

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. 97
 (d) Take off: Date 31 March 1945 Time (LZT) 1000(I) (Zone); Lat. 25-28N Long. 127-32
 (e) Mission Direct Support - prior to invasion Okinawa (f) Time of Return 1330(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-88	4	0	4	6-5" HE rcts, Mk 7 motor, 1 Napalm bomb	Mk 157

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
TBM	VC-96	9	USS RUDYARD BAY				
FM-2	VC-1	8	WAKE ISLAND				

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 _____
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance _____
 (j) of Sun or Moon _____ (k) Visibility _____
(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		
			NONE		

CONFIDENTIAL

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 97

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Naha Airfield and Vicinity (b) Time Over Target(s) 1130-1210(I) (Zone)
FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK

(c) Clouds Over Target 1000-3000 .9 (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Smoke (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility 10 (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Level (napalm) (LEVEL, DIVE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used None (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 1 (NUMBER) Spacing (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 75 (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed Probably Destroyed Damaged 1

(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		2 FM-2 VC-88	300 rds .50 cal	strafed	Slight
2	BETTY Personnel under- ground shelters	4 FM-2 VC-88	10 rkts 1000 rds .50 cal	4 rkts strafed	Serious
3	Buildings	3 FM-2 VC-88	6 rkts 800 rds .50 cal	4 rkts strafed	1 destroyed 2 damaged seriously
4	AA positions	2 FM-2 VC-88	4 rkts 600 rds .50 cal	2 rkts	Extent unknown
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 BETTY on ground at Naha airfield in 7169 K was strafed but not set afire. Probably damaged before but disagreement as to previous condition.
- #2 Underground personnel shelters, only entrance seen, were rocketed and strafed. Located in 7170 U. Serious damage.
- #3 Two groups of buildings, one group in 7171 G, other in 7170 P and Q were hit; one was definitely destroyed, two seriously damaged.
- #4 Two rockets hit in exact spot, indicated by Air Coordinator as AA positions, in 7169 A, but no damage was actually seen.

CONFIDENTIAL

(p) Were Photographs Taken? NO Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

REPORT No. 97

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
Defensive 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

Four FM-2s of VC-88, piloted by Lts(jg) J. H. O'CONNOR, E. A. WHITE, F. A. O'BRIEN and G. J. McCLARD, joined with 9 TBMs of VC-93 and 8 FM-2s of VOC-1, on 31 March 1945 to attack Naha airfield. Various installations and positions were hit during a 40 minute attack. Seven runs were made, generally from southwest to northeast, usually from 2000 feet altitude varying from 30 to 45 degrees, pulling out low at 200 feet. There was meagre light anti-aircraft fire during the attack.

The 4 FM-2s of VC-88 damaged a BETTY on the ground which may have been damaged before, hit the entrances to underground personnel shelters, reported AA positions and buildings. No destruction was definitely known except as to one building but damage is believed to have resulted from hits on the other installations. All damage was done by rockets and strafing. None of the four napalm bombs carried were effective. Three were dropped at low altitude, below 100 feet, while in level flight but did not explode; the fourth one, difficult to release, was finally released into the sea.

CONFIDENTIAL

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

REPORT No. 97

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

Sporadic success with napalm bombs continues. Frequently they are difficult, often impossible, to release. Three of the four which were released by the FM-2s on this mission did not explode altho dropped at level flight, less than 100 feet altitude, at speeds averaging 175 knots. The fourth one, extremely difficult to release, finally dropped into the sea.

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

SIGNATURE

H. D. SCHMAAR, Lt. USNR, ACIO

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

E. L. KEMPF, Lt. USNR, Commanding

RANK AND DUTY

15 April 1945

DATE