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ACTION REPORT
OF
USS SAN JACINTO

22 MARCH TO 27 APRIL
1945



ACTION IN SUPPORT OF THE
INVASION AND OCCUPATION
OF OKINAWA GUNTO

CVL30/A16-3
Serial: 0270

U.S.S. SAN JACINTO

10/jrs

c/o Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, California,
30 April 1945.

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From: The Commanding Officer.
To: Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet.

Via: (1) Commander Carrier Division FIVE, and
Commander Task Group FIFTY-EIGHT POINT ONE.
(2) Commander Task Force FIFTY-EIGHT.
(3) Commander FIFTH Fleet.
(4) Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Subject: U.S.S. SAN JACINTO Action Report: Air Strikes on the Japanese
EMPIRE, NANSEI SHOTO and Imperial Forces; enemy air attacks against
this ship during the period March 22 through April 27, 1945.

Reference: (a) PacFlt. Conf. Ltr. 1CL-45 dated 1 January 1945.

Enclosures: (A) Part I - Task Organization, Comments by Commanding Officer,
Mission and Narrative.

Part II - Chronological Summary, Track Charts and Photographs.

Part III - Ammunition Expenditures and AA Action Reports.

Part IV - Battle Damage and Casualties.

Part V - Air Operations, Statistical Data, Damage to Enemy,
and Casualties.

1. Enclosure (A) constitutes Phase II of the Action Report of the
U.S.S. SAN JACINTO from March 22 through April 27, 1945, during which period
the vessel operated in support of the Assault and Occupation of OKINAWA GUNTO
and during which period enemy air attacks were sustained by Task Force FIFTY-
EIGHT.

2. Phase I of the U.S.S. SAN JACINTO's Action Report covering the
period March 14 through March 21, 1945 was forwarded as enclosure to C.O.,
U.S.S. SAN JACINTO's Confidential Letter CVL30/A16-3, Serial: 0167, dated
1 April 1945, via Commander Task Group 58.2 and Commander Carrier Division
Two.

3. East Longitude dates and minus nine (-9) ITEM ZONE Time are used
throughout this report.

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MICHAEL H. KERNODLE.

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TASK ORGANIZATION

TASK GROUP 58.1 - FAST CARRIER GROUP ONE.

- (a) Task Unit 58.1.1 - Carriers - Rear Admiral J. J. CLARK
HORNET (FF) - Rear Admiral T. L. SPRAGUE 2 CV
BENNINGTON (F)
BELLEAU WOOD 2 CVL
SAN JACINTO
- (b) Task Unit 58.1.2 - Support Unit - Rear Admiral J. F. SHAFROTH, Jr.
Task Unit 58.1.21 - Battleships - Rear Admiral J. F. SHAFROTH, Jr.
BatDiv 8 (less ALABAMA)
MASSACHUSETTES (F) 2 BB
INDIANA
- Task Unit 58.1.22 - Cruisers - Rear Admiral F.E.M. WHITING
CruDiv 14 (less HOUSTON)
VINCENNES (F)
MIAMI 3 CL
VICKSBURG
- GruDiv 10 (less BOSTON, CANBERRA) - Rear Admiral L. J. WILTSE
BALTIMORE (F)
PITTSBURGH 3 CA
QUINCY 1 CL(AA)
SAN JUAN
- (c) Task Unit 58.1.3 - Group Screen - Captain T. H. HEDERMAN 9 DD
DesRon 61
DesDiv 121 DesDiv 122
DeHAVEN (SF) SAMUEL N. MOORE (F)
MANSFIELD BLUE
LYMAN K. SWENSON BRUSH
COLLETT TAUSSIG
MADDOX
- DesRon 25
DesDiv 49 DesDiv 50
JOHN RODGERS (SF) DASHIELL (F)
HARRISON SCHROEDER 5 DD
McKEE
- DesDiv 106
WEDDERBURN (F)
TWINING 3 DD
STOCKHAM

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COMMANDING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

PART I

The battle history of the U.S.S. SAN JACINTO is unique. She has fought in more battles and steamed more miles in combat during the past year than any other CV, CVL, or CVE in the U. S. Fleet. Without interruption or respite she has fought continuously and contiguously with either the THIRD or FIFTH FLEET in every operation in the Pacific from the attacks on MARCUS and WAKE ISLANDS in May 1944 through the assault and invasion of OKINAWA, April 1945.

Following is a partial list of the more notable Campaigns and Battles fought and a few important targets battered by the U.S.S. SAN JACINTO and her Air Groups.

1944 CAMPAIGNS

CAROLINE ISLANDS

Attack on MARCUS and WAKE ISLANDS - May 19-23. Detached from Task Group and proceeded to position 450 miles South of TOKYO to destroy picket boats - closest approach to JAPAN of any Carrier Group except the Doolittle Raid to that date.

Attacks on PALAU, YAP, and ULITHI - July 25-27.

In Support of Assault and Occupation of PALAU and ULITHI ISLANDS.

Attacks on PALAU - September 6-18.

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MARIANAS ISLANDS

In Support of Assault and Occupation of GUAM, SAIPAN AND TINIAN.

Attacks on SAIPAN - June 11 - July 6.

FIRST Battle of PHILIPPINE SEA - June 19 - 20.

Attacks on GUAM - July 12 - 13.

Attacks on BONIN ISLANDS - August 4 - 5.

Attacks on TINIAN - August 6 - 20.

Attacks on BONIN ISLANDS - August 31 - September 3.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

In Support of Assault and Occupation of LEYTE.

Attacks on OKINAWA, NANSEI SHOTO and FORMOSA - October 9-13.

Attacks on LUZON, MANILA BAY Area - October 14-20.

Attacks on Aircraft Installations on LEYTE - October 20-23.

SECOND Battle of PHILIPPINE SEA - Attack against Northern Force, Japanese Fleet - October 25-27.

Attacks on Aircraft Installations on LEYTE, P.I. - November 8-11.

Attacks on shipping in MANILLA BAY - November 13-19.

In Support of Assault and Occupation of MINDORO.

Attacks on Aircraft Installations on LUZON - December 14-16.

1945 CAMPAIGNS

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

In Support of Assault and Occupation of MINDORO and LUZON

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COMMANDING OFFICER'S COMMENTS CONT.

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PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

Attacks on Aircraft Installations on FORMOSA and LUZON -
January 3-9.

Attacks on SAIGON, CAMRANH BAY, FRENCH-INDO CHINA - January
10-20.

Attacks on FORMOSA, OKINAWA and IE SHIMA - January 21-22.

FIRST ATTACK ON TOKYO, JAPANESE EMPIRE - February 15-17.

BONIN ISLANDS

In SUPPORT of the Assault and Occupation of IWO JIMA.

Attacks on Island of IWO JIMA - February 19-22.

SECOND ATTACK ON TOKYO, JAPANESE EMPIRE - February 25.

Attacks on NANSEI SHOTO ISLANDS - February 27 - March 1.

RYUKYU ISLANDS

In SUPPORT of Assault and Occupation of OKINAWA.

FIRST ATTACK ON KYUSHU AND KOBE, JAPANESE EMPIRE - March 18-21.

Continuous Attacks against RYUKYU and NANSEI SHOTO ISLANDS -
March 20 - April 27.

Following is a statistical summary of noteworthy activities
of the U.S.S. SAN JACINTO and her embarked Air Groups, Feb. 1944 -
April 1945.

Air Operations

A. Planes shot down - 136.

B. Enemy Ships sunk - 11.

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C. Number of Flights - 1072 (9291 sorties).

- (1) Strikes and Sweeps against enemy - 160 (2208 sorties).
- (2) Combat Air Patrol in direct support of Amphibious Operations - 40 (370 sorties).
- (3) Combat Air Patrols over Task Force - 447 (3539 sorties).
- (4) Anti-Submarine Patrols over Task Force - 297 (1202 sorties).
- (5) Search and Reconnaissance Flights - 14 (142 sorties).
- (6) Training and Miscellaneous - 114 (1822 sorties).

SHIP'S OPERATIONS

- A. Enemy planes shot down (unassisted) - 12.
- B. Landings - 9393.
- C. Launchings - 9291.
 - (1) Flyways - 3982.
 - (2) Catapult - 5309.
- D. Miles steamed in combat area - 118,219.

MICHAEL H. KERNODLE,
Captain, U.S. Navy.

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Following the dissolution of Task Group 58.2 the U.S.S. SAN JACINTO with embarked aircraft of Air Group FORTY-FIVE operated tactically as a unit of Task Group 58.1 a part of Task Force 58 during this period. All operations were in support of the Invasion of OKINAWA SHIMA on April 1 and the subsequent Occupation of that and neighboring islands. Strikes and Sweeps were launched against Japanese Fleet Units, airfields on the Japanese Mainland and NANSEI SHOTO, shipping in nearby waters, military installations throughout the area and against airborne aircraft resulting in much damage and destruction to the enemy.

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NARRATIVE

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MARCH 22.

The U.S.S. SAN JACINTO operating tactically as a UNIT of Task Group 58.2, rendezvoused with Task Group 50.8, the Fueling and Replenishment Unit. After fueling and replenishment of ammunition the SAN JACINTO reported to Task Group 58.1 (Rear Admiral CLARK, ComCarDiv FIVE) for duty, in obedience to orders of Task Group 58.2 and ComCruDiv 16 who was in Tactical Command. Air Operations for the day consisted of launching three (3) VF to return to the HANCOCK and recovering two (2) VT and two (2) VF replacement planes. On completion of Replenishment Operations, Task Group 58.1 in company with Task Group 58.3 set a northwesterly course toward the operating area east of OKINAWA.

MARCH 23.

Task Groups 58.1 and 58.3 operated approximately one hundred thirty (130) miles southeast of OKINAWA JIMA. SAN JACINTO provided two (2) Combat Air Patrols, one (1) Sweep and two (2) Strikes. The target for the Sweep, armed with rockets, was shipping in the area near the submarine base of ONTENKO, OKINAWA JIMA. Two Sampans were sunk there and four (4) large luggers and three (3) camouflaged landing barges heavily strafed in TOGUCHI KO. The target for the two (2) Strikes armed with rockets and 100# G.P. bombs, was TOKASHIKA JIMA in KERAMA RETTO. Buildings and military installations were destroyed and seven (7) luggers as well as many whale boats, were heavily strafed.

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No enemy air-borne opposition was encountered and AA fire was negligible. The weather was overcast, ceiling below 1000 feet, smooth sea. At dusk, the Task Force retired in a southeasterly direction.

MARCH 24.

The Carriers of Task Group 58.1 launched Strikes and Sweeps in support of minesweeping and Underwater Demolition Operations at OKINAWA, in addition to participating in the sinking of an enemy Convoy and Escort approximately two hundred and forty miles northwest of the Task Force in the East China Sea. Battleships and cruisers were detached from the Task Group for Bombardment Mission. The SAN JACINTO provided two (2) Combat Air Patrols over the Task Group, two (2) Combat Air Patrols as cover for minesweeping and Underwater Demolition Operations and two (2) Strikes. **The targets for the first Strike, armed with rockets and 100# G.P. bombs, were TOKASHIKA JIMA, YAKAN JIMA and KOKA JIMA, all in the KERAMA RETTO. Buildings were destroyed including a radio station at YAKAN JIMA.**

Extensive saturation strafing was done at each of the above targets. No enemy airborne opposition was encountered and AA fire was negligible. The target of the second Strike armed with rockets, and torpedoes was the Japanese Convoy and Escort. All ships had been sunk when the SAN JACINTO Strike arrived on the scene, except one Destroyer and one cargo ship which were sunk by two torpedo hits and

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and bombs of Air Group 45. The weather was fair, scattered clouds and smooth sea. Late in the afternoon Task Group 58.1 was joined by the Bombardment Group from our own Task Group and Task Group 58.3, which retired southward for fueling.

MARCH 25.

Task Group 58.1 continued to provide Air Cover for minesweeping and Underwater Demolition Operations at OKINAWA. The SAN JACINTO provided four (4) Target Combat Air Patrols, one (1) Special Dusk Combat Air Patrol over the Task Group, three (3) Strikes and one (1) Reconnaissance Sweep. The target for the first Strike was the reveted area near KADENA town, OKINAWA, where fires were started, the target for the second Strike was the small boat basin at NAHA town, OKINAWA. A waterfront AA position was destroyed by bombs, and six to eight luggers on the beach were destroyed and an estimated ten others were severely damaged by bombs and rockets. The targets for the third Strike were KUNISHI town and the western coast of OKINAWA. Fires were started throughout the area. The target for the Sweep was NOBARA and HIRARA airfields at MIYAKO JIMA where a radio station was severely damaged and one or two planes on the ground were strafed. Apparently the Japs were taken by surprise as a truckload of soldiers was strafed on its way out to one of the AA positions. The weather was overcast, sea, a slight swell. On completion of Air Operations,

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Task Group 58.1 retired southwestward, the heavy units having been detached prior to our departure.

MARCH 26.

Task Group 58.1 rendezvoused with the Fueling and Replenishment Unit at $21^{\circ} 55'$ N. Long. $127^{\circ} 55'$ E. The SAN JACINTO provided one (1) Anti-submarine Patrol over the Task Group, in addition to launching two (2) VT for tow service for AA Gunnery Exercises. SAN JACINTO refueled and rearmed in the afternoon and on completion of operations the Task Group set a northeasterly course to return to the operating area off OKINAWA.

MARCH 26-27.

During the nights of March 26 and March 27 while enroute northward, Task Group 58.1 was under continuous observation by enemy planes. Prior to dawn several enemy planes closed the formation. The Task Group Night Combat Air Patrol shot down two unidentified enemy aircraft and the MURRAY, a destroyer in the screen shot down one. One enemy plane was observed diving on the BENNINGTON, but pulled out and retired without causing any damage. The SAN JACINTO provided two (2) Combat Air Patrols and one (1) Strike, target KIKAI JIMA. Ensign B.J. PETTIGREW, A-1, File No. 326442 was hit by AA fire, made a forced landing in the water near AMAMI O SHIMA and was found to be dead when picked up by an OS2U from the PITTSBURGH. The target for

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The Strike was WAN Airfield and AMAMI SHIMA. One enemy plane was destroyed and one damaged and seven or eight buildings adjacent to WAN Airfield were damaged by 500# bombs. AA was heavy, intense and accurate at KIKAI. Two SD's were set afire by rockets at AMAMI O SHIMA. Three of our planes were damaged by AA fire. After Air Operations were completed, Task Groups 58.3 and 58.4 retired south-eastward to fuel and replenish.

MARCH 28.

Task Group 58.1 in position approximately fifty-five (55) miles southeast of OKINAWA launched Strikes and Support Missions against OKINAWA and Islands in the vicinity. The SAN JACINTO provided one (1) Combat Air Patrol over the Task Group, two (2) Target Combat Air Patrols and one (1) Strike over OKINAWA. The Target Combat Air Patrols burned three (3) camouflaged landing barges and sank three (3) small motor boats.

At 1109 word was received from the Task Group Commander that Units of the Jap Fleet had been sighted coming out of the Inland Sea, Japanese Empire, proceeding south along the coast of KYUSHU and that it was intended to stop them before they reached OSUMI KAIYO, to the south of KYUSHU. Course was set to the north and high speed run in was commenced. At 1426, SAN JACINTO launched a Special Strike, VF armed with rockets and VT with torpedoes. The

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Jap Fleet was not found, but SAN JACINTO planes sank one (1) small freighter, probably sunk three (3) more and damaged three (3) others by strafing.

Sunset was at 1833 and the first plane from the Special Shipping Strike did not return until 1851, landings in complete darkness being accomplished by all other planes. SAN JACINTO recovered four (4) VT from the BELLEAU WOOD, there being considerable difficulty in distinguishing between the green glow lights of our ship and the blue lights of the BELLEAU WOOD. At 1946, one of SAN JACINTO VF crashed on deck, carried away all barriers, crashing into the planes spotted forward damaging four so seriously that they had to be jettisoned, seriously injured one man and inflicted minor injuries to several others. One (1) of the SAN JACINTO VF damaged by AA fire, with one wheel and large hole in one wing, landed on the HORNET. Four (4) VF were instructed to land on the BELLEAU WOOD after our deck crash. After recovery of planes had been completed, Task Group 58.1 retired southward to rendezvous with Task Force 58.

MARCH 29.

Task Group 58.1 rendezvoused with Task Force 58 at 29° 20' N., 131° 15' E. The SAN JACINTO provided two (2) Combat Air Patrols and one (1) Search for enemy Picket Boats. The Search results were nega-

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tive and Task Group 58.1 retired southwest to refuel.

MARCH 30.

Task Group 58.1 rendezvoused with Task Group 50.8 at 24° 30' N., 133° E. to refuel, re-arm and replenish stores. The SAN JACINTO had no scheduled Air Operations except the delivery of one (1) VT flyable replacement plane to CVE WYNDHAM BAY and the landing of five (5) VT and three (3) VF replacement planes. On completion of this operation Task Group 58.1 headed northeast to return to the operating area east of OKINAWA.

