SECRET

ACTION REPORT
OF
U.S.S. SAN JACINTO

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, 30 AUGUST 1945

16-31 AUGUST, 1945

OPERATIONS
JAPANESE HOME ISLANDS
CVL30/A16-3
Serial: 0068

U.S.S. SAN JACINTO 10(pr)

O/c Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, California,
31 August 1945.

From: The Commanding Officer.
To: The Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet.

Via: (1) Commander Carrier Division THREE, and
Commander Task Group THIRTY-EIGHT POINT ONE.
(2) Commander Task Force THIRTY-EIGHT.
(3) Commander THIRD Fleet.
(4) Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.


References: (a) Cominf ltr. Serial 7152, dated 29 October 1943.
(b) Pacific Ltr. 1CL-45, dated 1 January 1945.
(c) ComTHIRD Fleet Standard Instructions 1-45, Part Five, para. 5300.
(d) CarDivTHRED Instructions, Part Five, para. 802, 803.

Enclosures: (A) Action Report
Part I - Brief Summary. P. 4
Part II - Preliminaries. P. 4
Part III - Chronological Account and Navigational Track Charts. P. 6
Part IV - Ordnance (No report).
Part V - Damage (No report).
Part VI - Special Comments and Information.
   (a) Air Department Operations.
      (1) Statistical Charts. P. 14
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Part VII - Performance of personnel (No report).

1. Enclosure (A) constitutes the Action Report of the U.S.S. SAN JACINTO for the period 16 August through 31 August 1945, and is forwarded herewith.

2. East longitude dates and minus nine (-9) 1 in Zone time are used throughout this report.

[Signature]
Hugh H. Goodwin.
U.S.S. SAN JACINTO

c/o Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, California,
31 August 1945.


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PART I

BRIEF SUMMARY

During the period under review, the U.S.S. SAN JACINTO operated off the coast of HONSHU. Operations consisted of Combat Air Patrols over the Task Force, special patrols over the TOKYO area in support of the landing of the occupation forces at TOKYO BAY, and the delivery of supplies to Prisoner of War camps on the island of HONSHU.

On 21 August, Air Group FORTY-NINE was transferred to the U.S.S. BATTLE and Air Group FORTY-SEVEN embarked.

On 24 August, Captain Hugh H. GOODWIN, USN, assumed command vice Captain Michael H. MADDOX, USN, detached.

PART II

PRELIMINARIES

The U.S.S. SAN JACINTO operated tactically as a unit of Task Group THIRTY-EIGHT POINT ONE, a part of Task Force THIRTY-EIGHT, THIRD Fleet, UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET, from 16 August until detached on 31 August 1945 for return to the UNITED STATES.
Operating tactically as a unit of Task Group THIRTY-EIGHT POINT ONE in waters southeast of HONSHU. Following the cessation of hostilities, the Task Group had retired on a southerly course. Flight operations were limited to Combat Air Patrols. The S.S. JACINTO launched three (3) tow planes for gunnery exercises which were held during the morning. Flying conditions were average to good with light variable winds and a slight sea.

Sunrise 0427 0800 - Lat. 32° 34.8' N., Long. 142° 06.1' E.
Sunset 1812 1200 - Lat. 32° 24.4' N., Long. 142° 31.5' E.
          2000 - Lat. 32° 18.3' N., Long. 144° 38.8' E.

0727 - Launched tow planes, 3 VT.
0920 - Ramped Torpedo Defense Stations for gunnery exercises.
1027 - Secured from Torpedo Defense.
1233 - Recovered tow planes, 3 VT.

17 August 1945

Operating tactically as a unit of Task Group THIRTY-EIGHT POINT ONE in the same area southeast of HONSHU. Again flight operations were limited to Combat Air Patrols and the supplying of tow planes. The S.S. JACINTO provided four (4) tow planes. Gunnery exercises were held during the afternoon. Flying conditions were average to good with moderate easterly winds and a slight sea.

