

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-88 (b) Based on or at USS HAGINAN BAY (c) Report No. 30
 (d) Take off: Date 21 Feb. 1945 Time (LZT) 1500K (Zone); Lat. 24-40 Long. 141-45
 (e) Mission Local Combat Air Patrol - Carrier Group - Two Jims (f) Time of Return 1820K (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)		
<u>FW-2</u>	<u>VC-88</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>None</u>	

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
<u>Jill or Zeko</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1745K (ZONE)</u>	<u>10 mi. NE of Haginan Two Jims</u>	<u>None observed</u>	<u>Dark, no details noted</u>
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) suicide attack on LST
 Did Any Part of _____
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? No If so, Describe Clouds 3000 Cumulus Complete overcast
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance _____
 (j) of Sun or Moon Overcast
(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		
<u>Jill or Zeko</u>	<u>FW-2</u>	<u>VC-88</u>	<u>Ens. E. L. CAMDEN</u>	<u>4 - .50</u>	<u>Unknown</u>

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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	
F4U	---	---	5.3	233	103					4

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

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

SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

- TURNING
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

F4U, with two wing tanks, in 30 degree glide from 2500 ft. altitude, indicated 210-220 knots gained slowly on the Jill or Zeke which was in a 30 degree glide from 3000 feet altitude.

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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

Lt. E. H. PECK and Ensign W. G. MANCE, E. W. SCHNEIDER and E.L. CANNON, of VC-38, were on local combat air patrol over the carrier formation in the late afternoon of 21 February 1945. Schneider and Cannon had gone below the cloud base at 3000 feet. Peck and Mance remained at about 5000 feet altitude above the overcast. At 1745 K at approximately 10 miles northeast of Minami Iwo Jima, while on a vector of 230 degrees, Cannon sighted an enemy single engine plane at 10 o'clock about 2 miles distant at 3000 feet altitude on a northerly course. Cannon, leading the section, talley-hoed the plane, turned on course 135° and headed toward enemy plane. The latter climbed into the clouds; when it emerged shortly thereafter it was heading approximately 160°. It headed toward a formation of 12 to 15 ships located 8 to 10 miles east of Minami Iwo Jima and composed of eight LST's or medium landing craft and several escort vessels. The enemy plane went into a 30 degree glide. Cannon on the right and Schneider on the left were bracketing the enemy plane from the rear as they chased the enemy. When the enemy started its glide the FM-2 glided also, indicating 210-220 knots, and were gaining slowly. Cannon, less than 800 yards from the plane, opened fire; at first his fire fell short then appeared to be going in vicinity of the enemy. Schneider, further away, was never within range and did not fire.

At the planes continued in glide the ships opened up with anti-aircraft fire. Cannon continued firing until he came within range of the ship's fire, then at 800 feet altitude broke away rapidly to starboard. As the ship's fire continued he and Schneider went down low to about 300 feet altitude over the water and retired.

Schneider saw the enemy plane splash and explode either on or near an LST. During the chase, prior to this, the pilots had observed two similar explosions, either planes hitting ships or crashing into the water. As they left the area Cannon and Schneider saw two ships in the formation smoking.

Cannon identified the enemy planes as Jill, Schneider, farther away, was not certain but thought it was Zeke. Cannon did not know whether his fire struck the enemy plane. He did see his fire go into the vicinity of the plane.

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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

No comment.

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:

APPROVED BY:

SIGNATURE

H. D. SCHWAB, Lt. USNR, AGIO, VC-88

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

H. L. KIMPF, Lieut., USNR Commanding

RANK AND DUTY

DATE

26 Feb. 1945