

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

Confidential
(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 #139
 (d) Take off Date 12 April 1945 Time (LZT) 1- 0540 I (Zone); Lat. 25° 28'N Long. 127° 40'E
2- 0925 I
3- 1528 I
 (e) Mission Air Observer flights, L plus 11, Okinawa Jima (f) Time of Return 1- 0947 I
2- 1355 I (Zone)
3- 1832 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)		
<u>TBM-3</u>	<u>VC-84</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3 rockets, Mk 1 body, Mk 7 motor</u>	<u>None - none</u> <u>Base - instantaneous</u>
					<u>2 planes 7 rockets as above</u>	
					<u>1 plane</u>	

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

				<u>None</u>			
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

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____

(i) Did Any Part of Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? _____ If so, Describe Clouds _____ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(j) Time of Day and Brilliance 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). **None**

(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). **None**

(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	
TR-5	40	50	3.8	330	236	950	1735			3

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

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

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

SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

URNS

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) See below (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) See below I (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target None affecting attack (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility 30 (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type _____ Bomb Sight Used _____ (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Rockets
Bombs Dropped per Run 2 Spacing _____ (NUMBER) (FEET) Alt range
Altitude of Bomb Release 2000 - 800 - 600 (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 12 beached suicide boats in area 1	15 x 6 ft	1 TBM-3 VC-84	2 rockets, Mk 1 body, Mk. 7 motor, unknown no. rds. 80 & 50 cal.	no rockets	3 Destroyed
2 Huts in area 2	100 x 75 yards	1 TBM-3 VC-84	6 rockets & same as above.	All in area	Destroyed 3 hut, one probable dynamite stor
3 Suicide boats in area 3	15 x 6 ft; 1 40 x 10 ft	1 TBM-3 VC-84	same as above	Unknown	Serious to 40 ft and 3 small boats
4 Caves, huts area 4	200 x 250 yards	1 TBM-3 VC-84	7 rockets and ammo as above	All in area	Destroyed probably fuel storage hut
5 Cave area no 5 below	150 x 75 yards	1 TBM-3 VC-84	8 rockets as above and ammo as above	"	Destroyed 1 cave entrance.
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).

Rocket hits on huts in area 2 caused fires and one hut blew up throwing up dirt to 500 feet. Rocket hits on a hut at the mouth of a cave in area 4 caused a large fire with column of black smoke rising high. Rocket hits into the entrance of a cave in area 5 caused an explosion which sent a column of white smoke 200 feet in the air.

Targets -

- 1- 12 beached suicide boats near Nagasaki Town, Okinawa Jima, (7253 Queen Victor local grid) 0845.
- 2- Huts, probable dynamite storage west end Mesado Town (7359 Charlie local grid) 0600.
- 3- Suicide boats on shore north end Mesado Town (7360 Uncle 5 Victor 4 local grid) 1215.
- 4- Caves and huts, probable fuel storage, west and north of Itoman town (7402 Dog 3, 2, Easy 1, 7403 Yoko 3, 4 local grid).
- 5- Caves north end Mesado Town (7360 Sugar 3, William 2).

(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

Air Observer flights taking off for Okinawa Jima from USS MARIN ISLAND 11 April 1945, 1 plus 10, found targets more lucrative than usual. Lt. Haley at 0845 in strafing possible machine gun emplacements near Nagasaki Town (7250 Queen Victor) burned off straw camouflage covering about a dozen 15 foot suicide boats. He destroyed 3 of these with strafing. At the west end of Mesado Town (7380 Charlie local grid) he got rocket hits on huts in front of caves; an explosion followed throwing dirt up to 500 feet. It is believed that the hut contained dynamite for use by the suicide boats located near by. Lt. Haley met heavy meager accuracy AA passing over Naha Airfield. Ensign Terry found suicide boats on the shore at the north end of Mesado Town (7360 Uncle 5 Victor 4 local grid). He caused at least serious damage by strafing to 3 of these and a 40 foot boat near by. West and north of Itanan Town (7460 Dog 3, 2 Easy 1, 7460 Yoke 3,4, local grid) he found an area of caves and huts and put 7 rockets into the area. A direct hit on a hut at a cave entrance caused a large fire and cloud of heavy black smoke indicating probable fuel storage. An attack on caves at the north end of Mesado town (7380 Sugar 3, William 3) by Ensign Harper produced an explosion and a 200 foot high cloud of white smoke when 2 rockets went into the mouth of a cave. Rocket runs were made from 5000, 2500 and 2000 feet with release at slant range of 2000, 800, 600 feet.

Pilots -

Lt. Richard I. Haley
Ensign Glenn "A" Terry
Ensign Horace D. Harper

Observers

1st Lt. Mervin Liebowitz, Batt. C. 902
Field Artillery APO 77.
2nd Lt. Leroy Walters, Hdq. Batt. 306
Field Artillery APO 77.
2nd Lt. Leroy Walters.

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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

Performance of equipment was normal.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Robert C. FULTON, Jr., Lt., USNR
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
ACX Officer, VC-04

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SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
Commanding Officer, VC-04

504-45
DATE