

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-88 (b) Based on or at USS SAGINAW BAY (c) Report No. 121  
 (d) Take off: Date 9 April 1945 Time (LZT) 1200(I) (Zone); Lat. 25-29N Long. 128-21E  
 (e) Mission Target combat air patrol - Okinawa (f) Time of Return 1530(I) (Zone)

## II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

| TYPE<br>(a) | SQUADRON<br>(b) | NUMBER               |                              |                            | BOMBS AND TORPEDOES<br>CARRIED (PER PLANE)<br>(f) | FUZE, SETTING<br>(g) |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------|
|             |                 | TAKING<br>OFF<br>(c) | ENGAGING<br>ENEMY A/C<br>(d) | ATTACKING<br>TARGET<br>(e) |   |                      |
| <u>FM-2</u> | <u>VC-88</u>    | <u>8</u>             | <u>0</u>                     | <u>8</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)<br>TYPE | (b)<br>NO.<br>OBSERVED | (c)<br>NO. ENGAGING<br>OWN A/C | (d)<br>TIME<br>ENCOUNTERED | (e)<br>LOCATION OF<br>ENCOUNTER | (f)<br>BOMBS, TORPEDOES CARRIED;<br>GUNS OBSERVED | (g)<br>CAMOUFLAGE AND<br>MARKING |
|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
|             |                        |                                | (ZONE)                     | <u>NONE</u>                     |   |                                  |
|             |                        |                                | (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)<br>TYPE<br>ENEMY A/C | (b) DESTROYED OR DAMAGED BY: |          |                 | GUNS USED | (c)<br>WHERE HIT, ANGLE | (d)<br>DAMAGE<br>CLAIMED |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------|-----------------|-----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
|                          | TYPE A/C                     | SQUADRON | PILOT OR GUNNER |           |                         |                          |
|                          |                              |          | <u>NONE</u>     |           |                         |                          |
|                          |                              |          |                 |           |                         |                          |
|                          |                              |          |                 |           |                         |                          |
|                          |                              |          |                 |           |                         |                          |
|                          |                              |          |                 |           |                         |                          |
|                          |                              |          |                 |           |                         |                          |
|                          |                              |          |                 |           |                         |                          |
|                          |                              |          |                 |           |                         |                          |
|                          |                              |          |                 |           |                         |                          |

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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) Yonababu, Okinawa - Installations (b) Time Over Target(s) 1430-1505(I) (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)  
Ie Shima
- (c) Clouds Over Target (Okinawa 1000-1500 1.0 Due to smoke) (Ie Shima 2000 .7 Stratus)  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target (Okinawa - Smoke) (Ie Shima - Haze) (e) Visibility 5-10  
(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 \_\_\_\_\_ Probably Destroyed \_\_\_\_\_ Damaged \_\_\_\_\_

| (h)<br>AIMING POINT                | (i)<br>DIMENSIONS OR<br>TONNAGE | (j) NO. A/C ATTACKING<br>(k) SQUADRON | (l)<br>BOMBS AND AMMUNITION<br>EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT | (m)<br>NO HITS On<br>Aiming Point | (n)<br>DAMAGE (None, slight,<br>serious, destroyed or sunk) |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1<br>Yonababu                      | .                               | 4 FM-2<br>VC-88                       | 2200 rds .50 cal   | All                               | Several bldgs<br>damaged; trenches<br>and dugouts hit       |
| 2                                  | .                               |                                       |  |                                   |   |
| 3<br>Five camouflaged<br>buildings |                                 | 4 FM-2<br>VC-88                       | 3000 rds .50 cal   | All                               | 5 bldgs set afire,<br>destroyed.                            |
| 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 Buildings in town of Yonababu, Okinawa, were strafed and damaged as were trenches and dugouts. Extent unknown.
- #2 Five buildings, camouflaged, were accurately strafed; all were set afire and destroyed. Three were located in target areas 8834 G, one in 8734 I and another in 8835 S. Large fires resulted.

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(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

On 9 April 1945 8 FM-2s of VC-88 on a mission of target combat air patrol at Okinawa were released toward the end of their scheduled period for direct support missions. The patrol had been completely uneventful.

One division, consisting of Lts(jg) C. S. RHODES, R. J. HENRY, F. A. WHITE and Ensign E. L. CANNON strafed the town of Yonababu in southern Okinawa, damaged several buildings and hitting trenches and dugouts observed. The attack lasted 30 minutes, from 1430 to 1500(I). Four runs from west to east, begun at varying altitudes from 2500 feet to 1000 feet, there being a ceiling of 100-1500 ft. The runs were shallow and long. No AA fire was encountered.

The other division, led by Lt. J. G. SANFORD and consisting of Lt(jg) W. J. ARMSTRONG and Ensigns F. D. TAYLOR and C. S. ADAMS attacked five camouflaged buildings in Ie Shima in target areas 8834 G, 8734 I and 8835 S. All five were set afire and destroyed. The brush which covered the buildings was easily fired on the first runs and increased on two subsequent runs. The attack lasted 20 minutes, from 1445 to 1505(I). All runs were flat and low. No AA fire was encountered.

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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

**No comment.**

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REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

E. L. KEMPF, Lt. USNR, Commanding  
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

19 April 1945  
DATE