

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

REPORT No. 28

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 TBM-3	VC-88	Enemy light AA	Stabilizer	Small hole, 6"x2", slight
2 TBM-3	VC-88	Enemy light AA	Windshield	5"x2" hole, slight.
3 TBM-3	VC-88	Enemy AA	Right wingtank and right aileron	Serious gas leak and lack of aileron control necessitated water landing. Complete loss of plane. Bu.no. 23159
4				
5				
6				
7 TBM-3	VC-88	Enemy AA	Dummy, wing, filge	Small holes, slight.
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
1	VC-88	Lt. C. L. HERBERT	Impact of water landing	Abrasion anterior aspect left leg. Condition good.
2	VC-88	R. G. McKEE, AMM/e	Impact of water landing	Laceration on face, contusion on right leg. Stunned. Fair condition.

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	
TBM-3	--	--	3.3	330	210			3000		3
FM-2			3.3	230	117					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

- TURN
- DIVE
- CEILING
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

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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) Gun positions - Mt. Suribachi (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) 1350 - 1345Z (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 800 - 1000 feet (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND LENGTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clouds (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility 5 - 6 (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used None (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run See XII (NUMBER) Spacing _____ (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 700 (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			
1 5 or more gun emplacements on Mt. Suribachi	4' x 10'	4 FM-2 VC-28	12 - 5" H.B. rockets	See (o)	None observed
2					
3 Gun emplacements of airfield #2	Vicinity	4 FM-2 VC-28	4 - 500# 23 - 5" H.B. rockets	See (o)	Damaged but extent unknown.
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).

- #1. Rockets and strafing were directed at northern slope of Mt. Suribachi ahead of troops where enemy gun positions were reported. No gun positions were seen but the area from which they were reported to be firing was struck by both rockets and strafing. No damage was observed, however.
- #2. All bombs and rockets were aimed at gun flashes seen on ground. One run only was made with no time to observe results of attack (see XII) and therefore no accurate assessment of damage was possible. One rocket hit on a gun position, with resultant explosion and debris was seen, however, so that some damage was caused.

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

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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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

SIGNATURE **H.D. SCHNAAB, Lt. USNR, ASIC, VC-88**

SIGNATURE **H. L. KEMPF, Lt USNR, Commanding, VC-88**

24 Feb, 1945 DATE

XII TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA

working ailerons he noticed both stayed up regardless of the maneuver. He tried a right turn to get into wind but couldn't do it; he was losing stability, so, after pulling up landing gear except tailwheel and notifying crewmen to prepare for water landing, he landed 120° away from the direction of the wind. He had locked his shoulder straps, put prop in full low pitch. He kept his flaps closed until tail hook bounced on water, then opened his flaps, immediately the plane was out of control. The left wing hit first and landing was hard. The plane set low in water and sank within 30 - 60 seconds. Inman, the gunner, had jettisoned the turret cover and got out quickly but had to standby and aid the radioman to come out through the turret. McKee had returned to the bilge before landing but was stunned by the impact; the hatch in the bilge was below water. Herbster in the meanwhile pulled out the large raft which he and McKee used. Inman, about 40 feet away, was well supported by his Mae West. DE no. 406, EDMONDS, came up quickly tossed a line to Inman and accurately fired a line to the raft, picking all three men up. The following day they were transferred to their ship. See XIII for recommendations and difficulties in reference to survival equipment.

In commenting on the attack on the gun positions, the torpedo pilots were of the opinion that the method of attack ordered was unwise, dangerous and was not conducive to accurate bombing and rocket attack. They had no opportunity to observe the aiming point until they emerged from the clouds at about 1000 feet and were asked to drop 500# bombs at this low altitude. The danger of injuries to the planes from bomb blasts and explosions in addition to enemy anti-aircraft fire were apparently not taken into consideration in ordering the attack.