

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

## I. GENERAL

# CONFIDENTIAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-77 (b) Based on or at USS RUDYERD BAY (CVE-81) (c) Report No. VC77 #12  
 (d) Take off: Date D-4; 2/23/45 Time (LZT) 0900(K) (Zone); Lat. 24° 47'N Long. 141° 19'E  
 (e) Mission Direct Support Group - IWO JIMA (f) Time of Return 1200(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)		
FM-2	VC-77	2	None	2	NONE	-

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
FM-2	VC-?	4	USS ANZIO (CVE-57)	TBM-1c	VC-?	4	USS STEAMER BAY (CVE-87)
				TBM-1c	VC-76	2	USS PETROF BAY (CVE-80)

## 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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			

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**CONFIDENTIAL**

REPORT No. **VC77 #12**

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

(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		N		
3		O		
4		N		
5		E		
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) NO.	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NAME, RANK OR RATING	(d) CAUSE	(e) CONDITION OR STATUS
		N		
		O		
		N		
		E		

## 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	
<b>FM-2</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>174 gal</b>	<b>105 gal</b>		<b>2090</b>			<b>2</b>

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

## X. 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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(LIMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No **VC77 #12**

XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only). **1030(K) to 1105(K)** to  
 (a) Target(s) and Location(s) **Side of and top of ridge in 199 K, F, A and L, G, B, - IWO JIMA** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1105(K)** (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target **3500' - Strato Cumulus - 6/10**  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target **Clear** (e) Visibility **10 miles**  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Strafing Run** Bomb Sight Used **Mk 3 Gunsight**  
(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 **-** Probably Destroyed **-** Damaged **-**

(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 <b>Gun positions, Buildings, and</b>		<b>2 FM-2 VC-77</b>	<b>2090 rds. in area</b>	<b>all in area</b>	<b>None observed</b>
2 <b>personnel on top and side of ridge.</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).

**VT planes from the USS STEAMER BAY and USS PETROF BAY carried 500 # GP bombs, 100 # GP bombs, and rockets, and attacked this same area. Lieutenant KNUDSON from VC-77 was the group flight leader.**

(p) Were Photographs Taken? **No** Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

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REPORT No. VC77 #12

## 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

At 0900(K), 23 February, 1945, Lieutenant A. J. KNUDSON, U.S.N.R., with Lieutenant(jg) B. G. HOLLENBECK, U.S.N.R., as his wingman, took off from CVE-81, to become group flight leader of twelve planes, consisting of 4 - VT from CVE-87, 2 - VT from CVE-80, and 4 - VF from CVE-57. Three of the VT each carried 3 - 500 # GP bombs plus eight 5" HE rockets, which two carried 10 - 100 # GP bombs plus rockets and one carried only 7 - 100 # GP bombs plus rockets. The six VF has 50 cal. only.

After rendezvous was effected, the group proceeded to the target area over IWO JIMA. At 1025(K) orders were given by GEORGIA 1, the air coordinator, to hit gun positions small buildings, and personnel on top of and on the side of the ridge in areas 199 K, F, A and L, G, B. GEORGIA 1 led Lieutenant KNUDSON and one VT in a SE to NW dummy run and fired a rocket to point out the target. Upon regaining altitude Lieutenant KNUDSON led his entire group in on the target starting at about 3000' and pulling out at 1000'. Naval gunfire was coming into the area at the time, and a lower pull out would have been unnecessarily dangerous, though on earlier and later missions many of the planes over the island were pulling out as low as 200'.

As soon as the planes could regain altitude after each run, they would go down in another, keeping the area under almost constant fire until nearly all bombs and ammunition had been expended.

At 1105(K) the mission was completed and the planes returned to their respective bases.

No AA was observed, but a short time later over this same area GEORGIA 1 was hit (probably light AA) and was forced to return to base.

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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

**Lieutenant KNUDSON's outboard starboard gun jammed, as did the inboard starboard gun of Lieutenant(jg) HOLLENBECK. The cause was undetermined.**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

**T. D. PHILLIPPS, Lieut. ACI Off. VC-77**

**R. W. NEWELL, Lieutenant**

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE

**Acting Commanding Officer**