MARCH 31.

At dawn, Task Group 58.1 was at approximately 26° 10' N., 129° 40' E. SAN JACINTO provided two (2) Combat Air Patrols over the Task Group and two (2) Sweeps over KIKAI JIMA. Only two (2) planes were observed at WAN Airfield, KIKAI, and they were both strafed.

Camouflaged buildings south of the airfield were rocketed and strafed and two (2) radio buildings at AMAMI were rocketed and strafed on the return trip.

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April 1 Task Group 58.1 was approximately sixty (60) miles east of Central OKINAWA. The assault and invasion of OKINAWA commenced with Task Force 58 provided Air Support. The SAN JACINTO furnished two (2) Combat Air Patrols over the Task Group and launched two (2) strikes, armed with rockets, napalm bombs and 500# A.P. bombs. The targets assigned to the Strikes were the towns of CHATAN and MACHINATO on OKINAWA. Gun emplacements, artillery, pill boxes, barracks and a block house were saturated and extensively damaged. The outstanding occurrence of the day was the absence of enemy aircraft. After recovery of all aircraft Task Group 58.4 retired southward for replenishment.

April 2, Support Operations on OKINAWA continued, the SAN JACINTO providing one (1) Combat Air Patrol, three (3) Strikes and one (1) Sweep. At MINAMI DAITO, target for the Sweep, barracks were destroyed and the runway cratered. The assigned area for the Strikes, South Central OKINAWA, was bombed and rocketed, destroying artillery positions, eleven (11) trucks, warehouses and other buildings. Ensign Carleton L. SHARP, Jr., A-1, (#378938), Pilot of a VT with a crew of two crashed in the target area and it is believed there were no survivors. At dusk Task Group 58.1 proceeded southwest to Strike SAKISHIMA GUNTO.

April 3, Task Group 58.1 in position approximately eighty (80) miles east of MIYAKO JIMA. The SAN JACINTO provided one (1) Combat Air Patrol over the Task Group and two (2) Strikes armed with 500# bombs over HIRARA Airfield area, MIYAKO JIMA and YERABU JIMA. Runways were ~~cratered~~ cratered, barracks and dock bombed,

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five (5) fishing vessels sunk, power boats strafed in the HIRARA area, MIYAKO JIMA, and three (3) luggers were probably sunk at YERABU JIMA, in addition to burning several waterfront buildings. One (1) VF was forced to make a water landing. The Pilot was picked up in good condition by a destroyer of the screen, Lieutenant (jg) C. W. DYSERT, A-1, (#325530), was hit by AA fire at MIYAKO JIMA and made a water landing. The rescue plane sent by the VINCENNES was unable to recover pilot or aircrewmen. After completion of Air Operations, Task Group 58.1 retired southeastward.

April 4, Task Group 58.1 rendezvoused with Task Unit 50.8 for replenishment at Lat. 22° 45'N., Long. 128° 40'E. The SAN JACINTO provided one (1) Combat Air Patrol over the Task Groups, launched one (1) VF replacement and recovered three (3) VF and two (2) VT replacement planes. On completion of operations, course was set for returning to OKINAWA area.

April 5, Task Group 58.1 in position approximately ninety (90) miles east of OKINAWA. The SAN JACINTO provided two (2) Search Missions for possible approach of enemy surface units, two (2) Sweeps, and three (3) Strikes. The target for the Sweeps was MINAMI, and for the Strikes were MINAMI, TSUKEN JIMA, and OKINOYERABU. The Sweeps and Strikes were armed with rockets and 500# G.P. bombs. Barracks and other buildings were badly damaged, fuel storage burned, and the airfield at MINAMI was hit by bombs as well as a gun position on TSUKEN JIMA. The second Search Mission shot down one (1) enemy plane.

April 6, Task Group 58.1 operating east of OKINAWA in the same area as the previous day. Information that concentrated enemy attacks might be ex-

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pected, let to the substitution of augmented Combat Air Patrols over OKINAWA and the Task Force in place of the scheduled Strikes and Sweeps. The enemy attack commenced before noon with many planes reported in the vicinity. At 1330, while under attack the SAN JACINTO was the target of a KAMIKAZE dive bomber. The plane, carrying a bomb was first seen dead ahead at about 6000 yards making a high speed approach directly toward the ship, at an altitude of about 1000 feet. Left full rudder was executed immediately. The plane was taken under fire instantly by 20mm guns pointing him out, followed immediately by all forward battery guns which were able to bear on the target. The plane was shot down and crashed approximately 50 feet off the starboard bow, littering the fore-castle, the flight deck to abaft the forward elevator and the island structure with plane wreckage, bomb missiles and pieces of the pilot. Six (6) men were injured, one critically, who subsequently died. Damage to the ship was slight. The attacks continued throughout the day, ship's AA fire destroying three (3) enemy planes. Aircraft of Air Group FORTY FIVE destroyed a total of twenty-two (22) enemy planes on the three (3) patrols over OKINAWA, the destroyer Picket Line and patrols over the Task Group.

7 April:

Task Group 58.1 was at approximately 27° 20' N., 129° 30' E, east of OKINAWA. COMCRUDIV TEN (10) with the BALTIMORE and the PITTSBURGH were detached together with DESDIV 106. Information was received that units of the enemy fleet were on the move south of KYUSHU and a Strike was launched to destroy them. The U.S.S. SAN JACINTO provided two (2) Patrols and also one Sweep in addition to launching one of the Strikes. The

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Patrols shot down three (3) enemy planes. The target for the Sweep was KAKAI JIMA where two (2) single-engined planes were destroyed on the ground by rockets. The Special Strike of seven (7) VT, one (1) VFT and six (6) VF were armed with torpedoes and 1000# bombs. One (1) TAKANAMI class destroyer was sunk by two (2) torpedoes in attack by Air Group FORTY-FIVE planes (see photographs in the report). At dusk Task Group 58.1 retired for replenishment.

April 8, at dawn, Task Group 58.1 rendezvoused with Task Group 50.8, the fueling and replenishment unit, at 24° 30' N., 132° 30' E. The SAN JACINTO provided two (2) Combat Air Patrols. On completion of fueling Task Group 58.1 set course to return to operating area east of OKINAWA.

April 9-10, Task Group 58.1 and 58.2 operated east of OKINAWA at approximately 90 miles. The SAN JACINTO provided two (2) Combat Air Patrols over the Task Group each day. The absence of enemy planes in the vicinity was again experienced.

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APRIL 11.

Rendezvoused with Task Group 50.8 for Replenishment. The SAN JACINTO launched one (1) VT tow plane for gunnery exercises and recovered two (2) VT and two (2) VF replacements. After refueling rearming and replenishing GSK stores, course was set northward to return to operating area east of OKINAWA.

APRIL 12.

All Groups of Task Force 58 were present in the operating area east of OKINAWA. There were numerous enemy planes in the vicinity. Three were shot down by Night Combat Air Patrols. There were indications of enemy planes throughout the morning: one was shot down by the Combat Air Patrol of Task Group 58.3. Intercept Combat Air Patrols were flown over AMAMI and KIKAI one hundred miles to the north of the Task Force to prevent surprise attacks. These Patrols intercepted several groups of enemy planes in the afternoon before they reached OKINAWA or the Task Force. Three planes broke through these patrols and the Destroyer Picket line and were shot down by AA fire from ships in the Task Force. At dusk three more enemy planes were shot down by the Combat Air Patrol in the vicinity of the Task Group. At about 2000 enemy planes again appeared; one plane was shot down by a BENNINGTON night fighter; one unidentified enemy plane was shot down by a destroyer picket of Task Group 58.3. The SAN JACINTO provided two (2) Combat Air Patrols over the Task Group, two (2) Intercept Combat Air Patrols, and one (1) Special Combat Air Patrol over KIKAI JIMA.

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April 13 Task Force 58 in position approximately ninety (90) miles off OKINAWA. There was no enemy air activity in the vicinity during the day. Five replacement VF pilots were received on board. The SAN JACINTO provided two (2) Combat Air Patrols and two (2) Intercept Combat Air Patrols over AMAMI O SHIMA. Task Group 58.3 retired after operations were completed to rendezvous with the fueling group.

April 14 Task Groups 58.1, 58.3 and 58.4 in operating area east of OKINAWA. During the morning no enemy planes were in the vicinity of the Task Groups. At 1325 ten raids appeared on our radar screen to the north and northeast. The main attack was against the destroyer Picket Line, the SIGSBEE and the HUNT being hit by enemy planes. Sixteen (16) enemy planes were shot down by Combat Air Patrols and two by ship's AA fire. The SAN JACINTO launched two (2) Target Combat air Patrols, two (2) Destroyer Picket Line Combat Air Patrols and one (1) Combat Air Patrol over the Task Group, this Patrol shot down three (3) enemy planes.

April 15 Task Group 58.1 remained in the operating area east of OKINAWA. The SAN JACINTO launched two (2) Sweeps over KIKAI JIMA, one sweep over KYUSHU and one (1) Target Combat Air Patrol. The Sweeps were armed with rockets and 500# G.P. bombs. Two large fuel fires were started at KIKAI south of WAN airfield. At KANOYA airfield KYUSHU, eleven (11) twin engine and nine (9) single engine enemy planes were destroyed on the ground, in addition to bomb hits on one saw-toothed building and adjacent hangar.

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NARRATIVE

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APRIL 16.

Task Group 58.1 was in the operating area east of OKINAWA. Enemy planes began appearing on our radar screen at 0400 and continued with only slight interruptions until 2100. One enemy plane closed the formation about noon and was shot down by AA fire. Many different types of enemy planes were observed. The SAN JACINTO provided two (2) Target Combat Air Patrols, one (1) Strike and one (1) Combat Air Patrol over the Destroyer Picket Lines. SAN JACINTO Second Combat Air Patrol over OKINAWA shot down fourteen (14) enemy planes. The Strike on TANABARU town, OKINAWA, hit five or six artillery positions with 500# bombs and rockets. Lt.(jg) Robert L. TAYLOR, A-1 USNR, #337144 made an unobserved water landing and was not recovered. After enemy attacks had ceased, Task Group 58.1 retired southeastward.

APRIL 17.

Task Group 58.1 and 58.3 rendezvoused with Task Group 50.8 at approximately Lat. 26°N., Long. 132°E. ComCruDiv 10 in BALTIMORE with QUINCY, PITTSBURGH and DesDiv 106 reported to CTG 58.1 for duty. SAN JACINTO refueled, rearmed, and replenished supplies in addition to providing one (1) Combat Air Patrol over the Task Groups. 6 VF replacement planes were received and two (2) flyable VF were delivered to a CVE. After completion of replenishment operations, course was set northwestward.

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APRIL 18.

Task Group 58.1 in company with Task Group 58.4 in operating area east of OKINAWA. The SAN JACINTO provided three (3) Target Combat Air Patrols over assigned areas in OKINAWA and launched two (2) Strikes. There was no opposition.

APRIL 19.

Task Group 58.1 in company with Task Groups 58.3 and 58.4 in position approximately thirty-five miles southeast of the southern tip of OKINAWA. Launched heavy Support Strikes for the Army in an all-out attack on enemy positions on OKINAWA. The SAN JACINTO launched one (1) Combat Air Patrols over the Destroyer Picket Line. The target for the Strike was YONABARU TOWN, on the southeast coast of OKINAWA.

Buildings in the barracks area were destroyed and a warehouse hit.

APRIL 20.

Task Group 58.1 in company with 58.3 in position approximately forty-five miles southeast of OKINAWA. The SAN JACINTO provided two (2) Intercept Combat Air Patrols over AMAMI and three (3) Strikes armed with rockets and 500# bombs. The targets for the Strikes were AMAMI and KIKAI JIMA. At AMAMI, the radio station at AKAOGA town was strafed by our Fighters and bombed by the Avengers. The radio tower at SUKO SAKI was left in flames by rocket hits at KIKAI, SHIT-OOKE airfield was rocketed and hit by bombs. Barracks and installations southwest of the field were hit and burned at TORI SHIMI, two (2) fifty-foot water launches on the southwest coast were damaged by the Intercept Combat Air Patrol.

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APRIL 21.

Task Force 58 in position approximately sixty (60) miles east of the northern tip of OKINAWA. The SAN JACINTO provided one (1) Combat Air Patrol over the Destroyer Picket Line; one (1) Target Combat Air Patrol over OKINAWA: one (1) Intercept Combat Air Patrol in the vicinity of AMAMI; one (1) Sweep over MINAMI DAITO, armed with rockets. Barracks and buildings southwest of the airfield were hit by rockets. One runway of the airfield was cratered by 500# G.P. bombs. On completion of air operations, Task Group 58.1 retired southeastward.

APRIL 22.

Task Group 58.1 rendezvoused with the fueling and replenishment Group, 50.8 and fueled and rearmed. The SAN JACINTO provided one (1) Combat Air Patrol over the Task Group, launched two (2) VF flyable duds, and landed two (2) VF replacement planes. On completion of operations, Task Group 58.1 set course for the operating area east of OKINAWA.

APRIL 23.

Task Group 58.1 in company with 58.4 in position about eighty (80) miles east of OKINAWA. The SAN JACINTO provided two (2) Strikes armed with Napalm, 500# bombs and rockets, two (2) Combat Air Patrols over the Destroyers Picket Line and two (2) Target Combat Air Patrols northwest of OKINAWA. The target for the Strikes were caves and underground barracks.

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PART I CONT'D.

An undetermined amount of damage was scored against enemy positions.

APRIL 24.

Task Group 58.1 operating in position east of OKINAWA in company with Task Group 58.3. The weather was undesirable, rain squalls, overcast, ceiling about 1000 feet. No flight operations were carried out by this Task Group. No enemy planes appeared in the vicinity. The Destroyer COLLETT was detached from the Task Group to return to ULITHI.

APRIL 25.

Task Group 58.1 in company with Task Groups 58.3 and 58.4 continued to operate east of OKINAWA. The SAN JACINTO was scheduled to launch five (5) Intercept Patrols and two (2) Strikes, in support of ground operations on OKINAWA. The schedule, however, was disrupted by inclement weather, low ceilings and poor visibility throughout the area. The Strikes were cancelled and only two (2) Intercept Combat Air Patrols were launched. After operations for the day were completed the Task Group retired towards the fueling area.

APRIL 26.

Task Group 58.1 rendezvoused with Task Group 50.8 in the fueling area at Lat. 24° 27' N., Long. 132° 13' E. The SAN JACINTO provided the dawn Combat Air Patrol and also three (3) VT planes as tow planes for gunnery exercises. The ship participated in these exercises during the early afternoon.

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NARRATIVE

PART I CONT'D.

During the late forenoon and early afternoon fuel, aviation gasoline, provisions and other supplies were taken aboard. Two (2) VF's unfit for combat were launched and two (2) replacement VF's were landed aboard. The Task Group then proceeded to rejoin Task Force 58 in the area east of OKINAWA.

APRIL 27.

Task Group 58.1 rendezvoused with Task Group 58.4 east of OKINAWA in Lat. 26°20' N., Long. 129°47' E. The SAN JACINTO was originally scheduled to launch five Combat Air Patrols over the target area and did furnish four. One was cancelled and in the bays and coves along the southern shore of AMAMI O SHIMA and along the shores of KAKEROMA SHIMA. Numerous small boats, principally landing craft, were discovered and were bombed, rocketed, and strafed. Several were believed to have been destroyed. This was the last Combat mission scheduled for Air Group FORTY-FIVE embarked in this vessel.

Retirement towards ULITHI was commenced. During the night the Task Group was joined by the U.S.S. NORTH CAROLINA (BB-55), the U.S.S. HALE (DD-642), and the U.S.S. KICKOX (DD-673).

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CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

PART II

March 22:

Rendezvoused with Task Group 50.8 - Fueling and Replacement Unit - As soon as refueling and rearming was completed units of Task Group 58.2 reported to their new Task Groups in accordance with Instructions for reorganization of Task Group 58.2. The SAN JACINTO received orders to Task Group 58.1 for duty on completion of refueling and rearming. Air Operations for the day for SAN JACINTO consisted of launching three (3) VF to return to the HANCOCK and recovering two (2) VT and two (2) VF replacement Planes.

0617 - SUNRISE.

0800 - Ship's Position: Lat. 22°20'N. Long. 131°37'E.

1200 - Ship's Position: Lat. 22°17'N. Long. 132°32'E.

1233 - Launched 3 VF to return to HANCOCK.

1251 - Landed 1 VT - replacement from WASP.

1604 - Landed 1 VT and 2 VF replacement planes from CVE BOUGAINVILLE.

1820 - SUNSET.

2000 - Ship's Position: Lat. 22°48'N. Long. 132°E.

March 23:

At dawn, Task Group 58.1 and 58.3 were approximately one hundred thirty (130) miles southeast of OKINAWA JIMA. SAN JACINTO provided two (2) Combat Air Patrols, one (1) Sweep, and two (2) Strikes.

