

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

Confidential
~~RESTRICTED~~
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. **VC-34 #23**

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) **AA positions, base of Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima.** (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) **1700 (K)** (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target **None affecting attack** (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target **Clear** (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility **15** (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Glide** (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used **None** (TYPE)
- Rockets - Glide, slant range 2500 feet.**
Bombs Dropped per Run **All** (NUMBER) Spacing **40** (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release **3000** (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed **None** Probably Destroyed **None** Damaged **None**

(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 AA positions	1000 x 400 yard area	8 VC-34	(4) 500 lb. G.P. AN-M 64, (18) 100 lb. AN-M 30. (36) HE Rockets Mk 1 body, Mk 7 motor.	4 18 30	Not known
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)

It is not known specifically what damage was caused. All bombs and rockets as well as .50 caliber ammunition hit the target area reported to contain the positions. Information is based on pilots' observations and comments of Air Coordinator.

(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

At 1546 (K), 16 February 4 TBM-3 and 4 FM-2 took off from USS MAKIN ISLAND (CVE-93), to join with 4 TBM-3 and 4 FM-2 of VC-85, based on USS LUNGA POINT, in D-3 support operations at Iwo Jima. The flight leader was from VC-85. After orbiting on station from 1615 to 1700 (K) an area reported to contain AA at the base of Mt. Suribachi was assigned by advance CASCU as a target. Two runs, in columns, one from northwest and the second from northeast, were made on the area. FM-2s of both squadrons went in first in rocket and strafing runs immediately followed by the TBM-3s of the two squadrons in separate bomb and rocket runs. VF runs were started at 5000 to 6000 feet with rockets fired at a slant range of 2500 feet in a 40° glide, pullout at 1500 feet. TBM-3s dropped (4) 500 lb. G.P. bombs and (18) 100 lb. G.P. bombs into the area. In addition rockets were fired by the TBM-3s. All bombs and rockets were reported as hitting the target area said to contain the AA but specific results were not observed. The above figures are for VC-84 only. Light, intense, accurate AA was encountered during the runs but no damage resulted to the VC-84 aircraft. The flight returned to base at 1800 (K). The VC-84 planes were led by Lt. Francis A. Noll in a TBM-3. Other TBM-3 pilots attacking were Ensign William T. Worden, Lt.(jg) Howard A. Hughes, and Ensign Terence B. McManus. FM-2s were piloted by Lt. Earl R. Attebury, and Lts.(jg) Donald E. Skewis, Rex S. McDaniel and James G. Babb.

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REPORT No. **VC-34 #25**

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

One rocket lacked a pigtail and the outboard port guns of one FM-2 failed to fire. The latter was repaired on return to base. Otherwise equipment functioned normally.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
AGI Officer, VC-34

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SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
Acting Commanding Officer, VC-34

2-26-45
DATE