

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

## I. GENERAL

**SECRET**

(a) Unit Reporting VF-45 (b) Based on or at USS SAN JACINTO (c) Report No. 54  
 (d) Take off: Date 20 March 1945 Time: (LZT) 1215 (I) (Zone); Lat. 25° 48' N Long. 136° 11' E  
 (e) Mission CAP (f) Time of Return 1540 (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)		
<b>F6F-5</b>	<b>VF-45</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<b>None</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>J111</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1440 (I)</b> (ZONE)	<b>70 miles south</b> <b>west of Task</b> <b>Group.</b>	<b>None observed</b>	<b>Greenish brown</b> <b>with extremely</b> <b>brilliant red</b> <b>roundels of standard</b> <b>size and usual</b> <b>location</b>

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) To locate and attack ships of Task Force.  
 Did Any Part of  
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? No If so, Describe Clouds X  
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)  
 Time of Day and Brilliance  
 (j) of Sun or Moon Day (k) Visibility 12-15  
(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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			
<b>J111</b>	<b>F6F-5</b>	<b>VF-45</b>	<b>Lt(jg) R.C. Woolverton</b>	<b>6 x .50 cal.</b>	<b>Wing roots, from 0°</b> <b>delfection, level</b>	<b>Destroyed</b>
<b>J111</b>	<b>F6F-5</b>	<b>VF-45</b>	<b>Lt(jg) R.C. Woolverton</b> <b>Ensign H. Nida</b>	<b>"</b>	<b>Fuselage, engine section</b> <b>from astern, below,</b> <b>from 0° to 10°, level</b>	<b>Destroyed</b>

Enclosure (K)



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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>F6F-5</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3.45</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>Av. 200 rds. by 2 plane firing</b>				<b>4</b>

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

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

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

SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes

TURNES

DIVES

CEILINGS

RANGE

PROTECTION

ARMAMENT

**One of the Jills flamed on a short burst in a very gratifying manner, indicating either lack of leak proofing or armament.**

**The Jills took no evasive maneuvers, so that comparative performance between the Jill and F6F-5 can hardly be made.**

**Inasmuch as the F6F's had a division bracket on the Jills, as well as an altitude advantage on the Japs, the latters' destruction was simply a formality.**



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

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

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

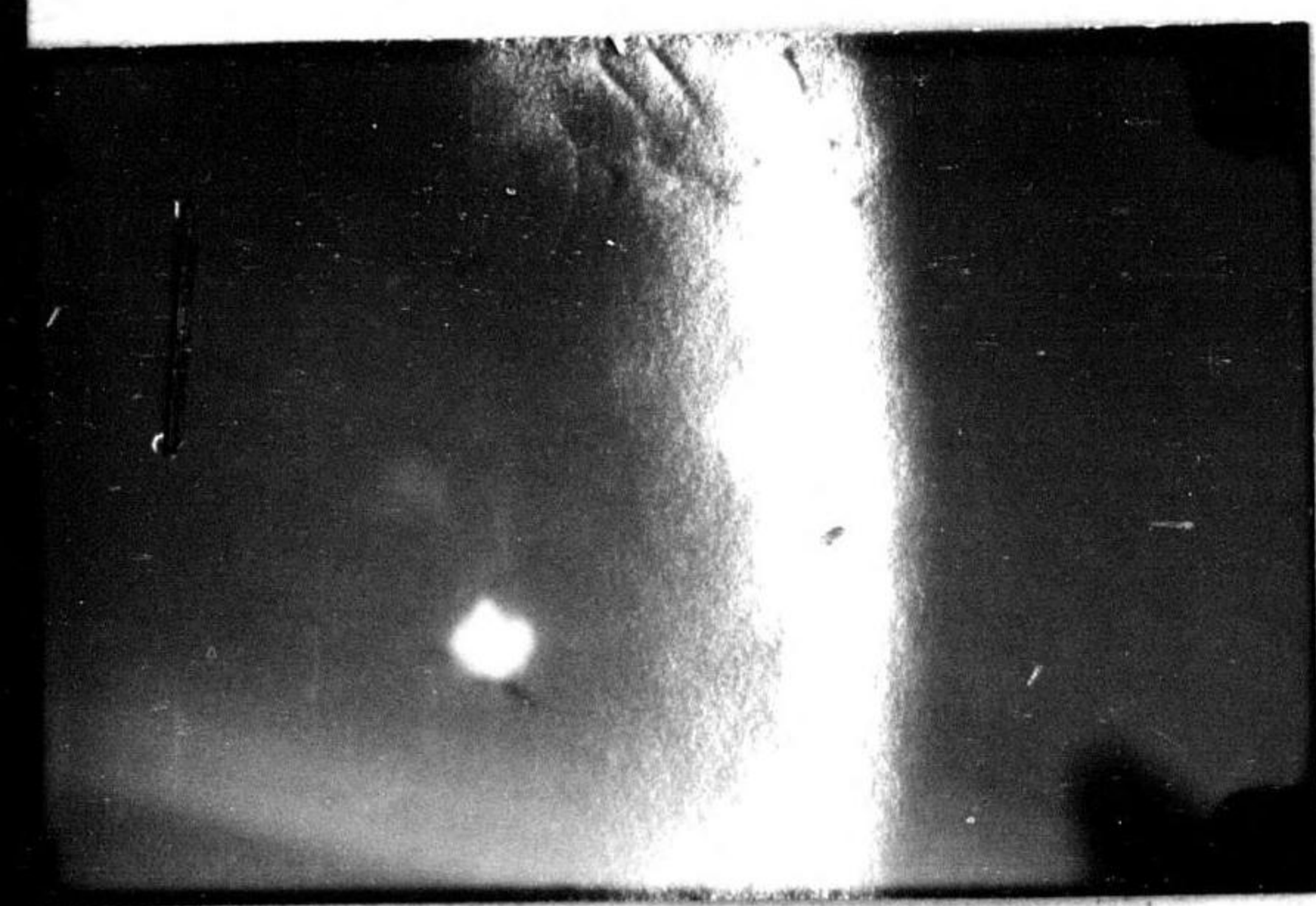
(f) Bombing Tactics: Type \_\_\_\_\_  Bomb Sight Used \_\_\_\_\_   
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

