

OPNAV-16-223
Form ACA-1
Sheet 1 of 5

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VB-82 (b) Based on or at USS BENNINGTON(CV20) (c) Report No. 16
 (d) Take off: Date 23 March 1945 Time (LZT) 1038-1055(I) (Zone); Lat. 25° 28'N Long 128° 47'E
 (e) Mission Strike: Kerama Retto (f) Time of Return 1343-1413 (Zone) (I)

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)		
SB2C-4 & 4E	VB-82	11	0	11	(a) 2 x 500 lb. GP AN-M64 (b) 1 x 250 lb. FRAG AN-M 81 (4 planes) (c) 6 x rockets (5" HE head, 3 1/2" body)	(a) Tail: AN-M 101-A2 (non-delay) (b) Nose: 103-A1(instant) (c) Mk 146 base fuze (non-delay)

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
F4U-1D	VMF-112	8	USS BENNINGTON(CV20)	TBM-3	VT-82	13	USS BENNINGTON(CV20)
	/123						
F6F-5	VF-82	7	USS BENNINGTON(CV20)				

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
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____
 Did Any Part of _____
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? _____ If so, Describe Clouds _____ (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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			

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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				
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

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	
SB2C-4A	89	78	3	370	230	1100		2645		11
4E										

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
- TURNING
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

Jim K Newy 3/26/86

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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) Keufu Shima, Korama Rotto (b) Time Over Target(s) 1200(X) (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target Solid overcast at 1500-2000
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target clear (e) Visibility 10-15
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type glide Bomb Sight Used Mk VIII
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run all Spacing _____ Altitude of Bomb Release 1200-800
(NUMBER) (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 Keufu Shima	600'x150'	11 VB-82	22 x 500 lb. GP 8 x 250 lb. GP 66 r/p; 2645 rds 20 mm; 1100 rds .30 cal.	all	land cratered
2					
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).

(p) Were Photographs Taken? _____ 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

25 March 1945**TG 58.1 Strike 1 Charlie (Strike: Kerama Retto)****Tactical Organization**

WOOD, Hugh, Jr., Lt. Comdr.	REED, H.H., ACRM(AA)(T) (CA)
COREY, R.L., Lt.(jg)	RUSH, E.L., ARM2c(T) (CA)
SIEBER, E.A., Lt.(jg)	SANTAFERRA, A. (n), ARM3c (CA)
HAWKINS, K.R., Ensign	SKORUPKA, C.J., ARM2c(T) (CA)
VANDERLINDE, C.E., Lieut.	KEEGAN, J.C., ARM2c(T) (CA)
KREGER, E.A., Lt.(jg)	MULLEN, C.V., ARM2c(T) (CA)
SWITZER, G.D., Lt.(jg)	CABELLA, D.E., ARM3c (CA)
MATT, E.P., Ensign	LEUTZ, D.M., ARM3c (CA)
DERBY, J.A., Lieut.	BELL, R.J., ARM1c(T) (CA)
MURPHY, W.E., Lt.(jg)	HENRICH, D.S., ARM3c (CA)
SCHUMACHER, R.E., Lt.(jg)	ZORBACH, A.J., ARM2c(T) (CA)

The first of the VB-VT strikes of TG 58.1 in the pre-Love day series was severely hampered by weather. Solid overcast at 2000 feet prevented our planes from making their usual dive bombing runs. Moreover, the unavailability of good targets dissipated the effectiveness of the attacks.

Our planes took off between 1038-1055(X) and joined up with 28 other planes from the BENNINGTON. This group (and planes from other TG 58.1 carriers) was instructed by the air coordinator to orbit over Rukan Sho, 7 miles southeast of Mae Shima. Shortly thereafter, the air coordinator called the group and assigned specific island areas for attack. The BENNINGTON group was assigned Keishe Shima. The strike leader from the BENNINGTON assigned our planes to hit Keufu Jima. We made three attacks. On the first attack bombs were dropped from 1200 to 800 feet, pushover having been made into a 30 degree glide from 1800 feet. The second two attacks were strafing attacks. This was a barren target - a small island about 600 feet long. No AA firing was observed from any of the Keishe group. Firing from the Maha area was observed, but at the distance involved, this fire was both inaccurate and meager. Although the bursts occurred several hundred yards away from the formation, the bursts were quite accurate for altitude.

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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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

W. J. DeLANCEY, Lt.(jg), USNR**ACX Officer.**

RANK AND DUTY

Hugh WOOD, Jr., Lt. Comdr., USN**Commanding.**

RANK AND DUTY

26 March 1945

DATE