Sunrise 0451 0800 - Lat. 32° 53.5' N., Long. 143° 54.8' E.
Sunset 1812 1200 - Lat. 32° 27.5' N., Long. 144° 10.9' E.
          2000 - Lat. 32° 06.8' N., Long. 143° 11.0' E.

0727 - Launched tow planes, 4 VT.
1104 - Recovered tow planes, 4 VT.

18 August 1945

Operating tactically as a unit of Task Group THIRTY-EIGHT POINT ONE in waters southeast of HONSHU. A rendezvous was effected with the Fueling and Replenishment Group. Air operations for the S.S. JACINTO were limited to one (1) Combat Air Patrol. Gunnery exercises were conducted during the morning. Flying conditions were good with moderated easterly winds and a slight sea.

Sunrise 0452 0800 - Lat. 31° 57.5' N.; Long. 143° 51.5' E.
Sunset 1808 1200 - Lat. 31° 31.4' N.; Long. 144° 06.4' E.
          2000 - Lat. 31° 02.0' N.; Long. 144° 17.0' E.
PART III

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

0500 - Rendezvous with Task Unit 30.8.1 was effected.
0730 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #2, 12 VF.
0807 - Took station along port side of U.S.S. KENNEDY (AO-61) to take on fuel and aviation gasoline.
0926 - Cast off from U.S.S. KENNEDY.
1020 - manned Torpedo Defense stations.
1141 - Secured from Torpedo Defense.
1159 - Recovered DCAF #2, 12 VF.

19 August 1945

Operating tactically as a unit of Task Group THIRTY-EIGHT POINT ONE in waters southeast of HOKSHU. The Task Group again rendezvoused with the Fueling Group. The Marine Detachment was transferred for temp duty with the First Battalion Marine Landing Force. No flights were assigned to the SAN JACINTO. Flying conditions were average with winds moderate to fresh, east northeasterly, and a slight to moderate sea.

Sunrise 0453 0800 - Lat. 31° 34.0' N., Long. 143° 21.6' E.
Sunset 1807 1200 - Lat. 31° 06.8' N., Long. 143° 49.1' E.

0738 - Marine Detachment was transferred to the U.S.S. JOHN RODGERS (DD-754), for further transfer for temporary duty with the First Battalion Marine Landing Force.

20 August 1945

Operating tactically as a unit of Task Group THIRTY-EIGHT POINT ONE southeast of HOKSHU, in company with the Fueling and Replenishment Group. The SAN JACINTO took on ammunition. No flights were scheduled for the SAN JACINTO. Flying conditions were average with fresh east northeasterly winds and a moderate to slight sea.

Sunrise 0455 0800 - Lat. 31° 29.5' N., Long. 143° 28.7' E.
Sunset 1805 1200 - Lat. 30° 58.0' N., Long. 143° 58.4' E.

1026 - Took station along side U.S.S. FIREDRAKE (AE-14).
1035 - Cruiser Division 18 departed the formation.
1510 - Cast off from U.S.S. FIREDRAKE.
1750 - U.S.S. TUSCON (CL98) and U.S.S. ASTORIA (CL90) joined the formation.
Operating tactically as a unit of Task Group THIRTY-EIGHT POINT ONE in waters southeast of HONSHU. The SAN JACINTO left Task Group THIRTY-EIGHT POINT ONE temporarily and rendezvoused with Task Group THIRTY-EIGHT POINT THREE to effect a transfer of Air Groups and planes with the U.S.S. BATAAN, Air Group FORTY-NINE going to and Air Group FORTY-SEVEN coming from the BATAAN. Flight operations for the SAN JACINTO were limited to the exchange of planes with the BATAAN. Flying conditions were average to undesirable with fresh northeasterly winds and a moderate to slight sea.

Sunrise 0454 0800 - Lat. 31° 35.7' N., Long. 143° 57.8' E.
Sunset 1804 1200 - Lat. 31° 17.2' N., Long. 143° 51.1' E.
2000 - Lat. 30° 32.2' N., Long. 141° 41.9' E.

