 "E"	30' x 60'	8 VC-91	14 - H.E. Rockets) 1200 - Rds. .50 cal.)	Majority	Undetermined
2 Two Warehouses, T.A. 4069 "G"	40' x 80'	8 VC-91	2 - H.E. Rockets 3050 - Rds. .50 cal.	None Majority	Material
3 Village, T.A. 4971 "V" & 4970 "B"	- - -	8 VC-91	2 - H.E. Rockets 5100 - Rds. .50 cal.	Both Majority	Material
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 first building was strafed and considerable number of incendiary bullets were fired into the target, but no explosions were noted and the target did not burn prior to the departure of the pilots.

Two warehouses near the beach were thoroughly strafed, and two rockets were fired at the buildings. The rockets missed, but the strafing accurately covered the targets.

Several buildings were strafed in the town. Two rockets were fired, each hitting one building, which caught on fire. Other buildings were strafed and material damage was done to the village.

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

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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

A direct support group over Kerama Retto, consisting of eight FM-2's, was launched at 1130-I. They were joined by four TBM-3's from U.S.S. PETROF BAY (CVE80).

On arriving at the orbit point, which was just south of Tokashiki Shima, they were directed to orbit until further orders. After two hours the Commander Aircraft Support Control Units ordered them to reconnoiter the southeast coast of Tokashiki Shima, and attack targets of opportunity there and on Mae Shima, an adjacent island.

Arriving over Tokashiki, they selected a village on the eastern coast at the central part of the island. The first target was a sizeable building and two runs were made on it. The TBM's followed the FM's in the runs, but attacked different targets.

The target building in the central part of the town was hit by several rockets and was thoroughly strafed. No explosions were noted, however, and the target did not burn prior to the departure of the pilots.

The next three runs were made on two warehouses which were in the same village but near the beach. Rockets were fired at these warehouses but they overshot. The strafing was accurate, and the buildings were thoroughly riddled. They did not burn so far as could be ascertained.

All of the runs on the buildings in this village were made from southeast to northwest and from an altitude of approximately 5000 feet. The angle of dive was about 35°, and the pull-outs were generally from 1000 feet to 1500 feet. The rockets were fired at a slant range, averaging 2000 yards.

After completion of their runs on this village, they proceeded to Mae Shima, and found as their only target a village which appeared to be unharmed.

They made two runs from east to west on the buildings in this village, and two rockets were fired into one of the largest buildings seen. It caught on fire, and was ~~burning~~ burning on the departure of the pilots. Other buildings in the town were strafed, and it is thought material damage was done to them although no additional fires were noted.

No enemy aircraft was encountered, and no enemy anti-aircraft fire was seen at either target.

After the runs on Mae Shima, the FM's returned to base without further incident.

The following FM pilots took part in the direct support work:

Lt. W. F. Jordan (Flight Leader)	Lt.(jg) R. L. Gaither
Lt.(jg) T. Molchan	Ens. H. E. Bates
Ens. J. M. Metzger	Ens. D. L. Campbell
Ens. M. J. Hoff	Ens. R. A. Cullom

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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

None.

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:

B. H. SPENCER, LT., A.C.I. OFFICER
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

F. H. BLANCHARD, LT., C.O.
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

26 Mar 45
DATE

A. W. PARKER, LT., A.C.I. OFFICER