

CONFIDENTIAL

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT page 1

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VD-1 REPORT No 18-45

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

Two PB4Y-1P aircraft of Fleet Air Photographic Squadron One, with Lieut. W. B. HUGHES flight leader, took off from Yontan Field, Okinawa, R. I., on 7 June 1945 at 0655 Item, to perform reconnaissance photography of Southern Kyushu. Two photo-Lightnings of the Twenty-eighty Photo Reconnaissance Squadron, 7th Air Force, also participated in the action, photographing enemy airfields in the same general area. The Tactical Air Force of the Tenth Army provided fifty-two P47N fighter aircraft for escort and a diversionary raid.

Flight lines two miles apart and approximately thirty miles long running north and south over Southwestern Kyushu were planned. Photography was to be performed from an altitude of 20,000 feet using a 24 inch focal length camera. Each photo-Liberator was escorted by twelve P47N aircraft and each photo-Lightning by eight P47N aircraft while eight P47N aircraft were to stage a diversionary radar raid. A BHM Dumbo escorted by four P47N aircraft was provided to orbit in the vicinity of Take Shima.

Rendezvous with the fighters was made five miles northwest of Ie Shima at 0730 Item. The formation proceeded from there to Take Shima climbing to 20,000 feet enroute. At Take Shima the photographic planes with their escort orbited, while eight P47N aircraft proceeded on a course of 325° Magnetic. After ten minutes on this course, these planes went into a five mile orbit dropping rope window. This action was repeated twice at ten minute intervals. Forty enemy fighter aircraft were attracted by this diversionary action of which four were destroyed. Two P47N aircraft were damaged during the battle both of which crashed on the return to base.

After orbiting for fifteen minutes, the photographic planes proceeded to the target. They arrived on station at 0910 Item and found the area covered with six to ten-tenths cumulus clouds. While unable to photograph over the planned flight lines due to the cloud coverage, they did cover such areas as were not too obscured, and excellent photographs of these areas were obtained. Heavy moderate and inaccurate antiaircraft fire was encountered. RCM gear was used to determine the frequencies used by the antiaircraft batteries and proper window was dropped to disrupt the gun laying radar. While no enemy aircraft were observed by the photo-Liberators, the escorting aircraft observed and attacked an undetermined number, destroying two in the air.

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COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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- Escort Tactics
- Fighter Direction
- Use of Radar
- Night Fighting
- Recognition, Aircraft

The planes continued to photograph until 1040 Item and then proceeded to the rally point at Take Shima. The photo-Liberator piloted by Lieut. W. H. HUGHES while enroute to base participated in searching for a life raft which had been reported sighted between Take Shima and Amami Gunto. The search was not successful and the plane returned to base landing at Yontan at 1320 Item. The other plane piloted by Lieut. H. O. ENDERSON returned directly to Yontan landing at 1230 Item.

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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
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COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Bombing Tactics
- Torpedo Tactics
- Effectiveness of Bombs, Torpedoes
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- Fuzing
- Strafing Tactics
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- Briefing

OPERATIONAL

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- Search and Tracking
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- Speeds
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- Defense Tactics and Their Effectiveness

ENEMY AIRCRAFT

- Method of Locating, Distance
- Disposition
- Altitudes
- Speeds
- Approach Tactics
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A PB4Y-1P flown by Lieutenant F. W. CROOK attempted photo reconnaissance of Truk on 9 June 1945. Take-off was at 0644 King and the target was reached at 1030 King. The entire atoll with the exception of Tol Island was overcast. Vertical and oblique photographs of Tol were obtained from 9,000 ft. Heavier inaccurate automatic weapon fire was encountered. The plane landed at Agana at 1405 King.

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