

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 #32
 (d) Take off: Date 18 February 1945 Time (LZT) 1100 (K) (Zone); Lat. 24° 25'N Long. 140° 45'E
 (e) Mission Support, D-1, Iwo Jima (f) Time of Return 1400 (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-3	VC-84	4	0	4	3 with (2) 500 lb GP AN-M 64	Nose - instantaneous
					2 with (10) 100 lb GP AN-M 30	Tail - .01 sec. delay
					All with (8) HE Rockets Mk 1 body, Mk 7 motor	Nose - inst., no tail
FM-2	VC-84	4	0	4	(6) HE Rockets - type and fuzing as above.	Base - .02 sec. delay
					(4) with napalm, left wing tank.	

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
TBM-3	VC-85	4	U.S.S. LUNGA POINT				
FM-2	VC-85	4	U.S.S. LUNGA POINT				

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 _____ (k) Visibility _____
(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (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	
TM-3	44	40	3.0	330	170		50			4
FM-2	44	40	3.0	174	104		3300			4

IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

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)

REPORT No. **VC-34 #52**

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) **Gun positions, defense installations at base of and on Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima.** (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) **1200 (K)** (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target **2000, strato cumulus, 6/10**
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target **Partially obscured by clouds** (e) Visibility **10**
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Glide** Bomb Sight Used **None**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Rockets: **Slant range 800 feet, 2 per run and 2 and 4 per run**
Bombs Dropped per Run **2** Spacing **0** Altitude of Bomb Release **1000**
(NUMBER) (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 at base of and on Mt. Suribachi containing gun positions and defense installations	400 x 200 yards	8 VC-34	4 napalm tanks .50 cal. 3350 rounds (3) 500 lb GP AN-M 64 (2) 100 lb GP AN-M 30 (52) HE Rockets Mk 1 body, Mk 7 motor	All in area	Unknown
2				All	Unknown
3				All in area	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).

Specific results were not observable. All bombs dropped and rockets fired went into the assigned area. Napalm tanks released from 200 to 100 feet started small intense fires. Caves and trenches received direct hits with rockets. The area was thoroughly strafed.

(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

The third support flight for D-2 operations at Iwo Jima took off from USS MAKIN ISLAND at 1100 (K). It consisted of the support group leader Lt. Douglas K. English in a TBM-3 with Ensigns Deane A. Jelle, Glenn A. Terry, and Leonard F. Wozniak also in TBM-3, and Lt. Thomas S. Sedaker leading an FM-2 division with Lts(jg) Weston L. Scott, Robert E. Hooks, and Ensign John R. Stroppel. They were joined by 4 TBM-3 and 4 FM-2 of VC-85 for this support mission. Weather conditions over the target had improved somewhat since the earlier support flights of the day, enabling the VT to bomb from a release point of 1000 feet. Bombs and rockets were put into the area at the base of and on the sides of Mt. Suribachi. VF went in just before the VT runs firing rockets and strafing. Each FM-2 had napalm in its left wing tank. These were dropped at a altitude from 200 to 100 feet starting small intense fires. Slant range on rocket releases was about 800 feet. FM-2s made six strafing runs over the area. It was felt that the area had been well worked over. In some cases it was possible to single out individual targets. Lt.(jg) Scott put 2 rockets into a cave at the base of Mt. Suribachi and Lt.(jg) Hooks saw 2 of his rockets go into trenches. The flight landed aboard at 1400 (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 performed normally.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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SIGNATURE
AOI Officer, VC-34

RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

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SIGNATURE
Acting Commanding Officer, VC-34

RANK AND DUTY

3-4-45

DATE