0520 - Entered screen of Task Group 38.3.
0655 - Commenced transfer of personnel and gear of Air Group FORTY-NINE and Air Group FORTY-SEVEN, via the U.S.S. ATACOSA (AO-66).
0833 - Completed transfer of personnel and gear.
0940 - Launched Air Group FORTY-NINE planes to the U.S.S. BATAAN, 11 VF and 3 VT.
1119 - Recovered Air Group FORTY-SEVEN planes from the U.S.S. BATAAN, 11 VF and 3 VT.
1507 - Rejoined Task Group 38.1.
1620 - Took station alongside U.S.S. ESCAMBIA (AO-60) to take on aviation gasoline.
1715 - Cast off from U.S.S. ESCAMBIA.

Operating tactically as a unit of Task Group THIRTY-EIGHT POINT ONE in waters southeast of HONSHU. A rendezvous was effected with the Fueling Group. The SAN JACINTO launched planes to take part in the mass flight over the THIRD Fleet, photographic coverage being the primary purpose of the flight. Flying conditions were average to undesirable with winds south to south southeasterly, fresh and strong. The sea was rough with moderate swell.

Sunrise 0502 0800 - Lat. 30° 56.8' N., Long. 141° 55.3' E.
Sunset 1805 1200 - Lat. 31° 14.8' N., Long. 142° 11.4' E.
2000 - Lat. 32° 13.0' N., Long. 142° 41.0' E.

0446 - Rendezvous effected with Task Unit 30.8.1.
0532 - Took station alongside U.S.S. CHIPOLA (AO-63) to take on fuel oil.
0620 - Cast off from U.S.S. CHIPOLA.
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S-E-G-R-E-T  
PART III  
CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY  
31 August 1945  
22 August (Cont'd)  
1133 - Launched Photo Mission over the Fleet, 22 VF and 3 VT.  
1231 - Recovered 1 VF deferred forced landing.  
1522 - Recovered Photo Mission, 21 VF, 8 VT.  
23 August 1945  
Operating tactically as a unit of Task Group THIRTY-EIGHT POINT ONE in waters southeast of HONSHU. No flight operations were scheduled for the U.S.S. SAN JACINTO. Flying conditions were average with winds fresh southeasterly, moderate sea and slight to moderate swell.  
Sunrise 0453  
0800 - Lat. 33º 21.0' N., Long. 143º 15.0' E.  
Sunset 1804  
1200 - Lat. 32º 49.4' N., Long. 143º 22.0' E.  
2000 - Lat. 33º 12.0' N., Long. 144º 08.9' E.  
24 August 1945  
Operating tactically as a unit of Task Group THIRTY-EIGHT POINT ONE in waters east of HONSHU. At 0845 Captain Hugh H. GOODWIN, USN, assumed command of the U.S.S. SAN JACINTO, vice Captain Michael H. KERNODLE, USN, detached. Captain KERNODLE was flown to the U.S.S. BENNINGTON in the afternoon. Aside from that single plane, none was launched by the SAN JACINTO. Flying conditions were average with moderate to fresh southerly winds and slight sea with moderate swell.  
Sunrise 0430  
0800 - Lat. 35º 37.0' N., Long. 143º 55.3' E.  
Sunset 1800  
1200 - Lat. 36º 23.0' N., Long. 143º 51.7' E.  
2000 - Lat. 37º 52.1' N., Long. 143º 19.6' E.  
0800 - Quarters for muster. Captain Hugh H. GOODWIN, USN, assumed command.  
1451 - Captain Michael H. KERNODLE, USN, former Commanding Officer, departed via plane to the U.S.S. BENNINGTON.  
25 August 1945  
Operating tactically as a unit of Task Group THIRTY-EIGHT POINT ONE in waters east of HONSHU. The SAN JACINTO launched two (2) Combat Air Patrols and one (1) Patrol over Airfields and Prisoner of War Camps on Central Western HONSHU. Flying conditions were bad during the morning, due to fog, improving to average after 1100. Winds were gentle southerly with a slight sea.
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3-E-C-E-B-E-T

31 August 1945

PART III

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

Sunrise 0445 0800 - Lat. 39° 22.2' N.; Long. 143° 42.0' E.
Sunset 1808 1200 - Lat. 38° 47.9' N.; Long. 143° 30.2' E.
2000 - Lat. 38° 42.5' N.; Long. 143° 58.5' E.

