AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

JIII NEDUIL	ing	2-03	(b)	Based on or at	JSS SAVO I	SLAND (CV)	378)	c) Report N	022	
				Time (LZT)	1550-1/	Zone); La	t. 250 34	Lor	ng. 127° 3	21 B.
Take off: D						(() Time of	1145-I/1 Return 4	1745-I/	Zone)
Mission	Direct	Support	work ove	r Okinawa	Shime.					
II. OWN	AIRCRAF	T OFFICI	ALLY COVI	ERED BY THIS	S REPORT.	AND TOPPEDOES		FII	ZE, SETTING	
TYPE SQUADRON TAKING OFF			ENGAGING ATTACKING ENEMY A/C TARGET		BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE) (f)			(g)		
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	8 - 5" H.I)			-
or a tr	; -91	6	0	6 1	0 - 100	.P. Bombe	•)	Tail -	No Delay	
			^	7	4 - 500# (J.P. Bombs	•	Inst. B	ose - Tei	.0
CETAGORD	3-91 C-91	1	0	0	None.			7017	No Delay	
		5	0	11	Some on	DATION		Separate separate		
		OR ALLIE NUMBER	DAIRCRAF	T EMPLOYED BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER		BASE	
	QUADRON		USS STEA	MER BAY (C	VE87) P6P	CVLG	4	ACTION TO THE PERSON NAMED AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON NAMED AND	TOTANDE	
me 14114	0-90 0-84	5	USS MAKI	N ISLAND(C	VESS) TEM	S CVIG	15 8	USS IND	I ISLAND	-
24 V	10-85			A PT. (CVE						
		1 1	SERVED OR	ENGAGED (B	e)	BOMBS, TORP GUNS	(f) EDOES CARRI	ED;	(g) CAMOUFLAGE MARKING	AND
TYPE	NO. OBSERVED	NO ENGAGIN	NG TIME ENCOUNTE	ERED ENCO	e) ION OF UNTER	GUNS	OBSERVED		141/11/11/1	
			(2	ZONE)						
fone				ZONE)						
one			(?	ZONE)						
				ZONE)						
Apparen Did Any Encount Time of	Part of er(s) Occi Day and B	ur in Cloud rilliance	ds? (YES OR I	If so, Desci	, OVERCAST; ETC.)	(k) \	PE AND TENTHS	S OF COVER)	
Apparen Did Any Encount Time of	Part of er(s) Occi Day and B	ur in Cloud rilliance	ds? (YES OR I	If so, Desci	, OVERCAST; ETC.)	(k) \	'isibility		(d)
Apparen Did Any Encount Time of of Sun of V. ENI TYPE	Part of er(s) Occider(s) Occider Moon — EMY AIRC (b) DESTR	rilliance ROYED OR DA	(NIGHT, E	ZONE) If so, Desci	NAIR (By C)	Listed in 1	'isibility	(MILES)	(d) DAMAC CLAIME
Apparen Did Any Encount Time of of Sun of V. ENI TYPE	Part of er(s) Occi Day and Bor Moon —	rilliance ROYED OR DA	(NIGHT, E	ZONE) If so, Descion (Contract of the contract of the contrac	NAIR (By C))wn Aircraft	Listed in 1	only).	(MILES)	(d) DAMAC CLAIMS
Apparen Did Any Encount Time of of Sun of V. ENI TYPE	Part of er(s) Occider(s) Occider Moon — EMY AIRC (b) DESTR	rilliance ROYED OR DA	(NIGHT, E	ZONE) If so, Descion (Contract of the contract of the contrac	NAIR (By C))wn Aircraft	Listed in 1	only).	(MILES)	(d) DAMAC CLAIMI
a) Apparent Did Any Encount Time of Sun (V. ENI	Part of er(s) Occider(s) Occider Moon — EMY AIRC (b) DESTR	rilliance ROYED OR DA	(NIGHT, E	ZONE) If so, Descion (Contract of the contract of the contrac	NAIR (By C))wn Aircraft	Listed in 1	only).	(MILES)	(d) DAMAC CLAIME
Apparen Did Any Encount Time of of Sun of V. ENI TYPE	Part of er(s) Occider(s) Occider Moon — EMY AIRC (b) DESTR	rilliance ROYED OR DA	(NIGHT, E	ZONE) If so, Descion (Contract of the contract of the contrac	NAIR (By C))wn Aircraft	Listed in 1	only).	(MILES)	(d) DAMAC CLAIME
Apparen Did Any Encount Time of of Sun of V. ENI TYPE	Part of er(s) Occider(s) Occider Moon — EMY AIRC (b) DESTR	rilliance ROYED OR DA	(NIGHT, E	ZONE) If so, Descion (Contract of the contract of the contrac	NAIR (By C))wn Aircraft	Listed in 1	only).	(MILES)	(d) DAMAC CLAIM!
Apparen Did Any Encount Time of of Sun of V. ENI TYPE	Part of er(s) Occider(s) Occider Moon — EMY AIRC (b) DESTR	rilliance ROYED OR DA	(NIGHT, E	ZONE) If so, Descion (Contract of the contract of the contrac	NAIR (By C))wn Aircraft	Listed in 1	only).	(MILES)	(d) DAMA(CLAIM)
Apparen Did Any Encount Time of of Sun V. ENI TYPE ENEMY A/C	Part of er(s) Occider(s) Occider Moon — EMY AIRC (b) DESTR	rilliance ROYED OR DA	(NIGHT, E	ZONE) If so, Descion (Contract of the contract of the contrac	NAIR (By C))wn Aircraft	Listed in 1	only).	(MILES)	(d) DAMAC CLAIME

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED (Reclassify when filled out)

