

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(a) Unit Reporting VO-94 (b) Based on or at USS SHANROCK BAY (CVRS4) (c) Report No. 24
 (d) Take off: Date 4/12/45 Time (LZT) 1430 (I) (Zone); Lat. 25-30 N. Long. 129-43 E.
 (e) Mission TGAP, Okinawa (f) Time of Return 1845 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)		
F4U-2	VO-94	5	5			

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE

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
Sonia	1	1	1600 I (ZONE)	10 miles n. of Kerama Retts	No rear gunner seen	Usual insignia; light blue blending well with hazy atmo- sphere.
Val	1	1	1600 I (ZONE)	" "	" " " "	" " "
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) suicide attack on BB
 Did Any Part of _____
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? No If so, Describe Clouds _____
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance _____
 (j) of Sun or Moon Dull Sun (haze) (k) Visibility 5
(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		
Val	F4U-2	VO-94	Francis J. GREGGAS, Lt., USNR & Richard A. COLLIER, Ensign, USNR.	4x.50 "	Engine, 9 o'clock 4 & 6	Destroyed

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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

At about 1600, 12 April an 8-plane FGAP of VC-94 F4U-2's was vectored 10 miles to the north of its orbit point over Kerama Retto to intercept approaching enemy planes. While on this vector, at an altitude of 450 feet, Lt(jg) J.H. STOTZ, who was flying wing on the leader of the flight, Lt. L.H. TERRY, sighted a Sonia at 10 o'clock 5 miles on a reciprocal course to our planes. With STOTZ leading, on instructions from TERRY, the two planes changed course to intercept. When they had closed to 2 miles, the Sonia, apparently sighting our planes, commenced a shallow circling dive to port in what appeared to be an attempt to suicide crash on a lone DD proceeding on the water below on course 200°. As our planes closed to range, the Sonia gradually nosed over in a 45° diving spiral and the Destroyer opened fire. Lt(jg) STOTZ opened fire from 1500 ft. 4 o'clock, altitude 2500 feet and followed the Sonia in its dive to 500 feet through intense anti-aircraft fire from below. Lt. TERRY also followed the Sonia down, staying to the port side of STOTZ, and at about 1200 feet altitude fired a single burst from 1000 feet. The Sonia turned inside of him and, before he could get in position to fire again, he found himself at 800 feet. Both TERRY and STOTZ were compelled to pull out at 800 feet to escape being shot down by the DD. A few seconds after they commenced their pull-outs the enemy crashed on the bridge of the DD.

Simultaneously with the sighting of the Sonia, Lt. F.J. GLUGAS, leader of the other GAP division, spotted a Val at 2 o'clock, 500 yds. away on a reciprocal course to his, speed about 140 kts. GLUGAS whipped his plane into a sharp turn to starboard and closed at 160 knots. At 900 feet from the Val he fired 1 burst in a 45° deflection shot from the tail. The Val turned to starboard and also commenced a suicide dive on the DD below, corkscrewing to evade our attacks. The DD opened fire on the Val. GLUGAS fired 2 more bursts and pulled out at 2500 feet to avoid the AA. During his attack he observed hits on the starboard side of the Val's engine and saw the Val smoke at that point.

Meanwhile the second section of GLUGAS' division had also sighted the Val and given chase. Shortly before Lt. GLUGAS pulled out, Ensign R. A. COLLIER closed to within 500 feet on the tail of the Val. Pursuing it from 2500 feet to 800 feet in a 45° dive at 200 knots in the face of intense AA fire from the DD COLLIER fired numerous no-deflection shots into the engine and cockpit of the enemy. At 1200 feet the Val broke into flames around the starboard engine cowling and appeared out of control. It crashed in the water about 50 yds. from the DD.

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

Grant W. KELLNER, Lieut., USNR.

SIGNATURE

A.C.I. Officer.

RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

L. E. FERRY, Lieut., USNR.

SIGNATURE

Acting Commanding Officer.

RANK AND DUTY

4/23/45

DATE