

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-88 (b) Based on or at USS SACINAW BAY (c) Report No. 99  
 (d) Take off: Date 1 April 1945 Time (LZT) 0730(I) (Zone); Lat. 26-06N Long. 123-45E  
 (e) Mission Direct support - 1 day Okinawa (f) Time of Return 1115(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>PW-2</u>	<u>VC-88</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>6-5" HP rkt, Mk 7 atr</u>	<u>Mk 157</u>

## 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).

(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)	<u>NONE</u>		
			(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		
			<u>NONE</u>			

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## 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 <b>F4U-2</b>	<b>VC-38</b>	<b>Probably AA fire</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>Complete loss of plane, Bureau No. 73924. Plane seen smoking in air, crashed and burned.</b>
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
1	<b>VC-38</b>	<b>Ens. WILLIAM G. MARSH, USNA</b>	<b>Plane probably hit by AA fire; seen smoking in air, then crashed and burned on ground.</b>	<b>Killed in action. Body was recovered and identified at later date by U.S. Marines.</b>

## 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	
<b>F4U-2</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>3.75</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>155</b>		<b>7150</b>			<b>7</b>

## IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	<b>X</b>			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	<b>X</b>			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm		<b>Not observed but believed present</b>		

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

SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes

- \_\_\_\_\_ TURNS
- \_\_\_\_\_ DIVES
- \_\_\_\_\_ CEILINGS
- \_\_\_\_\_ RANGE
- \_\_\_\_\_ PROTECTION
- \_\_\_\_\_ ARMAMENT

**NOTES**

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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) Yontan Airfield (b) Time Over Target(s) 0915-1030(1) (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target 700' .6 (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target 1/2 (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility 10 (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Rocket (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used \_\_\_\_\_ (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run \_\_\_\_\_ (NUMBER) Spacing \_\_\_\_\_ (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release \_\_\_\_\_ (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed \_\_\_\_\_ Probably Destroyed \_\_\_\_\_ Damaged \_\_\_\_\_

(h) AIMING POINT	(i) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(j) NO A/C ATTACKING	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
		(k) SQUADRON			
1 Gun positions, emplace- ments and dugouts		12 F4U-2 VC-88	14 rfts 4000 rds .50 cal	20 hits strafed	Unknown amount des- troyed or damaged
2 Buildings		6 F4U-2 VC-88	14 rfts 2500 rds .50 cal	4 strafed	Two seriously damaged
3 Trucks		5 F4U-2 VC-88	650 rds .50 cal	strafed	Destroyed
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 Gun positions, emplacements, dugouts in 8492 U, 9095 O, 8192, 8491A, 8294 A, 8192 T, 8394 strafed and rocketed. Hits made but extent of destruction or damage unknown.
- #2 Buildings in 8293 Y, 8293 Y rocketed and strafed, serious damage from four rockets and strafing.
- #3 Two trucks, one in 8596 Y, other in 9092, set afire and destroyed by strafing

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(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

Twelve FM-2s of VC-88 on 1 April 1945 were assigned a mission of direct support at Okinawa on L day. The pilots were: Lts E. M. PECK, Lts(jg) J. A. O'CONNOR, R. J. HENNAN, E. A. WHITE, F. A. O'BRIEN, G. J. McCLARD, C. S. RHODES and Ensigns W. G. MANCE, E. L. CANNON, E. W. SCHNEIDER, D. J. MacDONALD, R. D. CARRITHERS. Marines landed on the west coast of Yontanat 0840 (I) and the FM-2s began their attack on targets of opportunity at 0915 (I). It continued until 1030(I), consisting of rocket and strafing gun positions, artillery emplacements and dugouts, buildings and trucks. Except for the destruction of two trucks and serious damage to two buildings no definite estimate of destruction or damage could be given. All these installations were east of Yontan Airfield. Naval gunfire was hitting the airfield, troops were advancing toward the airfield from the coast. No Japanese fire was noted, either AA or otherwise.

However, it is believed that Japanese AA fire did exist and is responsible for bringing down the FM-2 piloted by Ensign Mance. 2 FM-2 of VOC-1 reported that an FM-2 was seen emitting smoke while in a flat strafing run at approximately 200 feet altitude, quarter roll and strike a ridge, crash into a gully and burn. Another pilot observed part of the plane fall off prior to the crash. When a muster was taken, Mance was missing. Other pilots from VC-88 investigated the place where the crash had occurred, observed the wreckage, in target area 8495 F, northeast of Yontan.

Several weeks later the squadron was informed that Mance's body, identified by his dog tag, had been recovered by U.S. Marines and buried at the Marine Cemetery.

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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

No comment.

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REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

H. D. SCHNAAB, Lt. USNR, ACIO  
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

B. L. KAMPF, Lt. USNR, Commanding  
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

14 April 1945  
DATE