

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
 (Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 4

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) South Okinawa (b) Time Over Target(s) 0635-0840 (Zone)
- (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target Base 800 feet, Top 1000 feet, Cover 3/10.
 (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Partially obscured by clouds (e) Visibility Unlimited
 (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Steep glide Bomb Sight Used None
 (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 2-5 100# Spacing 40 feet Altitude of Bomb Release 2500 feet
 (NUMBER) (FEET) (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 Gun positions Machinato Airfield		4 VF-40	4-500# G.P. Bombs	4 in area	One emplacement destroyed, oth
2 Gun positions Machinato Airfield		4 VT-40	15-100# B.P. Bombs	2 in area	possibly damag do
3 6-8 tanks or armored vehicles		4 VF-40	24-5" H.E. Rockets		One tank destr others well hi
4 6-8 tanks or armored vehicles		4 VT-40	10-100# G.P. Bombs 31-5" HVR Rockets		by repeated st ing. do
5 Storage area in town.		2 VT-40	15-100# G.P. Bombs	5	Reported stora area proved em
6					
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(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.

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
- 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
- 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

Lieut. R.E. JOHNS, Jr.
 Lt.(jg) D.M. UGLOW
 Lieut. R.I. ROTH
 Lt.(jg) A.A. LEE

VT-40

Lieut. E.G. TRULY
 Ensign J.J. McGRATH
 Lt.(jg) O.F. SLINGERLAND
 Ensign J.J. McMONIGLE

Flight took off at 0600, reported on station at 0635, and were assigned two targets between that time and their departure at 0840.

The first target was A/A emplacements at northeast end of Machinato runway. Attacking in 50° glides from 8000 to 9000 feet and bombing through a thin, low-lying cloud cover which partially filmed the target, VF laid 4-500# G.P. bombs and VT dropped 15-100# G.P. bombs in the target area. One of VT's 100#'s was a direct hit on an emplacement and destroyed it. Damage from the other bombs could not be determined. The attack was met by fire from one of the light A/A target positions and it was this active emplacement which was destroyed by the VT's direct hit.

The second target was a group of tanks or completely armored vehicles drawn up beside an embanked road at the southeast end of Inasom. VF attacked the position given with 24-5" H.E. rockets, but on this pass did not see the tanks and was unable to assess possible damage. VT followed with a rocket and bombing attack scoring at least one direct hit with a 5" H.E. rocket and destroying one of the tanks which burned throughout the rest of the attack. A second fire started in the undergrowth just off the road, throwing off black smoke in volume and intensity similar to that of the burning tank. This second fire may have come from another hidden tank or vehicle. VT continued to strafe the tanks, riddling them. Their fire was answered by an m/g or light A/A from the bank overlooking the tanks.

VF, in pulling out of their first attack, saw four or five more tanks on the other side of the hill and made strafing runs. The tanks, or armored vehicles, were well hidden but positive signs of damage were lacking except that the tanks returned their fire on the first run but were silent on the last run. It is believed that the tanks were seriously damaged.

Two VT pilots dropped 15-100# G.P. bombs on a reported storage area in the town adjoining that in which the tanks were seen. Five of the bombs landed squarely in the designated area, blowing up its canvas cover, but there was nothing in the area.

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

No comments.

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:

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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

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AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

REPORT No. 5

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)
F6F-5	VF-40	Unknown	Unknown	Bu.No. 72957 destroyed

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	VF-40	Lt.Cdr. Richard D. SAMPSON	Unknown	Missing in action

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	
F6F-5	60	60	3.5	325	205		720			3
TBM-3C	60	60	3.7	335	210					4

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

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

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

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 5

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Trucks, Southern Okinawa (b) Time Over Target(s) 1245-1435 (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target Base 1200 feet, top 5000 feet, cover 10/10 over target.
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

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

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide, rockets and strafing Bomb Sight Used None
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run None Spacing _____ Altitude of Bomb Release _____
(NUMBER) (FEET) (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)
<u>4 trucks</u>		<u>2 VF-40</u>	<u>Possibly 2 to 4 rockets*</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>Well hit by strafing.</u>
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(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).

* It is not known whether Lt.Cdr. Sampson fired his rockets. The first attack made by Sampson and his wingman, Denman, was a rocket attack. Denman led the attack and was unable to observe whether Sampson's rockets were launched. Denman's own rockets hung and could not be launched.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

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

Failure of Denman's rockets to launch resulted from failure to remove shorting clips from pigtail plugs.

- 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: *W.P. Lehman*

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