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

XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA. (Narrative and comment Describe action fully and comment following applicable items in check list at left. Use additional sheets of necessary.)

> On Dog Day, while surface vessels and aircraft were bombarding Bititu and Marines were making their first assault on the Island, VF-60 sent up a combat air patrol of 12 planes from the SUWANNEE to guard transports and warships engaged in the attack. No enemy aircraft were encountered. Upon completion of this mission, VF-60 called Support Air Command to request assignment of targets for straffing. They were ordered to strafe "Red" beaches where the enemy still impended landings by Marine troops. They straffed these beaches thoroughly, with results as noted in (XI).

The Squadron was then told to attack an automatic gun emplacement in Area 230, the northwest tip of the island, where enemy fire was making trouble for Marines on landing barges in the lagoon. They made three runs on this emplacement, also firing at buildings partly concealed under the trees. After the third run, the gun was silenced. The Squadron then headed east along the Island, straffing enemy installations all the way across, and returned to the SUWANNEE.

This mission was carried out by three divisions of F6F-3 aircraft, composed as follows. Division 1: Lt.Cdr. H. O. FEILBACH, Squadron commander; Ens. R. A. SINGLETON, Ens. H. A. WALTERS, Ens. E.P. BARBER. Division 2: Lieut. E. L. DASHIELL, Ens. G. C. WILSON, Lieut. E. A. FISCHER, Ens. J. D. SHEA. Division 3: Lieut. H. A. CAREY, Ens. J. C. SIMPSON, Ens. W. B. GUNNELS, Ens. Q. D. LA FARGUE.
Some enemy anti-aircraft fire was encountered, diminishing

as the straffing attack proceeded. Lieut. Carey's plane was hit in the port wing by one .30 cal. machine-gun bullet. All planes and pilots returned safely.

XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at Use additional sheets if necess

to go out again within an hour.

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

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**

TRUCTURE

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

REPORT PREPARED

Plane Servicing Equipment Personnel Facilities

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

SIGNATURE ACI Officer

RANK AND DUTY

Lt.Cdr. H. O. FEILBACH, A-V(N), USNR, SIGNATURE COMMANDING, VF-60 RANK AND DUTY

ALLSET - MFD. BY THE EGRY REGISTER CO., PATENTED

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED (Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(a) Unit Re	porting	7F-60	(b)	Based on o	r at_US	ss si	JWAN	NEE off	Tarawa (Report No	3	
(d) Date of	Action 21	November	1943 (e)	Take off:	Time_C	340		_(GCT); L	at 01° 201	N. Long 17	30 15' E.	
(f) Mission	C.A.P.	; Straffi	ng ground	targets	on Bi	tit	a Is	land.	(g) Time o	of Return 0615	(GCT)	
II. OW	N AIRCRAI	FT OFFICIA	LLY COVER	ED BY THIS	REPO	RT.						
(a) TYPE	(b) SQUADRON	NO. OF SORTIES	(d) NO. ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	(e) NO. ATTACK- ING TARGET		BO C	MBS A	(f) ND TORPEDOE: (PER PLANE)	S	FUZE, SE		
F6F-3	VF-60	12		12								
III OT	HFR U S	OR ALLIED	AIRCRAFT	EMPLOYED	IN TH	IS O	PERA	TION.				
ТҮРЕ	SQUADRON	NUMBER	AIRORALI	BASE		1	PE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BAS	E	
		1	UNTERED (sted i					(a)	
(a) TYPE	(a) (b) NO. ENGAGING TIME ENCOUNTERE				LOCATION OF BOMBS, T					TORPEDOES CARRIED; CAMOUF MAP		
	None	2	(GCT)									
			(GCT)									
			(GCT)									
			(GCT)									
(b) Apparox	at Engana. M	Aissian (s)										
(h) Apparer												
(i) Weather	r and Cloud	s at Location	of Encounte	er(s)								
	× .		ın or Moon_						_ (k) Visib			
		AFT DESTRO	OYED OR DA	MAGED IN	AIR (B	y Ow	n Airc	craft Listed		(c)	(d)	
TYPE ENEMY A/C	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILO	T OR GUNNER		G	UNS US	SED		HIT, ANGLE	DAMAGE CLAIMED	

Enel. (c)

FOR ACA-1 ENCLOSURE (C)

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED (Reclassify when filled our)

I. GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(a) Hait D	outing T	/F-60	/1.\	Doord	uss	SUWAN	NEE off	Tarawa	:) Report No	3
(d) Date of	Action 21	November	1943 (e)	Take off:	Time 03	40	_(GCT); L	at 01° 20'	N. Long.173	0 15' E.
(f) Mission	C.A.P.	; Straffi	ng ground	targets	on Bit	itu Is	land.	(g) Time o	of Return 0615	(GCT)
II. OW	AIRCRAI	T OFFICIA	LLY COVERE	D BY THIS	REPORT	г.				
(a) TYPE	(b) SQUADRON	NO. OF SORTIES	NO. ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	(e) NO. ATTACK- ING TARGET		BOMBS A CARRIED	(f) ND TORPEDOE (PER PLANE)	S	(g) FUZE, SETT	ING
F6F-3	VF-60	12		12	_					-
III OTI	HER U.S.	OR ALLIED	AIRCRAFT E	MPI OYED	IN THIS	OPERA	TION.			
TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	71110117111	BASE		TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	
	7	ť								
100			UNTERED (E)	- (2)
(a) TYPE	(b) NO. OBSERVED	NO. ENGAGING OWN A/C	TIME ENCOUNTERED	LOCAT	e) ION OF BOMBS, TORPEDOES CARRIED; UNTER GUNS OBSERVED			CAMOUFLAGE AND MARKING		
	None		(GCT)							
			(GCT)							
			(GCT)							
			(GCT)							
h) Apparer	nt Enemy N	Mission(s)			3					
i) Weather	and Cloud	s at Location	of Encounter	·(s)						
		(j) Su	n or Moon					(k) Visib	oility	
V. ENE			YED OR DAN	MAGED IN	AIR (By	Own Air	craft Listed	in II Only)		
(a) TYPE ENEMY A/C	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON		OR GUNNER		GUNS U	SED		(c) HIT, ANGLE	DAMAGE CLAIMED
)	
					-					
		1								

VI LOSS OR DAMAGE COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL OF OWN AIRCRAFT of those listed in II only).

