

# 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. 95  
 (d) Take off: Date 31 March 1945 Time (LZT) 0500(I) (Zone); Lat. 25-28N Long. 127-32E  
 (e) Mission Target combat air patrol and direct support - prior invasion Okinawa (f) Time of Return \_\_\_\_\_ (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>PE-2</u>	<u>VC-88</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>6-5" H rkte, 1A 7 motor</u>	<u>1A 157</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>(ZONE)</u>	<u>NONE</u>		
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			

(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 \_\_\_\_\_  
(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (k) Visibility \_\_\_\_\_  
(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		
			<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	
FM-2	--	--	4.25	233	173		8300			12

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

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

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

- SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes
- TURNS
- 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) Kume Shima (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) 0730-0830 (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target 2000 .8 Cumulus (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility 20 (MILES)

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

Bombs Dropped per Run \_\_\_\_\_ (NUMBER) Spacing \_\_\_\_\_ (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release \_\_\_\_\_ (FEET)

(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 Large bridge (4 span)	131'x13'/25'	3 FM-2 VC-88	25 rockets	8 rlds	serious
2 Small bridge	26'x10'/15'	4 FM-2 VC-88	10 rkts	2 rkts	slight
3 Radio station, bldgs.		4 FM-2 VC-88	12 rkts 2000 rds .50 cal	4 rkts strafed	6 small bldgs. destroyed
4 Warehouse		1 FM-2 VC-88	300 rds .50 cal	strafed	slight
5 Towns, bldgs.		12 FM-2 VC-88	12 rkts 5000 rds .50 cal	strafed	one bldgs destroyed. Several damaged
6 Coastal gun emplacement		6 FM-2 VC-88	1000 rds .50 cal	strafed	Unknown
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 Large four span bridge, 131 ft. long, 13 ft. wide, 25 ft. high, in 7486 A hit by eight rockets, seriously damaged but not destroyed.
- #2 Small bridge, 26 ft. long, 10 ft. wide, 15 ft. high in 7387 P hit by two rockets, slight damage.
- #3 a Group of buildings at a radio station were rocketed and heavily strafed. 6 small buildings were set afire and destroyed.
- #4 One warehouse was strafed in the roof but damage was slight.
- #5 Various towns on Kume Shima, particularly Guma and villages on Oha Jima were rocketed and strafed at least one building was destroyed, several severely damaged.
- #6 A coastal gun emplacement on the southwestern tip of Kume Shima was heavily strafed but extent of damage is unknown.

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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

Twelve FM-2s of VC-88, piloted by Lts. G. MUELLER, J. G. SANFORD, P. V. MOTT, Lts(jg) C. J. RYLANDS, W. J. ARMSTRONG, D. L. SIMS, L. D. HARRIS and Ensigns C. S. ADAMS, H. C. MANN, G. C. TRIPLETT, F. D. TAYLOR, and L. O. FORTNER, on 31 March 1945, performed a double mission. Taking off at 0500(I) in a pre-dawn take-off, they served as combat air patrol over the objective area at Okinawa for the fire support group of the fleet. At 0700, having made no interceptions, they were released from TCAP and directed to attack installations on Kume Shima and nearby smaller islands. From 0730(I) until 0830(I) various enemy positions and establishments were successfully hit. A large 131 ft. bridge was seriously damaged, a smaller bridge slightly damaged, six small buildings of a radio station were destroyed, another medium building was destroyed, several others, including a warehouse, were damaged when towns on Kume Jima and Oha Jima were strafed and rocketed. A coastal gun emplacement was strafed but the damage could not be ascertained.

Most of the runs made were individual and shallow; none were started from above 2000 feet altitude. No enemy anti-aircraft 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

Oil on the windshield of two P4-2s greatly interfered with the vision of two pilots. Only two guns of another plane fired. The safety plug fell out and into the bilge in one plane and the pilot couldn't fire any more rockets. In another plane one rocket couldn't be fired.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

H. D. SCHWAAB, Lt. USNR, A CIO

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

H. L. KIMPF, Lt. USNR, Commanding

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

11 April 1945

DATE