

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-84 (b) Based on or at USS MAKIN ISLAND, at sea (c) Report No. VC-84 #55  
 (d) Take off: Date 25 February 1945 Time (LZT) 1230 (K) (Zone); Lat. 24° 45'N Long. 142° 20'E  
 (e) Mission Target Combat Air Patrol over Iwo Jima, D plus 6 (f) Time of Return 1535 (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) |   |                      |
| <b>FM-2</b> | <b>VC-84</b>    | <b>3</b>             | <b>0</b>                     | <b>3</b>                   | <b>None</b>                                       |                      |
|             |                 |                      |                              |                            |   |                      |
|             |                 |                      |                              |                            |   |                      |

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

| TYPE        | SQUADRON     | NUMBER   | BASE                   | TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE |
|-------------|--------------|----------|------------------------|------|----------|--------|------|
| <b>FM-2</b> | <b>VC-85</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>USS LUNGA POINT</b> |      |          |        |      |
|             |              |          |                        |      |          |        |      |
|             |              |          |                        |      |          |        |      |

## IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only). **None**

| (a)<br>TYPE | (b)<br>NO.<br>OBSERVED | (c)<br>NO. ENGAGING<br>OWN A/C | (d)<br>TIME<br>ENCOUNTERED | (e)<br>LOCATION OF<br>ENCOUNTER | (f)<br>BOMBS, TORPEDOES CARRIED;<br>GUNS OBSERVED | (g)<br>CAMOUFLAGE AND<br>MARKING |
|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
|             |                        |                                | (ZONE)                     |                                 |   |                                  |
|             |                        |                                | (ZONE)                     |                                 |   |                                  |
|             |                        |                                | (ZONE)                     |                                 |   |                                  |

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) \_\_\_\_\_

(i) Did Any Part of Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, Describe Clouds \_\_\_\_\_  
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(j) Time of Day and Brilliance 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). **None**

| (a)<br>TYPE<br>ENEMY A/C | (b) DESTROYED OR DAMAGED BY: |          |                 | GUNS USED | (c)<br>WHERE HIT, ANGLE | (d)<br>DAMAGE<br>CLAIMED |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------|-----------------|-----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
|                          | TYPE A/C                     | SQUADRON | PILOT OR GUNNER |           |                         |                          |
|                          |                              |          |                 |           |                         |                          |
|                          |                              |          |                 |           |                         |                          |
|                          |                              |          |                 |           |                         |                          |
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## VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those listed in II only). **None**

| (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                   |                 |   |  |   |
| 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). **None**

| (a)<br>NO. | (b)<br>SQUADRON | (c)<br>NAME, RANK OR RATING | (d)<br>CAUSE | (e)<br>CONDITION OR STATUS |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
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|            |                 |                             |              |                            |

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

| (a)<br>TYPE<br>A/C | (b)<br>MILES<br>OUT | (c)<br>MILES<br>RETURN | (d)<br>AV. HOURS<br>IN AIR | (e)<br>AV. FUEL<br>LOADED | (f)<br>AV. FUEL<br>CONSUMED | (g) TOTAL AMMUNITION EXPENDED |     |             |    | (h)<br>NO. OF PLANES<br>RETURNING |
|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----|-------------|----|-----------------------------------|
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             | .30                           | .50 | 20MM        | MM |                                   |
| <b>F4U-2</b>       | <b>59</b>           | <b>60</b>              | <b>3.1</b>                 | <b>232</b>                | <b>140</b>                  |                               |     | <b>1330</b> |    | <b>3</b>                          |
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             |                               |     |             |    |                                   |
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             |                               |     |             |    |                                   |
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             |                               |     |             |    |                                   |
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             |                               |     |             |    |                                   |
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             |                               |     |             |    |                                   |
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             |                               |     |             |    |                                   |
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             |                               |     |             |    |                                   |
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             |                               |     |             |    |                                   |
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             |                               |     |             |    |                                   |
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             |                               |     |             |    |                                   |
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             |                               |     |             |    |                                   |
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             |                               |     |             |    |                                   |
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             |                               |     |             |    |                                   |

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

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

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

SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes

- TURNING
- 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) **Caves, slit trenches, gun emplacements, 600 yards north Airfield No. 3, Iwo Jima.** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1440 (X)** (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target **None affecting attack**  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target **Clear** (e) Visibility **20**  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type \_\_\_\_\_ Bomb Sight Used \_\_\_\_\_  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run \_\_\_\_\_ Spacing \_\_\_\_\_ Altitude of Bomb Release \_\_\_\_\_  
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed **0** Probably Destroyed **0** Damaged **0**

| (h) AIMING POINT  | (i) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE | (j) NO. A/C ATTACKING<br>(k) SQUADRON | (l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED. EACH AIMING POINT | (m) NO. HITS On Aiming Point | (n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk) |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|---|
| 1 <b>Caves, slit trenches, gun emplacements as above.</b> | <b>400 x 200 yards</b>    | <b>3 FM-2<br/>VC-84</b>               | <b>1330 rounds .50 cal.</b>                          | <b>All in area</b>           | <b>Unknown</b>  |
| 2   |                           | <b>8 FM-2<br/>VC-85</b>               | <b>Unknown</b>                                       | <b>All in area</b>           | <b>Unknown</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.)

**Results were not observed but the area was well covered with strafing.**

(p) Were Photographs Taken? **Yes** 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

Three FM-2 were launched by USS MAKIN ISLAND at 1230 (K) on 25 February 1945, as part of the target combat air patrol in connection with D plus 6 operations at Iwo Jima. Lt.(jg) Robert E. Hooks led the division and had with him Ensigns Henry Wardenga and Edsel C. Varney. At the conclusion of its time on station the flight with 8 FM-2 of VC-85, who led, made strafing runs from 1440 to 1510 on an area (235 Uncle, 218 Able on local grid) 600 yards north of Airfield No. 3 containing caves, slit trenches and gun emplacements. Runs were made from 5000 feet down to 200 feet over the area which was well covered by the attack. Light, meager, inaccurate AA was met. The planes landed aboard at 1535 (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

**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

**Equipment performed normally.**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

**Robert C. FULTON, Jr., Lt., USNR**

**Douglas K. ENGLISH, Lt., (A1), USNR**

**3-9-45**

SIGNATURE **SI Officer, VC-84**

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE

**Acting Commanding Officer, VC-84**