

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

I. GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-91 (b) Based on or at USS SAVO ISLAND (CV878) (c) Report No. 30
 (d) Take off: Date 19 April 1945 Time (LZT) 0945-1 (Zone); Lat. 25° 26' N. Long. 127° 53' E.
 (e) Mission Support of Demonstration Landing on Southeast Okinawa (f) Time of Return 0945-1 (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-91	8	0	8	8 - 5" H.E. Rockets 10 - 100# G.P. Bombs	Tail - No Delay
FM-2	VC-91	2	0	2	6 - 5" H.E. Rockets	Nose Inst. - Tail .02
FM-2	VC-91	6	0	6	None.	

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
FM-2	VC-13	8	USS ARZIO (CV857)	FM-2	?	8	USS SHARCK BAY (CV884)
TBM-3	VC-13	9	USS ARZIO (CV857)				
TBM-3	?	8	USS SHARCK BAY (CV884)				

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
None			(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)
 (j) Time of Day and Brilliance _____ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.)
 of Sun or Moon _____ (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						

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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				
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	
BT-3	50	40	4	330	235	---	---			8
BT-2	50	40	4	233	185		6200			8

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

TURNES

DIVES

CEILINGS

RANGE

PROTECTION

ARMAMENT

None.

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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) Demonstration Landing Area Southeast Side of Okinawa (b) Time Over Target(s) 0655-1 (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target Cumulus - 4000 - 3/10
(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 Slide Bomb Sight Used _____
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 10 Spacing Manual Altitude of Bomb Release 200
(NUMBER) (FEET) (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 Beach Area, T.A. 8159 A to 8161 A	-----	6 FU-91	73 - Rockets, 80/100# Bombs, 6200 - .50 cal.	All	Undetermined
2					
3					
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).

The pilots were instructed to make saturation attacks with bombs, rockets and ammunition on demonstration area. This area was supposed to contain gun installations, pillboxes and trenches. A few gun positions were seen to be hit by the pilots. All of the bombs and rockets were dropped in the target area.

Dust and smoke prevented ~~evaluation~~ evaluation of hits, but some damage must have ~~resulted~~ resulted. In addition several strafing runs were made by the fighters. No ground personnel was seen.

(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

This report covers VC-31's part in the Demonstration staged off the southeast coast of Okinawa on 19 April. VC-31 launched eight TBM's and eight F4U-2's at 0645, to make a saturation attack on the beach area in company with similar groups from the ANZIO and SHAMROCK. An ANZIO VT pilot was designated as Air Coordinator, but Lt. Fletcher acted as leader of the SAVO group in coordinating its attack.

Arriving over the target area at 0655, the SAVO group orbited until 0720, when the entire group was directed by Commander Support Aircraft to bomb, rocket and strafe the beach area to 500 yards inland in a saturation-type attack which had to be completed before 0730 when naval gunfire would be resumed.

Lt. Fletcher's group first flew down over the area to look for targets, then made a series of three runs perpendicular to the beach, the fighters flying alongside the VT because of the lack of time to get them in position to proceed. The attack was sort of a round-robin, the planes retiring to the right and coming again in formation between the SHAMROCK and ANZIO groups. The VT's dropped their 10 100-pounders in the first attack, and fired their rockets on their next two runs. The fighters strafed the beach area and fired their rockets on the first three runs, and then broke away from the VT to make four strafing runs along parallel to the beach.

The pilots aimed at gun positions generally, but damage from the saturation attack was difficult to determine because of Niclouds and dust and smoke over the area after the initial bomb explosions; however, the area believed to contain pillboxes and troop trenches as well as artillery emplacements was thoroughly plastered.

Pilots who participated in this attack were:

<p>VF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lt. J. H. Fletcher Lt.(jg) J.P. McKeala Ens. S. R. Winer Ens. W. H. E. Viesu Lt.(jg) M. D. Howard Lt.(jg) E.H. Younglove Ens. W. F. Hancock Ens. L. L. Lundquist 	<p>VF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lt. (jg) R. L. Galther Ens. R. E. Bates Ens. D. L. Campbell Ens. R. A. Cullen Lt.(jg) R.V. Hedelson Ens. J. W. Hoffman Lt.(jg) J.C. Habberastt Ens. P. W. Smith
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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

None

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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

E. R. SPENCER, LT. A.G.I. OFFICER

P. H. BLANCHARD, LT., C.O.

19 April 45

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE

A. V. PARKER, LT. A.G.I. OFFICER