

**CONFIDENTIAL**

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VD-1 (b) Based on or at Yontan Field, Okinawa (c) Report No. 20-45  
 (d) Take off: Date 10 June 1945 Time (LZT) 0540 Item (Zone); Lat. 26° 23' N Long 127° 45' E  
 (e) Mission Photography of Kyushu (f) Time of Return 1135 Item (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)		
FB4Y-1P	VD-1	2	2	2	None	None

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
PBM	VH4	1	Kerama Retto				
P47N	416 F.G.	40	Ie Shima				
	TAF						

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
Tony	6	2	0820 I (ZONE)	Southeast of Chiran Airfield	Unknown	Brown Green
Zeke	4	0	0825 I (ZONE)	"	Unknown	Brown Green
			(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)  
 (j) Time of Day and Brilliance Day "bright sun"  
 of Sun or Moon \_\_\_\_\_ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.)  
 (k) Visibility 30 plus  
 (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						

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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	365	365	6	2700	1600		200			2

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

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

SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes

URNS  
DIVES  
CEILINGS  
RANGE  
PROTECTION  
ARMAMENT

No observation

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**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  
Recognition, 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 Airfield at 0640 Item on 10 June 1945, to obtain reconnaissance photography of Southern Kyushu. Flight lines were planned to run east and west across the southern end of the island. The lines were two miles apart, approximately thirty miles long and the photography was to be accomplished from an altitude of 20,000 feet using cameras with a focal length of twenty-four inches. All areas were to be covered in black and white and the coastal areas in color.

Forty P47N aircraft were provided by the Tactical Air Force of the Tenth Army. Twelve to cover each photo plane, twelve to provide a diversionary radar raid and four to cover the rescue Dumbo. A PBM rescue Dumbo was provided by VH4.

The photo-Liberators made the rendezvous with their fighter cover at 0600 Item, five miles northwest of Ie Shima and proceeded on a direct route to Take Shima. At this point the photo planes with their escort orbited, while twelve of the P47N aircraft proceeded on a southeasterly course. At a point ten miles south of Toi Mizaka, they orbited and dropped rope type window. They then proceeded on a northerly course to a point twenty miles east of Nittagahara. They dropped rope window halfway to this point and again at the point, and then returned at high speed. Results of this diversionary activity was not observed.

After orbiting for fifteen minutes at Take Shima, the photo-Liberators with their escort proceeded on to the photographic flight lines arriving on station at 0800. The weather was clear and eight photographic flight lines were completed. A large number of enemy fighter aircraft rose to intercept the mission. While only a few Tonys and Zekes were actually observed by the photo-Liberators, the P47N escorts estimated that there were between eighty and one-hundred interceptors in the air. Two Tonys started runs on one of the photo-Liberators at about 0820 Item while at a position southeast of Chiran Airfield. Both came in from above, one at six o'clock and the other at four o'clock. Both enemy planes were driven off by gunfire from the photo-Liberator and the fighter cover. Fifteen enemy planes were claimed destroyed in the air by the fighter cover, one Zeke was observed going down in flames by the photo-Liberator. At 0900 Item, the mission was broken off due to the numerical superiority of the enemy.

It was found in this flight that the P47N was unable to gain fighting speed at this altitude without diving. Therefore, it is believed that when this type of cover is used, it is desirable to have fewer planes flying close cover, but that a roving top cover flying several thousand feet above would add to the effectiveness of the close cover and provide better protection.

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**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  
Recognition, Ships  
Communications  
Flight Operations  
Search and Tracking  
Base Operations  
Maintenance

Continued- -

While returning from this mission, one of the P47N pilots was forced to jump from his plane. He parachuted safely to the water and one of the photo-Liberators orbited over him calling the rescue Dumbo and remaining until the rescue was effected. The photo flight leader landed at Ie Shima at 1135 Item. The other photo-Liberator, piloted by Lieut. H. O. ENDERSON, landed at Yontan at 1135 Item.

No antiaircraft fire was encountered on this mission. Gun laying frequencies were picked up by the RCM gear however and window was dropped. The enemy probably withheld fire to avoid firing on the interceptors.

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