### COMPIDENTIAL

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED	
(Reclassify wh	nen
filled out)	

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit R	eporting	7BF-12	( <b>b</b> ) E	Based on or at	USS	RAID	OLPH (C	V-15)	_(c) Rep	ort No	29
(d) Take o	ff: Date	22 April	1945	ime (LZT) 1	427 .	·I	_(Zone);	Lat. 20-4	ON	Long.	29-59 E
(e) Mission	Kika	LTCAP						(f) Time	of Retur	1809	Zone)
II. O	WN AIRCR	AFT OFFIC	IALLY COVER	ED BY THIS F	REPOR	Т.	*				
TYPE	SQUADRON	TAKING	NUMBER	ATTACKING STATE		BOMBS A	AND TORPEDO	DES		CURE CETT	
(a)	(b)	OFF (c)	ENGAGING ENEMY A/C (d)	ATTACKING TARGET (e)			(f)			FUZE, SETTI	NG
F6F-5	VBF-12	8	8	8							
					,						
		R. C.									
III. O	THER U. S.	OR ALLIE	D AIRCRAFT E	MPLOYED IN	THIS	OPER	ATION.				
TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	Е	BASE		TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER		BASE	
MONE											,
							-	-	-		
IV E	JEMY AIDO	PAET ORS	EDVED OD EN	CACED (P. O.	I	(4 )					
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	GAGED (By Ov	vn Aire	craft L	Listed in I	(f)		(0)	1
TYPE	OBSERVED	NO. ENGAGING	G TIME ENCOUNTERED	LOCATION C		1	BOMBS, TORP GUNS (	EDOES CARRIE OBSERVED	D;	CAMOUFLA MARK	GE AND
mya, Zeke	1, 10-10	10-12	1030 7	15 M. N.	TO A Tomos A		in those	of lat		Transac 3	
ayrar 51	Har	2000	1630 (ZONE)	4 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	I had Kalling	Crou	in opaer			Laual	
Nates	18-22	0	1630 (ZONE)	8.5		See	9	ave had	200	\$9	
Vala	PSE .		7	44		wing	A MARKET AND STREET	acardom	-1.0	\$9°	
PALES.	25	6.5	1530 (ZONE)								
(h) Appare	nt Enemy M	lission(s)	ulcidal an	d bombing t	acti	)S -	Okinaws	and Ta	sk Por	e 58.	
(i) Encoun	Part of	r in Clouds	Yes 14	so, Describe C	loudo	90	000 - 15	0000 Cura	ulus	8/108	
	Day and Br		(TES OR NO)		iouas _					S OF COVER)	
(j) of Sun				MOON DAY OVERC	ACT. FT	<u> </u>		( <b>k</b> ) Vis	ibility	8-10	
V. EN	EMY AIRCE	AFT DEST		MAGED IN AL			Aircraft Li	stad in 11 (	Only)	(MILES	5)
(a)		YED OR DAMA		MINGED III AI	K (Dy	OWIL	All Clair Li	sted III II (	(c)	T	. (d)
TYPE ENEMY A/C	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON		R GUNNER	1	GUNS U		WHER	E HIT, ANG	LE	DAMAGE
Jill	F6F-5			moff, Usha		X .	-				Destroye
Zelco	FOF-5	VBF-12		Dernard, USM. . Steel, USM.		K .	A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH			fuselage	9 "
To jo Zeke	FGF-5			Chaffer, USH						engine	117
Zoko	FGF-5			Chaffer, USM						opolepi t	2
Wal	FSF-5	VIII-12	Eng. E.K.	Manhold, USM	R 6		50 6	o'clock	abovo	ongine	***
Tony	F6F-5			Manhold, USM	-	z.E				700	e Damaged
Oscar	FGF-5			itmor, Ubh		X .	and the same of th			ongine	Destroj
Zeke	FGF-5	ADL OFT	Lt. R. II.	T CENTRAL D FINANCE	0	x .5	0 0	o'clock	Teast	rear	***
					3" 1"				Electrical Control of the Control of		
	Total Parking				8		34 6				•
47 191											

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					보네. 그리아 아는 그를 가게 하는데 맞은데 그를 다 했다.	시대는 하지만 경투 이 없는 하지만 요즘에 개취했는 모든 경험을 다 이루어 있다. 이 없는 것 같은 것이다.	The state of the s	hose listed in II only).	
TYPE	(a) OWN A/C	(b) SQUADRON	CAUSE: TYPE GUN, C	(c) TYPE ENEMY OR OPERATION	A/C, AL CAUSE	WHERE HIT, A self-sealing tank	(d) NGLE (List armor, ks, equipment hit)	(Give Bureau serial number of planes des	royed
1 <u>1</u> 2	BF-8	18F-12	20 ma.	Zeke or	Oscar	Loft stabil	liser and e		
3 4	6F-5	V8F-12	20 151	Oggar		Whool woll	and tire.	Engine Change.	
5				reco		lines.			× 1
6									4
8				A sur					23/2
9									185 27
0									4
1					Contract to				
2						7. 3.2			
2	PARTY AND THE PARTY OF THE PART								
4									
(a) NO.	VII. PER		ASUALTIES (c) AME, RANK OR		ft listed	in II only; identi		listed in VI by Nos. at left).  (e)  CONDITION OR STATUS	
(a) NO.	(b)		(c)		ft listed	(d)		(e)	
a) 10.	(b)		(c)		ft listed	(d)		(e)	
(a) NO.	(b)		(c)		ft listed	(d)		(e)	
(a) NO.	(b)		(c)		ft listed	(d)		(e)	
(a) NO.	(b)		(c)		ft listed	(d)		(e)	
(a) NO.	(b)		(c)		ft listed	(d)		(e)	
(a) NO.	(b)		(c)		ft listed	(d)		(e)	
4 (a) NO.	(b)		(c)		ft listed	(d)		(e)	
(a) NO.	(b)		(c)		ft listed	(d)		(e)	
(a)	(b)		(c)		ft listed	(d)		(e)	

