

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when  
filled out)

## I. GENERAL

# CONFIDENTIAL

- (a) Unit Reporting Bombing Squadron NINE (b) Based on or at U.S.S. LEXINGTON (c) Report No. 2  
 (d) Take off: Date 19 February 1945 Time (LZT) 0745 K (Zone); Lat. 25° 35' N. Long. 140° 05' E.  
Air Support - Iwo Jima.  
 (e) Mission LEXINGTON Support 2B. (f) Time of Return 1145 K (Zone)

## II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

| TYPE<br>(a) | SQUADRON<br>(b) | NUMBER               |                              |                            | BOMBS AND TORPEDOES<br>CARRIED (PER PLANE)<br>(f) | FUZE, SETTING<br>(g)    |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---|-------------------------|
|             |                 | TAKING<br>OFF<br>(c) | ENGAGING<br>ENEMY A/C<br>(d) | ATTACKING<br>TARGET<br>(e) |   |                         |
| 6 SB2C-3    | VB-9            | 8                    |                              | 6                          | 2 250# GP ANM-57                                  | ANM-100 N.D.            |
| 2 SBW-3     |                 |                      |                              |                            | 2 500# GP ANM-64                                  | ANM-103 Inst/ANM101N.D. |
|             |                 |                      |                              |                            |   |                         |

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

| TYPE       | SQUADRON    | NUMBER   | BASE                    | TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE |
|------------|-------------|----------|-------------------------|------|----------|--------|------|
| <b>F6F</b> | <b>VB-9</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>U.S.S. LEXINGTON</b> |      |          |        |      |
|            |             |          |                         |      |          |        |      |

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

| (a)<br>TYPE | (b)<br>NO. OBSERVED | (c)<br>NO. ENGAGING OWN A/C | (d)<br>TIME ENCOUNTERED | (e)<br>LOCATION OF ENCOUNTER | (f)<br>BOMBS, TORPEDOES CARRIED;<br>GUNS OBSERVED | (g)<br>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 \_\_\_\_\_ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (k) Visibility \_\_\_\_\_ (MILES)

## V. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

| (a)<br>TYPE<br>ENEMY A/C | (b) DESTROYED OR DAMAGED BY: |          |                 |           | (c)<br>WHERE HIT, ANGLE | (d)<br>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).

| (a)<br>TYPE OWN A/C | (b)<br>SQUADRON | (c)<br>CAUSE: TYPE ENEMY A/C,<br>TYPE GUN, OR OPERATIONAL CAUSE | (d)<br>WHERE HIT, ANGLE (List armor,<br>self-sealing tanks, equipment hit) | (e)<br>EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE,<br>(Give Bureau serial number of planes destroyed) |
|---------------------|-----------------|---|--|---|
| 1 SB2C              | VB-9            | Operational   | Oil Leak   | Returned to base.   |
| 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)<br>NO. | (b)<br>SQUADRON | (c)<br>NAME, RANK OR RATING | (d)<br>CAUSE | (e)<br>CONDITION OR STATUS |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |

## VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA FOR PLANES RETURNING

| (a)<br>TYPE A/C | (b)<br>MILES OUT | (c)<br>MILES RETURN | (d)<br>AV. HOURS IN AIR | (e)<br>AV. FUEL LOADED | (f)<br>AV. FUEL CONSUMED | (g) TOTAL AMMUNITION EXPENDED |     |      |    | (h)<br>NO. OF PLANES RETURNING |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-----|------|----|--------------------------------|
|                 |                  |                     |                         |                        |                          | .30                           | .50 | 20MM | MM |                                |
| SB2C/SBW        | 88               | 92                  | 4                       | 320                    | 264                      | NONE                          |     |      |    | 8                              |
|                 |                  |                     |                         |                        |                          |                               |     |      |    |                                |
|                 |                  |                     |                         |                        |                          |                               |     |      |    |                                |

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

| CALIBER                                   | NONE | MEAGER | MODERATE | INTENSE |
|---|------|--------|----------|---------|
| HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over  |      |        |          |         |
| MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm   |      |        |          |         |
| LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm |      | X      |          |         |

## X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (use check list at left).

- |                                       |
|---------------------------------------|
| SPEED, CLIMB,<br>at various altitudes |
| URNS                                  |
| DIVES                                 |
| CEILINGS                              |
| RANGE                                 |
| PROTECTION                            |
| ARMAMENT                              |

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 2

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Mortar Positions - Iwo Jima (b) Time Over Target(s) 1005 K (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 4,500 Cumulus 1/10  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility Unlimited  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

