

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

52850

I. GENERAL

SECRET

(a) Unit Reporting VP-45 (b) Based on or at USS SAN JACINTO (c) Report No. 69
 (d) Take off: Date 31 March 1945 Time (LZT) 0615 (I) (Zone); Lat. 26° 20'N Long. 129° 27'E
 (e) Mission Sweep, Kikai Shima, Amami Gunto (f) Time of Return 1205 (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)		
PGF-5	VP-45	12	None	12	Eleven planes carried 6 x 5" N.E. rockets each.	Mark 146, non-delay

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
None							

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
1 S.E. probably unserviceable		None	(I) 0930 (ZONE)	Wan Airfield Kikai Shima	None observed	
S.E. possibly serviceable 1	1	None	(I) 0935 (ZONE)	Wan Airfield Kikai Shima	None observed	Dark muddy brown, blending remarkably with earthen revetment.

(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						

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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) Van Airfield, Kikai Shima (b) Time Over Target(s) 0930-0945(I) Zone)
 (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 1500, alto-cumulus, 8/10ths
 (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 15
 (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY, OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type 6 Bomb Sight Used X
 (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

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

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed X Probably Destroyed X Damaged 2 S.B., 1 probably unserviceable
 1 possibly serviceable

(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

Twelve Hellcats of VF-45 were launched from the USS SAN JACINTO at 0815 (I) 31 March 1945, to sweep Kikai Shima, Jami Gunto. The flight proceeded to the target at an altitude of 13,000 feet, and when nearing Kikai Shima started a high speed approach down to 10,000 feet. Wan Airfield, on the southwest coast of the island, was the primary objective, and the twelve planes, on slightly different bearings made their initial runs on the field from southeast to northwest, making their rocket runs from an altitude of 4000 feet and pulling out at 1000 feet. The rockets were fired into known anti-aircraft positions and wooded areas adjacent to the field since no lucrative targets were observed. Only one probably unserviceable single engine plane was seen in this pass, located on the southwest end of the runway. This plane was strafed by the flight leader, Lt. Forner, but it did not burn.

After pulling out from this run, the planes made a right hand turn and reascended at 4000 feet. They circled Kikai Shima to the north and then two divisions made a line abreast run over Shitoko Airfield, which was found to be inactive. These two divisions continued on down the east coast of Kikai, and strafed the town of Karon, where several fires were started. All planes then made another run at minimum altitude over Wan Airfield from east to west. The planes all drew intense automatic weapon fire from positions located on the southeastern cliffs, in the south central portion of the island, and from one medium battery situated about 1500 feet south of Wan Airfield. No additional lucrative targets were observed on this run, with the exception of one sully brown colored single engine plane parked in a revetment on the south side of the field. One pilot, Sqn. Solberg brought his guns to bear on this plane, but strafing brought no fire.

Three planes were hit by the automatic anti-aircraft fire, two being damaged so badly that they were forced to return directly to Base in a straight in approach. Both were able to make successful emergency landings aboard. The other ten planes also returned safely to Base, landing at approximately 1205 (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 material and equipment functioned normally.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
ACT Officer

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SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
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4-9-45
DATE

ACTING