





# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

*C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L*

REPORT No. VC77 #55

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) 185 A, B, C, & H - IWO JIMA (b) Time Over Target(s) 1150(K) (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 1000' - stratus - 8/10 Irregular - kept moving in and out of target area.  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Fairly clear below cloud layer (e) Visibility 5 miles  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- Rocket Tactics  
(f) Bombing Tactics: Type 20° glide - slant range 1500 yards Bomb Sight Used Mk 8 gunsight  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Rockets  
Dropped per Run 4 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 <u>Mortar positions and caves</u>		<u>4 - TRM VC-77</u>	<u>32 - 5" HE rockets 150 rds. - 50 cal.</u>	<u>all in area</u>	<u>None observed</u>
2					
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).

(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 0930(K) on 7 March, 1945, Lieutenant E. V. McNEBLEY, U.S.N.R., led a group of four TBM's in a direct support group over IWO JIMA. After being catapulted from CVE-81 they joined with 4 - VT and 4 - VF from VC-88 and four VF from VC-84, with VC-84 leading the combined flight.

Conditions over the target were very poor for bombing or rocket runs, and an unusual amount of confusion resulted. Target area 185 which was assigned was so close to our front lines that it was necessary to make dummy runs for proper orientation. Finally at about 1150(K) when the ground coordinator was satisfied that the target had been properly pin pointed, low hanging clouds moved over the area, making it necessary to call off the bombing runs. Three of the planes in two runs were able to fire all their rockets - 4 in each run from West to East. One pilot fired all eight in one run, while another was unable to fire any because after pushing over he was cut out by a fighter and could not fire with safety.

After retirement, the planes jettisoned all bombs before landing on the carrier in line with safety precautions prescribed by ComCarDiv 25. These bombs had been armed in anticipation of the bombing run which was called off at the last minute.

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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

In jettisoning bombs, some trouble was experienced. With five 100# GP bombs remaining in the bomb-bay, one pilot pulled the emergency release and only three bombs dropped. Though released on "safe", one of these bombs detonated upon impact. The cause was not determined.

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

ALL SET - **Acting Commanding Officer.**