

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#17
 (d) Take off: Date D-6/ 2/25/45 Time (LZT) 0645(K) (Zone); Lat. 24° 47'N Long. 141° 19'E
VF - 0930(K)
 (e) Mission Target Combat Air Patrol - IWO JIMA (f) Time of Return VT - 1125(K) (Zone)
Direct Support Group

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	8	-	8	8 - Mk 1 - 5" HE head with Mk 146 base fuse (non-delay); 3.25 Mk 7 motors 10 - 100 # G.P. bombs- AN-M30	Mk 146 base fuse (non-delay) AN-M 100 - A2 tail fuse non-delay
TBM-1c	VC-77	4	-	4		

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
FM-2	VC-88	4	USS SAGINAW BAY				
TBM-3	VC-88	4	USS SAGINAW 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
H				(ZONE)		
O				(ZONE)		
N				(ZONE)		
E				(ZONE)		

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____
 Did Any Part of _____
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? _____ If so, Describe Clouds _____ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 (YES OR NO)
 Time of Day and Brilliance _____ (k) Visibility _____ (MILES)
 (j) of Sun or Moon _____ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.)

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			
H						
O						
H						
E						

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REPORT No. VC77 #17

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 TBM-1c	VC-77	Medium AA - Prob. 20mm	Port wing - not a	local repairs effected
2		Shrapnel from	direct hit	
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).

(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	
FM-2	40	50	2.75	230 gal	120 gal		3860			8
	40	50	4.36	330 "	270 "		-			4

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	X			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm		X		
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm		X		

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 A/C encountered.

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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) **VF - areas 216 R&S**
VT - areas 200 C, D, & E (b) Time Over Target(s) **VF - 0858(K)**
VT - 0915(K) Zone

(c) Clouds Over Target **no clouds** (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target **slight haze - especially at 4000'** (e) Visibility **15 miles**
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **VF - Strafing Run - steep** Bomb Sight Used **Mk 8 gunsight**
VT - Glide - 30° with rockets (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run **see "o"** Spacing **see "o"** Altitude of Bomb Release **See "o"**
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed **None** 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 Area at crossroads in 216 R & S		8 - FM-2 VC-77	3860 rds. 50 cal.		all in area not observed
2 Gun emplacements and caves - 200 C, D, & E		4 - TBM-1c VC-77	29 - 100 # B.P. bombs 21 - 5" HE rockets	"	"
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.)

The VF made normal strafing runs, firing all of their ammunition in the assigned area.

Three of the 4 VT pilots were firing rockets for the first time. Their tactics were therefore not uniform. All of them made their runs on the area, firing rockets and dropping bombs at the same time on some runs. Three or four bombs would be dropped at a time (switch on select) and usually two or four rockets. Slant ranges varied from 3000' to as little as 1500' depending upon the runs with the degree of dive being about 30° in all cases.

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

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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

None of Lieutenant(jg) TROWBRIDGE'S rockets would fire, but the circuit tested ok upon return to the carrier, indicating either a defective safety plug or pilot error in handling the plug.

Several of the guns in the FM-2's jammed or failed to charge. An investigation of one of the jammings showed a ruptured cartridge.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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

R. W. NEWELL, Lieutenant

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

Acting Commanding Officer

RANK AND DUTY

DATE