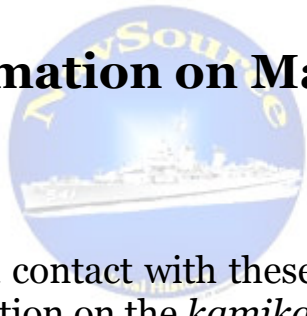


Information on May 4, 1945 kamikaze hit on *Sangamon*



NavSource Naval History
Photographic History of the U.S. Navy

by Donald T. Schroeder

I have had contact with these people in the last 2 weeks in February [2008] which led to information on the *kamikaze* hit on the *Sangamon* on May 4, 1945:

Tom Harper AMM3/c who served on the *Sangamon* who has failing eyesight and is living in an assisted living home is being interviewed over the Internet by Ken Arnold on his WW II experiences. Due to his sight problems and not having a computer Lloyd Harris who has a mother in the same home is serving as the middle man.

Next we have Anthony Teal whose father served on the destroyer *Ingraham* [DD 694] which was also hit by a *kamikaze* at Okinawa. They are getting a plaque in the Admiral Nimitz Museum on May 1, 2008. He has access to many sources of information on *kamikaze*'s. One is an author in Japan (Ryusuke Ishiguro) who has access to many Japanese files and books.

This is what I found out. The pilot of the plane that hit us was Saburo Mizukoshi. He was born in Aichi prefecture, Japan in 1924, graduated the 13th class of Army Youth Pilot School and died May 4, 1945 when he was 21 years old. He was promoted from Corporal to Second Lieutenant posthumously. He was commander of "Makoto" Dai 123 Hikotai (123rd squadron.)

He was sent along with the attack group to act as navigator as the other 10 or 11 pilots only knew how to take off and fly a plane. This was very common with *kamikaze* pilots. He was to report back on the outcome of the raid. It is believed that he thought the *Sangamon* was too good a target to pass up.

Also report from USMC air action about 2 planes from VMF-224 and 4 planes from VMF-311 based at Yontan air field, Okinawa who took off at 1730 May 4, 1945 to engage enemy. They were flying F4U's.

VMF-311 (F4U-1C Corsairs)

2nd Lt. William P. Brown destroyed 2 *Tony*'s, 2 *Dinah*'s

[Lt. Brown was one of two VMF-311 "aces."]

2nd Lt. Roland T. Hamner destroyed 2 *Tony*'s, 1 *Dinah*

2nd Lt. Charles E. Bacon destroyed 2 *Tony*'s

2nd Lt. Thomas H. Sark destroyed 2 *Tony*'s

VMF-224 (F4U-1D Corsairs)

Lt. C. H. Rushfeldt 2 *Dinah*'s

Lt. M. Waldman 1 *Dinah*

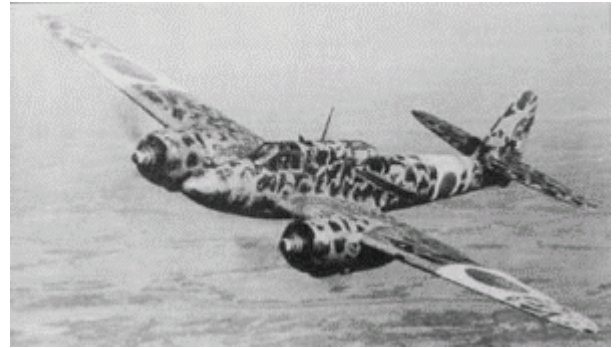
The only damage they had was when one plane nosed over on return landing and damaged prop. *Nick's* and *Dinah's* were very much alike in looks, so we are not sure about this identification.

Good thing they did not all get through to us.

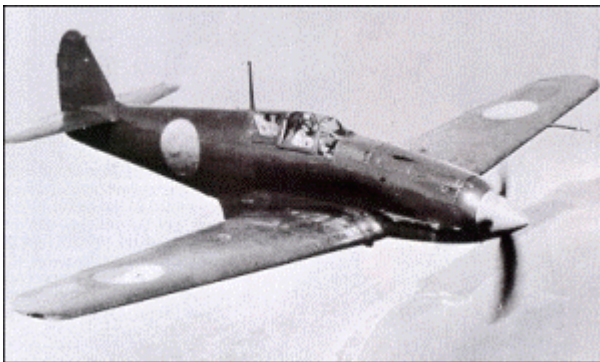
Donald T. Schroeder
March 2008



Vought F4U-1D *Corsair*
(US Navy photo)



Type 2 two-seat fighter *Toryu*
(Kawasaki Ki-45 KAI)
“Nick”



Type 3 fighter *Hien*
(Kawasaki Ki-61)
“Tony”



Type 100 Command Reconnaissance Plane
(Mitsubishi Ki-46)
“Dinah”