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PART II

March 23 Cont'd.

- 0556 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #1 - 8 VF.
- 0630 - Sunrise.
- 0800 - Ship's Position: Lat. $24^{\circ}34.4'$ N. Long. $128^{\circ}50'$ E.
- 0936 - Recovered Patrol #1.
- 1058 - Launched Strike 1C composed of 8 VT - 1 VFT - 8 VF - Target
TOKASHIKA SHIMA.
- 1200 - Ship's Position: Lat. $25^{\circ}28'$ N. Long. $128^{\circ}49.6'$ E.
- 1207 - Launched Sweep 1E - 8 VF, - Target TOKASHIKA SHIMA.
- 1210 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #3 - 8 VF Target TOKASHIKA SHIMA.
- 1348 - Recovered Strike 1C.
- 1513 - Launched Strike 1G - 8 VT - 1 VFT and 8 VF, - Target
TOKASHIKA SHIMA.
- 1527 - Recovered Patrol #3.
- 1626 - Launched Special Combat Air Patrol - 8 VF.
- 1730 - Recovered Strike 1G.
- 1830 - Recovered Special Combat Air Patrol.
- 1833 - Sunset.
- 2000 - Ship's Position: Lat. $25^{\circ}42'$ N. Long. $128^{\circ}29'$ E.

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PART II

March 24

At dawn Task Group 58.1 commenced launching Strikes and Sweeps over OKINAWA in support of Minesweeping and Underwater Demolition Operations in addition to providing Patrols. SAN JACINTO provided two (2) Combat Air Patrols over the Task Group, two (2) Combat Air Patrols over Task Group 58.3, the Minesweeping Group, and two (2) Strikes. The targets of the Second Strike, an enemy convoy approximately two hundred and forty miles northwest of the Task Group in the East China Sea.

0600 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #1 - 8 VF.

0629 - Sunrise.

0734 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #1 over Minesweeping Unit - 8 VF.

0800 - Ship's position, Lat. 24° 58' N, Long. 128° 08.2' E.

0834 - Launched Strike 1C composed of 8 VT and 7 VF, the Target
TOKASHIKI SHIMA.

0857 - Recovered Patrol #1.

1020 - Recovered Minsweeper Patrol #1.

1131 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #3 - 8 VF.

1135 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #2 over Minesweeper Unit - 8 VF.

1141 - Recovered Strike 1C. 8000th landing on U.S.S. SAN JACINTO.

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March 24 Cont'd.

1200 - Ship's Position: Lat. 25°37'N. Long. 128°11' E.

1305 - Launched Strike 1F - 8 VF, 8 VT, - Target Japanese Convoy
in the East China Sea.

1454 - Recovered Patrol #3 and Minesweeper Patrol #2.

1647 - Launched Special Dusk Combat Air Patrol over Task Group.

1821 - Recovered Strike 1F.

1835 - Recovered Special Dusk Patrol.

1840 - Sunset.

2000 - Ship's Position: Lat. 26°05' N. Long. 128°47' E.

After bombardment of OKINAWA was completed, the following ships reported on 24 March to Task Group 58.1 for temporary duty, the battleships New Jersey, Wisconsin and Missouri, the heavy cruisers the Indianapolis, Baltimore and Pittsburgh and the light cruisers San Juan and St. Louis. These ships were detached the following evening when Task Group 58.1 retired for fueling.

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PART II

March 25

Task Group 58.1 continued to furnish Strikes and Air Cover in support of Minesweeping and Underwater Demolition Operations at KERAMA RETTO and OKINAWA. No enemy planes were detected in the vicinity. The SAN JACINTO provided one (1) Special Dusk Combat Air Patrol over the Task Group, four (4) Combat Air Patrols reporting to the Target Coordinator in the ESTES, three (3) Strikes and one (1) Sweep.

0546 - Launched Strike 1A - 6 VT. Target assigned by Target Coordinator.

0555 - Launched Target Combat Air Patrol #2 - 12 VF - Cover for Minesweepers and Underwater Demolition Operations.

0622 - Sunrise.

0746 - Launched Target Combat Air Patrol #3 - 12 VF - Cover for Minesweepers and Underwater Demolition Operations.

0800 - Ship's position, Lat. 26° 18.7' N., Long. 129° 28' E.

0901 - Recovered Strike 1A - Target-revetments and installations North of KADENA.

1020 - Launched Strike 1D - 6 VT. Target, the small boat barn at NAHA.

1025 - Recovered Patrol #2.

1119 - Recovered Patrol #3.

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March 25 Continued.

- 1200 - Ship's Position, Lat. $26^{\circ} 21' N.$, Long. $129^{\circ} 30' E.$
- 1208 - Launched Reconnaissance Sweep - 12 VF. Area: MIYAKO JIMA.
- 1213 - Launched Target Combat Air Patrol #6. Target of opportunity, OKINAWA GUNTO.
- 1409 - Recovered Strike 1D.
- 1517 - Launched Strike 1G - 6 VT. Target: Buildings and wooded area southeast tip of Island.
- 1525 - Recovered Sweep.
- 1619 - Launched Special Dusk Combat Air Patrol 8 VF.
- 1709 - Recovered Patrol #6.
- 1815 - Recovered Strike 1G.
- 1835 - Sunset.
- 1836 - Recovered Special Dusk Combat Air Patrol.
- 2000 - Ship's position, Lat. $26^{\circ} 28' N.$, Long. $129^{\circ} 21' E.$

March 26

During the night Task Group 58.1, less the Battleships and Cruisers, retired southwest to rendezvous with Fueling Unit at $127^{\circ} 55' E$, $21^{\circ} 55' N.$ SAN JACINTO provided two Patrols, Anti-Submarine and Air Combat Patrol over the Task Group. In addition, tow plane service was provided for AA Gunnery Exercises on towed sleeve.

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March 26 continued.

- 0603 - Launched Anti-Submarine Patrol #1 - 4 VT.
- 0609 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #1 - 12 VF.
- 0630 - Sunrise.
- 0741 - Launched Tow Planes - 2 VT.
- 0800 - Ship's Position: Lat. 23°11.6' N. Long. 127°55' E.
- 0928 - Recovered Combat Air Patrol #1.
- 0937 - Recovered Anti-Submarine Patrol #1.
- 1026 - Recovered Tow Planes.
- 1200 - Ship's Position: Lat. 23°25.8' N. Long. 128°30.7' E.
- 1302 - Commenced Fueling.
- 1425 - Completed Fueling.
- 1515 - Commenced re-arming.
- 1755 - Completed re-arming.
- 1810 - Sunset.
- 2000 - Ship's Position: Lat. 24°26' N. Long. 129°22' E.

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PART II

March 27:

Proceeded Northward during the night. The Task Group was under observation of enemy planes continuously and at dawn several enemy aircraft closed the formation - The Night Combat Air Patrol shot down two planes and the Destroyer MURRAY in the screen shot down one plane - One enemy aircraft was observed diving on the BENNINGTON but pulled out dropping no bombs, The SAN JACINTO provided two (2) Combat Air Patrols, and one (1) Strike.

0621 - Launched Special Combat Air Patrol - 16 VF - for defense against enemy air attack approaching from the north.

0625 - Sunrise.

0800 - Ship's position, $26^{\circ} 26.4'$ N., Long. $129^{\circ} 43'$ E.

0831 - Recovered Special Combat Air Patrol.

1200 - Ship's Position, Lat. $26^{\circ} 42'$ N., Long. $129^{\circ} 43'$ N.

1211 - Launch Special Strike 12 VF - 6 VT, - Target KIKAI JIMA, shipping or airfields.

1218 - Launched Combat Air Patrol - 8 VF.

1519 - Recovered 9 VF, KIKAI JIMA Strike.

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March 27 Continued.

1556 - Recovered 6 VT - KIKAI Strike.

1602 - Recovered Combat Air Patrol.

1840 - Sunset.

2000 - Ship's position, Lat. $26^{\circ} 45' N.$, Long. $129^{\circ} 37.5' E.$

March 28

At dawn Task Group 58.1 was at launching position of approximately $26^{\circ} 15' N.$, $129^{\circ} 15' E.$, 55 miles southeast of OKINAWA, to conduct Strikes and Support Missions over OKINAWA and adjacent Islands. SAN JACINTO provided four (4) Combat Air Patrols over the target area and three (3) Strikes.

0550 - Launched Strike 1A - 6 VT - Target assigned by Coordinator.

0602 - Launched Target Combat Air Patrol, #2 - 12 VF.

0625 - Sunrise.

0747 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #3 - 8 VF.

0800 - Ship's position, Lat. $26^{\circ} 12' N.$, Long. $129^{\circ} 25' E.$

0858 - Recovered Strike 1A.

0904 - Recovered Patrol #2.

1020 - Launched Target Combat Air Patrol #5 - 12 VF.

1037 - Recovered Patrol #3.

1109 - Headed North to intercept Jap Fleet reported at sea.

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March 28 continued.

- 1200 - Ship's position, Lat. $27^{\circ} 10'$ N., Long. $129^{\circ} 44.6'$ E.
- 1210 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #3 - 8 VF.
- 1237 - Recovered Patrol #5.
- 1306 - Recovered 1 VF from BELLEAU WOOD.
- 1426 - Launched Special Search and Strike against the Jap Fleet
8 VT and 8 VF. The VT carried torpedoes.
- 1532 - Launched 1 VF - Bellequ Wood.
- 1627 - Recovered Patrol #3.
- 1840 - Sunset.
- 1851 - Recovered 2 VF - Special Strike.
- 1922 - Recovered 3 VT - Special Strike.
- 1932 - Recovered 5 VT - Special Strike.
- 1938 - One (1) VF landed on HORNET.
- 1946 - Recovered 1 VF - Special Strike.
- 1947 - Remaining 4 VF instructed to land on BELLEAU WOOD.
- 2000 - Ship's position, Lat. $28^{\circ} 43.2'$ N., Long. $131^{\circ} 27.2'$ E.

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PART II

March 29

At dawn Task Group 58.1 rendezvoused with Task Force 58
at $29^{\circ} 20' N.$, $131^{\circ} 15' E.$

0544 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #1 - 9 VF.

0609 - Sunrise.

0800 - Ship's position, Lat. $29^{\circ} 16' N.$, Long. $131^{\circ} 26.5' E.$

0946 - Recovered Patrol #1.

1200 - Ship's position, Lat. $28^{\circ} 35' N.$, Long. $131^{\circ} 51' E.$

1232 - Launched Search and Strike for enemy picket boats
6 VF - 9 VT.

1240 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #3 - 12 VF.

1553 - Recovered Strike and Search.

1558 - Recovered Patrol #3.

1830 - Sunset.

2000 - Ship's position, Lat. $27^{\circ} 15' N.$, Long. $133^{\circ} 18' E.$

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PART II

March 30

Task Group 58.1 retired southwest during the night and rendezvoused with Fueling and Replacement Group, Task Group 50.8, at $24^{\circ} 30' N.$, $133^{\circ} E.$ SAN JACINTO refueled, rearmed, received personnel, and five (5) TBM and three (3) F6F, replacement planes.

0605 - Sunrise.

0800 - Ship's position, Lat. $25^{\circ} 14.7' N.$, Long $133^{\circ} 08' E.$

1200 - Ship's position, Lat. $25^{\circ} 50' N.$, Long $133^{\circ} 30' E.$

1341 - Launched 1 VT - no longer fit for combat to WYNDHAM BAY.

1433 - Recovered 5 VT and 3 VF, replacement planes.

1442 - Launched 1 VF to return to BELLEAU WOOD.

1819 - Sunset.

2000 - Ship's position, Lat. $26^{\circ} 43' N.$, Long. $132^{\circ} 56.4' E.$

After Task Group 58.1 had completed replenishments, course was set to the northeast to return to the operating area off OKINAWA.

March 31

Task Group 58.1 proceeded northeast during the night and at dawn the Ship's position was approximately $26^{\circ} 10' N.$, $129^{\circ} 40' E.$ SAN JACINTO provided two (2) Combat Air Patrols and one (1) Sweep and one (1) Strike.

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March 31 continued

- 0615 - Sunrise.
- 0800 - Ship's position, Lat. $26^{\circ} 13.5'$ N, Long. $129^{\circ} 26'$ E.
- 0814 - Launched Sweep - 12 VF - Target KIKAI JIMA.
- 0936 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #2 - 8 VF.
- 1037 - Recovered 1 VF of Sweep - damaged by AA.
- 1114 - Recovered 1 VF of Sweep - damaged by AA.
- 1200 - Ship's position, Lat. $26^{\circ} 16'$ N., Long. $129^{\circ} 08.2'$ E.
- 1202 - Recovered remainder of Sweep against KIKAI.
- 1216 - Recovered Patrol #2.
- 1514 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #4 - 8 VF.
- 1520 - Launched Sweep - 12 VF. Target KIKAI.
- 1812 - Recovered Sweep.
- 1830 - Recovered Combat Air Patrol #4.
- 1840 - Sunset.
- 2000 - Ship's position, Lat. $26^{\circ} 33'$ N., Long. $130^{\circ} 10'$ E.

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PART II

1 April

At dawn Task Group 58.1, about sixty (60) miles east of Central OKINAWA. How-Hour for commencement of invasion of OKINAWA was 0830. The SAN JACINTO was scheduled to provide two (2) Combat Air Patrols over the Task Group, and two (2) Strikes in support of the invasion forces.

0541 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #1 - 12 VF.

0545 - Launched Strike 1A - 6 VT and 8 VF.- Target support of Southern Invasion beaches, OKINAWA.

0615 - Sunrise.

0800 - Ships Position Lat. $26^{\circ} 34.2'N.$, Long. $129^{\circ} 03.8'E.$

0907 - Recovered Strike 1A.

0923 - Recovered Patrol #1.

1105 - Launched Special Target Combat Air Patrol - 16 VF, target OKINAWA area.

1200 - Ship's position Lat $26^{\circ} 21.5'N.$, Long $129^{\circ} 12'E.$

1411 - Launched Strike 1B - 7 VF, 6 VT, Target OKINAWA.

1426 - Recovered Special Patrol.

1731 - Recovered Strike 1B.

1838 - Sunset.

2000 - Ship's position Lat. $26^{\circ} 31.5'N.$, Long. $120^{\circ} 57' E.$

2 April

Task Groups 58.1 and 58.3 operating in area east of OKINAWA continuing the support of the occupation of that island. Task Group 58.4 retired to replenish.

0544 - Launched support Strike 1A - 8 VF, 6 VT.

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PART II

2 April Cont'd:

0614 - Sunrise.

0742 - Launched Sweep #1 - 12 VF, Target **MINAMI SHIMA**.

0800 - Ship's Position, Lat. 26° 17' N. Long. 129° 37.5' E.

0918 - Recovered Support Strike 1A.

1039 - Launched Support Strike 1-D - 8 VF, 6 VT. 4 VT armed with Napalm bombs.

1054 - Recovered Sweep #1.

1200 - Ship's Position, Lat. 26° 06.2' N., Long. 129° 15.3' E.

1405 - Recovered 3 VF of Support Strike 1-D.

1521 - Launched Support Strike 1-G - 6 VF and 6 VT.

1528 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #4 - 12 VF.

1821 - Recovered Support 1-G.

1832 - Recovered Patrol #4.

1838 - Sunset.

2000 - Ship's Position, Lat. 25° 50.2' N., Long. 129° 39.7' E.

3 April:

At dawn, Task Group 58.1 was approximately eighty (80) miles east of MIYAKO JMA, to launch Strikes against its airfields.

0630 - Sunrise.

0800 - Ship's Position, Lat. 24° 39' N. Long. 126° 48' E.

0830 - Launched Strike 1-C, 8 VF and 6 VT.

0916 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #2 - 12 VF.

1153 - Recovered Strike 1-C.

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3 April Cont'd:

1200 - Ships Position, Lat. $24^{\circ} 12.5'$ N. Long. $126^{\circ} 48.2'$ E.

1219 - Recove red Patrol #2.

1356 - Launched Strike 1F - 6 VT and 8 VF.

1503 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #4 - 12 VF.

1822 - Recove red Strike 1F.

1847 - Recove red Patrol #4.

1854 - Sunset.

2000 - Ships Position, Lat. $24^{\circ} 35'$ N. Long. $127^{\circ} 33.8'$ E.

4 April:

Rendezvoused in company with Task Group 58.4 with 50.8 for replenishment, in the fueling area approximately $22^{\circ} 45'$ N., $128^{\circ} 40'$ E.

0545 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #1 - 8 VF.

0615 - Sunrise.

0800 - Ships Position, Lat. $22^{\circ} 55'$ N., Long. $128^{\circ} 45'$ E.

1200 - Ships Position, Lat. $23^{\circ} 20'$ N., Long. $129^{\circ} 04'$ E.

1555 - Commenced fueling.

1729 - Completed fueling.

1840 - Sunset.

2000 - Ships Position, Lat. $24^{\circ} 27'$ N., Long. $129^{\circ} 33.5'$ E.

