

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-53 (b) Based on or at USS SARGENT BAY (OVN-53) (c) Report No. 18
 (d) Take off: Date 21 Feb. 1945 Time (LZT) 1307(K) (Zone); Lat. 24°-29' N. Long. 140°-58' E.
 (e) Mission Aircraft strike in support of invasion of Iwo Jima. (f) Time of Return 1540(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)		
TBM-1C	VC-53	4	0	4	2 - 500 lb. G.P. 10 - 100 lb. G.P.	Instantaneous

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE

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
		None	(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).

(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		
			None			

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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) **(1). Target area 216 G.**
(2). Target area 216 S & R. (b) Time Over Target(s) **1500(X)** (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target **2000 Ft. - Strato - cumulus - 2/10ths.**
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target **Hazy** (e) Visibility **6**
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Slide** Bomb Sight Used **Mark 8**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run **1/2 bomb load on each run.** Spacing **25** Altitude of Bomb Release **2000 - 500 ft.**
(NUMBER) (FEET) (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 Cave in cliff area 216 G.	About 10 ft. opening	2 VC-53	1 - 500 lb. G. P. 10 - 100 lb. G. P. strato - 250 rds.	1	Not observed
2 Whole of area 216 G.	200 yds. sq.	6 VC-53	2 - 500 lb. G.P. 20 - 100 lb. G.P.	All	Not observed
3 Cave in bluff 216 R.	About 10 ft. opening	2 VC-53	2 - 500 lb. G.P. 16 - 5" (HE) ARP		Not observed
4 Crossroads in 216 R.	20 ft. roads	3 VC-53	3 - 500 lb. G.P. 24 - 5" (HE) ARP	3 Many	Not observed
5 Whole of area 216 R & S.	200 yds. by 400 yds.	3 VC-53	10 - 100 lb. G.P. 8 - 5" (HE) ARP	All	Not observed
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).

1,2,3,4,5. - It was impossible for the pilots to locate specific targets and equally impossible for them to observe results of the attack. Some pilots hit what they thought were gun positions but there was no certainty as to this. The Air Coordinator reported "many hits and good results".

(p) Were Photographs Taken? **No** Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

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

5 VT on station at assigned orbit point awaiting assignment of aircraft strikes in support of invasion of Iwo Jima.

Two targets were assigned: (1) Gun positions in target area 216 G; (2) Gun positions in target areas 216 R and S. The planes were ordered to expend half of their bombs in one run over the first target and to expend the remaining bombs and all of the rockets in one run over the second target.

Each Pilot endeavored to pick out specific gun positions but because of the terrain and excellence of camouflage this was well nigh impossible. Some pilots hit what they believed to be hidden or camouflaged gun positions but there was no certainty as to this. The Air Coordinator reported that both attacks were good ones with "many hits and good results."

No heavy or medium AA, and only moderate and inaccurate light AA was encountered.

Pilots: Lieuts. W. S. WORLEY, W. C. SAUER; Lieuts. (jg) W. R. ANDREWS, R. G. PERRY, W. ZUMMERT, C. A. KENT, Ensigns W. O. GUNDELACH, J. T. PARADY.

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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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

E. VERNON BERRY, Lt., A.S.I. Officer.

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

B. V. GATES, Lt. Comdr., USN.

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

2/23/45

DATE