

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VO-88 (b) Based on or at USS SAGINAW BAY (c) Report No. 73
 (d) Take off: Date 9 March 1945 Time (LZT) 1100 K (Zone); Lat. 24-07N Long. 140-42E
 (e) Mission Direct Support- Capture of Iwo Jima (f) Time of Return 1400 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>TBM-3</u>	<u>VO-88</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>10-100# G.P. Bombs Mk 30 4-5" H.R. rockets, Mk 1 motor</u>	<u>Mk. 100A2 (n.d.) Mk 157; Mk 3 Boosters</u>
<u>TB-2</u>	<u>VO-88</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4-5" H.R. rockets Mk 1 motor</u>	<u>Mk 157 Mk 3 Booster.</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>TB-2</u>	<u>vo-88</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>USS SAGINAW BAY</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) _____
 (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			
			<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				
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	
73-5	---	---	5	350	180		75			4
73-2	---	---	5	253	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	<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
- TURNING
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

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RESTRICTED
(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) Troops in cave (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) 1155-1300 (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target 4000 cumulus .3 (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility 10 (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Slide (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used Kt. 5 (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run Varied (NUMBER) Spacing 0 (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	Troops reported in target area 250 0 251 P	4 TBM-3 vc-88	40 bombs 100# 26 rockets 4475 rds. .cal 50.	all hits in area	extent unknown
2					
3	cave entrance 30'x20'	2 TBM-3 vc-88	6 rockets	5 at or near	extent unknown
4	light AA position	1 TBM-3 vc-88	200 rds. .50 cal	strafed	extent unknown
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).

- Area saturated by bombs, rockets and strafed. No troops seen and extent of damage unknown. Pilots were told they were hitting in the correct area.
- One large cave, the entrance of which was approximately 30' wide and 20 feet high was attacked by 2 TBM-3. Six rockets were seen to hit directly on or very near, to the entrance.
- Strafing of a light AA gun resulted in no visible damage.

(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
- Defensive 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

Four TBM-3's of VC-88, piloted by Lt. G. L. HENNINGER, Lt(jg) F. C. HERFURTH, Ens. J. J. CHAMBERS and Ens. J. A. MITT, and four FM-2's, piloted by Lt(jg) HERRMAN, Lt(jg) HERRMAN, Ens. G. J. HOLLAND and Ensign D. J. MACDONALD, joined with four FM-2's of VC-88 in a direct support mission on Iwo Jima 9 March 1945.

The principal target was troop concentrations reported in 280 O and 251 P in the northern tip of the island. Fighters attacked first with rockets and strafing, then the torpedo bombers with 100# bombs and rockets. The area was well saturated by the attacks. The air coordinator indicated that the bombs and rockets were hitting the correct area, particularly giving Lt(jg) F. C. HERFURTH a well done for two of his bombs.

The fighters followed with a rocket and strafing attack. No exact amount of damage or destruction can be stated.

Herfurth and Mitt sent six rockets on or near a large cave, sining at the entrance which was estimated at 30 feet wide and 20 feet high. HOLLAND strafed a machine gun which was seen firing at the planes during their runs.

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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

No comments

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

H.D. SURMAAR, Lt. USNR ACD, VL-85
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

H.L. KEMP, Lt. USNR Commanding
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

12 March 1945
DATE