

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 31

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Southwest area (Kinawa Shima) (b) Time Over Target(s) 1415-1 (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target NUMEROUS Cumulus - 2500 - 10/10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Very Hazy (e) Visibility 3 to 4
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Slide Bomb Sight Used _____
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run Varying Spacing Varying Altitude of Bomb Release 5000/2000
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 0 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 Target Area 7565 *2* & *3*	----	2 VC-91	10 - 100# Bombs	3	Undetermined
2 Target Area 7363 *2* & *3*	----	5 VC-91	20 - 100# Bombs	Numerous	3 Gun Emplacements Destroyed
3 Large Building, Itoyan Town	----	4 VC-91	16 - Rockets	4	Destroyed
4 Misc. Buildings, Itoyan Town	----	5 VC-91	39 - 100# Bombs 40 - Rockets	Numerous	Serious
5 Misc. Buildings, Maha Town	----	1 VC-91	8 - Rockets 10 - 100# Bombs	Numerous	Serious
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).

Three 100# bombs hit just above the mouths of two caves in target area #1. ~~RE~~ Damage undetermined although all hits were very close to the cave openings.

Three gun emplacements in target area #2 were squarely hit by 100# bombs and were demolished. It is not known whether there were any guns in the emplacements or not.

Target #3 consisted of a large building in the center of Itoyan Town, and was hit by at least four rockets. It was set on fire and was burning brightly with a cloud of yellow and white smoke ascending several hundred feet.

The many miscellaneous smaller buildings were hit as target #4, and three of them were seen to catch fire. The fire spread, and at the time the pilots departed, it appeared that at least 50% of the ~~XXXX~~ town was on fire.

In target area #5 many miscellaneous buildings which apparently had not been damaged previously were hit by 100# bombs and rockets. No fires were noted, and the extent of the damage could not be determined.

(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 1530-I eight TBM's were launched for direct support work over Okinawa Shima. They joined up with eight FM's from U.S.S. SHAMROCK BAY (CV38) and also one more FM containing the Air Coordinator from SHAMROCK BAY, and proceeded to the target area.

Commander Air Support, Control Units assigned as target gun emplacements on the western edge of the town of Dakiton. The group proceeded to the target, and the Air Coordinator went down on a reconnaissance run in an attempt to pin-point the gun emplacements. He could not find any emplacements, but did find several caves from which the guns may have been firing. He rejoined the group and two of the TBM pilots made three runs against the installations. The remaining TBM's circled awaiting word from the Air Coordinator. Three of the 100# bombs dropped by the TBM's landed squarely on the terrain just above the opening of the cave. It was impossible to determine the amount of damage.

On joining the other TBM's, they were then ordered by CASCU to pick out targets of opportunity and to return to base because of heavy weather.

It was very difficult to find any targets of opportunity due to the heavy overcast, and the great amount of smoke and dust. There were numerous planes from other bases which also had to be watched.

Two more targets were found. Some gun emplacements located on the bank just southeast of Itoman Town were seen, and runs were made on these emplacements with numerous hits being registered. On each run, the pilots continued over Itoman Town where they set fire to many buildings and damaged a large building near the center of town. It was burning brightly when the pilots left. They estimated that at least half of the small town was on fire from their rocket and bomb hits by the time they had ended their three runs.

There was no regularity in the manner of runs. Each pilot had to pushover and make his runs as best as he could under the circumstances and get out. One pilot made two runs on Naha Town and dropped all of his load on the Naha town. He registered hits with eight of his rockets and one of his bombs on buildings which had not theretofore been destroyed.

All of the TBM's then rendezvoused in two groups of four each and returned to base. One pilot encountered some light, meager anti-aircraft fire over Naha Town. No enemy aircraft were observed.

The following pilots participated in the strikes:

Lt. E. F. Richards, Plt. Leader
Lt.(jg) J. V. Burch
Ens. K. W. Neubauer
Ens. D. F. Orisinger

Lt.(jg) D. G. Kane
Lt.(jg) A. L. Smith
Ens. H. E. Vicau
Ens. H. L. Peables

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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

- 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:

A. V. PARKER, LT., A.C.I. OFFICER

F. H. BLANCHARD, LT., C.O.

19 April 45

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE

H. E. SPENCER, LT., A.C.I. OFFICER