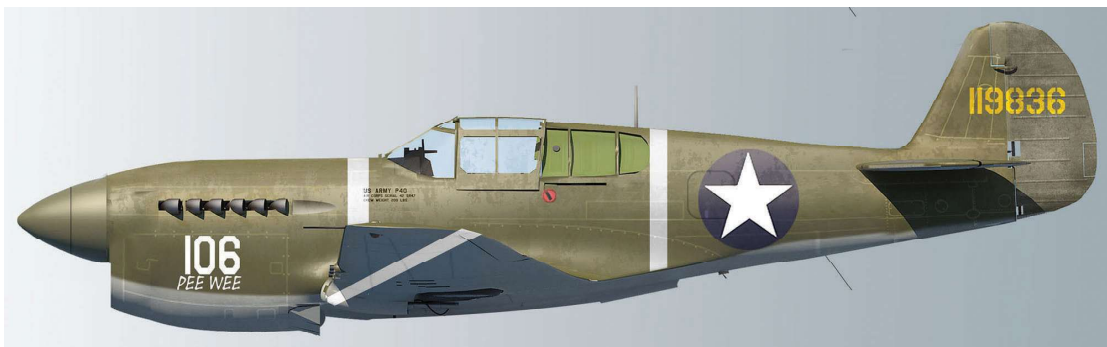




*VMF-112 pilot Lieutenant James Johnson points to the shot out rudder on his F4U incurred during the 7 June 1943 combat with Zeros over the Russell Islands.*



*P-40F-15 41-19836 Peewee, which was one of nine P-40F-15s which served with the 44<sup>th</sup> FS.*

dived into the VMF-112 Corsairs from 30,000 feet. Fraser turned into and fired at the lead Zeros, but various dogfights then developed which ultimately resulted in the downing of three F4Us. Lieutenant Gilbert Percy baled out but at very low altitude and his parachute had not fully opened when he hit the water. Despite suffering a broken pelvis, he was able to swim to a coral reef, and a boat picked him up the next day. First Lieutenant Samuel S Logan also baled out but from 18,000 feet. As he floated down a Zero made repeated strafing runs, during which half of his right foot