

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
AIR FORCE
COMPOSITE SQUADRON EIGHTY-FIVE

ACA-1 REPORTS

ENCLOSURE (A)

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL
RESTRICTED
filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. VC85-20

CONFIDENTIAL

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Gun Emplacements, Mt. Suribachi (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) 1610-1730(17) Zone
- (c) Clouds Over Target 5 - 6,000' Stratus 10/10 Cover
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility 15 - 20 MI. (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Gun Sight Used Mk VIII (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 2 and 1-500# Spacing 30 Altitude of Bomb Release 2500
(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 <u>VC85</u>	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
1 <u>NE Slope of Mt Suribachi</u>	<u>2.25</u>	<u>4 - FM-2 4 - FM-3</u>	<u>5 x 500# 15 x 100#</u> <u>34 Rockets</u>	<u>100%*</u>	<u>Not Determined</u>
2					
3					
4			<u>*There were numerous gun emplacements in an area about 400 yds. square. All bombs and rockets hit in the area.</u>		
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).

Damage not determined due to concealment of gun emplacements.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? _____ 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

At 1530 on 16 February 1945, a strike group consisting of 4 TBM-3s and 4 FM-2s took off from parent ship, U.S.S. LUNGA POINT (CVE-94). This group rendezvoused over the formation with a like number and type of aircraft of VC84. Upon reporting to Advance Commander Air Support Control Unit, the group was ordered to deliver a glide bombing and rocket attack on the north eastern slope of Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima, the volcano protecting the left flank of landing beach #1. The first run, a coordinated attack, was made in a west to east direction. The VF preceded the VT, strafing and firing rockets. All rockets, bombs and ammunition hit the target area. The second run was made from east to west, with like results. Upon completion of the attack, the VT were given a "Well Done" from the control ship.

Anti-aircraft fire was medium (7.7 caliber up to 40mm), moderate and accurate at times. One FM-2 of VC85 was hit in wing and engine and forced to make a water landing. The pilot, Ensign Frank Jay STEVENSON, USNR, was rescued uninjured. One TBM-3 returned with a .50 caliber bullet hole in the elevator.

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

One TBM-3 had a faulty bomb shackle which prevented the dropping of 5 x 100# bombs. This same plane had an inoperative radio altimeter. No other material failures were reported.

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

**FORWARDED: G.A.T. WASHBURN,
Captain, U.S.Navy,
Commanding Officer,
U.S.S. LUNGA POINT (CVE-94)**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

W.H. KEARNS, Lieut., USNR, ACIO

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

FRED G. HERRIMAN, Lt. Comdr., U.S. Navy 16 February 1945
Commanding Officer of VC85

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE