

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 #57**

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) KANOKU ROCK - IWO JIMA (b) Time Over Target(s) 1330(K)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) 1510(K) (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 500' - stratus - 8/10
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear below cloud layer (e) Visibility 5 miles
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide - 10° - 15° ; level Bomb Sight Used 1000 gun sight
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 2 Spacing salvo Altitude of Bomb Release 1500'
(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	(f) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO. HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
1 KANOKU ROCK		2 - TBM VC-77	3 - 500 ^{lb} GP bombs 32 - 5" HE rockets	21	None observed
2		4 - F4U-2 VC-77	4 - Napalm bombs		None observed
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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REPORT No. VC77 457

XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA: ~~Q-N-E-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L~~ (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 1230(K) on 7 March, 1945, 4 - VF and 4 - VF from VC-77 joined with a similar group from the U.S.S. ANZIO and proceeded to IBO JIMA for a direct support mission. A low ceiling of about 1000' (8/10 cover) made accurate bombing a delicate and dangerous operation. Therefore the ground air coordinator ordered all planes with 500# bombs to proceed to KANOKU ROCK and drop there. This was done in a level run at 1500' at 1330(K) with three out of four of VC-77's landing on the target. The fourth failed to release, and was later jettisoned.

The group was assigned for their attack a gully in 185 K and L, which was only about 400 yards ahead of our troops. Because of the poor weather this strike finally had to be abandoned, and at 1510(K) orders were given to drop all napalm bombs and fire all rockets on KANOKU ROCK. One run was made from South to North beneath a 400' ceiling, using a shallow glide of about 10°. All rockets landed on the rock as well as the napalm bombs. A slight amount of medium AA (perhaps only light AA) was observed, but probably none of it was knocked out in this attack.

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REPORT No. TCY 77 657

XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 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
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COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Bombing Tactics
- Torpedo Tactics
- Effectiveness of Bombs, Torpedoes
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- Fuzing
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- Defensive Tactics
- Use of Radar
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OPERATIONAL

- Navigation
- Homing
- Rendezvous
- Recognition, Ships
- Communications
- Flight Operations
- Search and Tracking
- Base Operations
- Maintenance

At 1230(K) on 7 March, 1945, 4 - VT and 4 - VF from VC-77 joined with a similar group from the U.S.S. ANZIO and proceeded to IHO JIMA for a direct support mission. A low ceiling of about 1000' (8/10 cover) made accurate bombing a delicate and dangerous operation. Therefore the ground air coordinator ordered all planes with 500# bombs to proceed to KANGOKU ROCK and drop there. This was done in a level run at 1500' at 1330(K) with three out of four of VC-77's landing on the target. The fourth failed to release, and was later jettisoned.

The group was assigned for their attack a gully in 185 K and L, which was only about 400 yards ahead of our troops. Because of the poor weather this strike finally had to be abandoned, and at 1510(K) orders were given to drop all napalm bombs and fire all rockets on KANGOKU ROCK. One run was made from South to North beneath a 400' ceiling, using a shallow glide of about 10°. All rockets landed on the rock as well as the napalm bombs. A slight amount of medium AA (perhaps only light AA) was observed, but probably none of it was knocked out in this attack.

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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

One of the VF developed a terrific engine vibration, and could not get over 1800 rpm without excessive vibration. Nevertheless a safe landing was made.

One 500# bomb failed to release, but perhaps the pilot failed to pull the emergency release properly.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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

R. W. HENNELL, Lieutenant

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE

Acting Commanding Officer.