

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

52850

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VF-45 (b) Based on or at U.S.S. SAN JACINTO (c) Report No. 85
 (d) Take off: Date 6 April 1945 Time (LZT) 0925 (I) (Zone); Lat. 26° 52'N Long. 129° 32'E
 (e) Mission Target Combat Air Patrol, Okinawa Line (f) Time of Return 1355 (I) (Zone)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

(a) TYPE	(b) SQUADRON	NUMBER			(f) BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE)	(g) FUZE, SETTING
		(c) TAKING OFF	(d) ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	(e) ATTACKING TARGET		
<u>F4U-5</u>	<u>VF-45</u>	<u>16</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>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>Hyrt</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1245 (I)</u> (ZONE)	<u>Over radar patrol line, in vicinity of Task Force</u> (ZONE)	<u>One large (at least 500 lb.) bomb externally carried under each wing</u>	<u>Brown with standard roundels</u>

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Attacking destroyer in Radar patrol line
 Did Any Part of
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? No If so, Describe Clouds X (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 8 (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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			
<u>Hyrt</u>	<u>F4U-5</u>	<u>VF-45</u>	<u>1st Lt. J. A. ...</u>	<u>4 x .50 cal.</u>	<u>After end of fuselage destroyed and starboard side of engine cooling fins exposed.</u>	

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~~SECRET~~

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

(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

Sixteen F6F-5's of Fighting Squadron FIVE FIVE aboard the USS SAN JACINTO flew Target Combat Air Patrol in the vicinity of Okinawa Jima, 6 April 1945 taking off at 0925 (I) and landing at 1355 (I). The CAP was uneventful, but one four plane division of fighters, on return to the Task Force, scratched one more Japanese attack plane from the enemy's availability list.

The four plane division was led by Lt. J.R. Cain, with Lt(jr) R.J. Paul as second section leader. At approximately 1200 (I) upon the fighters' return to Base, this division was ordered to orbit the Radar Patrol Line of three destroyers approximately 25 miles north of Task Group 58.1. The planes orbited the Fighter Director destroyer at 1500 feet until, at approximately 1240 (I) they received a vector of 100°. They held this vector for two minutes at which time Paul tally-head three Myrt 3 o'clock on, on an opposite course. At this time the three Jap planes were about two miles southeast of the friendly destroyers. Paul made a hard climbing turn to port to get between the Myrt's and the destroyers, but as he closed the range the first two Japs had pushed over in a 45° glide on the W's. As he started to bring his guns to bear on the leading Myrt, Paul saw five inch AA fire from one of the destroyers burst in lethal range of the first Jap, so he slid over astern of the second Myrt. Paul fired one long burst at the Jap, and saw smoke come out of the starboard side of the engine cowling. The Helicat pilot then had to break off his attack as the AA fire was creeping uncomfortably close. The Myrt nosed over, still smoking heavily from the engine cowling, and then pulled out "on the deck". The Myrt was now afire, but it was still headed for the nearest destroyer. The Jap was f tally hurt however and the flame in the engine grew larger until it seemed to envelope the cockpit. Then, when about 100 yards from the destroyer, the Myrt nosed over and pitched into the sea. All pilots who saw this Jap plane crash were positive that the destroyer did not obtain AA hits on the Myrt, and the W which was the Japs target gave Paul a "well done" for his exploit. Following this action the four planes return to their station over the Radar Patrol Line and orbited without further incident until smoke time.

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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:

SIGNATURE E. W. LAUCH, JR., LTJG, USNR
RANK AND DUTY CT Officer

SIGNATURE L. E. F. BROWN, LT, USNR
RANK AND DUTY Commanding Officer

DATE 4-14-45

ACTING