

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-91 (b) Based on or at USS SAVO ISLAND (CVE78) (c) Report No. 12  
 (d) Take off: Date 29 March 1945 Time (LZT) 0745-I (Zone); Lat. 25° 04' N. Long. 127° 00' E.  
 (e) Mission Direct Support work over Okinawa Shima (f) Time of Return 1145-I (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)		
TBM-3	VC-91	2	0	2	4 - 500# G.P. Bombs 8 - 5" H.E. Rockets ) 10 - 100# G.P. Bombs )	Hose Inst. - Tail .01. Tail - No Delay
TBM-3	VC-91	2	0	2		

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
TBM-3	VC-84	4	USS MAKIN ISLAND (CVE98)				

## 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
None			(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 \_\_\_\_\_ (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	GUNS USED		
None						

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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 <b>None</b>				
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
<b>None</b>				

## 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>TBM-3</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>			<b>4</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

**None.**

TURNS  
 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) Naha and Naha Airfield, Okinawa (b) Time Over Target(s) 1045-1 (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target Cumulus - 2000 - 2/10 (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Good under overcast (e) Visibility 8 (MILES)  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.)

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

Bombs Dropped per Run Varied Spacing Salvo to 150 Altitude of Bomb Release 2500 (NUMBER) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed One (1) Probably Destroyed \_\_\_\_\_ Damaged \_\_\_\_\_  
Rockets " " " Salvo - Slant Range 1500'/2500' - Angle 40°

(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 Building, T.A. 7372 "U", Naha	Two story	3 VC-91	8/500# & 10/100# Bombs & 8 Rockets	80%	Destroyed
2 Wharfs & Dock Bldgs.	----	1 VC-91	5 - 100# Bombs	All	Serious
3 Runway Intersec- tion, Naha A/F	----	1 VC-91	5 - 100# Bombs	All	Serious
4 Aircraft in Reve- ment, Naha A/F	----	1 VC-91	8 - Rockets	Four	Destroyed
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).

The building in target #1 was completely destroyed.

All of the bombs hit the wharfs and dock area in target #2, causing serious damage.

Target #3 consisted of an intersection of northwest-southeast runways at Naha Airfield, 1 bombs hit the runway, rendering the runway inoperational for the remainder of the day.

Target #4 was an operational aircraft inside a revetment on Naha Airfield. Four of the eight rockets hit the target destroying both the revetment and the unidentified enemy aircraft.

(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

Four TBM-3's of VC-91 took off at 0745-I and joined up with four TBM's from the U.S.S. MAKIN ISLAND (CVE93). The TBM's were first sent by Commander Air Support Control Units to an orbit point five miles east of Okinawa Shima, and circled there for one hour awaiting a target assignment.

Finally, they were ordered to Okinawa Shima to bomb Naha Town. Three of VC-91 bombers fired all of their bombs and rockets, (eight 500#, ten 100# and eight rockets), at a single, two-story concrete structure. The building was so prominent they were of the opinion it was possibly a government building or it housed troops.

At least 80% of the bombs and rockets hit the building virtually demolishing it, and leaving it burning fiercely. The 100# bombs were released in salvo, and the 500# bombs manually, one pilot spacing his bombs at 50 feet and the other at 150 feet. The pilots pushed over at 6500 feet, at dive angles of 40° to 45°, and released at 2500 feet. The pilots carrying the 100# bombs also had eight rockets which were fired at a slant range of 1500 yards.

The fourth pilot whose radio was out of commission made three ~~more~~ runs. On his first he dropped five 100# bombs on the dock buildings and wharves causing damage, the extent of which could not be determined.

Looking around for any target and remembering the Japs were supposed to have landed planes during the night on the Okinawa Airfields, one of the TBM's climbed back up to about 6500 feet and looked over the Naha Airfield. Seeing no specific targets, he pushed over at a 50° dive, aiming at the intersection of the NS-SE runway dropping his second batch of five 100# bombs on the intersection.

He then selected aircraft revetments on the east side of the N-S runway, which appeared to contain aircraft, as a target for his rockets. Coming down at a 40° angle, he fired the rockets in pairs from 2500 to 1500 yards slant range. Four of the rockets hit a revetment, and destroyed it and the aircraft inside it, which was observed to burn.

No enemy anti-aircraft fire was encountered over the target area.

The following TBM pilots were part of this group:

- Lt. R. F. Richards, Flight Leader
- Lt.(jg) M. D. Howard
- Lt.(jg) E. E. Younglove
- Ens. L. L. Lundquist

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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:

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29 Mar 45  
DATE

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