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318TH FIGHTER GROUP, AAF A.P.O. # 244

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27 November 1944

8TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 11-42 (Consolidated) H FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 11-8 RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 11-11 3D FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 11-12

A. Eighteen (18) P-38L's. (One (1) did not take-off; five (5) others did not reach the target)

B. One (1) twin-engine enemy aircraft; four (4) ZEKES.

A. None B. Two (2) ZEKES (Confirmed)

Escort two squadrons of B-24's and one F-5 to Iwo Jima.

Lts. JACOBSON, RICKARD, LOFLIN, SITTON.	(Violet 3)
Lts. WILSON, F/O WALKER, Lts. AMON, SMITH.	(Violet 5)
Capt. PARK, Lts. SULLIVAN, STEPHENSON, F/O JAMES.	(Violet 1)
Capt. OTTENSTEIN, Lt. ERBELE.	(Violet 4)
Major ROESER, Lts. REDFIELD, STROUD, STOLZ.'	(Violet 2)

Takeoff: 0930 - Over target: 1320 - Land: 1700

F/O JAMES (Violet 1-4) bogged down in soft ground while taxiing and did not takeoff. Capt. PARK (Violet 1-1) could not get gas from his belly tank. He turned around 200 miles from base and pancaked at 1110. Lt. SULLIVAN (Violet 4-2) began losing power 225 miles from base. He returned, accompanied by Lt. STEPHENSON (Violet 4-3). They pancaked at 1145. Lt. WILSONs(Violet 5-1) right-engine cut out right after takeoff. He pancaked at 0940. F/O WALKER (Violet 5-2) turned back at 1120 due to fuel pressure failure. He pancaked at 1305.

Violet 3 was to act as top cover for 3 B-24's who furnished the navigation escort. While orbitting between Minami Rock and Iwo Jima, Violet 3-1 observed one ZEKE make a head-on pass on the navigating B-24s, and pull away in a 180° turn. The ZEKE dropped two phosphorous bombs on, the B-24's but did no damage. Violet 3-1 pulled in behind the ZEKE and fired three bursts, the last of which was effective. Pieces fell away from the enemy's tail section and fuselage and the ZEKE started to smoke. As the ZEKE rolled over out of control, Violet 3-2 fired a short burst as Violet 3-1 broke away. The ZEKE continued in a steep dive and was observed to crash at sea. This action was confirmed by Violet 3-2 and Violet 3-3. As the strike force of B-24's withdrew from the target. Violet 3-3 observed one ZEKE with 2 P-38's on his tail, headed for the island. The P-38's broke contact and withdrew whereupon Violet 3-3 and Violet 3-4 gave chase. The ZEKE was pursued to within 5 miles of Iwo Jima where he was overtaken by Violet 3-3. He shot away pieces of the ZEKE's tail assembly and started a fire in the right side of the engine housing. The ZEKE rolled over on his back, flaming, and disappeared in a cloud formation. Shortly after this, Violet 3-3 and Violet 3-4 observed a splash in the water below and an oil slick. After

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TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 11-42 (Consolidated) -- Continued

Cont'd.

this action, the flight reformed with the navigating B-24's and rendezvoused at Minami Rock.

Violet 5 provided medium cover for the strike force B-24's. They went up the west side of Iwo Jima as the bombers went over the target and made a 180° turn at the north tip of the island. They then returned to the south end of the island, crossed over and picked up the bombers as they came off the target, accompanying them to the rendezvous point.

Violet 4-1 and Violet 4-2 acted as high cover for the strike force. B-24's. They S'd back and forth over the formation between 22,000 and 24,000 feet. Violet 4-1 spotted a twin-engine enemy aircraft (probably an IRVING) over the south edge of Iwo Jima, headed north at 21,000 feet. Violet 4-1 got on his tail and opened fire at 1,200 feet. After a short burst, all guns quit firing, so Violet 4-1 pulled away. Violet 4-1 and Violet 4-2 then approached the north tip of Iwo Jima where they ran into/meager, inaccurate, heavy A/A. Then then headed for Minami Rock. Halfway between Iwo Jima and Minami Rock, a ZEKE was called in. Both Violet 4-1 and Violet 4-2 made an overhead, head-on pass. No hits were observed and shortly thereafter they observed this same ZEKE burst into flames from hits received by two P-38's which were on its tail.

