

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL
RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-83 (b) Based on or at USS SARGENT BAY (CVE-83) (c) Report No. 61
 (d) Take off: Date 28 March 1945 Time (LZT) 0730 (I) (Zone); Lat. 25°-32' N. Long. 127°-35' E.
 (e) Mission TASP - barrier patrol around Okinawa Jima. (f) Time of Return 1209 (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)		
TBM-3	VC-83	6	0	4	3 - 350 lb. DB 4 - 3.5" solid head AR	Hydro. - 25 ft. None

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
		NONE					

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
		NONE				
			(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).

(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		
			NONE			

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)
CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. 61

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		NONE		
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
		NONE		

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	54	78	4.3	325	225		1500			6

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)
CONFIDENTIAL

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. **61**

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Small boats (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) 0900 - 1100 (Zone) **(I)**

(c) Clouds Over Target 2000-3500 ft. - cumulus - 2/10ths - 6/10ths (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

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

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type _____ Bomb Sight Used Mk. 8 gunsight (TYPE)
Slant range 500-800 yds.
Bombs Dropped per Run _____ Spacing _____ (FEET) ~~Attitude of Bomb Release~~ _____ (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed None Probably Destroyed None Damaged None

(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 6 small boats 1 large boat	40 ft. long 150 ft. long	1 TBM VC-83	4 - 3.5" solid AR Strafe - 500 rds.		Not observed
2 4 Kayaks	8 ft. long	1 TBM VC-83	Strafe - 300 rds.	Many	Serious
3 Oil drums		1 TBM VC-83	4 - 3.5" solid AR Strafe - 200 rds.		None observed
4 Crane on pier		1 TBM VC-83	1 - 350 lb. DB 3 - 3.5" solid AR	None	None
5 Fishing boat	40 ft. long	1 TBM VC-83	1 - 3.5" solid AR Strafe		None observed
6 Warehouse	60 ft. sq.	1 TBM VC-83	Strafe		None observed
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)

- Rockets missed but all boats strafed. None burned nor sank but all were damaged by mg. bullets. Large boat damaged by near explosion of two depth bombs.
- Keyaks on beach heavily strafed and probably rendered useless.
- What appeared to be oil drums were attacked with rockets and strafed. Rockets missed but .50 cal. appeared to hit. Drums didn't burn and no damage could be observed.
- Depth bomb didn't explode probably because water near pier too shallow.
- Rockets missed boat but it was hit on strafing runs. Boat was beached. No visible damage.
- Warehouse strafed but did not burn. Extent of damage not determined.

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

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. 61

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

Six VT launched for TASP - barrier patrol around Okinawa. Pilots attacked targets spotted on their patrols with particular emphasis on small boats which were a high priority target.

Ensign G. M. ROBERTS attacked 6 small boats and one large boat by strafing, and fired 2 solid head rockets at large boat. Rockets missed but boats were well strafed and were probably damaged to some extent. Continuing his patrol Ensign ROBERTS spotted some floating mines which he strafed. He was soon out of ammunition but reported the location of the mines to the controlling CASCU and another plane was dispatched to sink them. Back on his patrol Ensign ROBERTS then heard the plane which had been dispatched to relieve him report that it could not locate the mines which he had sighted. He accordingly returned and marked the location of the mines with smoke lights and in doing so discovered two more mines. Ensign ROBERTS then returned to the large boat and fired two more rockets and dropped two of his depth bombs. The bombs exploded close aboard and seriously damaged the boat although it did not sink.

Ensign J. D. PROVOST strafed a group of 4 or 5 small fishing boats. Boats were on the beach and no specific damage was observed.

Ensign C. W. BUNCH strafed what appeared to be oil drums on the beach. Also fired 4 solid head AR. Missed with rockets. Drums didn't burn and no damage observed.

Lt.(jg) M. BOTEAN dropped his depth bomb in water near pier in effort to destroy pier and crane on it. Depth bomb didn't explode, probably because water not deep enough. He then strafed a 40 ft. boat on the beach with no observable results. Lt.(jg) BOTEAN next attacked a wooden warehouse building on pier but although the bullets appeared to hit, the building didn't burn.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)
CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. 61

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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

I. VERNON KNEY, Lt., USNR, ACI Officer.

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

B. V. GATES, Lt. Comdr., USN.

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

4/11/45

DATE