

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

52850

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VF-45 (b) Based on or at USS SAN JACINTO (c) Report No. 83
 (d) Take off: Date 5 April 1945 Time (LZT) 1915 (I) (Zone); Lat. 27° 05' N Long. 129° 49' E
 (e) Mission Sweep, Minami Saito Jima (f) Time of Return 1800 (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>FGF-5</u>	<u>VF-45</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Each plane carried 6 x 5" H.R. rockets</u>	<u>Mark 146 non-delay</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>None</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 serviceable</u>			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____
 Did Any Part of _____
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? If so, Describe Clouds _____ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance _____
 (j) of Sun or Moon _____ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (k) Visibility _____ (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>						

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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) USSei Daito Jim (b) Time Over Target(s) 1410-1445(1) (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 2000, alto-cumulus, 10/10ths (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 12 (MILES)
 (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type No bombs 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? 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

A five plane fighter sweep from VF-45 was launched at 1515 (I) 5 April 1945 by the USS SAN JACINTO. The target was Minami Site Jima, which had already been visited earlier in the same day by a fighter sweep and a VF-VT strike from Air Group FORTY-FIVE.

Since the Hellcats carried only rockets, there was little expectation of lucrative targets on Minami - the majority of buildings and storage areas had been destroyed previously, and bombs were the only satisfactory armament to employ against the three runways of Minami's single airfield. The five-plane sweep was under the leadership of Lt. L.R. Foraker.

As soon as the planes had made a land fall at Minami, they climbed up through the solid overcast until they gained an altitude of 6000 feet. Then they pushed over in a 35° rocket and strafing run, popping out of the overcast at 2000 feet, headed southwest to northeast, out of the sun. The fighters had to turn to port to get "on" three planes parked on the northwest corner of the airfield, and these planes were heavily strafed, although they were patently unflyable. The run ended in a northwesterly direction, with the Hellcats approximately 100 feet off the ground. Lt. Foraker got rocket hits on a warehouse or barracks building on the northwest corner of the island, starting a large fire. The planes retired on the deck.

Lt(jg) Bywater, who had become separated from the other fighter during the run flew north to Kita, Site Jima, approximately four miles distant, and lobbed two rockets into the town on the northwest coast of the island. The extent of the damage was not assessed.

The planes then ran-escorted and returned to the USS SAN JACINTO at 1800 (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 satisfactorily.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

A. H. LAYNE, Jr., Lt. (jg), USNR
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
ACT OFFICER

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

4-24-45
DATE

ACTING