

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VBF-9 (b) Based on ~~OCAR~~ U.S.S. LEXINGTON (CV16) (c) Report No. 11
(d) Take off: Date 22 February 1945 Time (LZT) 0915 K (Zone); Lat. 24°50' N Long. 140°58' E
(e) Mission Air Support, IWO JIMA (f) Time of Return 1215 K (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)		
F6F-5	VBF-9	12	0	12	Napalm Bomb 2400 X .50 cal	-
F6F-5	VBF-9	8	0	8	1 Mk 64 500# G.P.O.01 delay 2400 X.50 cal.	AN-M101-A2-Tail fuze

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
F6F-5	VF-9	16	U.S.S. LEXINGTON (CV16)	F6F-5	VF-80	36	U.S.S. HANCOCK
TBM-3	VT-9	9	"	TBM-3	VT-80	18	"
SB2C-3	VB-9	14	"	SB2C-3	VB-80	13	"

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
none			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____

(i) Did Any Part of Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? - If so, Describe Clouds _____ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
(YES OR NO)

(j) Time of Day and Brilliance 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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			
			none			

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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		none		
2				
3				
4				
5				
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
		none		

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	48	65	3	250	205			3000		20

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

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

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

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

No opportunity.

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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) East side area 200, West side area 201, IWO JIMA (b) Time Over Target(s) 1105 K (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target 2000' Strato-cumulus 10/10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Poor, raining, debris & dust from previous attacks. (e) Visibility 4
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Level at 100' to 200' for Napalm. Bomb Sight Used 30° glide for 500# G.P.
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 1 Spacing - Altitude of Bomb Release 400'
(NUMBER) (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 West side 201	800 sq yds	20 F6F-5's VF-9	12 Napalm Bombs 8 500# G.P. bombs 3000 X .50 cal	100%	u/d CF. below
2 East side 200					
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.)

- This area was designated by air coordinator. Planes of U.S.S. HANCOCK and planes from VF-9 preceded our aircraft. Due to the heavy rain, dust and debris from prior attacks, naval, and artillery bombardment results cannot be determined.
- All Napalm bombs fell in target area (some did not explode CF material content) and 8 of our 8 500# G.P.'s as well.
- Strike given oral "well done" by air coordinator.

(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
- " " " 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

Support Strike #1 took off from U.S.S. LEXINGTON at 0915 K and effected rendezvous with units of U.S.S. HANCOCK (CF. page 1 for numbers and types). Approach to the target, IWO JIMA, was made just below and 2000' overcast and orbit taken at Point Easy - 10 miles 090° of Mt. Suribachi. About 1100 K the entire strike was ordered to hit enemy installations in west side area 201 and east side of area 200.

Our planes followed the U.S.S. HANCOCK aircraft and VF-9's aircraft in this attack. We approached the target area, flying over it at 2500' from north to south. We then circled to the left in a line of divisions, peel-off being to the west with planes attacking the target area in columns, the 12 Napalm bomb carrying aircraft dove from 2500' and entered the target area at altitudes from 100 feet to 250 feet and dropped their Napalm bombs, speed 280-300 knots. The 8 aircraft with 500# G.P.'s made a glide (300) approach from the same direction and altitude and dropping at 700' into the target area.

The designated target area was hit during a driving rain with poor visibility. Our attack was preceded by many Navy aircraft with resultant dust and debris. Consequently it is not possible to detail results. The flight however received a "well done" from the ground forces via the air coordinator.

Retirement was made to the north and rendezvous made at 2000'. No further action was had the strike returning to base without incident at 1215 K.

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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

The 12 planes of this unit were successful in dropping all Napalm bombs in assigned target area. It is the consensus of opinion amongst the pilots however that only about 60% of same detonated. The ones that did detonate gave a vivid flame area about 100' X 100' and approximately 50' high for 15 seconds.

All other material performed satisfactorily.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

J. P. MURPHY, Lieut., USNR. ACI
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

Frank L. LAWLOR, Lieut. Comdr., USNR. CO 22 Feb. 1945.
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY DATE