Violet 2-1 and Violet 2-2, flying high cover for the strike force B-24's, observed a ZEKE diving toward Iwo Jima from Minami Rock. They were at 26,000 feet and realized the futility of chasing the ZEKE over the island. They patrolled at 26,000 feet until rendezvous time, when they joined the formation over Minami Rock.

Violet 2-3 and Violet 2-4 escorted the F-5, dropping from 18,000 feet to 50 feet. They covered the F-5 on its run along the east shore and never did see any A/A or enemy aircraft. They did not rendezvous at Minami Rock but rejoined the formation half way home.

- 5. A. Enroute: .4 cumulus, tops, 9,500 feet. Over target: .3 cumulas, tops, 9,500 feet. Return: .4 cumulus, tops, 9,500 feet.
 B. Loud and clear.
- 6. No damage to the enemy on the ground.

7. 1,830 rounds .50 cal. ammo. 327 rounds 20mm ammo. 8,500 gallons gas.

The ZEKES were painted O.D.'or very dark green. No special markings were observed.

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CONFEDENTIAE 73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF APO #244
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318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #11-42 (CONSOLIDATED). 73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #11-11 73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #11-11
318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #11-42 (CONSOLIDATED). 318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #11-42 (CONSOLIDATED). 73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #11-11 73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #11-11 73RD FIGHTER (18) P-38L'S. (ONE DID NOT TAKE-OFF; FIVE OTHERS 1. A. EIGHTEEN (18) P-38L'S. (ONE DID NOT TAKE-OFF; FIVE OTHERS 1. A. EIGHTEEN (18) P-38L'S. (ONE DID NOT TAKE-OFF; FIVE OTHERS 1. A. EIGHTEEN (18) P-38L'S. (ONE DID NOT TAKE-OFF; FIVE OTHERS 1. A. EIGHTEEN (18) P-38L'S. (ONE DID NOT TAKE-OFF; FIVE OTHERS 1. A. EIGHTEEN (18) P-38L'S. (INFORMATION OF TAKE-OFF; FIVE OTHERS 1. A. EIGHTEEN (18) P-38L'S. (INFORMATION OF TAKE-OFF; FIVE OTHERS 1. A. EIGHTEEN (18) P-38L'S. (INFORMATION OF TAKE-OFF; FIVE OTHERS 1. A. EIGHTEEN (18) P-38L'S. (INFORMATION OF TAKE-OFF; FIVE OTHERS 1. A. EIGHTEEN (18) P-38L'S. (INFORMATION OF TAKE-OFF; FIVE OTHERS 1. A. EIGHTEEN (18) P-38L'S. (INFORMATION OF TAKE-OFF; FIVE OTHERS 1. A. EIGHTEEN (18) P-38L'S. (INFORMATION OF TAKE-OFF; FIVE OTHERS 1. A. EIGHTEEN (18) P-38L'S. (INFORMATION OF TAKE-OFF; FIVE OTHERS 1. A. EIGHTEEN (18) P-38L'S. (INFORMATION OF TAKE-OFF; FIVE OTHERS 1. A. EIGHTEEN (18) P-38L'S. (INFORMATION OF TAKE-OFF; FIVE OTHERS 1. A. EIGHTEEN (18) P-38L'S. (INFORMATION OF TAKE-OFF; FIVE OTHERS 1. A. EIGHTEEN (18) P-38L'S. (INFORMATION OF TAKE-OFF; FIVE OTHERS 1. A. EIGHTEEN (18) P-38L'S. (INFORMATION OF TAKE-OFF; FIVE OTHERS 1. A. EIGHTEEN (18) P-38L'S. (INFORMATION OF TAKE-OFF; FIVE OFF; FIVE
