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SP-PHOTO-3-47  
JAN-1945

3RD PHOTO RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON  
APO 234 POSTMASTER  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

History of 3rd Photo Reconnaissance Squadron  
from 1 January to 31 January 1945.

A. Arrived-Departed - Balance of Squadron to  
Guam, 11 January 1945.

B. Losses in Action - Negative.

C. Awards or Decorations -

LEGION OF MERIT

Lt Col Patrick B. McCarthy

D. Organization changes - Negative.

E. Stringth, personnel -

1 January 1945

161 Officers  
2 Warrant Officers  
3 Flight Officers  
526 Enlisted Men  
6 Enlisted Men attached

31 January 1945

152 Officers  
2 Warrant Officers  
3 Flight Officers  
513 Enlisted Men  
6 Enlisted Men attached

F. Strength, Aircraft - Fifteen.

G. Losses, Airplanes by Type - Negative.

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UNIT: 3rd Reconnaissance Squadron

MISSION NO: 74

TYPE MISSION: Photo & weather reconnaissance of targets - KYUSHU area.

PILOT: T.C. Kendall, 1st Lt, AC

A/C TYPE & NO: F-13A #877

TAKE-OFF: 081425 Z March 1945

LAND: 090425 Z

TARGETS: Weather; installations at NAGASAKI; SASEBO; OMURA; FUKUOKA;  
TACHIRRA AIRFIELD; NOBEOKA.

RESULTS: Good

NARRATIVE SUMMARY: A/c took off from base at NORTH FIELD, GUAM, at 1425 Z hours, for mission to photograph installations on KYUSHU, and to obtain weather data. The trip out was uneventful, and the a/c made landfall SOUTH of NAGASAKI at 2222 Z. Photo runs were made on NAGASAKI, OMURA, SASEBO, FUKUOKA, TACHIRRA AIRFIELD and NOBEOKA (in the order named) and the return trip was begun, due to low fuel. The trip was uneventful, and the a/c landed DEPOT FIELD, GUAM at 0425 Z.

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ENEMY OPPOSITION: None

FLAK: Total of 9 bursts sighted - over SASEBO. All were accurate as to altitude, and approximately 100 yards to the left.

CASUALTIES: None

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S E C R E T

ALTITUDE: 32,500 ft. Ind. @ 2300 Z SPEED: 190mph IAS TEMP: -22 deg C.

WEATHER:

ROUTE UP:

OVER TARGET: 3/10 to 5/10 cloud cover, with large holes.

ROUTE BACK:

OBSERVATIONS:

1. At NAGASAKI, sighted 6 large, 8 smaller vessels. Time 2225 Z.
2. Saw 3 large towers at SASEBO, at 2335 Z.
3. Sighted 4 vessels at TOMITAKA -0008 Z. Also saw 3 vessels at MIMITSU.

COMMENTS:

1. LORAN worked during the entire flight.

JOHN F. CROSBIE, Captain, AC  
INTELLIGENCE OFFICER.

S E C R E T

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UNIT: 3rd Photo Reconnaissance Squadron

MISSION NO: 75

TYPE MISSION: Weather & photo reconnaissance of KYUSHU area.

PILOT: J.E. Seiler, Capt, AC

A/C TYPE & NO: F-13A #585

TAKE-OFF: 091421 Z March 1945

LAND: 100442 Z

TARGETS: Weather; NAGASAKI, OMURA, FUKUOKA, YAWATA

RESULTS: Excellent

NARRATIVE SUMMARY: A/C took off from NORTH FIELD, GUAM at 1421 Z hours on a mission to KYUSHU area, for the purpose of gathering weather data and accomplishing photo reconnaissance in that area. The trip up was uneventful, and the climb was started about 175 miles from the coast. It was discovered that the a/c wouldn't pressurize, necessitating runs over target areas being made at 25,000 ft. For that reason, after photographing OMURA, the target run was cut short, and the a/c was headed SE, photographing targets of opportunity across KYUSHU. After leaving the coast, it was found that the a/c could be partially pressurized - this was done, and the remainder of the trip was accomplished without further incident. Landing was made at DEPOT FIELD, GUAM at 0442 Z.

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S E C R E T

ENEMY OPPOSITION: None.

FLAK: First sighted 8 bursts over NAGASAKI - inaccurate, about 8,000 ft. below. Over OMURA, an estimated 100 bursts total - very accurate. Some was close enough to hear, boxing in the ship. Seemed to be in clusters of 4 and 8 bursts.

CASUALTIES: None

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S E C R E T

ALTITUDE: 25,700 ft. Ind. @ 2250Z    SPEED: 190mph IAS TEMP: -20 deg C.

WEATHER:

ROUTE UP:

OVER TARGET: 2/10 to 3/10 clouds over entire target area.

ROUTE BACK:

OBSERVATIONS:

1. Fighter strip sighted on YAKU ISLAND.
2. 10 vessels (4 DD, 4 CA, 2 CV) sighted at 20/39N - 140/03E (0232Z)  
On course of 100°, but started wide circle as a/c passed over.
3. Sighted a large number of cargo vessels in harbor at NAGASAKI.

COMMENTS:

1. Winds at altitude were as predicted.
2. LORAN worked all the way to target and back.
3. Could not pressurize a/c until after leaving target area.

JOHN F. CROSBIE, Captain, AC  
INTELLIGENCE OFFICER.

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UNIT: 3rd Photo Reconnaissance Squadron

MISSION NO: 107

TYPE MISSION: Photo reconnaissance

PILOT: Omer L. Cox, 1st Lt, AC

A/C TYPE & NO: F-13A #870

TAKE OFF: 281700 Z March 1945

LANDED: 290710 Z March 1945

TARGETS: Airfields on KYUSHU

RESULTS: Good

NARRATIVE SUMMARY:

A/C took off from SAIPAN. The US Fleet was seen about 50 miles south of KYUSHU. Landfall was made on island of YAKUJIMA at 2330 Z. Flew on to FUKOE SHIMA, there turned in and hit KYUSHU at SASEBO. Continued along coast passing over FUKUOKA, YAWATA, OITA and SAEKI, leaving there at 0110 Z. The trip back was uneventful. Passed over IWO JIMA on route home.

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**S E C R E T**

**ENEMY OPPOSITION:**

One t/e fighter seen below and climbing near FUKUOKI, but did not reach altitude of photo a/c.

**FLAK:**

250 - 300 bursts over YAWATA. Intense and some accurate.

**CASUALTIES:** None

**S E C R E T**

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ALTITUDE: 32,800 ft. true      SPEED: 195 mph IAS      TEMP: -45 deg C.

WEATHER:

ROUTE UP: Fair

OVER TARGET: 5/10 cloud cover.

ROUTE BACK: Fair

OBSERVATIONS:

1. US Fleet south of KYUSHU. Several F6Fs came up to intercept before identification was made.
2. 22 small boats seen off YAKIJIMA.
3. 2 fighters took off from FUKUOKI airfield.
4. Reflections seen from two airfields.
5. Several ships, mostly freighters, seen in harbors near YAWATA and along STRAITS.
6. Jap stations picked up on 6200 kc and 7300 kc.

COMMENTS: None

JOHN F. CROSBIE  
Captain, Air Corps  
INTELLIGENCE OFFICER.

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