

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

**SECRET**

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting **VT-45** (b) Based on or at **U.S.S. SAN JACINTO** (c) Report No. **45**  
 (d) Take off: Date **7 April 1945** Time (LZT) **1025** (Zone); Lat. **27 - 18 N** Long. **129 - 30 E**  
 (e) Mission **Strike Jap Fleet.** (f) Time of Return **1510** (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)		
<b>TBM-3</b>	<b>VT-45</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>One Mk. 13 Mod. 6 Torpedo</b>	<b>12 Feet.</b>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<b>P6F</b>	<b>VT-45</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>USS SAN JACINTO</b>				
<b>(There were also P6F's, P4U's, SB2C's and TBM's from many other carriers which engaged this Jap force, although no other planes attacked the particular ship assigned to Air Group 45.)</b>							

## 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
<b>None</b>			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Did Any Part of \_\_\_\_\_  
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, Describe Clouds \_\_\_\_\_  
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)  
 Time of Day and Brilliance \_\_\_\_\_  
 (j) of Sun or Moon \_\_\_\_\_ (k) Visibility \_\_\_\_\_  
(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		
<b>None</b>						







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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. **45**

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) **Takanami Class DD, at 31-00N, 128-55E.** (b) Time Over Target(s) **1305** (Zone) **-9**  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target **10/10 at 4000 feet, 6/10 at 2000 feet**  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target **Clear below 2000 feet** (e) Visibility **12 Miles**  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Torpedo** Bomb Sight Used **None**  
(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 **None** Probably Destroyed **None** Damaged **None**

(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 <b>One Takanami Glass Destroyer</b>	<b>382 ft. long 2000 tons</b>	<b>8 VF-45</b>	<b>8 Torpedoes</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Sunk</b>
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).

**This very large destroyer which is believed to be of the Takanami class was hit on the starboard side by two torpedoes in quick succession at 1305. One torpedo hit it beside the bridge and the other about amidships. The bow reared high up from the water, the ship appeared to break in half just aft of amidships, it started to slide under the water and a terrific explosion pushed it up again and then it completely disappeared. By 1310 only survivors and odd pieces of wreckage could be seen on the surface. The attached photographs are all of this one ship. The first one shows it in profile before it was attacked, the second shows it from above with an oil slick on the water probably caused by near misses which VF-45 planes scored with 1000# G.P. bombs and the third picture shows it as the torpedoes hit it.**

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







XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA (Cont'd.)  
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an attack on this ship and the seven accompanying fighter planes went in to drop their 1000# G.P. bombs. The 1000# G.P. bombs were all dropped in close proximity to the destroyer but none hit it. Two of the misses were close beside the starboard beam and it is believed that they sprung the sides of the vessel in some fashion as a large oil slick was spreading out from the starboard side when the torpedo planes went in to attack. The destroyer put up a strong anti-aircraft defense, principally 40 mm and lighter. All runs were made from the starboard side of the target from positions ranging from 30° off the bow to 100° off the bow. There was no distinguishable time interval between the various planes' attacks. The destroyer was only slightly under way when these attacks were launched at a speed of 4 or 5 knots and it turned to the starboard in an apparent attempt to comb the torpedoes. However it did not have sufficient speed to do this and only succeeded in avoiding two torpedoes by her turn. Of the other six torpedoes one did not make any observable run as it tumbled end over end out of the bomb bay. The other five were dropped normally from 1200 to 1800 yards from the destroyer and ran straight and true. Two wakes ran directly up to the destroyer and two high order explosions resulted, one near the bridge and one slightly abaft amidships. The destroyer reared up in the water lifting its bow high in the air. Its stern went under and appeared to break off. There are some reports that two more torpedo wakes were seen to cross the position where the ship had been a moment before. After the explosions of the two torpedoes and the initial rearing up the destroyer slowly slid back down under the water. Before the bow disappeared, however, there was a tremendous explosion from below the water which pushed the vessel bow first back up well above the surface of the water. Then it appeared to disintegrate and in a matter of seconds it had disappeared completely and finally. Only the oil slick, a number of survivors and a miscellaneous mass of wreckage remained on the surface.

A careful analysis of the attack indicates that the two hits were scored by torpedoes dropped by Lieutenant Piegari and Lieutenant (j.g.) Mason. Several of the others were deprived of hits only by a narrow margin.

Lieutenant Piegari dropped his torpedo at a range of 1500 yards at an altitude of 500 feet and a speed of 240 knots and Lieutenant (j.g.) Mason dropped at a range of 1400 yards at an altitude of 300 feet and a speed of 240 knots. Both torpedoes made a normal entry and ran straight and true. The other five torpedoes which made normal entries were dropped from ranges of between 1200 and 1800 yards, at altitudes of from 250 feet to 800 feet and at speeds of from 210 knots to 240 knots. As has been stated, the eighth torpedo fell end over end into the water.

The three photographs attached to this report show the destroyer before it was torpedoed from a profile and a plan view and as it exploded as a result of the two torpedo hits. The first and third photographs were taken with a K-20 camera from the radioman's compartment of one of the torpedo planes. The second photograph was taken by Lieutenant (j.g.) David H. Willis, the Photographer



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**XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA (Cont'd.)**  
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Officer of VF-45. Lieutenant (j.g.) Willis has invariably brought back excellent target and damage assessment photographs and his work has embellished a long series of VF-45 action reports.



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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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

**Malcolm I. RUDDOCK, Lieut., USNR,**

**J. G. PIEGARI, Lieut., USNR,**

**12 April 1945.**

SIGNATURE

**A.C.I. Officer.**

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

**Commanding Officer.**

RANK AND DUTY

DATE





SAN JAC 28K APR 7-45 1305-9 K20 6 3/8' ALT VAR LAT 31°N LONG 128°55'E TAKANAMI CLASS DD-101





SAN JAC 75 APR 7-45 1305(-9) K17 12" ALT.VAR LAT 31°N.LONG 128°55'E TAKANAMI CLASS DD CONF





4-7  
SAN JAC 20K APR 7-45 1305-9 K20 6<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" ALT VAR LAT 31°N LONG 128°55'E TAKANAMI CLASS DD CONF