73RD FTGHTEEN (18) P-38L'S. (ONE DID WOR 1. A. EIGHTEEN (18) P-38L'S. (ONE DID WOR DID NOT REACH THE TARGET. B. ONE TWIN-ENGINE AIRCRAFT; THREE TO FIVE ZEKES. NA
B. ONE TWIN-ENGINE ATRONA
NONE TOMED).
2. A. NONE. B. TWO ZEKES (CONFIRMED). B. TWO ZEKES (CONFIRMED). 3. ESCORT TWO SQUADRONS OF B-24'S AND ONE F-5 TO IWO JIMA. 3. ESCORT TWO SQUADRONS OF B-24'S AND ONE F-5 TO IWO JIMA. 3. ESCORT TWO SQUADRONS OF B-24'S AND ONE F-5 TO IWO JIMA.
 B. TWO ZENDER B. TWO ZENDER B. TWO SQUADRONS OF B-24'S AND ONE TO SULLIVE STORE (VIOLET 3). ESCORT TWO SQUADRONS OF B-24'S AND ONE TO SULLIVE STORE (VIOLET 3). LTS. JACOBSON, RICKARD, LOFLIN, SITTON. (VIOLET 5). LTS. JACOBSON, RICKARD, LOFLIN, SITTON. (VIOLET 5). LTS. JACOBSON, RICKARD, LOFLIN, STEPHENSON, JAMES (VIOLET 1). LTS. WILSON*, F/O WALKER*, STEPHENSON, JAMES (VIOLET 1). LTS. WILSON*, F/O WALKER*, STEPHENSON, JAMES (VIOLET 1). CAPT. PARK, LTS. SULLIVAN, STEPHENSON, STOLZ (VIOLET 2).
3. ESCONT BICKARD, LOFLIN, SMITH* (VIOLET 1).
4. LTS. JACOBSON, F/O WALKER, STEPHENSON, JAMES
4. LTS. JACOBSON*, <u>F/O WALKER</u> , <u>STEPHENSON</u> , <u>JAMES</u> <u>LTS. WILSON*</u> , <u>LTS. SULLIVAN</u> , <u>STEPHENSON</u> , <u>JAMES</u> <u>CAPT. PARK</u> , <u>LTS. SULLIVAN</u> , <u>STEPHENSON</u> , <u>JAMES</u> <u>CAPT. PARK</u> , <u>LTS. SULLIVAN</u> , <u>STEPHENSON</u> , <u>JAMES</u> (VIOLET 2). <u>CAPT. OTTENSTEIN</u> AND LT. ERBELE (VIOLET 4). <u>CAPT. OTTENSTEIN</u> AND LT. ERBELE (VIOLET 2). <u>CAPT. OTTENSTEIN</u> AND LT. ERBELE (VIOLET 2).
* 73RD FIGHTER SCOND TAKE-OFF: 0930 OVER TARGET: 1320 LANDING. TAKE-OFF: 0930 OVER TARGET: 1320 LANDING WHILE TAXIING TAKE-OFF: 0930 OVER TARGET 1-4) BOGGED DOWN IN SOFT GROUND WHILE TAXIING F/O JAMES (VIOLET 1-4) BOGGED DOWN IN SOFT GROUND NOT GET GAS F/O JAMES (VIOLET 1-4) BOGGED DOWN IN SOFT GROUND NOT GET GAS TANK OFF. CAPT PARK (VIOLET 1-1) COULD NOT GET AND AND DID NOT TAKE OFF. CAPT PARK (VIOLET 4-2) BEGAN LOSING POWER HE TURNED AROUND 200 MILES FROM BASE AND VIOLET 4-2) BEGAN LOSING POWER
