

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-31) (c) Report No. VC-77 #15
 (d) Take off: Date D-4, 2/23/45 Time (LZT) 1400(K) (Zone); Lat 24° 47'N Long. 141° 19E
 (e) Mission Direct Support Group - IWO JIMA (f) Time of Return VF - 1550(K)
VT - 1700(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 | 1 | NONE | |
| TBM-1c | VC-77 | 2 | None | 2 | 10-100 # G.P. - AN- M30 8 - Mk1 rockets - 5" HE | AN-Mk 219 nose fuse (Inst); AN - M 100A2 tail fuse (non-delay) with Mk 146 base fuse (non-delay); 3.25 Mk 7 motors. |

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

| TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE | TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE |
|------|----------|--------|-----------------|-------|----------|--------|-----------------|
| FM-2 | VC-7 | 4 | USS ANZIO | TBM-3 | VC-88 | 2 | USS SAGINAW BAY |
| FM-2 | VC-88 | 2 | USS SAGINAW BAY | TBM | VC-76 | 2 | U S PETROF BAY |
| | | | | TBM | VC-? | 2 | USS STRAMER BAY |

IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

| (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 |
|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| NONE | | | (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 _____ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (k) Visibility _____ (MILES)

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

| (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 | | | |
| NONE | | | | | | |
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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) **Cliffs & wooded area in 199 A,B,C, & D**
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) **1515(K)** (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target **3500 - cumulus - 4/10**
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target **Clear**
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility **6 - 8 miles**
(MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Glide and strafing**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used **Mk 8 gunsight**
(TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run **4 and 6** Spacing **60'** Altitude of Bomb Release **900'**
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed **Rockets also fired - see below in "o"** 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 Possible tanks and artillery positions in 199 A,B,C, & D | | 2 - TBM-1c | 20 - 100 # GP | All | unobserved |
| | | VC-77 | 13 - 5" HE rockets | | |
| 2 | | 1 - FM-2 | 1400 rds. - 50 cal. | All | unobserved |
| | | VC-77 | | | |
| 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.)

Lieutenant(jg) TROWBRIDGE, on the first run fired two rockets from a slant range of about 2000' in a 30° glide and dropped two bombs before pulling out. On the second, again two rockets, but six bombs released manually, and there after two rockets per run plus a few short strafing bursts.

Lieutenant(jg) SCANNELL, fired only rockets on the first run; going over in a 30° glide from about 3000', he fired his rockets in pairs at a slant range of 2000'. Three of the rockets failed to fire. He dropped 4 bombs on the second run and six on the third, having the bomb switch on select with a spacing of about 60'.

Due to the close range and large target area, all ammunition hit in the area, but results could not be observed in this wooded area.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? **No** 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

At 1400(K), Lieutenant R. W. NEWELL, U.S.N.R., was catapulted from CVE-31, along with VT pilots Lieutenant(jg) J. J. SCANNELL, U.S.N.R., and Lieutenant(jg) WILLIAM TROWBRIDGE, U.S.N.R. Lieutenant NEWELL, flying a FM-2, was flight leader for a group of 8 - VF and 8 - VT launched from other ships in the task unit.

The entire flight orbited point NAN and GEORGE at 3500' until 1515(K) at which time CASCU assigned target area 199 A & B, cliffs and wooded area which was supposed to contain possible tanks and artillery positions.

Lieutenant NEWELL, along with the four VF from the U.S.S. ANZIO made a dummy run from approximately SE to NW to survey the target, and successive runs were all made in this general direction. Upon gaining altitude, Lieutenant NEWELL led the remaining fighter sections in from about 3000' while the ANZIO group led in the VT in column. The runs had to be made from a fairly low altitude not only because of the low ceiling, but also because our troops were within 400 - 500 yards of the target area, and all ammunition had to be carefully directed. After two runs on the original target area it was completely covered, and the ground observer recommended going over area 1944 C & D to the eastward. Three more runs of VT and VF were made here with Lieutenant NEWELL staying overhead to observe the results and then peeling off to follow in the last section.

The results were evidently highly satisfactory because a "well done" was transmitted by the ground observer via CASCU in GLACIER.

When his engine started to "act up" Lieutenant NEWELL led his flight back to the carrier area, and made a deferred emergency landing at 1548(K) ahead of the regular 1700(K) scheduled landing time.

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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

After about an hour and a half in the air, Lieutenant NEWELL'S FN-2 started to backfire, indicating broken magnets breaker spings (EDISON MAGS), and necessitating a deferred emergency landing one hour before scheduled completion of the hop.

Three of the rockets in Lieutenant(jg) SCANNELL'S plane failed to fire but since the plane crashed into the catwalk upon landing, with two of the rockets tearing off and falling into the sea and the third rolling along the deck, it was impossible to determine the cause of the trouble.

Lieutenant(jg) TROWBRIDGE'S starboard gun jammed after about twenty rounds had been fired.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

T. D. PHILLIPPS, Lieut. AGI Off. VC-77

R. W. NEWELL, Lieutenant

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

Acting Commanding Officer

RANK AND DUTY

DATE