

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

## I. GENERAL

**SECRET**

(a) Unit Reporting VF-45 (b) Based on or at USS SAN JACINTO (c) Report No. 44  
 (d) Take off: Date 1 March, 1945 Time (LZT) 1515 (K) (Zone); Lat. 25° 45' N Long. 129° 07' E  
Amami Gunto  
 (e) Mission Fighter Sweep, Okinoyerabu Shima and Tokuno Jima, (f) Time of Return 1830 (K) (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>9</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Each plane carried 6 x 5" rockets apiece</b>	<b>Mark 146 - non-delay</b>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<b>F6F-5</b>	<b>VF-80</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>USS HANCOCK</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>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) 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		
<b>None</b>						

ENCLOSURE (F)



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RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when  
filled out)

(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) Okinoyerabu Shima and Tokuno Jima, Amami Gunto (b) Time Over Target(s) 1600-1700(K) Zone  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 2000-3000, Alto-cumulus, 2/10ths  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 10  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type X Bomb Sight Used X  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run X Spacing X Altitude of Bomb Release X  
(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? \_\_\_\_\_ 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**

Nine F6F-5's of VF-45 of the USS SAN JACINTO were launched at 1515 (K), 1 March, 1945 to sweep Okinoyerabu Shima and Tokuno Jima, Amami Gunto, in company with fourteen (14) Hellcats of the USS HANCOCK. The sweep leader was from the HANCOCK.

After the flight rendezvoused, the course took the planes between Okinoyerabu and Tokuno. When between the islands the sweep leader split his element of fighters, sending six HANCOCK fighters to Okinoyerabu and eight to Tokuno. Since the SAN JACINTO leader, Lt. Knokey, received no instruction from the sweep leader, the SAN JACINTO planes went to Tokuno.

Arriving at Tokuno Airfield the nine SAN JACINTO Hellcats made two strafing and rocket runs from west to east, directly down sun against the airfield facilities. No serviceable planes were observed on the field or in the surrounding revetments.

As the HANCOCK planes started circling Tokuno Jima at 1000 feet altitude, the SAN JACINTO planes climbed to 6000 feet altitude and flew to Kametsu Harbor on the east coast of Tokuno. There rocket and strafing runs were made on several luggers and small craft in the harbor, damaging three and setting one afire. All except one of the luggers and small craft were either on fire or damaged from a previous attack.

Lt. Knokey then joined up his nine Hellcats and proceed to Okinoyerabu Shima, where they circled the island twice looking for targets. The nine planes finally made one run on a concrete pier and storehouses on the southwest coast of the island. The pier was damaged by two rockets fired by Ensign Wilcox. It was observed that at this time another flight of planes were strafing native villages setting several huts on fire.

Then the SAN JACINTO flight leader, lacking his belly tank and to conserve fuel, orbited the island and instructed the remaining planes to hit targets of opportunity. A barracks-type building on the northeast side of the island was set on fire by a rocket and strafing run by Lt. Wilson and Ensign Mollard.

The planes then rendezvoused 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

The rocket on one F6F seemed to have had a large drop when fired. This was probably caused by defective propellant (Ballestite) or bent tail fin.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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

G. E. SCHECTER, Comdr., USN

3-2-45

SIGNATURE **ACI Officer**

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE **Commanding Officer**

RANK AND DUTY

DATE

not a book  
for comment.