

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-32 (b) Based on or at USS SARDINIA BAY (c) Report No. 78
 (d) Take off: Date 25 March 1968 Time (LZT) 1330 (X) (Zone); Lat. 20-50N Long. 127-50E
 In preparation of landings at Korman
 (e) Mission direct support - Haha and Okinawa Gunter (f) Time of Return 1730(X) (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>72B-2</u>	<u>VC-32</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>10-100# G.P. bombs 1# 30</u>	<u>1# 100A1 (inst)</u> <u>1# 100A2 (.25 sec.)</u>
					<u>0-5" H.L. rhta. 1# 7 motor</u>	<u>1# 157 base fuze</u> <u>1# 3 booster</u>
<u>72B-2</u>	<u>VC-32</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0-5" H.L. rhta. 1# 7 motor</u>	<u>1# 157 base fuze</u> <u>1# 3 booster</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
			<u>None</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
			(ZONE)	<u>None</u>		
			(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 _____ (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:			(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER		
			<u>None</u>		

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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)
		NONE		
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	
TBM3	--	--	4	330	280	350	525			4
FM-2	--	--	4	230	145		2900			5

IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over				X
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm				X
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm				X

X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (use check list at left).

SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

NONE

URNS
DIVES
CEILINGS
RANGE
PROTECTION
ARMAMENT

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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) Yaha Airfield, Yonabaru, Okinawa (b) Time Over Target(s) 1530-1630(I) (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 4500 1.0 Cumulus
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

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

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Slide Bomb Sight Used HS 8
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 3 to 5 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)
1 Runway	5000 ft.	2 F4U-7 VC-33	2-100# bombs	6	slight
2 Revetments		4 F4U-7; 4 F4U-7 VC-33	17-100# G.P. bombs 10-5" H.E. rockets	unknown	unknown
3			250 rds .50 cal. 2024 rds .50 cal.	strafing	
3a Buildings		4 F4U-7 VC-33	12-100# G.P. bombs 11-5" rockets	10 bombs 7 hits	Several destroyed Others damaged
3b TONY on ground		2 F4U-7 VC-33	500 rds .50 cal	strafing	Serious
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 North-south runway at Yaha airfield was struck by 6 bombs, explosions causing craters to runway. Temporary damage.
- #2 A heavy attack was made on revetments on east side of north-south runway of Yaha airfield but no results were observed.
- #3 A group of buildings near Yonabaru, in target area 0360 D and H, reported to be an amphibious tank base was hit by 10-100# bombs and 7 H.E. rockets. At least 5 buildings were completely destroyed, perhaps more, with damage to others.
- #4 A TONY, appearing undamaged, parked in a revetment in target area in 7160 I at Yaha airfield was riddled by a strafing attack. The plane did not burn.

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(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's of VC-33, piloted by Lt. J. D. MITCHELL, Lt(jg) F. C. HENNINGER and H. W. SCHNEIDER and two J. J. CHRISTENSEN and four PB-2's of VC-33, piloted by Lt. H. A. HAMP, Lt(jg) C. E. BROWN and two L. O. FURBER and D. J. MACKINLID, attacked enemy installations at Okinawa Jima on 25 March 1945 in preparation for the invasion of the island. The VT were first directed to attack a possible amphibious tank base on the east coast near Yonaha in target area 3369 D and E. A heavy and accurate bombing and rocket attack demolished several buildings and damaged others. Only one run was made and the VT then joined the VP to attack Iaha airfield with the north-south runway and revetments to the east of it as the aiming points of the attack.

The planes circled the island to the south, then prepared to attack the airfield from east to west. The clouds were solid from 4500 feet up to 8000 feet. As soon as the planes began their attack, emerging from the clouds, intense heavy, medium and light anti-aircraft met them, coming from positions at the airfield and from Saiga Jima just off the west coast. The VT dropped bombs on the runway and combined with the fighters in rocketing and strafing the revetments to the east of the runway. Two fighters, Lt Hamp and Ensign McDonald sighted a TBM, apparently undamaged, in a revetment and riddled it with 50 cal. fire. An average of three runs were made on this area, all begun at about 6000 feet altitude; the VT gliding at 40 degrees and releasing at 2000 feet, the VP diving at 60 degrees, leveling to 30 degrees, pulling out anywhere between 1800 feet and 200 feet. In spite of the intense anti-aircraft fire no plane was hit. It was generally agreed that while the altitude of the AA fire was correct the deflection was off. The AA was fired to the eastward as the planes approached the airfield but did not continue firing as the planes retired over the water.

No difficulties were experienced on the hop except the ever present one of communication difficulties. The channels used were crowded; there was a great deal unnecessary talking; both as to the type of message sent and the words chosen.

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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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

H.D. SCHWAAB, Lt. USNR, AGIO

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

One FM-2 returned to base soon after takeoff when aileron control failed. Two rockets on one FM-2 went off by merely inserting safety plug, the master switch being on. The wing guns and the eighth rocket of one TBM-3 failed to fire.

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APPROVED BY:

E. L. KEMPF, Lt. USNR, Commanding

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

30 March 1945

DATE