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

(a)_	(b)	(c)			(g)	(g) TOTAL AMMUNITION EXPENDED				
TYPE A/C	MILES OUT	MILES RETURN	AV. HOURS IN AIR	AV. FUEL LOADED	AV. FUEL CONSUMED	.30	.50	20MM	MM	NO. OF PLANES RETURNING
PSF-5	100	120	5.8	400	340		7650			8
							1000		7	

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over			The Royal State of the State of	
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm		The god of the control of the contro		
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm				

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

SPEED, CLIMB, at various altitudes

TURNS
DIVES
CEILINGS
RANGE
PROTECTION
ARMAMENT

(1) Tonya hard to burn.

(2) Usual split S to evade and easy to follow.

3) Wing overs and reverse 900 turns.

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

4		
		•

(a) Target(s) and Location	(FOR SHI	PS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA	UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Ov	er rarger(s)	(Zone)
c) Clouds Over Target		(BASE IN FEET	TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)		
d) Visibility of Target	(CLEAR, HA	ZY. PARTIALLY OBSCURED	BY CLOUDS, ETC.)	Visibility	(MILES)
Bombing Tactics: Type		(LEVEL. GLIDE OR DIVE)	Bomb Sight U	sed	(TYPE)
Bombs Dropped per Run (g) Number of Enemy Airo	(NUMBE		Altitude (FEET)  Probably Destroyed		(FEET)
(h) AIMING POINT	DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(i) NO A/C ATTACKING (k) SQUADRON	BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED EACH AIMING POINT	NO. HITS On Aiming Point	DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
1					
2					
3				2.	
4 NONB					
5					
6					
7					
8					

<sup>(</sup>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).

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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

Two divisions, 8 planes, of WBF-12, were on a tation at Kikai patroling the airfields and the area between Kilmi and Ameni. As there was a more or less solid overcast between about 14 and 16 thousand foot, the divisions were at engels 0. At about 1615 one lone Zeke appears at angols 7, which was promptly emulhilated, six of the eight planes

attacking. Defore the two divisions completely rendezvoused, 16-16 planes were tallyhood at angels 20. The divisions started to olimb up through the overcast and 10 Jap fighters broke off and dove down to attack.

At the outset, the two divisions had an altitude disadvantage of some 9,000 Ft. with overcast in between them and the energy, and the enemy had superiority of numbers and consisted entirely of fighter type planes. For the first time in the combet zone, from Tokyo to date, VBF-12 pilots found themselves in this predicament pluss the added important factor that the enemy was aggressive. For the first time the pilots met enemy planes making head-on suicidal runs with no intention of breaking off. Perhaps there is some excuse in these tactics for sections becoming separated. There were added tough breaks in one plane developing engine trouble, requiring a wing man to accompany him at a low altitude out of the fight, and one plane whose guns jammed. A blow by blow description of each plane is a hair raising tale. but not worth perhaps the necessary volumes of narrative. Suffice it to say that 8 enemy planes shot down is under the direumstances a good record.

The Jap suicidal tactics had what appears to be a logical explanation. The few planes of the two divisions who did get up to angels 20 observed and reported in addition to the group of 16-18 Jap fighters already tallyhood, a group of 16-22 Mates, and a group of 25 Vals. The flighters in the first Jap group who did not join in attacking the 8 VBP-12 planes, turned back Horth. It is the belief of this reporter that the first group of Jap fighters were to rendezvous with the Vals and Hates and escort them in. The 25 Vals had no rear gumers and were shot down by Falls North of Okinawa, the Fall pile to getting on their tails with flaps cracked at 30°. The Nates also never had a chance to fire back with their "Pater Pietols". Again Hamakazis were thwarted.

### COMMENTS IN CONCLUSION

(1) It is unnecessary and unwise for a large proportion of fighter strongth to be diverted by one dap plane.

(2) Filots the have not met a situation as described above and have not had to depend on section tactics for survival, but who have had a comparatively easy time in airborne combat have a tendency. in spite of training, to coase thinking in terms of section and division unity.

De not lose too much speed in climbing.

EGRY REGISTER CO., PATENTED

(4) Recognition in such circumstances as described above between radial engine enemy fighters is non-existent.

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XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.

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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

Commence WILLIGOT .

Use additional sheets if necessary).

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 rendesvous.

(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, oto. - 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, "That day is today?"

RANK AND DUTY