



Robert L. Temme, Captain, USN (Ret.)
"Tem"

Date of Designation: 1 October 1942

Dates of Active Duty: 1 January 1942 - 1 July 1973

Total Flight Hours: 5,445

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 366

Approximate Flight Hours:

Prop: 5,445 VF/VA: 1,500 VR/VP: 350 VS: 1,600

Combat Tours:

WW II: VB-17 aboard USS *Bunker Hill* in South Pacific, Jan. 43 - Nov. 43.

WW II: VBF-83 aboard USS *Esse*, in South Pacific mainly from Okinawa North, Feb. 45 - Sep. 45.

Aviation Commands:

Acting CO, VS-22, Mar. 1954 - Aug. 1954.

CO, VS-36, Jul. 1964 - Jul. 1965.

CO, NAS Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Jul. 1968 - Jul. 1971.

Combat Awards:

Distinguished Flying Cross

10 Air Medals

Purple Heart

Other Awards:

Meritorious Service Medal

Legion of Merit

2 Presidential Unit Citations

Duty Assignment Chronology

1/42-10/42 AVCAD in Navy flight program.

1/43-3/45 Joined VB-17 in January 1943. The squadron was attached to the USS *Bunker Hill* and VB-17 was the first squadron to take the SB2C "Helldiver" into combat. First mission was a strike on Rabaul. Covered the invasion of Tarawa, then strikes on Kwajalein, Truk, Saipan, Tinian, etc.



3/45-9/45 In March 1945, deployed aboard USS *Essex* in squadron VBF-83 flying F4U-1D and FG-1D airplanes. My squadron stayed aboard *Essex* until the end of the war. We covered the invasion of Okinawa, conducted strikes on airfields in Kyushu, Honshu (Tokyo area), and Hokkaido. Struck naval bases, steel plants, ferries, ships, etc. Credited with shooting down two Zeros and one high altitude, single engine Japanese reconnaissance airplane.

9/45 -

Assignments following WW II:

- Instructed instructors at IATU-9 in Jacksonville, FL.
- V-1 Division Officer aboard USS *Franklin D. Roosevelt*.
- Instrument Flight Instructor at all-weather flight, Corpus Christi, TX.
- XO and acting CO of squadron VS-22.
- Project Officer on Grumman aircraft in BuAer.
- XO and CO of squadron VS-36.
- Student (one year) and Staff (two years) at the Naval War College, Newport, RI.
- Operations Officer, COMCARDIV-20.
- Action Officer in the J-1 Division of the JCS.
- CO, NAS Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
- Chief of Staff, Eighth Naval District.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Combat experience during World War II (shot down two "Zeros" and one high altitude, single engine Japanese reconnaissance airplane).
- (2) First to be catapulted out of hangar bay (athwart ship) aboard the USS *Bunker Hill* in an SB2C while underway, early 1943.
- (3) Instructed Adm. Apollo Sucheck and Adm. A. K. Morehouse in Instrument Flight at All Weather Flight Squadron in Corpus Christi, TX.

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Summary of Significant Career Events

- (4) Aircraft flown during my career include:
Aronca (flying bathtub), Piper Cub, Waco, N2S, SNJ,
SNC, SBC-3 & -4, VT, FM, SB2C, AF, F4U-1D, F2G,
SNB, F6F, F8F, R4D, C-54, HU-16, Spitfire, S2F's ,
and AD.

(Note: Started flying at age of 16. Obtained private
pilot license at age 18. AVCAD in Navy flight
program, January 1942 - October 1942.