

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. 28
 (d) Take off: Date 24 March 1945 Time (LZT) 1312 (Zone); Lat. 25 - 33 N Long. 128 - 18 E
 (e) Mission Attack Jap Convoy, East China Sea (f) Time of Return 1830 (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)		
F4U-7	VT-45	8	0	8	One Mk. 13 Mod. 6 Torpedo	8' setting.

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
F4U-7	VT-45	8	U.S.S. SAN JACINTO				

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
None			(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		
None						

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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	
TB-3	230	210	1.18	300	257					8

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over			(See Below)	✓
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm				✓
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm				✓

This A/A fire caused the two destroyers to sink by other planes just as the torpedo attack was commencing.

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

SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

- _____ TURNS
- _____ DIVES
- _____ CEILINGS
- _____ RANGE
- _____ PROTECTION
- _____ ARMAMENT

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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).

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) 1 FFG ^{Lat. 23 - 25 N} _{Long. 124 - 32 E} (b) Time Over Target(s) 1635 (Zone) 9
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 7/10 at 2500 feet.
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Obscured by smoke (e) Visibility 15 miles
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Torpedo Attack - No bombs Bomb Sight Used --
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run None 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 One Fox Tare Charlie	About 4200 tons.	8 VT-45	8 Torpedoes Mk. 13 Mod. 6	2	Sunk
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).

The Fox Tare Charlie was on fire at stern from a previous attack, but was fully afloat and underway at 2 to 3 knots. Smoke from this fire and from the explosion of other ships sunk by previous attacking planes hung over the area and interfered with runs. Eight torpedoes were dropped and seven of them made "hot, straight and normal runs." Three of the eight torpedoes were obvious misses, but five torpedoes started runs which were directly towards the ship. However, only two explosions were observed, one just forward of midships and one just aft of midships, both on the starboard side. The ship sank.

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

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REPORT No. 22

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

Lieutenants Piegari, Riley and Bertoglio, Lieutenants (j.g.) Robinson, Mason and Dycert and Ensigns Shary and Kierall participated in this torpedo attack.

At 0855 a search plane from another carrier sighted a convoy consisting of 3 PT, 2 DD and 3 other escort vessels at lat. 28 - 12 N, Long. 125 - 43 E and reported the convoy to be on a 360° course at 10 knots. Arrangements for an attack were made and this strike was launched at 1312. The Hornet, Bonington and Hollow Wood also launched strikes to attack the convoy, but each group proceeded independently toward the estimated position of the convoy. Shortly after this strike passed the northwestern tip of Okinawa it received a new position on the convoy from a search plane which showed the convoy to be at approximately lat. 28 - 25 N, Long 124 - 32 E. This strike reached the convoy at 1618 and joined Hornet and Bonington planes attacking. Three ships were then still afloat, 2 Destroyers and 1 PT. A considerable amount of heavy and automatic A/A fire was being put up by these ships. As this strike prepared to attack one of the Destroyers was hit by an SBO and exploded and sank. The explosion was unusually heavy and sent a burst of smoke and debris 5000 feet in the air. As this strike began its attack the other destroyer rolled over and sank. This left only the PT as a target. That ship had been attacked previously and was on fire at the stern, but it was fully afloat and underway at 2 or 3 knots. Realizing that probably with their remaining gas it would be impossible to reach base with the extra burden of a torpedo, each plane made a torpedo attack on the PT. The drops were all made from a straight and level attitude from an altitude of 200 to 500 feet and at a speed of 200 knots to 260 knots. One torpedo was dropped at a range of 600 yards and all the others were dropped from ranges of between 1000 and 1400 yards. Three wakes were observed running directly to the PT though only two explosions were observed. These were explosions of medium order and water was thrown up 50 to 75 feet in the air. It is not known whether the third torpedo was a dud or whether it passed just under the bow of the ship. The wake it left reached the PT much farther forward than the other two which reached the ship just forward and just aft of amidships on the starboard side. The smoke given off by the fire on the stern of the PT and the smoke left by the explosion and burning of other ships made it very difficult to ascertain which of the eight planes dropped the two torpedoes which resulted in the two explosions though it appears most likely that the hits were scored by Lieutenants (j.g.) Robinson and Dycert. The drop statistics on these planes is as follows:

Lieutenant (j.g.) Dycert dropped from 300 feet at a speed of 220 knots at a range of 1300 yards. Direct hit resulting in explosion.

Lieutenant (j.g.) Robinson dropped from 450 feet at a speed of 200 knots at a range of 1200 yards. Direct hit resulting in explosion.

Lieutenant (j.g.) Mason dropped from 200 feet at a speed of 230 knots at a range of 1400 yards. No explosion resulted. This was either a very near miss or a dud torpedo as the wake was seen proceeding towards the bow of the ship.

XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA (Cont'd.)

Lieutenant Riley dropped from 500 feet at a speed of 260 knots at a range of 1400 yards. A near miss.

Lieutenant Bertoglio dropped from 250 feet at a speed of 200 knots at a range of 600 yards. A near miss.

Lieutenant Piegari dropped from 300 feet at a speed of 215 knots at a range of 1200 yards. A near miss.

Ensign Sharp dropped from 250 feet at a speed of 200 knots at a range of 1000 yards. A near miss.

Ensign Nickell dropped from 400 feet at a speed of 220 knots and at a range of 1300 yards. A miss about a half ship's length ahead of target.

All eight of these torpedoes made a normal entry and seven of them ran hot, straight and normal. One torpedo ran very erratically and zig-zagged back and forth. It is impossible to determine which torpedo this was. One torpedo wake was seen by several crewmen to go directly toward the forward part of the target without any explosion resulting. It is not known which torpedo this was.

As the planes retired from the scene the FIC was rapidly sinking (see photograph "B" attached hereto) and a few minutes later no ship was afloat in the entire area.

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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

One of the eight torpedoes dropped was observed to follow an erratic course. It appeared to zig-zag along rather than run true. The other seven torpedoes ran normally. It is possible that one torpedo was a dud and failed to explode though this cannot be certainly stated because the amount of smoke hanging over the area prevented the tracking of any torpedo was all the way in. It would appear to be possible that this torpedo just barely cleared the bow of the PT.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Malcolm I. BIRDICK, Lieut., USNR,
SIGNATURE

A.C.I. Officer

RANK AND DUTY

J. G. FINEGAN, Lieut., USNR,
SIGNATURE

Commanding Officer.

RANK AND DUTY

April 1, 1945.

DATE



8

SAN JAC 67 VF MAR. 24-45 164509) KIT 121 ALBUAR. (AT 35° 35' N - 40° 15' W 32' E (LOW F.))



8
SAN JAC 67 VF MAR. 24-45 1645(9) K-17 121' ALT VAR. LAT. 35° 25' N - 40° S 124° 32' E. ELEV. 1



1
SAN JAC 67 VF MAR. 24-45 1645(-9) K-17 12" Alt. VAR. LAT. 28° 25' N - LONG 124° 32' E. (C