

VAPOR TRAILS

Robert Jaques of Hartselle, Ala., submitted this spectacular photo sequence of an F4U Corsair crashing off Saipan (CVL 48). Jaques found the photographs in an old album he purchased at an antique mall.

The *Naval Aviation News* staff uncovered the accident report, dated 16 February 1950, which stated: Marine Corps pilot 1st Lt. Loren Grover of Marine Fighter Squadron (VMF) 212 launched from Saipan in F4U-4 (BuNo 81473) assigned to VMF-211. As the plane gained speed, the left wing rose toward the folded position. Upon reaching the end of the flight deck, the left wing



was at about a 45-degree angle. As soon as the plane became airborne, the wing was torn off. The Corsair rolled to the left, hit the water off the port bow in a 35-degree, nose-down attitude on its back, and sank. An extensive search was conducted, but the pilot was never recovered. The accident board determined there was a failure to check the left wing for positive lock before final turn-up and launch.



As an aviation historian, Mr. Jaques is interested in hearing from anyone who has more details about this incident. Contact him via [NANews](#) ✪

