

VD-5

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Report # 21

#C(7)

VD-5/A16-3
Ser. No. (080)

CHL:fb

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
AIR FORCE
FLEET AIR PHOTOGRAPHIC SQUADRON FIVE

c/o Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, California

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MAR 19 1945

From: Commanding Officer.
To: Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet.
Subject: Aircraft Action Report No. 21, Photographic Reconnaissance
Truk Airfields (Moen, Eten and Param Islands), 15 February 1945.
Enclosures: (A) Subject report.
1. Enclosure A) is forwarded herewith.

A. D. FRASER

XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA.

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Two PB4Y-1P's obtained regular periodic coverage of Truk's Airfields; on Moen, Eten and Param Islands, with escort of four B-24's of the Army's Eleventh Bombardment Group. Lt. J. T. BROOKS, USNR, led the take-off from Agana Field, Guam, at 0700 King, followed by Lt. M. R. COOPER, Jr., USNR. The Army planes took off immediately thereafter from Depot Field, Guam.

Arriving at target, 1137 King, both photo flight lines were run successfully in clear weather, several radical changes in direction being made between legs of the runs. These turns plus the dropping of radar window at each change in direction (assorted window lengths dropped at 5 second intervals) contributed to the general inaccuracy of AA encountered. One piece of shrapnel, however, found Lt. COOPER's plane, during withdrawal from the targets, three Zekes were observed east of Eten Island engaged mostly in aerobatics out of range. Two Zekes made runs on Lt. COOPER, both from 2,000 feet above at 9 to 10 o'clock and diving below COOPER's formation. On one of these runs, the Navigator in one of his Army escorts was slightly wounded by a 20MM shell.

Both photo planes returned to Agana Field, Guam, by 1500 King.

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AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

REPORT No **21**

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)
PR4Y-1P	VD-5	AA - shrapnel	port fuselage, waist	1 superficial hole
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
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	
PR4Y-1P	559	559	8	3,000	2,060	350 rds				2

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over			*Dublon & Aten	
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).

***Barrage type.**

SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

- _____ TURNS
- _____ DIVES
- _____ CEILINGS
- _____ RANGE
- _____ PROTECTION
- _____ ARMAMENT

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VD-5 (b) Based on or at Guam (c) Report No. 21
 (d) Take off: Date 15 February 1945 Time (LZT) 0700 King (Zone); Lat. 13° 30' N Long 144° 47' E
 (e) Mission Photo Reconnaissance Truk Airfields (Moen, Eten and (f) Time of Return 1500 King (Zone)
Param Islands)

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	None	

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
B-24	11th	4	Guam				
	Bombard-						
	ment Group						

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	3	2	150145Z (ZONE)	S. of Eten Island		Underside of wing - pea-green
			(ZONE)			Topside of wing - brownish-orange
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Interception
 Did Any Part of
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? No 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 Day, sun partially obscured (k) Visibility 10 miles plus
(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:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			
None						