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CARRIER AIR GROUP TWO
c/o FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

CVG-2:HMT:keh
A9-8
Ser 010

14 August 1952

[redacted]

From: Commander Carrier Air Group TWO
To: Commanding Officer, U.S.S. BOXER (CV-21)

Subj: Action Report of Carrier Air Group TWO for period 1 August 1952 through 11 August 1952; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAV Instruction No. 3480.4

Encl: (1) Subject Action Report p. 15

1. This report is forwarded as enclosure (1) for inclusion in the Action Report of the U.S.S. BOXER (CV-21) as required by reference (a).

2. Information, comments and recommendations are presented under the headings indicated below:

I Mission and Composition
II Chronology
III Ordnance
IV Damage
  A Inflicted on the Enemy
  B Aircraft Damage
V Personnel Performance

A. L. DOWNING

[redacted]

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ACTION REPORT OF CARRIER AIR GROUP TWO
for period 1 August 1952 to 11 August 1952

PART I MISSION AND COMPOSITION

a. Departed Yokosuka 1 August 1952, Carrier Air Group TWO, embarked in the U.S.S. BOXER (CV-21), proceeded to the area off the east coast of Korea and reported to Commander Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN. Operating under CTF-77 Operations Order No. 22-51 (second revision), and in accordance with the Daily Air Plan promulgated by Commander Carrier Division THREE, the mission of the Group was to perform interdiction flights consisting of strikes, armed reconnaissance flights and heckler flights directed primarily against North Korean supply routes including railroad track and equipment, bridges, highways and supply areas. Defensive missions included CAP and ASP.

b. Composition of the Air Group

(see table on next page)

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Unit Commander	Type A/C	Operating A/C 7/1/52	to 7/11/52	Pilots Available 8/1/52	to 8/11/52	Total Flight Hours	Average Flight Hours Per Pilot	Avg. Flts Per Pilot
CVG-2 CDR A. L. DOWNING				7	7			
VA-65 CDR G. A. SHERWOOD	AD-4	16	16	23	23	95.7	3.8	1.4
VF-63 LCDR W. S. MILLER	F4U-4	16	15	24	24	100.3	4.01	1.44
VF-64 LCDR L. (n) ROBINSON	F4U-4	16	15	23	23	92.5	4	1.5
VF-24 LCDR W. A. JERNIGAN	F9F-2	16	5	22	22	76.3	3.31	2.13
VC-3 Det. "A" LCDR E. G. DANKWORTH	F4U-5N	4	2	5	5	34.2	6.8	2.8
VC-11 Det. "A" LT J. (n) WADDELL	AD-4W	3	3	6	6	31.6	5.3	2
VC-35 Det. "A" LT R. W. TAYLOR	1 AD-4N 2 AD-4NL 1 AD-3N 1 AD-2Q	5	3	6	6	28.3	4.8	2
VC-61 Det. "A" LT J. (n) HARRIS	F9F-2P	3	1	5	5	11.8	2.36	1.6

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PART II CHRONOLOGY

1 August 1952 - Departed NOB Yokosuka.

2 August 1952 - Enroute to Korean Theater of Operation.

3 August 1952 - Conducted Group tactics and training enroute to Korean Theater of operation. Sixty-six (66) sorties included sixty (60) group tactics, two (2) slow time and four (4) ASP.

4 August 1952 - Joined Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN. No air operations due to replenishment.

5 August 1952 - Seventy (70) tons of ordnance was dropped by one hundred and eighteen (118) sorties including armed recco, strikes, NGF, photo and others. Targets were interdiction targets on railroads and supplies and billeting areas south of Wonsan.

6 August 1952 - Six (6) armed recco and four (4) ASP sorties were launched in the early morning. A serious fire on the hangar deck of the USS BOXER curtailed further operations. In addition to the loss of aircraft and equipment, the following listed personnel of the Air Group were killed in the fire: LT James E. SHROPSHIRE, Jr., Flight Surgeon of Air Group TWO; SODEN, D. G., AT2, VC-35 Detachment "Able"; CANALES, I. (n), AA, VA-65; TAYLOR, R. S., HN, VF-24; COWGER, V. L., PN3, VF-64; WARK, J. R., HM3, VF-64, and DURDETTE, W. D., AT3, VC-35 Detachment "Able".

7 August 1952 - No air operations due to damage caused by fire.

8 August 1952 - Replenished at sea with Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN and departed for NOB Yokosuka.

