

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-84 (b) Based on or at USS MAKIN ISLAND, at sea (c) Report No. VC-84 #52
 (d) Take off: Date 24 February 1945 Time (LZT) 1600 (K) (Zone); Lat. 25° 00'N Long. 141° 43'
 (e) Mission Support, D plus 5, Iwo Jima. (f) Time of Return 1822 (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)		
FM-2	VC-84	3	0	6	6 HE Rockets Mk 1 body, Mk 7 motor. All with above.	Nose - none Base - .02 sec. delay.

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
TM-3	VC-88	6	USS SARGENT BAY				

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). **None**

(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). **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	
F4U-2	44	50	2.6	232	100			3165		6

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

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- 1715 K**
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) **2- 1700 K** (Zone)
- (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 **Rockets** Bomb Sight Used **Slant Range**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
 Bombs Dropped per Run **3 - all 3 - 4 on first run, 2 on second** Spacing **1000 - 500**
(NUMBER) (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed **0** Probably Destroyed **0** Damaged **0**

(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 Area No. 1 below	400 x 200 yards	4 FM-2 VC-84	24 HE Rockets Mk 1 body, Mk 7 motor.	24	Serious
2 Area No. 2 below	400 x 200 yards	2 FM-2 VC-84	12 HE Rockets Mk 1 body, Mk 7 motor.	12	Unknown
3		2 TBM-3 VC-83	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
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.)

All rockets went into the designated areas. The areas were also thoroughly strafed. It is believed that serious damage was inflicted on troop concentrations and gun emplacements in area No. 1. Ground forces reported to CSA who in turn relayed the message to the pilots that a very good job had been done.

- # 1- Area of troop concentration and gun emplacements just south of east end middle strip Airfield No. 2, Iwo Jima.
- 2- Area of dugouts, trenches, gun emplacements 800 yards west of Airfield No. 3, Iwo Jima.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? **Yes** 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

A 6 plane FM-2 support flight took off from USS MAKIN ISLAND on 24 February, D plus 5, at 1600 (K), for Iwo Jima. The pilots were Lt. Thomas S. Sedaker, Lts.(jg) Weston L. Scott, Donald E. Skewis, Raymond B. Howard and Ensigns John R. Stroppel and Eric W. Kattwinkel. They joined 6 TM-3 of VC-83 to form the complete support group. A target area (183 Dog Easy on local grid) containing troops apparently forming for counterattack, and gun emplacements, located just south of the west edge of the middle strip of Airfield No. 2. The area was about 400 x 200 yards in extent. 4 FM-2, led by Lt.(jg) Scott, were assigned to this close support target. This was the first strike mission to be led by him and, as was the case with other section leaders upon whom the lead of support groups often, and sometimes unexpectedly fell, he showed himself completely ready to take over. Lt.(jg) Scott went in first with the Air Coordinator making dummy runs down to 1000 feet. The troops reported that these runs were in the right place and at 1715 the attack commenced. The Air Coordinator observed while Lts.(jg) Scott, Skewis and Howard and Ensign Kattwinkel made four runs rocketing and strafing the area. Runs were started at 3000 feet rockets released at 1000 feet slant range and pullout effected at 500 feet. Light, moderate, inaccurate AA was encountered. The pilots on completion of the attack had the satisfaction of receiving a report from CSA who relayed the message of the ground forces that a very good job had been done. In the meantime Lt. Sedaker and Ensign Stroppel had been assigned, with 2 TM-3 of VC-83, to a target area (216 Jig How on local grid) containing dugouts, trenches and gun emplacements. The area was some 800 yards west of Airfield No. 3. The FM-2 made one rocket and strafing run releasing all rockets in salvo into the area at a slant range of 500 feet and then 4 strafing runs down to around 100 feet. Thorough coverage was given this area. VC-83 TM-3 followed the FM-2 in on this target with results that could not be observed by the FM-2. Although they made many hits in the area. The flight returned aboard at 1822 K.

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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

Equipment functioned normally.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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8-7-48
DATE