





# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

**SECRET**

VF-45  
REPORT No. **ACA-1 #18**

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

**One (1) 7500 ton AO (Sugar Able - JMST) 600-800 yards outside harbor, Teshien, Naval Base.**  
(a) Target(s) and Location(s) **Deck facilities on side of harbor,** (b) Time Over Target(s) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zone)

**Teshien Naval Base**  
(c) Clouds Over Target **Lower layer, 2500', alto stratus, 5/10ths - upper layer 4500' nimbo stratus 10/10ths**

(d) Visibility of Target **Clear under lower layer** (e) Visibility **6 - 8** (MILES)

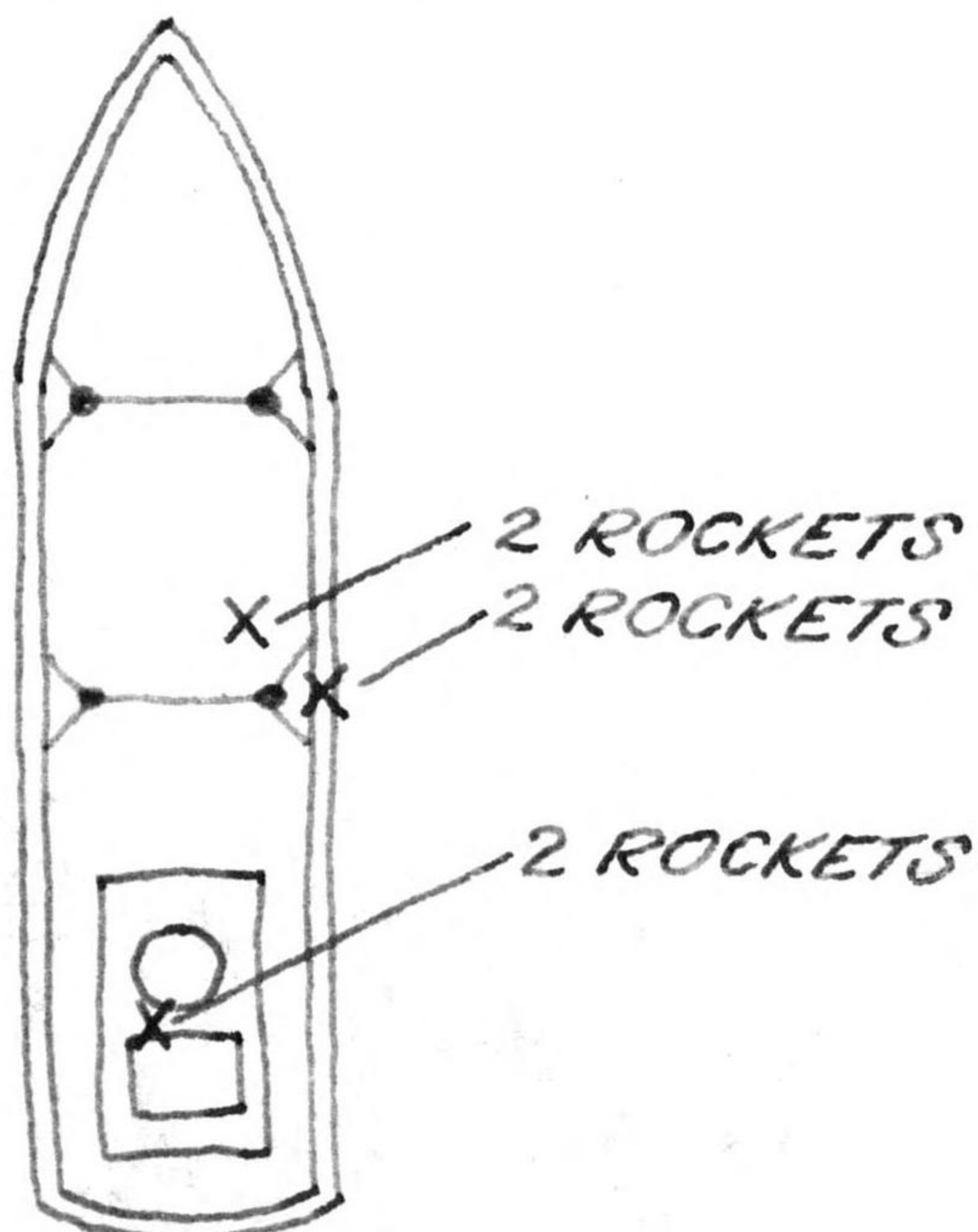
(f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Glide** (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used **Mark 8** (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run **1** (NUMBER) Spacing **X** (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release **2000 feet** (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed **None** Probably Destroyed **None** Damaged **None**

(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 <b>Midships and deck and hull section aft of amidships</b>	<b>7500 tons approx.</b>	<b>Four</b>	<b>18 H.E. 5" rockets</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>seriously damaged</b>
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.



AN JAG P-1X (15 JAN 45, 0945-9) (K25 6 7/8" VAR) (TOSHEN, FORMOSA) (CONF)

(SAN JAC 45)(15 JAN 1945, 0945-9)(K17 24" VAR)(TAKAO-TOSHIEN, FORMOSA)(CONF)

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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

Eight (8) F6F-5's of Fighting Squadron 45 took off from the USS SAN JACINTO at 0640 (T) on 15 January 1945, accompanying 2 F6F-5P's of VF-45 and 6 TBW's of VT-45, their combined mission being a shipping strike at Takao and Teshion Harbors, Fernosa.

After the fighters and torpedo planes were rendezvoused by the Group Commander, the flight was ordered by the USS LANGLIEY flight leader (who was the designated leader, Strike ABLE) to rendezvous at 11,000 feet on top of the overcast. The SAN JACINTO planes endeavored to carry out their orders and started up through the cloud cover. The 1st division of fighters, together with the two VFP, climbed through 10,000 feet of solid overcast in order to get on top; none of the VT were able to get through the overcast, and they proceeded to the rendezvous point previously designated off the target area, accompanied by two fighters from the 2nd division. (Of the remaining two fighters, one became lost from the formation and returned to the ship alone, and the other joined up with a friendly flight to central Fernosa where railway yards were attacked).

Once on top of the overcast, the Group Commander joined up the six fighters which had broken through, but at no time was he able to effect a rendezvous with the LANGLIEY planes, so he proceeded to the target independently with his six planes. The flight reached the Fernosan area over the coast 20 miles north of the target, so the Hollants proceeded southeast along the coast until a position off shore from the target area was reached. There two of the SAN JACINTO VT planes joined the formation, and at this time a large tanker (Sugar Able - JMS), which had apparently sortied from Teshion Harbor in the morning, was observed attempting to re-enter the harbor. Permission was requested of the Target Coordinator to make an attack on the Sugar Able but he could not be raised. There were many friendly planes in the area at this time, none of which seemed to have any definite target objective in mind, so the Group Commander initiated his own attack with the four fighters (the remaining fighter - photo section making photo runs). Strafing runs were made by the first section from south to north, and the second section from Southeast to northwest, in an attempt to silence the ship's AA fire which was intense in light, medium, and heavy calibre, as was the AA fire from the adjacent harbor area. Following the first strafing attack, the VT were ordered to make their bombing runs, but at this time, unfortunately, the tanker went under clouds and the torpedo planes lost sight of the target. By the time the target was again in a position to be attacked the fighters had made several more strafing attacks, and had employed their rockets to damage the ship, setting her afire (see photograph, page 3). The torpedo planes did not again get a chance at the target, as she was hit shortly afterwards by bombs from planes of another group.

At this time, the Group Commander ordered all planes to rendezvous, but mean-while 2 VT had started individual runs on the shipping in Takao Harbor, employing cloud cover over the target to protect them in getting to the target. At this same time 3 other VT and a 2-plane section of fighters arrived in the target area, where one VT made a bomb drop in Teshion Harbor, accompanied by the 2 VF. Each of the last two fighters bombed and rocketed the dry dock area on the south side of the Teshion Naval Base, the first obtaining a direct hit with his half-tonner on one of the two dry dock buildings in a shallow glide, dropping from 2000 feet and the other thousand pounder landed just east of the first hit in shops located there. Two remaining torpedo planes made a run on Takao Harbor, employing the cloud cover as had the VT making an earlier run. The flight then rendezvoused and returned to base under the cloud layer.

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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 material functioned normally with the exception of the rockets on two planes:**

**(1) On one F6F-5 the mid and inboard rockets would not fire on "single fire". The rocket switch was put on "Automatic fire" and the rockets finally were fired. Cause of trouble, undetermined.**

**(2) On the other F6F-5, none of the six rockets would fire. On return to the ship, it was found that a loose wire was shorting the racks, having originally been caused by vibration.**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

SIGNATURE

**S.W. PLAUCHE, Jr., Ens. USNR**  
**ACI Officer**

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

**G. E. SCHACTER, Cdr., USN**  
**Commanding Officer.**

RANK AND DUTY

DATE

**1-16-45**