

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-91 (b) Based on or at USS MAKIN ISLAND (CVE93) (c) Report No. VC-91 #48
 (d) Take off: Date 6 May 1945 Time (LZT) 1315-I (Zone); Lat. 25° 18' N. Long. 128° 01' E.
 (e) Mission Strike against Kume Shima. (f) Time of Return 1700-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-91	3	0	3	10 - 100# G.P. AN-M-30 7 - ARs MK1/MK7	8-15 sec. tail AN-M-115 .02 base MK 157.
TBM-3	VC-91	1	0	1	Same except 8 ARs.	

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
TBM-3	VOC-2	2	USS FANSHAW BAY.				

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 _____ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance _____
 (j) of Sun or Moon _____ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (k) Visibility _____ (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						

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REPORT No. **VC-91 #48**

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	80	80	3.45	301	185	1050	2557			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

None.

TURNS
DIVES
CEILINGS
RANGE
PROTECTION
ARMAMENT

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. **VC-91 #48**

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) **Landing Strip Southeast Kume Shima, buildings and caves.** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1415-I** (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target **Cumulus 3000 - 1/10** (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target **Clear** (e) Visibility **15** (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Glide & Low level** Bomb Sight Used _____ (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run **1 to 4** Spacing **75-100** Altitude of Bomb Release **750 G/50L** (FEET)

Rockets " " " **2** Slant Range **300 yds.** Angle **35°** Damaged **0**

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed **1** 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 Landing strip, TA 7985F to 7986 T	3000x200	4 VC-91	39 - 100# G.P.s	30 on strip	1 Destroyed 1 Serious
2 Two Radio Towers at Gima (7485J)	50' High	2 VC-91	8 - 5" ARs	4	1 Serious
3 Miscellaneous Bldgs, caves, etc. -----		4 VC-91	21 - 5" ARs 2557 - rds. .50 cal. 1050 - rds. .30 cal.	Majority	Varied.
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).

Target #1. Thirty of 39 100-pound bombs, armed with 8-15 second delay tail fuse and dropped after glide from 3500 to 750 feet, hit the grass landing strip but made relatively small craters because of their size. However, the strip, was made temporarily non-operational. (Reconnaissance the next day showed the craters still present).

Target #2. The two Gima radio towers, apparently already non-operational were damaged further. One pilot hit the base of each with rocket; a second scored two hits in one, knocking it over.

Target #3. A variety of targets buildings, houses, caves and tombs, were targets for the remainder of the pilots rockets and ammunition. (a). One rocket exploded inside a cave at 8087 "O", five AR's hit close to the mouth. (b). Two of six rockets damaged a tomb at 7884 AF. (c). A corrugated type building 35ft square, set in side of hill, at 8087 M, blew up when hit by two of 4 AR's. (d). A grass-covered concrete dugout, one of three buildings at 7591 P/U which resembled a weather station, was burned out by two rocket hits. (e). Two houses in Higa (7886) and two in Janado (7986) were blown up by four rocket hits. (f). A large number of house fires, including two large fires in the village of Une (TA 7987-7988), were started by numerous strafing runs.

(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

At 1400 on 6 May four TBM's from VC-91 from the MAXIN ISLAND, led by Lt.(jg) Howard, took off for Kume Shima on a special strike with orders to knock out the grass landing strip on the southeast coast and to eliminate any other areas they found of possible use by enemy aircraft. They carried eight rockets and ten 100-pound GP Bombs, armed with 8 to 12 second delay tail fuses.

The bombs were dropped from low altitude, about 750 feet from 40 degree glides started at 3500 feet, and at about 500 feet from low-level runs. Visibility was good and the pilots took their time, reporting at least 30 of their 39 bombs hit the strip. The bombs made only small craters, but made the field temporarily non-operational; these craters were still present the next day when one of the pilots returned on a reconnaissance flight. No operational aircraft were seen about the field, and there was no sign of Jap ground activity.

The pilots then flew around the island looking for other targets, but found none outstanding, so they selected the best they could find, and had a field day, strafing from as low as 50 feet. As reported by Lt.(jg) Younglove, "Targets consisted mainly of tombs, buildings and caves. Five direct rocket hits were observed in and close to a deep cave just north of the east end of the runway. Two rocket hits were secured on a concrete structure deep inside the hill area above the landing strip, blowing it up. Four houses were blasted by rockets.

"On the west side of the island four rocket hits were made on the base of some already damaged radio towers, two of them knocking over one of the towers. One rocket hit was observed on a weather station near the center of Kume Shima, the building being sort of a concrete dugout covered with grass, which was set afire. All solid looking buildings throughout the island were thoroughly strafed by wing, turret and tail machine guns; many fires were started, notably in the village of Une where two very large fires were still burning when the planes left for base after expending all their ammunition".

Two VT's from FANSHAW BAY accompanied the VC-91 pilots to the island; but separated there to attack a possible landing strip on the ~~the~~ west coast.

Pilots participating were:

Lt.(jg) M. O. Howard
Lt.(jg) E. E. Younglove
Ens. W. F. Hancock
Ens. L. L. Lundquist.

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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

None.

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:

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6 May 45

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE