

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting **VF-12** (b) Based on or at **U.S.S. RANDOLPH (CV-15)** (c) Report No. **VF-12-2**
 (d) Take off: Date **16 February 1945** Time (LZT) **0928 K** (Zone); Lat. **33-25 N** Long. **142-35 E**
 (e) Mission **Fighter Sweep vs Airfields In Tokyo Bay Area** (f) Time of Return **1250 K** (Zone)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

CONFIDENTIAL

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	VF-12	11	11	10	6 HVAR - 100 lb per plane	MK. 49 AN-M-39-Nose-Inst. AN-M-159-Tail-.025 Delay MK. 015 A

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
Elements of Task Force 58							
USS RANDOLPH sweeps accompanied to target area by USS YORKTOWN aircraft.							

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
Zebra	11	7	1045 K (ZONE)	36-23 N 140-37 E	None Observed	3 - Brown Paint 6 - Silver Finish

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) **Interception**
 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 **Day, Dull, Sun** (k) Visibility **15** (MILES)
 (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.)

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			
Zebra	F6F-5	VF-12	LEGATOS, S., Lt (jg) USNR	?	Eng., 12 o'clock, level	Destroyed
Zebra	F6F-5	VF-12	LEGATOS, S., Lt (jg) USNR	?	Tail, 6 o'clock, above	"
Zebra	F6F-5	VF-12	McWHORTER, H., Lt., USNR	6x.50Cal.	0' pit, 3 o'clock, above	"
Zebra	F6F-5	VF-12	MEACHAM, J. A. Ens. USNR	6x.50Cal.	Fus., 4 o'clock, above	"

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

REPORT No. VI-12-2

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 F6F-5	VF-12	Zeko	Engines	Total loss-Bu.No.#71794
2 F6F-5	VF-12	Exhausted Gasoline; water landing	Port stabilizer & elevator, from 12 o'clock above	Total loss-Bu.No.#72417
3 F6F-5	VF-12	Zeko, 12 Jan		New stab. & elevator req.
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
1	VF-12	LEGATES, Sabo, Lt(jg)USNR	Shot down by Zeko	Missing

CONFIDENTIAL

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-5	140	190	4	400 gal.	380 gal.			10,200		10

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

1. **Zeko (HAMP) Turned inside F6F-5**
2. **Zeko (HAMP) Very maneuverable at 2000' altitude.**

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. **VF-12-2**

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) **Mawatari Airfield** ^{Lat. 36-23N} **Lon. 140-37E** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1050 K** (Zone)

(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target **8000' - Strato-cumulus, .6 to .8 cover**

(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target **Easy** (e) Visibility **15**

(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Glide** Bomb Sight Used **MK 23 Gun sight**

(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Rockets Dropped per Run **6** Spacing **0** Altitude of Bomb Release **1500 Yds. range**

(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed **2** Probably Destroyed **2** Damaged **6**

(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 Hanger		8 VF-12	20 HVAR	18	Serious
2 Hanger		8 VF-12	22 HVAR	22	Serious
3					
4					
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).

- SE side of Mawatari Airfield - Left Burning.**
- SE side of Mawatari Airfield - Large gaping holes in roof and wall; smoking.**

CONFIDENTIAL

(p) Were Photographs Taken? _____ Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

REPORT No. VF-12-2

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

According to plan Sweep 4 Baker, from the USS RANDOLPH, was to accompany Sweep 4 Able, from the USS YORKTOWN, to the initial target of Konoike Airfield, the Senior Aviator from the YORKTOWN in command. Faulty navigation took the combined sweep some 40 miles north of the target area. Sweep 4 Baker broke off and attacked Nawatari, returning to base immediately thereafter as fuel supplies were low. Little enemy opposition was encountered. Several enemy interceptors used cloud cover to conceal themselves when they were spotted.

On this flight Lt.(jg) SABB LEGATCS failed to return and is declared missing. He shot down one ZEKU, but a second which he engaged set his engine afire. Both planes were flaming when last seen.

Ensign W. A. ROESER was forced to make a water landing within the Task Force when his fuel was depleted. He was in the water 25 minutes before being picked up by DD 585. He was uninjured, but his plane was a total loss.

Ensign H. M. HARDIN landed aboard the USS HANCOCK when his gasoline was exhausted and returned to the USS RANDOLPH that afternoon. The damage to his plane's tail assembly caused Ensign J. A. MEACHAM to land on the USS LEXINGTON. The replacement of his port stabilizer and elevator was accomplished there; he returned aboard the afternoon of 15 February.

Ensign MEACHAM reported seeing a four-engine JAPANESE aircraft on the ground, which resembled, but was larger than, the G-47. Though carrying two more engines the wing-shape and proportions were similar to the Skytrain.

CONFIDENTIAL

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

REPORT No. **VF-12-2**

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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

Harold W. Mueller, JCSA, A CI
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

1. Pilots comment with favor upon the Z suit with which the squadron is equipped. At this point none would be without one.
2. One pilot reported his ARC-1 HF transmitter as failing.
3. In one instance the propeller pitch of an F6F-5 froze at an altitude of 17,000 feet, but operated satisfactorily at lower altitudes.
4. The belly tank would not free from one plane when released.

CONFIDENTIAL

APPROVED BY:

J. Michaelis
SIGNATURE

Lt. Comdr.
RANK AND DUTY

Commanding

3 Mar 45
DATE