9 August 1952 - Enroute to NOB Yokosuka.

10 August 1952 - Enroute to NOB Yokosuka.

11 August 1952 - Arrived NOB Yokosuka for repair of ship and availability.

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SUMMARY OF SORTIES BY DATE AND TYPE
1 August to 11 August 1952

Date	Total Sort	Total Aborts	Armed Recco Day	Armed Recco Night	Strikes Sort	Strikes Photo	Escorts	NGF	CAP	ASP	Other
8/ 1/52	Departed NOB Yokosuka.										
8/ 2/52	Enroute to Korean Waters.										
8/ 3/52	66	2								4	62
8/ 4/52	Joined Task Force and Replenishment.										
8/ 5/52	118	2	11	6	54	6	6	4	20	6	5
8/ 6/52	10	1	6							4	
8/ 7/52	No flight operations due to fire.										
8/ 8/52	Replenishment and departed Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN for NOB Yokosuka.										
8/ 9/52	Enroute to NOB Yokosuka.										
8/10/52	Enroute to NOB Yokosuka.										
8/11/52	Arrived NOB Yokosuka.										

The "other" column includes slow time, test flights, courier flights, training flights and weather recco.

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SUMMARY OF SORTIES BETWEEN 1 AUGUST AND 11 AUGUST 1952
BY AIRCRAFT TYPE AND OFFENSIVE-DEFENSIVE
AND OTHER

	FEK	FAU	AD	TOTAL
OFFENSIVE	24	49	22	95
DEFENSIVE	20	2	9	31
OTHERS	13	32	23	68
				194 TOTAL

OTHERS include training flights, courier flights, test flights and slow time.

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PART III OPERATIONS

ORDNANCE EXPENDITURES

TYPE A/C SQUADRON	F4U-4 VF-63	F4U-4 VF-64	AD-4 VA-65	F9F-2 VF-24	F4U-5NL VC-3	AD-4NL AD-4Q VC-35	TOTAL
TYPE ORDNANCE							
2000# GP			10				10
1000# GP			30				30
500# GP	19	15	12		7	4	47
260# Frag.	29	32				6	67
250# GP	30	32	56	4	32	16	170
100# GP						8	8
Incendiary cluster			15				15
Napalm					8	4	12
Flare-					23	8	31
HVAR-5"	18						18
ATAR-5"		11		23			34
20 MM			2,065	2,920	3,800	900	9,685
50 Cal.	6300	7000					13,300
BOMB TOTAL LBS.	27,060	25,404	71,806	3,312	18,259	11,960	157,795
BOMB TOTAL TONS	13.5	12.7	35.9	1.7	9.1	5.9	78.9

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PART IV DAMAGE

DAMAGE INFLICTED ON THE ENEMY

FOURTH OPERATING PERIOD

4 AUGUST - 8 AUGUST 1952

TARGET	DAMAGED	DESTROYED
RAILROAD CUTS	18	0
HIGHWAY BRIDGE	1	0
RAILROAD BRIDGES	1	0
BOATS	1	0
WAREHOUSES	1	0
GUN POSITION	1	0
BUILDING	1	0
BARRACKS	2	0
SUPPLY AREA	1	0
TRANSFORMER	1	0
PEN STOCK	1	0
REPAIR SHOPS	2	0
TROOP SHELTERS	0	5
ROUND HOUSE	1	0

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B. Aircraft Damage

1. Combat damage to Air Group TWO aircraft from 1 August 1952 to 11 August 1952.

Date	Squadron	Type A/C	Bureau Number	Cause	Time Out Of Commission
8/5/52	VF-64	F4U-4	81825	AA 37 MM	6 Hours
8/5/52	VC-35	AD-4N	124143	AA	8 Hours

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2. Operational damage to Air Group TWO Aircraft from 1 August 1952 to 11 August 1952.

Date	Squadron	Type A/C	Bureau Number	Cause	Time Out Of Commission
8/5/52	VA-65	AD-4	123949	Barrier Crash	8 Hours
8/5/52	VA-65	AD-4	127862	Hit Gun Mount	10 Hours

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3. Aircraft damaged beyond repair aboard ship.

