

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
 (Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VF-45 (b) Based on or at USS SAN JACINTO (c) Report No. 55
 (d) Take off: Date 21 March 1945 Time (LZT) 1150 (I) (Zone); Lat. 25° 50' N Long. 136° 02' E
 (e) Mission CAP (f) Time of Return 1530 (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)		
FGP-5	VF-45	4	4 (1 plane piloted by Lt.(jg) Swinburne is credited with the kill)	I	I	I

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 (g)	(e) LOCATION OF ENCOUNTER	(f) BOMBS, TORPEDOES CARRIED; GUNS OBSERVED	(g) CAMOUFLAGE AND MARKING
Jill	1	1	1220 (ZONE)	Approx. 65 miles SE of Task Group 58.2	No guns or other arm- ament observed. The Jill was fitted with a belly tank.	customary mottled green with red roundels

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Attempting to get away from Task group, after having reconnoitered the ships or having made an attack.
 Did Any Part of No
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? No If so, Describe Clouds _____ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance Day
 (j) of Sun or Moon _____ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (k) Visibility Unlimited (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			
Jill	FGP-5	VF-45	Lt(jg) H.W. Swinburne	6 x .50 cal.	6 o'clock. Clipped part wing off, then belly tank blew up.	Destroyed

Enclosure (1)

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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	None			
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
None				

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	
F6F-5	1	1	4	400	250	Approx. 400 rds. out of Lt(jg) Swinburne's guns				4

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	X			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	X			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	X			

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

SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

TURNES
DIVES
CEILINGS
RANGE
PROTECTION
ARMAMENT

The Jill was quickly overtaken by the F6F-5 in a tail chase which began when the planes were approximately 5 miles apart. The F6F, however, had approximately a 2000 foot altitude advantage, and the glide provided a speed advantage over the Jill, which, however, was also in a shallower glide throughout the chase. No evasive maneuvers were attempted by the Jill, with the exception of the use of jettisoning a "dummy" parachute to which was attached a pack or sack. The latter would not explode upon strafing.

