

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VP-45 (b) Based on or at USS SAN JACINTO (c) Report No. ACA-1 #26
 (d) Take off: Date 22 January 1945 Time (LZT) 0700 (I) (Zone); Lat. 24° 51'N Long 128° 15'E
 (e) Mission Pre-dawn sweep and TCAP, Ie Shima Airfield, Ie Shima (f) Time of Return 1015 (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)		
<u>P6F-5</u>	<u>VP-45</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>Each plane carried 6 -5" H.E. rockets apiece</u>	<u>Mark 146, non-delay fuse</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>TBM-3</u>	<u>VP-45</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>USS SAN JACINTO</u>	<u>TBM-3</u>	<u>VP-44</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>USS LANOLBY</u>
<u>TBM-3C</u>	<u>VP-45</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>USS SAN JACINTO</u>				
<u>P6F-5</u>	<u>VP-44</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>USS LANOLBY</u>				

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
<u>Dinah</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>0820 (I)</u>	<u>Ie airfield</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>Light tan color</u>
<u>Tojo</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>0830 (ZONE)</u>	<u>Ie airfield</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>Forest green, bright red roundels</u>
<u>Oscar</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>0825 (I)</u>	<u>Ie airfield</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>Light tan color</u>
<u>Jack</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>0825 (ZONE)</u>	<u>Ie airfield</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>Dark gray</u>

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

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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) **In airfield, In China, Chinan Point** (b) Time Over Target(s) **0820-0920(I)** (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target **8000 feet, cumulus, 9-10ths** (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target **clear under 1000** (e) Visibility **8-10** (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 **6** 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	A beached and burning AK (Fox Baker - JBT) was repeatedly strafed and further damaged				
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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VF-45

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fully and comment freely.

Eight (8) F6F-5's of VF-45 were launched from the USS SAN JACINTO at 0700 (I) 22 January, 1945, to accompany seven (7) TBM's of VF-45 and eight (8) F6F-5's plus a like number of TBM's from the USS LANGLEY. Their mission was a preliminary strike at Ie airfield located on Ie Shima in the Okinawa Gunto, to be followed by a patrol of the airfield by 8 fighters to keep enemy aircraft blanketed as long as possible.

The combined flight departed from the Task Group at 0715 (I) and proceeded on the target course in a gentle climb until they reached 9,000 feet, at which time the planes were about 3,000 feet under the 9/10ths - 10/10ths overcast. The course set was calculated to take the flight east of Okinawa Shima until the planes were opposite Ie Shima. Then course was changed 90° to port, and the approach to the target was commenced. At this time the flight leader, Commander Scheeler, assigned the western two strips to the LANGLEY planes as target, and the eastern strip and the revetments to the SAN JACINTO planes. Near Ie, he split the raid so as to bring two flights into the target from the Northeast and the southwest in a coordinated attack. The LANGLEY flight leader sent four fighters ahead to seek out specific targets, and they were able to give a short resume of the target area several minutes before the coordinated attack. The SAN JACINTO VT and VF dived on their part of the target from the southeast and were followed in about 30 seconds time by the LANGLEY planes attacking their target from the north. All of the VT then rendezvoused at Menna Shima and the LANGLEY fighters were assigned to escort them back to Base. No aerial opposition or anti-aircraft was encountered at any time at Ie Shima.

The SAN JACINTO Hellcats remained over the target in a modified TCAF, as previously ordered, making repeated strafing and rocket runs on planes, gas trucks and installations. In all, three Tejas, an Oscar, a Jack, and a Dinah were strafed into flames. At least one gas truck was exploded in a cave type storage vault south of the field and fuel stores in similar underground structures were burned by strafing and rockets.

Prior to departure to Base the remaining rockets and some .50 calibre ammunition was expended on an already damaged AK (Fox Baker - JMSF) off the coast of Okinawa Shima approximately 3 miles southeast of Ie Shima. While returning to base, the Group Commander gave permission to the second 4-plane division to make a single strafing run on Yontan airfield, Okinawa Shima. This division encountered intense heavy and medium anti-aircraft fire and were forced to break off their attack before they had made a run. The planes were then rendezvoused south and east of Okinawa Shima and returned to base.

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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

Armament and equipment functioned normally, with the following exceptions:

Gun trouble was reported by two F6F-5's as follows:

- (a) #1 gun had a ruptured cartridge; #4 and 6 guns had short rounds in the ammunition belt; #2, 3, and 5, the timing and head space were out of adjustment.
- (b) #3 gun suffered a ruptured cartridge due to improper head space.

On a third F6F-5 the YE equipment did not function, receiving no signals at all. The cause was undetermined and the unit was changed.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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1-24-45 DATE