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

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

52850

I. GENERAL REPORT

(a) Unit Reporting VF-45 (b) Based on or at USS SAN JACINTO (c) Report No. 75

(d) Take off: Date 2 April 1945 Time (LZT) 1045 (I) (Zone); Lat. 26° 10'N Long. 129° 34'E

(e) Mission Support I-Day, Okinawa Jima (f) Time of Return 1415 (I) (Zone)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

TYPE (a)	SQUADRON (b)	NUMBER: TAKING OFF (c)	NUMBER: ENGAGING ENEMY A/C (d)	NUMBER: ATTACKING TARGET (e)	BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE) (f)	FUZE, SETTING (g)
F6F-5	VF-45	8	None	8	Each plane carried one Napalm bomb; seven planes carried 6 x 5" H.V. rockets each.	Rockets - Mark 146, non-delay

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
TBM-3	VT-45	6	USS 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) X

(i) Did Any Part of Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? X (YES OR NO) If so, Describe Clouds X (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(j) Time of Day and Brilliance of Sun or Moon X (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (k) Visibility X (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: TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER	GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
None						

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OPNAV-16-223
Form ACA-1
Sheet 2 of 5

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

[redacted] VF-45 REPORT No. 75

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	
F6F-5	120	120	3.5	250	215	Av. for each plane 1600 rds.				8

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

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

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.

ALLSET — MFD. BY THE EGRY REGISTER CO., PATENTED

OPNAV-16-223
Form ACA-1
Sheet 3 of 5

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

[redacted] VF-45 REPORT No. 75

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Trucks, 7071, trenches and dugouts, 7207, 7260, Okinawa Jima (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) 1200-1240(Z) (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target 1500, alto-cumulus, 6/10ths (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Hazy, owing to smoke (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility 10 (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Level (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used None (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 1 (NUMBER) Spacing X (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 600-800 ft. (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					

or both, as appropriate, showing type and location
essary).

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

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OPNAV-16-223
Form ACA-1
Sheet 4 of 5

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

[redacted] VF-45 REPORT No. 75

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

Eight Hellcats of Fighting Squadron FORTY FIVE were launched by the USS SAN JACINTO at 1045 (I) 2 April 1945, to provide air support to the ground troops on Okinawa Jima. Six TBM's of VT-45 joined with the fighters on this mission.

After arriving on station, the combined flight leader, Lt. C.R. Knobey, was instructed by the Commander Air Support Control Units, Southern Zone, to lead the fourteen planes as a roving patrol south of the army troops and destroy targets of opportunity.

Careful reconnaissance by the support aircraft located eight parked enemy trucks on a road at 7871 X and Y. All fighters went in on strafing, rocket and napalm bomb attacks, and when the planes left the target, five of the eight trucks were nothing but charred skeletons. The three remaining trucks were holed by repeated strafing but did not burn.

After carrying out this mission, Lt. Knobey called CASCU and asked for a specific assignment of target. The Commander Air Support Control Units thereupon directed the support aircraft to hit trenches, dugouts and underground storage areas in areas 7287 X and Y, and 7368 U. The remaining napalm bombs, rockets and most of the available fifty caliber ammunition were expended in attacks on these objectives. One napalm drop was seen to hit squarely in a trench and dugout area on the top of a little knoll in 7368 U.

One TBM aircraft, piloted by Ens. Sharpe of VT-45 crashed during the last mentioned attack. The pilot and aircrewman presumably were killed. The cause of the plane loss is unknown.

The remaining VT and all of the VF then effected rendezvous and returned to Base, landing at approximately 1615 (I).

Grid References: Air support chart Okinawa, compiled and reproduced by 64th Engr. Top. Bn., USAFCTBC, No. 1210 - 1 Dec., 1944.

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

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

[redacted] VP-45 REPORT No. 75

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

It was gratifying to note that all of the eight Napalm bombs ignited satisfactorily on impact. It is believed that the performance of this type of armament on the USS SAN JACINTO aircraft is considerably above average, and reflects credit upon the ordnance department of the ship.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

G. W. [illegible], Jr., [illegible](Jg), USNR
SIGNATURE ACI Officer RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

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SIGNATURE Commanding Officer RANK AND DUTY

4-12-45
DATE

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ACTING