

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. 131
 (d) Take off: Date 13 April 1945 Time (LZT) 1400(I) (Zone); Lat. 25-12N Long. 128-20E
 (e) Mission Special strike - Airfield on Miyake Jima (f) Time of Return 1730(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-88	9	0	9	2 or 3 500# GP bombs, Mk 64	Mk 103A1 (n.d.) Mk 101A2 (.01)
					4-5# HE rkts, Mk 7 intr	Mk 157

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
FM-2	VC-92	12	USS TULAGI				
FM-2	VC-97	4	USS MAKASSAR STRAIT				

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)	NONE		
			(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			
			NONE			

CONFIDENTIAL

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

REPORT No. 131

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 TK-3	VC-33	Light AA fire	2nd cockpit, port side	Wing glass knocked out, repairable.
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	
TK-3	100	150	3.5	330	210	375	500			1

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

~~None~~

CONFIDENTIAL

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No **131**

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) **Three airfields, Miyako Jima** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1545-1610(I)** (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target **Clear except for scattered at varying altitudes.**
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target **Clear** (e) Visibility **15**
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Glide** Bomb Sight Used **Mk 8**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run **2 or 3** Spacing **75 and 50** Altitude of Bomb Release **3500**
(NUMBER) (FEET) (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)
Hirara Airfield		3 TBM-3			(Serious to runways, light to revetments)
Runways & revetments		VC-88	3-500#; 10 rkts	All	
2 Sukama Airfield		3 TBM-3	7-500#; 12 rkts; 375		(1 light bomber damaged)
		VC-88	30 cal; 300 .50 cal	All	
3 Nobara Airfield		3 TBM-3	7-500# GP; 9 rkts;		(Runway serious, revetment light)
		VC-88	200 rds .50 cal	All	
4					(Serious to runway, Buildings damaged)
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).

#1 Runways cratered; one light bomber damaged, revetments hit with rockets.

#2 Runways cratered; rockets hit revetments.

#3 Runways cratered; several buildings damaged by one bomb and several rocket hits.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

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REPORT No. 131

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
Fuzeing
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 13 April 1945 nine TB-3s of VC-33 engaged in a special strike on the three airfields of Miyaki Jima, Sakishima (Kanto, along with 12 PB-2 for VC-32 and 4 PB-2 of VC-37. The TB-3 pilots were: Lts. E. L. SIMP, J. D. NEWBOLD, Lt(jg) G. M. PETERSON and Ensigns R. B. WOOD, R. P. FROVOST, G. H. HANOVER, J. A. MITT, P. YELAVICH and F. B. FAIRHURST. The group took off at 1400(I), rendezvoused and departed for the target area at 1430(I) under Lt. Kampf. The TB-3 were in three sections: one led by Lt. Kampf, one by Lt. Mitchell and the third by Lt(jg) Peterson. Approaching Miyaki Jima from the north the group swung to the west and prepared for the attack.

Lt. Kampf and Ensigns Wood and Frovost, in the first section, broke off to hit Hirara Airfield, preceded by 4 VP of VC-32 and 4 VP of VC-37. In a strafing and rocket attack. The field appeared operational although cratered. Eight 500# bombs landed on runways or taxiways. 10 rockets were fired into revetments along the runway. One of Lt. Kampf's bombs struck close by a light single engine bomber causing damage to it. Light moderate AA fire was encountered during the attack, coming from northwest of the field. A large fire was noted upon leaving the area.

Lt. Mitchell and Ensigns Hanover and Mitt, continuing farther south before turning eastward to make their attack struck Sukosa Airfield. Four PB-2 of VC-32 preceded the TB-3s. The field appeared operational and 5 or 6 aircraft which appeared operational were noted on the ground. Seven 500# bombs and twelve rockets hit runways, taxiways and revetments. The planes on the ground were strafed but damage was undetermined. No AA fire was seen at the airfield but upon retiring light AA on northeast coast knocked out the Plexiglass on the portside of the 2nd cockpit in Hanover's plane.

Third section led by Lt(jg) Peterson and including Ensigns Yelavich and Fairhurst, breaking off last, attacked Kobara airfield. Four PB-2s of VC-32 preceded them. It was doubtful whether the field was operational; 3 planes on the ground appeared operational. Seven 500# bombs and 10 rockets hit runways and buildings. Light severe and medium intense AA east of the field, accuracy unknown, was encountered.

The VP made only one run at the three fields, these simultaneously. The VP made two or more runs, the entire attack lasting approximately 25 minutes from 1545 to 1610(I). The bombing runs were begun at 9000 ft. altitude in a 30 degree glide, releasing at 5500 ft. altitude. The weather was extremely suitable for the attack. The runs were made generally from the southwest. Following the three attacks the group rendezvoused ten miles northeast of the island at 5000 feet and returned to base.

Only one fatality occurred when an PB-2 of VC-32 exploded and crashed east of Hirara field. A pilot of VC-37 received leg and neck wounds when an AA shell exploded in the cockpit but he returned safely to his carrier.

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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

No comment.

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APPROVED BY:

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

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SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

23 April 1945
DATE