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

Bombs Dropped per Run 4 Spacing 100' 1-500# Altitude of Bomb Release 3,000'  
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed \_\_\_\_\_ Probably Destroyed \_\_\_\_\_ Damaged \_\_\_\_\_

| (h)<br>AIMING POINT                       | (i)<br>DIMENSIONS OR<br>TONNAGE | (j) NO A/C ATTACKING<br>(k) SQUADRON | (l)<br>BOMBS AND AMMUNITION<br>EXPENDED EACH AIMING POINT | (m)<br>NO HITS On<br>Aiming Point | (n)<br>DAMAGE (None, slight,<br>serious, destroyed or sunk) |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1 <b>General area of mortar positions</b> |                                 | 5 SB2C<br>VB-9                       | 10 500#<br>8 250#   | 18                                | <b>Believed target destroyed</b>                            |
| 2 <b>Probable blockhouse</b>              |                                 | 1 SB2C<br>VB-9                       | 2 500#<br>2 250#  | 4                                 | <b>Believed target destroyed</b>                            |
| 3   |                                 |                                      |   |                                   |   |
| 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).

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.  
**(Ship does not release photographs to squadron).**

**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

Eight Helldivers were launched at 0745 but Lieut. E. WIEZOREK returned to base prior to rendezvous due to oil leak. His bombs were jettisoned in a free area. The bombers rendezvoused with the VF and proceeded to Point Sugar 10 miles South of Mt. Surabachi for orbiting on station. The flight climbed to 3,500' enroute on course 124°, 150 knots indicated air speed; arriving at Point Sugar at 0840 the bombers climbed to 9,000' and circled until 1005 when the first mission was assigned.

The air coordinator designated a group of mortar positions south of the east end of east/west runway of Motoyami Airfield #2 as a target. The VF preceded the VB with a strafing attack. Lieutenant Tony F. SCHNEIDER, leading the strike group from the LEXINGTON, made a no-flap dive from 6,000 ft. releasing at 3,000 ft. Pullout was at 2,000 ft. and retirement to the northeast as directed by air coordinator.

Lieut. DURIO, Lt(jg) NOONAN, Ensign BEATY and Ensign HANAWALT followed and all bombs released were seen to land in target area as verified by air coordinator. Lt(jg) NOONAN did not release two 250# bombs which he later jettisoned. Lt(jg) MAY did not locate target so released on a probable blockhouse north of mortar positions. Meager light A/A was encountered but no damage was sustained. Lt(jg) DANCE did not have communications so did not make attack and jettisoned bombs on return flight. The group was relieved on station at 1019 and returned to base.

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**

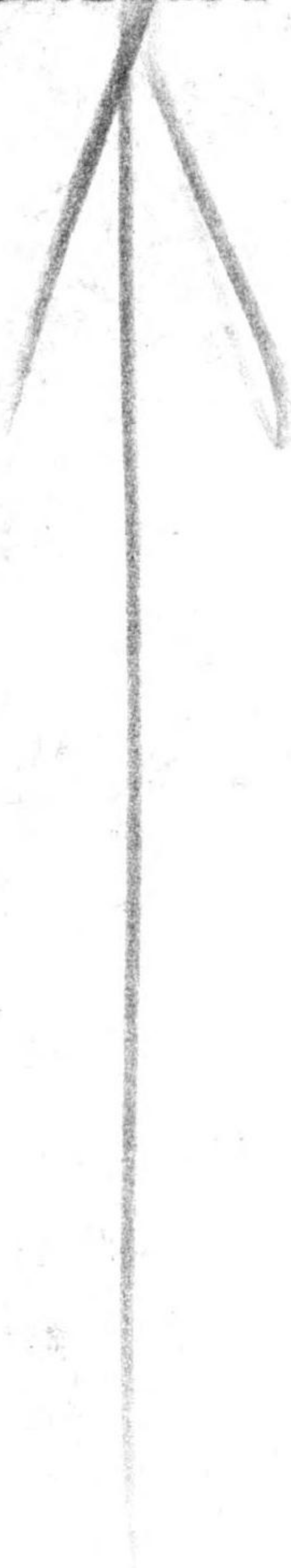
**FLIGHT CLOTHING**

**MAINTENANCE**

**BASE FACILITIES**

- Plane Servicing Equipment
- Personnel Facilities

Compasses in SB2C aircraft flown by this squadron have not been calibrated. It is recommended that this be done by the commissioning unit prior to the time aircraft are taken aboard as there is no suitable way to calibrate compasses at sea. The calibration card should be included in the plane log.



REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

I. S. KORACH, Lieut. (A)1, USNR,

TONY F. SCHNEIDER, Lieut., USN, 2/20/45

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE

**Air Combat Info. Officer.**

**Commanding Officer.**