

James K. Newby 3/26/86

OPNAV-16-V-#537
Form ACA-1
Sheet 1 of 5

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(a) Unit Reporting VFP(CV) 112-123 (b) Based on or at USS Bennington (c) Report No. _____
 (d) Take off: Date 12 Apr 45 Time (LZT) 1155 (Zone); Lat. 26.25 N Long. 129.20 E
 (e) Mission Interceptor CAP # 5 (f) Time of Return 1545 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)		
Chance ought F4U-1D	VFP 112 and 123	12	12	0	None	

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
Zekes	20	20	(ZONE)			
Tojos	4	4	1300 I	Near North	Several had 500# bombs	About half painted
Kates	3	3	(ZONE)	Amund and		silver, other half
Jacks	2	2	and	near 20 58.1		dusty brown, at
Q-cars	1	1	(ZONE)			least two Jacks all
Hoop	1	1	1500 I			red. Marking includ

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Attack on our surface units of Okinawa
 Did Any Part of _____
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? no If so, Describe Clouds _____
 Time of Day and Brilliance _____ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 (j) of Sun or Moon _____ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON, DAY, OVERCAST, ETC.)

(k) Visibility _____ (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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			
Zeko	F4U-1D	VFP 112	Maj. Herman Hansen Jr.	6-50s	Wings, dead return	DESTROYED
Kate	"	"	"	"	"	DESTROYED
Tojo	"	"	"	"	"	DESTROYED
Zeko	"	"	2dLt. George J. Murray	"	"	DESTROYED
Kate	"	"	"	"	"	DESTROYED
2-ZEKES	"	"	"	"	"	DESTROYED
Zeko	"	"	2dLt. James H. Hamilton	"	"	DESTROYED
3-Zekes	"	"	"	"	"	DESTROYED
Jack	"	"	2dLt. James H. Hamilton	"	"	DESTROYED
Jack	"	"	and R.W. Koons (shared)	"	"	DESTROYED
			2dLt. R.W. Koons	"	"	DESTROYED

(CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE)

3 DAMAGED

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V. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR (Continued).

Zeke	F4U-1D	VMF 112	Capt. Donald C. Owen	6-50s	Fuselage, dead astern				<u>DESTROYED</u>
Zeke	"	"	Capt. Donald C. Owen and unknown F6F pilot (shared)	"	"	"	"	*	<u>DESTROYED</u>
Zeke	"	"	1stLt. Randolph Smith	"	"	"	"		<u>DESTROYED</u>
Zeke	"	"	1stLt. Herbert V. Lundin	"	"	"	"		<u>DESTROYED</u>
Tojo	"	"	2dLt. Wendell Browning	"	"	"	"		<u>DESTROYED</u>
Tojo	"	"	2dLt. Wendell Browning and unknown F6F pilot (shared)	"	"	"	"	*	<u>DESTROYED</u>
Hamp	"	"	1stLt. John Callahan	"	"	"	"		<u>DESTROYED</u>
Oscar	"	"	"	"	"	"	"		<u>DESTROYED</u>
Tojo	"	"	"	"	"	"	"		<u>DESTROYED</u>
Zeke	"	"	1stLt. Bert Hanson	"	"	"	"		<u>DESTROYED</u>
Zeke	"	"	"	"	"	"	"		<u>DESTROYED</u>
Kate	"	VMF 123	1stLt. H. D. Shields	"	"	"	"		<u>DESTROYED</u>
Zeke	"	"	"	"	"	"	"		<u>DESTROYED</u>
Oscar	"	"	"	"	"	"	"		<u>DESTROYED</u>

(TOTALS: DESTROYED 20 - Damaged 6).

* For scoring purposes these planes are tabulated as one-halves on VMF 112's scoreboard.

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At the same time Captain Don Owen's division was getting their share of the "Jap Demolisher" cocktail. Owen turned on the first Zeke he met and chased him right into the sea. The Japs were being most obliging. A bit later he and an F6F from an unidentified carrier closed on a Zeke and shot him down. (John Callahan confirmed the kill).

