

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

## I. GENERAL

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

(a) Unit Reporting VC-77 (b) Based on or at USS HUDYERD BAY (CVE-81) (c) Report No. VC77 #48  
 (d) Take off: Date D-12, 3/3/45 Time (LZT) 1400(K) (Zone); Lat. 24° 47'N Long. 141° 19'E  
 (e) Mission Direct Support Group - IWO JIMA (f) Time of Return 1710(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)		
<b>TBM-1c</b>	<b>VC-77</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10 - 100# GP AN-M20 bombs 8 - Mk 1 - 5" HE head with delay); 3.25 Mk 7 motors</b>	<b>AN-Mk 219 (Inst) Nose Mk 148 base fuze (non- delay)</b>
<b>TBM-3</b>	<b>VC-77</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8 - Rockets ditto 3 - 500# GP AN-M64 bombs</b>	<b>AN-Mk 219 (Inst) Nose AN-M101A2.01 delay tail</b>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<b>F4U-7</b>	<b>VC-7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>U.S.S. ANZIO</b>				
<b>F4U-7</b>	<b>VC-88</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>U.S.S. SAGINAW BAY</b>				
<b>TBM-3</b>	<b>VC-88</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>U.S.S. SAGINAW BAY</b>				

## 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).

(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			
<b>H</b>						
<b>O</b>						
<b>H</b>						
<b>B</b>						



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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) **202 S A T - TWO JTWA** (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) **1545(K)** (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target **None** (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target **Slight haze at low altitude** (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility **10 miles** (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Glide - rockets firing - 30° glide** (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used **Mk 8 gunsight** (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run **see "o"** (NUMBER) Spacing **salvo** (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release **-** (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>40mm AA positions</b>		<b>4 - TBM VC77</b>	<b>5 - 500# GP 12 - 100# GP 14 - 5" HE Rockets</b>	<b>31 in target area</b>	<b>None observed</b>
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).

**Because of shortage of time, only one bombing run could be made over the target. All bombs were dropped in salvo, though one pilot attempted ripple salvo, but all went off at once.**

**Rockets were fired in a 30° glide, ripple attack, with slant range of about 1500 yards on the first pair and 800 yards on the last.**

(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
- Defensive 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), 3 March, 1945, Lieutenant J. L. RICE, U.S.N.R., led a division of four VF, joining up with four fighters and four VT from VC-88 plus two planes (VF) from the U.S.S. ANZIO, one of the latter being the flight leader.

The group was kept circling the island for several hours because the coordinator was tied up with other missions coming in, and it was not until 1545(K) that a target was finally assigned. Because of the shortage of time, and a low bright sun which affected visibility, the results of the bombing runs were not as satisfactory as might otherwise be expected.

Orders were given to drop bombs and fire rockets on previously spotted 40mm AA positions in area 202 S & T. Since Lieutenant RICE had already flown twelve mission over the target as an observer pilot, he had the advantage of being very familiar with the area. He led his division in a dummy run over the target, followed by a bombing run from SE to NW. The run was started from 5500' with pull out at 1000', and the bombs released at about 1500'.

The first two pilots down had a chance to make a rocket attack on the next run, whereas the other two had to jettison theirs before landing.

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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

Considerable trouble was experienced with the bomb release system. One plane carrying 10 - 100# GP bombs was able to drop only two bombs, having tried various switch combinations, and even emergency release had two 500# bombs drop in the target area, while the third hung up and did not release until the plane was out of its dive and was gaining altitude out over the ocean.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

**T. D. PHILLIPS, Lieut. ACI Off. VC-77**  
SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

**R. W. NEWELL, Lieutenant**  
SIGNATURE  
**Acting Commanding Officer.**

RANK AND DUTY

DATE