

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

~~RESTRICTED~~
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-84 (b) Based on or at USS MAKIN ISLAND, at sea (c) Report No. VC-84 #102
 (d) Take off: Date 27 March 1945 Time (LZT) 0542 I (Zone); Lat. 25° 30' N Long. 127° 29' E
 (e) Mission Target Combat Air Patrol - Support, L-5, Okinawa Jima (f) Time of Return 0940 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)		
FM-2	VC-84	8	4	7	6 Rockets, Mk. 1 body, Mk. 7 motor.	Nose - none Base - instantaneous

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE

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
Val	1	1	0615 I (ZONE)	east coast Nao Shima, Kerama Retto	1 bomb, carried between wheels, type unidentified	olive drab with usual red meat balls.
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Probable suicide attack
 Did Any Part of
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? yes If so, Describe Clouds 5000, strato-cumulus, .3, wispy
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance
 (j) of Sun or Moon Morning twilight, hazy (k) Visibility 15
(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	GUNS USED		
Val	FM-2	VC-84	Lt. Thomas Sherwood SEDAKER, U.S.N.	4 x .50 cal.	Wingroots, fuselage aft canopy, below 8 to 9 o'clock	Destroyed

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Resist
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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) See below (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) 0900-0920 IZone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target None affecting attacks (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility 25 (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type _____ Bomb Sight Used _____ (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Rockets Bombs Dropped per Run 4 planes 2; 3 planes all Spacing _____ (NUMBER) (FEET) Slant range Attitude of Bomb Release 2500 - 2000 (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 0 Probably Destroyed 0 Damaged 0

(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 Area 1	1000 x 3000 yards	3 FM-2 VC-84	16 Rockets, Mk. 1 body, Mk. 7 motor unknown no. rds. .50 cal.	All in caves and defense positions in area	Unknown
2/					
3/					
4/2 Area 2	Varying 600 x 200, 400 x 600 yds.	4 FM-2 VC-84	24 Rockets as above & unknown no. rds. .50 caliber.	All in trenches caves, pier etc. in area	Huts burned, small barge and rowboat sunk, rest of damage unknown but areas well covered.
7/					
8 Beached Sugar Dog	40 x 16 feet	4 FM-2 VC-84	Unknown no. rounds of 50 caliber	unknown	Holed - slight

(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).

Damage is noted above. Beyond such damage, no specific results were observed although the assigned areas were well covered.

- # 1. Area north and south of Aware Town, southwest part of Tokashiki Shima, Kerama Retto, containing caves and defense positions. (Local grid 3865, 3866, 3867)
2. Area, including pier, beaches and trenches, in and around Ie town, Ie Shima. (Local grid 8731 How Iton Jig, 8732 How Love Nike Man, 8831 Fox George How Love Queen, 8833, Peter Queen Uncle Victor, 8733 Victor William).
3. Beached Sugar Dog near Bise Saki, Okinawa Jima (Local grid 9651).

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple. Light apparently insufficient for morning twilight gun camera films. Ground targets did not show up well on film.

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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 27 March 1945, 1-5, 8 FM-2 took off from USS MAKIN ISLAND at 0542 I. The planes were first to act as TCAP and after being relieved as such they were to join their support group of VT. In this manner the TCAP was increased during critical hours. The two divisions were split each being assigned a different station. As the planes went on station our surface forces were under heavy enemy air attack and putting up intense AA close to the CAP. Lt. Sedaker's division at 0615 tallyhoed a Val flying at 5500 feet which was about 500 feet above. The Val carried a bomb between its wheels, but it was impossible to identify the type of bomb in the morning twilight. The Val pulled up into the clouds and made a 180° turn. As it came out of the clouds Lt. Sedaker and his wingman Lt.(jg) Scott were below and on its portside while Lt.(jg) Hooks and his wingman Ensign Hubbeling were below and to the starboard. All 4 planes fired at the Val and all probably hit it. The Val started a turning dive to the left which it steepened in an evident attempt to crash one of the surface ships below. As it started down for the ships it seemed to be under control. After Lt. Sedaker got in a burst that flamed the Val, Lt.(jg) Hooks and Ensign Hubbeling remained above for cover. Lt. Sedaker closed to within about 20 feet of the Val, getting numerous hits while he followed the Val down. At about 3500 feet the Val went out of control and crashed in the water still carrying its bomb. Inaccurate return fire was encountered from the rear seat of the Val which carried a pilot and gunner. Lt.(jg) Hooks also saw the Val crash and almost immediately thereafter he saw another plane going down. It seemed to him that a parachute emerged from the second plane at about 2800 feet which opened only partially. The chute with what appeared to be a person drifted rather than fell to the water. The wreckage of the second plane fell in the water about 1/2 mile east of Mas Town on Mas Shima and about the same distance south of where the Val had crashed. Lt.(jg) Scott had been flying behind and to the right of Lt. Sedaker when the attack on the Val started. Subsequent to noting the Val's return fire, Lt. Sedaker had seen tracers go past his plane apparently fired by Lt.(jg) Scott at the Val. The second plane disintegrated in the air. A pilot of another squadron who did not take part in the encounter stated that this second plane was an FM-2 and also reported that it disintegrated. He did not observe any chute. There was no transmission from Lt.(jg) Scott and Lt. Sedaker knew of his absence only when he could not get in touch with him after the Val went in. Many Vals had been sighted during the attack on our ships in the vicinity. It is believed that Lt.(jg) Scott, after making certain that Lt. Sedaker had their particular Val in hand, may have pulled away to investigate other planes and in doing so was hit by AA from the friendly surface vessels. Immediate report was made but a search by this CAP and other planes failed to disclose anything other than an oil slick where the wreckage of Lt.(jg) Scott's plane had gone in which as noted above was some distance from the spot where the Val went down.

After being relieved as CAP the three planes made 3 rocket and strafing runs on an assigned area north and south of Aware Town on Tokashiki Shima, containing caves and defense positions. (3865, 3866, 3867, local grid). No specific results were observed.

Lt. Shaw-Corthorn's division consisting of himself, his wingman Ensign Hobson, and Lts.(jg) Monahan and Howard after being relieved on CAP were given an area (8731 How Item Jig, 8732 How Love Mike Nan, 8831 Fox George How Love Queen, 8833 Peter Queen Uncle Victor, 8733 Victor William, on local grid), on Ie Shima as a target in and around Ie town, containing beaches, a pier, trenches and gun emplacements. 3 rocket and 4 strafing runs were made, the latter being carried on down to the deck. Hits in the town were set on fire, rockets were put in gun emplacements, a small barge and rowboat were sunk and the pier damaged. Rocket runs were made from 5000 feet with release at alt range of 2500 feet. A beached Sugar Dog was holed by strafing near Bise Saki, on Okinawa Jima (local grid 9531).

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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

Lt. Sedaker's wing plates buckled during the encounter with the Val. He retained his rockets and wing tanks in view of his later support mission. Otherwise equipment performed normally.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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SIGNATURE
AOI Officer, VC-34

RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

Douglas E. ENGLISH, Lt., (A1), USNR

SIGNATURE
Commanding Officer, VC-34

RANK AND DUTY

4-23-45

DATE