

Aircraft Action Reports

2-d (54) USS Rudyard Bay



7077/L11-1

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

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET  
AIR FORCE  
COMPOSITE SQUADRON SEVENTY SEVEN

11 MARCH, 1945.



**From:** Commander, Composite Squadron SEVENTY SEVEN.  
**To :** Commander In Chief, United States Fleet.  
**Via :** Commanding Officer, U.S.S. RUDYERD BAY (CVE-81).  
Commander, Carrier Division 25.  
Commander, Escort Carrier Force, Pacific Fleet.  
Commander, Air Force, Pacific Fleet.  
Commander, In Chief, Pacific Fleet.

**Subject:** Report of Aircraft Action - Composite Squadron 77.

**Enclosure:** (A) ACA-1, Aircraft Action Reports, No's. 1 - 63.

1. Enclosure (A) includes ACA-1, Aircraft Action Reports, No's 1 - 63, covering attacks made by Composite Squadron SEVENTY SEVEN on Iwo Jima from 19 February, 1945, to 8 March, 1945.

2. During this period 280 sorties (202 VF and 78 VE) were made against targets on Iwo Jima. There were 131,000 rounds of ammunition fired, as well as 454 5" HE rockets. Of the 352 bombs dropped on enemy installations, 311 were 100# GP and 41 were 500# GP. In addition 16 - 55 gal. napalm bombs were successfully dropped.

3. Lieutenant Commander Frank James PETERSON, (A1D), U.S.N.R., Commanding Officer of Composite Squadron SEVENTY SEVEN was shot down on D day and is reported missing along with his aircrew. The body of his observer, Major R. W. BOLLINS, U.S.M.C.R., was recovered on the beach at Iwo Jima on 26 February, 1945. On 22 February, 1945, Lieutenant (jg) Sylvester E. McGURK, (A1), U.S.N.R., crashed in a pre-dawn take-off and his plane was seen to explode.

4. Lieutenant(jg) William P. CONLEY, (A1), U.S.N.R., is reported missing along with his aircrew, having failed to return from an inner barrier anti-submarine patrol. Lieutenant Thomas A. TURNER, (A1), U.S.N.R., and crew were shot down, but made a successful water landing. Likewise, Lieutenant Angus J. KNUDSON, (A1), U.S.N.R., made a water landing at the target, but was immediately rescued. Both Lieutenant Evert V. McNEELLY, (A1), U.S.N.R., and Ensign Travis L. SCOTT, (A1), U.S.N.R., were forced to make emergency landings on Iwo Jima after being hit by enemy fire. Their planes had to be abandoned on the island. A PV-2 was lost when in making a carrier landing its tail hook broke and the plane skidded off into the catwalk and down into the water. The pilot, Lieutenant(jg), Harry E. SCHORNSTEIN, U.S.N.R., was unharmed and was picked up by a nearby destroyer.

R. W. NEWELL

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# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

## CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. \_\_\_\_\_

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) IWO JIMA - Northern Part (b) Time Over Target(s) 1455(K) (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target Base 5500' Top 75 or - Alto Stratus - 7/10th  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Hazy (e) Visibility 5 mi.  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Strafing Run - Glide Bomb Sight Used MK 8 gunsight  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run \_\_\_\_\_ Spacing \_\_\_\_\_ Altitude of Bomb Release \_\_\_\_\_  
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed None Probably Destroyed None Damaged None

| (h)<br>AIMING POINT                                | (i)<br>DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE | (j) NO A/C ATTACKING<br>(k) SQUADRON | (l)<br>BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT | (m)<br>NO. HITS On Aiming Point | (n)<br>DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk) |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 <b>Small Bldgs. *<br/>and shoreline trenches</b> | -                            | 4 - FM-2<br>VC-77                    | 840 rounds 50 cal.                                      | see "o"                         | None apparent  |
| 2  | .                            | 4 FM-2<br>VC-7 (CVE-94)              | Unknown   | -                               |  |
| 3  |                              | 4 - FM-2<br>VC-7 (CVE-95)            | Unknown   | -                               | -  |
| 4  |                              | 12 - F6F<br>VF80 (USS HANCOCK)       | Unknown   | -                               | -  |
| 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).

**\* Targets of opportunity in areas 216, 217, 233, & 234 small buildings and a shoreline trench were points of aim. Impossible to determine extent of damage or number of hits on this one strafing run.**

(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

Four FM-2's from CVE-61 took off at 1230(K) and rendezvoused over TU 52.2.3 with 4 VF from U.S.S. LUNGA POINT and 4 VF from U.S.S. BISMARCK SEA. Lieutenant R. W. NEWELL, Jr., U.S.N.R. was flight leader of this combined group. They proceeded approximately 25 miles to the target area (IWO JIMA) and orbited at angels ten over reference point Nan 10 miles north of the target. They orbited until 1445(K) at which time more given instructions from CAS on GLACIER (U.S.S. ELDORADO) to strafe targets of opportunity in areas #216, 217, 233, and 234. Instructions to do likewise were given the 12 VF from U.S.S. HANCOCK who were orbiting below at 8,000'.

Lieutenant NEWELL had the group in a 360° counter clockwise orbit over the target area and then started strafing run from SE to NW, all planes swinging out in a right echelon and diving at about a 45° angle. There was a haze from the ground up to about 4000' which concealed the approach, but the target area was not observed. Small buildings in the area were the principal points of aim, and one of the planes just before pull out directed a few bursts at some shoreline trenches. The pull out was started at about 2500 ft., after the pull out. Only one run was made with an average expenditure of 200 rounds of 50 cal. ammunition.

No results were observed, and no personnel was seen on the ground.

Rendezvous was made at 5000' north of the target. The 12 VF from the U.S.S. HANCOCK were not again seen during or after the 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

**All equipment functioned normally.**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

SIGNATURE

**T. B. PHILLIPPS, Lieut. AD1 OY. V077**

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

**R. W. NEWELL, Lieutenant**

RANK AND DUTY

DATE