2dLt. Wendell Browning thought the planes were friendly - until he saw the big red meat balls. He rolled over, opened up on a Jap - and shot him into the sea. "I just couldn't miss" he said. Later he joined with an F6F from another carrier group. They opened fire on a Zeke and soon afterward the Nip pilot parachuted. (Owen confirmed the kills).

1stLt. Randolph "Biscuit" Smith climbed on a Zeke. It took only a few good shots before debris began to fall from the plane. There was an explosion and another Zeke was done for. (Hanson confirmed the kill).

1stLt. Herb Lundin, who had shot down his first Jap a few days before, got another rather easily. It was a Zeke - and after a few bursts it began to fall apart. Pieces of the Nip plane struck Lundin's windshield and the Jap went down and into the sea. (Shields confirmed the kill).

Big John Callahan had the most fun. As the dogfight began he saw two Oscars. One of them dove on Owen's Corsair. John cut inside of him and came down on his tail. He fired three bursts - and the Jap crashed. Finishing his attack, he saw a Tojo split S away from another Corsair. John climbed on his tail and followed him down - firing all the way. The Nip was added to Devy Jones' collection.

As he neared Kikai island's airfield John saw four Hellcats destroying a couple of Nips. Then he saw another Jap making a slow over water approach to the field. He was apparently coming in for a landing. After the first burst, the Jap pulled up and turned into Callahan. He swung around and moved to the enemy's side and tail. One more burst finished him off. (Gun camera shots confirmed the first ~~xx~~ two kills; Owen and Browning confirmed the third).

Callahan figured it required less than five minutes to destroy the three Nips.

During the Sky battle a pilot was reported down in the water about a mile and a half from Kikai airfield. Owen immediately assumed charge of the rescue. Despite anti-aircraft fire from shore batteries and the danger of enemy interception Owen remained on the post - Callahan and Browning assisting - until the rescue was effected. When Owen arrived the downed pilot was without a lifeboat and Owen made a low level approach and dropping it with a high degree of accuracy. The pilot, later rescued by an OS2U, was Mills of VF-82.

John Callahan had another unusual experience. As he was circling the downed aviator - who was close to where one of the Jap pilots had been seen to parachute - he noticed a big splash in the water. A black object made its appearance above the water. John turned his Corsair nose toward it and strafed hell out of it. It disappeared and a small oil slick was visible on the water.

A minute or two later the object had popped up again. John strafed it and down it went again. It was Callahan's belief that it might well have been a midget sub attempting to pick up the Jap pilot - but this was only a guess. "It was darned unusual," John said.

On the way back to base the flight ran into a bunch of Kamikazes preparing to launch an attack on our surface units.

1stLt. Bert Hanson was first to sight them.

He reported his observation to the FDO on the Bennington, slowly and methodically counted at least 10 of the enemy and then climbed to attack them. He destroyed two in jig time. (Smith confirmed both kills).

Probably the most unusual experience was that recorded by 1stLt. H. D. Shields.

Shields, who because of his small stature is nicknamed "Hitler," was not scheduled to takeoff with Hansen's flight. He is a member of VMF 123 and went up on the flight deck with the flight merely to taxi one of the corsairs after the others had taken off. But as happens sometime, Shields was waved into the launching spot and became the 12th member of Hansen's flight. During the fight near the fleet he destroyed two Nips - thus as he said "I taxied forward and got two Japs."

Jimmy K New 3/26/86

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NARRATIVE (CONT.)

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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

Shield's kills were a Kate and a Zeke. Both flamed. The Kate and its bomb blew up when it hit the water. In addition, he damaged an Oscar. (Lundin confirmed both kills).

Never has Ready Room Three seen a more excited flight - than Major Hansen's group was this afternoon. Every one had a story to tell - every one had an exciting moment to relate. But as usual, the ACI officer was the most excited. Twenty kills and six damaged was a fine score to write about.

All remembered some odd happening. Bert Hanson, as he was closing in to destroy his second Japanese plane, said to himself " Gee I wish the ACI officer could see me now. Boy, would he be jumping."

Major Hansen recalled that one of the planes he shot at fell into a little town on Amami's coast - and started a huge fire.

Jim Hamilton said the Jacks he observed had four 20mm cannons, two under each wing. There were no small calibre guns. " It was hard to burn. There was plenty of armor plate - and self sealing tanks, too."

Others said at least half of the enemy planes were a silver color - not the metallic silver but a silver grey paint job. The other half were the usual brown.

The Jack was found to be exceptionally maneuverable - and the Corsair couldn't stay with it.

The Kates made no violent turns. The Corsairs shadowed every move without effort.

A couple of the Jacks, Major Hansen reported, ^{had} were all red color. ^{lines} In fact it was the glob of red against the blue ocean that first attracted Hansen's attention.

Other planes had red stripes in addition to the customary red meat balls.

The Japs had no organized tactics.

The Jack at sea level is as fast as the Corsair. However, the Jack had no belly tank - and it was believed to be using water injection. The belief concerning water injection was based on the fact that black exhaust puffs were observed - as is seen on the water injecting Corsair.

The task organizations included:

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Major Herman Hansen | Capt. Donald C. Owen | 1stLt. Randolph Smith |
| 2dLt. George J. Murray | 1stLt. John Callahan | 1stLt. Bert Hanson |
| 2dLt. J. M. Hamilton | 2dLt. Wendell Browning | 1stLt. Herbert Lundin |
| 2dLt. R. W. Koons | 1stLt. H. D. Shields | 2dLt. Howard Sankey |

XIII --- No comments.

