

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL
RESTRICTED (Classification when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL
I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC85 (b) Based on or at U.S.S. LUNGA POINT (CY894) (c) Report No. VC85-21
(d) Take off: Date 17 February 1945 Time (LZT) 0645 (K) (Zone); Lat. 24° 53' N Long. 140° 30' E
(e) Mission Strike on Chichi Jima and Haha Jima (f) Time of Return 1035 (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)		
FM-2	VC85	4		4	Full Armo 6x5" HE Rockets	

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
FM-2	VC84	4	USS MAKIN ISLAND (CY893)				
FM-2	VC85	4	USS BISMARCK SEA (CY894)				

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)			
			(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)
(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			

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. **VC85-21**

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 FW-2	VC85	Explosion of Ammo Ship	Caught directly in blast	Blew off both wing tanks Broke windshield Damaged hood, cowling and tail wheel
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

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	
FW-2	150	150	3h 45m	242	180			4000		4

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over				
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

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. VC85-21

CONFIDENTIAL

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Ha Ha Jima and Chichi Jima (b) Time Over Target(s) 0800 (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 3000 - 2500 Stratus 8/10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 20
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type _____ 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 <u>VC85</u>	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight serious, destroyed or sunk)
1 1 Small Ship (STD)	150'	1 FM-2	100 Rds. .50 Cal.	50	Destroyed
2 10 Small Barges	50' - 75'	4 FM-2	75 Rockets 3000 Rds. .50 Cal.		Slightly Damaged
3 1 Lugger	100'	2 FM-2	8 Rockets 400 Rds. .50 Cal	2 200	Heavily Damaged
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).

The small ship in #1 of (h) above was attacked while underway 5 miles west of Chichi Jima, Kazzan Retto. It was apparently loaded with munitions because it blew up with a tremendous explosion, flames and smoke rising 3,000 feet in the air.

The barges and lugger, #2 and #3 of (h) above, were located in coves around Ha Ha Jima, Kazzan Retto. Two rocket hits were observed on the lugger and numerous hits on the small barges.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.
Gun camera films verify destruction of Ammo. Ship.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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REPORT No. **VC85-21**

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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

At 0845 on 17 February 1945, 4 FM-2s of VC85, took off from parent ship, U.S.S. LUNGA POINT (CVE-94), joined up with 4 FM-2s from VC84 and a like number from VC86. Purpose of the mission was to destroy aircraft, torpedo boats and small shipping around Chichi Jima and Haha Jima in support of operations at Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands.

The flight leader was Lieutenant A.D. POSTER, USNR, executive officer of VC85. The group first approached Chichi Jima and the four fighters from VC85 made a low run over the seaplane base to destroy any seaplanes present. Run was made from 2500 ft. at about 250 kts. None were found. Small boats were sighted near the seaplane installations but were not attacked. The BVF from VC84 and VC86 were ordered to search the Susaki Airfield area and attack any aircraft present. The 4VF from VC84 strafed 3 camouflaged Bettys on the edge of the field with unobserved results. None of the planes were seen to burn, although numerous hits were undoubtedly made.

Following this sweep, the planes rendezvoused 5 miles south of Chichi Jima and proceeded south to Haha Jima. Along the north coast, a barge was attacked with .50 caliber and a lugget was hit with two rockets and machine gun bullets. This ship was heavily damaged. On the south west coast of Haha Jima, in a small cove, 8 or 10 barges were sighted. These were strafed and all were damaged. The group searched the shoreline and adjacent small islands for torpedo boats, but found none. The planes then returned to Chichi Jima and explored the coastline carefully. Sweeping westward across the island a small ship was sighted heading toward the island and about 5 miles offshore. This was strafed from 200 feet altitude by Ensign Henry HITPAS, USNR,

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REPORT No. VC85-21

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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
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OPERATIONAL

- Navigation
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of VC85. The ship, a Sugar Tare Dog, blew up with a tremendous explosion. Ensign HITPAS was caught in the center of the blast and his plane was damaged as described in Item VI of this report. The blast blew off both wing tanks and the full extent of the damage could not be ascertained in the air. The flight leader ordered return to base in order to make landing at the schedule time. All planes and personnel returned and landed safely.

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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:

One FM-2 lost a wing tank shortly after take-off. Cause was undetermined. No other material failures were reported. One FM-2 had one rocket fail to launch due to faulty pig-tail connection.

FORWARDED: G.A.T. WASHBURN,
Captain, U.S. Navy,
Commanding Officer,
U.S.S. LUNGA POINT (CVE-94)

APPROVED BY:

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

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

17 February 1945
DATE