

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-84 (b) Based on or at USS MAKIN ISLAND, at sea (c) Report No. VC-84 #39
 (d) Take off: Date 20 February 1945 Time (LZT) 1230 (K) (Zone); Lat. 25° 00'N Long 141° 55'E
 (e) Mission Support, D plus 1, Iwo Jima. (f) Time of Return 1525 (K) (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)		
TBM-3	VC-84	4	0	4	2 with (2) 500 lb GP AN-M 64	Nose - instantaneous
					2 with (10) 100 lb GP AN-M 30	Tail - .01 sec. delay
					All with (8) HE Rockets Mk 1 body, Mk 7 motor.	Nose - none
FM-2	VC-84	4	0	4	(6) Rockets - type and fuzing as above.	Base - .02 sec delay

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
TBM-3	VC-85	4	USS LUNGA POINT				
FM-2	VC-85	4	USS LUNGA POINT				

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

(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). None

(a) TYPE ENEMY A/C	(b) DESTROYED OR DAMAGED BY:				(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) 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). **None**

(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). **None**

(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	
TM-3	30	40	3.0	330	220		155			4
FM-2	30	40	3.0	232	120		300			4

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

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

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

SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

- TURNES
- 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) Area 200 feet north of Airfield No. 2, Iwo Jima, containing gun positions. (b) Time Over Target(s) 1445 (K) (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 500, strato cumulus, .8, broken patches over target
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Considerably obscured by clouds (e) Visibility 8
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used _____
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
Rocket per run: 2 planes all, and two planes 2; Slant Range 300 feet
Bombs Dropped per Run All Spacing 0 Altitude of Bomb Release 2000 - 1500
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
except 1 plane, only 1

(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 (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 Area 200 feet north of Airfield	200 x 200 yards	4 FM-2 3 TM-3	(20) Rocket Mk 1 body, Mk 7 motor. (10) 100 lb GP AN-M 30	All in area	Unknown
2 No. 2, containing gun positions.		All VC-34	(3) 500 lb GP AN-M 64		Unknown
3		VC-35 figures not known			
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 of attack could not be determined. As noted above the bombs that were dropped and rockets fired went into the target area.

(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

A support flight made up of 4 TBM-3 and FM-2 took off for D plus 1 operations on 20 February 1945 from UES MAKIN ISLAND at 1230 (K). TBM-3 pilots were Lt. Douglas K. English, support group leader, Lt. Richard I. Haley and Ensigns Leonard F. Wozniak and Glenn A. Terry and FM-2 pilots were Lt. Thomas S. Sedaker, division leader, with Lts.(jg) Robert E. Hooks and Melvin J. Simpson Jr. and Ensign John R. Stroppel. A similar flight from VC-35 joined up to form the support group. During the time the group was at the target area the ceiling was about 500 feet with conditions highly reminiscent of training at San Clemente. It was necessary to use great caution to avoid traffic foul ups. After orbiting from 1305 the group at 1400 received a target area, 200 x 200 yards (193 Oboe, local grid), about 200 feet north of Airfield No. 2 containing gun positions. VF went in first in rocket and strafing attacks, slant range for rocket release being about 300 feet. VF followed in a bombing run from around 4500 feet through breaks in clouds releasing at between 1500 to 2000 feet and pulling out around 1600 and 1500 feet. Due to difficulty encountered from weather conditions not all pilots were able to get on the target and only Lt. English and Haley released bombs. No rockets were fired by VF for the same reasons. All bombs released and rockets fired were believed to hit in the target area. The flight returned to base at 1525 (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

Performance of equipment was normal, except that one 500 lb. bomb failed to release. Adjustment of synchronization was found necessary on return.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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SICP Officer, VC-84

RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

Douglas K. ENGLISH, Lt., (A1), USNR
Acting Commanding Officer, VC-84

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

3-5-45

DATE