5 April:

At dawn in launching position $26^{\circ} 30'$ N., $129^{\circ} 30'$ E approximately ninety (90) miles east of OKINAWA.

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5 April Cont'd:

- 0602 - Launched Support 1A - 6 VT and 8 VF.
- 0610 - Sunrise.
- 0615 - Launched Search #1 - 8 V^F.
- 0746 - Launched Sweep NIMAMI DAITO #1 - 8 VF.
- 0800 - Ships Position, Lat. 26° 20.2' N., Long. 129° 33' E.
- 0920 - Recovered Support 1A.
- 1036 - Launched Strike 1D - 6 VF and 8 VT.
- 1053 - Recovered Search #1.
- 1058 - Recovered Sweep NIMAMI #1.
- 1200 - Ships Position, Lat. 26° 41' N., Long. 129° 48' E.
- 1341 - Launched Search #2 - 8 VF.
- 1359 - Recovered Strike 1D.
- 1508 - Launched Strike 1G - 6 VT and 8 VF, OKINOYERABU.
- 1511 - Launched Sweep NIMAMI DAITO #2 - 5 VF.
- 1759 - Recovered Sweep #2.
- 1801 - Recovered Search #2.
- 1807 - Recovered Strike 1G.
- 1840 - Sunset.
- 2000 - Ships Position, Lat. 26° 50' N., Long 129° 50.5' E.

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PART II

6 April

Task Group 58.1 was approximately $26^{\circ} 50'$ N., $129^{\circ} 50.5'$ E. Information that concentrated enemy attacks might be expected was received and scheduled Sweeps and Strikes were replaced by Combat Air Patrols over OKINAWA and the Task Force. Under heavy attack the SAN JACINTO AA fire shot down three (3) enemy planes.

0501 - Launched Target Combat Air Patrol #1 - 16 VF.

0610 - Sunrise.

0745 - Recovered Patrol #1.

0800 - Ship's Position; Lat. $26^{\circ} 47.2'$ N., Long. $129^{\circ} 41.8'$ E.

0920 - Launched Target Combat Air Patrol #4 - 16 VF.

1200 - Ship's Position; Lat. $26^{\circ} 45.5'$ N., Long. $129^{\circ} 43.2'$ E.

1258 - Launched Combat Air Patrol - Scramble 4 VF.

1330 - Enemy plane shot down and crashed off starboard bow.

1344 - Recovered Patrol #4 - 16 VF.

1451 - Launched Target Combat Air Patrol #7 - 16 VF.

1659 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #5 - 4 VF.

1802 - Recovered Target Combat Air Patrol #7.

1818 - Recovered Patrol #5.

1840 - Sunset.

2000 - Ship's Position; Lat. $27^{\circ} 17'$ N., Long. $130^{\circ} 23'$ E.

7 April

At dawn, Task Group 58.1 was approximately $27^{\circ} 20'$ N., $129^{\circ} 30'$ E. It was reported that JAP FLEET might have sortied. Searches to the north conducted.

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7 April Cont'd:

Strike launched to attack JAP FLEET off Western shore of Southern KYUSHU.

0610 - Sunrise.

0728 - Launched Target Combat Air Patrol #2 - 16 VF.

0800 - Ships Position, Lat. $27^{\circ} 16.2'$ N., Long. $129^{\circ} 27.8'$ E.

0837 - Recovered 1 VF of Patrol #2 - oil leaks.

1018 - Launched Strike against Jap Fleet - 7 VT, 1 VFT and 6 VF. VT carried torpedoes.

1200 - Ships Position, Lat. $27^{\circ} 17'$ N., Long. 130° E.

1219 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #3 - 12 VF and 2 VF Scramble.

1506 - Recovered Strike against Jap Fleet.

1557 - Launched KIKAI Sweep - 7 VF Combat Air Patrol.

1611 - Recovered Combat Air Patrol #3.

1816 - Recovered KIKAI Sweep.

1840 - Sunset.

2000 - Ships Position, Lat. $26^{\circ} 46'$ N., Long. $131^{\circ} 07.5'$ E.

8 April:

Rendezvoused with fuel and replenishment group at approximately $24^{\circ} 30'$ N.,

$132^{\circ} 30'$ E.

0525 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #1 - 12 VF.

0605 - Sunrise..

0800 - Ships Position, Lat. $24^{\circ} 38'$ N., Long. $133^{\circ} 14.5'$ E.

0855 - Recovered Patrol #1.

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8 April Cont'd:

- 0915 - Refueled.
- 1200 - Ships Position, Lat. $24^{\circ} 50.2'$ N., Long. $133^{\circ} 42.5'$ E.
- 1426 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #4 - 12 VF.
- 1515 - Rearmed.
- 1836 - Recovered Patrol #4 - 11 VF and 1 VF landed on BELLEAU WOOD.
- 1837 - Sunset.
- 2000 - Ships Position, Lat. $25^{\circ} 11'$ N., Long. $132^{\circ} 34'$ E.

9 April:

Operating east of OKINAWA. The SAN JACINTO provided two (2) Combat Air Patrols.

- 0600 - Sunrise.
- 0800 - Ships Position, Lat. $25^{\circ} 54.5'$ N., Long. $130^{\circ} 02'$ E.
- 0839 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #2 - 8 VF.
- 1150 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #3 - 12 VF.
- 1200 - Ships Position, Lat. $25^{\circ} 45.9'$ N., Long. $129^{\circ} 39'$ E.
- 1203 - Recovered Patrol #2.
- 1210 - Recovered 1 VF which had previously landed on the BELLEAU WOOD.
- 1516 - Recovered Patrol #3.
- 1840 - Sunset.
- 2000 - Ships Position, Lat. $25^{\circ} 15'$ N., Long. $129^{\circ} 50'$ E.

10 April:

Operating east of OKINAWA. The SAN JACINTO provided two (2) Combat Air Patrols.

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10 April Cont'd:

- 0538 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #1 - 8 VF.
- 0600 - Sunrise.
- 0800 - Ships Position, Lat. $26^{\circ} 33.8'$ N., Long. $129^{\circ} 35'$ E.
- 0853 - Recovered Patrol #1.
- 1156 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #2 - 8 VF.
- 1200 - Ship's Position, Lat. $26^{\circ} 09.8'$ N., Long. $129^{\circ} 29'$ E.
- 1552 - Recovered Patrol #2.
- 2000 - Ships Position, Lat. $25^{\circ} 25'$ N., Long. $130^{\circ} 31'$ E.

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11 April

Rendezvoused with TG 50.8 - refueled, rearmed, and replenished supplies for fifteen days period.

0604 - Sunrise.

0711 - Refueled.

0800 - Ship's Position, Lat. $23^{\circ} 35'$ N., Long. $132^{\circ} 09'$ E.

0910 - Rearmed.

1013 - Launched tow plane.- 1 VT.

1151 - Recovered tow plane.

1200 - Ship's position, Lat. $23^{\circ} 54'$ N., Long $131^{\circ} 37.5'$ E.

1220 - Replenished GSK stores.

1541 - Recovered 2 VF and 2 VT tow planes and one replacement VT equipped as tow plane.

1842 - Sunset.

2000 - Ship's Position, Lat. $24^{\circ} 50.2'$ N., Long. $130^{\circ} 42.8'$ E.

12 April

Returned to operating area East of OKINAWA. Task Groups 58.2, 58.3, and 58.4 were present. Enemy planes were in the vicinity of the Task Group during the night and three (3) planes were shot down by night fighters. The SAN JACINTO was scheduled to provide four patrols consisting of two (2) Combat Air Patrols and two (2) Interceptor Combat Air Patrols.

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12 April Continued

- 0530 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #1 - 12 VF.
- 0600 - Sunrise.
- 0800 - Ship's Position, Lat. $26^{\circ} 30.5'$ N., Long. $129^{\circ} 45.2'$ E.
- 0826 - Launched Intercept Combat Air Patrol #3 - 11 VF.
- 0910 - Recovered Patrol #1.
- 1157 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #3 - 12 VT.
- 1200 - Ship's Position, Lat. $26^{\circ} 28.5'$ N., Long. $129^{\circ} 29'$ E.
- 1206 - Recovered Intercept Patrol #3.
- 1346 - Launched Intercept Combat Air Patrol #6 - 12 VF.
- 1545 - Recovered Patrol #3.
- 1637 - Launched Special Combat Air Patrol over KIKAI JIMA - 8 VF.
- 1830 - Recovered Special Patrol.
- 2000 - Ship's Position, Lat. $26^{\circ} 15.8'$ N., Long. $129^{\circ} 54'$ E.

13 April

At dawn, Task Force 58 was approximately ninety (90) miles east of OKINAWA. The SAN JACINTO provided two (2) Combat Air Patrols over the OKINAWA Area and two (2) Intercept Combat Air Patrols over AMAMI O SHIMA.

- 0528 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #1 - 12 VF.
- 0600 - Sunrise.
- 0800 - Ship's Position, Lat. $26^{\circ} 43.9'$ N., Long. $129^{\circ} 43.8'$ E.
- 0830 - Launched Intercept Combat Air Patrol #3 - 12 VF.

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13 April Continued

- 0856 - Recovered Patrol #1.
- 1157 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #3 - 12 VF.
- 1200 - Ship's Position, Lat. 26° 42.5' N., Long. 129° 43.5' E.
- 1208 - Recovered Intercept Patrol #3.
- 1346 - Launched Intercept Combat Air Patrol #6 - 10 VF.
- 1554 - Recovered Patrol #3.
- 1813 - Recovered Intercept Patrol #6.
- 1842 - Sunset.
- 2000 - Ship's Position, Lat. 26° 55.8' N., Long. 129° 54.5' E.

14 April

Task Group 58.2 and 58.4 remained in company with 58.1 east of OKINAWA. The SAN JACINTO provided two (2) Target Combat Air Patrols over the OKINAWA Area, one (1) Destroyer Picket Combat Air Patrol, and when attacked, augmented the Destroyer Picket Combat Air Patrol with 6 VF. The attack on the Task Force commenced about 1345. SAN JACINTO Combat Air Patrol shot down three (3) enemy planes. Ships of the screen shot down two (2) enemy planes.

- 0600 - Sunrise
- 0645 - Launched Target Combat Air Patrol #2 - 12 VF.
- 0705 - Emergency landing by 1 VT from the HORNET.
- 0800 - Ship's Position, Lat. 26° 29.8' N., Long. 129° 51.1' E.
- 0828 - Launched HORNET plane.

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14 April (continued)

- 0829 - Launched Combat Air Patrol over the Destroyer Picket Line #2 - 12 VF.
- 1025 - Recovered Target Patrol #2.
- 1158 - Launched Target Combat Air Patrol #5 - 12 VF.
- 1200 - Ship's position, Lat. 26° 19' N., Long., 129° 22.3' E.
- 1224 - Recovered the Destroyer Picket Line Patrol #2.
- 1335 - Launched Special Combat Air Patrol over the Destroyer Picket Line Patrol - #3 - 8 VF.
- 1525 - Recovered Target Combat Air Patrol #5.
- 1617 - Launched Special Combat Air Patrol #5.
- 1629 - Recovered special Destroyer Picket Line Patrol #3.
- 1831 - Recovered special Combat Air Patrol #5.
- 1842 - Sunset.
- 2000 - Ship's position, Lat. 27° 06' N., Long. 130° 14.5' E.

15 April

Task Group 58.1 operated east of OKINAWA. The SAN JACINTO provided one (1) Target Combat Air Patrol, Two (2) sweeps over KIKAI JIMA and one (1) sweep over KYUSHU.

- 0528 - Launched Sweep #1 over KIKAI - 8 VF.
- 0600 - Sunrise.

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15 April (continued)

- 0645 - Launched Target Combat Air Patrol #2 - 12 VF.
- 0800 - Ship's position, Lat. $26^{\circ} 41.4'$ N., Long. $129^{\circ} 47.8'$ E.
- 0829 - Recovered Sweep.
- 1022 - Recovered Target Patrol #2 - 10 VF.
- 1200 - Ship's Position, Lat. $26^{\circ} 52.2'$ N., Long. $130^{\circ} 01.3'$ E.
- 1200 - Launched Target Combat Air Patrol #5 - 8 VF.
- 1323 - Launched Sweep #1 - 4 VF, Target KYUSHU.
- 1330 - Recovered Target Patrol #2.
- 1529 - Launched Sweep #2 - 8 VF, Target KIKAI.
- 1538 - Recovered Target Patrol #5.

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15 April Cont'd:

- 1705 - Recove red KYUSHU Sweep.
- 1828 - Recove red KIKAI Sweep.
- 1839 - Sunset.
- 2000 - Ships Position, Lat. 27° 47' N., Long. 130° 47' E.

16 April:

Task Group 58.1 was in operating area east of OKINAWA. Enemy planes were in the vicinity of the Task Group from before dawn until after dark. The SAN JACINTO provided two (2) Target Combat Air Patrols, one (1) Combat Air Patrol over the Task Group and one (1) Strike. The second Target Patrol shot down fourteen (14) enemy planes.

- 0600 - Sunrise.
- 0753 - Launched Target Combat Air Patrol #3 - 12 VF.
- 0800 - Ship's Position, Lat. 27° 21.2' N., Long. 130° 10.8' E.
- 0845 - Launched Strike Dog - 8 VT, 8 VF.
- 1200 - Ships Position, Lat. 27° 40.5' N., Long. 130° 35' E.
- 1217 - Recovered Target Air Combat Patrol #3.
- 1316 - Launched Target Combat Air Patrol #6 - 12 VF.
- 1353 - Recove red Strike Dog.
- 1538 - Launched Combat Air Patrol over the Destroyer Picket Line - 8 VF.
- 1706 - Recove red Target Air Combat Patrol #6.
- 1837 - Recove red the Destroyer Picket Patrol.
- 1843 - Sunset.
- 2000 - Ships Position, Lat. 27° 29' N., Long. 130° 58' E.

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PART II

17 April

Rendezvoused with Replenishment Group, Task Group 50.8, at approximately 26° N., 132° E., together with Task Group 58.2. The SAN JACINTO refueled, rearmed, and replenished food supplies in addition to providing one (1) Combat Air Patrol over the Task Group and recovering 6 VF Replacement Planes and disposing of two (2) VF no longer fit for combat.

0514 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #1 - 12 VF.

0545 - Sunrise.

0800 - Ship's position, Lat. 24° 45.7' N., Long. 132° 09.8' E.

0909 - Recovered Combat Air Patrol #1.

0918 - Recovered 1 VF from BENNINGTON - emergency landing.

1200 - Ship's position, Lat. 25° 22' N., Long. 132° 08.5' E.

1358 - Launched 2 VF no longer fit for combat to CVE ADMIRALTY ISLANDS.

1400 - Recovered 6 VF Replacement Planes.

2000 - Ship's position, Lat. 25° 06' N., Long. 131° 50' E.

After completion of fueling, set westward course to return to operating area east of OKINAWA.

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PART II

18 April

Operating east of OKINAWA as a tactical unit of Task Group 58.1 and in company with Task Group 58.4. The SAN JACINTO provided three (3) Combat Air Patrols over assigned areas in OKINAWA and launched two (2) Strikes against the same island.

0500 - Launched Target Combat Air Patrol #1 - 12 VF.

0545 - Sunrise.

0648 - Launched Strike Baker - 7 VF, and 8 VT - Target OKINAWA SHIMA.

0800 - Ship's Position, Lat. 26° 00.2' N. Long. 129° 35.5' E.

0825 - Recovered Patrol #1.

1013 - Launched Target Combat Air Patrol #4 - 12 VF.

1200 - Ship's Position, Lat. 25° 58' N. Long. 130° 11.2' E.

1306 - Launched Strike George - 8 VF, 8 VT - Target OKINAWA SHIMA.

1348 - Recovered Patrol #4,

1540 - Launched Target Combat Air Patrol #7 - 12 VF.

1642 - Recovered 1 VF of Strike George.

1708 - Recovered 7 VF and 8 VT of Strike George.

1835 - Recovered Patrol #7.

1843 - Sunset.

2000 - Ship's Position, Lat. 25° 53.5' N. Long. 130° 11' E.

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PART I

19 April

Task Group 58.1 in company with Task Group 58.3 and 58.4 were operating approximately thirty-five miles (35) southeast of the southern tip of OKINAWA providing Strikes and support for an all-out attack by the army units against enemy defenses in the southern part of the island. SAN JACINTO provided one (1) Special Strike against YONABARU TOWN, OKINAWA SHIMA and two (2) Combat Air Patrols over the destroyer Picket Line.

0558 - Sunrise.

0608 - Launched Special Strike #1 - 8 VT and 16 VF. 8 VF carried Napalm bombs. Target - YONABARU TOWN, OKINAWA SHIMA.

0800 - Ship's Position, Lat. 25° 49.5'. Long. 128° 32' N.

0804 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #2 over the Destroyer Pickets - 4 VF.