Date	Squadron	Type A/C	Bureau Number	Cause
8/ 6/52	VF-24	F9F-2	123025	Badly burned by fire and soaked wi salt water. Strike.
8/ 6/52	VF-24	F9F-2	127163	Nose and wings burned and soaked with salt water. Strike.
8/ 6/52	VF-24	F9F-2	127188	Burned and soaked with salt water. Strike.
8/ 6/52	VF-24	F9F-2	123022	Soaked with salt water and large shrapnel hole. Major overhaul.
8/ 6/52	VF-24	F9F-2	127161	Salt water soaked. Downed by ComFairJap representative. Trans. for repairs.
8/ 6/52	VF-24	F9F-2	123650	Salt water soaked. Overhaul.
8/ 6/52	VF-24	F9F-2	122578	Salt water soaked. Overhaul.
8/ 6/52	VF-24	F9F-2	123038	Salt water damage. Downed by ComFairJap representative. Trans. for repairs.
8/ 6/52	VF-24	F9F-2	125089	Salt water damage. Downed by ComFairJap representative. Trans. for repairs.
8/ 6/52	VF-24	F9F-2	123034	Salt water damage. Downed by ComFairJap representative. Trans. for repairs.
8/ 6/52	VC-61	F9F-2P	123706	Burned, soaked with salt water an shrapnel damage. Overhaul.
8/ 6/52	VC-61	F9F-2P	123711	Burned, soaked with salt water an shrapnel damage. Overhaul.
8/ 6/52	VC-3	F4U-5N	123181	Damage by intense heat and salt water. Overhaul.
8/ 6/52	VC-3	F4U-5N	124517	Badly burned by fire and soaked with salt water. Strike.
8/ 6/52	VC-35	AD-4N	124146	Damaged wing spar. Major repair.
8/ 6/52	VF-63	F4U-4	80939	Salt water damage. Overhaul.

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4. Aircraft Lost

DATE	SQUADRON	TYPE A/C	BUNO.	CAUSE
8-6-52	[illegible]-64	F4U-4	96822	Destroyed by hangar deck fire and Jettisoned.
8-6-52	VF-24	F9F-2	123069	Destroyed by hangar deck fire and Jettisoned.

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5. Aircraft Damage, Statistical Analysis

	F9F	F4U	AD	TOTAL
A/C Lost (Combat)	0	0	0	0
A/C Lost (Combat)/100 Sorties	0	0	0	0
A/C Lost (Operational)	1	1	0	2
*A/C Lost (Operational)/ 100 Sorties	1.76	1.20	0	1.03
Total A/C Lost	1	1	0	2
*Total A/C Lost/100 Sorties	1.76	1.20	0	1.03
A/C Damaged by AA (includes A/C lost)	1	0	1	2
A/C Damaged by AA/100 Sorties	4.17	0	4.54	2.15

* NOTE: These tabulations based on total sorties. Other tabulations based upon offensive sorties only.

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PART V PERSONNEL PERFORMANCE

A. Air Group personnel performed in an outstanding manner both in action against the enemy and in fighting fire aboard ship. Morale was excellent.

B. Casualties

1. The Air Group flight surgeon and six enlisted men were killed as a result of fire and explosion aboard ship.

a. LT SHROPSHIRE - Died while attempting to save 2 Corpsmen who were trapped in Flight Surgeon's Office.

b. TAYLOR, R. S., HN - Died as a result of being trapped in the Flight Surgeon's Office.

c. WARK, J. V., HM3 - Died as a result of being trapped in the Flight Surgeon's Office with TAYLOR, above.

d. COWGER, V. L., PH3 - Died in the attempt to save other mens' lives.

e. CARLES, I. (n), AA - Died in the attempt to save other mens' lives with COWGER, above.

d. DURDETTE, W. D., AT3 - Died from suffocation in Aircrewmens' compartment.

e. SCUSE, D. G., AT2 - Died from suffocation in Aircrewmens' compartment.

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DISTRIBUTION LIST:

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COMSEVENTHFLT (1 Advance)
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U.S.S. CABOT (CVL-28)
U.S.S. SAIPAN (CVL-48)
COMCARDIV-1
COMCARDIV-2
COMCARDIV-3
COMCARDIV-4
COMCARDIV-5
COMCARDIV-6
COMCARDIV-14
COMCARDIV-15
COMCARDIV-16
COMCARDIV-17
COMCARDIV-18
CVG-1
CVG-2
CVG-3
CVG-4
CVG-5
CVG-6
CVG-7
CVG-8
CVG-9
CVG-11
CVG-15
CVG-17
CVG-19
CVG-101
CVG-102
CO, FAIRBETUPAC (2)
VC-3
VC-11
VC-35

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