

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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**CONFIDENTIAL**  
T. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VT-94 (b) Based on or at USS LEXINGTON (CV16) (c) Report No. VT-94-3  
(d) Take off: Date 20 June 1945 Time (LZT) 0955 Love (Zone); Lat. 18-03 N Long. 166-21E  
(e) Mission Attack Barracks Area Wake Island (f) Time of Return 1230 L (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-3E	VT-94	8	None	8*	10 - 100# G.P. 6 - 5 in. HVAR	.1 - .025 Mk. 149 Instantaneous

\* One plane attacked with rockets only, jettisoning bombs south of Wake Island. Unable to release over target due to electrical failure of bomb release system.

## III. OTHER U. S. OR ALLIED AIRCRAFT EMPLOYED IN THIS OPERATION. TBM-3E - VT-50 - USS COWPENS \*

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
F6F-5	VF-94	12	USS LEXINGTON	F6F-5	VF-6	14	USS HANCOCK
F4U-4	VBF-94	7	USS LEXINGTON	F4U-4	VBF-6	12	USS HANCOCK
SB2C-4E	VB-94	11	USS LEXINGTON	SB2C-4E	VB-6	15	USS HANCOCK
F6F-5	VF-50	8	USS COWPENS	TBM-3E	VT-6	9	USS HANCOCK

## 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)	N		
			(ZONE)	O		
			(ZONE)	N		
			(ZONE)	E		

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) None  
Did Any Part of \_\_\_\_\_  
(i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? No 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 Noon - Bright Sun - 1/10 (k) Visibility Unrestricted  
(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		
			N		
			O		
			N		
			E		

\* COWPENS and HANCOCK participation based on ComCardiv 11 Secret Operation Order 1-45. See ACA-1 reports from CVIC-50 and CVG-6 for actual participation.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

2

VT-94-3

REPORT No. ~~3445~~

## 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)
<del>VT-94-3</del>	<del>VT-94-3</del>			
2				
3		N		
4		O		
5				
6		N		
7				
8		E		
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
		N		
		O		
		N		
		E		

## 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	
VT-94-3E	75	75	3	330	184	XX	892	XX	XX	8

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

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

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

- SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes
- TURNS
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

**No basis for comparison. No enemy aircraft encountered.**

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
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3

**CONFIDENTIAL**

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. **VT-94-3**

**XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).**

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) **Barracks Area - Wake - WA2-02** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1055 L** (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target **3,000, Cumulus, 1/10**  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

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

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Glide** Bomb Sight Used **None**  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run **10** Spacing **30 ft.** Altitude of Bomb Release **3000 ft.**  
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed **None** Probably Destroyed **None** Damaged **None**

(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 <b>Area WA2-02</b>	<b>1300 Ft. diameter</b>	<b>8 TBM-3E VT-94</b>	<b>70-100# G2P. 48-5 in. HVAR</b>	<b>70 48</b>	<b>Serious damage- bombs &amp; rockets blanketed area. Strike photographs showed numerous hits, the target covered by bomb bursts, &amp; photo interpretation revealed damage in the area</b>
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).

**Precise results hard to estimate due to bombed out appearance of the area, and due to the area being almost completely covered by smoke and dust from early bomb hits.**

(p) Were Photographs Taken? **Yes** Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

4

**CONFIDENTIAL**

REPORT No. **VF-94-3**

**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

Course was set from the rendezvous area around the task group to take the strike group to a rendezvous area 15 miles northwest of the atoll. About 50 miles north of the task group the VF and VBF were sent ahead to make a fighter sweep of the island. The 17 VT (including 9 COWPENS VT) and 12 VB proceeded to the rendezvous area and were joined there at 10,000 feet by the VF and VBF. The attack was started, following HANCOCK strike group (including COWPENS VF) fighter sweep. Approach was made by proceeding south until abeam of the island and then breaking off to make a run from south to north across Wilkes and southern Wake Island. At 8,500 feet, at the break-up point divisions took their intervals and individual runs were made, 8 VT LEXINGTON hitting the barracks area and 9 VT COWPENS hitting WA2-97. 30-35 degree glides were used maximum speeds about 280, release altitude 3500 feet. Pull-out completed by about 2000 feet, and then retired losing altitude to about 500 feet. Wing gun strafing runs were made. Rockets were fired at about 2200 yards short range. Individual targets were very difficult to pick up, but the area was distinguishable. The target area seemed completely covered by bomb and rocket hits. Pre-strike photographs provided were taken from 20,000 feet and were poor. Photographs taken by our own VFP were much better.

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5

**CONFIDENTIAL**

REPORT No. **VT-94-3**

**XIII. MATERIAL DATA.** (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.  
Use additional sheets if necessary).

**TBM-3E performed well under full load conditions. It was decidedly superior to TBM-1C in take-off characteristics. In view of increased use of VT in glide bombing targets protected by AA, it is recommended that they come equipped with bullet-proof glass in the windshield, and that protection be provided for the oil system.**

**Combat speeds continue to exceed technical order allowances. If the aircraft is to be used in this manner, it is recommended that action be taken to strengthen the air frame to stand higher speeds and pull-outs involving more g's.**

**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. W. GOODRICH, Lieut. A, USNR**  
SIGNATURE **ACI Officer.** RANK AND DUTY

**F. C. BAMMAN, Jr., Lt. Cdr., USN** 22 June 1945  
SIGNATURE **Commanding Officer.** RANK AND DUTY DATE