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



of kill by Lt(jg) Woolverton

(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

**See attached sheet.**



SECRET

XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA.

Of eight Hellcats launched by the USS SAN JACINTO at 1215 (I), 20 March 1945, as an emergency Combat Air Patrol, a four plane division led by Lt(jg) R.C. Woolverton had the satisfying experience of fulfilling the primary mission of CAP pilots - destroying enemy planes long before they reach the ships of the Task Force. Lt(jg) Woolverton had to assume the lead of the 4-plane division (consisting of Ensign Nida, Ensign Kelley and Lt(jg) Westmoreland) when the regular division leader was prevented from taking off the deck by a downed plane.

For three quarters of an hour the division orbited northeast of the Task Group at 20,000 feet altitude. At approximately 1300 (I) the Fighter Director of the USS SAN JACINTO vectored the division northward on various headings out to a distance of slightly over 100 miles. Interception was not effected, possibly owing to the almost complete overcast existing from 8000 to 13000 feet. After a fruitless search below the overcast the division started back to Base on a general course of 210° at about 8000 feet. After flying for about 30 miles on this course, the Fighter Director of the USS ENTERPRISE assumed control of the four planes and gave several vectors in fairly rapid succession. The headings were respectively: 150° - 130° - 90° - 60° - 30° - 10°. The vectors veered to northward because the bogey apparently kept turning in that direction. Finally at 1440 (I) Woolverton tally-ood two Jills, 12 o'clock, below, flying at 5000' in a large circle to port. The four planes closed from 8000 feet, in a shallow dive on the tails of the two Japs, which were flying a close two-plane formation. At 1000 feet range Woolverton opened with a short burst on the starboard Jill in a no deflection shot. The Jill immediately flamed and went down (See Photo, page 3). Woolverton then kicked his plane to port and fired at about 500 feet range in a 0° to 10° deflection shot. In the meantime Ensign Nida, who had tailed in below and astern of the port Jill opened fire on the second Jap from astern. The Jill, smoking and with the cockpit afire internally, made a right hand turn and then a wingover - when the Jill was in an inverted position, the Jap pilot bailed out. Both planes splashed.

The two kills were then reported to the Enterprise Fighter Director, who gave the division a vector back to base. After return to Base the four planes orbited to northeast at 10,000 feet until ordered by the USS SAN JACINTO to pancake at 1540 (I).



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**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:

**S. W. PLAUCHE, Jr., Lt(jg), USNR**

SIGNATURE

**ACT Officer**

RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:

**L. E. FORKNER, Lt., USNR**

SIGNATURE

**Commanding Officer**

RANK AND DUTY

**3-22-45**

DATE