

WSP-12/A2-11(12)
Serial: 11

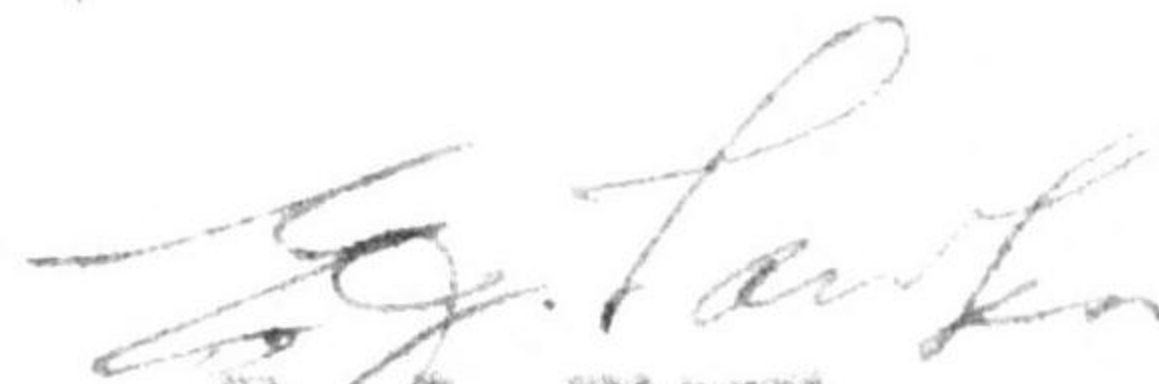
BOMBFIGHTING SQUADRON TWELVE
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

CONFIDENTIAL

3 March 1945

From: Commanding Officer.
To : Commander, Air Group TWELVE.
Subject: Task Force 58 Operations from 16 February to
25 February - Comments on.

1. Sweeps were assigned too many fields on 16-17 February, thereby not giving any of the fields their just due.
2. No target coordinator is needed for this type sweep.
3. It is felt that information on the progress of Life-guard Rescues, or attempted rescues, should be promptly transmitted to the parent carrier of the downed pilot. Fresh publicity of effected rescues is a tremendous boost to morale.
4. More emphases must be placed in the fact that it is absolutely necessary for strafers and rocketers to concentrate unflinchingly on a single target while firing. Swinging through the entire target area as you are shooting is very ineffective.
5. Constant drilling on fundamentals of present aerial combat tactics is still needed. Back-on-a-swivel, keeping divisions together, no close-in single VF versus single VF maneuvering advocated, keeping speed above 150 knots indicated - had none of these rules been broken, some of our lost pilots would not have been lost.
6. It is the opinion of this command that Air Group TWELVE, despite the fact that it was the first combat action for the majority of its pilots, performed with above average skill.


E. J. PASKA

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VBF-12 (b) Based on or at CV-15, USS RANDOLPH (c) Report No. 14
 (d) Take off: Date 25 FEB. '45 Time (LZT) 1449(K) (Zone); Lat. 34-00 N Long. 143-22E
 (e) Mission Nachiyo Jima A/T - Fighter Sweep (f) Time of Return 1746(K) (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	4	0	4	4HVAR	AN/M-159-Instant-Noz AN/M-159-.25 Delay- Tail
						A

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
F6F-5	VF-12	12	USS RANDOLPH				

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
NONE			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) NONE
 Did Any Part of
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? 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 (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:				(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER	GUNS USED		
NONE						

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

REPORT No. **14**

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 NONE				
2				
3				
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
		NONE		

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	180	180	3.5	400	300			6500		4

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

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 14

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) A/P Hachijo Jima (b) Time Over Target(s) 1620(X) (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 1000' scattered to 4000' 10/10 at 4000' Strato Cumulus
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Obscured by clouds (e) Visibility 1
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Dive Bomb Sight Used _____
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

~~Rockets~~
Bombs Dropped per Run 4 Spacing 0 Altitude of Bomb Release 900 yd. slant range
(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					
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).

**Ceiling so low, all targets obscured immediately after pull out.
Rockets & strafing tactics used against 10 Bettys observed on A/P,
A/A positions, & facilities.**

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

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

REPORT No. 14

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

**See VF-12 (USS RANDOLPH) report No. 12 for account,
That squadron had large majority of planes, VBF-12 having
only 3 planes plus the CAG participating.**

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

REPORT No. 14

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

No Comments.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

W. W. Morrison

LT (JG) USNR

E. J. Lawton

LT. Cmdr. USNR

2-28-45

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE

ACI officer

Commanding Officer