0643 - Launched Combat Air Patrol #1, 8 VF.
1100 - Launched Patrol "Dog", 13 VF.
1103 - VF crashed after take-off and burned. Pilot uninjured, rescued by a destroyer.
1117 - Recovered DCAp #1, 8 VF.
1307 - Launched Combat Air Patrol, #3, 8 VF.
1535 - Recovered Patrol "Dog", 12 VF.
1750 - Recovered DCAp #3, 8 VF.

26 August 1945

Operating tactically as a unit of Task Group THIRTY-EIGHT POINT ONE in waters east of HONSHU. The SAN JACINTO provided two (2) Combat Air Patrols and launched one (1) Patrol over airfields and Prisoner of War Camps on the island of HOKKAIDO. However, the area assigned was completely closed in and packages of supplies for the prisoners could not be dropped. Flying conditions were average to undesirable due to the visibility being restricted by haze and rain. Winds were moderate, south southeasterly and there was a slight sea.

Sunrise 0447 0800 - Lat. 40° 37.0' N.; Long. 143° 44.1' E.
Sunset 1806 1200 - Lat. 40° 08.4' N.; Long. 143° 37.9' E.
2000 - Lat. 40° 16.1' N., Long. 143° 50.6' E.

0432 - Launched DCAp #1, 8 VF.
0709 - Recovered Prisoner of War Patrol, 8 VF, 4 VT.
0900 - Recovered DCAp #1, 8 VF.
1145 - Launched DCAp #3, 8 VF.
1154 - Recovered POW Patrol, 8 VF, 4 VT.
1459 - Recovered DCAp #3, 8 VF.

27 August 1945

Operating tactically as a unit of Task Group THIRTY-EIGHT POINT ONE in waters east of HONSHU. A rendezvous was effected with the Fueling and Replenishment Group. The SAN JACINTO took aboard provisions, aviation gasoline, and fuel. Air Operations consisted of two Prisoner of War Missions. Packages of supplies were dropped in the prison compounds at IWAKI and two camps near NIIGATA. Flying conditions were average with fresh southwesterly winds and a slight to moderate sea and swell.
PART III

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

27 August Cont'd

Sunrise 0448 0800 - Lat. 38° 10'18" N., Long. 145° 03'0" E.
Sunset 1805 1200 - Lat. 37° 25'5" N., Long. 144° 56'3" E.
2000 - Lat. 36° 27'8" N., Long. 145° 14'5" E.

0432 - Rendezvoused with Task Group 30.8.1.
0522 - Took station alongside U.S.S. VIRGO (AKA-20).
1002 - Cast off from U.S.S. VIRGO.
1025 - Took station alongside U.S.S. CALIENTE (AO-53).
1300 - Launched POW Mission, 16 VF, 8 VT.
1315 - Cast off from U.S.S. CALIENTE.
1757 - Recovered POW Mission, 16 VF, 8 VT.

28 August 1945

Operating tactically as a unit of Task Group THIRTY-EIGHT POINT ONE east of HOKSHU in the Fueling area. Air operations consisted of two (2) Prisoner of War Missions on which packages of supplies were dropped at a camp located at 36° 58'0" N., 140° 57'0" E. and one (1) Combat Air Patrol. Flying conditions were average to undesirable with fresh southwesterly winds and a moderate sea and swell.

Sunrise 0448 - 0800 - Lat. 38° 11'3" N., Long. 144° 51'8" E.
Sunset 1758 1200 - Lat. 37° 51'8" N., Long. 144° 20'5" E.
2000 - Lat. 36° 49'6" N., Long. 144° 10'8" E.

