

# 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 #89  
 (d) Take off: Date 8 March 1945 Time (LZT) 0950 (K) (Zone); Lat. 24° 45'N Long. 142° 10'E  
 (e) Mission Air Coordinator, D plus 17 support operations, Iwo Jima. (f) Time of Return 1410 (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)		
<u>PH-2</u>	<u>VC-84</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>(6) HE Rockets Mk 1 body, Mk 7 motor.</u>	<u>Nose - none Base - .02 sec. delay.</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>TBM-3</u>	<u>VC-98</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>USS RUDYARD BAY</u>	<u>TBM-3</u>	<u>VC-84</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>USS MAKIN ISLAND</u>
<u>PH-2</u>	<u>VC-98</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>PH-2</u>	<u>VC-84</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>Same</u>
<u>TBM-3</u>	<u>VC-88</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>USS SAGINAW BAY</u>	<u>TBM-3</u>	<u>VC-85</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>USS LUNGA POINT</u>
<u>PH-2</u>	<u>VC-88</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>PH-2</u>	<u>VC-85</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>Same</u>

## 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
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Did Any Part of \_\_\_\_\_  
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? (YES OR NO) If so, Describe Clouds \_\_\_\_\_ (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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REPORT No. VO-84 #89

**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	
<b>F4U</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>160</b>		<b>40</b>			<b>1</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,<br>at various altitudes |
| TURNS                                 |
| DIVES                                 |
| CEILINGS                              |
| RANGE                                 |
| PROTECTION                            |
| ARMAMENT                              |

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. VO-84 #89

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) # See below (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) 1- 1045 K  
2- 1245 K (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target None affecting first target - for 2nd 1200, strato cumulus, .5  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear 2nd Partially obscured by clouds. (e) Visibility 10  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type \_\_\_\_\_ Bomb Sight Used \_\_\_\_\_  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Rockets  
Bombs Dropped per Run 2 and 4 Slant range 1800 feet 800 - 1000 feet  
(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	400 x 200 yards	1 FM-2 VC-84	(2) HE Rockets Mk 1 body, Mk 7 motor.	2	Unknown
2		4 TM-3 VC-88	number bombs, rockets unknown	Unknown	"
3		4 FM-2 VC-88	number napalm tanks, rockets unknown	"	"
4		4 TM-3 VC-96	number bombs, rockets unknown	"	"
5		4 FM-2 VC-96	number napalm tanks unknown	"	"
6 Area No. 2		4 FM-2 VC-84	(17) Rockets as above 1 napalm tank	17 1	"
7		2 TM-3 VC-88	number bombs, rockets unknown	unknown	"
8		2 TM-3 VC-88	(16) 100 lb GP AN-M 30 (16) Rockets as above	14 16	"
		4 FM-2 VC-85	Number rockets unknown	unknown	"

- (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 FM-2 VC-84 (4) rockets as above 4

While specific damage could not be evaluated the area no. 1 was thoroughly covered. GSA passed along a very well done at the end of the attack.

- # 1- Area 450 yards west and 200 yards south of Tachiwa Point, Iwo Jima, mortars.  
2- Area 400 yards north of above, mortars and troops.

\* Air Coordinator only.

- (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

Lt. George Shaw-Corthorn took off on 8 March 1945, D plus 17, from USS MAKIN ISLAND at 0930 (K) in an FM-2 to act as Air Coordinator for support operations over Iwo Jima. His first target was an area (185 King Love on local grid) about 450 yards west and 200 yards south of Tashiwa Point, containing mortars. The support group consisted of 4 TBM-3 and 4 FM-2 of VC-88 and a like number of each type from VC-96. Starting at 1045 Lt. Shaw took the 4 division leaders down on dummy passes which were cleared by our troops. He fired 2 rockets at 1800 foot slant range which were on target. Lt. Shaw observed and directed the rest of the attack. It consisted of a thorough going over of the target area with rockets, 100 lb. GP, 500 lb. GP, napalm and strafing in that order. Of 4 napalm tanks dropped 2 were duds. At the end of the attack CSA passed on a very well done. At 1245 the Air Coordinator led his second support group on an area (202 Queen Victor William on local grid) 400 yards north of his first target. The support group was made up of 2 TBM-3 and 4 FM-2 of VC-84 and 2 TBM-3 and 4 FM-2 of VC-85. Lt. Shaw-Corthorn went down low to spot positions. He fired 4 rockets into the target area at slant range of 800 - 1000 feet. The attack is described in VC-84 report 90. Lt. Shaw-Corthorn landed aboard at 1410 (K).

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**XIII. MATERIAL DATA.** (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left. Use additional sheets if necessary).

**Equipment performed normally.**

**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:

**Robert C. FULTON, Jr., Lt., USNR**  
AG1 Officer, VC-84

RANK AND DUTY

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

SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

**3-10-45**

DATE