

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL.

- (a) Unit Reporting. VC-93 (b) Based on USS PETROF BAY, CVE-80. (c) Report No. 85  
 (d) Take off: Date, 23 May 1945 Time (LZT) 1130-9 (Zone) Lat. 25°12'N Long. 123°08'E  
 (e) Mission: Direct Support Strike on Okinawa (f) Time of Return. 1430-9 (ZONE)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

| TYPE  | SQUADRON | NUMBER        |                       |                     | BOMBS AND TORPEDOES<br>CARRIED (PER PLANE) | FUZE SETTING                      |
|-------|----------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
|       |          | TAKING<br>OFF | ENGAGING<br>ENEMY A/C | ATTACKING<br>TARGET |  |                                   |
| (a)   | (b)      | (c)           | (d)                   | (e)                 | (f)  | (g)                               |
| TBM-3 | VC-93    | 2             | 0                     | 2                   | 8x5" H.E. Rockets<br>10x100# G.P. Bombs    | Delay<br>Inst. nose; no tailfuzes |

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

| TYPE  | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE                   |
|-------|----------|--------|------------------------|
| TBM-3 | VC-9     | 2      | USS NATOMA BAY, CVE-62 |

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

| (a)         | (b)          | (c)             | (d)                 | (e)                | (f)                  | (g)   |                        | (h)                        |
|-------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| TYPE<br>A/C | MILES<br>OUT | MILES<br>RETURN | AV. HOURS<br>IN AIR | AV. FUEL<br>LOADED | AV. FUEL<br>CONSUMED | TOTAL | AMMUNITION<br>EXPENDED | NO OF PLANES<br>RETURNING. |
|             |              |                 |                     |                    |                      | .30   | .50 20MM MM            |                            |
| TBM-3       | 70           | 70              | 3.0                 | 330                | 180                  |       |                        | 2                          |

IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED.

|        |          |
|--------|----------|
| Heavy  | Moderate |
| Medium | None     |
| Light  | None     |



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XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES.

- (a) Target and Location. Gun positions, Okinawa (b) Time over Target. 1215-9(Zone)  
 (c) Clouds over target. 3,000 cumulo nimbus, 5/10  
 (d) Visibility of Target. Clear (e) Visibility. 15 miles at surface.  
 (f) Bombing Tactics: Type. Glide Bomb Sight Used Mk 8  
 Bombs Dropped per Run. 3 Spacing. Various Altitude of Bomb Release. 2,000 ft.  
 (g) None.

| (h)                                  | (i)                   | (j) & (k)                  | (l)   | (m)                    | (n)     |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|---|------------------------|---------|
| AIMING POINT                         | DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE | NO. A/C ATTACKING SQUADRON | BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED EACH AIMING PT. | NO. HITS ON AIMING PT. | DAMAGE  |
| 1. Automatic anti-aircraft positions | 300yds. dia.          | 2 VC-93                    | 19x100# G.P. Bombs                            | 10x100#                | Serious |
| 2. Fortified artillery block house   | 100ft. dia.           | 2 VC-93                    | 8x5" H.E. Rockets                             | 2 HER                  | slight  |

(e) Results:

- Automatic anti-aircraft positions were sheltered by small clumps of trees and other gun positions were cut into side of hill  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile east of Maha field. About 12-15 of these were reported destroyed by the 4 plane strike.
- Rockets were directed against a concrete heavy artillery position, also just east of the field but hits caused apparently slight damage.

(p) Were photographs Taken? No.

XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA.

The target areas were described by Commander Support Air and then pinpointed by white phosphorous shells from the ground troops. The strike formed a round robin daisy chain to permit each pilot selection of specific target and greater accuracy. Runs were from northwest to southeast, from 4000 to 1500 feet, at 40 degree glide and 260 knots.

Pilots participating in this strike were:

Lt(jg) B. H. Beam, (A1), USNR Lt(jg) L. S. DeVries, (A1) USNR

REPORT PREPARED BY.

APPROVED BY.

R. L. WINTER, Lieut. (A1), USNR, ACIO. C. P. SMITH, Lt. Comdr. USN, CO, VC93 23 May 1945