OPNAV 16-V-#S37
Form AC-1
Sheet 1 of 5

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

## I. GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-94 (b) Based on or at USS SHAMROCK BAY (CVE84) (c) Report No. 64

(d) Take off: Date 5/20/45 Time (LZT) 1130 I (Zone); Lat. 25-22 N. Long. 128-04 E.

(e) Mission Direct support, Okinawa (f) Time of Return 1530 I (Zone)

## II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

| TYPE (a) | SQUADRON (b) | NUMBER TAKING OFF (c) | NUMBER ENGAGING ENEMY A/C (d) | NUMBER ATTACKING TARGET (e) | BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE) (f) | FUZE, SETTING (g) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TBM-3 | VC-94 | 4 | | 4 | 10x100 g.p. - AN-M 30<br>8 AR - Mk 7x3.5" M 5" H | Mk 219 nose - instant.,<br>AN-M 101 A2 tail-.025 delay. Mk 146 base - impact. |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

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

| TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE | TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TBM-3 | VC-83 | 4 | SARGENT BAY | | | | |
| " | VC-97 | 4 | SHIPLEY BAY | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

## 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | (ZONE) | | | |
| | | | (ZONE) | | | |
| | | | (ZONE) | | | |

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____

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

(j) Time of Day and Brilliance of Sun or Moon _____ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (k) Visibility _____ (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: TYPE A/C | SQUADRON | PILOT OR GUNNER | GUNS USED | (c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE | (d) DAMAGE CLAIMED |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

OPNAV-16-V-#S37
Form AC-1
Sheet 2 of 5

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. 84

## VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those listed in II only).

| (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).

| (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 | |
| [illegible]-3 | 67 | 67 | 4 | 330 | 230 | | 500 | | | 4 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |

## 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

OPNAV-16-V-#S37
Form [illegible]-A-1
Sheet 3 of 5

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 64

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Tombs, Okinawa (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) 1300-1345 I (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target 4000, cumulus, 8/10 (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Hazy (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility 8 (MILES)

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

Bombs Dropped per Run 2 (NUMBER) Spacing Salvo (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 2000 (FEET)

AR: 2 per run, glide angle 30°, slant range 1500 yds.

(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 10 tombs | Each 30x30'; in area 200x 50 yds. | 4 / VC-94 | 40x100 lb. g.p., 30 AR, 500 rds. .50 cal. | 75% among tombs. | 6 seriously damaged. |
| 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).

(1) Tops of 5 tombs and side of 1 blown away.

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

OPNAV-16-V-#537
Form ACA-1
Sheet [redacted] of 5

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)
CONFIDENTIAL
REPORT No 64

## 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

At 1130 I of 10 May a group of 12 TBM-3's - 4 each from the SHAMROCK BAY, SARGENT BAY, and SHIPLEY BAY - took off to provide direct support over Okinawa. Each of the SHAMROCK BAY planes carried 10x100 lb. g.p.'s with an instantaneous nose fuze and a .025 second delay tail. At the objective area our planes were detached from the group with instructions to attack a tomb area arming only the .025 delay tail fuze. The area involved was 50x200 yards and contained about 10 tombs each about 30x30 feet. The SHAMROCK BAY planes made 5 individual glide bombing runs, starting at 4000 and releasing at 2000 feet. These were followed by 4 rocket and strafing runs. 75% of the projectiles hit the tomb area. An inspection following the attack revealed that the crowns of 5 tombs were destroyed and the side of 1 blown in.

This is the first instance in which our planes have been called upon to use delayed action fuses, despite the fact that they have repeatedly attacked caves and tombs. The tombs are constructed of limestone blocks and are 30-36" thick. Frequently they are built into the sides of hills which gives added protection. These tombs, it would seem, represent the ideal target for delayed action fuzes and the best possible example of when <u>not</u> to use an instantaneous fuse. The destruction of 6 tombs in this attack with 100 lb. bombs fused with .025 delay detonators speaks for the value of delayed action fuzing. CASCU's in the Okinawa operation have shown a singular lack of appreciation of the value of such fuzing.

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)
CONFIDENTIAL
REPORT No. 64

## 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:

Grant W. KELLEHER, Lieut., USNR, — 5/11/45
SIGNATURE — RANK AND DUTY — DATE

A.C.I. Officer.

APPROVED BY:

L. E. [redacted], Lieut., USNR,
SIGNATURE — RANK AND DUTY

Acting Commanding Officer.