

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-88 (b) Based on or at USS SAGINAW BAY (c) Report No. 66
 (d) Take off: Date 3 March 1945 Time (LZT) 0700 K (Zone); Lat. 24-45N Long. 142-10E
 (e) Mission Direct support - Capture of 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)		
TBM-3	VC-88	2	0	2	2-500# G.P. Mk 64 1 plane 4, other 4 - 5" H.E rocket 5" motor Mk 5 Mod 1	Mk 103A1 (inst) Mk 101A2 (n.d.) Mk 157 fuse with Mk 3 booster
FM-2	VC-83	4	0	4	4-5" rockets Mk 7 Motor Mk ord-5" rockets Mk 1 motor Mk 5 Mod 1 1 napalm bomb-Mk 106 fuse; Mk 5 grenade	1 body-Mk 146(n.d.) Mk 157(n.d.) Mk 3 booster

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
TBM	VC-77	4	USS RUDYARD BAY				
FM-2	VC-77	4	USS RUDYARD BAY				

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)	NONE		
			(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 _____
(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:				(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER	GUNS USED		
			NONE			

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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		None		
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
		No one		

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	
F4U-3	--	--	2.5	330	200		200			2
F4U-2	--	--	2.5	175	135		1200			2

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

None

TURNS
 DIVES
 CEILINGS
 RANGE
 PROTECTION
 ARMAMENT

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(Reclassify when
filled out)

(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) Mortar positions - Iwo Jima (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) 0730-0905 (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 6000 Cumulus 1.0 (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Dark - Hazy (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility 5 (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	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
1 Pillbox	25 x 25	1 FM-2 VC-88	4 rkts (HVAR) 100 rounds .50 cal.	1 rkt strafed	Serious
2 Mortar position		2 TBM; 4 FM-2 VC-88	16 rkts; 1 napalm and 1100 rds. .50 cal.	12 rkts 1 napalm bomb	Extent unknown
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).

- #1 A large pillbox in target area 185 Q in eastern Iwo Jima was hit by at least one direct hit, another either direct or a near miss. Serious damage was believed done.
- #2 Mortar positions reported in target area 185 L and G were hit by rockets, strafing and one napalm bomb; no results could be observed.

(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

Two TBM-3's and four FM-2's of VC-88, joined with four TBM's and four FM-2's of VC-77 on 8 March 1945 and made a strike on enemy positions on Iwo Jima in direct support of ground troops. The position in target-area 185 L and G were described as containing mortars which had been proving very effective against U.S. Marine forces. The two TBM's of VC-88 were not able to get on the proper target in the darkness and haze which prevailed at the target area; the fighters however, were more successful. Lt(jg) E.A. WHITE selected as a point of aim a large 25 foot square pill box, firing four HVAR rockets and strafing on the one run he made against it. One position, perhaps two, hits were obtained. No other specific objects were seen in the ravines and rugged terrain in which the position were reported. 12 rockets and 1 napalm went into the area indicated but without visible results. Only one napalm bomb released and went off, another released on the second try at about 100 feet altitude and it didn't go off, a third released easily at about 100 feet altitude but didn't explode, a fourth was finally released with great difficulty later over the water.

One pilot saw light, orange A fire during the 4 or 5 runs which were made but is caused no damage.

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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

Mapalm bombs were released with difficulty and two did not explode after hitting the ground although dropped from 100 feet or less.

One pilot had an oily, dirty windshield and his vision was greatly reduced. This is particularly detrimental when enemy positions in rugged terrain were so difficult to locate. When there is a haze and the gunsight is turned on, with such a windshield, the pilot is almost blind.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

I.D. SCHWAAB, Lt. USNR, AGIO, VC-88 E. L. KNEFF, Lt. USNR, Commanding

11 March 1945

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE