UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
AIR FORCE
CARRIER AIR GROUP ELEVEN

CVG-11/A16-13
(EFV:jge)
Ser: 031
8 July 1952

[redacted]
SECURITY INFORMATION

From: Commander Carrier Air Group ELEVEN
To: Commanding Officer, USS PHILIPPINE SEA (CV-47)

Subj: Action Report, Carrier Air Group ELEVEN from 21 June 1952 to 8 July 1952

Ref: (a) OpNav Instruction 3480.4
(b) CinCPacFlt Instruction 3480.1

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b) this report is submitted for inclusion with the action report of the USS PHILIPPINE SEA (CV-47) for the same period.

PART I - MISSION AND COMPOSITION

The mission of Carrier Air Group ELEVEN is derived from CTF-77 Secret Operation Order No. 22-51 (2nd Revision). This period was devoted primarily to group strikes against the enemy's hydro-electric power complexes and industrial installations throughout North Korea. It also consisted of a limited amount of rail interdiction and large strikes on troop and supply concentrations and truck shelters. Night and early morning hecklers, armed reconnaissance, photo reconnaissance, and naval gunfire spot missions were conducted in support of the overall program. Defense missions consisted of ASP and CAP.

COMPOSITION OF CARRIER AIR GROUP ELEVEN

UNIT	TYPE A/C	OPERATIONAL AIRCRAFT 6/21	6/30	7/5	PILOTS 6/21	6/30	7/5
CVG-11 CDR J. W. ONSTOTT	None	-	-	-	5	5	5
VF-112 CDR J. V. ROWNEY	F9F-2	17	17	17	23	23	23
VC-61 (Det."C") LCDR R. L. HALL	F2H-2P	3	3	3	4	4	4
VF-113 LCDR J. R. STRANE	F4U-4	16	16	15	23	23	22
VF-114 LCDR G. B. BJORNSON	F4U-4	16	15	15	26	26	26
VC-3 (Det."C") LCDR A. G. RUSSELL	F4U-5N	3	3	3	5	5	5
VA-115 CDR C. H. CARR	AD-4 AD-4L	12 4	12 3	11 3	25	25	25
VC-11 (Det."C") LCDR R. D. BOTTEN	AD-4W	3	3	3	5 4	5 4	5 4 (Crews,
VC-35 (Det."C") LT F. D. HOOKS	AD-4NL AD-2Q AD-4Q	3 1 1	3 1 1	3 1 1	6 5	6 5	6 5 (Crews,

Note: The final combat sorties were flown on 5 July. The figures in the third column under the heading Operational Aircraft indicate the number of aircraft at the end of combat air operations that date. On the same day, 3 AD's, 6 F4U-4's and 2 F4U-5N's were transferred to the USS BOXER and USS BON HOMME RICHARD. These transfers are not indicated in the figures above.

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PART II - CHRONOLOGY

The USS PHILIPPINE SEA with Carrier Air Group ELEVEN embarked remained at Yokosuka during the period 6 June through 13 June 1952 for up-keep, rest and recreation. During the period 14 June through 20 June 1952, the USS PHILIPPINE SEA was ready carrier and remained at Yokosuka except for three days training exercises which were conducted to the south of Honshu on 16-18 June 1952. A total of 114 sorties consisting of group tactics in a simulated strike on Johnson Air Force Base, and refresher training in carrier control approach procedures. One aircraft was lost during this period when LT I. POLKOWSKE, VF-114 was forced to ditch his corsair because of engine failure. LT POLKOWSKE was rescued by the ship's helicopter, uninjured.

21 June - The USS PHILIPPINE SEA departed Yokosuka in company with the USS BON HOMME RICHARD (CV-31) to join Task Force 77 off the east coast of Korea. No air operations were conducted by this air group.

22 June - Enroute to Task Force 77. No air operations were conducted.

23 June - The ship joined Task Force 77 this date and conducted coordinated group strikes along with Air Groups 2, 7, 19, and the 5th Air Force. This marked the first time since the Korean war started that the enemy's hydro-electric power plants were heavily attacked. This was the first time since the Fall of 1950 that four carriers (CV) have operated together on the line in the Korean War. Mixed strike groups consisting of aircraft of the four air groups attacked nine different hydro-electric power plants situated throughout North Korea including the fourth largest one in the world located at Suiho on the Yalu River. Total sorties for this group 67, total ammunition expended 9,000 (20 MM)/ 12,000 (50 Cal.), total bombs dropped 47.5 tons.

One AD, pilot LTJG M. K. LAKE, VA-115 landed wheels up at K-14 after his aircraft was hit over the Yalu River by Anti-Aircraft fire in the wheel well. The pilot was uninjured.

24 June - Two air group strikes were conducted. One group attacked the hydro-electric power plant designated Kyosen #3, and the other on the Kojo Power Complex at CT 978948, CT 988965 and DT 020987. Troop, vehicle and supply concentrations at Ambyon were attacked. Total sorties for the day 129, total ammunition expended 7,000 (20 MM)/ 8,900 (50 Cal.), total rockets expended 24, total bombs dropped 94.5 tons and 8 tons of incendiaries.

25 June - Two group strikes were conducted this date. One group attacked a camouflaged vehicle parking area at CT 748896. When the assigned targets were found to be obscured by overcast, the other group attacked large troop concentrations at CU 558056 to CU 564045, CU 574058, and CU 564041 to CU 559023. Total sorties for the day 67, total ammunition expended 7,000 (20 MM)/ 3,400 (50 Cal.), total rockets expended 23, total bombs dropped 50.3 tons and 3.5 tons of incendiaries.

26 June - Force replenished. No air operations conducted.

27 June - Continued to conduct coordinated group strikes composed of F9F-2, AD and F4U-4 aircraft. Attacks again were directed against troop and supply concentrations rather than railroads. The morning strike attacked a large troop concentration at CU 558056 to CU 564045, CU 574058, CU 564041 to CU 559023. Other attacks were made on a large troop billeting area and supply storage at CU 573043 to CU 579036, and CU 581045. The afternoon strike was directed against troops, supplies and truck parking areas at CU 620070 to CU 598077, truck parking and repair shops CU 630055 to CU 605051; and a troop concentration at CU 620007 to CU 602000. Total sorties flown 119, total ammunition expended 10,500 (20 MM)/ 21,100 (50 Cal.), total rockets expended 16, total bombs dropped 57.8 tons, and 5.2 tons of incendiaries.

28 June - Air operations consisted of rail interdiction missions this date. However, due to increasingly inclement weather over target areas during the day, the afternoon strikes were cancelled. Total sorties 72, total ammunition expended 9,800 (20 MM)/ 9,700 (50 Cal.), total rockets expended 30, total bombs dropped 44.8 tons, and 3 tons of napalm.

29 June - The Task Force steamed north during the night in order to conduct group strikes on the Puryong hydro-electric power complex. However, a heavy fog bank covered the operating area, and all air operations were cancelled.

30 June - No air operations due to inclement weather.

1 July - Task Force replenished, no air operations conducted.

2 July - Attacks were conducted against large enemy troop concentrations and supplies throughout the valleys of the CU sector. Rail interdiction missions were conducted in the Ginny, Gladys and Gwen sectors. Total sorties flown 83, total ammunition expended 11,400 (20 MM)/ 10,400 (50 Cal.), total bombs dropped 36 tons and 2.5 tons of napalm.

3 July - Air operations were limited because of inclement weather. A group strike was conducted against the Puryong power complex in northeastern Korea. Air Groups from the BOXER and BON HOMME RICHARD also were scheduled to attack targets in this complex. Each group was assigned a separate hydro- power plant. However, the target areas were covered by broken clouds and heavy overcast. This air group flying through adverse weather finally was able to attack their assigned target, and one of the other power plants, seriously damaging Puryong #1 and Puryong #2. This group also attacked a nearby large factory and inflicted heavy damage on the large buildings and warehouses. Total sorties flown 53, total ammunition expended 3,000 (20 MM)/ 3,400 (50 Cal.), total bombs dropped 52.3 tons.

4 July - Rail strikes were conducted in the Cathy, Cherry, Bonnie, Birdie, Clair, Cindy, Dottie, Dagmar, Fern and Eve sectors. Total sorties 94, total ammunition expended 3,600 (20 MM)/ 6,400 (50 Cal.), total bombs dropped 58.5 tons, 2.5 tons of napalm and 1.2 tons of incendiaries.

LTJG G. C. CHICK, USNR, VF-113, presumably hit by small arms fire while making a strafing run in the vicinity of Lat 38-56 N, Long 127°-42' E, crashed into the ground in his Corsair and was killed.

CDR C. H. CARR, USN, VA-115 was forced to ditch his AD in the vicinity of Lat 40°-00'N, Long 128°-32'E, when his starboard wing caught on fire during a strafing run on the target. Fire was presumably started by an AA hit in the ammunition containers. CDR CARR was rescued by the USS COURIER (DE-700). He received a compound fracture of lower right arm and lacerations about the head and legs.

5 July - Attacks were conducted on rail sectors Dottie, Bonnie, Edith, Eileen, Fern and Flo. A troop billeting area, CU 675288 to CU 684286, and truck repair and storage areas, CU 374345 to CU 376339 was attacked. Total sorties flown 94, total ammunition expended 6,000 (20 MM)/ 28,700 (50 Cal.), total rockets fired 25, total bombs dropped 51 tons, and dropped 1.5 tons of napalm and 1.9 tons of incendiaries.

LTJG J. R. MULLEN, USNR, VF-114 was forced to land his F4U-4 eight miles from the task force in the water at Lat 39°-15'N, Long 130°-00'E because of engine failure. He was rescued by the ship's helicopter uninjured.

6 July - The Force replenished in the morning. Thirteen F9F-2 aircraft were flown to HMS Atsugi in the afternoon for transfer to FASRON 11. Two AD-4's were transferred to the PRINCETON and 2 AD-3's were received in exchange. Two F9F-2 aircraft were transferred to the BOXER. Carrier Landing Qualifications were conducted for three Marine pilots flying F2H-2P aircraft. The group launched 29 aircraft to clear the flight deck for the Carrier Landing Qualifications.

7 July - Enroute to Yokosuka. Twentythree F4U, 6 AD-4 and 3 AD-4N aircraft launched, to be ferried to NAS Atsugi for transfer to FASRON 11.

8 July - Arrived at Yokosuka.

PART III - ORDNANCE

1. Ordnance Equipment - No Comments.

2. Ordnance Expenditures.

a. Ordnance for June.

Ordnance	F9F	F4U	AD	Total
2000 # GP	0	0	57	57
1000 # GP	0	44	139	183
500 # GP	0	130	76	206
250 # GP	87	186	124	397
100 # GP	72	0	0	72
260 # Frag	0	372	482	854
Incendiaries (100 #)	0	104	230	334
Napalm	0	7	4	11
Flares MK5	0	0	0	0
Flares MK6	0	14	0	14
Flares MK8	0	0	10	10
Flares AN-M-26	0	8	8	16
20 MM	13,848	6,765	13,685	34,298
50 Cal.	0	66,855	0	66,855
Atars (Rockets)	0	58	18	76
Shrp (Rockets)	0	0	0	0
AN-MK41 (Depth Bomb)	0	0	1	1

b. Ordnance for July.

Ordnance	F9F	F4U	AD	Total
2000 # GP	0	0	11	11
1000 # GP	0	38	65	103
500 # GP	0	70	74	144
250 # GP	44	138	194	376
100 # GP	104	252	0	356
260 # Frag	0	106	68	174
Incendiaries (10 #)	0	0	126	126
Napalm	0	5	4	9
Flares MK5	0	20	0	20
Flares MK6	0	0	0	0
Flares MK8	0	0	20	20
Flares AN-M-26	0	0	8	8
20 MM	11,675	1,440	9,000	22,115
50 Cal.	0	53,257	0	53,257
Atars (Rockets)	0	24	0	24
Shrp (Rockets)	0	0	7	7
AN-MK-4 (Depth Bomb)	0	0	0	0

PART IV - BATTLE DAMAGE

1. Battle Damage to Enemy - There has been a deviation from the rail interdiction program during this period. Joint air group strikes were conducted by CTF-77 carriers on hydro-electric power complexes, industrial installations, troop concentrations and supply areas. All targets were destroyed or heavily damaged. Many of the lucrative targets were located in areas that previously had received little attention by allied aircraft along the Manchurian border.

2. Battle Damage to own Aircraft.

	Date	Type	BuNo	Cause	Location
VF-112	6-25	F9F-2	127197	Small Arms Fire	Port Side Fuselage
	6-28	F9F-2	127204	Flack	Hydraulic system - Plane landed aboard with only one wheel down.
	7-4	F9F-2	127186	Flack	Stbd side of fuselage
VF-113	6-23	F4U-4	82170	Flack	Accessory Section
	7-4	F4U-4	81835	Unknown	Unknown, plane crashed - Presumably hit by small arms fire.
	7-4	F4U-4	81308	Small Arms Fire	Horizontal Stabilizer
VF-114	6-28	F4U-4	97046	Small Arms Fire	Fuselage
	7-4	F4U-4	80910	Flack	Stbd Wing
VA-115	6-1	AD-4	123843	Bomb Blast	Eng Cowling & Sump
	6-23	AD-4L	123966	Small Arms Fire	Survival bomb
	6-23	AD-4L	123976	Flack	Hyd system, Plane landed ashore wheels up. Declared D-2 damage.
	6-24	AD-4L	123992	Small Arms Fire	Horizontal stabilizer
	6-28	AD-4	123929	Small Arms Fire	Horizontal stabilizer
	6-28	AD-4	127874	Flack	Air scoop
	7-4	AD-4	127876	Unknown	Presumably hit by flack in stbd ammo box; plane caught fire & was ditched
	7-4	AD-4	128922	Small Arms Fire	Port Wing
VC-3	7-3	F4U-5N	121915	Bomb blast & Small Arms Fire	Engine Cowling, port & Stbd wing, empenage

3. Loss of own Aircraft due to operational cause.

Date	Squadron	Type	BuNo	Cause
5 July 1952	VF-114	F4U-4	80877	Ditched at sea due to engine failure.

PART V - PERSONNEL PERFORMANCE AND CASUALTIES

1. Personnel Performance - Satisfactory.

2. Casualties.

a. LTJG Grover C. CHICK, 0414501/1310, USNR, VF-113 was killed in action when, presumedly, he was struck by enemy ground fire during a strafing run. His corsair crashed and exploded in enemy territory at Lat 38-56 N, Lon 127-43 E.

b. CDR Charles H. CARR, 100106/1310, USN, VA-115, was injured when his AD caught fire during a strafing run and he was forced to ditch at Lat 40°-00'N, Long 128°-22'N. He was rescued by the USS COURIER (DE-700). He received a compound fracture of the lower right arm and lacerations about the head and legs.

PART VI - OPERATIONS

1. It is note worthy to mention that VF-112 completed the entire combat tour, 25 January - 5 July 1952, without loss or major damage to a single aircraft. The squadron accomplished 1711 carrier landings and 816 combat sorties with minor damage to only one aircraft which made a one wheel landing after the plane was hit by enemy AA fire.

2. On 3 July coordinated night attacks by the night hecklers under the direction of a destroyer off shore in the Songjin area resulted in the extensive damaging of two trains with locomotives and a third locomotive. Extremely bad weather prevented further damage to three other locomotives sighted in Songjin. The destroyer sighted the trains and directed the aircraft on the targets, furnishing target illumination by star shells which resulted in the successful attacks by the heckler aircraft. This type of coordinated effort is extremely beneficial to the night heckler program in the destroying enemy's railroad facilities. It is recommended that all units concerned, being deployed to WesPac, be prepared to conduct this type of operation.

PART VII - MAINTENANCE/MATERIAL

1. No Comments.

2. Aircraft availability (21 June - 5 July)

Squadron	Average A/C on Board	Average A/C Available	Percent
VF-112	17	15.5	91.2
VF-113	16	14.2	88.8
VF-114	15	13.5	90.0
VA-115	15.2	14.0	92.1
VC-3	3	2.9	96.6
VC-11	3	2.7	90.0
VC-35	5	4.3	86.0
VC-61	3	2.6	86.7

Note: This availability was computed at 0800 daily during the above period.

PART VIII - FLIGHT SUMMARY BY COMBAT SORTIES

1. Number and Types of Sorties, 21 June - 5 July 1952.

	F2H(P)	F9F	F4U	F4U(N)	AD	AD(N)	AD(W)	Total
ASP							21	21
CAP		80	8					88
Strike		97	283		152			432
Recco		32						32
Heckler				28		10		38
Photo	20							20
Photo Escort		12						12
Gator					1	20		21
TarCap			4					4
NGF			8					8
Special			10					10

J. W. ONSTOTT