

SECRET

73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
A.P.O. # 244

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

Historical Division AAFPOA

SUPPLEMENT NUMBER FIVE

1 AUGUST 1944 -- 31 AUGUST 1944

1. ORGANIZATION:

NEGATIVE,

318th GP
VII FC.
7th AF

P.R.C.

NAFPOA

2. STRENGTH:

FORTY-NINE (49) OFFICERS.
TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY (230) ENLISTED MEN.

3. DATE OF DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL FROM EACH STATION OCCUPIED
IN THIS THEATER:

MOVED FROM ISLEY FIELD, SAIPAN TO EAST FIELD, SAIPAN,
MARIANAS ON THE 3RD OF AUGUST.

4. LOSSES:

LT. ROBERT L. CUMPSTONE - KILLED IN ACTION - 6 AUGUST
LT. LOUIS GRAY CLARK - MISSING IN ACTION - 22 AUGUST
LT. CARSON F. GREEK - KILLED IN ACTION - 28 AUGUST

5. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

NONE.

DECLASSIFIED
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ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY72D FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAFNARRATIVE

During the month of August, after the engagement was won, life "The Hard Way" began to be felt on Saipan.

After being fairly well established on Isley Field, the Squadron was ordered to move to the newly completed East Field overlooking Magicienne Bay about five miles north-east of Isley Field. On the 3rd of August the ground personnel left Isley Field at 0800 via motor convey and arrived at East Field at 0930. The pilots flew their planes in and landed at 1200.

Combat missions during the month of August fell down tremendously in comparison with July -- for instead of a mission or two a day, only one or two missions were flown every third day. Bombing (500 pounders and fire bombs), rockets and strafing missions were flown principally against Pagan -- 140 sorties; Guam -- 96 sorties; Rota -- 22 sorties; Aguijan 11 sorties; and Maug -- 3 sorties; -- a total of 435 hours and 35 minutes. There were also 859 hours flown on C.A.P., alerts, tests and training missions. There was one escort mission to Guam for B-24s and several Pagan search missions included in the aforementioned combat missions. (See Appendix (3). The Guam missions were particularly gratifying, for it meant that the Squadron had provided Air-Ground support for all three conquests -- Saipan, Tinian and Guam. The mission against Maug, one of the northernmost Marianas, was the first against that Japanese outpost (radio-weather station) by land-based fighters. This was also one of the longest over-water combat missions for a land-based fighter -- a total of 666 statute miles. The flight on this mission was led by Major HUBLEY, the Squadron Commander, and was notable also for the fact that it was the closest to Japan that a land-based fighter of

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(Organisational History, 731 Fighter Squadron, AAF, Continued)

the Seventh Air Force has ever been to date -- about 980 nautical miles.

Living conditions at East Field were found to be even more primitive than they had been at Isley, for this field was built where a few weeks prior there had been only an undeveloped countryside. Tents were pitched on a cleared cane field and fox holes were dug. Although there were several alerts, there were no enemy air raids during the month.

Vehicular and pedestrian traffic was heavy from the start and dirt roads and short cuts were made by the simple process of follow-the-leader. Every day when the rains came, jeeps, trucks of all sizes, a few tanks and "ducks", and other miscellaneous vehicles could be seen floundering and skidding wildly on the so-called roads of Saipan. Pedestrians suffered also in that while sloshing and wallowing around in ankle deep slp, one's clothes were quickly splattered with mud (as was one's person) and laundering became a greater problem than ever. However, towards the end of the month, the roads in and around the area were being speedily and excellently remade into hard-surfaced coral roads by the 835th Engineers.

As American ingenuity expressed itself, so did living conditions begin to improve. An enlisted men's shower was built by the men themselves and though it took two attempts to make it a successful one -- what a morale builder it was. To a man covered with sweat and coral dust, nothing quite takes the place of a cool shower after a hard day's work on the line where a broiling sun sends the temperature way above 100 degrees in this high humidity climate. A gravel type coral rock, brought in by truck from nearby quarries was used to make tent floors and paths and generally improved the Squadron Area.

Due to the shortage of running water, as distinguished from drinking water, rainwater was collected almost every day for laundry purposes, and one can still see daily both in the officers' area and in the enlisted men's area, American

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(Organizational History, 731 Fighter Squadron, AAF, Continued)

fighting men scrubbing clothes on makeshift washboards and rinsing them in water filled ammunition cans. Needless to say, tattle-tale grey is a predominant color on the clothes line.

Latrines and seepage pits were dynamited and dug by Koreans obtained from the labor pools at the civilian internment camp at Charan Kanoa. A truck from the Squadron picked up the laborers at the internment camp every morning and returned them every evening. Among these men and boys were farmers, farm boys, sugar mill laborers and there even was an accountant -- a former employee of the now demolished sugar mill factory at Charan Kanoa. Many of them had shrapnel wounds on their arms and legs which seemed to have been poorly treated and improperly bandaged at the internment camp. On several occasions our dispensary fixed them up with clean bandages. This kindness, and the fact that these Koreans were well treated by the men of the Squadron detailed to watch and supervise them, paid off in surprise dividends. These laborers wanted to return every day to finish the projects they had started. The accountant PUG CHUNG HO became foreman and number one "O.K." man and they all really worked hard and efficiently. However this labor supply was soon to end, but not before a drainage ditch had been dug through mud and sledge-hammered through coral rock and then piped with Japanese pre-cast concrete pipes. Several details of enlisted men successfully completed the project which serves as a disposal outlet for wash water from the enlisted men's mess halls and as a partial drainage of rain water for the adjacent area. Indeed the Squadron was most grateful for this Korean labor because it resulted in lowering the number of men needed for work details, and as it was the enlisted men already were overburdened with the normal duties of "Keeping 'em Flying".

