





# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No VC85-39

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Troops and Gun Positions (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) 0930-1015(K) (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 1200 Stratus 10/10  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility 10 (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used Mk VIII (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 2-500/ 8-1000 (NUMBER) Spacing 50 (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 1000 (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	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
		(k) SQUADRON <u>VC85</u>			
1 <b>Troop Positions</b>		<b>TBM-3</b>	<b>Rockets - 52</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>Not Observed</b>
2 <b>Gun Positions</b>	<b>400 Yds. Square</b>	<b>M1-2</b>	<b>Anno 675x.50 Cal</b>		
3			<b>15x100</b>		
4			<b>8x500 3500x.50 Cal.</b>		<b>All bombs in target area</b>
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).

**Damage not assessable**

(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

Mission was launched to support ground troop on Iwo Jima Island and flight was led by Lieutenant Commander Fred Cone HERRIMAN, U.S. Navy, Commanding Officer of VC85. Four TBM-3s and four FM-2s took off from parent carrier U.S.S. LUNGA POINT (CVE-94) at 0800 on 26 February 1945.

After rendezvousing with the eight planes from VC76, the flight reported on station and was assigned a rocket and strafing attack on troops massed in several ravines on the enemy's extreme left flank. All planes made from 3 to 5 runs on these positions scoring numerous hits. The flight was given a "Well Done" by Commander Air Support Control Unit.

Following this sweep, a bombing and strafing attack was ordered on gun positions on the enemy right flank. Two coordinated runs were made and all bombs were dropped in the target area.

No AA fire was observed although one pilot reported seeing a Jap rocket launched at the flight from the ground. It rose about 800 feet, then gyrated crazily and fell to earth without exploding. All aircraft returned safely.

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REPORT No. **TC85-39**

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

**Five 100# bombs in one TBM-3 failed to release due to faulty release mechanism.**

**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

**FORWARDED: G.A.T. WASHBURN,  
Captain, U.S. Navy,  
Commanding Officer,  
U.S.S. LUNGA POINT (CVE-34).**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

**W.H. KEARNS, Lieut., USNR, ACIO.**  
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

**FRED C. HERRIMAN, Lt. Cdr., USN, C.O.**  
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

**26 February 1945**  
DATE