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

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

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

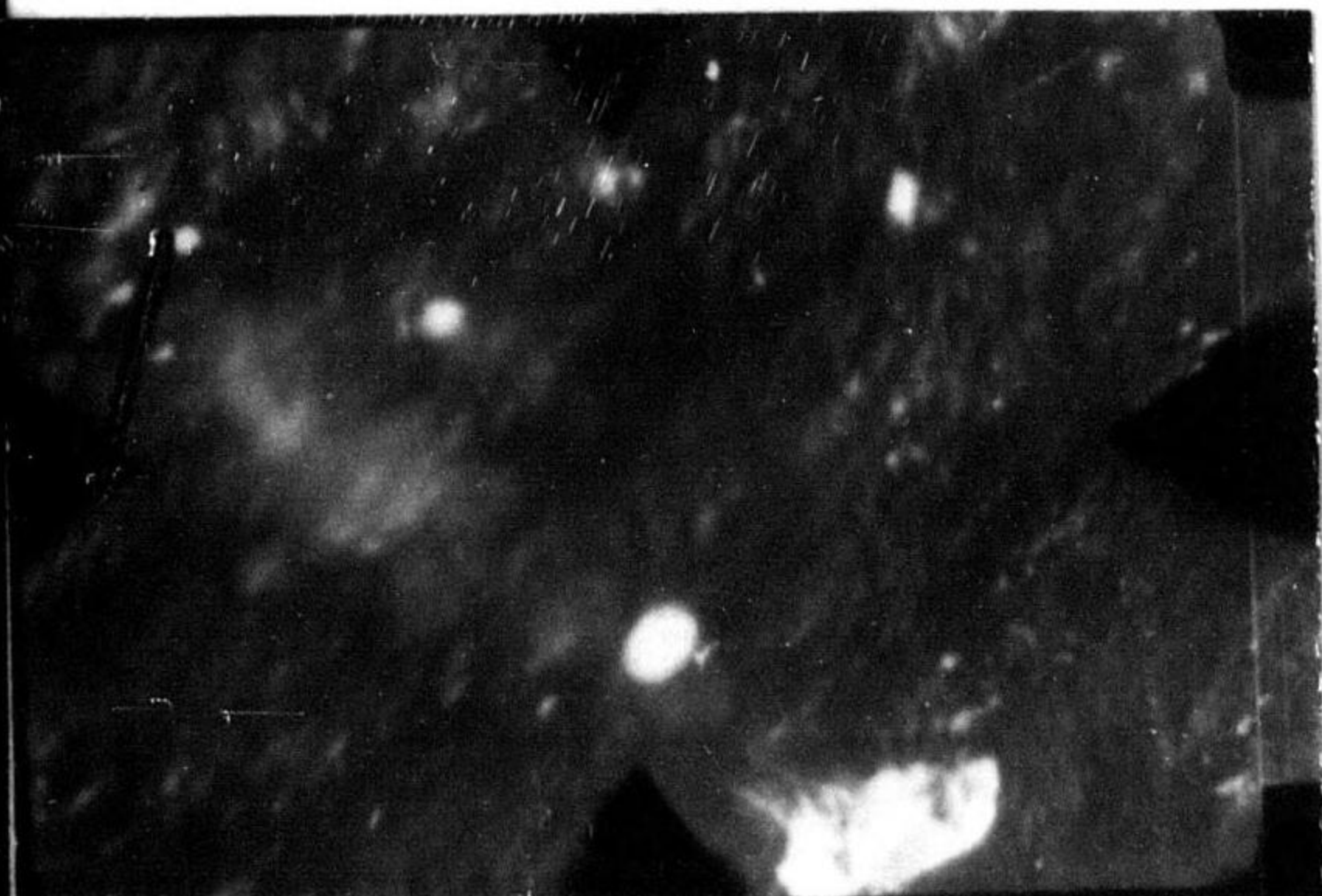
(f) Bombing Tactics: Type (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used (TYPE)

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

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

(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? 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 Hellcats of the USS SAN JACINTO were launched for Combat Air Patrol at 1150 (1), 21 March, 1945. The division was led by Lieutenant C. W. Wilson, with Lt(jg) Hollard, Lt(jg) Swinburne and Lt(jg) Grossman making up the remainder of the division.

At approximately 1205 (1) the Fighter Director of the USS SAN JACINTO commenced working the 4-plane division out to intercept a bogey. The division was at 8,000 feet altitude. Several vectors were given in fairly rapid succession, as follows: 090° Buster, 110°, 180°, 160°, slow speed to 160 knots, 180° Buster, 110° and finally 180° Gate. At 1215 (1) Lt. (jg) Hollard tally-head the bogey, about 10 miles, signals 6. From an altitude advantage of approximately 2000 feet all four planes screamed down in a glide on the hapless Jap, all Hellcats employing full throttle and RPM and using water injection. The pilot of the Jill (for that was how identified as the type) apparently did not observe the oncoming planes until Lt(jg) H. W. Swinburne opened fire from dead astern at 3000 foot range. The tracer soon started eating into the fuselage, then into the wing roots, and suddenly the Jill flamed. A piece of its port wing came off and the enemy plane plunged into the sea. Before the Jap pilot joined his ancestors, he jettisoned a parachute, from which was suspended a pack or dummy of similar size and appearance to a small rectangular box. The pack did not explode upon being strafed. Gun camera pictures of the chute, from above, with the splash of the Jill below, were obtained. (See photo page 3).

After this action the planes rendezvoused and returned to base, where they orbited on station until their scheduled unhook time at 1530 (1).

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~~SECRET~~ **XIII. MATERIAL DATA.** (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left. Use additional sheets if necessary).

All material and equipment functioned satisfactorily

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:

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ACI Officer

RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

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SIGNATURE

Commanding Officer

RANK AND DUTY

3-26-45

DATE