

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

**CONFIDENTIAL**

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-85 (b) Based on or at USS LUNGA POINT (CVE-94) (c) Report No. VC-85 - 164  
 (d) Take off: Date 14 April 1945 Time (LZT) 0745 (I) (Zone); Lat. 25° 30'N Long. 127° 45'E  
 (e) Mission Strike of Okinawa Shima (f) Time of Return 1145 (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)		
<b>TBM-3</b>	<b>VC-85</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>4 x 500# GP Full Ammunition</b>	<b>.025 sec. Delay-fail</b>

## 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)  
 (YES OR NO)  
 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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			







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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) **Troop Concentration, Okinawa** (b) Time Over Target(s) **0830-1030 (I)** (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

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

(d) Visibility of Target **Clear** (e) Visibility **25**  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics, Type **Glide** **Gun** Bomb Sight Used **Mk VIII**  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run **1** Spacing \_\_\_\_\_ Altitude of Bomb Release **2000**  
(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 (k) SQUADRON	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
<b>1 Troop Concentration Motubu Penninsula</b>	<b>500 yds. square</b>	<b>4 TBM-3 VC-85</b>	<b>16 x 500# GP 1275 x .50 cal 550 x .30 cal</b>	<b>16 bombs in Area</b>	<b>2 Troop Shelters Destroyed</b>
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.

**TWO TROOP SHELTERS -- Buildings approximately 50' X 40' were destroyed. The whole area was severely blasted and enemy casualties were undoubtedly high.**

(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

**Four TBM-3s aircraft, led by Lieutenant David A. BLOCK, USNR, were ordered to attack an area on Motubu Penninsula on northern Okinawa in which a concentration of enemy troops was suspected. The flight leader was told that there were at least 500 Jap troops in the target area. The flight made several low strafing runs over the target, then expended 16 x 500# GP bombs. Two buildings, apparently troop shelters, were destroyed and the whole area was well blasted. The controller reported that the bombing had been very accurate and commended the flight for its effectiveness.**

**No anti-aircraft fire was reported and all planes 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

Lieutenant Block, upon returning to parent ship, had difficulty in moving his throttle back. Also, the engine cut out intermittently while the pilot was in the traffic circle.\*

Bomb loading was not suited to the type of target. Small anti-personnel bombs would have been more satisfactory or even 500# G.P. bombs with instantaneous fuses. However, since the target had been assigned after the flight reported on station over the objective area, the change in loading could not be made.

\* The throttle linkage was checked and tightened. This engine was given a 60 hour check and no further trouble was reported.

**FORWARDED:** G. A. T. WASHBURN,  
Captain, U. S. Navy,  
Commanding Officer,  
U.S.S. LUNGA POINT (CVE-94).

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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

APPROVED BY:

**FRED C. HERRIMAN, Lt.Cdr., USN, C.O. 14 April 1945**

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

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DATE