0502 - Launched DCAP #1, 4 VF.
0532 - Launched POW Mission, 4 VF, 4 VT.
0933 - Recovered POW Mission and DCAP #1, 8 VF, 4 VT.

29 August 1945

Operating tactically as a unit of Task Group THIRTY-EIGHT POINT ONE in waters east of HOKSHU. Air operations consisted of Combat Air Patrols over the Fleet, the general TOKYO area and coverage of Prisoner of War Camps. Two of these latter missions were flown covering three camps, unnamed, located at 36° 38'0" N., 139° 26'0" E; 36° 39'0" N., 139° 27'0" E; and 36° 01'0" N., 138° 12'0" E, respectively. Food was dropped on each. Flying conditions were average with moderate southwesterly winds and a moderate sea.
PART III

29 August Cont'd

Sunrise 0459
Sunset 1803

0430 - Launched DCAP #1, 8 VF, and Prisoner of War Mission #1, 4 VF, 4 VT.
0645 - Launched CAP #1 over ATSUGI Airfield.
0914 - Recovered DCAP #1 and DW Mission #1, 12 VF and 4 VT.
1100 - Launched Prisoner of War Mission #4, 4 VF, 4 VT.
1115 - Recovered ATSUGI CAP #1, 8 VF.
1313 - Launched CAP over U.S.S. FLINT, 4 VF, CAP over SAGAMI and TOKYO BAYS, 8 VF, and Channel Patrol, 4 VF - total 16 VF.
1527 - Recovered POW Mission #4, 4 VF, 4 VT.
1725 - Recovered Channel Patrol and CLFs, 16 VF.

30 August 1945

Operating tactically as a unit of Task Group THIRTY-EIGHT POINT ONE in waters east of HOKSHU. Flight operations consisted of repeating the schedule for the previous day, with the addition of an Observing Flight consisting of two (2) VT over the general area. Packages of supplies were again dropped at the same prisoner of war camps as on the day before. Flying conditions were average with a moderate southerly wind and a moderate sea.

Sunrise 0459
Sunset 1801

0430 - Launched DCAP #1, 8 VF, and Prisoner of War Mission #1, 4 VF, 4 VT.
0645 - Launched CAP #1 over ATSUGI Airfield, 8 VF.
0900 - Recovered DCAP #1, 8 VF, and POW Mission #4, 4 VF, 4 VT.
1100 - Launched Prisoner of War Mission #4, 4 VF, 4 VT.
1318 - Launched Observation Mission, 2 VT, CAP over SAGAMI and TOKYO BAYS, 8 VF, CAP over U.S.S. FLINT, 4 VF, and Channel Patrol - 4 VF.
1548 - Recovered POW Mission #4, 4 VF, 4 VT.
1731 - Recovered Observation Mission, 2 VT, CAP over SAGAMI and TOKYO BAYS, 7 VF, CAP over U.S.S. FLINT, 4 VF and Channel Patrol, 4 V One (1) VF was forced to land at YOKOSUKA Airfield due to engine trouble.
1803 - U.S.S. ASTORIA (CL-90), U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS (BB-59), U.S.S. COLLETT (DD-730), and U.S.S. MANSFIELD (DD-728) detached from Task Group THIRTY-EIGHT to proceed to the UNITED STATES.
PART III

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

31 August 1945

Operating tactically as a unit of Task Group THIRTY-EIGHT POINT ONE in waters east of HONSHU. A rendezvous was effected with Task Unit 38.8.1 and fuel and supplies were taken aboard. No air operations were scheduled. At 1415 the U.S.S. SAN JACINTO was detached from Task Group 38.1 and as Task Unit 38.1.17, accompanied by the U.S.S. BUSH (DD-745) and the U.S.S. BLUE (DD-744), as Task Unit 38.1.18, departed for a rendezvous with Task Group 30.8 to take on passengers prior to returning to the UNITED STATES.

Sunrise 0448 0800 - Lat. 38° 37.0' N., Long. 144° 42.0' E.
1200 - Lat. 38° 12.4' N., Long. 144° 12.1' E.

