

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Declassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VT-12 (b) Based on or at USS RANDOLPH (c) Report No. 23
 (d) Take off: Date 4 May 1945 Time (LZT) 0758(I) (Zone); Lat. 26-47N Long. 129-22E
 (e) Mission Okinawa Support #2 (f) Time of Return 1200(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)		
<u>BT-3</u>	<u>VT-12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>4 x 500 #37</u>	<u>4-5 second delay-tail</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>F6F-5</u>	<u>VT-12</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>USS RANDOLPH</u>				
<u>SB2C-4E</u>	<u>VB-12</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>USS RANDOLPH</u>				

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
<u>None</u>			(ZONE)			
			(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		
<u>None</u>					

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

~~RESTRICTED~~
(Reclassify when filled out)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REPORT No. 23

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 TBM-3	VT-12	About 3" enemy AA	P. Wing Aileron, S. Wing	Replace P. Wing Aileron
2 TBM-3	VT-12	" " " "	Fuselage & Radio Comp	Strike
3 TBM-3	VT-12	" " " "	P. Wing Aileron	Replace Aileron
4 TBM-3	VT-12	" " " "	Fuselage & Windshield	Replace windshield
5 TBM-3	VT-12	" " " "	Sharpnel hole just	
6			forward of windshield	Patch fuselage, replace windshield.
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
1	VT-12	ANDERSON, R. E. ADM3c	Enemy AA	Very serious. Possibly permanently disabled.
1	VT-12	MASTEN, R. E. ADM3c	Enemy AA	Minor contusion.

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	
TBM-3	60	80	4	330	240	300	600	-	-	11

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

No opportunity for comparison

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 23

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Town of Iwa & ridge area (b) Time Over Target(s) 1045 (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 3500 cumulus 2/10
(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 High Speed Glide Bomb Sight Used Mark VIII
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 4 Spacing 40 Altitude of Bomb Release 2000
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed None Probably Destroyed None Damaged None

(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 Northern part town of Iwa		2 VT-12	8 x 500 /GP	8 in area	Slight
2 Ridge area	1200' x 300'	9 VT-12	28 x 500/GP	28 in area	Not observed
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 ridge area was pretty well covered with bombs but damage evaluation was difficult because specific installations could not be seen.

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

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

~~RESTRICTED~~
(Reclassify when filled out)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REPORT No. 23

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

Twelve torpedo planes, eleven dive bombers and eight fighters took off from the RANDOLPH for a strike in support of ground troops on Okinawa. After report in to CASCU the planes were instructed to orbit and then to look over the proposed target area before bombing.

Just as they came down through the clouds heading for the area they were met by a very accurate salvo of heavy AA. Five of the twelve torpedo planes were hit - three of them quite seriously. Two of the damaged planes dropped their bomb load on the town of Iwa and went to a point east of the island to orbit and wait for the others. One plane made an emergency landing at Yontan without having an opportunity to bomb and the other nine retired from the area until the bombers and fighters had completed their runs. Then they came in over the target dropping all bombs on one run because CASCU had ordered all planes to be out of the area in five (5) minutes.

In spite of the AA the target was well plastered and CASCU gave a "Well done" at the end of the attack.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. 23

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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

H.M. BERRY, Lt(jg), USNR
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

THOMAS B. ELLISON, Lt-Comdr, USN
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

4 May 1945
DATE

Once more the IBM gave proof that it can absorb a tremendous amount of punishment and still get back to the carrier. One plane had a gaping hole in one wing, a smaller hole in the other and no flaps yet was able to land safely aboard. Another had a big chunk out of the port wing and the port aileron shattered and came back o.k.

The plane that landed at Yontan could quite probably have returned safely but one of the crewmen was seriously injured and an emergency landing made so that he could get immediate medical aid.

Lt-Comdr. ELLISON, skipper of the squadron had a narrow escape when a chunk of shrapnel struck the metal brace in the windshield and was stopped. An inch to the right or left would have penetrated the windshield and possibly hit his head.

Another piece of shrapnel, bursting downward went through the fuselage of Lt. BRIZEE's plane just about a foot in front of the windshield. It broke some of the instrument wires and a heater hose but the flight of the plane was not impaired.