

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 #132
 (d) Take off: Date 8 April 1945 Time (LZT) 1127 I (Zone); Lat. 25° 31'N Long. 128° 31'E
 (e) Mission Air Coordinator and Support, L plus 7, Okinawa Jima (f) Time of Return 1545 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>FM-2</u> | <u>VC-84</u> | <u>5</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>5</u> | <u>Support planes - 6 rockets, Mk 1 body, Mk 7 motor. Air Coord. - 3 rockets as above. 3 F.S. Smoke Mk 6 body.</u> | <u>Nose - none Base - instantaneous</u> |
| | | | | | | <u>Nose - instantaneous Base - none</u> |

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

| TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE | TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE |
|--------------|--------------|----------|------------------------|------|----------|--------|------|
| <u>TBM-3</u> | <u>VC-85</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>USS LUNGA POINT</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) _____
 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).

None

| (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 | | | |
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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 | | | | |
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| 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 |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
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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 | 40 | 4.3 | 233 | 165 | | 5700 | | | 5 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
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IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

| CALIBER | NONE | MEAGER | MODERATE | INTENSE |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|---------|
| HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | |
| LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | |

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

SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

TURNS
DIVES
CEILINGS
RANGE
PROTECTION
ARMAMENT

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. **VI-84 #152**

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) 1425 I (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 1800, strato cumulus, solid (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Partially obscured by clouds (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility 10 (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type _____ (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used _____ (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 2 (NUMBER) Spacing _____ (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 900 - 500 (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 Positions in area 1 below | 200 x 150 yards | 5 FM-2 VC-84 | 13 rockets, Mk 1 body, Mk 7 motor, unknown no. rounds 50 cal. | All in area | Unknown |
| 2 | | | | | |
| 3 Positions in area 2 below | 400 x 200 yards | 5 FM-2 VC-84 | 13 rockets as above 50 cal. as above | " | Destroyed 3 medium AA and probable ammunition dump. |
| 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).

3 medium AA positions were destroyed with rocket hits, good sized fires were started in the probable ammunition dump, 2 rockets were put in the entrance of a cave containing possible gun positions.

Targets -

- 1- Artillery and mortar positions north of Yonawa Iwan, Okinawa Jima (8170 Queen Roger Yoko local grid).
- 2- AA positions and ammunition dump 200 yards west of target area no. 1 (8070 Oboe Yoko Iwan Mko Nan local grid).

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.
Gun camera film did not show damage to ground targets.

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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, 5 FM-2 took off from USS MAKIN ISLAND at 1127 I, 4 for support and 1 for Air Coordinator operations at Okinawa Jima. They joined 4 TBM-3 of VG-85. The first target was an area north of Yonawa Town containing artillery and mortar positions (8170 Queen Roger Yoke local grid). The Air Coordinator made 4 runs low over the target to spot them with F.S. Smoke rockets which the pilots found much more helpful than ordinary rockets for the purpose. At 1425 I rocket runs were started with release at slant range of 900 - 500 feet due to ceiling of 1800 feet. The positions were also strafed. Although all rockets went into the area and 2 directly into a cave entrance no specific results were observed. Medium meager accurate AA was encountered. Immediately after that attack AA positions were rocketed and strafed in similar runs at a location about 200 yards south of the first target. Here 3 medium AA positions were destroyed with rocket hits and a large fire started in a probable ammunition dump. The AirCoordinator joined in both attacks. The flight landed aboard at 1545 I.

Pilots -

Lt. George Shaw-Corthern, Air Coordinator

Support -

Lt. Thomas S. Sedaker, flight leader,

Lt.(jg) Robert E. Hooks

Ensigns Johan D.W. Hubbeling

C.K. LASHER

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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

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

Except for one defective rocket launcher performance of equipment was normal.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Robert G. FULTON, Jr., Lt., USNR
ABX Officer, VC-84 RANK AND DUTY

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

5-4-46
DATE