





# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 68

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Blockhouse, trenches, stores (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) 1330-1500 (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 2000 cumulus 1.0 (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility 7 (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide (shallow) (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used Mk. 8 (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 9 and 10 (NUMBER) Spacing 0 (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 1500 (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	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO. HITS ON Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight serious, destroyed or sunk)
		(k) SQUADRON			
1 <b>Blockhouses</b>	<b>at least 3</b>	<b>4 FM-2</b>	<b>16-5" rockets 600 rds. .50 cal</b>	<b>2 rkts</b>	<b>Serious, none strafing troops reported, success</b>
2		<b>VG-55</b>			
3 <b>Trenches, caves on hill on which dry stores were reported.</b>		<b>2 FM-2</b>	<b>3000 rds. .50 cal. 20 100# bombs 12-5" H.E. rockets</b>	<b>Strafing</b>	<b>none all bombs observed and rkts in area</b>
4		<b>VG-55</b>			
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).

- At least three blockhouses were seen in target area 235 P in northern Iwo Jima. Only two rockets were seen to hit one of them. All three were strafed. The roof of the blockhouses, judged by an opening in one corner, appeared to be one foot thick. No actual damage observed. Troops, however, were ready to advance into the area following the attack.
- Area bombing, rockets and strafing were carried out on a hill in northern Iwo Jima in target areas 250 Q and P. Dry stores were reported in area but were not seen. Trenches and caves were seen and hit but no actual damage was observed.

(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

On 8 March 1945 two TBM-3's of VC-33, piloted by Lt(jg) V. R. SHAW and Ensign J. J. CRIBBINE and four FM-2's, piloted by Lt. G. HULLER Lt(jg) S. R. DRAPER and Ensign H. C. MANN and G. C. TRIPLETT, joined with two TBM's of VC-33 and four FM-2's of VC-77 in a direct support mission over Iwo Jima.

The FM-2's were directed to attack blockhouses in target area 235 F with rockets and machine gun fire. At least three blockhouses were seen and two direct rocket hits on one blockhouse were noted. While no actual damage was seen following the attack, the troops notified the planes to cease the attack for the purposes of allowing them to move up into the area. This report could seem to indicate serious damage to the enemy positions in the area.

While the fighters were attacking, the torpedo bombers were orbiting northeast of the island. They joined on the second attack which consisted of a large hill in target areas 250 O and T and 251 K and P. In this area dry stores were reported in addition to numerous caves and trenches. A left hand pattern was begun, with attacks made toward the northeast. The entire area was saturated with bombs, rockets and strafing. No specific damage was noted.

The air coordinator attempted to have the bombers keep up with the fighters in a tail chase. Fully loaded, the TBM's found it impossible inasmuch as the fighters had fired their rockets. Lt(jg) Shaw had 32" manifold pressure and 2200 RPM but could not keep up. All the TBM's were stringing out. Due to low ceiling the bombing runs were practically level bombing since runs were begun at 2800 feet altitude and bombs released at 1500 feet altitude.

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

**No comment**

## 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:

H.D. SCHWAAB, Lt. USNR, A-10 VC-88      B.L. KEMPF, Lt. USNR Commanding      12 March 1945  
SIGNATURE      RANK AND DUTY      SIGNATURE      RANK AND DUTY      DATE