

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

## I. GENERAL

**SECRET**

(a) Unit Reporting VT-45 (b) Based on or at U.S.S. SAN JACINTO (c) Report No. 44  
 (d) Take off: Date 9 April 1945 Time (LZT) 1515 (Zone); Lat. 27 - 05 N Long. 129 - 49 E  
 (e) Mission Strike Okinawa Jima (f) Time of Return 1820 (Zone)  
Strike 1 Group

## II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

TYPE (a)	SQUADRON (b)	NUMBER			BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE) (f)	FUZE, SETTING (g)
		TAKING OFF (c)	ENGAGING ENEMY A/C (d)	ATTACKING TARGET (e)		
<b>TBM-3</b>	<b>VT-45</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Four 500# G.P. bombs</b>	<b>None - Instantaneous Tail - J25</b>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<b>POF</b>	<b>VT-45</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>USS SAN JACINTO</b>				

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

(a) TYPE	(b) NO. OBSERVED	(c) NO. ENGAGING OWN A/C	(d) TIME ENCOUNTERED	(e) LOCATION OF ENCOUNTER	(f) BOMBS, TORPEDOES CARRIED; GUNS OBSERVED	(g) CAMOUFLAGE AND MARKING
<b>None</b>			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Did Any Part of \_\_\_\_\_  
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, Describe Clouds \_\_\_\_\_  
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)  
 Time of Day and Brilliance \_\_\_\_\_  
 (j) of Sun or Moon \_\_\_\_\_ (k) Visibility \_\_\_\_\_  
(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:				(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER	GUNS USED		
<b>None</b>						







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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Wakamari and China Towns (b) Time Over Target(s) 1600-1620 (Zone) 9  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 3/10 at 4000  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 15 Miles  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used Inst. 8  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run Four Spacing Select Altitude of Bomb Release 1500-2500  
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed None Probably Destroyed None Damaged None

(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 Warehouses and other buildings along waterfront, Wakamari Town	100 Yds. x 1000 Yds.	4 VT-45	16 500# G.P.	14	Serious
2					
3					
4 Jetty and waterfront buildings China Town.	Jetty 150 Ft. long. Waterfront 100 Yds. by 1500 Yds.	2 VT-45	8 500# G.P.	7	Serious
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).

1. These bombs were strung out along waterfront starting at least 10 different fires, one of which was extremely large. A two story flat roofed warehouse type building about 150 feet long was hit by two bombs. Photograph "A" attached hereto shows the waterfront of Wakamari Town after the attack.

2. The northeastern jetty or breakwater was hit by two bombs and seriously damaged. Photograph "B" attached hereto shows these hits. Five other bombs hit in and among buildings along the waterfront. Three separate fires were observed.

(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

**This strike was sent out to support operations on Chinam by neutralizing possible enemy sources of aid in Chinoyeraba Jina which lies to the north of Chinam. Lieutenants Osborne, Black and Riley, Lieutenants (j.g.) Mason and Laughlin, and Ensign Robertson participated in this attack. The flight searched the Chinoyeraba Jina area for ships or fuel dumps and found none. Therefore the planes attacked possible storage and shipping facilities in the two principal waterfront towns, Nedward on the North East Coast and China on the South East coast. In addition to bombing effectively possible storage buildings along the waterfronts and one of the jetties protecting the harbor at China these planes strafed the areas heavily in hope of discovering hidden fuel supplies. The result was an effective saturation of the waterfront areas of these two towns.**

**Glide bombing attacks were made from 5000 feet at angles of 30° to 35° and bombs were dropped from between 1500 and 2500 feet.**



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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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

**Malcolm I. HUDOCK, Lieut., USNR,**  
A.C.I. Officer.

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

**J. G. FINEGAN, Lieut., USNR,**  
Commanding Officer.

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

**12 April 1945.**

DATE





WADOMARI  
TOWN

88  
VAN JAC 27K APR 5 47 1615-9) K20 2.8" ALT VAR OKINOYERABU TMA NANSEI SHOTOCON



CHINA  
TOWN

87  
VAN JAC 27K APR 5 47 1615-9) K20 2.8" ALT VAR OKINOYERABU TMA NANSEI SHOTOCON