

# 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 #115  
 1- 0740 I  
 (d) Take off: Date 29 March 1945 Time (LZT) 2- 0950 I (Zone); Lat. 25° 26'N Long. 127° 35'E  
 3- 1830 I 1- 1145 I  
 (e) Mission Air Observers, L-5, Okinawa Jima (f) Time of Return 2- 1345 I (Zone)  
 3- 1600 I

## 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)		
<b>TBM-5</b>	<b>VC-84</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8 rockets, Mk 1 body, Mk 7 motor.</b>	<b>Nose - none Base - instantaneous</b>

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

None				None			
TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE

## 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:				(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER	GUNS USED		

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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				
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). **None**

(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>F4U-7</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>1345</b>	<b>1485</b>			<b>3</b>

## IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY -- Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	<b>X</b>			
MEDIUM -- Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	<b>X</b>			
LIGHT -- Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	<b>X</b>			

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

- SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes
- TURNING
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- 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) See below (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) See below (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target None affecting target 1; targets 2 and 3 1500, strato cumulus, 8  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Partially obscured except target 1 (e) Visibility 20  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type \_\_\_\_\_ Bomb Sight Used \_\_\_\_\_  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 2 planes all, 1 plane 2 Spacing Slant release Altitude of Bomb Release 1500 - 800  
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 1 Tony Probably Destroyed 0 Damaged 1 Tony

(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 Radio Tower area 1 Below	200 x 75 feet	1 THW-3 VC-84	3 rockets, Mk 1 body, Mk 7 motor. Unknown no. rounds 50 Cal.	4 rockets	Unknown
2 Buildings area Target 2 below	200 x 400 yards	1 THW-3 VC-84	3 rockets as above Unknown no. rounds 50 cal.	Unknown	"
4 Yontan Airfield planes on ground 5 and installations		1 THW-3 VC-84	3 rockets as above unknown no. rounds 50 cal.	5	1 Tony destroyed 1 Tony seriously damaged results on install- ations unknown
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).

On Target area no. 1 fires were started by rocket hits. Fires also started in buildings in target area no. 2. Damage for targets in area 3 is as listed above.

- 1- Kerne Shina radio tower near river mouth west coast. 1100
- 2- Buildings Tokeshi town, Okinawa Jima (7996 George Love, local grid) 1200
- 3- Planes on ground, installations, Yontan Airfield, Okinawa Jima. 1449

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes 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
- Defensive 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

Air Observers were placed on varying missions on 29 March 1945, L-3, Okinawa Jima. In the course of observing Kerne Shima Lt. Francis A. Noll rocketed and strafed a radio tower on the west coast starting fires. Ensign Terence B. McManus rocketed and strafed buildings at Tokeshi town, Okinawa Jima, starting fires. Lt.(jg) Marvin L. Doliana requested permission of CASCU to attack Yontan airfield when no mission was given him. He was granted permission and joined 7 FM-2 of VOC-2 at 1449 I in attacking planes on the ground and installations at that field. The number of apparently operational planes had diminished considerably since the morning. He got 2 rocket hits on a Tony in a revetment covered with netting (8192 Baker local grid). The Tony flamed and exploded from the hits. Lt.(jg) Doliana got a rocket hit on another Tony in a revetment, taking off its wing. The latter Tony appeared to have been holed by previous strafing. He holed 3 apparently inoperational Tonys and 1 Belly which did not flame. Rockets hit on the entrance to underground installations (8193 Baker) without results. 5 runs were made by the TM-3 with strafing carried on down to the ground and mud brought back from the ground.

**Pilots:**

Lt. Francis A. Noll  
Ensign Terence B. McManus  
Lt.(jg) Doliana

**Observers:**

1st Lt. Mervin Liebowitz, O-427103  
Battery C 305 Field Artillery APO 77  
1st Lt. Richard Brann, O-1183249  
Battery C 902 Field Artillery APO 77