

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

SECRET

(a) Unit Reporting VP-45 (b) Based on or at USS SAN JACINTO (c) Report No. 53
 (d) Take off: Date 19 March 1945 Time (LZT) 1410 (I) (Zone); Lat. 32° 03'N Long. 134° 39'E
 (e) Mission Radar Patrol Line CAP (f) Time of Return 1810 (I) (Zone)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

TYPE (a)	SQUADRON (b)	NUMBER			BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE) (f)	FUZE, SETTING (g)
		TAKING OFF (c)	ENGAGING ENEMY A/C (d)	ATTACKING TARGET (e)		
PGP-5	VP-45	4	1	I	None	

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
None							

IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

(a) TYPE	(b) NO. OBSERVED	(c) NO. ENGAGING OWN A/C	(d) TIME ENCOUNTERED	(e) LOCATION OF ENCOUNTER	(f) BOMBS, TORPEDOES CARRIED; GUNS OBSERVED	(g) CAMOUFLAGE AND MARKING
J111	1	1	(I) 1415 (ZONE)	Vicinity of Task Force, approximately 15 miles west of take off position.	None	Dark mottled green, with red meat balls.

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Retiring after making torpedo attack on neighboring Task Group.
 Did Any Part of
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? No If so, Describe Clouds X
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance
 (j) of Sun or Moon Day (k) Visibility Unlimited
(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (MILES)

V. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

(a) TYPE ENEMY A/C	(b) DESTROYED OR DAMAGED BY:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			
J111	PGP-5	VP-45	Lt. James B. Cain	6 x .50 cal.	Engine and cockpit about 30° forward of starboard beam	Destroyed

ENCLOSURE (J)

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) X (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) X (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target X (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

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

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

Bombs Dropped per Run X (NUMBER) Spacing X (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release X (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed X Probably Destroyed X Damaged X

(h) AIMING POINT	(i) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(j) NO A/C ATTACKING (k) SQUADRON	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO. HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

(o) RESULTS: (For all hits claimed on ship targets and for land targets of special interest, draw diagram, top or side view or both, as appropriate, showing type and location of hits. For all targets give location and effect of hits, and identify by numbers above. Use additional sheets if necessary).

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

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XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA. (Narrative and comment. Describe action fully and comment freely, following applicable items in check list at left. Use additional sheets if necessary.)

ENGAGEMENT WITH ENEMY

OWN AIRCRAFT

- Disposition
- Altitudes
- Speeds
- Approach Tactics
- Use of Cover, Deception
- Angles of Attack and Their Effectiveness
- Distance of Opening Fire
- Defensive 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

Four (4) Hellcats were catapulted from the USS SAN JACINTO at 1410 (I), 19 March 1945, to fly CAP for the southern Radar Patrol Line of destroyers guarding the western flank of the Task Force.

The RAPCAP, led by Lt. James B. Cain, and consisting of Lt(jg)'s Paul, Thompson and Pettigrew, had taken up a southwest course to the Radar Patrol Line for only five minutes when they observed concentrated AA burst low on the water to port coming from the ships of the Task Group 15 miles westward of the SAN JACINTO's Task Group. At this time the 4 plane division was at 3000 feet. By watching the direction in which the heavy anti-aircraft puffs were going Lt. Cain spotted a Jill, approximately 100 feet off the water, high tailing it for home. The Jap was at 10-11 o'clock, and was crossing in front of the Hellcats to starboard, Followed by the other three planes of his division, Lt. Cain pushed over and in a moment was in range. Giving the Jap one short burst into the engine and cockpit at a 30 degree angle forward of the beam, Cain apparently killed the pilot, for the Jap immediately nosed over and plunged into the Pacific from 100 feet. The heavy anti-aircraft was still bursting in the vicinity, so Cain pulled up sharply to starboard, and led his planes out of danger.

The RAPCAP then proceeded to their station where they orbited, in separate sections, at 3000 feet without further excitement. Pancaked at 1810 (I).

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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:

S. W. PLAUCHE, Jr., Lt(jg), USNR
SIGNATURE **ACI Officer** RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

L. E. FORKNER, Lt., USNR
SIGNATURE **Commanding Officer** RANK AND DUTY

3-22-45

DATE