

**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

VF-40

Lt. Cdr. J.C. LONGINO, Jr.  
 Lt. (jg) L. MONTEAU  
 Lieut. E.E. HARTMAN  
 Lt. (jg) D.F. MABRY

VF-40

Lieut. E.G. TRULY  
 Lt. (jg) O.F. SLINGERLAND  
 Ensign T.W. OWNBY  
 Ensign J.J. McMONIGLE

Planes took off at 0800(I), cruised at 5000 feet to station near Chinen Saki. CASCU assigned flight to attacks on general area approached by demonstration landing forces. A temporary break in cloud cover over Okinawa allowed selection of various military targets which were attacked from 0830 to 1030. There were few targets of real importance, and several of the gun emplacements attacked appeared to be fakes or empty. No rockets or bombs of VF were observed to hit military targets, nor was any damage of any consequence noted. The lack of observable military activity was remarked. Only one pilot noted any AA and he described it as light and meager.

VF, after arriving on station, was given a target of a coastal defense gun emplacement in 9065E. Truly and Ownby each dropped a 100# bomb. Slingerland and McMonigle did not drop because the range was fouled.

The second target for the flight was an AA emplacement in 8764Q. Truly dropped two and Ownby dropped one 100# bombs which were observed to hit close to the target. No gun was seen in the emplacement.

The third target given was a reported pillbox in 8865J. Truly fired 2 rockets, McMonigle fired 6, Ownby fired 4, and Slingerland fired 4. Ownby observed rockets hitting on and near the reported target.

After these three assignments the flight was turned loose on targets of opportunity and selected first an area in the vicinity of a small boat pier in 84670. Truly fired 6 rockets and Ownby fired 4 along a road which paralleled the beach in this area. 8 rockets were seen to strike the road. McMonigle and Slingerland did not fire.

The flight then selected a school or barracks west of the town of Okota, 8466, and the town itself as its final objective. The barracks, located at the west edge of town were the object of 7 bombs dropped by Truly. The bombs were observed to strike a court yard and one corner of a building, knocking off the corner and starting it to smoki

McMonigle aimed for the barracks with his 10 100# bombs and they were observed to fall to one side. The radioman and gunner in this plane strafed the town as they passed over. No people were seen and houses of the town looked in good order.

Ownby fired 4 rockets on the road at 84670 not observing where they hit, aimed 3 bombs at the barracks building at Sashiki which did not hit, strafed two other small settlements and dropped his remaining 5 bombs on a small village at 7757Q. The bombs were observed to fall in the outskirts of the town but the pilot did not remain to asses damage.

Slingerland did not drop on the pier area but dropped his 10 bombs singly across the town of Sashiki, his crewmen observing hits on several houses.

Truly reported the air coordinator ignored the TBMs in favor of fighters in assigning targets. He said he had to finally put in a special request for assignments.

Ownby reported seeing light or medium AA fire, meager, from the top of a ridge at 8664G and H.

**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 comments.**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

*W.P. Lehman*

**W.P. LEHMAN, Lt., USNR, A.C.I.**

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY: *Richard D. Sampson*

**R. D. SAMPSON, Lt. Cdr., USN, AGC.**

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

**1 April 19**

DATE



**AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT**

REPORT No. 3

**VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those listed in II only).** **None**

(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				
2				
3				
4				
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7				
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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).** **None**

(a) NO.	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NAME, RANK OR RATING	(d) CAUSE	(e) CONDITION OR STATUS

**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	
<u>F6F-5</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>3.4</u>	<u>325</u>	<u>205</u>		<u>1,200</u>			<u>4</u>
<u>TBM-3C</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>3.8</u>	<u>335</u>	<u>210</u>	<u>1,250</u>	<u>1,885</u>			<u>4</u>

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

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

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

- SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes
- TURNS
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
 (Reclassify when  
 filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 3

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

(I)

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) 6-8 small boats, Machinato (b) Time Over Target(s) 1038-1240 (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target Base 1200 feet, Top 1500 feet, Cover 1/10.
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility Unlimited
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Dive and Glide Bomb Sight Used None
- Bombs Dropped per Run 1-500# Spacing 100# - 40 ft. Altitude of Bomb Release 3000 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 Small boats at Machinato		4 VF-40	4-500# G.P. Bombs 21-5" H.E. Rockets	None	Slight from n miss by 1-500
2 Small boats at Machinato		4 VF-40	40-100# G.P. Bombs 32-5" H.E. Rockets	2	Slight from n Unobserved. 7m
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? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

Photographs have no evidential value relative to damage

**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
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- Defense Tactics and Their Effectiveness

