

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

055556

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-98 (b) Based on or at USS Lunga Point (CVE 96) (c) Report No. VC98-1
 (d) Take off: Date 7 June 1945 Time (LZT) 0515(I) (Zone); Lat. 28.10 Long. 129.00
 (e) Mission LCAP & LASP near Sakishima Gunto (f) Time of Return 0850(I) (Zone)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

TYPE (a)	SQUADRON (b)	NUMBER			BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE) (f)
		TAKING OFF (c)	ENGAGING ENEMY A/C (d)	ATTACKING TARGET (e)	
F4U-3	VC-98	3			1600 rds .50 al. ammo.
TBM-3	VC-98	4			

15 JUN 1945
FUZE, SETTING
771^g

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
None							

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
Single engine	1	None	0655(I) (ZONE)		Not determined	Not camouflaged olive green in color
Single engine	1	None	0650(I) (ZONE)		Not determined	Unobserved

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) suicide dive
 Did Any Part of
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? Yes If so, Describe Clouds Strato-cumulus 1500-5500 feet .6
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance Day - Overcast - Day
 (j) of Sun or Moon Day - Overcast - Day (k) Visibility 6 - 10
(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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			
None						

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REPORT No. **V098-1**

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
Defensive 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

On 7 June 1945, at 0515, eight FM-2's took off from Lunga Point to fly LCAP for TF 32.1.1 while they were engaged in a strike on Sakishima Gunto. At the same time four TBM-3's under the command of Lieut. W. T. Homan took off to fly LASP.

At 0635 when CAP was at 1800 feet and two to three miles distant Lieut. A. Pisani leading the second division sighted an enemy plane in a suicide dive on Natoma Bay. This flight had not been informed of a bogey and at that time was unaware of enemy planes in the vicinity. When first sighted the plane was in a 30° dive, altitude about 1000 feet. The enemy plane had evidently emerged from the cloud cover which, at that time, was about 1500 feet.

Enemy plane was observed strafing all the way down in his dive and finally crashed the flight deck of Natoma Bay forward of the forward elevator.

Enemy plane was a single engine fighter thought to be Zeke or Oscar. He was not camouflaged but was a dull green color. No markings were observed.

Approximately four minutes later CAP saw another plane in a suicide dive but only saw the splash as it plunged into the sea off the port bow of the Hoggatt Bay.

It would appear that the enemy approached the formation at a low altitude to avoid radar interception and then climbed to low cloud cover for suicide dive. CAP did not receive a vector on the first plane and were only warned to turn right 90° in time to see the second plane dive into the sea.

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REPORT No. VC98-1

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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

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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

No material failures reported.

Forwarded:

**G. A. T. WASHBURN,
Captain, U. S. Navy
Commanding Officer,
U. S. S. Lunga Point (CVE 94)**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

G. F. DOGANDER, Lieut., USNR-ACTO
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

R. S. BRUNS Ltjdr., USN Commanding
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

8 June 1945
DATE