COMPLDINEPORT

22

(a) TYPE OWN A/C	(b) SQUADRON	CAUSE: TYPE ENEMY A/C, TYPE GUN, OR OPERATIONAL CAU	ONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of to the self-sealing tanks, equipment hit)	(Give Bureau serial number of planes destroyed		
None						
1						
VII. PE	RSONNEL	CASUALTIES (in aircraft list	ted in II only; identify with planes	listed in VI by Nos. at left).		
a) (b) IO. SQUADROI		(c) NAME, RANK OR RATING	(d) CAUSE	(e) CONDITION OR STATUS		
ORIG						

VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA FOR PLANES RETURNING NO. OF PLANES (g) TOTAL AMMUNITION EXPENDED AV. FUEL. CONSUMED AV. FUEL TYPE A/C RETURNING MM 20MM LOADED RETURN IN AIR OUT 300 330 200 50 TBM-3 70

CALIBER NONE MEAGER MODERATE INTENSE

HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over

MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm

LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm

180

175

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

330

233

2.75

SPEED, CLIMB, at various altitudes

THE-S

FW_2

40

None.

45

TURNS
DIVES
CEILINGS
RANGE
PROTECTION
ARMAMENT

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. 22

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

This report covers strikes by three groups of VC-91 on 1 April to support the landings on Okinawa Shima. A total of eleven TBM's and sixteen FM's participated. Three TBM's had to return early because of engine trouble, and a fourth returned as an escort. On

the third strike of the day, Lt. R. F. Richards was air coordinator.

The first strike was made by two TBM's and four FM's which took off at 0745-I and rendezvoused with seven TBM's and four FM's from U.S.S. MAKIN ISLAND (CVE93) and two FM's from U.S.S. LUNGA POINT (CVE94) northeast of Kerama Retto. A TBM from MAKIN ISLAND was air coordinator.

Their target assignment from Commander Air Support Control Units was a hill at target area 8486 "A & F", which was dotted by tombs and was considered as a possible troop concentration area. After one circle of the target for reconnaissance purposes, the nineteen planes pushed-over from 5500 feet, the four FM's of VC-91 leading, the TRM's following and the remaining FM's last.

ped their bombs in train at an altitude of release at 2500 feet with an intervalometer spacing of 40 feet. Two more runs were made in column formation; the fighters and torpedo bombers firing rockets in pairs from a glide angle of 45° to 35° starting at about 2000 yards slant range. The area was obscured by smoke and dust, and it is impossible to determine the exact damage. The hilltop was well plastered.

The following pilots took part in the first strike:

TBM: Lt. (jg) B. K. Harmon, Flight Leader
Ens. H. E. Vieau

FM: Lt. (jg) R. L. Gaither
Ens. H. E. Bates
Ens. D. L. Campbell

Ens. R. A. Cullom

ing of five TBM's with only two of the planes remaining to participate in the strike. The TBM's joined up at the same rendezvous point as group one with eight TBM's and four F6F's from U.S.S. INDEPENDENCE (CVE22) and nine FM's from U.S.S. STEAMER BAY (CVE37).

gum emplacements in target area 7269 "T4", near Naha Airfield. An INDEPENDENCE TEM pilot acted as air coordinator, and sent two of the STEAMER BAY FM's down to the area and pin-point targets with their rockets. The air coordinator then led the TEM's down in column, the two TEM's of VC-91 in the rear, followed by the remaining fighters.

Lt.(jg) M.D. Howard fired his eight rockets in pairs, starting at 3500 feet, at 2000 feet dumping his ten 100% bombs at an intervalometer spacing of thirty feet. 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:

(Continued from Page 4)

Lt. (jg) E. E. Younglove made a similar attack except that his bombs were 500%, and he dropped them in salvo. One of Lt. (jg) Younglove's bombs hit a gun emplacement destroying it and damage was believed caused to nearby emplacements although smoke and dust obscured the terget.

The following pilote returned early and did not actually take part in the strike:

Ens. L. L. Lundquist Ins. W. F. Hancock Ens. S. E. Ulmer

A third group was launched at 1530-I, one TBM pilot, Lt.(jg) D. K. Butler, returned immediately to base because of engine trouble. Lt. R. F. Richards acted as air coordinator and carried no bombs. The two The planes carried ten 100 bombs and eight rockets each, and only two of the twelve fighters had six rockets apiece. They joined up immediately with eight TBM's and one FM from U.S.S. MAKIN ISLAND (CVE93). the latter sharing air coordinator duties with Lt. Richards.

The group was sent to target area 7169 "N" with instructions to knock out three gun emplacements near the Naha Airfield. Attacking in a "round-robbin" formation, the strafing FM's preceded the TBM's, who expended all of their rockets and bombs in two sweeps. He direct hits were observed, but several near misses presumably caused some damage to the installations. The bombs were dropped at 2000 feet, with a spacing of 100 feet, while the rockets were fired at a slant range of 1500 yards at a dive angle of 50°. The fighters strafed, but the demage inflicted to the gun emplacements is believed negligible.

The pilots participating in the third strike are:

Lt. R. F. Richards, Air Coordinator Lt. (jg) J. P. Melleela Ens. L. L. Lundquist

Lt. W. E. Ryan PMS J. C. Habbersett Lt. (jg) J. T. Sippel Ers. F. W. Smith

Lt. W. F. Jordan Lt. (jg) T. Molchan Ens. J. M. Metsger Ims. M. J. Hoff

Lt. (Js) R. L. Gaither Ens. H. E. Bates Ems. D. L. Campbell

None.

APPROVED BY

SIGNATURE

E. H. SPENCER, LT., A.C.I. OFFICER SIGNATURE

F. M. BLANCHARD, LT., C.O.