





# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

REPORT No. **VC-85 - 172**

## 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 <b>TBM-3</b>	<b>VC-85</b>	<b>Enemy 20 mm AA Gun</b>	<b>Port Wingroot, gas tank, possibly fuselage</b>	<b>Total loss</b>
2				
3				<b>Bureau No. 22936</b>
4				<b>Eng. Bu. No. 120201</b>
5				<b>Eng. Mfr. No. 67146</b>
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
1	<b>VC-85</b>	<b>Orcutt, Kenneth Calvert</b> <b>805 34 17, AOM 2/c (T) (CAC)</b> <b>USNR V6</b>	<b>Failed to escape when pursued by Jap soldiers following crash landing on Okinawa.</b>	<b>Missing in Action</b>
			<b>"See Narrative."</b>	

## 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	
<b>TBM-3</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>4 hr</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>190</b>					<b>3</b>

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

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

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

SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes

TURNS

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) **Gun Positions, Southern Okinawa** (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) **0630-0830 (I)** (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target **2000 - 3000** **Stratus 10/10**  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target **Hazy** (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility **4** (MILES)

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

Bombs Dropped per Run **5, 10** (NUMBER) Spacing **40** (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release **1500** (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 <b>Gun Positions</b>	<b>400 Yards Square</b>	<b>4 TBM-3 VC-85</b>	<b>15 x 100# GP 14 x 5" HE Rockets</b>	<b>All in Area</b>	<b>Not Observed</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.

(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  
Fuzeing  
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

fire from the U.S. lines, the advanced point of which was about 5000 yards to the north. The three survivors hugged the sea wall for protection against artillery shell bursts, but kept moving north. Suddenly looking behind, they saw two Jap soldiers running toward them about 100 yards away. Both were armed with rifles with bayonets. The three started running up the beach on the sea side of the wall. At this, the Japs let out a shout and started firing. The bullets whined close, but no one was hit. Ducking through a break in the sea wall the trio ran up the land side, seeking ground with more cover. The Japs followed and once on their side of the wall, began firing again. There was little protection on this side of the wall and Lieutenant (jg) Cron decided that the best bet was to go over the wall again and head for the sea. He shouted his intentions to his companions and scrambled over the wall with Melton right behind. On the other side they ran for the water. Looking back, they saw that Orcutt wasn't with them and they never saw him again. Whether he was killed, wounded, overtaken and captured, or turned inland and found cover, is not known.

Reaching the water, the two escapers ran into the light surf as far as possible. The tide was shallow, and quite far out the water was only up to their knees. Meanwhile, the Japs were on the sea wall firing at the two airmen, who dove into the shallow water, turned over on their backs and began pushing out with their feet. Soon they were out of range and began working their way north, half swimming, half walking. They found a coral ledge where they could stand up comfortably and decided to wait there. Meanwhile friendly planes were seen overhead from time to time and when one would come reasonably close, Lieutenant (jg) Cron put out dye marker. Finally at 1200 (I) they were spotted by an OY observation plane which circled and dropped a one-man life raft. The raft fell too far inshore to be retrieved. The pilot of the OY flew low, cut his engine completely and shouted something unintelligible to the marooned men. It then made off. Ten minutes later - at 1210 (I) - a TBM aircraft circled the survivors, to be relieved fifteen minutes later by two F6Fs. At 1300 the men were picked up by two OS2Us and taken to Kerama Retto where they were transferred to U.S.S. CHANDELEUR (AV-10). On 14 April they were transferred to the U.S.S. NATOMA BAY (CVE-62), thence back to parent ship via U.S.S. PATTERSON (DD-392) on 15 April.

#### CHRONOLOGY OF ESCAPE

8 April 1945	0545 (I) - Launched from U.S.S. LUNGA POINT (CVE-94).
	0845 (I) - Crash landed on Okinawa Shima following hit by enemy AA fire.
	- Plane destroyed.
	1200 (I) - Sighted in water by OY plane.
	1300 (I) - Picked up by two OS2Us, one from U.S.S. COLORADO, one from U.S.S. SALT LAKE CITY.
	- Transferred to U.S.S. CHANDELEUR (AV-10).
14 April 1945	1230 (I) - Transferred to U.S.S. NATOMA BAY (CVE-62).
15 April 1945	0800 (I) - Transferred to U.S.S. PATTERSON (DD-392).
	1100 (I) - Transferred to parent ship.



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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, Raclar  
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:

APPROVED BY:

**No material failures were reported.**

**Fifteen 100# bombs were jettisoned.**

**Sixteen rockets were not fired.**

**Two rockets were jettisoned.**

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

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

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

**FRED C. HERRIMAN, Lt.Cdr., USN, C.O.**

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

**8 April 1945**

DATE