

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VBP-12 (b) Based on or at USS RANDOLPH (CV-15) (c) Report No. 23  
 (d) Take off: Date 14 April 1946 Time (LZT) 1145 I (Zone); Lat. 26-05N Long. 129-55E  
 (e) Mission DCAP-3 (f) Time of Return 1509 I (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)		
<b>F6F-5</b>	<b>VBP-12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>			

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<b>F6F-5</b>			<b>Task Force 53</b>				
<b>P4U</b>							

## 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
<b>Tony</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>1330 I (ZONE)</b>	<b>Task Force Screen Bombs &amp; Usual Guns</b>		<b>Usual</b>
<b>Betty</b>	<b>2</b>		(ZONE)			
<b>Myrt</b>	<b>3 (See Par. XI1)</b>		(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Attack on Task Force  
 Did Any Part of  
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? No If so, Describe Clouds \_\_\_\_\_ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)  
 Time of Day and Brilliance  
 (j) of Sun or Moon Bright (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (k) Visibility 20 (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		
<b>Tony</b>	<b>F6F-5</b>	<b>VBP-12</b>	<b>Ens. L.L. Colin, USNR</b>	<b>6 x 50</b>	<b>4 O'clock above engine</b>	<b>Destroyed</b>
<b>Tony</b>	<b>F6F-5</b>	<b>VBP-12</b>	<b>Ens. L.L. Colin, USNR</b>	<b>6 x .50</b>	<b>8 O'clock level engine</b>	<b>Destroyed</b>
<b>Myrt</b>	<b>F6F-5</b>	<b>VBP-12</b>	<b>Ens. L.L. Colin, USNR</b>	<b>6 x .50</b>	<b>5 O'clock above fuselage</b>	<b>Destroyed</b>
<b>Betty</b>	<b>F6F-5</b>	<b>VBP-12</b>	<b>Ens. J.E. Howard, USNR</b>	<b>6 x .50</b>	<b>6 O'clock level engine</b>	<b>Destroyed</b>
<b>Myrt</b>	<b>F6F-5</b>	<b>VBP-12</b>	<b>Ens. J.E. Howard, USNR</b>	<b>6 x .50</b>	<b>6 O'clock above engine</b>	<b>Destroyed</b>



**CONFIDENTIAL**

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 23

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) \_\_\_\_\_ (b) Time Over Target(s) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target NONE \_\_\_\_\_  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target \_\_\_\_\_ (e) Visibility \_\_\_\_\_  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type \_\_\_\_\_ Bomb Sight Used \_\_\_\_\_  
(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 \_\_\_\_\_ Probably Destroyed \_\_\_\_\_ Damaged \_\_\_\_\_

(h) AIMING POINT	(i) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(j) NO A/C ATTACKING (k) SQUADRON	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
1					
2					
3					
4					
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).

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

**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

Ensign Colin and his wingman, Ensign Howard, plus the division leader's section while on DGAP over base at angels 20, were vectored out to investigate a bogey. After twenty minutes of search, Ens. Colin tally-hoed a Betty at angels 8, they then being at angels 15. He dove, but had too much speed from his dive and passed the Betty close to port after firing 200 rounds at it. His wingman made a stern run and fired the starboard engine. The Betty went into a flat spin and crashed into the water. Previously the Betty had jettisoned its bomb load in an effort to increase speed.

After rendezvous, the destroyer screen was seen to be under attack. The division went over to join other planes from other carriers to intercept some 15 or more enemy planes of assorted varieties mostly Tonys. The division leader's wingman, Ens. Gadbois, observed that before each enemy attack a splash and a cloud of black smoke, like a bomb hit would appear on the surface of the water about 20 to 25 miles from the destroyer screen. Many VF would thus be diverted while flying over to investigate. Enemy fighters would then commence their attack from the opposite direction, diving from about 7,000 Ft. at about a 45° angle, just breaking off in a loose column.

The division leader and his wingman followed the enemy planes till A/A from friendly destroyers became too intense. The section leader, Ens. Colin splashed two Tonys, diving each time through DD heavy A/A. Recovering from his second dive, he spotted a Myrt, low on the water. He dove on it, but after firing 5-10 rounds, his guns quit firing. He continued his run while charging his guns. The Myrt tried a tight turn away from him and caught a wing in the water and was destroyed. Later Ens. Colin spotted another Myrt low on the water. He made a dry run on it, his guns having jammed. While leading his wingman, Ens. Howard to it, Ens. Colin passed over the Myrt who pulled up its nose, fired and missed. Ens. Howard got on the Myrt's tail and burned and splashed it. Excellent days work for Ens. Colin and Ens. Howard.

**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

**Recognition -**

In Par. XII there is described an attack on the Task Force screen by enemy planes of assorted variety, mostly Tonys. Ens. Colin and Ens. Howard shot down among others two Myrts. As the kills in each case occurred at the end of a long dog fight, there is, as usual, no gun camera film to cover the engagement. Due to overrun of the film on every occasion the guns are fired, any pilot who conserved ammunition, fires in short bursts, and only when to his advantage, will run out of camera film long before a general melee is over.

However, it is difficult to conceive why the enemy would use a recognition plane for suicide or dive bombing tactics against ships. It is though a Myrt can carry a bomb externally, but the aforementioned pilots insist no bomb was carried under the belly or under a wing. The pilots accurately described the long thin tapering fuselage of a Myrt, etc., and reject any suggestion of Kate, radial engine Judy, or Jill. The radial engine Judy has, of course, frequently been used for this purpose. A Myrt somehow appears doubtful - no matter what.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

**T. W. MORSEMAN, Lieut., USNR**

**E. J. PANKA, Lt. Comdr., USNR**

**1 May 1945**

SIGNATURE

**T. W. Morseman**

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

**E. J. Panka**

RANK AND DUTY

DATE