

## VMA 211

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Wake Island was attacked almost daily thereafter by formations of between 27 and 40 Jap bombers. Never were there more than four Wildcats in condition to intercept these bombers. After December 16th there were but two planes left. Rarely was it possible to put more than one in the air at a time.

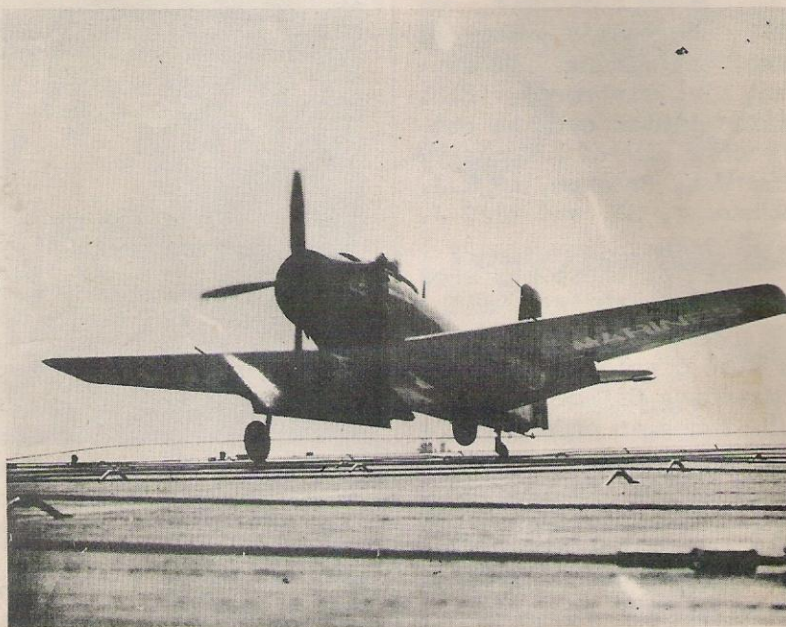
On December 9, one of the pilots of VMF 211 shot down a twin-engine Jap bomber—thus becoming the first Marine pilot to score a kill in the Japanese war.

### Sinks Jap Sub

On December the 12th, VMF 211 scored another first by sinking a Jap submarine, the first sunk by air attack in the war. During the following week, while the number of aircraft dwindled to two five more enemy planes were shot down.

Two days before Christmas Wake Island was in enemy hands and the forward echelon of VMF 211 was captured by the Japs. The rear echelon was quickly expanded to squadron size and thereaf-

## Thousandth Plane Lands Aboard



On March 11, Marine 1st Lieutenant Marion . Hansen added another important "first" to the ship's history as he made the 1,000th landing on the Bennington's flight deck since she was re-commissioned last November. A member of VMA 211, the 22 year old Lieutenant made a perfect landing. The tailhook of his AD2 Skyraider caught the number two cable.

ter Marine Fighter Squadron 211 was known as the Wake Island Avengers.

During the remainder of the war the "Avengers" sent many more of the enemy to join their ancestors.

Since the end of the war the squadron has served in China and aboard the U.S.S. Coral Sea in the Mediterranean, where it helped to set a record of flight hours and carrier landings for a five-month period.

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