

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-84 (b) Based on or at USS MAKIN ISLAND, at sea (c) Report No. VC-84 #103
 (d) Take off: Date 27 March 1945 Time (LZT) 1- 0552 I, 2- 0745 I,
3- 0930 I, (Zone); Lat. 25° 30' N Long. 127° 20' E
4 -1230 I, 5- 1331 I, 6- 1524 I,
 (e) Mission Air Observer, L-5, Okinawa Jima (f) Time of Return 1- 0947 I, (Zone)
2- 1145 I, 3- 1331, 4- 1535,
5- 1845, 6- 1850.

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)		
TBM-3	VC-84	6	0	6	10 - 100 lb GP AN-M 30 8 Rockets, Mk. 1 body, Mk. 7 motor.	Nose - instantaneous Tail - .01 sec. delay Nose - none Base - instantaneous

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE

IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only). **None**

(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) _____
 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		

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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	
TH-3	35	40	4.1	530	222	1350	1905			6

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 —

URNS

DIVES

CEILINGS

RANGE

PROTECTION

ARMAMENT

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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) #See below
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (b) Time Over Target(s) #See below (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target None affecting attacks
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.)
- (e) Visibility 25
(MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used None
(TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run All Spacing _____ Altitude of Bomb Release 1500
(NUMBER) (FEET)
- Rockets per Run - 3 planes all, 3 planes 4; slant range 3000 - 1000 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)
1 Area 1	800 x 200 x 600 yards	1 TBM-3 VC-84	9 x 100 lb GP AN-M 30 8 Rockets, Mk 1 body, Mk. 7 motor.	All	unknown
2 Area 2	200 x 200 yards	1 TBM-3 VC-84	10 x 100 lb GP as above	All	unknown
3 Area 3	200 x 400 yards	2 TBM-3 VC-84	8 Rockets as above	All	unknown
4 Area 4	200 x 200 yards	2 TBM-3 VC-84	20 x 100 lb GP as above	All	unknown
5		2 TBM-3 VC-84	16 Rockets as above	All	unknown
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. Area along west beaches vicinity of Tokashiki Town, Tokashiki Shima, Kerama Retto (3868 Queen Victor 3867 Able Baker Charlie Fox George How 3767 Item Jig, on local grid) 0800 I.
2. Area 1000 yards north of Tokashiki town, Tokashiki Shima, Kerama Retto, containing reported coast defense gun positions. (4070 Love on local grid) 1040 I.
3. Area in northern part Aka Shima, Kerama Retto, reported to contain defense positions. (8069 Dog Jig 3169 Fox on local grid) 1200 I.
4. Area on northeast beach Mae Shima, Kerama Retto, containing caves (4971 Item on local grid) 1640 and 1730 I.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.
Damage not shown

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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

For convenience Air Observer flights for 27 March 1945, L-5, Okinawa Jima, are contained in one report. There were 6 such flights in all the first taking off at 0652 I and the last at 1524 I. Observation was confined to Kerama Retto in support of operations being carried on in those islands. In the course of each flight a target was assigned, several having been previously spotted and reported by the observer or his pilot. The same target was assigned in several cases and in one case the pilot led a support group of VP in strafing an area with which he was already familiar. Bombing runs were made on the average from about 4000 feet with 100 lb. G.P. released at 1500 feet and pullout at 1000 feet. Rockets were fired at slant range of 5000 to 1000 feet. Specific results of the various attacks were not observed. Many dummy runs were made at low altitude to investigate reported enemy positions for CASCU.

Pilots

Lt. Richard I. Haley
Lt. Thomas R. Young
Lt. David J. Conroy
Lt. Francis A. Noll
Lt.(jg) William H. Bartles
Lt.(jg) Howard A. Hughes

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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

Due to faulty bomb bay synchronization 1 bomb failed to drop and 1 gun jammed because of link stoppage. Otherwise equipment performed in normal manner.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

Robert C. FULTON, Jr., Lt., USNR
AG1 Officer, VC-84

RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

Douglas K. ENGLISH, Lt., (A1), USNR
Commanding Officer, VC-84

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

4-23-45

DATE