

VD-5

4
⑦

Report #20

II(7)

VD-5/
Ser. No. ^{A16-3} (075)

CHL:fb

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
AIR FORCE
FLEET AIR PHOTOGRAPHIC SQUADRON FIVE

c/o Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, California

MAR 19 1945

From: Commanding Officer.
To: Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet.
Subject: Aircraft Action Report No. 20, Photographic Reconnaissance
Airfields at Truk, 13 February 1945.
Enclosure: (A) Subject report.
1. Enclosure (A) is forwarded herewith.

A. D. FRASER

XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA.

VD-5 Report No. 20

This mission of 13 February 1945 was flown by two PB4Y-1P's led by Lieut. H. L. SALYER, USNR; off Agana Field, Guam, at 0631 King. En route to target, through passable weather, Lieut. SALYER's plane developed an oil leak in its #2 engine which prevented his attaining climb to altitude for his photo run. He waited, circling, north of Truk lagoon while his companion plane piloted by Lieut.(jg) FITZSIMMONS flew both flight lines. Cloud cover at Truk was slight.

FITZSIMMONS dropped radar window during both photo runs, besides using radical changes of direction in his approaches and changing altitude between islands (23,000 to 18,500 feet true). Enemy AA batteries were apparently sufficiently confused so as to be unable to find him. Good photo coverage was made.

Seldom, if ever, had a single Liberator spent as much time at one stretch over Truk (30 minutes over the Lagoon, 14 minutes in range of AA). After completing his coverage, FITZSIMMONS rendezvoused with SALYER off Truk's North Passage and accompanied him part way to base, later proceeding alone as SALYER's progress was satisfactory. Both planes had returned to Agana Field, Guam, by 1445 King.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

C. H. Lewis
C. H. LEWIS
Lieut., USNR
ACI Officer

APPROVED BY:

A. D. Fraser
A. D. FRASER
Commander, USN
Commanding Officer

DISTRIBUTION:

CominCh (orig & cc)
Via ComStratAFPOA
Cincpac
CominCh (1)
CincPac (Guam) (3)
JICPOA (1)
ComAirPac (1)

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VD-5 (b) Based on or at Guam (c) Report No. 20
 (d) Take off: Date 13 February 1945 Time (LZT) 0631 K (Zone); Lat. 13° 30' N Long 144° 47' E
 (e) Mission Photographic Reconnaissance, Airfields at Truk (f) Time of Return 1445 K (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	2		1	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
Zeke	1	None	130055Z (ZONE)	Truk		
			(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 _____ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON, DAY, OVERCAST, ETC.) (k) Visibility _____ (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					