

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 89

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Yamato Class BB, 2 GL's, 3-4 DD's
Lat. 31° 00' N, Long. 128° 45' W (b) Time Over Target(s) 1232-1225 (Z)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target Lower layer 3000, alto-cumulus, 4/10ths, upper layer 6000, strato-cumulus
10/10ths
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Partially obscured by clouds (e) Visibility 10
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type 50 - 60 degree glide Bomb Sight Used Mark 8 sight
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 1 Spacing 7 Altitude of Bomb Release 7,000 ft.
(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? Yes / Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple. shows no damage by VI-45, photo is attached to VI-45 ACA-1 No.

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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

See attached sheets

SECRET

XII TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA.

Seven F6F-5's of VF-45 under the leadership of Lt. C.R. Kuekey were launched at 1025 (I) from the USS SAN JACINTO to join in the massive carrier plane strike against a powerful Japanese Task Force near the southwest coast of Kyushu. Eight TBM's of VT-45 were launched at the same time, and the fifteen SAN JACINTO planes rendezvoused with approximately thirty VF, thirty-six VT and twenty four VB from the other carriers of Task Group 58.1. The combined flight departed from Base at approximately 1100 (I), and enroute to the position of the enemy ships effected a running rendezvous with the planes of the other two Task Groups. At least four hundred aircraft from the Task Force were ultimately streaming northwestward for the kill.

After the planes were on their course of 330°, they gained altitude to about 5000 feet, which they maintained until the target was reached. Almost exactly at the estimated time of arrival over target, 1232 (I), someone said over the radio "there they are, boys". The VF-45 pilots looked down, and through a hole in the clouds saw a hulking Yamato class battleship, and 5 to 7 screening vessels, most of which were destroyers but including two CLs. The escort ships were disposed around the Yamato in a more or less circular screen, the distance from the BB to the escorting vessels being about half of the distance that normally exists between the center of our carrier Task Groups and their destroyer screen.

The Flight Coordinator commenced assigning planes to specific target ships, and while this was going on the SAN JACINTO group circled to the south at 5000 feet, so close to the enemy ships that the enemy shipboard anti-aircraft fire was within range. The Yamato was also opening up with her main batteries, and every time she fired her guns the battleship seemed to reel and flame as though from a heavy bomb hit.

In approximately fifteen minutes the Flight Coordinator assigned to the following targets: "SAN JACINTO planes take the CL that is out by itself." The target ship was easily singled out from the rest, and was a large new TAKANAMI class destroyer.

All of the Hellcats, loaded with half-tonnors, initiated the attack on the DD, pushing over in successive 50° - 60° glide bombing runs from north to south, along the longitudinal axis of the ship to minimize range error. The fighters' average bomb release altitude was 2000 feet, and the average pull out was at 1000. 11 of the bombs were near misses, so close that had the target been a battleship it is believed that at least four of the thousand pounders would have hit the deck. The bombs all dropped just off either bow or abeam of the superstructure. The automatic and heavy anti-aircraft fire from the enemy ship was intense. A 37 MM battery immediately aft of the forward gun turret was particularly troublesome. The fighters then all made a strafing run athwartship the target, fishtailing to get maximum bullet coverage. Three of the Hellcats made a second strafing run, and Lt. Coffin who went down on this run to approximately 200 feet with his leader, Lt. Kuekey, got a bad hole in his port wing from an AA shell. While these strafing runs were being made Lt(jg) Hillis, flying the Hellcat photo plane, circled taking pictures from an altitude of 2000 feet (See "VF-45 CA-1, Report #45").

The destroyer's deck appeared to catch fire from the fifty calibre bullets and its anti-aircraft guns were knocked out. The SAN JACINTO VT then made their torpedo runs on the TAKANAMI, scoring at least one torpedo hit, almost amidships. The DD sank in approximately three minutes. The bow went down, the stern reared out of the water, and the ship slid smoothly under, bow first. She disappeared from view at 1300 (I).

The VF and VT then joined up, circled at 3000 feet until most of the attacking planes had been rendezvoused, then returned to Base with them, landing at 1510 (I).

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V7-45

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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:

SIGNATURE S. N. CLARK, Jr., Lt(jg), USNR
ACT OFFICER RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE J. H. FURBER, Lt., USNR
Commanding Officer RANK AND DUTY

4-17-45
DATE

ACTING