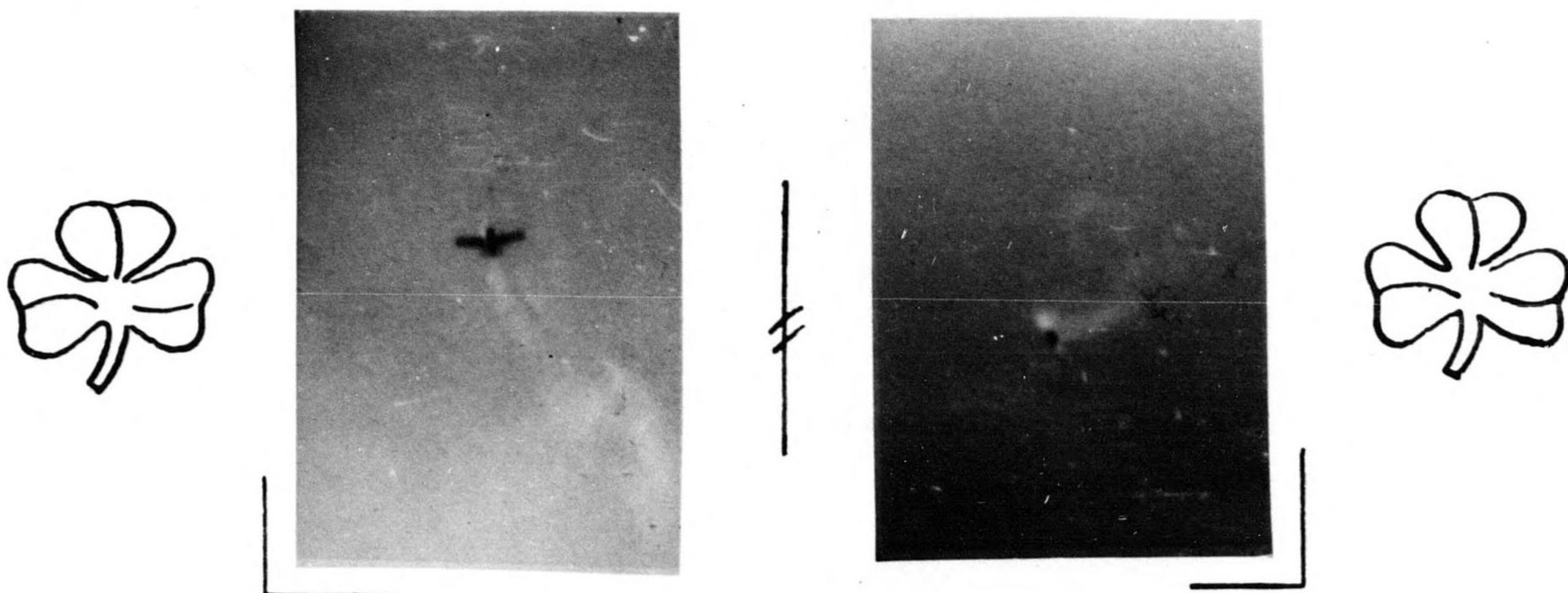
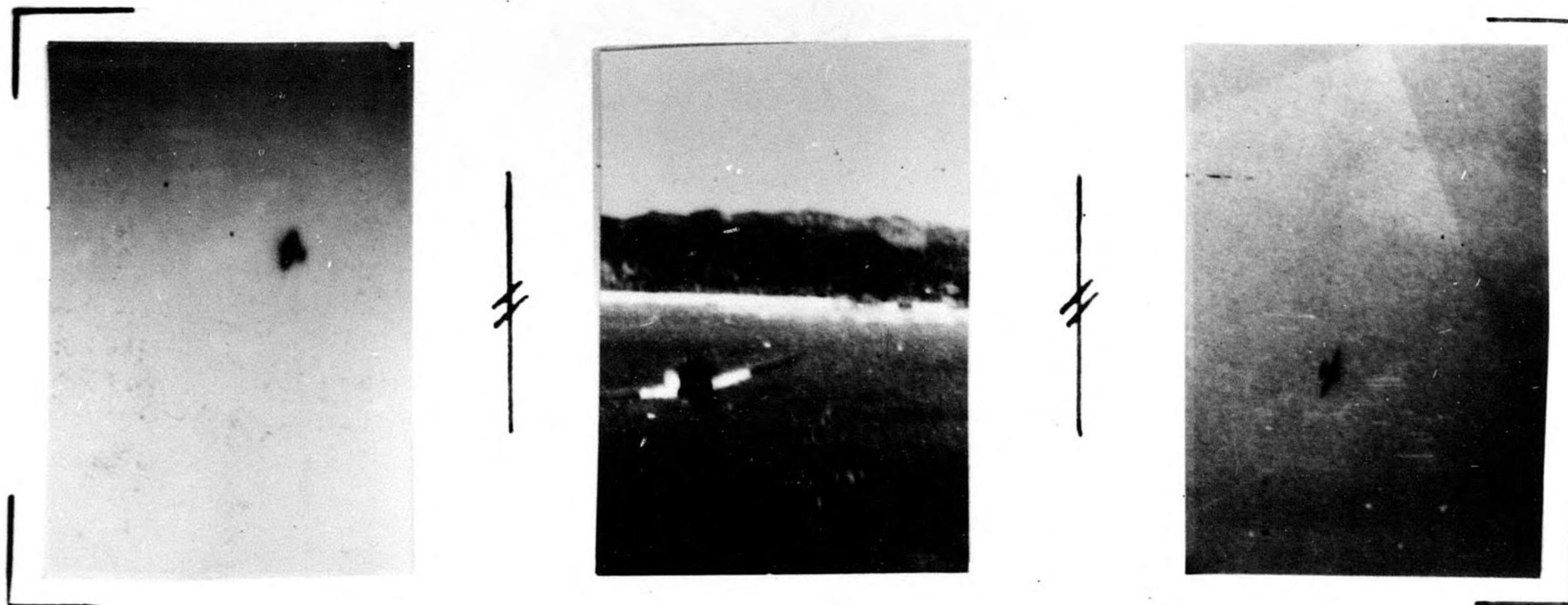
Joseph Davis Scott, Lt. USNR ACIO VMF (CV) 112 - 123	Maj. Herman Hansen Jr. USMC - VMF (CV) 112 Commanding Officer.	Maj. T. E. Mobley Jr. USMC - VMF (CV) 123 Commanding Officer.
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REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY DATE

“
When Irish Eyes Are Keen
”



1st Lt. John Callahan bagged three
of these Japs in five minutes!

MARINE FIGHTING SQUADRON-112