0445 - Rendezvous effected with the Fueling and Replenishment Group.
0530 - Took station alongside the U.S.S. VIRGO (AKA-20) for replenishment of supplies.
0842 - Cast off from U.S.S. VIRGO.
0945 - Took station alongside U.S.S. ESCALANTE (AO-70) to take on fuel.
1047 - Cast off from U.S.S. ESCALANTE.
1415 - Detached from Task Group 38.1.
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Task Force THIRTY EIGHT retired to position 32° 42.0' N., 142° 20.0' E., in which general area it remained from 16 August to and including 24 August.

16 August 1945
Weather: Partly cloudy
Ceiling: Unlimited
Visibility: Unrestricted
Wind: Light and variable
Sea: Slight sea and swell
Flying Cond: Average to good

17 August 1945
Weather: Partly cloudy
Ceiling: Unlimited
Visibility: Unrestricted
Wind: 120 degrees, 11 knots
Sea: Slight sea and swell
Flying Cond: Good

18 August 1945
Weather: Partly cloudy
Ceiling: Unlimited
Visibility: Unrestricted
Wind: 080 degrees, 13 knots
Sea: Slight sea and swell
Flying Cond: Good

19 August 1945
Weather: Partly cloudy
Ceiling: Unlimited
Visibility: Unrestricted
Wind: 070 degrees, 15 knots
Sea: Slight to moderate sea and swell
Flying Cond: Average

20 August 1945
Weather: Partly cloudy
Ceiling: Unlimited
Visibility: Unrestricted
Wind: 070 degrees, 17 knots
Sea: Slight to moderate sea, slight swell
Flying Cond: Average
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Serial: 0068

AEROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY
31 August 1945

PART VI

21 August 1945

Weather: Cloudy, few showers
Ceiling: Variable, 2000 feet to unlimited
Visibility: Average 8 miles due to light haze
Wind: 055 degrees, 20 knots
Sea: Slight to moderate sea and swell
Flying Con: Average to undesirable

22 August 1945

Weather: Cloudy, scattered showers and light rain
Ceiling: Generally 2000 feet
Visibility: Average 10 miles
Wind: 160 degrees, 26 knots
Sea: Rough sea, moderate southeasterly swell
Flying Con: Average to undesirable

23 August 1945

Weather: Partly cloudy, light rain
Ceiling: 1500 feet in morning, unlimited in afternoon
Visibility: Unrestricted
Wind: 160 to 140 degrees, 18 knots
Sea: Moderate sea, slight to moderate swell
Flying Con: Average

24 August 1945

Weather: Partly cloudy, few showers
Ceiling: 4000 feet
Visibility: 10 miles
Wind: 170 degrees, 17 knots
Sea: Slight sea and swell
Flying Con: Average

25 August 1945

The SAN JACINTO, in company with Task Group THIRTY-EIGHT POINT ONE, moved north to launch DOAP and search patrols over the HOKKAIDO-NORTH HOKSHU area. Advection fog in the morning hours hampered and delayed flight operations.
PART VI

25 August Cont'd

Weather: Fog in patches and damp haze until 1100 (I), partly cloudy thereafter.
Ceiling: Unlimited, except to zero in fog.
Visibility: 0 to 3 miles in fog, 3 to 8 miles in haze, and unrestricted after 1200 (I).
Wind: 180 degrees, 10 knots.
Sea: Slight sea and swell.
Flying Con: Bad in morning; average after 1100 (I).

26 August 1945

Photo missions, DCAP, and Prisoner of War Missions were scheduled, but a few stratuscumulus over the Empire prevented completion of the Photo and P0W Missions.

Weather: Haze and occasional rain
Ceiling: 3000 feet to unlimited
Visibility: 3 to 8 miles
Wind: 160 degrees, 15 knots
Sea: Slight sea and swell
Flying Con: average to undesirable

27 August 1945

Photo, DCAP, and P0W Missions were carried out successfully today. The Task Group also fueled and replenished provisions.