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F/O JAMES (VIOLET 1-4) BOGGED DOK (VIOLET 1-1) DES FROM BASE AND CAPT PARK (VIOLET 1-1) DES FROM BASE AND AND DID NOT TAKE OFF. HE TURNED AROUND 200 MILES FROM LOSING POWER AND DID NOT TAKE OFF. HE TURNED AROUND 200 MILES FROM LOSING POWER FROM HIS BELLY TANK. HE TURNED AROUND 200 MILES FROM BASE AND FROM HIS BELLY TANK. HE TURNED, ACCOMPANIED BY LT STEPHENSON FROM HIS BELLY TANK. LT SULLIVAN (VIOLET 4-2) BEGAN LOSING FOWER FROM HIS BELLY TANK. DE DETURNED, ACCOMPANIED BY LT STEPHENSON FROM HIS DELLY TANK. DE DETURNED, ACCOMPANIED BY LT STEPHENSON FROM HIS DELLY TANK.
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F/O JAMES (VIOLET OFF. CAPI PANN AROUND 200 MILLON LOSING POWER AND DID NOT TAKE OFF. HE TURNED AROUND 200 MILLON LOSING POWER FROM HIS BELLY TANK. HE TURNED AROUND 4-2) BEGAN LOSING POWER PANCAKED AT 1110. LT SULLIVAN (VIOLET 4-2) BEGAN LOSING POWER PANCAKED AT 1110. LT SULLIVAN (VIOLET 4-2) BEGAN LOSING BY LT STEPHENSON 225 MILES FROM BASE. HE RETURNED, ACCOMPANIED BY LT STEPHENSON 225 MILES FROM BASE. HE RETURNED, ACCOMPANIED BY LT STEPHENSON 225 MILES FROM BASE. HE RETURNED AT 1145. LT WILSON (VIOLET 5-1) 225 MILES FROM BASE. HE RETURNED AT 1145. LT WILSON (VIOLET 5-1) 225 MILES FROM BASE. HE RETURNED AT 1145. LT WILSON (VIOLET 5-1) 225 MILES FROM BASE. HE RETURNED AT 1145. LT WILSON (VIOLET 5-1) 226 MILES FROM BASE. HE RETURNED AT 1145. LT WILSON (VIOLET 5-2) 227 MILES FROM BASE. HE PANCAKED AT 1305. F/O WALKER (VIOLET 5-2) TURNED BACK AT 1120 DUE TO FURNISHED THE FAILURE. HE PANCAKED AT 1305.
F/O WALKER (VIOLE AKED AT 1303. FAILURE. HE PANCAKED AT 1303. FAILURE. HE PANCAKED AT 1303. VIOLET 3 WERE TO ACT AS TOP COVER FOR 3 B-24S WHO FURNISHED THE VIOLET 3 WERE TO ACT AS TOP COVER FOR 3 B-24S WHO FURNISHED THE VIOLET 3 WERE TO ACT AS TOP COVER FOR 3 B-24S WHO FURNISHED THE NAVIGATION ESCORT. WHILE ORBITTING BETWEEN MINAMI ROCK AND IWC NAVIGATION ESCORT. WHILE ORBITTING BETWEEN MINAMI ROCK AND THE NAVIGATION ESCORT. WHILE ORBITTING BETWEEN THE BORGE TURN. THE ZEKI
NAVIGATING B-245, HOUS BOMBS UN THE AND FIRED THOUSE THE ENEMY
UNUT - A DITLEPT IN CELLE PIEURO - OTAPTET IO OTAPTERIRE
TEKE ROLLED OVER AWAY. THE ZERLIS ACTION WAS OF B-24S WITH
VIOLET 3-2 AND TARGET, VIOLET ISLAND. THE P-SOS -4 GAVE CHASE.
DREW HEADED FON VIOLET 3-3 AND SOF INO JIMA WHENE TAIL
VIOLET 3-2 AND VIOLET VIOLET JOB THE P-383 A GAVE CHASE. DREW FROM THE TARGET, VIOLET JOB AND. THE P-383 AND COLET 3-4 GAVE CHASE. DREW FROM THE ADED FOR THE ISLAND. VIOLET 3-4 GAVE CHASE. ON HIS TAIL, HEADED FOR THE ISLAND. VIOLET 3-4 GAVE CHASE. ON HIS TAIL, HEADED FOR THE ISLAND. THE JOB AWAY PIECES OF JOB AND WHERE HE AND WITHDREW WHEREUPON VIOLET 3-3. HE SHOT AWAY PIECES OF JOB AVE CHASE. OVERTAKEN BY VIOLET 3-3. HE SHOT AWAY PIECES OF JOB AVE CHASE.
OVERTAKEN BY VIOLET