TYPE	(a) E OWN A/C	(b) SQUADRON	CAUSE: TYPE ENEMY A/C, TYPE GUN, OR OPERATIONAL CA	AUSE	WHERE HIT, ANGLE	EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE, REMARKS		
1						None		
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
	VII. PERS	ONNEL C	ASUALTIES (in aircraft list	ted in	II only; identify with planes liste	d in VI by Nos. at left).		
(a) NO.	(b) SQUADRON	i	(c) NAME, RANK OR RATING		(d) CAUSE	(e) CONDITION OR STATUS		
-		,						
		1						

VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA

(a)	(b) MILES	(b) (c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	PLANES RETURNING				
(a) TYPE A/C	OUT	MILES RETURN	AV. HOURS IN AIR	AV. FUEL LOADED	AV. FUEL CONSUMED	NO. OF PLANES	.30	.50	20MM	MM.
F6F-3	20	20	2 hr. 35	250 gal.	145 gal	. 12		14,500		
			min							
			min							

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

SPEED, CLIMB, at various altitudes

No enemy aircraft encountered.

TURNS
DIVES
CEILINGS
RANGE
PROTECTION
ARMAMENT

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED (Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

(c)	X. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND Location of Target(s) Southwest corner Weather and Clouds Over Target Scattere Sun or Moon Sun, elevation about 1 XI. TARGETS, RESULTS OF ATTACK.	of Bititu Isl	and (b) Time Over	Target(s)	clear.
. **	(a) DESCRIPTION OF TARGET (List All Ships in Group, Whether or Not Individually Attacked)	(b) A/C ATTACKING (c) SQUADRON	(d) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH TARGET	ALTITUDE OF RELEASE	(f) HITS
1	Personnel and automatic guns resisting advance of Marines on Island.		14,500 rounds.	1,500 to 500 ft.	Probable.
2	ATTIS CALMITOR OF STATISTICS				
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. Antiaircraft 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 Dai	mage, When	Taken,	Should	Be	Attached.
-----	------------------	--------	--------------------	------------	--------	--------	----	-----------

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 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 Briefina

OPERATIONAL

Navigation Homing Rendezvous Recognition, Ships Communications Flight Operations Search and Tracking Base Operations Maintenance

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.

> 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 straffing yargets from Support Air Command. (While waiting for straffing assignments after their second petrol, 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 diring the first run. After the second, it had ceased; and all gun batteries were silent. As the planes were climbing for a thir d 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.

No unusual incidents were reported in the performance of

aircraft or equipment. All planes and ascessories gave excellent

XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left Use additional sheets if recessary

service on this mission.

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

TRUCTURE

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 PREPAR G.P. WERTENBAKER, AV(S), USNR

SIGNATURE ACT Officer.

RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

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

Commanding, VF-60

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

I. GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL

II. OW	Island N AIRCRAF	Taraw	a, after	Anti-S	Sub Patr	ol.			of Return 2	050 (GCT)
(a) TYPE	(b) SQUADRON	NO. OF SORTIES	NO. ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	NO. ATTACK- ING TARGET	BO.	MBS AI	(f) ND TORPEDOES (PER PLANE)	5		g) SETTING
SBD-5	VC 60	6	None	5	1x500#	&c 2	x100# 0	.P.	fuses 4-5 sec.	delay nose on all . delay tai on 500#.
III. OT	HER U. S. C	OR ALLIED	AIRCRAFT E	EMPLOYED	IN THIS O	PERA	TION.		-43	
TYPE	SQUADRON	None i	n this p	BASE Darticu	lar atta		SQUADRON	NUMBER	В.	ASE
IV. EN	EMY AIRCR (b) NO. OBSERVED	NO. ENGAGING OWN A/C	(GCT)	N O N	craft Listed i		Only). (frombs, torpet guns of	OOES CARRIEI	D; CAM	(g) OUFLAGE AND MARKING
cloud V. ENE	r and Clouds COVET MY AIRCRA	s at Location	OYED OR DA	obs	cured			_ (k) Visi		miles
(a) TYPE ENEMY A/C	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON		OR GUNNER	G	UNS US	SED	WHERE	(c) (d) DAMAG CLAIME	
				N						

VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those listed in II only) EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE, REMARKS CAUSE: TYPE ENEMY A/C,
TYPE GUN, OR OPERATIONAL CAUSE WHERE HIT, ANGLE TYPE OWN A/C SQUADRON 1 2 3 4 5 6 N 7 0 8 N 9 E 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) NO.	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NAME, RANK OR RATING	(d) CAUSE	(e) CONDITION OR STATUS
			N	
			0	w w
	1		N	
			E	
-				

VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g) TOTAL AMMUNITION EXPENDED, PLANES RETURNING							
(a) TYPE A/C	MILES	MILES RETURN	AV. HOURS IN AIR	AV. FUEL LOADED	AV. FUEL CONSUMED	NO. OF PLANES	.30	.50	20MM	MM.			
SBD-5	-	-	3:35	250	170	6		N	ONE	- may 660 may			

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 A/C encountered