

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. **ACA-1 #21**
 (d) Take off: Date **16 January 1945** Time (LZT) **0820 (I)** (Zone); Lat **19° 53'N** Long. **115° 04'E**
Strike Kungshan and Nanchong Airfields
 (e) Mission **and Hot New Fort, H. Hainan** (f) Time of Return **1450(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	VF-45	4	None	4	3 planes carried 6 - 5" H.H. rockets apiece	Non-delay

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
TBM-1C	VF-45	2	USS SAN JACINTO	PGP-5	VF-4	4	USS HESSEX
TBM-3	VF-4	4	USS HESSEX	PGP-5	VF-44	12	USS LANGLEY
TBM-3	VF-44	8	USS LANGLEY				

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
Tojo	2	None	Approx. 1300 (I) (ZONE)	Nanchong A.F.	None observed	

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) **XX**
 Did Any Part of
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? **XX** If so, Describe Clouds **XX** (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance
 (j) of Sun or Moon **XX** (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (k) Visibility **XX** (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		
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 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	
F4U-7C	375	375	6.6	400	340					

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 aircraft

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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) Primary target not covered. Attached new airfield N. Central Hainan and Hanchong airfield, N. Hainan (b) Time Over Target(s) 1240-1250 (1) one
 (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target No clouds - Haze on ground
 (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Hazy (e) Visibility 4-5
 (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

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

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

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

(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					
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? _____ 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 P6F-5's of VF-45 were launched from their parent carrier at 0820 (I), 16 January, 1945, together with 2 TBM-1C's of VT-45, to join with planes from another carrier in the Task Group and strike the Hainanese airfields of Mancheong and Kiungshan and the port of Hoi How. The flight leader was from the sister carrier.

After getting off course and over Luichow peninsula, on the Chinese mainland, the flight was directed on a course of approximately 240° which brought the flight into the island of Hainan considerably westward of Hoi How port on the NW coast. The strike leader broke off from the SAN JACINTO planes, advising the latter to return to base with the torpedo planes and one division of fighters from the strike leader's carrier.

On the return trip, the flight discovered a new airfield in N. Central Hainan Island, approximately 19° 40'N, 109° 45'E, and strafed and rocketed the barracks and hangars located .25 miles NW from the intersection of the two sea runways. The flight then went to Mancheong where two possible Tojos were observed by one pilot on the deck, but were not attacked owing to the fuel shortage and uncertainty of the pilot as to the condition of the planes.

The flight returned to base, finally landing at 1450 (I) after over 6.5 hours of flight, with approximately 60 gallons of gasoline left in each fighter.

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

All equipment and armament functioned normally.

- 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:

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ACI Officer

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SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY
Commanding Officer

1-17-45 DATE