

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

52850

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VP-45 (b) Based on or at USS SAN JACINTO (c) Report No. 109  
 (d) Take-off: Date 23 April 1945 Time (LZT) 0850 (1) (Zone); Lat. 26° 15' N Long. 129° 48' E  
 (e) Mission Special Support Strike, Okinawa JMW (f) Time of Return 2000 (1) (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)		
FGF-5	VP-45	4	None	4	Each VF carried one Nagalm bomb and six rockets	Rockets: mark 146, non-101ay

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
TBM-3	VT-45	6	USS SAN JACINTO				
TBM-3	VT-30	6	USS WHELAN V-30				
FGF-5	VP-30	4	USS WHELAN V-30				

## 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
None			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (i) Did Any Part of Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, Describe Clouds \_\_\_\_\_ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)  
 (j) Time of Day and Brilliance of Sun or Moon \_\_\_\_\_ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (k) Visibility \_\_\_\_\_ (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			
None						

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## VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those listed in II only).

(a) TYPE OWN A/C	(b) SQUADRON	(c) CAUSE: TYPE ENEMY A/C, TYPE GUN, OR OPERATIONAL CAUSE	(d) WHERE HIT, ANGLE (List armor, self-sealing tanks, equipment hit)	(e) EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE, (Give Bureau serial number of planes destroyed)
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				

## VII. PERSONNEL CASUALTIES (in aircraft listed in II only; identify with planes listed in VI by Nos. at left).

(a) NO.	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NAME, RANK OR RATING	(d) CAUSE	(e) CONDITION OR STATUS

## VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA FOR PLANES RETURNING

(a) TYPE A/C	(b) MILES OUT	(c) MILES RETURN	(d) AV. HOURS IN AIR	(e) AV. FUEL LOADED	(f) AV. FUEL CONSUMED	(g) TOTAL AMMUNITION EXPENDED				(h) NO. OF PLANES RETURNING
						30	50	20MM	MM	
<b>F4U-7</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>190</b>					<b>4</b>
						<b>1100 rds. av. per plane</b>				

## IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

## X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (use check list at left).

- SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes
- URNS
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

**No encounter with enemy airborne aircraft.**

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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) 2nd Japanese Army Depots, Kinoshima Island, Okinawa  
Squadron 7665, 2nd J.A.A.F., 0 mi? E. (b) Time Over Target(s) 1030-1040(1) (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 3500 Alto-stratus, 9/10ths  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

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

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Level  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used None  
(TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run One (1) Napalm Spacing 1 Altitude of Bomb Release 50-100 ft.  
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 1 Probably Destroyed 2 Damaged 2

(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					



or both, as appropriate, showing type and location necessary).

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

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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) 32nd Japanese Army Logistics, Okinawa Island, Grid  
Source 7665, X, Y, Z, 0 on 1. (b) Time Over Target(s) 1030-1040 (1) (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target 3500 Alto-cirrus, 9/10ths  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target None (e) Visibility 3 (near surface)  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Level Bomb Sight Used None  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run One (1) Napalm Spacing X Altitude of Bomb Release 50-100 ft.  
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

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

(h) AIMING POINT	(i) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(j) NO A/C ATTACKING (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).



Be Attached By Staple.

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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) 2nd Japanese Army HQ, Kinoshima Island, Ito Bay, Ito  
Squadron 7/65, Ito Bay, Ito (b) Time Over Target(s) 1010-1040(1) (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 3500 Alto-cirrus, 9/10ths  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

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

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Level Bomb Sight Used None  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run One (1) Napalm Spacing X Altitude of Bomb Release 50-100 ft.  
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

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

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



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or both, as appropriate, showing type and location (if necessary).

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

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

### ENGAGEMENT WITH ENEMY

#### OWN AIRCRAFT

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

#### ENEMY AIRCRAFT

Method of Locating, Distance  
Disposition  
Altitudes  
Speeds  
Approach Tactics  
Use of Cover, Deception  
Angles of Attack  
Distance of Opening Fire  
Defensive Tactics

#### COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Own Weaknesses  
Enemy Weaknesses  
Offensive Tactics, Own  
" " Enemy  
Defensive Tactics, Own  
" " Enemy  
Flexible Gunnery, Own  
Escort Tactics  
Fighter Direction  
Use of Radar  
Night Fighting  
Recognition, Aircraft

### ATTACK

#### OWN TACTICS

Method of Locating Target  
Approach to Target  
Altitudes, Speeds  
Approach  
Dive  
Pull-Out  
Dive Angle  
Strafing  
Retirement  
Defensive Tactics  
Use of Jamming

#### DEFENSE, ENEMY

Evasive Tactics, Ships  
Concealment  
Searchlights  
Night Fighter Tactics  
Use of Jamming

#### COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Bombing Tactics  
Torpedo Tactics  
Effectiveness of  
Bombs, Torpedoes  
Selection of Targets  
Fuzing  
Strafing Tactics  
Defensive Tactics  
Use of Radar  
Reconnaissance  
Photography  
Briefing

### OPERATIONAL

Navigation  
Homing  
Rendezvous  
Recognition, Ships  
Communications  
Flight Operations  
Search and Tracking  
Base Operations  
Maintenance

Four VF of Fighting Squadron FORTY FIVE on the USS SAN JACINTO were launched at 0850 (1), 23 April 1945 to provide a portion of the air-ground support in a special strike against enemy ground positions at Okinawa Jima. The four Hellcats were led by Lt. L. J. Forbner, who was designated Air Coordinator for the entire support group, consisting of six TBM's of VF-45, six TBM's of the USS HELLRAU WOOD and four VPB of the HELLRAU WOOD.

Lt. Forbner, upon checking in with Commander Air Support Control Units, Southern Zone, was given instructions that the target for the support aircraft was to be the 32nd Japanese Army Headquarters located in a ridge in grid square 7665 K, L, M, N, O and P, just east of the town of Dekiton. He further instructed Lt. Forbner to call up when he was in the vicinity of the target and that further explanation of the objective would then be given.

After reporting his arrival in the assigned area, Lt. Forbner was advised that the precise objectives were the caves near the top of the ridge, so he and his wingman let down to look over the target. No caves could be spotted on this first inspection, but Commander Air Support Control Unit said that this was the target and directed that all napalm, bombs, rockets and strafing be expended there. Forbner made a rocket run, firing two rockets, to mark the target, and then ordered all VF from the SAN JACINTO and HELLRAU WOOD to expend all Napalm on their first run and to make continuous runs until they had expended all available rockets and fifty calibre ammunition. After the completion of the fighter's runs which resulted in large fires on the top of the ridge (See photos), Lt. Forbner directed that the USS SAN JACINTO TBM's drop their bomb loads, and as soon as they had finished, for the HELLRAU WOOD's VT to expend theirs. Lt. Forbner had observed by this time the presence of numerous caves near the western end of the ridge and near the summit, so he instructed the VT to concentrate on this precise position. All of the bombs appeared to fall in this area as denoted, and the entire ridge was covered with lanes and smoke when the attack was secured.

At this juncture Lt(jg) Swinburne radioed that his wingman, Lt(jg) Grossman had only 60 gallons of fuel remaining, and requested instructions. Lt. Forbner directed Grossman, accompanied by Swinburne, to land at Yontan Airfield and return to Base as soon as possible.

After reporting to Commander Air Support Control Units that all napalm, bombs, rockets and ammunition were expended on the target assigned, the remaining VF and all VT rendezvoused and returned to Base, landing at 1200 (1). Swinburne and Grossman landed on the USS SAN JACINTO at 1450 (2), proud possessors of a document signed by an Army Nurse certifying that the two pilots "had seen a white woman in the year 1945."

GRID REFERENCE: Air ground support Chart Okinawa Jima, compiled and reproduced by the 64th Ingr. Top. Bn., USAFPCPC, Chart No. 1210 - 1 Dec. 1944.

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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**

- Aarmor; Points and Angles of Fire Needing Further Protection
- Leak Proofing

**EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT**

- Parachutes
- Life Belts, Life Rafts
- Safety Belts
- Emergency Kits
- Rations, First Aid

**NAVIGATIONAL EQUIPMENT**

- Compasses
- Driftsights
- Octants
- Automatic Pilots
- Charts
- Field Lighting

**INSTRUMENTS**

- Flight
- Power Plant

**OXYGEN SYSTEM**

**CAMOUFLAGE AND DECEPTION DEVICES**

**STRUCTURE**

- Airframe
- Control Surfaces
- Control System
- Dive Flaps
- Landing Gear
- Heating System
- Flight Characteristics At Various Loadings

**POWER PLANT**

- Engines
- Engine Accessories
- Propellers
- Lubricating System
- Starters
- Exhaust Dampers

**HYDRAULIC SYSTEM**

**ELECTRICAL SYSTEM**

- Auxiliary Plant
- Lights

**FUEL SYSTEM**

**FLIGHT CLOTHING**

**MAINTENANCE**

**BASE FACILITIES**

- Plane Servicing Equipment
- Personnel Facilities

**All material and equipment functioned satisfactorily.**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

SIGNATURE B. W. PLAMER, Jr., Lt(jg), USN RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE J. POWERS, Lt, USN RANK AND DUTY

DATE 4-28-65

ACTING