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #11-11

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4. CONTINUED:

ASSEMBLY AND STARTED A FIRE IN THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE ENGINE HOUSING. THE ZEKE ROLLED OVER ON HIS BACK, FLAMING, AND DISAPPEARED IN A CLOUD FORMATION. SHORTLY AFTER THIS, VIOLET 3-3 AND 3-4 OBSERBED A SPLASH IN THE WATER BELOW AND AN OIL SLICK. AFTER THIS ACTION THE FLIGHT REFORMED WITH THE NAVIGATING B-24S AND RENDEZVOUSED AT MINAMI ROCK.

GUNFT

VIOLET 5 PROVIDED MEDIJM COVER FOR THE STRIKE FORCE B-24S. THEY WENT UP THE WEST SIDE OF IWO JIMA AS THE BOMBERS WENT OVER THE TARGET AND MADE A 180 DEGREE TURN AT THE NORTH TIP OF THE ISLAND. THEY THEN RETURNED TO THE SOUTH END OF THE ISLAND, CROSSED OVER AND PICKED UP THE BOMBERS AS THEY CAME OFF THE TARGET, ACCOMP-ANYING THEM TO THE RENDEZVOUS POINT.

VIOLET 4-1 AND VIOLET 4-2 ACTED AS HIGH COVER FOR THE STRIKE FORCE B-24S. THEY ESSED BACK AND FORTH OVER THE FORMATION BETWEEN 22,000 AND 24,000 FEET. VIOLET 4-1 SPOTTED A TWIN-ENGINE ENEMY AIRCRAFT (PROBABLY AN IRVING) OVER THE SOUTH EDGE OF IWO JIMA, HEADED NORTH AT 21,000 FEET. VIOLET 4-1 GOT ON HIS TAIL AND OPENED FIRE AT 1,200 FEET RANGE. AFTER A SHORT BURST, ALL GUNS QUIT FIRING, SO VIOLET 4-1 PULLED AWAY. VIOLET 4-1 AND VIOLET 4-2 THEN APPROACHED THE NORTH TIP OF IWO JIMA WHERE THEY RAN INTO MEAGER, INACCURATE, HEAVY A/A. THEY THEN HE ADED FOR MINAMI ROCK. HALFWAY BETWEEN IWO AND MINAMI, A ZEKE WAS CALLED IN. BOTH VIOLET 4-1 AND VIOLET 4-2 MADE AN OVERHEAD, HE AD-ON PASS. NO HITS WERE OBSERVED AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER THEY OBSERVED THIS SAME ZEKE BURST INTO FLAMES FROM HITS RECEIVED BY TWO P-38S WHICH. WERE ON ITS TAIL.

VIOLET 2-1 AND VIOLET 2-2, FLYING HIGH COVER FOR THE STRIKE FORCE B-24S, OBSERVED A ZEKE DIVING TOWARD IWO JIMA FROM MINAMI ROCK. THEY WERE AT 26,000 FEET AND REALIZED THE FUTILITY OF CHASING THE ZEKE OVER THE ISLAND. THEY PATROLLED AT 26,000 FEET UNTIL RENDEZVOUS TIME, WHEN THEY JOINED THE FORMATION OVER MINAMI ROCK.

VIOLET 2-3 AND VIOLET 2-4 ESCORTED THE F-5, DROPPING FROM 18,000 FEET TO 50 FEET. THEY COVERED THE F-5 ON ITS RUN ALONG THE EAST SHORE AND NEVER DID SEE ANY A/A OR ENEMY AIRCRAFT. THEY DID NOT RENDEZVOUS AT MINAMI ROCK BUT REJOINED THE FORMATION HALF WAY HOME.

- 5. A. ENKOUTE: 4/10 CUMULUS. TOPS 9,500 FEET, OVER TARGET: 3/10 CUMULUS, TOPS 9,500. RETURN: 4/10 CUMULUS, TOPS 9,500. B. LOUD AND CLEAR.
- 6. NO DAMAGE TO THE ENEMY ON THE GROUND.

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- 7. 1,830 RDS 50 CAL. 327 RDS 20 MM. 8,500 GALLONS GAS.
- 8. THE ZEKES WERE PAINTED OD OR VERY DARK GREEN. NO SPECIAL MARKINGS WERE OBSERVED.

HUSSEY

CONFIDENCE

318TH FIGHTER GROUP, AAF A.P.O. # 244

27 November 1944

INDIVIDUAL PILOT NARRATIVE REPORTS

(Group Mission #11-42, 27 Nov. 1944)

LT. WILLIAM A. LOFLIN (Violet 3-3)

As the strike force of B-24's were coming off the Target, I observed a ZEKE with two P-38's on his tail headed for Iwo Jima. For some reason unknown to me the P-38's broke off the chase. I immediately headed for the ZEKE who at that time was in a 30-degree dive. I pushed everything forward and indicated better than 450 MPH to overhaul him. About 5 miles from Iwo Jima I fired a burst but I was still out of range.

