

VD-5

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Report # 14

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U. S. PACIFIC FLEET
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UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
AIR FORCE
PHOTOGRAPHIC SQUADRON FIVE

VD-5/A16-3
Serial: 044

CONFIDENTIAL

c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
19 February 1945

From: The Commanding Officer, Photographic Squadron FIVE.
To : The Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet.
Subject: Aircraft Action Report, Photographic Reconnaissance Chichi
Jima, Haha Jima and Iwo Jima, 9 February 1945.
Enclosure: (A) Subject report, 2 advance copies.
1. Enclosure (A) is forwarded herewith.


A. D. FRASER
Comdr. USN

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

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(a) Unit Reporting VD-5 (b) Based on or at Guam (c) Report No. 16
 (d) Take off: Date 9 February 1945 Time (LZT) 0630 King (Zone); Lat 13° 30' N Long 144° 47' E
Photographic Reconnaissance,
 (e) Mission Iwo Jima, Chichi Jima, and Haha Jima. (f) Time of Return 1710 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	4		4	none	

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
VF	1	none	1120 King (ZONE)	Iwo Jima Airfield		
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Taking off to intercept.
 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 _____ (k) Visibility _____
(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		
none						

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VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those listed in II only).

(a) TYPE OWN A/C	(b) SQUADRON	(c) CAUSE: TYPE ENEMY A/C, TYPE GUN, OR OPERATIONAL CAUSE	(d) WHERE HIT, ANGLE (List armor, self-sealing tanks, equipment hit)	(e) EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE, (Give Bureau serial number of planes destroyed)
1PB4Y-1P	VD-5	Enemy AA 75mm or over	Starboard wing outer panel and flap. Shrapnel came from below at a 90° angle.	1 piece passed completely through the outboard panel of the starboard wing, making a hole about 10" diameter. Smaller pieces of shrapnel made holes in the flap and top wing surface of the same wing.
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
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10				
11				
12				
13				
14				

VII. PERSONNEL CASUALTIES (in aircraft listed in II only; identify with planes listed in VI by Nos. at left).

(a) NO.	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NAME, RANK OR RATING	(d) CAUSE	(e) CONDITION OR STATUS
	none			

VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA FOR PLANES RETURNING

(a) TYPE A/C	(b) MILES OUT	(c) MILES RETURN	(d) AV. HOURS IN AIR	(e) AV. FUEL LOADED	(f) AV. FUEL CONSUMED	(g) TOTAL AMMUNITION EXPENDED				(h) NO OF PLANES RETURNING
						30	50	20MM	MM	
PB4Y-1P	830	830	11	3300	2675	test only				4

IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over		* Inaccurate	** inaccurate	*** Accurate
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm				
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm				

X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (use check list at left).

- SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes
- URNS
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

*Chichi
**Iwo, three planes
***Iwo, 1 Plane

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XII - TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA.

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4 PB4Y-1P aircraft led by Lt. H. L. SALYER, USNR took off Agana Field, Guam at 0637 King on 9 February 1945 for Photo Reconnaissance of Iwo Jima, Chichi Jima, and Maha Jima. Scattered cumulus clouds were encountered en route to the target area. A photo run was made over Iwo at 1120 King, the target was clear and good vertical and oblique photographs were made of the island. The flight encountered moderate to intense accurate heavy AA fire. Lt. SALYER's plane was hit by shrapnel; 1 large piece passed completely through the outer panel of the starboard wing and smaller pieces passed through the flap of the same wing. These hits did not impair the flight characteristics of Lt. SALYER's plane and he continued to lead the flight on to Chichi Jima. Chichi Jima was obscured by 5/10 cloud cover but partial vertical and oblique photographs were made through open spots. Meager inaccurate heavy AA fire was encountered over this target. One plane flown by Lt. J. T. BROOKS, USNR found an opening over Maha Jima and made 3 photo runs obtaining good partial vertical and oblique coverage of the island. During these runs they were subjected to meager inaccurate heavy AA. All planes returned to base by 1755 King.

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