





# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when  
filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

REPORT No. 33

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Okinawa Shima (b) Time Over Target(s) 1015/1215-1 (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 Very Smoky and Hazy (e) Visibility 5  
(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 Varying Spacing 1000/500-220 kts. Altitude of Bomb Release 2000  
(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 Chan Town	-----	4 VC-91	20/100#, 8/500#, 15 Rockets & 315 Rds .50	90%	75% Destroyed
2 Small Town, T.A. 8069 G, H & I	-----	4 VC-91	6 - Rockets 1600 - Rds. .50 cal.	Numerous	75% Destroyed
3 Five Trucks T.A. 8069 "K"	Medium Size	2 VC-91	350 - Rds. .50 cal.	Numerous	Serious
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 town of Chan is not large and ~~practically~~ practically every building had either been hit by a bomb or rocket or was blazing when the pilots finished their runs.

The same situation existed in this town, which was about one-third the size of Chan, and it was hit by six of the rockets which were fired at it and innumerable incendiary bullets. It likewise was ablaze when the pilots left.

The trucks which were located in a vacant lot in the second town were thoroughly strafed, and it is thought that they were rendered inoperational. They did not, however, catch fire or explode.

(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 were launched for direct support work at 0930-1 and they joined four more TBM's from U.S.S. ANSIC (CVB57).

Commander Air Support, Control Units, sent all of the planes to bomb the town of Chan in target area 7968. This town was supposed to have been a communications center and had been hit before but had not been knocked out completely.

The eight planes proceeded to the town and made a total of eight runs on it. All runs were started at an altitude of approximately 5000 feet, were made from northeast to southwest and at an angle averaging 40°. The entire bomb and rocket load of each plane was discharged in the town. The previous hits on the town had wrecked about 50% of it, and after the TBM's had completed their runs, the pilots estimated that the town was 90% demolished. One of the many buildings destroyed was identified as a smelter.

The pilots encountered no enemy planes and no anti-aircraft fire.

The second support group consisted of four FM's, who joined up with eight TBM's from U.S.S. MAKIN ISLAND (CVB93). They were directed by CASCU to destroy the village by the name of Yenawa. Upon arrival over the target area, they found that it was already burned out. They asked permission to hit a small town just north of Chan, and permission was granted by CASCU.

Several runs were made on the town, with the FM's preceding the TBM's from MAKIN ISLAND on each run. The FM's strafed from one end of the town to the other, and the one FM loaded with rockets discharged all of them on the town. The MAKIN ISLAND planes likewise dropped their entire bomb and rocket load on the town. The town was practically wiped out at the end of the runs, but it was impossible to determine what part of the damage was caused by the strafing and rockets of the FM's and what part was caused by the bombs and rockets of the torpedo planes.

The flight leader of the FM's noticed five trucks in a cleared area in the center of town. After the runs on the town had been completed, he led his division of FM's in two strafing runs on the trucks, which had not been damaged. They were thoroughly strafed and rendered, it is believed, inoperational, although they neither burned nor exploded.

All strafing runs were started at a low altitude of 2000 feet. This was due to the intense smoke haze which made visibility of target very poor. The strafing continued down to treetop levels, and the six rockets were fired with a 1200 yard slant range, with a dive angle of 30°.

After the run on the trucks, ~~XXXXX~~ two of the FM's developed engine trouble, and together with one other FM, which accompanied them, landed on Tontan Airfield. The trouble was repaired, and they returned to base at 1600.

(Continued on next page)

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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 anti-aircraft fire was noted by any of the pilots and no  
Jap planes were seen.**

**The following pilots took part in the first strikes**

**Lt. R. F. Richards, Flight Leader**

**Lt.(jg) J. W. Burch**

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

**Ens. H. L. Peebles**

**Ens. H. W. Neubauer**

**The following fighter pilots participated in the ~~xxxx~~ second  
strikes**

**Lt.(jg) R. V. Hedelson**

**Ens. J. W. Hoffman**

**Ens. E. P. Nixon**

**Ens. F. W. Smith**

-----  
**None.**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

**A. W. PARKER, LT., A.G.I. OFFICER**

APPROVED BY:

**F. H. BLANCHARD, LT., C.O.**

**20 April 45**

SIGNATURE

**E. H. SPENCER, LT., A.G.I. OFFICER**

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE