

CONFIDENTIAL

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
 (Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VD-1 (b) Based on or at Yontan Field, Okinawa, R. I. (c) Report No. 21-45
 (d) Take off: Date 11 June 1945 Time (LZT) 0630 Iton (Zone); Lat. 26° 23' N Long 127° 45' E
 (e) Mission Photography of Kyushu (f) Time of Return 1200 Iton (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)		
P4Y-1P	VD-1	2	0	2	none	none

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
P47D	416th	40	Ie Shima	P4U	Mag 31	24	Yontan Field, Okinawa
	FG TAF			PBM	VH4	1	Kerama Retto
	10th Army						

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
none			(ZONE)			
			(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 _____ (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		
none					

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VD-1 REPORT No. 21-45

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
- Reconnaissance, Ships
- Communications
- Flight Operations
- Search and Tracking
- Base Operations
- Maintenance

Two PB4Y-1P aircraft of Fleet Air Photographic Squadron One, with Lieut. W. E. HUGHES flight leader, took off from Yontan Field, Okinawa, R. I. on 11 June 1945 at 0630 Itan to perform reconnaissance photography of Kyushu. Tactical Air Force of the Tenth Army furnished forty P47N fighters of the 416th Fighter Group and twenty-four F4U fighters of Marine Group 31. A PBM Dumbo rescue aircraft was provided by VH4. Twelve P47N fighters were to fly close cover over each of the photographic planes, twelve P47N fighters were to provide a roving top cover, four P47N fighters were to escort the Dumbo. Twenty-four F4U fighters provided a low level strafing attack.

Rendezvous with the fighters was made at 0700 Itan five miles northwest of Ie Shima. From there the formation proceeded directly to the target, arriving over the eastern coast of Kyushu Island at 0850 Itan. The weather was clear over the target areas. Four photographic flight lines were flown at an altitude of 20,000 feet running north and south from Toi Misaki to Miyazaki. Excellent photographs were obtained in both black and white and color. While no enemy air opposition was observed by the photographic planes, the P47N escorts reported an undetermined number of enemy fighters airborne. No antiaircraft fire was observed. At 0935 Itan Photography was discontinued and the planes proceeded on a course to base, landing at Yontan at 1200 Itan.

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VD-1 REPORT No. 22-45

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- Speeds
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- Use of Cover, Deception
- Angles of Attack and Their Effectiveness
- Distance of Opening Fire
- Defense Tactics and Their Effectiveness

ENEMY AIRCRAFT

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- Retirement
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- Use of Jamming

DEFENSE, ENEMY

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- Search and Tracking
- Base Operations
- Maintenance

Lieutenant (jg) H. PETERSEN, USNR, undertook photo reconnaissance of Truk on 11 June 1945 flying a photo Liberator. Take-off from Agana Field was at 0638 King and he arrived at the target at 1045 King. The major portion of the atoll was overcast but PETERSEN was able to obtain vertical and oblique photo coverage of radar installations on Pis, Faleu and Ulalu Islands from 16,000 ft. There was no anti-aircraft fire. The plane landed at Guam at 1615 King.

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