

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. 85
 (d) Take off: Date 26 March 1945 Time (LZT) 1330(I) (Zone); Lat. 25-22N Long. 127-35E
 (e) Mission Direct support-preparation landings Okinawa Shima (f) Time of Return 1730(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)		
TBM-3	VC-88	4	0	4	10-100# GP bombs, Mk 30 2-5" HE rks, Mk 7 motor	Mk 100A2 (.25 delay) Mk 157
FM-2	VC-88	4	0	4	6-5" HE rks, Mk 7 motor	Mk 157

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)	NOTE		
			(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	GUNS USED		
			NOTE			

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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) Gun positions, bldgs, Okinawa (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) 1620-1645(I)(Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 3000 1.0 Cumulus (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility 20 (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used Mk 8 (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run Varied (NUMBER) Spacing 0 to 40 (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 1000 (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	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
		(k) SQUADRON			
1 Factory		3 TBM: 4 FM2 VC-88	16-100 GP: 16 rkts: 300rd .30; 800 .50	18 Strafing	Serious
2 Groups of bldgs	2 large 1 medium	2 TBM: 2 FM2 VC-88	17-100 GP: 12 rkts 1000 rd .50	6 Strafing	1 large 3 med. destroyed
3 Houses		2 TBM: 2 FM2 VC-88	4 rkts 300 rds .50 cal	4 Strafing	Several destroyed
4 Gun positions		3 FM-2 VC-88	12 rkts 500 rd .50 cal.	2 Strafing	Destroyed
5 Barn	200 x 50	1 TBM-3 VC-88	8 rockets	8	Destroyed
6 Fuel tanks		1 TBM-3 VC-88	4-100 GP bombs	2	Destroyed
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 Factory in target area 8060 SXY heavily attacked and parts left burning.
- #2 Numerous bldgs. in target area 8162 MM, 7657 P, S were bombed, rocketed and strafed. One large concrete building was destroyed, another large building severely damaged; several smaller wooden buildings were left burning, others damaged.
- #3 Several houses in target area 8657 S and 7657 A R were burned by rocket and strafing attack.
- #4 One gun position, a machine gun nest, in target area 7657 P knocked out by two direct rocket hits and strafing.
- #5 Barn struck by 8 rockets, in target area 8162 F; following explosions part of barn collapsed.
- #6 Two direct hits by 100 bombs exploded fuel tank in 8060 X Y.

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(p) Were Photographs Taken? _____ 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

On 26 March 1945 four F4U-3s of VC-88, piloted by Lt. J. D. MITCHELL, Lt(jg) C. B. HIGGINS, P. J. SCHUBERT and Ens. J. A. HITT and four FM-2s of VC-88, piloted by Lt. G. MUELLER, Lt(jg) C. J. BYLANDS and Ensigns H. C. HANN and G. C. TRIPLETT attacked a variety of targets of opportunity in Okinawa Shima prior to the invasion of that island. A factory, buildings, houses, a gun position, a barn and a fuel tank were among the aiming points of the bombing. Rocket and strafing attacks made by this squadron as well as other groups. Lt. Mueller accounted for the destruction of a machine gun nest in target area 7657 P with two well placed rockets. Ensign Hitt, in bombing a factory, struck a fuel tank which exploded with a great flame. The other pilots also started fires and explosions which resulted in destruction and damage to the varied installations attacked. Lt. Mitchell, in addition to pointing out targets to be attacked, himself made successful rocket attacks on a large barn, 200 x 50 feet which collapsed following explosions and joined in a bombing attack which destroyed several buildings and seriously damaged a large factory.

No anti-aircraft fire was noted while in the actual runs but heavy intense and accurate fire from the vicinity of Senaga Shima both before and after the attacks whenever the planes neared the wester coast of the island. In spite of this the attacks were continued. No plane received damage. All attacks were made from relatively low altitude due to the complete overcast at 3000 feet altitude. Bombing attacks were begun just below the overcast, in 30-35 degree glides, releasing at 1000 feet. The FM-2 began their attacks at 4000 feet, in 45 degree dives, pulling out at 800 feet. The majority of attacks were made from west to east.

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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

No difficulty was encountered except in ordnance. Three guns of one FM-2 failed to fire; a 100# bomb in one TBL-3 hung up and two rockets of an FM-2 could not be fired.

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REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

H. L. KEMPT, Lt. USNR, Commanding
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

5 April 1945
DATE