

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting **VC-33** (b) Based on or at **USS HAGSTAD BAY** (c) Report No. **1 64**  
 (d) Take off: Date **7 March 1945** Time (LZT) **0700 K** (Zone); Lat. **24-45N** Long. **142-10E**  
 (e) Mission **Direct Support - Capture of Doi Nam** (f) Time of Return **1110 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)		
<b>TBM-3</b>	<b>VC-33</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2-500 G.P. bombs Mk 64</b>	<b>Mk 103A1 (inst)</b> <b>Mk 101A2 (n.d.)</b>
					<b>6-5" rocket motor Mk 1</b>	<b>Mk 157 base fuze (n.d.)</b>
					<b>5" rocket body Mk 5 Mod 1 Mk 3 booster</b>	
<b>FM-2</b>	<b>VC-33</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6-5" rocket S.28" motor Mk 7 Mk 146 (n.d.)</b>	
					<b>1 napalm bomb Mk 1106 fuze and Mk 3 grenade</b>	

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<b>TBM</b>	<b>VC-33</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>USS ANZIO</b>				
<b>FM-2</b>	<b>VC-33</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>USS ANZIO</b>				

## 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
			(ZONE)	<b>NONE</b>		
			(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 \_\_\_\_\_ (k) Visibility \_\_\_\_\_  
(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (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:				(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER	GUNS USED		
			<b>NONE</b>			



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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) Northeastern Ho Jinn (b) Time Over Target(s) 0:45 K (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 1000 to 400 stratus 2  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Smoke clouds (e) Visibility 8-10  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Rocket only Bomb Sight Used \_\_\_\_\_  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run \_\_\_\_\_ Spacing \_\_\_\_\_ Altitude of Bomb Release \_\_\_\_\_  
(NUMBER) (FEET) (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 <u>Road Positions.</u>		<u>2 TBM, 1 HU-2 VC-88</u>	<u>12-5" rkts(5" motors) 1 napalm bomb</u>	<u>All in area</u>	<u>Not observed</u>
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).

Rockets exploded and one napalm started a blaze in target area 202 W and X in north-eastern Ho Jinn but no damage was observed inasmuch as no specific aiming points were noted.

(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

Four TBM's and four FM-2's of VC-88 on 7 March 1945 joined with three TBM's and four FM-2's of VC-82 on a direct support mission at Iwo Jima. The TBM-3's of VC-88 were carrying the new high velocity rocket, with a 5 inch motor for the first time; the FM-2's of VC-88 were each carrying one napalm bomb under its left wing for the first time. One VT pilot returned to base when a stack blew soon after take-off, having first fired his six rockets into the sea in accordance with instructions. Of the three remaining VT pilots of VC-88, two, Lt. J. D. MITCHELL and Ens. T.P. HUDGINS fired six rockets each in target area 202 W and X, the aiming point being a crossroad. No damage was observed. No installations or positions seen. The third VT pilot, in the interest of safety to the front lines, refrained from firing his rockets when a large cloud moved suddenly over the area.

The FM-2's of VC-88 fared no better in their attacks. Three pilots were unable to release their napalm bombs after trying without success on a run over the target and later over the sea. The fourth pilot, Ens. H. C. MANN, indicating 240 knots in a level glide, dropped his napalm from 75 feet elevation without any difficulty. The bomb hit the crossroad area and went off, firing an area about 20 yards in diameter. The other three fighters, unable to land on their carrier with a napalm bomb were granted permission to land on airfield #1 at Iwo Jima. Mann joined them. Mann and Ensign Triplett, the later with a napalm bomb still on, landed without trouble. Lt. G. MUELLER landed on the southwest-north east runway from the southwest. While running along the runway the plane hit a soft spot, the port landing gear collapsed and plane nosed up on the prop, hitting the port wing tip. The napalm bomb did not explode and Mueller was not injured. Lt(jg) Draper landed on the north-south runway, heading south which was downwind. Parked planes prevented a short landing and it became necessary, in order to avoid running out of runway, to apply brake which caused a ground loop and ran off runway. There was a sudden stoppage of engine, the fuselage was bent and damaged port wing tip. Both Mueller and Draper's planes were recommended for striking. The pilots were returned to the carrier by destroyer later in the day. The rockets on Mann's and Triplett's planes were removed and they flew back to base.

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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

**On the basis of the first use by VC-88 of napalm bombs on F4U's it is apparent that the present release mechanism is unsatisfactory. Three out of four pilots were unable, after strenuous efforts, to release the napalm bomb. In view of the danger in landing with a napalm bomb, this matter would seem to require prompt correction.**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

**H.D. SCHWAAB, Lt. USNR, ACIO, VC-88**  
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

**R.L. DRUFF, Lt. USNR, Commanding**  
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

**11 March 1948**  
DATE