

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filed out)
CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

Support Strike #1

(a) Unit Reporting VF-9 (b) Based on or at USS LEXINGTON (CV-16) (c) Report No. 10-45
 (d) Date of Action 22 Feb. 1945 (e) Take off: Time 0915 K. (GCT); Lat. 24°-50'N. Long 140°-28'E.
 (f) Mission Support of ground troops - Iwo Jima (g) Time of Return 1215 K. (GCT)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

(a) TYPE	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NO. OF SORTIES	(d) NO. ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	(e) NO. ATTACK- ING TARGET	(f) BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE)	(g) FUZE, SETTING
<u>F6F-5</u>	<u>VF-9</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>1 Napalm belly tank bomb</u>	<u>Inst.</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>F6F-5</u>	<u>VBF-9</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>USS LEXINGTON</u>	<u>See USS HANCOCK Action Report</u>			
<u>TBM</u>	<u>VT-9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>USS LEXINGTON</u>				
<u>SB2C</u>	<u>VB-9</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>USS LEXINGTON</u>				

IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (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>			<u>(GCT)</u>			
			<u>(GCT)</u>			
			<u>(GCT)</u>			
			<u>(GCT)</u>			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) -----

(i) Weather and Clouds at Location of Encounter(s) -----

(j) Sun or Moon ----- (k) Visibility -----

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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(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) Emplacements, grid area between 200E to 200H & 200V to 201W, Iwo Jima (b) Time Over Target(s) 1110 K. (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 3000' Nimbo-stratus 10/10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Rain Squalls at target area (e) Visibility 8 except in squalls
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

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

Bombs Dropped per Run one Spacing -- Altitude of Bomb Release 200'
(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 Assigned area	800 yds x 800 yds	14 VF-9	12 Napalm	12	Unobserved
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).

Of the 12 belly tank napalm bombs dropped in the assigned area only 7, possibly 8, ignited, the balance failing to burn. Because the VF of VF-9 made the run very close together and retirement was made on the deck at high speed, observation of bombs igniting and damage done was difficult to impossible.

(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

After rendezvous and joining with the VF and VB of Air Group 9 and then with the VF, VB and VT of the USS HANCOCK, the flight proceeded at 500'-1000' to orbit point 10 miles south of Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima, at which time the strike was assigned the target by the Commander Air Support Control Unit. The flight circled to the E of the island and observed the target and started attack. The VF-9 planes approached the target at 3000', dive from SSE to NNW, 12 of the 14 planes taking part in the attack dropping their napalm bombs in the target area. Two of the bombs hung up. Two VF-9 planes had previously been detached to investigate some drifting Higgins boats and arrived over target too late to take part in the attack. These two planes, together with the two whose bombs hung up, jettisoned their bombs before landing aboard, as had been ordered. From 7 to 8 of the napalm bombs were seen to ignite, the remainder of the 12 dropped failing to do so. The VB-9 planes each dropped 2 x 500 and 2 x 250 G.P. bombs in the area and the VT-9 planes each dropped 10 x 100 Frags. Twelve of the VBF-9 planes taking part in the attack had napalm bombs, the remaining 8 planes 1 x 500 G.P. each.

The USS HANCOCK planes made a similar attack.

The retirement by our VF-9 planes on the deck prevented observation of specific damage but in looking back the VF-9 pilots could see several fires burning in the target area.

On completion of this attack return was made 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

Two napalm bombs (belly tanks) failed to release in run over target area.

Of the 12 napalm bombs dropped 4 or 5 failed to ignite.

Support Strike #1

* LtCdr. Houck	Lieut. Bonneau
Ensign Cushing	Lt(jg) Cartledge
Lt(jg) Emerson	Lt(jg) Andrews
Ensign Larson	Ensign Kummer
Lieut. Valencia	Lieut. Kussmann
Lt(jg) Mitchell	Ensign Isaacson
Lt(jg) French	Lt(jg) Connor
Lt(jg) Smith	Ensign McConnell

*Flight Leader

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

R.C. MURPHY, Lieut., USNR

J. "S" KITCHEN, Lieut., USNR

22 Feb. 1945

SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
Combat Information Officer

SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
Commanding Officer

DATE