

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(a) Unit Reporting VO-91 (b) Based on or at USS SAVO ISLAND (GVN78) (c) Report No. 28
 (d) Take off: Date 18 April 1965 Time (LZT) 1130-1 (Zone); Lat. 25° 30' N. Long. 127° 45' E.
 (e) Mission Direct Support work over Okinawa Shima (f) Time of Return 1540-1 (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>M-2</u>	<u>VO-91</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6 - 5" H.H. Rockets</u>	<u>None Inst. - Tail .02</u>
<u>M-2</u>	<u>VO-91</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>6 - 75 Rockets</u>	<u>Inst. - Tail H.H.</u>
<u>M-2</u>	<u>VO-91</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>None</u>	

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>None</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
<u>None</u>			(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		
<u>None</u>						

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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 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	
74-2	90	70	4 hrs. 10 min.	233	190			4900		5

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

URNS

DIVES

CEILINGS

RANGE

PROTECTION

ARMAMENT

~~None.~~

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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) Chinese Ship (b) Time Over Target(s) 1300-1 (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target Cumulus - 3000 - 7/10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 5
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type None Bomb Sight Used _____
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run _____ Spacing _____ Altitude of Bomb Release _____
(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	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO. HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
		(k) SQUADRON			
1 Locomotive, T.A. 7669 "B"	Small	4 VC-91	1500 - Hds. .50 cal.) 10 - Rockets	Numerous	Slight
2 25 Trucks, T.A. 7869 "J.I.L. H"	2 1/2 Tons	5 VC-91	3400 - Hds. .50 cal. 6 - Rockets	Numerous 3	20 Destroyed 5 Damaged
3					
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).

A small railroad locomotive received numerous bullet hits, some of which punctured the boiler. The specific extent of the damage could not be determined. One rocket which landed in and fell beyond the locomotive apparently hit and ignited a concealed oil tank for a fire with heavy black smoke resulted.

The trucks appeared to be of the standard military design, weight about 2 1/2 tons. They were set in a single excavation against the side of a hill concealed by underbrush and straw. They were detected by low angle approach, and were subjected to twenty strafing runs. Six rockets were also fired, three of which hit. Twenty of the trucks were set afire and destroyed; five ~~others~~ others were damaged but did not burn.

(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

An estimated 20 military type trucks, two and a half to three tons, were set afire and destroyed and an additional five were severely damaged in a rocket and strafing attack by five FM-2's of VC-51 near Haha on Okinawa on 18 April. A small railroad locomotive also was badly damaged by strafing.

The five pilots - Lt. Frank H. Blanchard, Squadron Commander, with his division, and Lt. William F. Jordan, as Air Coordinator took off at 1150 from the SAVO ISLAND and joined up with seven FM's from LUNGA POINT. Arriving at the objective area they were assigned a target at 8268 "J" "C" and 8568 "P", but there were so many planes already in the area that Blanchard's division was told to strafe trucks east of Haha. Jordan stayed to coordinate the originally scheduled attack by the LUNGA VT, but joined his team mates later.

Before seeing the trucks, the pilots saw a small railroad locomotive east of Haha (T.A. 7869 "M") and attacked it with rockets and .50 calibre. The four pilots made three strafing runs, also firing 10 rockets. The rockets overshot, but the locomotive, especially the boiler, was riddled by bullets. One rocket, fired by Lt.(jg) Wilson, set off a big fire with quantities of black smoke in the field beyond, indicating a concealed fuel tank had been hit.

An Air Observer then led the four fighters - later to be joined by Jordan, to a circular hill at T.A. 7869 "Q" "H,I,L,M", where the Japs were believed to have a large number of trucks. A low sweep around the hill disclosed that out into the side ~~NE~~ at the base were a number of excavations, each containing a truck, covered over with brush and straw. Other trucks were parked close to the base of the hill, without cover, but painted a muddy color which blended with the background.

Lt. Blanchard then led his pilots in a series of about 20 runs on the trucks getting down to about 50 feet off the deck to pin-point their targets. Three of six rockets scored hits, and these with the strafing set at least 15 fires, some of which spread to adjacent trucks.

No enemy anti-aircraft fire was encountered.

The following FM pilots participated in this strike:

- Lt. F. H. Blanchard, Flight Leader
- Lt.(jg) J. H. Wilson
- Lt.(jg) H. L. Ofer
- Lt.(jg) R. Sunshine.

The following pilot acted as Air Coordinator:

Lt. W. F. Jordan.

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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:

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

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

28 April 45

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE

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