Finally I pulled in astern of him and gave him a long burst. He took no evasive action. I observed hits on the fuselage and engine. Pieces of his tail were shot away and flame came out of the right side of the engine enveloping the cockpit. He rolled over on his back flaming and went into some clouds. I pulled away and observed a circle and oil slick below in the water where he had gone in. My wingman and myself then joined our flight and continued to give protection to the escort B-24's.

> /s/ William A. Loflin /t/ WILLIAM A. LOFLIN, lst Lt., Air Corps.

LT. KENNETH S. SITTON (Violet 3-4)

I was number four man in Violet 3 flight, flying Lt. LOFLIN's wing. While protecting the escort B-24's in the vicinity of Monami Island, I observed a ZEKE headed for Iwo Jima, with two P-38's on his tail. They immediately broke contact. Lt. LOFLIN and I took up the chase and when about five miles from the island overhauled him.

Lt. LOFLIN closed with him and while he fired I observed pieces of his tail section fall away and his engine burst into flame. As he started to burn he rolled on his back and went into a cloud. We searched the area below and saw a splash in the water and a resultant oil slick.

We returned to our flight and continued to orbit.

/s/ Kenneth S. Sitton /t/ KENNETH S. SITTON, lst Lt., Air Corps.

NOT TAT.

A TRUE COPY: C. L. HOOVER. Captain, Air Corps.

318TH FIGHTER GROUP, AAF A.P.O. # 244

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318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 11-42 (Consolidated) 27 November 1944 19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 11-8 73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 11-11 333D FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 11-12 1. A. Eighteen (18) P-38L's. (One (1) did not take-off; five (5) others One (1) twin-engine enemy aircraft; four (4) ZEKES. Β. 2. A. None B. Two (2) ZEKES (Confirmed) Escort two squadrons of B-24's and one F-5 to Iwo Jima. 3. Lts. JACOBSON, RICKARD, LOFLIN, SITTON. 4. Lts. WILSON, F/O WALKER, Lts. AMON, SMITH. Capt. PARK, Lts. SULLIVAN, STEPHENSON, F/O JAMES. (Violet 3) Capt. OTTENSTEIN, Lt. ERBELE. (Violet 5) Major ROESER, Lts. REDFIELD, STROUD, STOLZ.' (Violet 1) (Violet 4) Takeoff: 0930 - Over target: 1320 - Land: 1700 (Violet 2) F/O JAMES (Violet 1-4) bogged down in soft ground while taxiing d did not takeoff. Capt. PARK (Violet 1-1) could not get gas from nis belly tank. He turned around 200 miles from base and pancaked at 1110. Lt. SULLIVAN (Violet 4-2) began losing power 225 miles from base. He returned, accompanied by Lt. STEPHENSON (Violet 4-3). They pancaked at 1145. Lt. WILSONs(Violet 5-1) right engine cut out right after takeoff. He pancaked at 0940. F/O WALKER (Violet 5-2) turned back at 1120 due to fuel pressure failure. He pancaked at 1305. Violet 3 was to act as top cover for 3 B-24's who furnished the navigation escort. While orbitting between Minami Rock and Iwo Jima, Violet 3-1 observed one ZEKE make a head-on pass on the navigating B-24s, and pull away in a 180° turn. The ZEKE dropped two phosphorous bembs on the B-24's but did no damage. Violet 3-1 pulled in behind the ZEKE and fired three bursts, the last of which was effective. Pieces fell away from the enemy's tail section and fuselage and the ZEKE started to smoke. As the ZEKE rolled over out of control, Violet 3-2 fired a short burst as Violet 3-1 broke away. The ZEKE continued in a steep dive and was observed to crash at sea. This action was confirmed by Violet 3-2 and Violet 3-3. As the strike force of B-24's withdrew from the target, Violet 3-3 observed one ZEKE with 2 P-38's on his tail, headed for the island. The P-38's broke contact and withdrew whereupon Violet 3-3 and Violet 3-4 gave chase. The ZEKE was pursued to within 5 miles of Iwo Jima where he was overtaken by Violet 3-3. He shot away pieces of the ZER's tail assembly and started a fire in the right side of the engine housing. The ZEVE rolled over on his back, flaming, and In a cloud formation. Shortly after this, Violet 3-3 andet 3-4 observed a splash in the water below and an oil slick. After TOENT TAI

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 11-42 (Consolidated) -- Continued

4. Cont'd.

this action, the flight reformed with the navigating B-24's and rendezvoused at Minami Rock.

