

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VP-45 (b) Based on or at USS SAN JACINTO (c) Report No. ACA-1 #29
 (d) Take off: Date 16 February, 1945 Time (LZT) 0915 (K) (Zone); Lat. 34° 09' Long. 142° 09'
 (e) Mission Radar Picket Line - CAP (f) Time of Return 1230 (K) (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)		
<u>T6P-5</u>	<u>VP-45</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>X</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>T6P-5</u>		<u>4</u>	<u>USS BELLEAU WOOD</u>				

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
<u>Myrt</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1034 (K)</u> (ZONE)	<u>Approx. 34° 55'</u> <u>N, 141° 03'E</u>	<u>None observed</u>	<u>Mottled brown and</u> <u>slate gray, with</u> <u>standard red</u> <u>roundels</u>
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Trailing a group of P4U's back to Task Force from Tokyo Bay area.
 Did Any Part of
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? No If so, Describe Clouds XXX
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance
 (j) of Sun or Moon Day (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON: DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (k) Visibility 10-12 (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		
<u>Myrt</u>	<u>T6P-5</u>	<u>VP-45</u>	<u>Ens. R.C. Woolverton</u>	<u>6 X .50 cal.</u> <u>H.B.</u>	<u>Hits in wing roots</u> <u>and after part of</u> <u>fuselage from starboard</u> <u>quarter to dead astern</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>

Enclosure (c)

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

VF-45

REPORT No. ACA-1 #29

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) XX (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) XX (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target XX (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target XX (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility XX (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type XX (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used XX (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run XX (NUMBER) Spacing XX (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release XX (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed XX Probably Destroyed XX Damaged XX

(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? _____ Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

SECRET

VP-45 REPORT No. 29

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

Three (3) F6F-5's of VP-45 were launched from the USS SAN JACINTO at 0915 (K), 16 February, 1945 to fly RAPCAP (Radar Picket CAP) fifty miles from Base, bearing 310° in the direction of the Tokyo Bay Target area.

At 1025 (K), while orbiting the Radar Picket line Commander's destroyer (Plunger Base) at 2000 feet the three F6F-5's (which had been augmented by four Hellcats from the USS BELLEAU WOOD) received a vector of 310° from Plunger Base.

At approximately 1034 (K), about 20 miles on vector Ensign R.C. Woolverton, number three plane in the SAN JACINTO formation spotted a Myrt, and tallyhoed it at one o'clock down, distant approximately three miles. The Myrt continued on its course, closing the distance between it and the Hellcats. After Woolverton tallyhoed the Jap he pulled out to the left so as to give himself room for a run. Two of the BELLEAU WOOD's planes, ahead of the SAN JACINTO flight made runs on the Myrt but were too close in to get a good shot. Woolverton, who was behind and slightly wider owing to his making a circle to port, was in good position for a flat side run from the starboard quarter to dead astern. Two short bursts from 300 - 500 feet set the Myrt ablaze, and it blew up, completely disintegrating. Woolverton, close astern, flew through the flames and falling parts, but without injury to his plane or himself. The Myrt was on the same course as a returning flight of F4U's, approximately 20 miles behind, and probably trailed the Corsairs toward Base.

After returning to Plunger Base the RAPCAP orbited until 1230 (K).

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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

All equipment performed satisfactorily

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:

S. W. FLAUCHE, Jr., Ens., USNR G. E. SCHECTER, Comdr., USN 2-17-45 DATE

SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

ACT OFFICER Commanding Officer