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Report # 23

#9(7)

VD-5/ A16-3
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UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
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FLEET AIR PHOTOGRAPHIC SQUADRON FIVE

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MAR 19 1945

From: Commanding Officer.
To: Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet.

Subject: Aircraft Action Report No. 23, Photographic Reconnaissance
Iwo Jima (Volcanoes), Coverage D-day, Iwo Invasion, 19 February 1945.

Enclosure: (A) Subject report.

1. Enclosure (A) is forwarded herewith.


A. D. FRASER

XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA.

VD-5 Report No. 23

Coverage of D-day at Iwo Jima in the Kazan Retto (Volcano Islands) was the mission of 19 February 1945 for Comdr. A. D. FRASER, USN, and Lt. Comdr. L. R. GEHLBACH, USN, flying two PB4Y-1P's. Accompanying, as passengers, were special correspondents and photographers. Take-off was 0235 King from Agana Field, Guam.

One hour and a half out Lt. Comdr. GEHLBACH was forced by a gas leak to return to Agana from which he again took off in a standby PB4Y-1P at 0555 King.

Comdr. FRASER arrived at Iwo 0740 King where he spent two hours during which excellent obliques were obtained at low altitude beneath a nine-tenths cumulus cover with bases at 3,000 feet. Light was somewhat obscured by both smoke and haze, although conditions were somewhat improved by Lt. Comdr. GEHLBACH's arrival at 1030 King. The second plane likewise covered the island with low obliques. All phases of the landing visible from the air were photographed, with excellent results.

Anti-aircraft fire was desultory, little being directed at this Squadron's planes due, in large part to the heavy action in progress, both air and surface. It ranged from a few heavy bursts to medium and light; all meager.

Comdr. FRASER and party returned to Agana Field, Guam, at 1405 King, being followed by Lt. Comdr. GEHLBACH at 1535 King.

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AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

REPORT No **23**

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	760	760	11	3,300	2,600	test only				2

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
	HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over		Iwo	
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm		Iwo		
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm		Iwo		

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

SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

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

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VD-5 (b) Based on or at Guam (c) Report No. 23
 (d) Take off: Date 19 February 1945 Time (LZT) 0235 King (Zone); Lat. 13° 30' N Long. 144° 47' E
 (e) Mission Photo Reconnaissance, Iwo Jima (Volcanoes), coverage (f) Time of Return 1535 King (one)
D - Day, Iwo Invasion.

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
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
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	GUNS USED		
None						