

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

## I. GENERAL

52850

**SECRET**

(a) Unit Reporting VF-45 (b) Based on or at U.S.S. SAN JACINTO (c) Report No. 105  
 (d) Take off: Date 20 April 1945 Time (LZT) 1025 (I) (Zone); Lat 26° 08' N Long 128° 45' E  
 (e) Mission Strike 1B, Anami O Shima (f) Time of Return 1310 (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)		
<b>F6F-5</b>	<b>VF-45</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Each plane carried 6 x 5" H.E. head rockets.</b>	<b>Mark 1/6 Non-delay</b>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<b>TBM-3</b>	<b>VT-45</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>U.S.S. SAN JACINTO</b>				

## 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
<b>None</b>			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			
<b>None</b>						



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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).

(1)

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Suko Zaki and Akagi, Amami Oshima (b) Time Over Target(s) 1145-1155 (Zone)

(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target No ceiling  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target low (e) Visibility 3  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type low Bomb Sight Used X  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run X Spacing \_\_\_\_\_ 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).

(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

Seven F6F-5's of VF-45 were launched by the U.S.S. SAN JACINTO at 1025 (I) 20 April 1945, to accompany eight TBM's of VT-45 in a strike against Amami Oshima. The flight was under the leadership of Lt. Piogari, Commanding Officer of VT-45.

When the combined strike group reached a point approximately fifteen miles off the southeast corner of Amami Oshima, the fighters split, with three VF led by Lt. Knichelbine going west to reconnoitre Oshima Kaikyo and the other four VF accompanying the 3 VF north to Akaogi town where a radio station was selected as a target and subjected to a bombing and rocket attack. The extent of the damage to the radio station was not assessed.

The three VF led by Knichelbine found Oshima Kaikyo to be barren of targets, so they flew around the western side of Amami as far north as Ayo Zaki. The only target found was a radio station at Suko Zaki, which was subjected to an intensive attack by rockets and strafing, leaving the structure holed and smoking.

All planes then effected a rendezvous and returned to base.

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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 equipment and material functioned satisfactorily.**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

SIGNATURE D. W. PLANCH, Jr., Lt., USN RANK AND DUTY ACTI Officer

SIGNATURE J. P. [illegible], Lt., USN RANK AND DUTY Commanding Officer

4-27-45 DATE

**ACTING**