

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No **55**

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Gun emplacements, trenches-Iwo Jima (b) Time Over Target(s) 1820-1805K (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target None
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Saoky - difficult terrain (e) Visibility 10
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Slide Bomb Sight Used Mk.8
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 2 Spacing 0 Altitude of Bomb Release 3000
(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	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
3 med. AA emplacements and trenches		4 FM-3 VC-88	7-500 G.P. bombs 30-5" H.H. rockets	4 bombs 10 rkts	(no emplacement destroyed. Two others seriously damaged)
2 Gun positions		4 FM-2 VC-88	10-5" H.H. rockets	4 rkts	None observed
3 AA emplacements		4 FM-2 VC-88	14-5" H.H. rockets 4000 rds. .50 cal.	All	Serious
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).

- #1 Three medium AA positions and trenches in 202 S and T in northeastern Iwo Jima were heavily bombed and attacked by rockets. One emplacement was hit and destroyed. The two others were either hit or nearly so and are believed seriously damaged.
- #2 Only one rocket run was made by each of 4 FM-2's on gun positions in target area 233 X in northwestern Iwo Jima. No damage was observed.
- #3 AA positions in target area 250 R in northern Iwo Jima were seen and subjected to heavy rocket and strafing attacks. Fires were started at or near the emplacements.

(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
Defensive 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

Four FM-3's of VC-88 piloted by Lt. J.D. MITCHELL, Lt. (jg) H. J. SCHLUSSENER and Ensigns G. B. HANOVER and T. P. HUGHES and four FM-2's of VC-88 piloted by Lt. H. M. PECK and Ensigns W. G. MARCH, E. L. GANNON and H. W. SCHNEIDER, joined with 4 TM's of VC-77 and 2 FM-2's of VC-82, on 3 March 1945 in direct support of the troops engaged in the capture of Iwo Jima.

The fighters and torpedo bombers were ordered to attack different aiming points. The fighters were first assigned gun positions on Hill 215 in target area 233 X in northwestern Iwo Jima. All made one rocket run from southwest to northeast into the area but without observation of damage. The troops by this time had moved up quite closely and the attack was called off; the planes were given a target area 250 B in northern Iwo Jima, these were anti-aircraft emplacements. One rocket run was made then three or four steep strafing runs, begun at 7000 feet altitude, pulling out at 300 feet. The emplacements were seen and fires at or near them were started.

The torpedo bombers were assigned as aiming point three medium AA positions in target area 202 S and F in northeastern Iwo Jima. Very little time was allowed the flight leader, Lt. Mitchell, only 35 minutes, to make an inspection run, lead the flight on a dummy run, attack with bombs and rockets and then make an observation run to estimate damage. The attack was rushed but the results were good; one emplacement was destroyed, the other emplacements and trenches were believed seriously damaged by this hit or near misses. Individual runs were made from south to north, 30° glides from 7000 feet altitude, releasing bombs at 3000 feet altitude. Four bombs and ten rockets landed on or near the aiming point.

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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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

H.D. SCHWAAB, Lt. USNR, ACIO, VC-88

E. L. KRIPP, Lt. USNR, Commanding

10 March 1945

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

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DATE