

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

SECRET

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

VF-45

REPORT No. 100

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

(I)

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Caves and artillery positions, hill, southern Okinawa Jima, 8275 B,C,D. (b) Time Over Target(s) 1030-1100 (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target No clouds (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility Unlimited (MILES)

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

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

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

(h) AIMING POINT	(i) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(j) NO A/C ATTACKING (k) SQUADRON	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
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? No Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

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XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA. (Narrative and comment. Describe action fully and comment freely, following applicable items in check list at left. Use additional sheets if necessary.)

ENGAGEMENT WITH ENEMY

OWN AIRCRAFT

- Disposition
- Altitudes
- Speeds
- Approach Tactics
- Use of Cover, Deception
- Angles of Attack and Their Effectiveness
- Distance of Opening Fire
- Defense Tactics and Their Effectiveness

ENEMY AIRCRAFT

- Method of Locating, Distance
- Disposition
- Altitudes
- Speeds
- Approach Tactics
- Use of Cover, Deception
- Angles of Attack
- Distance of Opening Fire
- Defensive Tactics

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Own Weaknesses
- Enemy Weaknesses
- Offensive Tactics, Own
" " , Enemy
- Defensive Tactics, Own
" " , Enemy
- Flexible Gunnery, Own
- Escort Tactics
- Fighter Direction
- Use of Radar
- Night Fighting
- Recognition, Aircraft

ATTACK

OWN TACTICS

- Method of Locating Target
- Approach to Target
- Altitudes, Speeds
 - Approach
 - Dive
 - Pull-Out
- Dive Angle
- Strafing
- Retirement
- Defensive Tactics
- Use of Jamming

DEFENSE, ENEMY

- Evasive Tactics, Ships
- Concealment
- Searchlights
- Night Fighter Tactics
- Use of Jamming

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Bombing Tactics
- Torpedo Tactics
- Effectiveness of Bombs, Torpedoes
- Selection of Targets
- Fuzing
- Strafing Tactics
- Defensive Tactics
- Use of Radar
- Reconnaissance
- Photography
- Briefing

OPERATIONAL

- Navigation
- Homing
- Rendezvous
- Recognition, Ships
- Communications
- Flight Operations
- Search and Tracking
- Base Operations
- Maintenance

Eight F6F-5's of Fighting Squadron FORTY FIVE were launched from the USS SAN JACINTO at 0850 (I), 16 April 1945, to accompany a like number of TBM's of VF-45 on an air-ground support strike at Okinawa Jima. The VF were under the leadership of Lt. C.R. Knokey, and the combined support group was under the command of Lt. Piegari, Commanding Officer of Torpedo Squadron FORTY FIVE.

The flight duly checked in with Commander Air Support Control Units, Southern Zone, and eventually (at approximately 1030 (I)) a target was assigned, "Ridge with caves, emplacements and artillery positions, 8275 B, C and D." The torpedo bombers and VF proceeded to expend their respective armament on this ridge. The Air Coordinator assisted the planes in locating the objective by dropping white smoke markers. The enemy ground troops attempted to create confusion by setting off numerous decoy smoke markers which resembled the Air Coordinator's smoke bombs. The VF pilots were not misled, and after the first accurate rocket run was made on the objective it set a correct pattern for all of the fighters who made their runs in succession. As usual in such grid area assignments the specific installations could not be discerned, and the 8 VF had to be satisfied with the Air Coordinator's comment, repeated after every rocket run, "that was right in there!".

Following the expenditure of their rockets and approximately a third of their .50 calibre ammunition, the Hellcats rendezvoused with the torpedo planes and returned to Base.

GRID REFERENCE: Air Support Chart Okinawa, compiled and reproduced by 64th Ingr. Top. Bn., USAFPCB, No. 1210 - 1 Dec., 1944.

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

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

All material and equipment functioned satisfactorily.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

SIGNATURE E. W. PLANCH, Jr., Lt. (jg), USN
ACT OFFICER

SIGNATURE E. W. PLANCH, Jr., Lt. (jg), USN
COMMANDING OFFICER

4-22-45
DATE

ACTING