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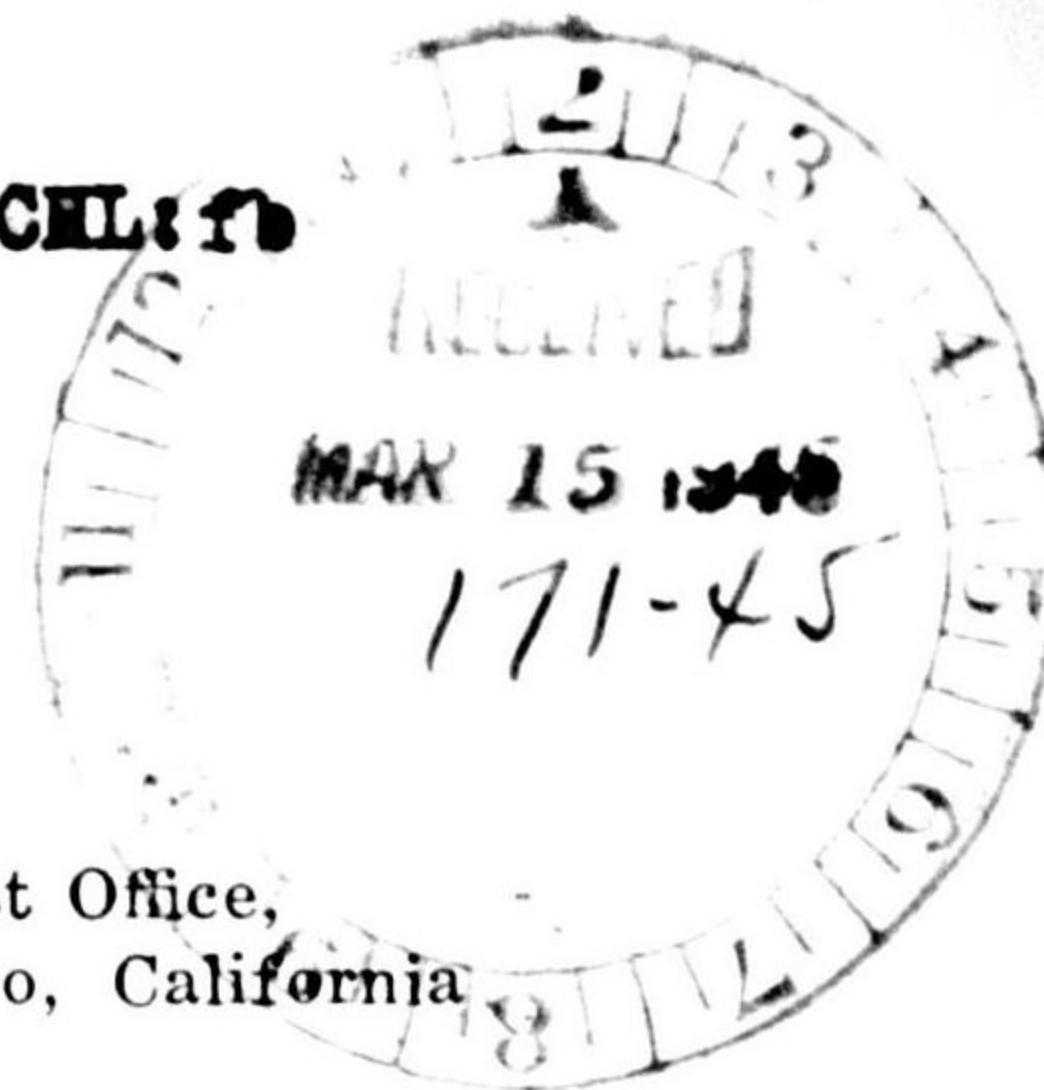
Report # 18

#4 (7)

VD-5/ A16-3
Ser. No. (067)

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
AIR FORCE
FLEET AIR PHOTOGRAPHIC SQUADRON FIVE

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c/o Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, California

13 March 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

From: Commanding Officer, Photographic Squadron FIVE.
To: Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet.

Subject: Aircraft Action Report No. 18, Photographic Reconnaissance
Truk Airfields, 11 February 1945.

Enclosure: (A) Subject report, 2 advance copies.

1. Enclosure (A) is forwarded herewith.


A. D. FRASER

XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA.

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For photographic coverage of Truk Airfields (Moen, Eten and Param Islands) Lt.-Comdr. L. R. GERLBACH, USN, departed Agana Field, Guam, 11 February 1945 at 0630 King leading a flight of two Squadron PB4Y-1P's. Approaching the target at right angles to heavy rows of cumulus extending NE to SW, the planes hit Truk with luck, between rows and obtained good coverage through slight scattered undercast.

Anti-aircraft fire was ineffectual and the use of radar window by both aircraft is believed a contributing factor to the Jap's inaccuracy. There was no interception although one squadron plane observed two distant Zekes far astern as it left the target area. The same plane, en route to base, also saw a multi-engine plane, unidentified at considerable range and on reciprocal course; position 09 degrees N, 150 degrees E. Crewmen were unable to state whether or not it could have been an Emily en route to Truk.

Both planes landed at Agana Field, Guam, by 1430 King.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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) North airfield, Moon Is. Bank (b) Time Over Target(s) 1155 King (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 3 tenths cumulus, tops 10,000 feet (TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Only slightly obscured (e) Visibility 30 miles above O.C. (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type level (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Bomb Sight Used none (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 5 (NUMBER) Spacing salvo (FEET) Altitude of Bomb Release 22,000 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 North airfield.		1 - PB4Y-1P VD-5	1-500# GP 4-100# GP	in water	all near airfield
2 Moon Island.					
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 photos of bomb damage. Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VD-5 (b) Based on or at Guan (c) Report No. 18
 (d) Take off: Date 11 February 1945 Time (LZT) 0630 King (Zone); Lat. 13° 30' N Long 144° 47' E
 (e) Mission Photographic Reconnaissance of Truk Airfields. (f) Time of Return 1430 King (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)		
PB4Y-1P	VD-5	2		2	1 plane - 1-500# GP 4-100# GP	Instantaneous

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
none							

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
Zeke	2	none	110100 (ZONE)	off Truk		
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____
 Did Any Part of _____
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? _____ If so, Describe Clouds _____
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance _____
 (j) of Sun or Moon _____ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST, ETC.) (k) Visibility _____ (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			
none						