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

Exhibit In

27 November 1944

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 11-42 (Consolidated)
318TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 11-8
318TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 11-11
318TH 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 orbiting 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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18TH 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 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.
8. The ZEKES were painted O.D. or very dark green. No special markings were observed.

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO #244

27 NOVEMBER 1944

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #11-42 (CONSOLIDATED).
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #11-11

1. A. EIGHTEEN (18) P-38L'S. (ONE DID NOT TAKE-OFF; FIVE OTHERS DID NOT REACH THE TARGET.)
B. ONE TWIN-ENGINE AIRCRAFT; THREE TO FIVE ZEKES.

2. A. NONE.
B. TWO ZEKES (CONFIRMED).

3. ESCORT TWO SQUADRONS OF B-24'S AND ONE F-5 TO IWO JIMA.

4. LTS. JACOBSON, RICKARD, LOFLIN, SITTON. (VIOLET 3).
LTS. WILSON*, F/O WALKER*, LTS AMON*, SMITH* (VIOLET 5).
CAPT. PARK, LTS. SULLIVAN, STEPHENSON, JAMES (VIOLET 1).
CAPT OTTENSTEIN AND LT. ERBELE (VIOLET 4).
MAJOR ROESER, LTS REDFIELD*, STROUD, STOLZ (VIOLET 2).

* 73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON PILOTS.

TAKE-OFF: 0930 OVER TARGET: 1320 LANDING: 1700

F/O JAMES (VIOLET 1-4) BOGGED DOWN IN SOFT GROUND WHILE TAXIING AND DID NOT TAKE OFF. CAPT PARK (VIOLET 1-1) COULD NOT GET GAS FROM HIS BELLY TANK. HE TURNED AROUND 200 MILES FROM BASE AND PANCACKED AT 1110. LT SULLIVAN (VIOLET 4-2) BEGAN LOSING POWER 225 MILES FROM BASE. HE RETURNED, ACCOMPANIED BY LT STEPHENSON (VIOLET 4-3). THEY PANCACKED AT 1145. LT WILSON (VIOLET 5-1) RIGHT ENGINE CUT OUT RIGHT AFTER TAKE OFF. HE PANCACKED AT 0940. F/O WALKER (VIOLET 5-2) TURNED BACK AT 1120 DUE TO FUEL PRESSURE FAILURE. HE PANCACKED AT 1305.

VIOLET 3 WERE TO ACT AS TOP COVER FOR 3 B-24S 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 DEGREE TURN. THE ZEKE DROPPED TWO PHOSPHOROUS BOMBS ON THE B-24S 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-24S WITH DREW FROM THE TARGET, VIOLET 3-3 OBSERVED ONE ZEKE WITH 2 P-38S ON HIS TAIL, HEADED FOR THE ISLAND. THE P-38S 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 ZEKE'S TAIL

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #11-11

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 OBSERVED 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.

VIOLET 5 PROVIDED MEDIUM 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, ACCOMPANYING 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 HEADED FOR MINAMI ROCK. HALFWAY BETWEEN IWO AND MINAMI, 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-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. ENROUTE: 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.
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.

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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,
1st Lt., Air Corps.

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

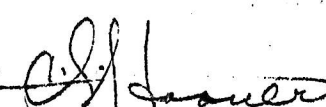
I was number four man in Violet 3 flight, flying Lt. LOFLIN's wing. While protecting the escort B-24's in the vicinity of Monami Island, I observed a ZEKE headed for Iwo Jima, with two P-38's on his tail. They immediately broke contact. Lt. LOFLIN and I took up the chase and when about five miles from 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,
1st Lt., Air Corps.

A TRUE COPY:


C. L. HOOVER,
Captain, Air Corps.

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

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27 November 1944

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 11-42 (Consolidated)
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 did not reach the target)
B. One (1) twin-engine enemy aircraft; four (4) ZEKES.
2. A. None
B. Two (2) ZEKES (Confirmed)
3. Escort two squadrons of B-24's and one F-5 to Iwo Jima.
4. 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. WILSON (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 orbiting 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 landed 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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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.

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

SANDERS

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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/ Robert E. Rickard
/t/ ROBERT E. RICKARD,
2nd Lt., Air Corps.

A TRUE COPY:

C. L. Hoover
C. L. HOOVER,
Captain, Air Corps.

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