

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-34 (b) Based on or at USS MAKIN ISLAND, at sea (c) Report No. VC-34 #133
(d) Take off: Date 8 April 1945 Time (LZT) 1530 I (Zone); Lat. 25° 29'N Long. 127° 49'E
(e) Mission Support, L plus 7, Okinawa Jima (f) Time of Return 1830 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>TBM-3</u>	<u>VC-34</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3 (10) 100 lb GP An-M 30</u> <u>8 rockets, Mk 1 body, Mk 2</u> <u>mortar.</u> <u>1 plane (3) 500 lb Depth</u> <u>bombs An-Mk 54</u>	<u>Nose - instantaneous</u> <u>Tail - .025 sec. delay</u> <u>Nose - none</u> <u>Base - instantaneous</u> <u>Nose - instantaneous</u> <u>An-Mk 250</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>FM-2</u>	<u>VC-9</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>USS NATOMA BAY</u>				

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)

(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 _____
(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON, DAY, OVERCAST, ETC.) (k) Visibility _____ (MILES)

V. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only). None

(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	
T-3	40	50	3.0	330	220		346			1

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

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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) 1- 1715 I
2- 1745 I (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 30 (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used None (TYPE)
Rockets per run 2 planes all; 2 planes 4 Slant range 1500 - 900 feet
Bombs Dropped per Run 3 planes all Spacing (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 2000 (FEET)
1 plane 5
- (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 no. 1	350 x 250 yards	4 TBM-3	(15) 100 lb GP AN-M 50 (3) 350 Depth Bombs, AN-Mk 54, nose armed 7 rockets; unknown no. round 50 cal.	All in area	Unknown
2		VC-84			
3					
4 Positions in area no. 2	150 x 100 yards	4 TBM-3	(15) 100 lb. GP AN-M 50 16 rockets as above 50 cal. as above	"	Unknown
5		VC-84			
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).

Targets -

- 1- Artillery positions in area west of Onaga Town, Okinawa Jima (8173 Mike Queen local grid).
- 2- Artillery positions north of Karadera Town, Okinawa Jima (8167 Love local grid).

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No 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 8 April 1945, L plus 7, 4 TM-3 took off from USS MAKIN ISLAND at 1530 I for support operations at Okinawa Jima. They were joined by 5 FM-2 of VC-9. Their first target, attacked at 1715 I was an area (8173 Mike Queen local grid) west of Onaga Town, containing artillery and mortar positions. Bombing runs were made from 5500 feet with release at 2000 and pullout at 1500. Rocket alt range was 1500 - 900 feet. No specific results were observed. The group at 1745 I made similar attacks on other artillery positions north of Karderera Town (8167 Love local grid). No specific results were observed. All bombs and rockets and strafing went into the assigned areas in each case. Three 350 lb. Depth Bombs, AN-Mk 54, nose armed, were dropped with results that appeared satisfactory. The flight landed aboard at 1830 I.

Pilots -

Lt. Thomas R. Young, support group leader
Lts. (jg) Wilber E. Ege, Howard A. Hughes and
Ensign William T. Worden.

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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

1 rocket had a defective motor - otherwise equipment performed normally.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Robert G. FURSON, Jr., Lt., USN
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
ACI Officer, VC-84

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

5-4-45 DATE