

VA-5

4  
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Report #14

IIA (M)

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VD-5 (b) Based on or at Guam (c) Report No. 14  
 (d) Take off: Date 3 February 1945 Time (LZT) 0730 King (Zone); Lat. 13° 30' N Long. 144° 47' E  
 (e) Mission Photographic Reconnaissance, Iwo Jima (Volcano Is.). (f) Time of Return 1817 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	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 (ZONE)	(e) LOCATION OF ENCOUNTER	(f) BOMBS, TORPEDOES CARRIED, GUNS OBSERVED	(g) CAMOUFLAGE AND MARKING
Zeke	4	4	Between (ZONE)	Iwo Jima	At least one VF appeared to have 2 guns each wing.	Large red "meatballs" from wing's leading edge to aileron. Zekes seemed new.
Oscar	2	2	030320 and (ZONE)	Iwo Jima	(this may have been a George) VF carried phos- phorus air to air bombs under wings.	
Tojo	2	2	030355 (ZONE)	Iwo Jima		

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Interception

Did Any Part of

(i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? no If so, Describe Clouds none  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(j) Time of Day and Brilliance  
of Sun or Moon Day, Sun Bright (k) Visibility 20 miles  
(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			
Zeke	PB4Y-1P	VD-5	Starboard waist - D54	1 - cal. 50	unknown	Fragments seen to fl. from plane
Oscar	PB4Y-1P	VD-5	Belly - D57	2 - cal. 50	Belly, under cockpit as he rolled.	Red flash followed by smoke.

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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)
1 none				
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	
PB4Y-1P	700	700	10.5	3300	2463		5915			4

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over			*Iwo	*Iwo
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
- TURNING
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

\*Moderate to intense  
included phosphorus  
AA.

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XII - TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA.

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Iwo Jima in the Volcanoes figured as sole target for this mission of four PB4Y-1P's headed by Comdr. A. D. FRASER, USN. Leaving Agaña Field, Guam 3 February 1945 at 0730 King, the flight arrived in the target vicinity just after 1300 King. Iwo was overcast and Comdr. FRASER circled in the immediate vicinity awaiting a possible opening. In about 40 minutes the flight found clear weather over target, between neighboring cumuli, and flight lines were run at an altitude of 10,000 feet, at 1350 King. Fair photos resulted.

Interception was brisk, beginning as the photo planes approached the island. Several Army P-5's were noted completing low altitude photo runs. They headed for home on completion and shortly thereafter enemy fighters appeared out of the nearby clouds. This may have been an indication of very effective fighter direction. Runs were made on all four Squadron planes, as many as 7 being recorded by Comdr. FRASER's crew and varying only slightly in the cases of the others. Not all were aggressive. Approach was made generally from either 9 or 12 o'clock and either level or high. Only one tail approach was recorded, in which two Zekes broke off at a distance when the tail-gunner test fired his guns. Similarly, several bow runs were discontinued.

Three to five phosphorus bombs were launched by the fighters at each PB4Y-1P, in no case causing injury although there were several near misses. Crew members of two photoplanes were strong in their belief that the launchings were achieved at some distance from and somewhat above their planes, possibly by means of jet propulsion. Flashes were seen under the enemy's wings as the bombs (carried there) were released.

Anti-aircraft fire was heavy caliber, moderate and inaccurate, causing no damage. A number of phosphorus shells were seen. Radar window was used by all four planes at the beginning of flight line runs; it is believed with some effect on the accuracy of AA fire.

All planes returned to Agaña Field, Guam, by 1817 King.

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