**ENEMY AIRCRAFT**

- Method of Locating, Distance
- Disposition
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- Use of Cover, Deception
- Angles of Attack
- Distance of Opening Fire
- Defensive Tactics

**COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Own Weaknesses
- Enemy Weaknesses
- Offensive Tactics, Own
- Offensive Tactics, Enemy
- Defensive Tactics, Own
- Defensive Tactics, Enemy
- Flexible Gunnery, Own
- Escort Tactics
- Fighter Direction
- Use of Radar
- Night Fighting
- Recognition, Aircraft

**ATTACK**

**OWN TACTICS**

- Method of Locating Target
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**DEFENSE, ENEMY**

- Evasive Tactics, Ships
- Concealment
- Searchlights
- Night Fighter Tactics
- Use of Jamming

**COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Bombing Tactics
- Torpedo Tactics
- Effectiveness of Bombs, Torpedoes
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- Photography
- Briefing

**OPERATIONAL**

- Navigation
- Homing
- Rendezvous
- Recognition, Ships
- Communications
- Flight Operations
- Search and Tracking
- Base Operations
- Maintenance

**VF-40**

Lieut. J.E. LOCHRIDGE  
 Lt.(jg) R.O. JENNINGS, Jr.  
 Lt.(jg) R.R. NEWMAN  
 Lt.(jg) W.W. ROMAN

**VT-40**

Lieut. C.R. CAMPBELL  
 Lieut. R.M. HUNT  
 Ensign J.J. McGRATH  
 Ensign W.K. SHORTALL

Flight took off at 1000, reported on station <sup>at</sup> /1038, and was assigned to attack small boats beached on creek near Machinato, some 100 feet inland from point where creek empties into sea.

Bombing, rocket and strafing attacks were made on the boats, and an A/A position in the beach brush just west of the boats. The boats were hidden by brush and camouflaged and were not visible during the initial bombing run. Three of VF's 500# G.P. bombs were missed but the fourth bomb hit in the brush near the boats and blew off the camouflage revealing the target for subsequent rocket attacks and additional bombing by VT. The torpedo planes made from four to five bombing and rocket runs each. A cluster of four 100# bombs landed sufficiently close to shake the target and two rockets struck in the brush partially concealing the boats and are believed to have wrought damage. Strafing during rocket runs by VF and two subsequent strafing runs by VT was directed on target.

VF's attacks were dives of 70° starting at 7000 feet, release at 3000 feet and pull-out at 1500 to 2000 feet. VT used glide bombing tactics, starting their runs at 5000 feet, releasing at 2000 feet. Rockets were fired at 3000 feet.

**XIII. MATERIAL DATA.** (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.  
Use additional sheets if necessary).

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  - Turrets
  - Ammunition
  - Bombs, Torpedoes
  - Bomb Sights
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- PROTECTION**
  - Armor; Points and Angles  
of Fire Needing Further  
Protection
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- EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT**
  - Parachutes
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- 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 comments.**

REPORT PREPARED BY

APPROVED BY

**W.P. LEHMAN, Lt., USNR, ACI Off.**

**J.C. LONGINO, Jr., Lt. Cdr., USN, Acting 4 April**

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE



**AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT**

**I. GENERAL**

(a) Unit Reporting Air Group 40 (b) Based on or at U.S.S. SUWANNEE (c) Report No. 4  
 (d) Take off: Date 4 April 1945 Time (LZT) 0600(I) (Zone); Lat. 25°-11' N. Long. 128°-33'  
 (e) Mission Ground Support, Okinawa (f) Time of Return 0902(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>F6F-5</u>	<u>VF-40</u>	<u>4</u>		<u>4</u>	<u>1-500# G.P. Bomb 6-5" H.E. Rockets</u>	<u>Instant.nose,non-.02 delay base.</u>
<u>TBM-30</u>	<u>VT-40</u>	<u>4</u>		<u>4</u>	<u>10-100# G.P. Bombs 8-5" HVR Rockets</u>	<u>Instant.nose,non-.02 delay base. 7</u>

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

None

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE

**IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).**

None

(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)			
			(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).**

None

(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		

REPORT No. 4  
**None**

**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)
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13				
14				

**VII. PERSONNEL CASUALTIES (in aircraft listed in II only; identify with planes listed in VI by Nos. at left).** **None**

(a) NO.	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NAME, RANK OR RATING	(d) CAUSE	(e) CONDITION OR STATUS

**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>F6F-5</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>200</b>		<b>2200</b>			<b>4</b>
<b>TBM-3C</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>2250</b>			<b>4</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