

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filed)

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

Support 2A

(a) Unit Reporting VF-9 (b) Based on or at USS LEXINGTON (CV-16) (c) Report No. 9-45
 (d) Take off: Date 21 Feb. 1945 Time (LZT) 0630 K. (Zone); Lat. 25°-18'N. Long 140°-06'E.
 (e) Mission Call support of ground troops - Iwo Jima (f) Time of Return 0930 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)		
<u>P6F-5</u>	<u>VF-9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>Full load 50 cal. 5" HVAR in 4 planes</u>	<u>Mk 142 inst. nose fuzo.</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>TBM</u>	<u>VF-9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>USS LEXINGTON</u>				

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
<u>None</u>			(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		
<u>None</u>						

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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 <u>F6F-5</u>	<u>VP-9</u>	<u>Enemy 20mm. A/A</u>	<u>Leading edge of right stabilizer</u>	<u>Change right stabilizer.</u>
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
		<u>None</u>		

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	
<u>F6F-5</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>215</u>	---	<u>4000</u>	---	---	<u>8</u>

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
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) Artillery positions area 132, R & O, Iwo Jima (b) Time Over Target(s) 0745 K. (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target 3000' scattered 3/10 (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Smoky (e) Visibility 8-10 (MILES)

(f) ~~Bombing~~ Strafing Tactics: Type Dive (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used Mk VIII (TYPE)

~~Rockets~~ Bombs Dropped per Run one (NUMBER) Spacing -- (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release -- (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 Artillery positions in 2 area	50 x 150 yds.	7 VF-9	16 x 5" HVAR 4000 rds. 50 cal.	16 all	Fires started burning in area
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).

(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

Eight planes took off, but Cook had trouble getting his wings unfolded, which delayed his take-off and he was unable to rendezvous or join the flight. The seven VF along with 8 TBM's of VT-9 loaded with 10 x 100 and 2 x 500 G.s. reported on station and were turned over to the target coordinator who ordered the flight to attack artillery positions on the N side of Suribachi Mt., Iwo Jima in Grid Area 132, E and .

The IC pointed out target by strafing, the VF dropped their bombs and the VF then fired 16 rockets into and strafed the positions with 4000 rds. of 50 cal. each VF plane making 3 to 4 runs. The runs were made from 2500' to . The flight then would circle back and up and repeat run.

The IC termed the attack well executed.

After the completion of this attack the flight returned 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 reported satisfactory.

Support 2A

* Lieut. DeCew	Lieut. Bekard
Ensign Cook	Ensign Kaelin
Lt(jg) Snowden	Lt(jg) Lawrence
Lt(jg) Hartwig	Ensign Honegger

*Flight leader

(Cook, because of delayed take off did not rendezvous
and circled TG for 3 hours)

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

R.C. MURPHY, Lieut., USNR

J. S. KITCHEN, Lieut., USNR

22 Feb. 1945

SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
Const Information Officer

SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
Commanding Officer

DATE