0846 - Recovered Special Strike #1.

1157 - Recovered Patrol #2.

1200 - Ship's Position, Lat. 26° 02.5'. Long. 128° 24'.

1500 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #4 over the Destroyer Pickets Line - 8 VF.

1759 - Recovered Patrol #4.

1845 - Sunset.

2000 - Ship's Position, Lat. 25° 30'. Long. 128° 22'.

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PHASE II

PART I

20 April

Task Group 58.1 and 58.3 were operating approximately forty-five miles southeast of OKINAWA SHIMA. At dawn, it was reported that our forces were under enemy air attack at OKINAWA. SAN JACINTO launched three (3) Strikes, two (2) against AMAMI O SHIMA and one (1) against OKINAWA SHIMA.

0529 - Launched Strike Able - 8 VT and 8 VF - Target AMAMI O SHIMA.

0556 - Sunrise.

0644 - Launched Intercept Combat Air Patrol #2 - 8 VF.

0800 - Ship's Position, Lat. 25° 47.8'. Long. 128° 22'.

0832 - Launched Intercept Combat Air Patrol #3 - 8 VF.

0839 - Recovered Strike Able.

1017 - Launched Strike Baker - 8 VT - 7 VF - Target AMAMI O SHIMA.

1029 - Recovered Patrol #2.

1156 - Launched Intercept Combat Air Patrol #5 - 8 VF.

1200 - Ship's Position, Lat. 25° 50.8'. Long. 128° 42.5'.

1203 - Recovered Patrols #3.

1306 - Recovered Strike Baker.

1430 - Launched Strike Charlie. 8 VT and 7 VF - Target KIKAI SHIMA.

1738 - Recovered Strike Charlie.

1846 - Sunset.

2000 - Ship's Position, Lat. 26° 18'. Long. 129° 00'.

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PART I

21 April

Task Force was operating at approximately 26° 50' N, 129° 30' E., sixty (60) miles east of the northern tip of OKINAWA. The SAN JACINTO provided one (1) combat Air Patrol over the Destroyer Picket Line, one (1) Combat Air Patrol over OKINAWA, One (1) Intercept Combat Air Patrol in vicinity of AMAMI O SHIMA and one (1) Sweep over MINAMI DAITO.

0510 - Launched Destroyer Picket Line Combat Air Patrol #1 - 4 VF.

0553 - Sunrise.

0800 - Ship's Position, Lat. 26° 45.2'. Long. 129° 29'.

0830 - Launched Target Combat Air Patrol #3 - 8 VF. Target OKINAWA AREA.

0834 - Launched Intercept Combat Air Patrol #3 - 8 VF.

1200 - Ship's Position, Lat. 26° 30.3'. Long. 129° 30.5'.

1221 - Recovered Target Patrol #3.

1228 - Recovered Intercept Patrol #3.

1355 - Launched Sweep over MINAMI DAITO - 10VF and 1 VFT.

1613 - Recovered MINAMI Sweep.

1847 - Sunset.

2000 - Ship's Position, Lat. 25° 30'. Long. 131° 13'.

22 April:

Rendezvoused with Task Group 50.8 for rearming and refueling. The SAN JACINTO provided one (1) Combat Air Patrol, launched two (2) VF no longer fit for combat to the CVE BOUGAINVILLE, and landed two (2) VF replacement planes.

0543 - Sunrise.

0600 - Refueled.

0745 - Rearmed.

0800 - Ship's Position, Lat. 24° N. Long. 132° 38.5' E.

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- 1105 - Launched Combat Air Patrol - 12 VF.
- 1200 - Ship's Position, Lat. 24° 27' N. Long. 132° 56' E.
- 1440 - Launched 2 VF no longer fit for combat.
- 1540 - Recovered Patrol
- 1545 - Recovered Replacement Planes - 2 VF.
- 1835 - Sunset.
- 2000 - Ship's Position, Lat. 25° 08' N. Long. 132° 29' E.

23 April:

Operating about 80 miles east of OKINAWA, the SAN JACINTO launched two (2) Strikes, two (2) combat Air Patrols over the Destroyer Picket Line and two (2) Combat Air Patrols assigned areas northwest of OKINAWA. The targets for the Strike were caves and underground Barracks.

- 0552 - Sunrise.
- 0800 - Ship's Position, Lat. 26° 8' N. Long. 129° 25' E.
- 0832 - Launched Combat Air Patrol over the Destroyer Picket Line.
- 0840 - Launched Special Strike #1 - 4 VF and 6 VT - target OKINAWA.
- 0850 - Launched Target Combat Air Patrol #3 - 12 VF - target

OKINAWA AREA.

- 1200 - Ship's Position, Lat. 26° 28' N. Long. 129° 49' E.
- 1205 - Recovered Strike #1.
- 1211 - Recovered Patrol #3.
- 1312 - Recovered Patrol #2.

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- 1348 - Launched Target Combat Air Patrol #6 - 12 VF - Target OKINAWA AREA.
- 1429 - Launched Strike Fox - TARGET - OKINAWA - 7 VT - 3 VF.
- 1530 - Launched Destroyer Picket Line Patrol #4 - 8 VF.
- 1726 - Recovered Patrol #6.
- 1737 - Recovered Strike Fox.
- 1834 - Recovered Patrol #4.
- 1846 - Sunset.
- 2000 - Ship's Position, Lat. 25° 45' N. Long. 130° 17' E.

24 April 1945:

Operating east of OKINAWA with Task Group 58.3 - Weather inclement, ceiling 1000 feet, light rain during entire day and no flights were launched.

- 0550 - Sunrise.
- 0800 - Ship's position, Lat. 26° 40' N. Long. 129° 33' SE.
- 1200 - Ship's position, Lat. 26° 54' N. Long. 129° 33' SE.
- 1847 - Sunset.
- 2000 - Ship's Position, Lat. 26° 23' N. Long. 129° 54' E.

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CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

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PART II

25 April

Operating east of OKINAWA. The SAN JACINTO furnished two (2) Intercept Combat Air Patrols.

0549 - Sunrise.

0800 - Ship's position Lat. $26^{\circ} 26'N.$, Long. $129^{\circ} 14'E.$

1013 - Launched Intercept Combat Air Patrol #4 - Eight (8) VF.

1200 - Ship's position Lat. $26^{\circ} 25'N.$, Long., $129^{\circ} 04'E.$

1200 - Launched Intercept Combat Air Patrol #5 - Eight (8) VF.

1406 - Recovered Patrol #4.

1549 - Recovered Patrol #5.

1847 - Sunset.

2000 - Ship's position Lat. $26^{\circ} 12'N.$, Long $130^{\circ} 05'E.$

26 April

Rendezvoused Lat. $24^{\circ} 27'N.$, Long $132^{\circ} 13'E.$ with Task Group 50.8 for refueling and replenishment of supplies. The SAN JACINTO furnished the first Combat Air Patrol.

0510 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #1.

0540 - Sunrise.

0758 - Launched two (2) VT as Tow planes for gunnery exercises.

0800 - Ship's position Lat. $24^{\circ} 19'N.$, Long. $132^{\circ} 08'E.$

0832 - Recovered Combat Air Patrol #1.

0952 - Commenced taking on fuel oil and aviation gasoline.

1038 - Completed taking on aviation gasoline.

1109 - Completed fueling.

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26 April Cont'd

- 1126 - Launched two (2) VF no longer fit for combat
- 1145 - Recovered two (2) Tow planes.
- 1146 - Recovered two (2) VF replacement planes.
- 1200 - Ship's Position, Lat. 24° 01' N. Long. 131° 32' E.
- 1211 - Commenced replenishing.
- 1300 - Completed replenishing.
- 1326 - Commenced gunnery exercises.
- 1422 - Completed gunnery exercises.
- 1602 - Launched third Tow plane.
- 1750 - Recovered third Tow plane.
- 1837 - Sunset.
- 2000 - Ship's Position, Lat. 25° 45' N. Long. 130° 36' E.

27 April:

- Rendezvoused with Task Group 58.4 east of OKINAWA, Lat. 26° 20' N., Long. 129° 47' E., Commander Carrier Division THREE in tactical command.
- 0457 - Launched Target Combat Air Patrol #1 - Target OKINAWA AREA.
 - 0550 - Sunrise.
 - 0800 - Ship's Position, Lat. 26° 13' N. Long. 129° 40' E.
 - 0827 - Launched Target Combat Air Patrol #3 - Target OKINAWA AREA.

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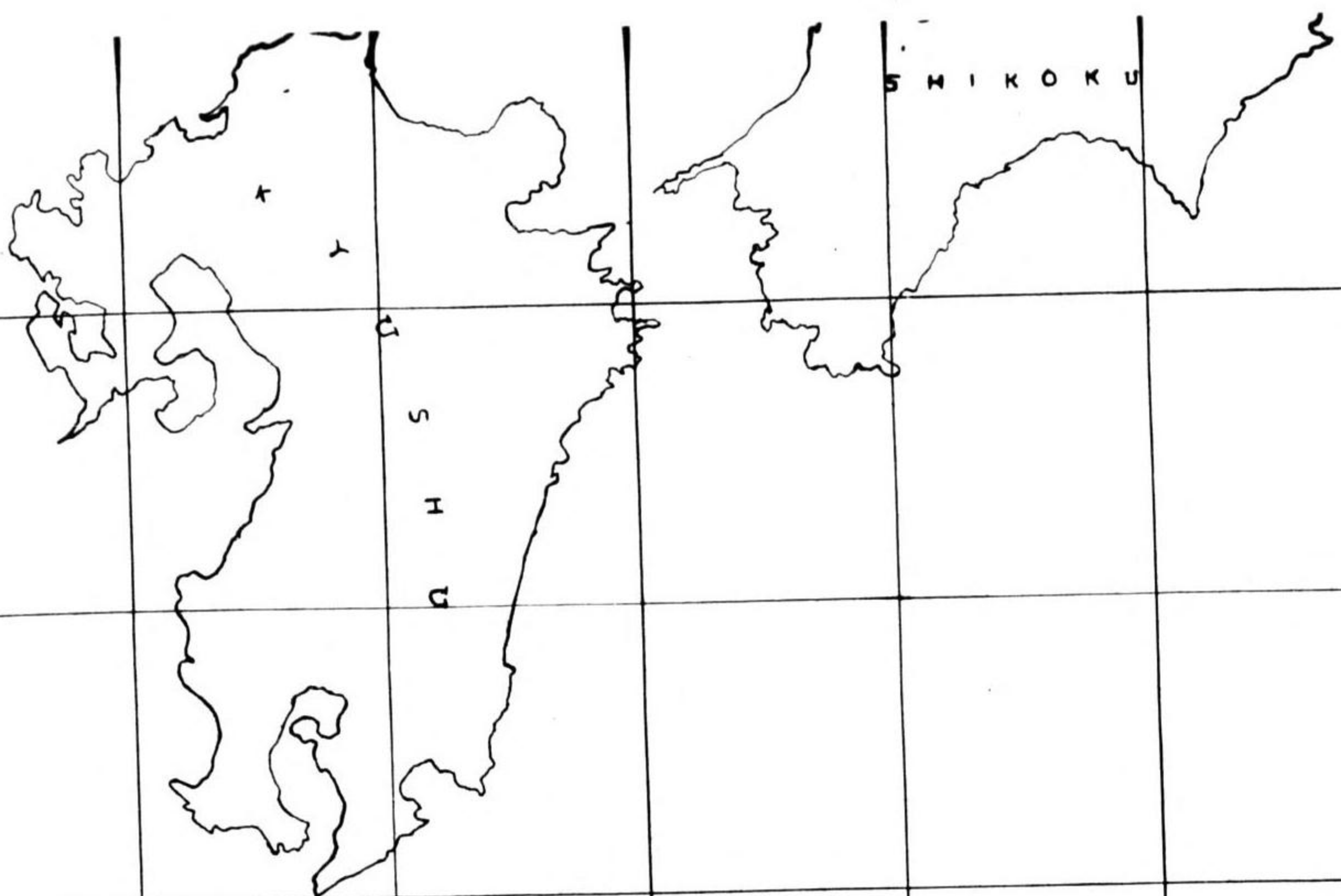
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27 April Cont'd:

- 0848 - Recovered Target Combat Air Patrol #1.
- 1023 - Launched Special Strike against shipping, KAKEROMA SHIMA and AMAMI SHIMA.
- 1200 - Ship's Position, Lat. $26^{\circ} 20' N.$, Long. $129^{\circ} 40' E.$
- 1353 - Launched Target Combat Air Patrol #6 - Target OKINAWA AREA.
- 1356 - Recovered Special Shipping Strike.
- 1529 - Launched Target Combat Air Patrol #7 - Target - OKINAWA AREA.
- 1711 - Recovered Target Combat Air Patrol #6.
- 1839 - Recovered Target Combat Air Patrol #7.
- 1850 - Sunset.
- 2000 - Ship's Position, Lat. $25^{\circ} 41' N.$ Long. $130^{\circ} 02' E.$

