





# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when  
filled out)

## XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.)

Use additional sheets if necessary).

# CONFIDENTIAL

No unusual incidents were reported in the performance of aircraft or equipment. All planes and accessories gave excellent service on this mission. After routine checking, and patching of a bullet hole in the wing of one plane, all aircraft were ready to go out again within an hour.

### 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:

Lt(jg) G.P. WERTENBAKER, A-V(S), USNR,

Lt.Cdr. H. O. FEILBACH, A-V(N), USNR,

SIGNATURE ACI Officer

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE Commanding, VF-60

RANK AND DUTY

DATE



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## AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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

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

IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

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

(i) Weather and Clouds at Location of Encounter (s) \_\_\_\_\_

(j) Sun or Moon \_\_\_\_\_ (k) Visibility \_\_\_\_\_

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

[illegible]



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CONFIDENTIAL				
(a) TYPE OWN A/C	(b) SQUADRON	(c) CAUSE: TYPE ENEMY A/C, TYPE GUN, OR OPERATIONAL CAUSE	(d) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(e) EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE, REMARKS
1 - - - -	- -	- - - - -	- - - - -	None
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).

[illegible]

### VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA

[illegible]

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

SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes

TURNS

DIVES

CEILINGS

RANGE

PROTECTION

ARMAMENT

No enemy aircraft encountered.



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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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

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- (a) Location of Target(s) Southwest corner of Bititu Island (b) Time Over Target(s) 0545 GCT  
(c) Weather and Clouds Over Target Scattered clouds, about .3, from 3,000 to 4,000 feet; clear.  
(d) Sun or Moon Sun, elevation about 175°. (e) Visibility Unlimited.

## XI. TARGETS, RESULTS OF ATTACK.

(a) DESCRIPTION OF TARGET (List All Ships in Group, Whether or Not Individually Attacked)	(b) A/C ATTACKING	(d) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH TARGET	(e) ALTITUDE OF RELEASE	(f) HITS
	(c) SQUADRON			
1 Personnel and automatic guns resis- ting advance of Marines on Island.	12 VF-60	14,500 rounds.	1,500 to 500 ft.	Probable.
2				
3				
5				
6				
7				
8				

- (g) **RESULTS:** (FOR SHIP TARGETS 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, WITH DIAGRAMS OR CHARTS WHERE DESIRABLE. DESCRIBE TARGETS FULLY IN (a), AND IN REPORTING DAMAGE OR DESTRUCTION, IDENTIFY BY NUMBERS AT LEFT. USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY).

Automatic guns, which were the immediate object of this attack, were silenced. Anti-aircraft batteries, still firing when the attack began, had ceased when it ended. Area was cleared for the entry of U. S. Marine troops, who began mopping up.

- (h) Were Photographs Taken? \_\_\_\_\_ Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached.



**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
  - Release
  - Pull-Out
- Dive Angle
- Strafing
- Retirement
- Defensive Tactics

## DEFENSE. ENEMY

Evasive Tactics, Ships  
Concealment  
Anti-aircraft  
Searchlights  
Night Fighter Tactics

### 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

following applicable items in check list at left. Use additional sheets if necessary.)

About 15 minutes before sunset on Dog Day, VF-60 completed its third combat air patrol over Marines landing on Bititu Island, and requested assignment of strafing targets from Support Air Command. (While waiting for strafing assignments after their second patrol, they had been called back to base.) They were ordered to attack automatic gun emplacements, including anti-aircraft, in Area 228, the southwest tip of the Island. They began this attack while bombers from the USS ESSEX were bombarding the east end of the Island. Those two attacks were the last aircraft actions of the day on Bititu.

The Squadron made two long runs on the area, with particular attention to machine-gun positions in a shell hole and in a long trench where enemy personnel were seen. Some anti-aircraft fire was observed during the first run. After the second, it had ceased; and all gun batteries were silent. As the planes were climbing for a third pass at the area, they were called by Support Air Commander, who told them: "Do not strafe any more." The Marines were ready to infiltrate into the area, and aircraft action ceased for the day over Bititu. VF-60 headed back toward its base.

Engaged in this mission were three Divisions of aircraft, composed as follows. Division 1: Lt. Cdr. H. O. FEILBACH, Squadron commander; Ens. H. A. WALTERS, Ens. R. A. SINGLETON, Ens. E. P. BARBER, Division 2: Lieut. E. L. DASHIELL, Ens. Q. D. LA FARGUE, Ens. J. D. SHEA, Ens. G. C. WILSON. Division 3: Lieut. E. A. FISCHER, Ens. Earl HELWIG, Lt. (jg) R. H. NESBITT, Ens. R. R. ZIERLEIN.

The Squadron suffered no casualties, and no damage to aircraft was reported.



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Lights

### FUEL SYSTEM

### FLIGHT CLOTHING

### MAINTENANCE

### BASE FACILITIES

Plane Servicing Equipment  
Personnel Facilities

REPORT PREPARED BY: *H. O. Feilbach*

Lt.(jg) G.P. WERTENBAKER, AV(S), USNR  
ACI Officer.

APPROVED BY:

*H. O. Feilbach*  
Lt.Cdr. H.O. FEILBACH, A-V(N), USNR.  
Commanding, VF-60

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE



**CONFIDENTIAL** SECRET

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IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

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

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VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (For those listed in IV only)				
(a) TYPE OWN A/C	(b) SQUADRON	(c) CAUSE: TYPE ENEMY A/C, TYPE GUN, OR OPERATIONAL CAUSE	(d) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(e) EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE, REMARKS
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2				
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[illegible][illegible]

No enemy A/C encountered