

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

50219

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting Air Group 20 (b) Based on or at U.S.S. Lexington (c) Report No. AG-20 #188
 (d) Take off: Date 20 January 1945 Time (LZT) 0700(-9) (Zone); Lat. 16-43 N Long. 119-00 E
 (e) Mission Combat Air Patrol (f) Time of Return 1025(-9) (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) | | |
| <u>F6F-5</u> | <u>VF-20</u> | <u>12</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>none</u> | <u>*</u> |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

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

| TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE | TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE |
|-------------|----------|--------|------|------|----------|--------|------|
| <u>none</u> | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

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 |
|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <u>F4U</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>0950</u> <u>-9</u> (ZONE) | <u>12 miles 210°</u> <u>from task group</u> | <u>none observed</u> | <u>Dark green-almost</u> <u>black. Heat balls</u> <u>did not show up</u> <u>clearly.</u> |
| | | | (ZONE) | | | |
| | | | (ZONE) | | | |

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Scout
 Did Any Part of
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? If so, Describe Clouds 4,000 Cumulus .h
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance
 (j) of Sun or Moon Morning Bright Sun (k) Visibility 12
(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 | GUNS USED | | |
| <u>F6F-5</u> | <u>VF-20</u> | <u> </u> | <u>Comdr. F.H. Marlette</u> <u>Mag. H.H. Kimball Jr.</u> | <u>6050</u> | <u>Both wings plus propeller destroyed</u> <u>Port wing tank</u> | <u>*</u> |
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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

Twelve fighters were launched at 0708 in a routine combat air patrol. They had been on patrol for nearly 3 hours when a bogey was picked up on the screen.

Comdr. Bakutis' division, which was the only one to take part in the action, was at 10,000 feet at the time, orbiting over base. They were vectored out on course 010° and told to climb to 15,000'. After 3 minutes they were vectored to starboard on course 060° and kept climbing. Several more vectors alternating between 180° and 210° were given in rapid succession placing the fighters directly behind the bogey which had also been climbing and was then on course 210° at 23,000 feet.

Comdr. Bakutis fully had the bogey 2 miles dead ahead, 3,000' above, and his division continued the gruelling chase at 180 knots indicated. Three to four more minutes were required to reach the Myrt's altitude but once having done so, the F6F-5's closed very rapidly. The Myrt made no turns and was apparently unaware that he was being followed even though he must have seen the Task Force a few minutes earlier.

Mrs. Kimball, section leader, closed to within firing range first and riddled the port wing tank. Gasoline could be seen pouring out but there was no fire. Comdr. Bakutis fired a burst into the port wing stub then the starboard wing followed by another burst in the port wing when the plane exploded. The remains of the burning Myrt spun down in flames from 23,000 feet.

As other bogies having been picked up on the screen, the CAP was landed aboard at 1030.

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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

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SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

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DATE