TRACK CHART
OF
U.S.S. SAN JACINTO
MARCH 21-31, 1945
ZONE TIMES (-) 9

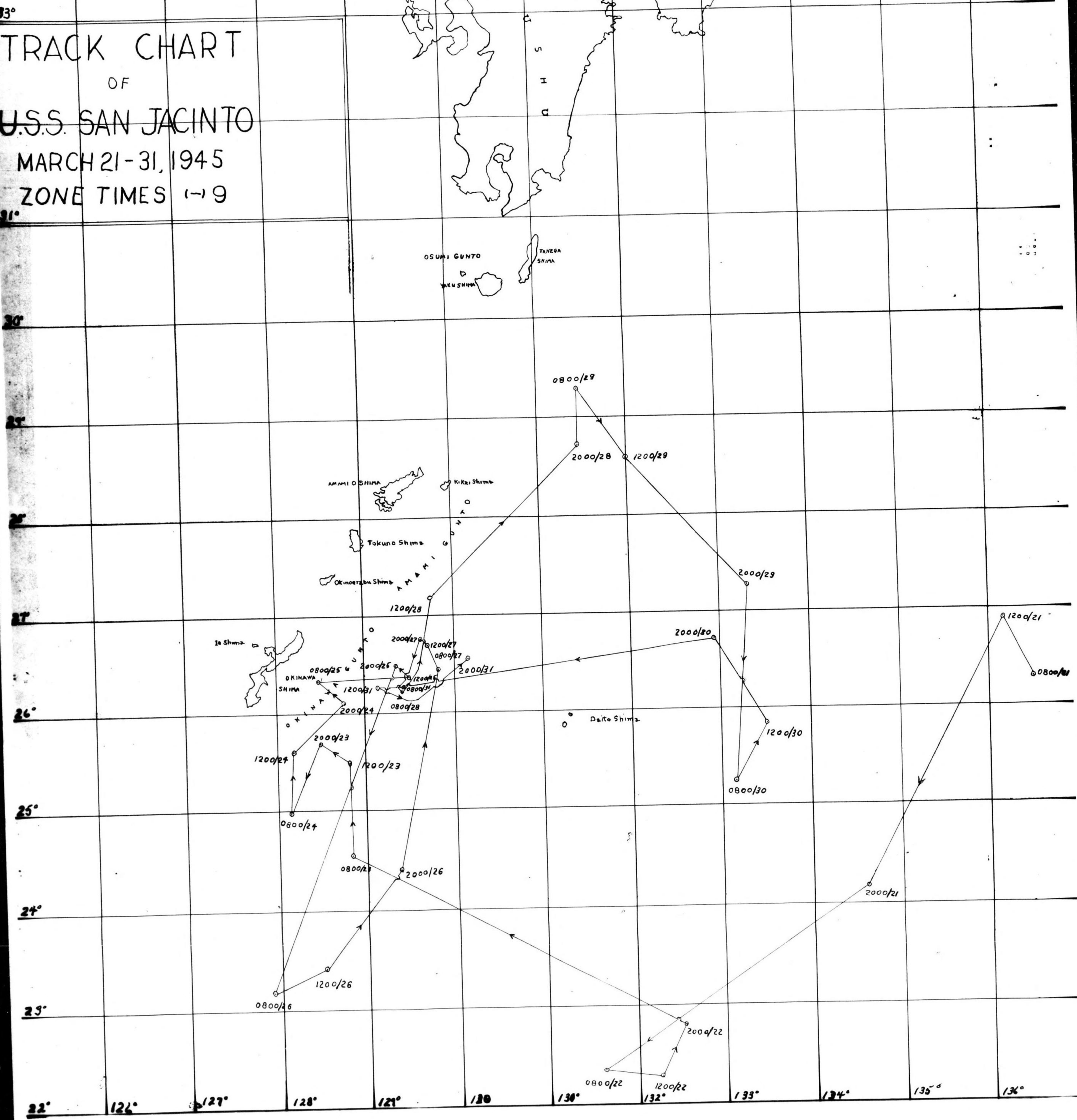


OSUMI GUNTO
YAKUSHIMA
TANEGA SHIMA

AMAMI OSHIMA
KIKAI SHIMA
TOKUNO SHIMA
OKINOERABU SHIMA
AMAMI

Ie Shima
OKINAWA SHIMA

Daito Shima



33°

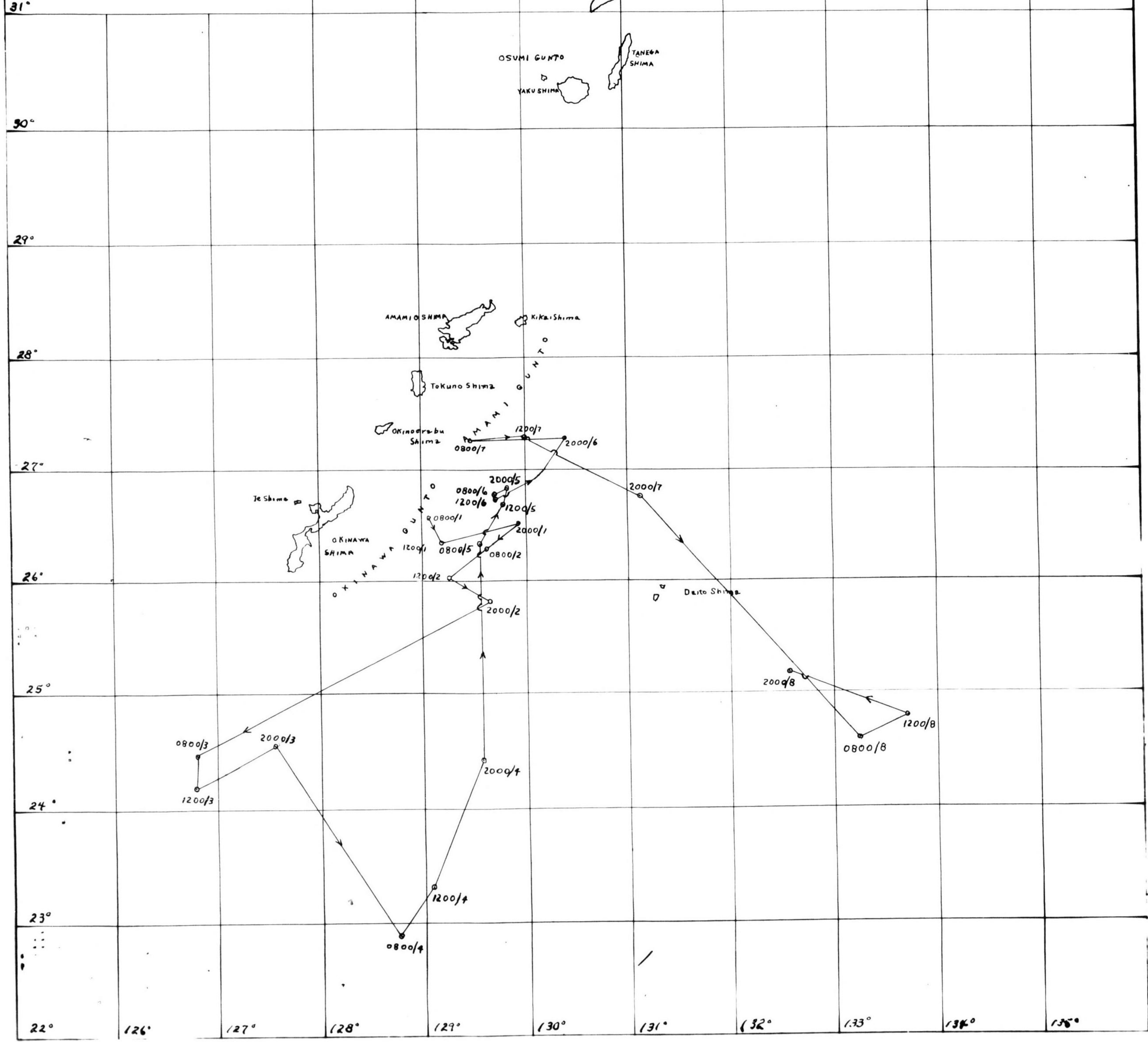
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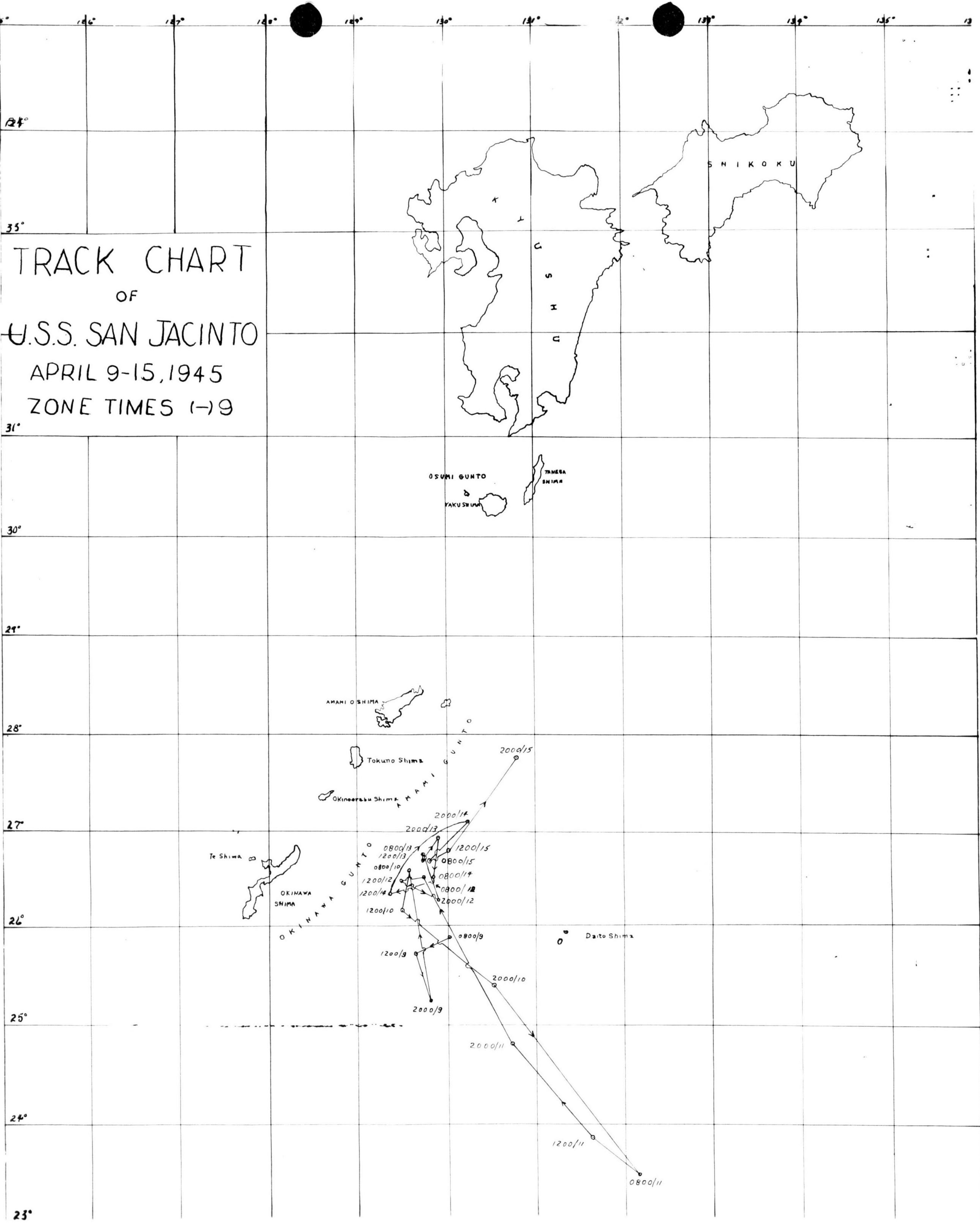
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U.S.S. SAN JACINTO

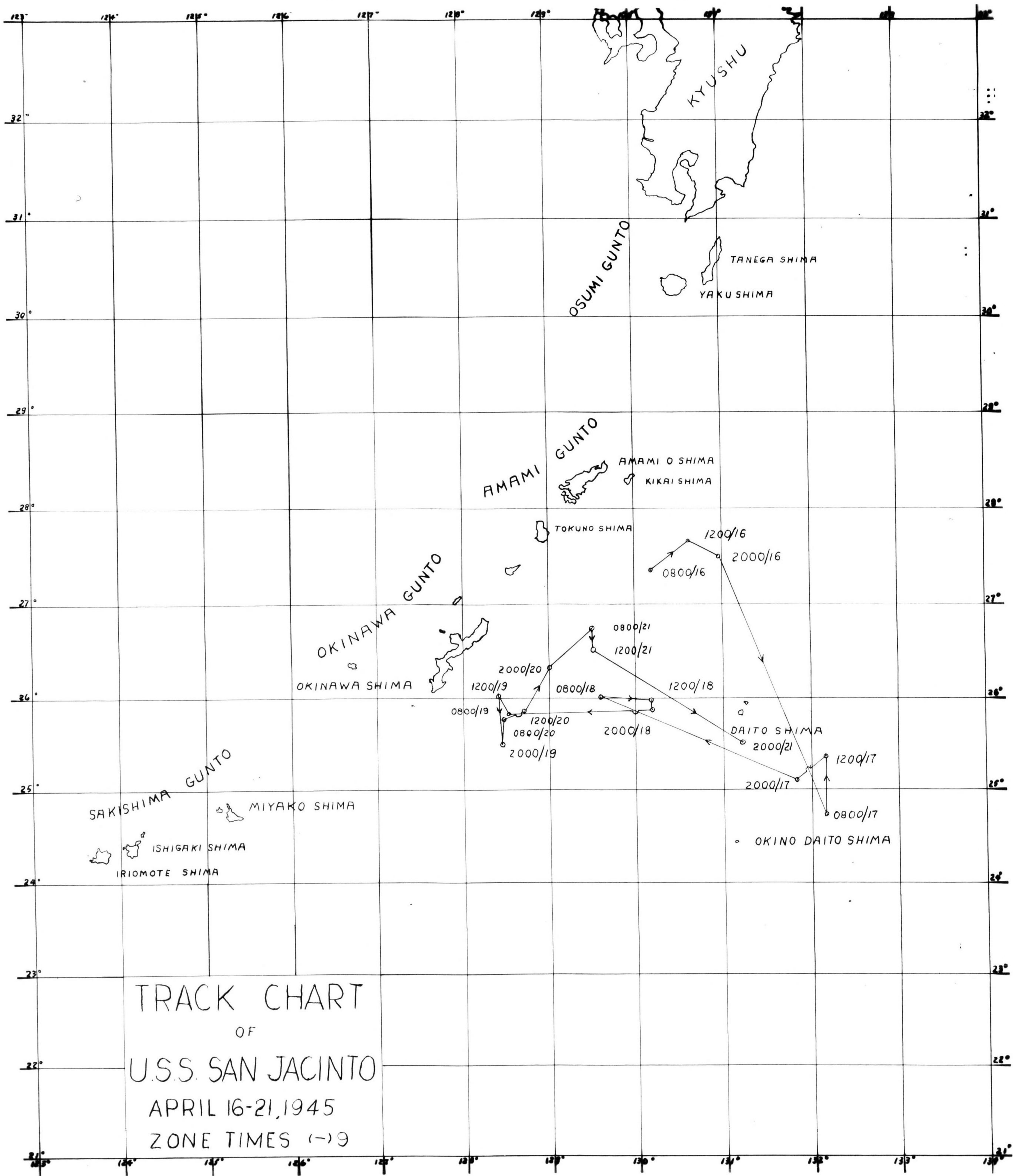
APRIL 1-8, 1945

ZONE TIMES (→)

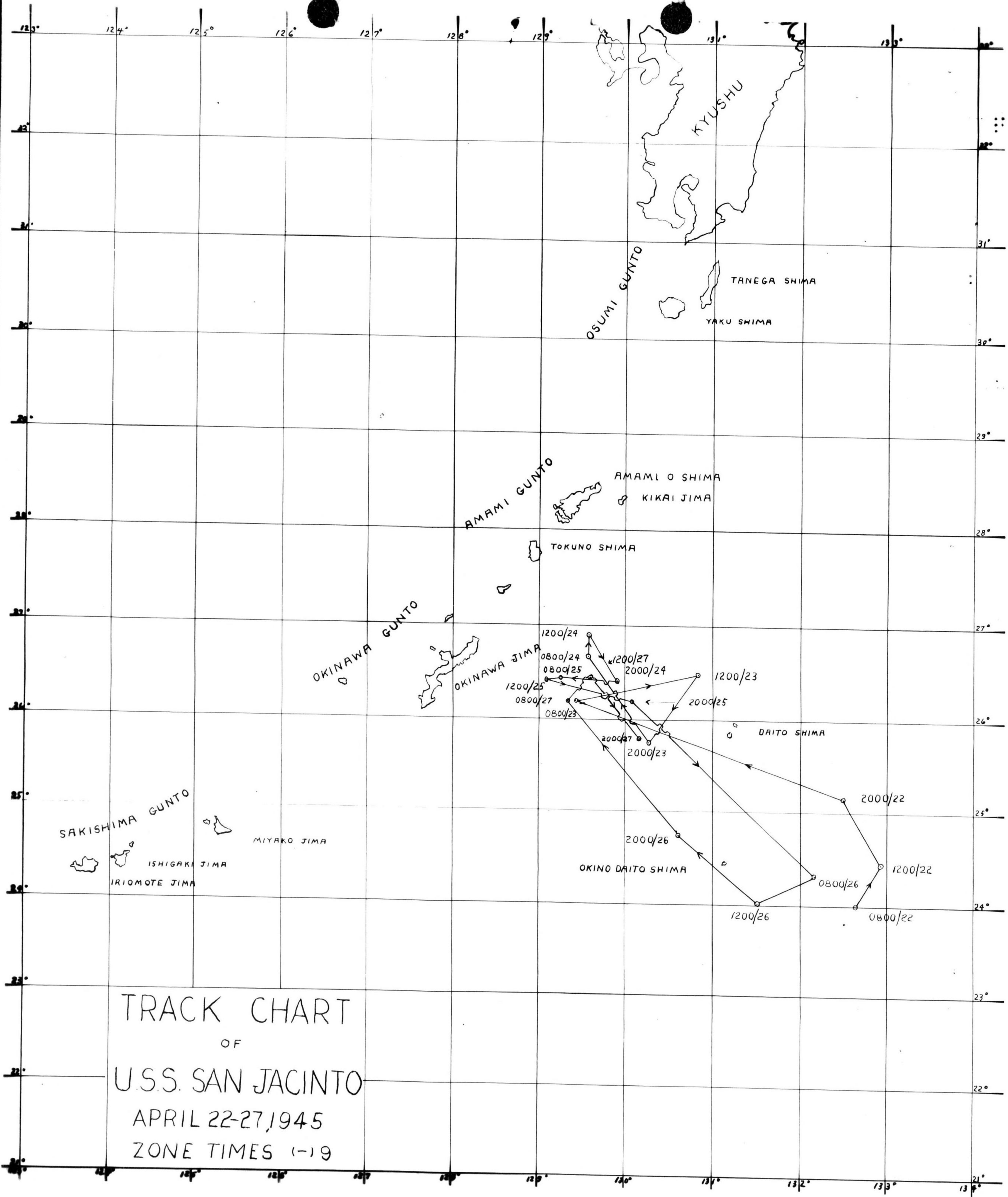




TRACK CHART
 OF
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 APRIL 9-15, 1945
 ZONE TIMES (-)9



TRACK CHART
 OF
 U.S.S. SAN JACINTO
 APRIL 16-21, 1945
 ZONE TIMES (-)9



TRACK CHART
 OF
 U.S.S. SAN JACINTO
 APRIL 22-27, 1945
 ZONE TIMES (-19)

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PART II

PHOTOGRAPHIC OPERATIONS

The photographic missions assigned this ship during the operation were for the purpose of obtaining damage assessment pictures. An F6F-5P was used to obtain the desired coverage.

During the operation, a total of sixteen assigned missions was flown. The missions were flown over the following places: Tokashiki Jima, Yakan Jima, and Kuba Jima in Okinawa Gunto; Miyako Jima, Sakishima; Kikai Jima and Anami O' Shina in Anami Gunto; and Minami Daito Jima. The photographic plane also accompanied two strikes made against shipping, one against a Japanese convoy near Okinawa, the other against a portion of the Japanese Fleet which was sunk by aircraft near Kyushu.

On the whole, the weather over the targets during the operation was rather unfavorable for photography. Most aerial pictures had to be taken from altitudes of two thousand to three thousand feet in order to avoid cloud cover over the target. The K-17 6-inch and K-17 12-inch cameras were used almost exclusively during the operation. Using this combination in the photographic plane, it was possible to obtain good to excellent pictures of each target assigned. Widest lens aperture, top shutter speed, and a minus blue filter with Sxx film were used in making most of the pictures, although at times the prospect of bad weather over the target made it necessary to remove the filter and use a slower shutter speed in order to obtain adequate exposure.