Violet 5 provided medium cover for the strike force B-24's. They went up the west side of Iwo Jima as the bombers went over the target and made a 180° turn at the north tip of the island. They then returned to the south end of the island, crossed over and picked up the bombers as they came off the target, accompanying them to the rendezvous point.

Violet 4-1 and Violet 4-2 acted as high cover for the strike force B-24's. They S'd back and forth over the formation between 22,000 and 24,000 feet. Violet 4-1 spotted a twin-engine enemy aircraft (probably an IRVING) over the south edge of Iwo Jima, headed north at 21,000 feet. Violet 4-1 got on his tail and opened fire at 1,200 feet. After a short burst, all guns quit firing, so Violet 4-1 pulled away. Violet 4-1 and Violet 4-2 then approached the north tip of Iwo Jima where they ran into meager, inaccurate, heavy A/A. Then then headed for Minami Rock. Halfway between Iwo Jima and Minami Rock, a ZEKE was called in. Both Violet 4-1 and Violet 4-2 made an overhead, head-on pass. No hits were observed and shortly thereafter they observed this same ZEKE burst into flames from hits received by two P-38's which were on its tail.

Violet 2-1 and Violet 2-2, flying high cover for the strike force B-24's, observed a ZEKE diving toward Iwo Jima from Minami Rock. They were at 26,000 feet and realized the futility of chasing the ZEKE over the island. They patrolled at 26,000 feet until rendezvous time, when they joined the formation over Minami Rock.

Violet 2-3 and Violet 2-4 escorted the F-5, dropping from 18,000 feet to 50 feet. They covered the F-5 on its run along the east shore and never did see any A/A or enemy aircraft. They did not rendezvous at Minami Rock but rejoined the formation half way home.

- 5. A. Enroute: .4 cumulus, tops, 9,500 feet. Over target: .3 cumulus, tops, 9,500 feet. Return: .4 cumulus, tops, 9,500 feet.
 B. Loud and clear.
- 6. No damage to the enemy on the ground.
- 7. 1,830 rounds .50 cal. ammo. 327 rounds 20mm ammo. 8,500 gallons gas.
- 8,

The ZEKES were painted O.D. or very dark green. No special markings were observed.

SANDERS

CONFIDENTIAL

318TH FIGHTER GROUP, AAF A.P.O. # 244

27 November 1944

INDIVIDUAL PILOT NARRATIVE REPORTS (Group Mission #11-42, 27 Nov. 1944)

LT. ROY A. JACOBSON (Violet 3-1)

My flight was to protect the 3 B-24's who were acting as navigation escort for our fighters on this mission. We were about 5 miles ... north of Monami Island at 2,000 feet, when I observed a ZEKE make a pass on the escort B-24's and drop two phosphorous bombs. He made a head-on pass from above, broke away in a 180 degree turn. I pulled in behind the ZEKE and fired three bursts from close range. The last burst was good and I observed pieces fall away from his fuselage and tail assembly. As he turned over on his back he started to smoke and fall for the deck.

As I broke away I observed my wingman firing a short burst on the plane who was already falling for the deck. The ZEKE crashed in the water below us. After this action we continued to search the area keeping the escort B-24's in sight.

> /s/ Roy A. Jacobson -/t/ ROY A. JACOBSON, 1st Lt., Air Corps.

LT. ROBERT E. RICKARD (Violet 3-2)

I flew the wing position to Lt. JACOBSON, Violet 3 leader, on escort to Iwo Jima, 27 November 1944.

As we were orbiting over the escort B-24's north of Monami Island I observed a ZEKE attack the B-24's. He made a head-on pass and dropped phosphorous bombs.

Lt. JACOBSON pulled in behind the ZEKE and fired three bursts. I observed pieces of the ZEKE shot away. He began to smoke and just as Lt. JACOBSON pulled away I pulled in and got a short burst as the ZEKE fell for the deck. He crashed in the water.

The enemy plane did not take any evasive action. He was O.D. in color, with no special markings outside of the usual roundels that I could observe.

/s/

TRUE COPY L. HOOVER.

TOFNITTAT

Captain, Air Corps.

Robert E. Rickard /t/ ROBERT E. RICKARD,

2nd Lt., Air Corps.