

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VF-45 (b) Based on or at U.S.S. SAN JACINTO (c) Report No. 52850
 (d) Take off: Date 27 April 1945 Time (LZT) 1025 (I) (Zone); Lat. 20° 18' N Long. 124° 32' E
 (e) Mission Strike, Anani O Shima (f) Time of Return 1405 (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)		
<u>F6F-5</u>	<u>VF-45</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>Each of 11 Planes carried</u>	<u>Mark 146 Non-delay</u>
<u>F6F-5P</u>	<u>VF-45</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>6 x 5" H. K. head rockets.</u>	

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>TBM-3</u>	<u>VT-45</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>U.S.S. SAN JACINTO</u>				
<u>TBM-3</u>	<u>VB-30</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>U.S.S. HILLEAU WOOD</u>				
<u>F6F-5</u>	<u>VT-30</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>U.S.S. HILLEAU 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>None</u>				<u>(ZONE)</u>		
				<u>(ZONE)</u>		
				<u>(ZONE)</u>		

(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
 (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		
<u>None</u>						

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

CV-16-223
ACA-1
Sheet 2 of 5

VT-45

111

REPORT No. _____

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		
VT-45	105	105	3.6	400	230	Av. of 1200 rds. per plane				13	

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

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

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 with enemy airborne aircraft.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

VF-45

REPORT No. 111

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Shipping @ Shima Railway, usual Shima, whale factory
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) 1130-1140 (1) Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target 3500, alto-cumulus, 7/10ths
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 12
(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	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
		(k) SQUADRON			
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).

but were taken before damage was inflicted.

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

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
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VF-45 REPORT No. 111

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 F6F-5's and one F6F-5P of VF-45 were launched by the USS SAN JACINTO at 1025 (I) 27 April 1945, to accompany eight TBM's of VF-45 and a like number of VF and VT from the USS BELLEAU WOOD on a strike against enemy shipping reported to be located at Anami O Shima. The combined strike was under the leadership of the BELLEAU WOOD flight leader, and Lt. Cain was the senior VF-45 pilot.

After arriving in the objective area, the strike leader stated on the radio that he would take his fighters down to look for targets and directed all VT to orbit east of Kakeroma Shima. He ordered Lt. Cain to lead the twelve San Jacinto fighters under the overcast and cooperate with the BELLEAU WOOD planes.

Lt. Cain led the twelve Hellcats from east to west, across the southern coast of Anami O Shima, and finding a hole in the overcast at the eastern end of Itoyukawa Wan, located a number of small craft and one large LST in the southwest arm of Kaniya Is. All of the vessels were drawn up near the rugged beach of Kakeroma Shima. All of the fighters, except the photo plane, went down in steep rocket and strafing glides of approximately 50°, pushing over from approximately 7000 feet and firing their rockets when they had reached an altitude of approximately 1800 feet. The necessity for pulling back up into the clouds at 1500 feet prevented accurate observation of several of the rockets, but two luggers were hit by 4 rockets from Lt(jg) Thompson's plane. Thompson's division then proceeded to the village on Abajiri Kaki and strafed and fired their remaining rockets there, firing several small houses.

Lt. Cain and his wingman, Ensign Nida, went northward to Kuji Wan after this run where they set a lugger afire by strafing and another, from which supplies were being unloaded, they sank. Several Japanese personnel were caught by the machine gun bullets at this last mentioned target. Cain's section leader Lt(jg) Paul, and his wingman Ens. Stapleton, made rocket and strafing runs on three luggers in Ikono Wan. Results here were not observed.

Lt. Knickelbine's four-plane division went to the western shore of Anami O Shima after their first rocket run, and searched for shipping as far north as Hase Is. There a whale factory (Sugar able two stacker) which had been previously attacked by VF-45 aircraft, was again given a treatment with 4 rockets. Extent of damage was unassessed.

The VF then rendezvoused east of Kakeroma Shima orbited until all VT had completed their bombing runs, and returned to Base without further incident.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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NAV-16-223
Form ACA-1
Sheet 5 of 5

77-45

REPORT No. 111

XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.
Use additional sheets if necessary).

All material and equipment functioned satisfactorily.

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:

H. W. PLANNING, Jr., 1st Lt., USNR
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

ACT OFFICER

L. S. FURBER, 1st Lt., USNR
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

Commanding Officer

ACTING

4-28-45

DATE