30 April 1945.

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PHASE II
PART II

PHOTOGRAPHIC OPERATIONS (Continued)

On each mission the photographic pilots obtained the desired coverage of the target area.

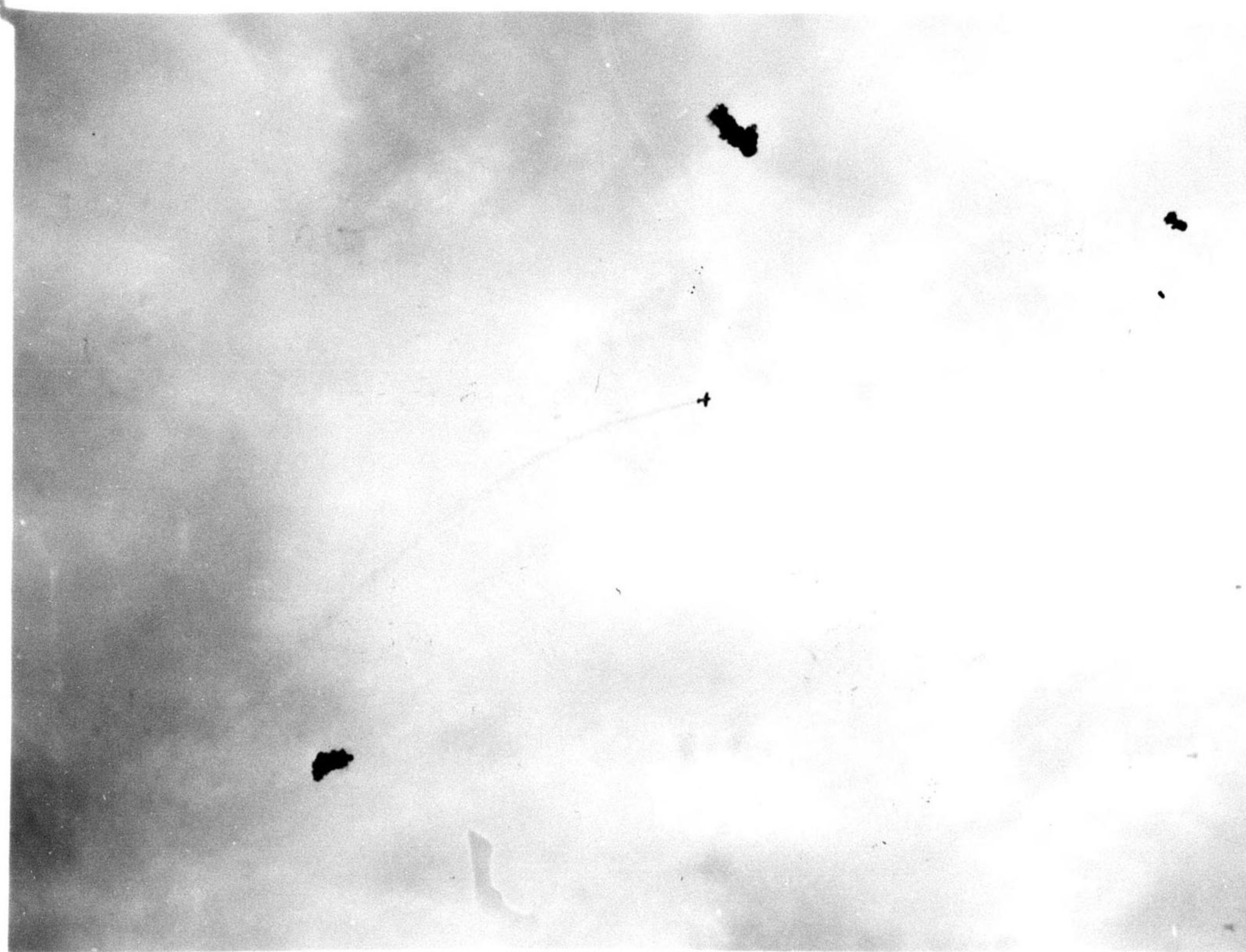
In addition to the assigned photographic missions, all TBM's carried K-20 or F-8 cameras on all strikes; all fighters carried gun cameras, and one fighter plane (F6F-5PK) was equipped with dual K-25 cameras mounted obliquely to port and starboard.

On 6 and 7 April, Task Group 58.1 was attacked by Japanese planes. The ship's photographers recorded the action with both still and motion pictures.



On April 6th. an enemy plane crashed and exploded off the SAN JAC's starboard bow, littering the flight deck with fragments of the plane (and of the Jap). Here the crew is seen clearing the deck so that planes, already in the landing circle, can land.

Enclosure to PART II, PHASE II
to CVL30/.16-3, Serial: 0270.



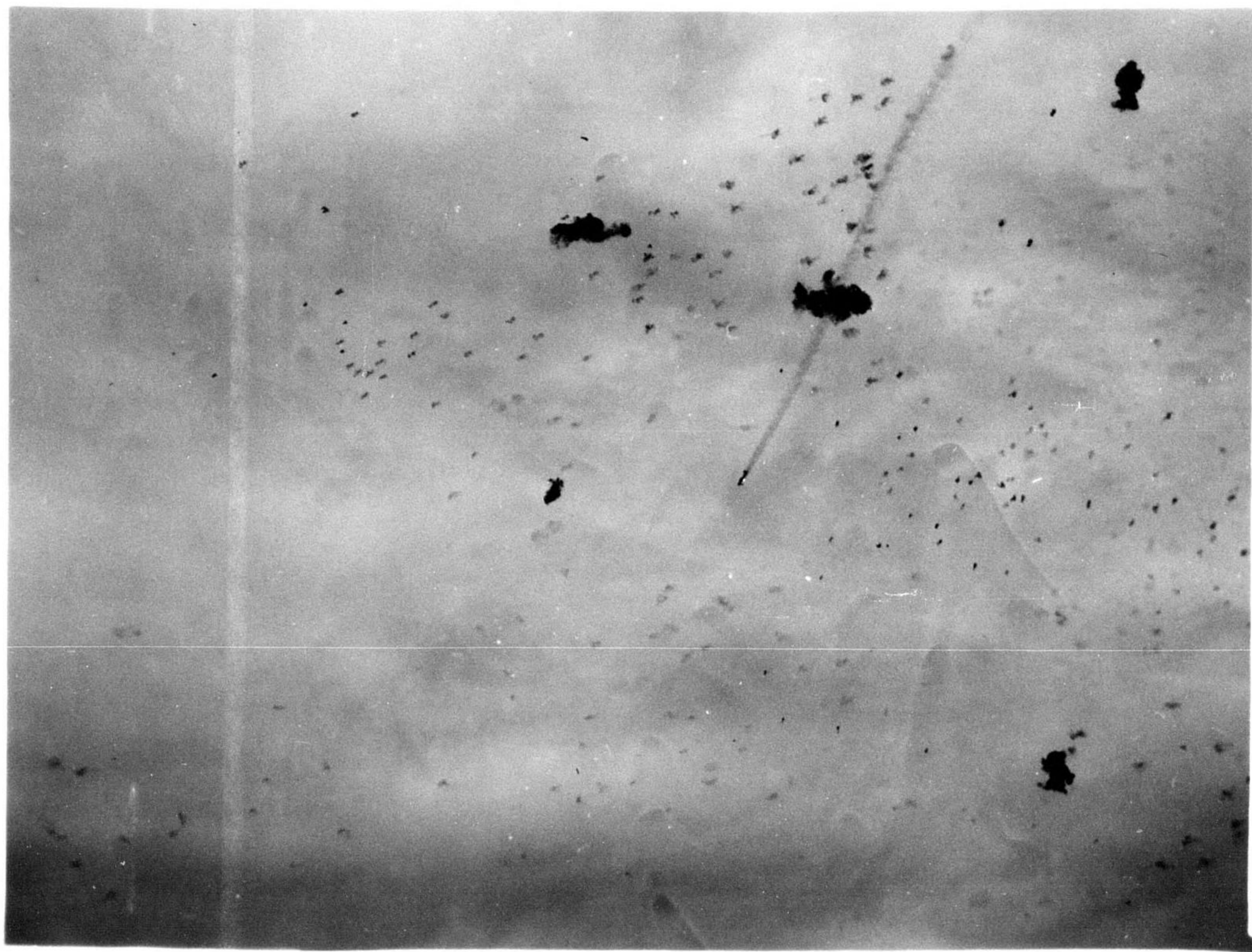
This attacking enemy plane, prodded by AA fire from the SAN JACINTO and other ships in the task group, writes its own "finis" in the sky.

Coming in low from almost astern to make his attack on the SAN JACINTO he was hit and then shot upward in a loop as if trying to shake the fire from his belly.

Enclosure to PART II, PHASE II
to CVL30/.16-3, Serial: 0270



Here he is shown with fire streaming from the fuselage.



AA fire gets more intense as he comes within range of the 20's.

Enclosure to PART II, PHASE II
to CVL30/.16-3, Serial: 0270

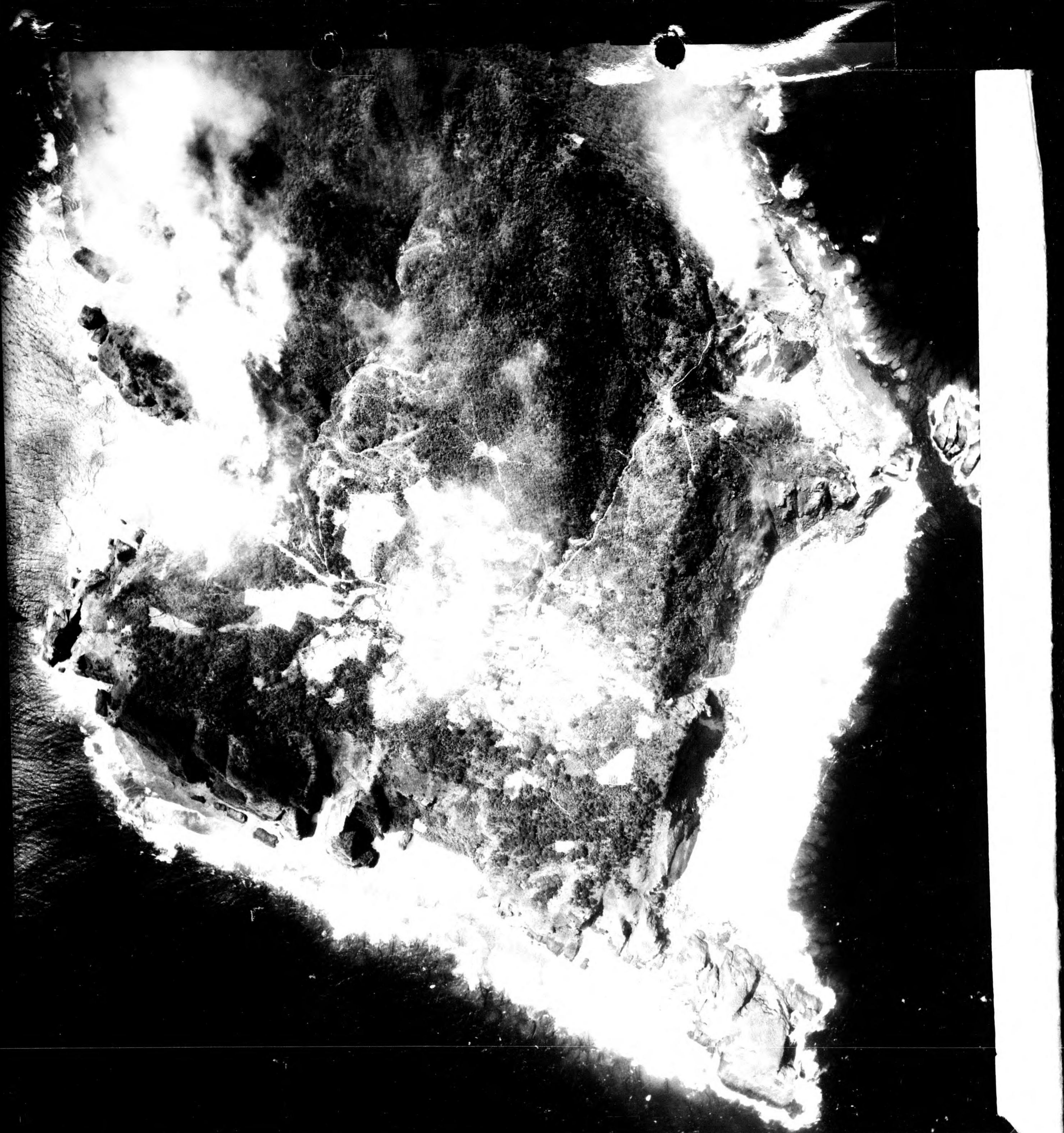


He corkscrews on down, apparently out of control



and is seen about to crash astern the ship as the gunners already look for other planes. 6 April 1945.

Enclosure to PART II, PHASE II
to CVL30/.16-3, Serial: 0270

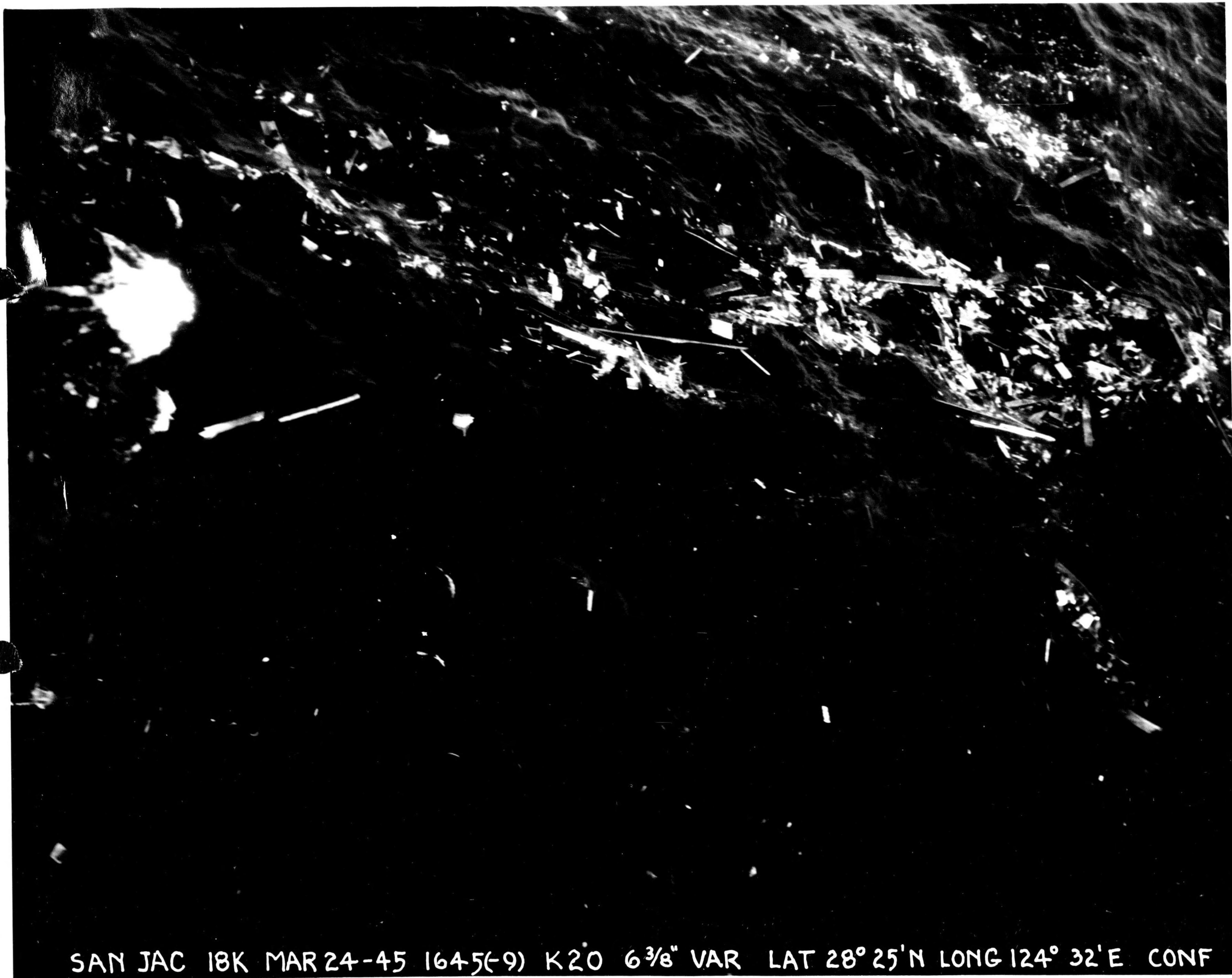


44

SAN JAC 66 AV MAR 24-45 1018(-9) KIT 153.4mm 3000' KUBA JIMA (OKINAWA GUN)



