

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)
CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VF-33 (b) Based on or at USS SANGAMON (c) Report No. 8
 (d) Take off: Date 5 April 1945 Time (LZT) 1555 (I) (Zone); Lat. 25° 45' N Long. 128° 15' E
 (e) Mission Target Combat Air Patrol (f) Time of Return 1925(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)		
F6F-5E	VF-33	4	1		None	

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
Paul	1	1	1830(I) (ZONE)	26-56 N.128- 36 E, 15 Miles 075°T from N. Tip of OKINAWA (ZONE)	Not observed	Not observed

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Attack on destroyers in immediate vicinity

(i) Did Any Part of Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? yes If so, Describe. Clouds 3000 feet cumulus .8 cover.
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(j) Time of Day and Brilliance of Sun or Moon twilight (k) Visibility 8 miles
(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			
Paul	F6FE	VF-33	Lt-Cdr. Paul C. ROONEY USN.	6 - .50	Cockpit and rt wing root, 6 level	destroyed

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)
CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. **8**

VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those listed in II only).

(a) TYPE OWN A/C	(b) SQUADRON	(c) CAUSE: TYPE ENEMY A/C, TYPE GUN, OR OPERATIONAL CAUSE	(d) WHERE HIT, ANGLE (List armor, self-sealing tanks, equipment hit)	(e) EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE, (Give Bureau serial number of planes destroyed)
F6F-5E	VF-33	Barrier Crash		Propeller change
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				

VII. PERSONNEL CASUALTIES (in aircraft listed in II only; identify with planes listed in VI by Nos. at left).

(a) NO.	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NAME, RANK OR RATING	(d) CAUSE	(e) CONDITION OR STATUS
	None			

VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA FOR PLANES RETURNING

(a) TYPE A/C	(b) MILES OUT	(c) MILES RETURN	(d) AV. HOURS IN AIR	(e) AV. FUEL LOADED	(f) AV. FUEL CONSUMED	(g) TOTAL AMMUNITION EXPENDED				(h) NO. OF PLANES RETURNING
						.30	.50	20MM	MM	
F6F-5E	90	90	3.5hrs	400	360	--	475 rds	-	-	4

IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	X			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	X			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	X			

X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (use check list at left).

SPEED, CLIMB, at various altitudes TURNS DIVES CEILINGS RANGE PROTECTION ARMAMENT	The Paul was doing about 160 kts IAS and the F6F-5E closed fast indicating 210 kts at 3,000 feet. The Jap took no evasive action except for a shallow glide.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filed out)
CONFIDENTIAL
REPORT NO. 8

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

Serving as Target Combat Air Patrol over OKINAWA SHIMA four F6F-5E's led by Lt-Comdr. Paul C. ROONEY, Commanding Officer, of VF-33, were about ready to depart for base when their controlling F.D.O. on the USS PANAMINT reported that Bogies had been picked up north of OKINAWA. The F.D.O. told them they could either return to base as it was getting late or take a chance at the Bogies. The division decided on the latter, were vectored north and turned over to the F.D.O. of the USS CALHOUN.

After several other vectors, the final vector was given with "Bogey 4 miles one o'clock down". Shortly afterward, flying at 3,000 feet, the division leader tally-hoed a single engine twin float plane about two miles at two o'clock above heading south. Using water injection the division closed rapidly indicating 210 kts. The Jap started a shallow dive as if preparing to attack friendly destroyers below and apparently in complete ignorance of our attacking fighters. At 1000 yards from six o'clock level Lt-Cdr ROONEY opened fire fearing the Jap would begin his final dive on one of the destroyers before the fighter could splash him. Lt-Cdr ROONEY's wingman could not fire as the Paul made a slight turn to the left putting the Skipper between him and the Jap. As the Jap plane steepened its dive for the DD's, Lt-Cdr ROONEY closed his range to 300 yards obtaining hits in the cockpit and the starboard wing root. As a result of the latter hits the Jap burned slowly, nosed over, made one half turn to the right, and crashed into the water.

All four pilots commented that the Jap pilot was either determined to carry out his attack on our destroyers or was unaware of the attack on him as he took no apparent evasive action.

It was agreed the Jap plane was a Paul due to the length of the struts from the wing to the two floats, and the small cockpit enclosure, evidently single placed.

The division returned to the Carrier arriving after dark, and landing aboard the USS SANGAMON at 1925 (I) during a condition of almost total darkness under a solid overcast. The landings were very successful except for one miner barrier crash after catching a late wire.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL
REPORT No. 8

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

The starboard outboard gun on Lt-Cdr ROONEY's plane fired approximately ten rounds when a jam occurred caused by an expended link jamming the link chute.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Oden F. FOSHORN, Lt(jg), USNR.

Paul C. ROONEY, Lt-Cdr, USN,

4-7-45

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE