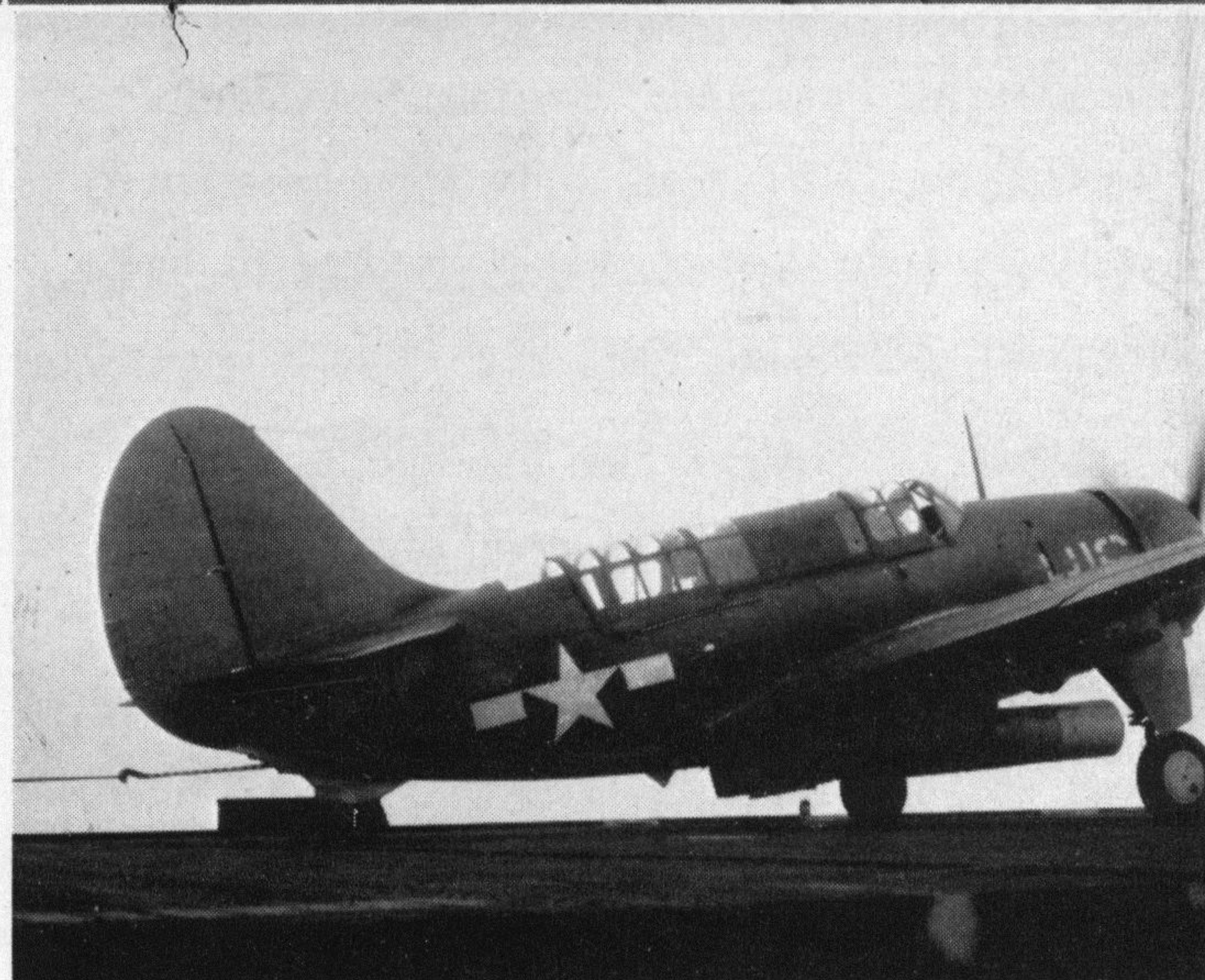




From the hot sands of the Californian desert came fledgling Naval Aviators for their first carrier landings. They soon learned how to handle a "hot" Corsair on the limited deck space of a baby flat-top with the Landing Signal Officer guiding them in to a controlled landing. For the pilots it was an opportunity to develop skill without the distraction and danger of enemy attacks but for the "T.B." crew it was just work and worry, over and again. As soon as one squadron was qualified and had developed as full-fledged carrier pilots they were transferred and another Squadron took their place.

On January 17, 1945 the U.S.S. Takamis Bay was attached to Carrier Division 12, remaining



in that Division until the end of her training operations. On June 3, 1945 Captain Courtney Shands USN relieved Captain Brady as Commanding Officer.

All carrier qualifications aboard the U.S.S. Takamis Bay were conducted out of San Diego except for three tours of duty in the San Francisco Area. Under orders from Commander Fleet Air, Alameda, squadrons were qualified between June 18 and July 4, July 4 and August 18, August 13 to September 4, 1945. Pilots of VC-20 flying General Motors Hellcats and Avengers, set the ship's record for a single day's operations, making 446 landings on July 24, 1945.

