

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. 29
 (d) Take off: Date 22 April 1945 Time (LZT) 1427 - I (Zone); Lat. 26-40 N Long. 129-59 E
 (e) Mission Kikai TCAP (f) Time of Return 1809 - 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	8	8	8		

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
Tony, Zeke, Oscar, radial July 31 1945	16-18	10-12	1630 I (ZONE)	15 MI. N. Kikai	Of those of 1st group observed, most seemed to have had bomb under starboard wing.	Usual
Nates	18-22	0	1630 I (ZONE)	"	"	"
Wals	25	0	1630 I (ZONE)	"	"	"

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Suicidal and bombing tactics - Okinawa and Task Force 58.
 Did Any Part of
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? Yes If so, Describe Clouds 9000 - 15000 Cumulus 8/10s
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance
 (j) of Sun or Moon 1630 Bright (k) Visibility 8-10
(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:				(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER	GUNS USED		
Jill	F6F-5	VBF-12	Lt. R.H. Denoff, USNR	6 x .50	6 o'clock above engine	Destroyed
Zeke	F6F-5	VBF-12	Ens. L.T. Bernard, USNR	6 x .50	4 o'clock above fuselage	"
Tojo	F6F-5	VBF-12	Lt(jg) J.K. Steel, USNR	6 x .50	6 o'clock above engine	"
Zeke	F6F-5	VBF-12	Ens. H.G. Chaffer, USNR	6 x .50	6 o'clock above engine	"
Zeke	F6F-5	VBF-12	Ens. H.G. Chaffer, USNR	6 x .50	8 o'clock above cockpit	2
Val	F6F-5	VBF-12	Ens. E.K. Manhold, USNR	6 x .50	6 o'clock above engine	"
Tony	F6F-5	VBF-12	Ens. E.K. Manhold, USNR	6 x .50	6 o'clock above fuselage	Damaged
Oscar	F6F-5	VBF-12	Lt. R.M. Witmer, USN	6 x .50	7 o'clock above engine	Destroyed
Zeke	F6F-5	VBF-12	Lt. R.M. Witmer, USN	6 x .50	5 o'clock level rear	"

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) NONE (b) Time Over Target(s) _____ (Zone) _____
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target _____
(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	NONE				
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.

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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

Lack of radio discipline in the Okinawa operation has been appalling, and has on many occasions interfered with necessary contact reports, and transmissions between Target Co-ordinator and planes under his control. It is believed the land based squadrons on Okinawa are the worst offenders. Specific unnecessary transmissions are as follows:

- (1) Airing operational difficulties over the radio such as achieving finally a rendezvous.
- (2) Inter-flight testing of radio in the air.
- (3) Inter-flight comments on gun testing.
- (4) General comments over hydraulic failure, oil leaks, wheel trouble, etc. - all interesting but the concern of only one pilot.
- (5) Utter lack of voice procedure - lack of use of calls and knowledge of how to use them.
- (6) Pickets have no system what-so-ever.
- (7) General yapping, even down to, "What day is today?"

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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1 May 1945
DATE