

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

Confidential
~~RESTRICTED~~
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. VC-84 #24

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) # See below (b) Time Over Target(s) 1- 0830 K
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) 2- 0853 K (Zone) 3- 0905 K

(c) Clouds Over Target 2000, strato cumulus, .7
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Partially obscured by clouds (e) Visibility 15
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type _____ Bomb Sight Used _____ (TYPE)
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE)

Rockets
~~Bombs Dropped~~ per Run 2 Slant range 1000 Spacing _____ Altitude of Bomb Release _____ (FEET)
(NUMBER) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 0 Probably Destroyed 0 Damaged 1

(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)
12 Irvings and Betty on Susahi Airfield, Chichi Jima		4 FM-2 VC-84	(8) HE Rockets Mk 1 body, Mk 7 motor strafing	0 unknown	Slight
2/3 Oiler Higashi Minato Cove, Haha Jima XXXXXXXXXX	1500 tons	4 FM-2 VC-84	(16) Rockets, as above strafing	0 unknown	unknown
3/5 8 - 10 small craft at Okimura, Haha Jima		4 FM-2 VC-84	strafing	unknown	unknown
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).

Strafing hits were made on a Betty and an Irving on Susahi airfield but neither burned. Strafing hits were scored on the Oiler at Higashi Minato Cove with no observable results. The 8 - 10 small craft at Okimura were also hit but damage was not observed.

- # 1- Two Irvings and Betty on Susahi Airfield Chichi Jima.
- 2- Oiler, Higashi Minato Cove, Haha Jima.
- 3 - Eight to ten small craft, Okimura Haha Jima.

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 17 February 1945, D-2, 4 FM-2 took off from USS MAKIN ISLAND at 0645 to join with like numbers of FM-2 of VC-35, group leader, and VC-35, in a special strike on the Bonins. The pilots were Lt. Earl R. Attebury, division leader, and Lts.(jg) Donald B. Skewis, James G. Babb and Rex S. McDaniel. The mission was to destroy enemy airborne planes or grounded planes on Susahi Airfield at Chichi Jima, seaplanes at the base there, and finally to sweep for and attack small boats in harbors and coves of Chichi and Haha Jima. The 12 FM-2 arrived at Chichi Jima at 0820 and at 0830 VC-34 FM-2s came in from 7000 feet breaking through cloud cover at 2000 and making a run on 2 Irvings and 1 Betty on Susahi Airfield. Rockets were fired but missed, hitting the runway. The Betty and 1 Irving were hit by strafing but did not burn. The planes had wing markings consisting of a white panel enclosing the usual meatball. Pulling out they observed an explosion and smoke up to 5000 feet from a point about 2 miles west of the seaplane area which they thought was the result of an attack by other FM-2s of the strike on a ship in that vicinity. Medium intense accurate AA was encountered. Lt. Attebury's plane and that of Lt.(jg) Babb each receiving a hole in the wing. No seaplanes were seen. The flight joined up and proceeded to Haha Jima. Then an attack was made at 0853 on an oiler at Higashi Minato Cove which was hit by strafing with unobserved results. Medium seager inaccurate AA was encountered. At 0905 8 to 10 small craft at Ohimura were strafed and hit but again with no observed damage. Heavy and medium intense inaccurate AA was met. The flight was taken aboard at 1030 (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

One FM-2 gun failed to continue firing because of a cooked off round on top of the bolt.

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:

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Acting Commanding Officer, VC-34

3-10-45
DATE