

# 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 RUDYARD BAY (CVS-81) (c) Report No. VC-77 /58  
 (d) Take off: Date D-15, 3/8/45 Time (LZT) 1230(K) (Zone); Lat. 24° 47'N Long. 141° 19'E  
 (e) Mission Direct Support Group - IWO JIMA (f) Time of Return 1530(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	4	None	4	10 - 100 # AN-M20 GP bombs 8 - Rockets - 5" HE head with Mk 145 base (non-delay fuse; 3.25" Mk 7 motors.	An-Mk 219 (inst) Nose
TBM-1c	VC-77	3	None	3		
TBM-3	VC-77	1	None	1		

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
FM-2	VC-7	4	U.S.S. ANZIO				
TBM-3	VC-7	4	U.S.S. ANZIO				

## 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
			(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:			(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER		

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## 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				
2				
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

## 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	
<b>FM-2</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>172 gal</b>	<b>110 gal</b>		<b>4000</b>			<b>4</b>
<b>TBM</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>330 gal</b>	<b>200 gal</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>220</b>			<b>4</b>

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

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

## 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) 234 B and 235 A; - IWO JIMA (b) Time Over Target(s) 1440(K) (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

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

(d) Visibility of Target Slightly hazy (e) Visibility 15 miles  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide and rocket - 45° Bomb Sight Used Mk 3 gunsight  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run Various Spacing Various Altitude of Bomb Release 2000'  
(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 Target of opportunity in area		4 - FM-1 VC-77	38 - 100# GP bombs 32 - 5" HE rockets	all in area	Not observed
2		4 - FM-2 VC-77	4000 rds. - 50 cal.	"	Not 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).

Instructions were given to drop bombs and rockets in areas 234 B and 235 A, or in any area in the vicinity but to stay North of the road running East and West thru the area. The air coordinator advised the flight that the results were excellent, and the bombs were placed exactly where they should be.

Three of the VT dropped their bombs in ripple salvo, while one set the intervalometer on 18' spacing, which is the equivalent of salvo in a 45° glide.

(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 1230(K) on 6 March, 1945, 4 - VF and 4 - VT from VC-77 were catapulted from CVE-81 and joined with a similar group from the U.S.S. ANZIO to form a 16 plane direct support group over IWO JIMA.

Because of the heavy traffic over the island it was necessary to orbit for two hours, and even then a strategic target could not be assigned. Instructions were therefore given to fire all rockets and drop all bombs in area 234 E and 235 A or vicinity, but to keep all fire north of the road running East to West through the area.

Three runs were made, starting at 1440(K) from West to East, with push over at about 3000 - 4000', and with pull out at 1500'. The target area was well marked by the road, and good runs could be made. The air coordinator was well satisfied, and advised that all ordnance had been well placed and had thoroughly covered the area. The fighters strafed ahead of the VT on all runs, and expended about 75% of their ammunition.

Several greenish colored puffs of AA about 6' in diameter but evidently were not directed at the attacking planes. One of the marine observers operating with VC-77 advised that the green color of the bursts is the result of the large amount of picric acid used in the powder used by the Japs.

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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

**Several guns jammed or failed to fire.**

One plane landed with a 100# GP bomb loose in the bomb-bay, but fortunately no accident resulted. The pilot advises that he tried to jettison five bombs over the ocean pulling the emergency release. The radioman reported all bombs away and the bomb-bay doors were closed. It was not until the plane had landed and the bomb-bay opened that the bomb fell out on the deck. Luckily it had not armed.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

**T. D. PHILLIPPS, Lieut. ACI Off. VO77**

**R. W. NEWELL, Lieutenant**

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

**Acting Squadron Commander.**

RANK AND DUTY

DATE