

Guiseppe (n) "Gus" Bello

VF-781

(Goodlivin' Four-Two)



Burr Williams (masked) and Gus Bello

NAS Los Alamitos, CA

F6F Hellcat

## 1950 - The White Cap Landmark

When practicing FCLPs (Field Carrier Landing Practice) at El Centro, the pilots would look for various objects for landmarks (in the desert), when turning downwind, final, etc.

Well, Gus had a certain piece of sage brush he used for his “final” turn. When the Air Group did their Carrier qualification landings aboard the BHR, off the Southern California coast, outside of San Diego, there were a few nylon barrier crashes with our F9s, including, as I recall, all three nylon barriers by Gus. Tommy [Thompson] gave Gus 2-3 wave-offs, and finally he just had to get Gus down (he was running low on fuel) so Gus finally landed high and fast.

When Gus stepped out of his F9. I asked him, “why so many wave offs,” Gus nonchalantly (he wasn’t the slightest bit shaken up or remorseful about the incident) told me, “Well, John, it was like this: I turned final on this nice whitecap, and when I got the first wave off, I was going to correct accordingly on the white cap, but the lousy thing wasn’t there when I went to turn final the next couple of times.”

(story from John Zimmermann)



Pearle and Gus Bello

1951

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