

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

Confidential
~~RESTRICTED~~
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-84 (b) Based on or at USS MAKIN ISLAND, at sea (c) Report No. VC-84 #141
 (d) Take off: Date 12 April 1945 Time (LZT) 1129 I (Zone); Lat. 25° 16'N Long. 127° 35'E
 (e) Mission Target Combat Air Patrol, L plus 11, Okinawa Jima (f) Time of Return 1615 I (Zone)
at Yontan Airfield

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)		
FM-2	VC-84	4	4	0		

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

				None			
TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE

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
Val	1	1	1500 I (ZONE)	Zanami Shima, Kerama Retto	none	All 4, dirty light green color, usual red meatballs.
Val	3	3	1530 I (ZONE)	Aguni Shima	none	
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Attack, probably suicide
 Did Any Part of
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? No If so, Describe Clouds _____ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
(YES OR NO)
 Time of Day and Brilliance
 (j) of Sun or Moon Day, slight hazy (k) Visibility 25
(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			
Val	FM-2	VC-84	Lt. Thomas Sherwood Sedaker, USN	4 x 50	Cockpit, wingroots, above 6 - 7 o'clock	Destroyed
Val	FM-2	VC-84	Lt. Thomas Sherwood Sedaker, USN	4 x 50	Cockpit, wingroots, engine, above, 6 - 7 o'clock	Destroyed
Val	FM-2	VC-84	Lt(jg) Robert Edward Hooks, USNR	4 x 50	Cockpit, wingroots, Slightly below, 6 o'clock	Destroyed
Val	FM-2	VC-84	Lt.(jg) Melvin James Simpson, Jr., USNR	4 x 50	Cockpit, wingroots, 8 - 9 o'clock, level	Destroyed

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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	
F4U-2	45	80	4.3	235	200			1750		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

Encounters gave no basis for test of comparative performance. All terminated very rapidly.

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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 12 April 1945, 4 M-2 took off from USS MARIN ISLAND at 1129 I for target combat air patrol over Okinawa Jima. The flight was given an excellent vector by Northern base to its first Val which was met at Isonami Shima, Kerama Retto. The Val was sighted at 4000 feet at 1500 I, by the CAP at 5500. Lt. Sedaker immediately dove on it, getting hits in the cockpit and wingroots of the Val which let out black smoke and nosed over going on in from 4000 feet to crash in the water. At 1530 I near Aguni Shima the flight on another vector tallyhoed 3 Vals flying a tight V formation on opposite course at 9 o'clock 7000 feet. The CAP was at 6000 feet. The Vals broke off the V and went their separate ways, two diving for the water. Lt. (jg) Hooks got on the tail of one putting bursts into the cockpit and wingroots. The trailing edge of the wing burned and the Val went out of control and went on into the water from 6000 feet. Lt. Sedaker followed one Val down as it made for the deck in a 300 glide. He put bursts into it from slightly above and behind hitting the cockpit, engine, and wingroots. Edna Lasher also got hits. The Val flamed and crashed into the water. One Val remained above and Lt. (jg) Simpson chandelied up after it. He closed it easily and overran it. His bursts from level at 8 to 9 o'clock went in the cockpit and wingroots. The Val went out of control and crashed in the water. There was no return fire from any of the Vals. The only evasive maneuver was skidding. The flight being low on gas landed at Yontan Airfield at 1615 I, later returning aboard.

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XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.
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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

Aarmor; 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:

Robert G. FULTON, Jr., Lt., USNR
SIGNED BY: **AGI Officer, VC-84**
RANK AND DUTY

Equipment performed normally.

APPROVED BY:

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

5-4-45

DATE