

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-77 (b) Based on or at USS RUDYERD BAY (CVE-81) (c) Report No. VC77 #11
 (d) Take off: Date D-4/ 2/23/45 Time (LZT) 0700(K) (Zone); Lat. 24° 47'N Long. 141° 19'E
 (e) Mission Direct Support Group - IWO JIMA (f) Time of Return 1000(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	VC77	2	-	2	NONE	-

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
FM-2	VC-7	4	USS ANZIO (CVE-57)				
FM-2	VC-88	2	USS SAGINAW BAY (CVE-82)				

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)			
H			(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				H		
O				O		
H				H		
H				H		

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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) **NtoS ridge - North of #2 airfield** ^{IWO JIMA} Time Over Target(s) **0735(K)** (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target: **2500' - 3000' - strato cumulus - 4/10**
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target **Clear** (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility **10 miles** (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Strafing run** (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used **Mk 8 gunsight** (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run **-** (NUMBER) Spacing **-** (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 Personnel on ridge in area 183 JDE	-	2 - FM-2 VC-77	1750 rds. 50 cal.	see "o"	Unobserved
2 184 KP					
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 two planes from VC-38 fired their rockets at a pillbox in the area, but failed to make hits.

All fighters strafed the area, making five runs each into the side of and along the top of the ridge. It was impossible to accurately observe the results. However, the ground troops commended the air group for their excellent cooperation.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? **Yes** 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

A two plane section, consisting of Lieutenant D. H. THOMPSON, U.S.N.R., and Ensign J. R. WIDMER, U.S.N.R., took off from the ship at 0700(K) and undevoused with two FM-2 from VC-88 and from (4) FM-2 from the U.S.S. ANZIO (squadron number unknown to us) to form a direct support group over IWO JIMA.

At about 0730(K), CASCU (GLACIER) ordered them to strafe personnel on the side of and on top of the ridge running north and south in areas 183 J, D, and E and 184 K and F, furnishing close support for our marines climbing toward the ridge.

VC-88 led the flight in from about 3000' on a dummy run to look at the target area, and after climbing to about 3500' the flight pushed over and started their run from SE to NW, all planes firing only short bursts to conserve their ammunition for succeeding runs, and to avoid the approaching friendly troops. Pull out was as low as 500' to 1000' on this and later runs, of which there were four.

On one of the runs, the two VC-88 fighters carrying 5" HE rockets fired at a nearby pillbox without hitting. However, this strafing support was evidently effective, because the ground troops commended the flight for their assistance.

The visibility at the target was good, but clouds at 2500' - 3500' over the target made it necessary to start strafing runs from a comparatively low altitude.

Upon completion of five runs the entire group was ordered to go out to sea to hunt for one of the VT pilots who had been forced to land in the water after searching for the carrier several hours in a zero ceiling. The results of this search were negative, and all planes returned to their respective bases at 1000(K).

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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

Both pilots had some trouble with their guns. Lieutenant THOMPSON could not change his outboard port gun because of a broken link, and Ensign WIDMER could not change his outboard starboard gun.

Also, Ensign WIDMER'S ZB would not work, and he could not get the YE signals.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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

R. W. NEWELL, Lieutenant

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

Acting Commanding Officer

RANK AND DUTY

DATE