

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when  
filled out)

## I. GENERAL

# CONFIDENTIAL

### Bombing

(a) Unit Reporting Squadron NINE (b) Based on or at U.S.S. LEXINGTON (c) Report No. 5  
 (d) Take off: Date 22 February 1945 Time (LZT) 0945 K (Zone); Lat 24° 50' N. Long 140° 28' E.  
Air Support - Iwo Jima  
 (e) Mission LEXINGTON Strike 1 (f) Time of Return 1240 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)		
11 SB2C-3					2 250# GP/ANM-57	ANM-100 N.D. Mk 19 Inst/ANM-101 N.D.
3 SBW-3	VB-9	14	0	14	2 500# GP/ANM-64	

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
F6F	VBF-9	20	U.S.S. LEXINGTON				
F6F	VT-9	16	U.S.S. LEXINGTON				
TBF	VT-9	9	U.S.S. LEXINGTON				

## 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) \_\_\_\_\_  
 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		

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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 SB2C-3	VB-9	Shrapnel from own bomb explosion.	Damaged port stub wing - #4 flap cylinder	Minor
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	
SB2C/SBW	50	50	3	320	234		NONE		14

## 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

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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) Enemy Installations - Iwo Jima (b) Time Over Target(s) 1125 - 1130 K (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target 3,000' Nimbus 10/10  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Hazy and rainy (e) Visibility Two Miles  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Level Bomb Sight Used Mk 8 Gun Sight  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 4 Spacing Salvo 1 500# - 2 250# Altitude of Bomb Release 500' - 1,000'  
(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 Assigned area by air	2400'x2400'	14	28 500# GP	56	Undetermined
2 coordinator		VB-9	28 250# GP		
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)

Target assigned by air coordinator was a general area containing enemy installations (not described to the aircraft). All bombs were seen to land in general area which was 400 yards northeast of northeast/southwest runway of Motogama Airfield #2. Damage assessment could not be made as specific installations were not visible.

(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

The strike group of VF, VBF, VT and VB completed rendezvous at base at 1,000 ft. and proceeded to target. Lieutenant T. F. SCHNEIDER, USN, led the VB flight. Course to target was 094° and formation maintained about 150 knots indicated air speed. Enroute the general weather was poor with ceiling at 3,500 ft. and visibility varying from 2 miles in rain areas to 5 miles in the clear and aircraft were forced down to 300 ft. in some places.

The group arrived at Point Easy, ten miles east of Mt. Surabachi and orbited at 3,000 ft. until ordered to attack.

The target assigned was a general area approximately 800 yards square, about 400 yards northeast of the northeast/southwest runway of Motogama Field #2. The attack was preceded by a strike group from the U.S.S. HANCOCK and OAG-9 planes attacked in the following order: VF-9, VBF-9, VB-9, VT-9. VB-9 commenced the strike at 1125 and was ordered to cease not later than 1130. Visibility was extremely low and targets very difficult to identify. A very shallow dive was initiated from 3,000 ft. and bombs were dropped in level flight between 500 ft. and 1,000 ft. above the ground on a east and southeast to west and northwest course as directed.

Rendezvous was affected to the northwest and at 1145 the flight was ordered to return 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

**All material performed satisfactorily.**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

**J. S. KORACH, Lieut., (A)1, USNR,**  
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY  
**Air Combat Info. Officer.**

**TONY F. SCHNEIDER, Lieut., USN,**  
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY  
**Commanding Officer.**

**2/24/45**  
DATE