

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when  
filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-94 (b) Based on or at USS SHAMROCK BAY (07284) (c) Report No. 15  
 (d) Take off: Date 4/8/45 Time (LZT) 1330 I (Zone); Lat. 25-30 N. Long. 127-45 E.  
 (e) Mission Direct support, Okinawa (f) Time of Return 1745 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>VB-3</u>	<u>VC-94</u>	<u>4</u>		<u>4</u>	<u>10x100 lb. G.P. AR-H 30</u> <u>8 AR - Mk 7x3.5" H 5" H</u>	<u>Mk 219 nose, instant.</u> <u>Mk 146 base, impact</u>
<u>VB-2</u>	<u>VC-94</u>	<u>6</u>		<u>6</u>	<u>6 AR - Mk 7x3.5" H 5" H</u>	<u>Mk 146 base, impact</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>VB-3</u>	<u>VC-9</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>NATOMA BAY</u>				
<u>VB-2</u>	<u>VC-9</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>NATOMA BAY</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
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) \_\_\_\_\_

(i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, Describe Clouds \_\_\_\_\_  
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(j) Time of Day and Brilliance \_\_\_\_\_ (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		

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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				
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	
<b>T4-J</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>270</b>					<b>4</b>
<b>T4-2</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>185</b>		<b>4800</b>			<b>6</b>

## 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,<br>at various altitudes<br><br>TURNS<br>DIVES<br>CEILINGS<br>RANGE<br>PROTECTION<br>ARMAMENT |
|--|

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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) Headquarters area, AA positions, small boat base near Tonabaru, Okinawa (b) Time Over Target(s) 1500-1645 Z (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 2000, stratus, overcast  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Targets obscured by smoke and haze (e) Visibility Unlimited  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

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

Bombs Dropped per Run 3 Spacing 40 Altitude of Bomb Release 1500  
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

AA - 2 each run, slant range 1000 yds., glide angle 30°  
(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 40 small bldgs.	Area 200x 100 yds.	4 TBM-3 71-94	40x100 lb. g.p.'s 12 - 15 AR	All in area	All bldgs. destroyed
2 6-8 AA positions	Area 300x 100 yds.	6 FM-2 70-94	20-24 AR, 2400 rds..50	All in area	2 positions destroyed
3 Small boat installations	Area 200x 50 yds.	6 FM-2, 4 TBM-3 70-94	30-40 AR, 2400 rds..50		Hits and damage not observable because of smoke and haze.
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) Area bombing and rocket attacks resulted in leveling of all buildings in area.
- (2) Air observer reported 2 positions destroyed.
- (3) Results not known.

(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 1330 I on 8 April 4 TBM-3's and 6 FM-2's of the SHAMROCK BAY, and 4 TBM-3's and 4 FM-2's from the NATOMA BAY joined up as a direct support group and proceeded to Okinawa. At the objective area the group was broken up into 2 units, 1 composed of the 4 SHAMROCK VTB's and 4 NATOMA VF's, and the other composed of the remaining 4 VTB and 6 VF.

The first unit was ordered to attack a cluster of about 40 small buildings 2000 yards to the west of Yanabaru. The VTB executed 2 attacks in individual runs bombing and firing rockets in the same run. The VF attacked the target with rockets and gunfire. Because of a low ceiling it was necessary to push over in shallow glide angles of not more than 15-20° from 200 feet. A total of about 2 tons of 100 lb. bombs and 12-15 rockets were expended by the VTB's. When the attacks were completed all structures in the area were destroyed.

Simultaneously with the above attack the second unit, which included our 6 VF, attacked 6-8 AA installations 200 yards to the west of Inaseni. Our VF made 2 rocket and strafing attacks commencing their runs in column at 6000 feet and pulling out around 2000 feet. On the second run fire from the guns pin-pointed the targets, and the air observer reported direct hits with 2 positions knocked out.

Following these attacks all planes in the group joined up to attack, what was reported to be a small-boat base on the south side of Yanabaru harbor. Poor visibility in the target area made observation of the target difficult and identification of the objectives impossible. About 3 coordinated attacks were made with the VF going in first to strafe and fire rockets and the VTB following with rockets. The ceiling at this point permitted dives from 7000 feet and glide angles up to 50°. Smoke and haze prevented appraisal of the damage but several fires were observed.

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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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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SIGNATURE

**A.C.I. Officer.**

RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

**L. E. TERRY, Lieut., USNR,**

SIGNATURE

**Acting Commanding Officer.**

RANK AND DUTY

**4/18/45**

DATE