

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

Confidential  
RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-84 (b) Based on or at USS MAKIN ISLAND, at sea (c) Report No. VC-84 #53  
 (d) Take off: Date 25 February 1945 Time (LZT) 0930 (K) (Zone); Lat. 24° 43' N Long. 142° 20' E  
 (e) Mission Support, D plus 6, Iwo Jima. (f) Time of Return 1245 (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)		
TM-3	VC-84	4	0	4	2 with (2) 500 lb GP AN-M 64 2 with (10) 100 lb GP AN-M 30 All with (8) HE Rockets Mk 1 body, Mk 7 motor.	Nose - instantaneous Tail - .01 sec. delay. Nose - inst., no tail. Base - .02 sec. delay.
FM-2	VC-84	4	0	4	(8) HE Rockets Mk 1 body, Mk 7 motor.	Nose - none Base - .02 sec. delay

## III. OTHER U. S. OR ALLIED AIRCRAFT EMPLOYED IN THIS OPERATION. None

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE

## IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only). None

(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 \_\_\_\_\_ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (k) Visibility \_\_\_\_\_ (MILES)

## V. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only). None

(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 <b>FM-2</b>	<b>VC-84</b>	<b>AA, medium</b>	<b>Starboard elevator, below, 2 to 5 o'clock</b>	<b>hole repaired</b>
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). **None**

(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	
<b>TBM-3</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>200</b>			<b>0</b>		<b>4</b>
<b>FM-2</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>150</b>			<b>3200</b>		<b>4</b>

## IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	<b>X</b>			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm			<b>X</b>	
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	<b>X</b>			

## 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) # See below (b) Time Over Target(s) 1- 1055  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) 2- 1100 (Zone) 3- 1105

(c) Clouds Over Target None affecting attack  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 20  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used \_\_\_\_\_  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 2 planes 1 Spacing \_\_\_\_\_ Altitude of Bomb Release 2500  
2 planes 4 & 6 (NUMBER) (FEET)

Rockets per Run VF - 1 all, 3 - 2 per run Slant range 3000 - 1000 VT 2 all, 1 - 4 per run  
0 Probably Destroyed 0 Damaged S.R. 2000 ft

(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 Crossroads and adjacent area in	600 x 200 yards	2 FM-2 VC-84	(24) HE Rockets Mk 1 body, Mk 7 motor.	All	Unknown
2 No. 1 below.		4 TM-3 VC-84	(8) Rockets as above. (2) 500 lb GP AN-M 64	7 9	Unknown Unknown
3			(8) 100 lb GP AN-M 30		
4 <del>XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX</del> Area 2 below.	600 x 200 yards	4 TM-3 VC-84	(12) 100 lb GP AN-M 30 (6) 500 lb GP AN-M 64	All All	Unknown Unknown
5			(16) HE Rockets Mk 1 body, Mk 7 motor.	All	"
6 Area 3 below	200 x 200 yards	2 FM-2 VC-84	Strafing	All	Unknown
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.)

Despite the fact that results could not be observed by the pilots it was felt that since they were right on the targets in their runs considerable damage must have been inflicted. The crossroad area in target area no. 1 was hit particularly hard. CSA advised at the end of the attack that it was a very good job.

- # 1- Crossroads and adjacent area 200 yards southeast of Hiraiwa Bay, Iwo Jima, containing gun emplacements, troops.
- 2- Area 600 yards west of north end Airfield No. 2, containing gun emplacements, troops.
- 3- Area on west side Airfield No. 3, containing gun emplacements, troops.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

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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

The sway braces on the wing tank which twisted out of position were old type FM-2 sway braces. The tank was punctured resulting in a loose connection which permitted twisting of the tank. Except for this and one other occasion sufficient new type sway braces were available.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

**Robert C. FULTON, Jr., Lt., USNR**  
SIGNATURE  
**AGI Officer, VC-84**

RANK AND DUTY

**Douglas K. ENGLISH, Lt., (A1), USNR**  
SIGNATURE  
**Acting Commanding Officer, VC-84**

RANK AND DUTY

**3-9-45**  
DATE

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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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 0930 (K), on 25 February 1945, D plus 6, a support flight of 4 TBM-3 and 4 FM-2 was launched from USS MAKIN ISLAND for Iwo Jima. The flight was led by Lt. Thomas R. Young in a TBM-3, other VT pilots being Lt.(jg) Wilber E. Ege, and Ensigns William T. Worden and Deane A. Jelle, VF pilots were Lt. Thomas S. Sedaker, division leader, Lt.(jg) Melvin J. Simpson, Jr., and Ensigns John R. Stroppel and Johan D.W. Hubbeling, Jr. The first target assigned was an area 300 x 200 yards (215 Tare Xray Yoke on local grid) 200 yards southeast of Hiraiwa Bay, containing troop positions and gun emplacements. The attack started at 1035 (K). 4 VF strafed and rocketed first firing rockets at 3000 feet slant range. Rocket and strafing runs came in from 7000 feet with release at slant range of 3000 feet by VT. VT then bombed concentrating on a crossroads area in 215 Tare. Runs for bombing were started at 7000 feet, release at 2500 feet and pullout at 2000 feet. Rockets were released by VT at a slant range of 2000 feet. Lt. Sedaker's port wing tank cooked during a run made at not more than a 60° dive and ended up 90° out of position, parallel to his wing. This caused difficulty in plane handling and he and Lt.(jg) Simpson returned to base at 1110 (K). A safe landing was made despite the heaviness of the left wing. The group then went to another area of gun and troop positions (201 Charlie How Oboe Nan and Mike on local grid) about 600 yards west of the north end of Airfield No. 2, and made a similar attack with the remaining VT bombs and rockets. This area was some 600 yards west of the Airfield No. 2. Two FM-2 strafed a further area of troops and gun emplacements on the west side of Airfield No. 2. The flight returned to base at 1245 (K).