Weather: Haze and rain showers
Ceiling: 2000 feet to unlimited
Visibility: 10 miles
Wind: 200 degrees, 18 knots
Sea: Slight to moderate sea and swell
Flying Con: Average

28 August 1945

The Task Group retired to the south. Fueling and replenishing of provisions continued. Photo and P0W Missions were again flown.

Weather: Partly cloudy
Ceiling: Unlimited
Visibility: Unrestricted
Wind: 230 degrees, 20 knots
Sea: Moderate sea and swell
Flying Con: Average to undesirable
From 29 August to 31 August, the SAN JACINTO continued to operate east of HONSHU and further Photo, POW Missions, and Patrols were flown.

29 August 1945
Weather: Cloudy
Ceiling: Unlimited
Visibility: Unrestricted
Wind: 230 degrees, 15 to 25 knots
Sea: Moderate sea, slight swell from the southwest
Flying Con: Average

30 August 1945
Weather: Scattered clouds
Ceiling: Unlimited
Visibility: Unrestricted
Wind: 230 degrees, 20 to 25 knots
Sea: Moderate sea, slight swell from the southwest
Flying Con: Average

31 August 1945
The SAN JACINTO as Task Unit 38.1.17 in company with the destroyers BLUE and BRUSH as Task Unit 38.1.18 departed Task Group 38.1 at 1410 and headed southward for rendezvous with Task Group 30.3 and eventual return to the UNITED STATES.

Weather: Rain
Ceiling: Variable, from 500 feet to 3500 feet
Visibility: Variable in rain and light fog, from 1 mile to unrestricted
Wind: Shifting from southwest to north at 15 to 25 knots
Sea: Slight sea and swell
Flying Con: Bad to undesirable in the morning, improving towards close of day
PART VI

PHOTOGRAPHY

During the period covered by this report, a total of six (6) photographic missions was flown by the photographic plane, F6F-5F. A total of five (5) missions was flown in TBMs by photographer's mates who were attached to the photographic laboratory of the ship. All missions were flown after the surrender of Japan, the principal assignments being to photograph Prisoner of War Camps. The absence of AA opposition permitted the pilots to fly as low and as slowly as they chose, with the result that pictures were obtained which were of a large scale and with a sharpness at that scale that was almost unknown under combat conditions.

The K-17 6-inch and K-17 12-inch combination was used exclusively in the photographic plane. The photographer's mates carried F-8 15-inch cameras.
This excellent view of the HATAKU Prisoner of War Camp in Northern HOKUSHU was taken by a low-flying SAN JACINTO photo plane on the first POW Mission, 25 August 1945.

An estimated 250 prisoners are visible within the compound and on the roofs of the barracks buildings. Occupants of the camp had just finished laying out the message "Food and smokes" when this picture was taken. Of special interest is the open gate near the lower right hand corner of the largest building.
SAN JACINTO VI flying at roof-top level were accorded a warm welcome by members of the Hondo Coal Mine Prisoner of War Camp in Central Honshu, 27 August 1945.

In addition to the required P-4 markings, the message "THANKS LAD" and a British flag may be seen on the roofs of the three large barracks buildings. A man with a paint bucket has just finished spelling out "GLORY" on the roof of the center building.

GVL30/Al6-3, Serial: 0088, of 31 August 1945.
Another view of the Iwakuni Prisoner of War Camp. At least seventy of the camps reported 1000 prisoners are clearly visible in this photograph alone.

The numerous Japanese civilians seen in the foreground were reported by pilots to be snatching up food and supply packages which fell outside the limits of the compound.

(CVL30/416-3, Serial: 0068, of 31 August 1945.)
A dramatic moment at the KIAKI Prisoner of War Camp, Central Honshu. Low level drops of food and medical supplies have just been made by SAN JACINTO VT, and prisoners may be seen running toward the parachute package visible on the extreme left.

This camp, previously unreported, was discovered by a SAN JACINTO POM Mission flying over the mountainous interior of Honshu, August 29, 1945.

CVL30/A16-3, Serial 0068, of 31 August 1945.