

CONFIDENTIAL

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VBF-12 (b) Based on or at USS RANDOLPH (CV-15) (c) Report No. 32
 (d) Take off: Date 29 Apr 11 1945 Time (LZT) 1127 I (Zone); Lat. 26-38 N Long. 129-31 E
 (e) Mission TCAP - Okinawa (f) Time of Return 1437 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-5	VBF-12	15	4	4		

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
Zeke	4	4	1700 I (ZONE)	15 Mi. East of Northern tip of Okinawa	Bombs under star- board wing.	Usual
Tojo	2	2	1700 I (ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Kame kagi on Okinawa Radar Pickets
 Did Any Part of
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? Yes If so, Describe Clouds Stratus from 2-4000 Ft. 7/10s
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance
 (j) of Sun or Moon Bright (k) Visibility 15
(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		
Zeke	F6F-5	VBF-12	Lt. A.B. SMITH, USN	6 x .50	Rt. Wing -6 O'clock above	Destroyed
Zeke	F6F-5	VBF-12	Lt. A.B. SMITH, USN	6 x .50	Engine -5 O'clock above	Destroyed
Tojo	F6F-5	VBF-12	Ens. E.K. MANHOLD, Jr. USNR	6 x .50	Wing -6 O'clock above	Destroyed
Zeke	F6F-5	VBF-12	Ens. M.W. SMITH, USNR	6 x .50	Fuselage -6 O'clock below	Destroyed

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)
1 None				
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	
P-5	100	100	3.0	400	350					16

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

In general, enemy planes so intent on suicide dive that no other tactics used.

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

Although there were four divisions of planes on TOAP at Okinawa at various stations, only one four plane division is covered herein as the other three divisions did not encounter the enemy aircraft.

The division led by Lt. A.B. SMITH, Jr., USN, was on station 15 Mi. East of the Northern tip of Okinawa under direction of SACKBRUSH BASE, a Radar Picket DD. Bogey was first sighted entering dive on DD from Angels 8. The section leader was able to head the Bogey off somewhat, but the DD at Lt. SMITH'S request withheld fire while he closed. The Bogey, a Zeke, blew up at about Angels 1.5. The DD's confidence was not misplaced.

The division was then split, and Lt. A. B. SMITH, Jr., USN, and his wingman were vectored out. Lt. SMITH ordered his section leader, Ens. M.W. SMITH, USNR, and Wingman to remain with the DD and attack a Kamakazi already in his dive. The DD's A/A accounted for that Zeke. Immediately thereafter the DD shot a Tojo making a suicide dive. Ens. M.W. SMITH, USNR states that the Tojo splashed as close as 50 Feet to starboard of the DD's stern. Ens. M.W. SMITH then observed a Zeke at Angels 5 out of A/A range. He climbed till level and parallel with the Zeke and turned in on him. The Zeke turned in likewise, Ens. SMITH missed and the Zeke continued to climb. Ens. SMITH did a wingover and got on his tail from below. Two short bursts and the Zeke flamed, split S'd and spun into the water.

Meanwhile the division leader Lt. A.B. SMITH and his wingman Ens. H.K. MANHOLD, USNR, had returned from previous vector and were vectored out again. At angels 6, Lt. SMITH tally hoed Bogey at Angels 8. Lt. SMITH climbed into sun and Bogey lost him. He was able to come out of the sun undetected, and from behind. Lt. SMITH opened fire at 1,000 Ft. The Zeke burned and spun in. Meanwhile Lt. SMITH'S wingman, Ens. MANHOLD, was attacked by a Tojo, diving down from Angels 9. Ens. MANHOLD pulled up, flipped over and was able to follow the Tojo down, getting on his tail. At this point Ens. MANHOLD discovered a hydraulic failure, and it was necessary to pump his guns, firing only three at a time. He pursued the Tojo down all the way, the Tojo's wing finally coming off.

In flying GAP for Radar Picket DD's, an alert eye is particularly necessary. They have been frequently Kamakazi'd and their Fighter Direction is necessarily not on a par with that of a CV. Altitudes are approximations only, and presumably the F.D.O's may not have had as much experience nor is the equipment the same. Bogeys must be sighted by the pilots alone on many occasions.

All of the 6 enemy planes mentioned in this narrative carried bombs under the Starboard wing. Only one jettisoned when attacked.

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 COMMENT

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

T. W. MORSEMAN, Lieut., USNR
1. O. I. Officer

RANK AND DUTY

E. J. PAWKA, Lt. Comdr., USNR
Commanding Officer

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

1 May 1945

DATE