

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
RESTRICTED (Reclassify when filled out)

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VF-5 (b) Based on or at USS JARVIS POINT (OV-9) (c) Report No. VF-5-73  
 (d) Take off: Date 5 March 1965 Time (LZT) 1400 (Z) (Zone); Lat. 21° 15' N Long. 152° 10' W  
 (e) Mission Strike on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands (f) Time of Return 1700 (Z) (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>SB-3</u>	<u>VF-5</u>	<u>5</u>		<u>5</u>	<u>2x5000lb Rockets</u> <u>1x2000lb</u>	<u>Inst. Reaction delay full</u>
<u>SB-2</u>	<u>VF-5</u>	<u>4</u>		<u>4</u>	<u>1600 x .50 Cal.</u>	

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>SB-3</u>	<u>VF-5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>USS JARVIS ISLAND (OV-9)</u>				
<u>SB-2</u>	<u>VF-5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>USS JARVIS ISLAND (OV-9)</u>				

## IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

(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).

(a) TYPE ENEMY A/C	(b) DESTROYED OR DAMAGED BY:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			

ENCLOSURE (A)

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## VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those listed in II only).

(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).

(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>33-3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>180</b>					<b>5</b>
<b>33-2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>130</b>			<b>590</b>		<b>4</b>
								<b>3700</b>		

## 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
- URNS
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Harbor Positions, Supply Dump (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) 1500-1600(1) (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 2300 Stratus 10/10  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility 15 (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type GLIDE (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used IR VISION (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run One (NUMBER) Spacing \_\_\_\_\_ (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 1000 (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 <u>Harbor Positions</u>	<u>200x100 Yards</u>	<u>4</u> <u>VF-3</u> <u>VF-3</u>	<u>16x5" HVA Rockets</u> <u>990 x .50 Cal.</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>Not assessable</u>
2 <u>None</u>		<u>4</u> <u>VF-2</u> <u>VF-3</u>	<u>3100 x .50 Cal.</u>		<u>Not assessable</u>
3 <u>Block House and Supply Dump</u>	<u>200 Yards Square</u>	<u>3</u> <u>VF-3</u> <u>VF-3</u>	<u>12x5000#</u> <u>4x5" HVA Rockets</u>	<u>12</u> <u>2</u>	<u>Not assessable</u>
4 <u>None</u>		<u>4</u> <u>VF-2</u> <u>VF-3</u>	<u>1700x.50 Cal.</u>		<u>Not assessable</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).

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

**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 1400 on 8 March 1945, four PB-1s and four F4-2s were launched by parent ship, U.S.S. LUNDA POINT (CVE-96) to strike assigned targets on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands in support of U.S. Marines.

The attacks were coordinated by Lieutenant Commander Fred C. HERRIMAN, U.S. Navy, Commanding Officer of VCS-3, who had been launched previously at 1230 (L) and who had already coordinated two attacks by aircraft from U.S.S. SAGHAM BAY (CVE-52).

The first target assigned was an area containing enemy mortar positions. Here the VF made a rocket attack and the VF strafed. The attacks were made in column formation. This area was not bombed due to the close proximity of our gun troops who had advanced to within 200 yards of the enemy positions. Rocketing and strafing was excellent.

The second target was a block house and supply dump at the extreme north end of the island. This target had previously been attacked by Lieutenant Commander HERRIMAN. He scored two rocket hits and was told by the ground troops that his rockets were exactly on the target. Under Lieutenant Commander HERRIMAN'S direction the four VF dropped 500# bombs on the same area and accuracy was excellent. The F4-2s strafed in low level attacks.

No return fire was observed and all aircraft returned safely to base.

ADDITIONAL

NOTE ON JAP DECEPTION TACTIC. During this attack the Air Coordinator at one point requested CASCU to have the troops fire WP bombs to designate a particular target on which a strike had been requested. Shortly thereafter WP smoke bombs were seen to explode. However, the Air Coordinator believed them to be inside friendly lines as they were between two front line panels. CASCU was having radio trouble and the Air Coordinator was having considerable difficulty in understanding his transmissions. Suddenly a new voice came up on the circuit and in perfect English requested a radio check. He identified himself as "Daddy One", whereas the CASCU's call was "Daddy". Not suspecting a trick, the Air Coordinator replied that he had heard the transmission "loud and clear". The real CASCU then called and warned the Air Coordinator that "Daddy One" was not friendly. After this, the Japs tried to jam the circuit by making loud metallic noises. It is believed that the Japs shot the smoke bombs into our lines to encourage our planes to make their attack on friendly troops. However, the deception didn't succeed.

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

**ARMAMENT**

- Guns, Gunsight
- 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

One F4U-2 had faulty port wing gun. Examination showed the barrels to be excessively worn and were replaced.

One F4U-3 pilot reported that his rockets were not properly bore-sighted as the rockets were seen to criss-cross.

One F4U-3 pilot reported a jammed wing gun.

**FORWARDED:** G.A.R. WASHBURN,  
Captain, U.S. Navy,  
Commanding Officer,  
U.S.S. LUNA POINT (CVE-24).

APPROVED BY:

REPORT PREPARED BY:

**W.H. HARRIS, Lt. Col., USNR, AGO.**  
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

**FRED C. HERRMAN, Lt. Col., USN, C.O.**  
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

**5 March 1945**  
DATE