P-2 SAN JAC 19K MAR 24-45 1645(-9) K25 6³/₈" VAR LAT 28°25'N LONG 124°32'E CONF



SAN JAC 18K MAR 24-45 1645(-9) K20 6³/₈" VAR LAT 28° 25' N LONG 124° 32' E CONF



64

SAN JAC 66 TV MAR 24-45 1018(-9) K17 153.4MM 3000' YAKAN JIMA (OKINAWA)



8
SAN JAC '67 VF MAR. 24-45 1645(-9) K-17 12" AIR VAR. LAT. 28° 25'



8
SAN JAC 67 VF MAR. 24-45 1645(6-9) K-17 12" Alt VAR. LAT. 23° 25' N - LONG 124° 32' E (CON)



SAN JAG 251 APR 2 -45 1710(-9) K20 6³/₈" ALT VAR NAHA CITY (OKINAWA JIMA) CONF



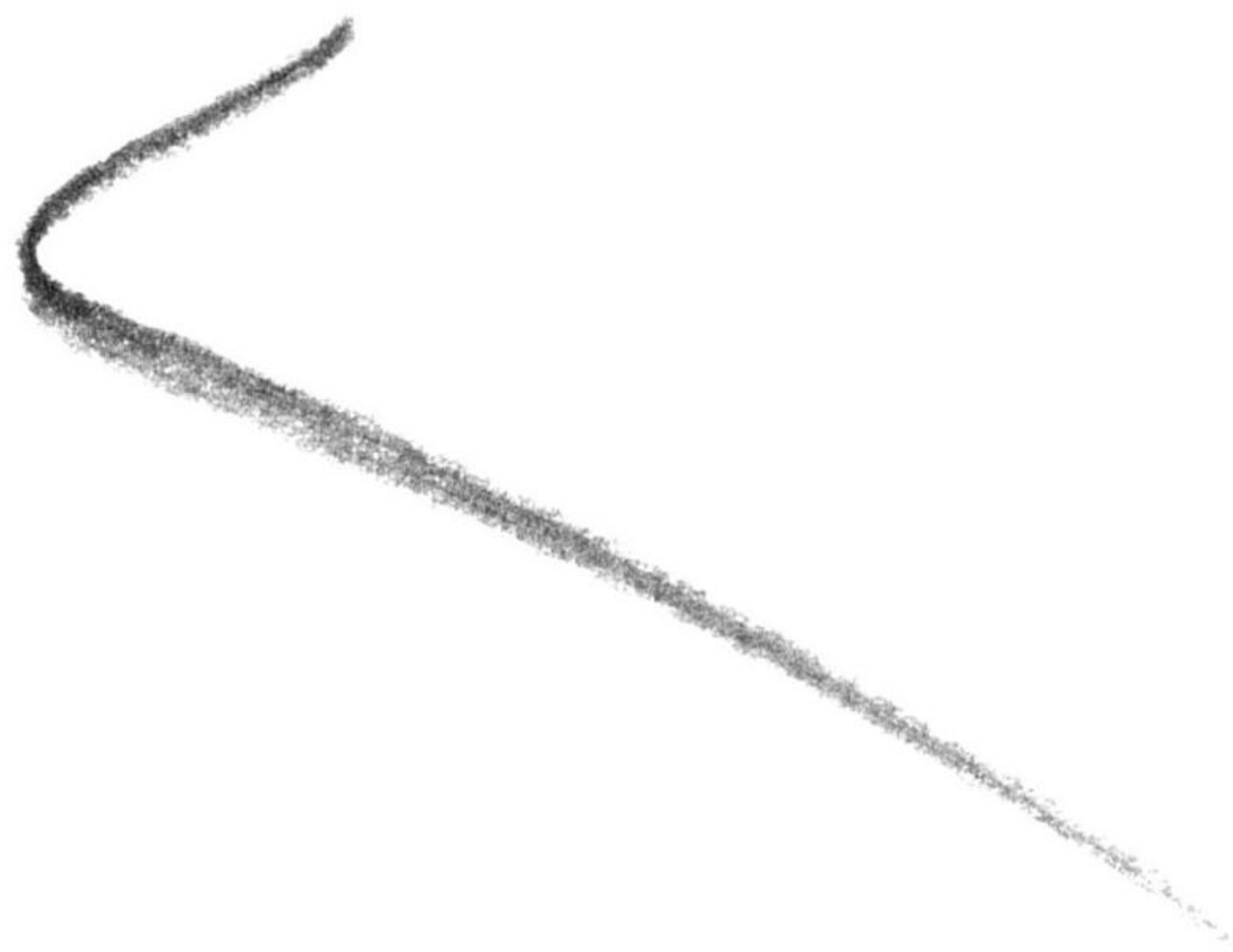
18

SAN JAC 71 APR 2-45 0930(9) K17 12" 8500' MINAMI DAITO JIMA (NANSEI SHOTO) CONF



SAN JAC 75 APR 7-45 1305(-9) K17 12" ALT.VAR LAT 31°N.LONG 128°55'E TAKANAMI CLASS DD CONF

The photograph shows almost completely the small island of KUBA JIMA which is 22 miles west of OKINAWA JIMA. The few houses and living quarters on the island were destroyed by strikes prior to the time the photograph was taken.



A Jap ship (thought to be an ammunition ship) of an eight ship convoy went up with a terrific explosion after it was attacked by planes from task group 58.1. This photograph, taken from a distance of five miles, shows the column of smoke jutting several thousand feet above stratocumulus clouds which are at 4,000 feet.

Figure to include in report
VLC/Alc-1, Serial: 75

This photograph shows about all that remained of an
eight ship convoy after it was attacked by planes from task
group 58.1. Japs can be seen clinging to the wreckage and
in the lifeboat.

Enclosure to PART II, PHASE II,
to CVL30/A16-3, Serial: 0470

This photograph shows the main section of YAKAN JIMA which is 22 miles west of OKINAWA JIMA. Mining is the main activity of this small island. Ninety per cent of the buildings, including ore crushers, radio station and living quarters were destroyed prior to the time the photograph was taken. The smoke seen near the center of the picture is from buildings set afire by SAN JAC-INTO planes.

Reference to page 11, page 11,
VI-711-1, Serial: 0170

This cargo ship burns vigorously after it was attacked by SAN JACINTO and other planes of task group 58.1. It was the last ship of an eight ship Jap convoy, and was left burning from stem to stern as planes departed.

This shows what Naha City (population 65,000) on Okinawa looked like on April 2nd. after accumulated raids had burned it down.

The two concrete buildings in the center and left center are elementary and high schools.

Note shipping sunk in the harbor in the background.

The city is on the SW coast, about eight miles south of the beaches where the U.S. Army and Marines landed on April 1st.

This photograph shows a portion of the small island of OKINO DAITO JIMA which lies 200 miles east of OKINAWA and 320 miles south of KYUSHU.

It is very heavily defended, as the photograph illustrates. Note the numerous anti-tank ditches and trenches with which the entire island is laced. Many rifle pits and machine gun positions are incorporated in the trenchwork. In the lower right portion of the photograph is a battery of four heavy AA and nine medium AA.



Enclosure to PART II, PHASE II,
to CVI30/A16-3, Serial: 0270.

This large destroyer of the TAKANAMI class was
sunk by SAN JACINTO torpedo planes (VT "45") on April 7.
Two torpedos did the job. Here it is shown, dead in
the water with a large oil slick. (See following photo-
graph for torpedo hit)



This shows the second torpedo hitting, the "coup de grace" which sank the destroyer within five minutes after the attack was made.

Enclosure to PART II, PHASE II,
to CVI.30/A16-3, Serial: 0270.



2

CVL-30 1455-P2 U.S.S. SAN JACINTO
DATE 4-14-45
SUBJECT _____

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Enclosure to PART II, PHASE II
CVL30/A16-3, Serial: 0270.

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2

This photograph, taken by a SAN JACINTO plane on emergency patrol, 14 April 1945, shows the U.S.S. SIGSBEE (DD-502) after receiving an enemy dive bomber on the fantail. The entire stern section aft of Number Five Gun has been destroyed.

CVL30/A16-3
Serial: 0270

U. S. S. SAN JACINTO

90/rrc

30 April 1945.

CONFIDENTIAL

PHASE II

PART III

AMMUNITION EXPENDITURES

March 22 - April 27, 1945

A. Torpedoes	24
B. Bombs	
(1) Napalm	25
(2) 2000# G.P.	8
(3) 1000# G.P.	6
(4) 500# G.P.	513
(5) 100# G.P.	668
(6) 100# I.C.B.	48
C. Rockets	1623
D. Ammunition	
.50 Calibre	240,130 rounds
.30 Calibre	3,650 rounds

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REVISED FORM FOR REPORTING A.A. ACTION BY SURFACE SHIPS

Location of Ship (area) Southeast of Okinawa USS SAN JACINTO
Zone Time 1319 (-9) Date 6 April, 1945.

1. Surprise attack (yes or no) Yes Day or Night Day
2. Method picking plane up (Radar, binoculars, naked eye) Naked Eye
3. Range plane was picked up (50,30,10, less than 5 miles) 4 Miles
4. Total number of planes observed One Type Don't know
5. Number of planes attacking own ship None Type -
6. Number of planes taken under fire by own ship One
(a) Of those attacking own ship None Type -
(b) Others One Type Don't know
7. Speed and altitude of approach in knots and feet 175 Knts., 500 Ft.
8. Number of guns firing - by caliber 6 Barrels 40MM., 2 Barrels 20MM.
9. Ammunition expended - by caliber 130 Rds. 40MM., 75 Rds. 20MM.
10. Percent service allowance expended 0.24% 40MM., 0.057% 20MM.
11. Method of control Mk 14 Sight
Mk 51 Director Method of spotting Direct
Method of ranging Estimate Method of firing Automatic
12. Approximate time-tracking to first shot 10 Seconds.
13. Approximate time of first hits 14 Seconds.
14. Approximate time first shot to last shot 10 Seconds.
15. Approximate position angle open fire 50
16. Approximate position angle cease fire 10
17. Approximate bearing first shot 150 Relative
18. Approximate bearing last shot 210 Relative
19. Approximate range first shot 2400 Yds. Altitude 650 Ft.

(over)

20. Approximate minimum range aircraft approached 2300 Yds Altitude In Water
21. Approximate range last shot 2500 Yds. Altitude In Water
22. Approximate altitude of bomb release None Size bomb -
23. Approximate range torpedo release None Size torpedo -
24. Number hits on ship by bombs None by torpedoes -
- Was ship strafed? No Size gun -
25. Number near bomb misses damaging ship None

26. PLANES SHOT DOWN:	SURE (By own ship alone)	SURE (Assist)	PROBABLE	DAMAGED
(a) Those attacking own ship	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
(b) Other aircraft	<u>-</u>	<u>One</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

(An aircraft is considered destroyed "SURE", when, as result of own ship's fire: 1. It is seen to crash., 2. It is seen to disintegrate in the air or be enveloped in flames. 3. It is seen to descend on friendly territory and be captured. 4. Pilot and entire crew are seen to bail out).

(A "SURE ASSIST" may be claimed when plane is destroyed as result of own ship's and assisting fire by friendly planes, shore batteries, or other ship).

(An aircraft is considered probably destroyed when, as result of own ship's fire: It is so damaged as to have less than an even chance of reaching its own territory safely).

(An aircraft is considered damaged when, as a result of own ship's fire: It is so damaged as to require repair before beginning another mission, but has better than an even chance of reaching its own territory safely. Claims shall be based on careful interrogation by proper authority, and every effort shall be made to eliminate duplication of claim).

27. Best estimate of size gun or guns responsible for "SURE" -
28. Performance of ammunition (excellent, good, bad, poor) Excellent
29. What failures in material occurred in this action? None
30. Sketch: (a) Indicate direction of attack relative ship's head.
(b) Show relative position of sun.
(c) Indicate own maneuvers.

NOTE:- Add descriptive text on additional sheet if required to clarify report.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

Course - 020° T, Swinging from
030 to 330.

Speed - 25 Knots.

Axis - 030° T

Formation 5-V(D)

Az. Alt.
Sun - 221° 63°



INDIANA



SAN JUAN



BENNINGTON

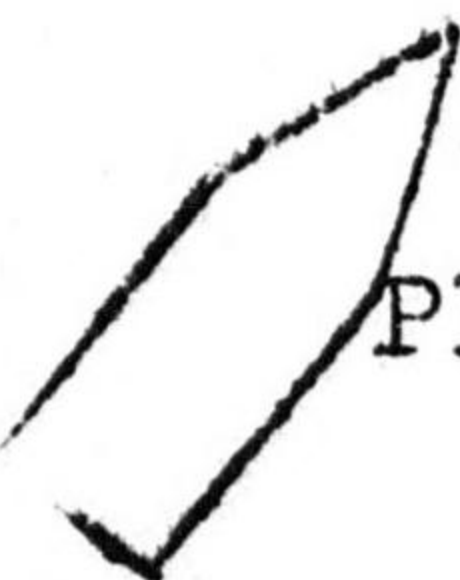


BALTIMORE



HORNET

MASSACHUSETTS



PITTSBURG



BELLEAU WOOD

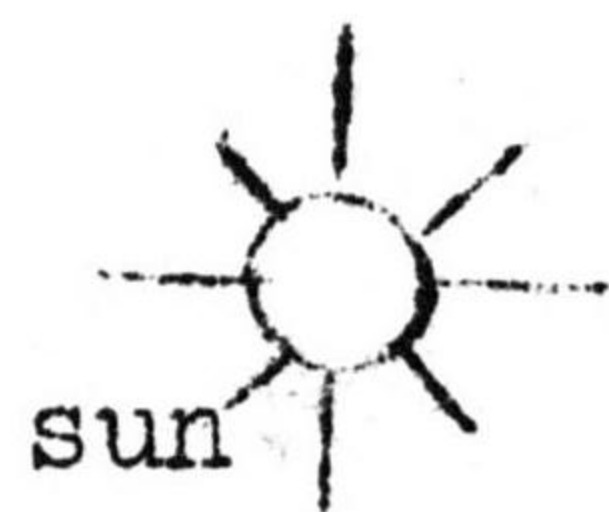


SAN JACINTO



VICKSBURG

*splashed



VINCENNES



MIAMI

This plane made a shallow glide from about 8,000 to 9,000 yards distance straight for the BELLEAU WOOD. He had been under observance for about two or three minutes by our starboard battery, but he had a belly tank exactly like an F6-F and resembled

an F6-F to such an extent that we did not recognize him as a Jap plane until he was well in his glide towards the BELLEAU WOOD. It is believed that practically all ships in the formation also believed him to be a friendly fighter because 40MM. Mount XI on the SAN JACINTO was the first gun in the group to open fire on the attacking plane. The Jap fell into the water without burning about 75 yards off the BELLEAU WOOD's starboard beam. We claim an assist and credit for pointing the plane out as enemy to the formation.

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REVISED FORM FOR REPORTING A.A. ACTION BY SURFACE SHIPS

- Location of Ship (area) Southeast of Okinawa USS SAN JACINTO
- Zone Time 1320 (-9) Date 6 April, 1945.
1. Surprise attack (Yes or no) No Day or Night Day
2. Method picking plane up (Radar, binoculars, naked eye) Radar
3. Range plane was picked up (50,30,10, less than 5 miles) 15 Miles
4. Total number of planes observed Two Type ZEKES
5. Number of planes attacking own ship Two Type ZEKES
6. Number of planes taken under fire by own ship Two
- (a) Of those attacking own ship Two Type ZEKES
- (b) Others - Type -
7. Speed and altitude of approach in knots and feet #1-175 Knts., 4000 Ft.
#2-175 Knts., 1500 Ft.
8. Number of guns firing - by caliber #1-16 Barrels 40MM., 12 Barrels 20MM.
#2- 6 Barrels 40MM., 11 Barrels 20MM.
9. Ammunition expended - by caliber #1-618 Rds. 40MM., 1683 Rds. 20MM.
#2-642 Rds. 40MM., 830 Rds. 20MM.
10. Percent service allowance expended #1-0.99% 40MM., 1.27% 20MM.
#2-1.03% 40MM., 0.63% 20MM.
11. Method of control Mk 14 Sight
Mk 51 Director Method of spotting Direct
- Method of ranging Estimate Method of firing Automatic
12. Approximate time-tracking to first shot 5 Seconds.
13. Approximate time of first hits 9 Seconds.
14. Approximate time first shot to last shot 90 Seconds.
15. Approximate position angle open fire #1 - 30°, #2 - 10°
16. Approximate position angle cease fire #1 - 10°, #2 - In Water
17. Approximate bearing first shot #1 - 200 Relative, #2 - 095 Relative.
18. Approximate bearing last shot #1 - 180 Relative, #2 - 095 Relative.
19. Approximate range first shot #1-2700 Yds. Altitude #1-4000 Ft.
#2-2900 Yds. #2-1500 Ft.

(over)