

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL
Reclassify when filled out

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-85 (b) Based on or at USS LONGA POINT (CVE-94) (c) Report No VC-85 - 80
 (d) Take off: Date 27 March 1945 Time (LZT) 0845 (I) (Zone); Lat. 25° 37' N Long. 127° 20' E
 (e) Mission Strike on Keruan Rhetto, Okinawa Gunto (f) Time of Return 0945 (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-85</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>10 x 100# GP Inst. Nose / 10 sec. Delay-Tail 3 x 5" IIS Rockets</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-8</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>USS NATURAL BAY (CVE-32)</u>				
<u>FM-2</u>	<u>VC-84</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>USS MARSH ISLAND (CVE-93)</u>				
<u>FM-2</u>	<u>VC-81</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>USS SAVO ISLAND (CVE-79)</u>				

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
<u>VAL</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0815 (I)</u> (ZONE)	<u>5 mi. no. of Takeshiki Shima</u>	<u>Not observed</u>	<u>Not known</u>
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) To attack shipping in Keruan Rhetto
 Did Any Part of _____
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? Yes If so, Describe Clouds _____
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance Early Morning - Overcast
 (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		

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL
RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

REPORT No. **VC-85 - 80**

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				
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

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	
TBM-3	52	62	4 hr	330	190	30	360			3

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

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. **VC-85 - 80**

XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) **1. Caves on Tokashiki Shima**
2. Town on Kuba Shima (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) **0630-0850 (I)** (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target **7,000** **Stratus 10/10**
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target **Clear** (e) Visibility **8**
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Glide** Bomb Sight Used **Gun Mk VIII**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run **5** Spacing **30** Altitude of Bomb Release **2500**
(NUMBER) (FEET) (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 (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 Caves on Tokashiki Shima	600 yds.	3 - TBM-3 VC-85	4 x 5" HE Rockets	4 in Area	Not observed
2 Town on Kuba Shima	300 yds.	3 - TBM-3 VC-85	30 x 100# GP 24 x 5" HE Rockets	All in Area	6 Buildings Destroyed
3					
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).

(p) Were Photographs Taken? **NO** Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

REPORT No. VC-85 - 80

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

At 0545 on 27 March, 1945, three TBM-3s under the command of Lieutenant Kenneth C. STOWELL, USNR, took off from parent carrier, USS LUNGA POINT (CVE-94), to strike assigned targets on Kerama Rhetto, Okinawa Gunto. After joining with fighters and torpedo bombers from the other carriers the flight proceeded toward the designated orbit point, 5 miles north of Takashiki Shima. Just prior to arriving on station, bogies were reported in the area. Lieutenant STOWELL, at 2000 feet, spotted a VAL at 6 o'clock above at about 4500 feet. He ordered four FM-2s from VC-91 to intercept. The fighters began to climb, as did the VAL, and the latter entered the clouds at about 5000 feet. The fighters lost the VAL in the overcast. Meanwhile, the fighters from VC-84, also searching for the VAL, apparently made contact and shot the VAL down. One FM-2 of VC-84 was also shot down, but it is not known what hit it. This plane, and the VAL, crashed to the east of Hei Shima. Meanwhile, Lieutenant STOWELL and the other TBM-3s continued toward the orbit point, altitude 2500 feet. Soon, at 3 o'clock above, he saw 3 more VALS at 4500 feet. One VAL, shortly followed by the other two, pushed over and made a run toward Lieutenant STOWELL, whose turret gunner opened fire, as did a turret gunner in another VC-85 TBM-3. No hits were observed. The turret gun on the third VC-85 torpedo bomber jammed. Before the VALS could get into position for a good attack on the TBM-3s, our ships in the water below opened up on the VALS with intense AA fire. Caught in the middle of this fire, our planes took evasive action and lost sight of the VALS. There were about seven ships firing at the planes including a cruiser and several destroyers. The bombers from VC-9 were below Lieutenant STOWELL but not in sight. It is believed that one TBM-3 from VC-9 was shot down, but the cause was not determined. Lieutenant STOWELL headed west to clear the flak area and circled. Here the TBM-3s were taken under fire directly by the surface ships so Lieutenant STOWELL headed east again. East of Takashiki he saw one burning VAL hit the water, apparently hit by AA, an oil slick 1000 yards north of the VAL, and a large patch of dye marker between the two. This latter was investigated by a destroyer with no survivors reported. It is believed that one VAL was shot down by VC-84 fighters and two by ships' anti-aircraft fire. The remaining VAL escaped from the area.

After the above action subsided, the TBM-3s and seven of the fighters were ordered to attack caves on Takashiki Shima. Four rockets were expended by VC-85 planes in the area. After this attack, the flight bombed and rocketed buildings in a village on Kuba Shima, in the western part of Kerama Rhetto. 30 - 100# bombs and 20 rockets were expended, destroying six buildings which appeared to be wooden dwellings. No military installations were observed.

All aircraft of VC-85 returned safely to base.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL
RESTRICTED (If not filled out)

REPORT No. VC-85 - 80

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

One turret gun jammed due to improper loading.

**FORWARDED: G. A. T. WASHBURN,
Captain, U. S. Navy,
Commanding Officer,
U.S.S. LUNGA POINT (CVE-94).**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

W. H. KEARNS, Lieut., USNR, ACIO

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

FRED C. HERRIMAN, Lt.Cdr., USN, C.O.

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

27 March 1945

DATE