

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
(Reclassification when filled out)

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC85 (b) Based on or at USS LUNGA POINT (07594) (c) Report No VC85-118  
 (d) Take off: Date 3 April 1945 Time (LZT) 0930 (I) (Zone); Lat. 25° 34'N Long. 127° 43'E  
 (e) Mission Observation and Spotting, Okinawa Shima (f) Time of Return 1545 (Zone)

## II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

| TYPE<br>(a) | SQUADRON<br>(b) | NUMBER            |                           |                         | BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE)<br>(f) | FUZE, SETTING<br>(g) |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--|----------------------|
|             |                 | TAKING OFF<br>(c) | ENGAGING ENEMY A/C<br>(d) | ATTACKING TARGET<br>(e) |  |                      |
| TBM-5       | VC85            | 7                 |                           | 2                       | 4 x 3 1/2" P.S. Rockets                        |                      |
|             |                 |                   |                           |                         |  |                      |

## 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 |
|----------|------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---|----------------------------|
|          |                  |                          | (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: |          |                 |           | (c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE | (d) DAMAGE CLAIMED |
|--------------------|------------------------------|----------|-----------------|-----------|----------------------|--------------------|
|                    | TYPE A/C                     | SQUADRON | PILOT OR GUNNER | GUNS USED |                      |                    |
|                    |                              |          |                 |           |                      |                    |
|                    |                              |          |                 |           |                      |                    |
|                    |                              |          |                 |           |                      |                    |
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## VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those listed in II only).

| (a)<br>TYPE OWN A/C | (b)<br>SQUADRON | (c)<br>CAUSE: TYPE ENEMY A/C,<br>TYPE GUN, OR OPERATIONAL CAUSE | (d)<br>WHERE HIT, ANGLE (List armor,<br>self-sealing tanks, equipment hit) | (e)<br>EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE,<br>(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)<br>NO. | (b)<br>SQUADRON | (c)<br>NAME, RANK OR RATING | (d)<br>CAUSE | (e)<br>CONDITION OR STATUS |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
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|            |                 |                             |              |                            |

## VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA FOR PLANES RETURNING

| (a)<br>TYPE<br>A/C | (b)<br>MILES<br>OUT | (c)<br>MILES<br>RETURN | (d)<br>AV. HOURS<br>IN AIR | (e)<br>AV. FUEL<br>LOADED | (f)<br>AV. FUEL<br>CONSUMED | (g) TOTAL AMMUNITION EXPENDED |     |      |    | (h)<br>NO. OF PLANES<br>RETURNING |
|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----|------|----|-----------------------------------|
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             | .30                           | .50 | 20MM | MM |                                   |
| <b>TBM-3</b>       | <b>41</b>           | <b>35</b>              | <b>4h</b>                  | <b>330</b>                | <b>220</b>                  |                               |     |      |    | <b>7</b>                          |
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             |                               |     |      |    |                                   |
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             |                               |     |      |    |                                   |
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             |                               |     |      |    |                                   |
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             |                               |     |      |    |                                   |

## 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"/> |        |          | <input 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

SPEED, CLIMB, at various altitudes  
 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) 1. Trucks  
2. Small Boats, Okinawa (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) Varied (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target Average - 2000 Strato - Cumulus 5/10  
(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 \_\_\_\_\_ Bomb Sight Used \_\_\_\_\_  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run \_\_\_\_\_ Spacing \_\_\_\_\_ Altitude of Bomb Release \_\_\_\_\_  
(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<br>(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 Trucks         | 1 1/2 Ton                 | 1 TBM-3<br>VC85                       | 600 x .50 Cal.<br>500 x .30 Cal.                     | Not Known                    | 4 Trucks<br>Damaged - Serious                         |
| 2 Small Boats    | 75' OA                    | 1 TBM-3<br>VC85                       | 4 x 5 1/2" F.S. Rockets<br>350 x .50 Cal; 175x.30Cal | 4                            | 2 Boats Sunk  |
| 3 Misc. Targets  |                           | 5 TBM-3<br>VC85                       | 1020 x .50 Cal                                       |                              | None observed   |
| 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? 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

Seven TBM-3s took off at various times during the day from parent ship on observing and spotting missions over Okinawa Shima.

Six pilots attacked targets - one a group of trucks and one several small boats on the eastern shore of the island. Four other pilots and gunners strafed miscellaneous targets.

In each case the pilot was accompanied by an army observer or spotter.

### Observer Pilots

Lt(jg) George ARMSEY, USNR  
Lieut. Joseph A. SHEEHAN, USN

### Spotter Pilots

Ens. Earl R. KRUEGER, USNR  
Ens. Frank DOLINICH, USNR  
Lt(jg) Robert W. CRON, USNR  
Ens. Richard S. PHIPPS, USNR  
Lieut. John L. THOMPSON, USNR

None of the pilots reported enemy opposition to our ground troops or to themselves and all aircraft returned safely to base.

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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 material failures were reported.**

**FORWARDED: G.A.T. WASHBURN,  
Captain, U.S. Navy,  
Commanding Officer,  
U.S.S. LUNGA POINT (CVE94).**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

**W.H. KEARNS, Lieut., USNR, ACTO.**

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

**FRED C. HERRIMAN, Lt. Cdr., USN, C.O.**

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

**3 April 1945.**