

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

## I. GENERAL

**SECRET**

(a) Unit Reporting VP-45 (b) Based on or at USS SAN JACINTO (c) Report No. 73  
 (d) Take off: Date 2 April 1945 Time (LZT) 0550 (I) (Zone); Lat. 26° 31' N Long. 129° 06' E  
 (e) Mission Support 1-ABLE, Okinawa Jima (f) Time of Return 0920 (I) (Zone)

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

| TYPE<br>(a)  | SQUADRON<br>(b) | NUMBER               |                              |                            | BOMBS AND TORPEDOES<br>CARRIED (PER PLANE)<br>(f)   | FUZE, SETTING<br>(g)                |
|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
|              |                 | TAKING<br>OFF<br>(c) | ENGAGING<br>ENEMY A/C<br>(d) | ATTACKING<br>TARGET<br>(e) |   |                                     |
| <b>P6F-5</b> | <b>VP-45</b>    | <b>8</b>             | <b>None</b>                  | <b>8</b>                   | <b>All planes carried 1 x 500 lb. GP bombs each</b> | <b>non-delay - bombs</b>            |
|              |                 |                      |                              |                            | <b>6 planes carried 6 x 5" H.R. rockets each.</b>   | <b>Mark 146 - non-delay rockets</b> |
|              |                 |                      |                              |                            |   |                                     |

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

| TYPE         | SQUADRON     | NUMBER   | BASE                   | TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE |
|--------------|--------------|----------|------------------------|------|----------|--------|------|
| <b>TBU-3</b> | <b>VP-45</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>USS SAN JACINTO</b> |      |          |        |      |
|              |              |          |                        |      |          |        |      |

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

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

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) X  
 Did Any Part of  
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? X 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 X (k) Visibility X  
(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (MILES)

## V. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

| (a)<br>TYPE<br>ENEMY A/C | (b) DESTROYED OR DAMAGED BY: |          |                 |           | (c)<br>WHERE HIT, ANGLE | (d)<br>DAMAGE<br>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)

VF-45

REPORT No. 73

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

Artillery positions near base of hill,

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) 81780 - Okinawa Jima (FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK) (b) Time Over Target(s) 0745-0755(I) Zone

(c) Clouds Over Target 2500, alto-cumulus 4/10ths (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target visibility impaired by smoke & haze (e) Visibility 6 in target area (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

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

Bombs Dropped per Run One Spacing X Altitude of Bomb Release av. 1500 ft. (NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed X 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                |                           |                                   |  |                             |   |
| 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.

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

VF-45

REPORT No. 73

## 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

Eight P-51's of VF-45 took off from the USS SAN JACINTO at 0550 (I) 2 April 1945 (Low plus one Day) to provide air-ground support on Okinawa Jima. They accompanied six TBK's of VF-45 on this support mission.

After the planes arrived on station, the Commander Air Support Control Units (Southern Zone) assigned as a target trenches located in 8786 " and X, and 8785 A, B, C and G\*. The eight pilots of the P-51's withheld their attack, owing to the fact that a large number of presumably friendly trucks were seen proceeding down a road close to the assigned area. This delay proved to be fortunate, for the order to attack was cancelled by CASCU shortly afterwards, due to the presence of friendly troops.

The second (and last) target assignment given to the VF-45 planes was artillery positions near the base of a hill in 81 78 G. The positions were easily located, but some confusion was created when the Air Coordinator, Southern Zone, attempted to spot the target with two smoke bombs. These smoke bombs were believed to be considerably "off" the assigned target, but following the Air Coordinator's instructions explicitly, the area designated by the markers was strafed, bombed and rocketed by all the Hellcats and Avengers on two runs. The Air Coordinator commended the work of the fourteen support planes, stating that the artillery positions had been completely destroyed.

The planes thereupon joined up and returned to Base.

**GRID REFERENCES:** Air Support Chart Okinawa, compiled and reproduced by 64th Reg. Top. Sq., USAF TC, No. 1210 - 1 Rev. 1944.

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VF-45

REPORT No. 73

**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

**All material and equipment functioned satisfactorily.**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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4-12-45

DATE