

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

52850

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VP-45 (b) Based on or at USS SAN JACINTO (c) Report No. 95
 (d) Take off: Date 14 April 1945 Time (LZT) 1337 (I) (Zone); Lat. 27° 07'N Long 120° 19'W
 (e) Mission Emergency Rescues (f) Time of Return 1630(I) (Zone)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

TYPE (a)	SQUADRON (b)	NUMBER			BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE) (f)	FUZE, SETTING (g)
		TAKING OFF (c)	ENGAGING ENEMY A/C (d)	ATTACKING TARGET (e)		
<u>P-51</u>	<u>VP-45</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>X</u>

III. OTHER U. S. OR ALLIED AIRCRAFT EMPLOYED IN THIS OPERATION.

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>None</u>							

IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

(a) TYPE	(b) NO OBSERVED	(c) NO ENGAGING OWN A/C	(d) TIME ENCOUNTERED	(e) LOCATION OF ENCOUNTER	(f) BOMBS, TORPEDOES CARRIED; GUNS OBSERVED	(g) CAMOUFLAGE AND MARKING
<u>Val</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>App. (I) 1425 (ZONE)</u>	<u>Near Radar</u>	<u>1 x 500 lb. bomb which</u>	<u>Dark mottled brown</u>
<u>Zeko</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>App. (I) 1415 (ZONE)</u>	<u>Picket</u>	<u>was dropped shortly</u>	<u>Khaki colored,</u>
<u>Oscar</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>App. (I) 1415 (ZONE)</u>	<u>10 miles NW</u>	<u>1 x 500 bomb on or near</u>	<u>dark red roundels</u>
				<u>Radar picket line</u>	<u>prob. 20 MW gun fire from tail</u>	

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Attack destroyer, Radar Picket Line
 Did Any Part of
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? No If so, Describe Clouds X
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance
 (j) of Sun or Moon Day (k) Visibility Unlimited
(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (MILES)

V. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

(a) TYPE ENEMY A/C	(b) DESTROYED OR DAMAGED BY:				(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER	GUNS USED		
<u>Val</u>	<u>P-51</u>	<u>VP-45</u>	<u>Lt(jg) E.W. Holland</u>	<u>6 x .50 Cal.</u>	<u>See narrative</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>
<u>Oscar</u>	<u>P-51</u>	<u>VP-45</u>	<u>Lt(jg) R.C. Neely</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>
<u>Zeko</u>	<u>P-51</u>	<u>VP-45</u>	<u>Lt(jg) R.J. Paig</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. _____

XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) _____ (b) Time Over Target(s) _____ (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target _____
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target _____ (e) Visibility _____
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type _____ Bomb Sight Used _____
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run _____ Spacing _____ Altitude of Bomb Release _____
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed _____ Probably Destroyed _____ Damaged _____

(h) AIMING POINT	(i) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(j) NO. A/C ATTACKING	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO. HITS ON Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
		(k) SQUADRON			
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

(o) RESULTS: (For all hits claimed on ship targets and for land targets of special interest, draw diagram, top or side view or both, as appropriate showing type and location of hits. For all targets give location and effect of hits, and identify by numbers above. Use additional sheets if necessary).

(p) Were Photographs Taken? _____ Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

XII TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA:

The last two of the eight RAPCAP planes, piloted by Lt(jg) Mollard and Bywater, were late in joining the other six RAPCAP planes, and so the two Hellcats proceeded out to the Radar Patrol line independently, in time to see Boige's destruction of the Zeke already described. About ten minutes after this Zeke was exploded, and while Mollard and Bywater were at 8500 feet altitude, 15 miles northeast of the damaged USS SIGSBEE, they saw a Val come in from the northwest in a bombing run on the destroyer, scoring a near miss. The Val pulled out on the deck to starboard, continuing a tight right hand turn until he was headed north. The heavy anti-aircraft fire was intense, but Mollard pushed over and flew through the bursts to catch the Jap which was about 10 miles distant. The distance was closed rapidly, and Mollard made a stern run on the Val, missing as the Jap jinked violently. Mollard pulled out to port, did a 360° turn, as the Val made a turn to starboard and then a turn to port again. Before Mollard could get the Val bore-sighted, two fighters from another ship made a run on the Val. The first missed and the second shot the starboard wheel off. This did not seem to impair the airworthiness of the Jap plane, for it continued to jink and turn violently, until Mollard ripped the enemy plane in a 30° deflection shot from 500 feet above and on the port quarter. Flames shot out of the right side of the engine on this burst and the Val slid off on the left wing and splashed from about 100 feet.

After the Val was splashed all eight planes soon joined up, and they orbited without further incident over the destroyer patrol line until rancaking at 1630 (I).

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

V7-45

REPORT No. 77

XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.
Use additional sheets if necessary).

All material and equipment functioned satisfactorily.

ARMAMENT

- Guns, Gunsights
- Turrets
- Ammunition
- Bombs, Torpedoes
- Bomb Sights
- Bomb Releases

COMMUNICATIONS

- Radio, Radar
- Homing Devices
- Visual Signals
- Codes, Ciphers

RECOGNITION

- IFF
- Signals
- Battle Lights
- Procedures

PROTECTION

- Armor; Points and Angles
of Fire Needing Further
Protection
- Leak Proofing

EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

- Parachutes
- Life Belts, Life Rafts
- Safety Belts
- Emergency Kits
- Rations, First Aid

NAVIGATIONAL EQUIPMENT

- Compasses
- Driftsights
- Octants
- Automatic Pilots
- Charts
- Field Lighting

INSTRUMENTS

- Flight
- Power Plant

OXYGEN SYSTEM

**CAMOUFLAGE AND
DECEPTION DEVICES**

STRUCTURE

- Airframe
- Control Surfaces
- Control System
- Dive Flaps
- Landing Gear
- Heating System
- Flight Characteristics
At Various Loadings

POWER PLANT

- Engines
- Engine Accessories
- Propellers
- Lubricating System
- Starters
- Exhaust Dampers

HYDRAULIC SYSTEM

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

- Auxiliary Plant
- Lights

FUEL SYSTEM

FLIGHT CLOTHING

MAINTENANCE

BASE FACILITIES

- Plane Servicing Equipment
- Personnel Facilities

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

SIGNATURE

W. H. PLAVIN, Jr. LCDR (USN)
ACT OFFICER

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

L. E. FORNER, Lt. USNR
Commanding Officer

RANK AND DUTY

6-27-45

DATE

ACTING