

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

I. GENERAL

~~SECRET~~

(a) Unit Reporting VP-45 (b) Based on or at USS SAN JACINTO (c) Report No. 48
 (d) Take off: Date 18 March 1945 Time (LZT) 1240 (I) (Zone); Lat. 31° 00'N Long. 133° 24'E
 (e) Mission Strike, Izumi Airfield, Kyushu (f) Time of Return 1615-1625(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)		
F6F-5	VP-45	8	None	4	None	
F6F-5P	VP-45	1	None	None	None	

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
TBM-3	VP-45	8	USS SAN JACINTO	SB2C	VB-5, 6	App. 27	USS HANCOCK, FRANKLIN
TBM-3	VT 5,6, 47	App. 39	USS HANCOCK, FRANKLIN BATAAN	F6F-5	VP-5,6, and 47	App. 40	USS HANCOCK, FRANKLIN BATAAN

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
134 S.E.	Approx.	None	Approx. 1430 (ZONE) (I)	Izumi airfield on field	None observed	None observed
25 T.E.	approx.		(ZONE)			

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

ENCLOSURE (F)

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VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those listed in II only).

(a) TYPE OWN A/C	(b) SQUADRON	(c) CAUSE: TYPE ENEMY A/C, TYPE GUN, OR OPERATIONAL CAUSE	(d) WHERE HIT, ANGLE (List armor, self-sealing tanks, equipment hit)	(e) EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE, (Give Bureau serial number of planes destroyed)
1 None				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				

VII. PERSONNEL CASUALTIES (in aircraft listed in II only; identify with planes listed in VI by Nos. at left).

(a) NO.	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NAME, RANK OR RATING	(d) CAUSE	(e) CONDITION OR STATUS
None				

VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA FOR PLANES RETURNING

(a) TYPE A/C	(b) MILES OUT	(c) MILES RETURN	(d) AV. HOURS IN AIR	(e) AV. FUEL LOADED	(f) AV. FUEL CONSUMED	(g) TOTAL AMMUNITION EXPENDED				(h) NO. OF PLANES RETURNING
						.30	.50	20MM	MM	
F6F-5	170	170	3.6	400	300	Approx. 1100 rounds from 4 planes				9

IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	None observed			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	None observed			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	None observed			

X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (use check list at left).

SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

TURNS
DIVES
CEILINGS
RANGE
PROTECTION
ARMAMENT

No encounter enemy airborne aircraft

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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

(1)

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) **Three luggers approximately 15 miles southwest of Isumi airfield, off W. coast of Kyushu** (b) Time Over Target(s) **App. 1500** (Zone)

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

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

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

Bombs Dropped per Run **X** Spacing **X** Altitude of Bomb Release **X**
(NUMBER) (FEET) (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? **Yes** **of damage done by escorted strike** Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.



6
SAN TAC 62 AV MAR 19-45 1445-0) K17 12" 12000' IZUMI A/F (KYUSHU) CONF

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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

See attached sheet.

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XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA.

Eight F6F-5's of VF-45, and one photographic fighter plane, were launched at 1240 (I), 18 March 1945, as part of a combined bomber, torpedo and fighter plane strike against Izumi Airfield, Kyushu, Japan. The two divisions of Hellcats flew as high cover at 23,000 feet for the strike, and one of two divisions escorted the photo plane while it made the runs taking pictures for damage assessment purposes (See photo attached to page 3). One of the torpedo planes of VT-45, before reaching the target, experienced an oxygen failure, and returned to base escorted by the torpedo plane's wingman and two fighters of VF-45, Lt(jg) Wilcox and Ensign Schultz. Before leaving the confines of Kyushu the 2 VT unloaded their bomb loads on Hittagahara Airfield, while the two VF flew as cover over them during their bombing run.

Arriving at Izumi Airfield the fighters let down to 9000 feet to cover the bombers in their attack. Since the mission of the fighters was to maintain high cover they did not make any strafing runs on the field. The fighters observed that the bombs dropped by the VT and VB covered the hangar and installations area thoroughly, as well as falling in the midst of several clusters of parked planes. Many fires, including at least two large buildings ablaze, were arising from the target as the bombers retired to the westward toward their rendezvous area.

Lt. C.R. Knokey's remaining 2-plane section of F6F-5's which was escorting the photo plane, continued to fly high cover for the retiring strike, but Lt. Cain's division let down to a approximately 4000 feet to provide closer cover for the bombers which were rendezvousing at still lower altitude.

After rendezvous, and when a southerly course was taken to round Kyushu, two luggers were sighted in the waters below, both under way. Lt. Cain and his wingman Lt(jg) Paul picked the starboard lugger and the section consisting of Lt(jg) Thompson and Lt(jg) Pettigrew, chose the one to port. In strafing runs they went down to an altitude of approximately 100 feet and both luggers were severely dealt with. Both were stopped dead in the water, the one to starboard smoking and the one to port ablaze. After climbing back to approximately 2000 feet, Lt. Cain spotted another lugger, under way going south. He and his wingman strafed this Jap craft in the same fashion as they had done to the previous one, leaving it in the same crippled condition. Lt. Cain's division then regained its altitude; and all the Hellcats of the SAN JACINTO returned safely to base without further incident, landing at approximately 1615 (I).

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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 equipment and material functioned satisfactorily.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

S. W. PLAUCHE, Jr., Lt(jg), USNR
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
ACI Officer

L. E. FORKNER, Lt., USNR
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
Commanding Officer

3-22-45 DATE