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(Organizational History, 73d Fighter Squadron, AAF, Continued)

The complete absence of fresh foods is still being severely felt as is the lack of variety in the food served and the shortage of such staples as bread and sugar. Even canned fruits are exceptionally rare. And of course there is Spam - "The food millions love to eat because it's such a treat". In the enlisted men's mess, Spam is always looked for because then one knows there won't be any "C" ration stew for the meal. Similarly in the officers' mess (Group Consolidated mess, a new venture with the move to East Field) the officers are trying to bear with undue patience the monotonous diet of Spam, stew and hash, and Spam again.

During August there was a 198 men who went on sick call. One-third of them were for infections of various types. Towards the latter part of the month forty-five (45) men had dengue fever. The measures taken to curb the spread of the dengue fever mosquito were the oiling of water holes and latrines, removal of accumulated rain water and frequent inspections of quarters.

On the 6th of August the Squadron lost its first pilot since the Marianas campaign began -- 2nd Lt. ROBERT LLOYD CUMPTONE, who was killed in an airplane crash at sea as a result of a power failure after take off. Neither plane nor body were recovered. All the officers of the Squadron attended the Catholic Memorial Services held on 10 August 1944.

On the 9th of August, 1st Lt. HUGH J. BRUSSEL joined the Squadron as Assistant S-2 and on the 25th of August took over the duties of Squadron Intelligence Officer, replacing Captain ALAN B. SIMAUER who became Executive Officer of the Squadron. Captain GARNIEL A. GEMO, who had been the Executive Officer, was transferred on the 21st of August to the Headquarters, 318th Fighter Group.

A type of rest leave policy took effect on the 17th of August, when 1st Lt. SPENCER and 2nd Lts. BYERS, CORMIER and FLETZ were sent on DS to Oahu for a period of seven days effective upon arrival there.

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(Organizational History, 754 Fighter Squadron, AAF, Continued)

While on a mission to Ragan on the 22nd of August, 2nd Lt. LOUIS GRAY CLARK was forced to bail out at sea, 1/2 mile off shore of Ragan after his plane was hit by A/A fire. He was seen to land safely in the water, inflating his life vest, by the plane which orbited over him. However, the orbiting plane was driven away from the area for a few minutes by A/A fire and when it returned the pilot down at sea was not again sighted. Search missions were flown but were unsuccessful and the pilot, due to his proximity to land, is carried as missing in action. On the same mission 2nd Lt. KRITH MATTHEWSON's plane was hit by 20mm fire which came through the back of the cockpit and caused head, neck, arm and back wounds which hospitalized him. He brought his plane safely back to base.

On the 26th of August, 2nd Lt. CARSON F. CHASE returned from a bombing mission on Ragan with a hung 500 lb. instantaneous fused bomb. He had tried in every possible way to jettison the bomb, without success. He came in for his landing and as the plane's wheels touched the ground, the bomb fell off and exploded. The plane was flipped into the air by the force of the explosion and crashed to earth on its back. The pilot was instantly killed in this most tragic accident. Protestant Memorial Services for this pilot and the missing pilot were held on 29 August 1944 and attended by all the officers of the Squadron.

On the 28th of August Major DE JACK WILLIAMS, Squadron Operations Officer, was transferred to the 19th Fighter Squadron to assume the duties as that Squadron's Commanding Officer. On this same day four more pilots left for Cebu on DS: Captain O'HARE, and Lts. HYDER, ANDERSON and MATTHEWSON.

On the 28th of August, Captain WILLIAM MC GOWN assumed the duties of Operations Officer and on this date left for the U.S. on DS to the Gunnery School at Matagorda Texas. Three new pilots from the VII Fighter Command joined the

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(Organizational History, 73d Fighter Squadron, AAF, Continued.)

Squadron: 2nd Lt. HENRY J. YABGER, JR., LLOYD R. MILLET and J.T. SPIVEY.

The biggest event of the month, as far as the officers were concerned, was the grand opening of the showplace of the Marianas -- "McCown's Miracle" on the 18th of August. This "Miracle" is the Ready-Room-Club building which was built by the pilots from scrap lumber, screening and Japanese cement under the supervision of the construction engineer and superintendant, Captain WILLIAM MC COWN. With the exception of chairs, all the furniture including a "pommel" were hand made. A de-luxe bar was constructed by and for the Bar Flies, and the brass casings of 155mm shells were used to make a brass rail. Unfortunately, this is still a "dry" bar -- no beer, no liquor, or even "coke". The interior of the building is painted blue and both red and blue curtains add to the luxuriousness of the atmosphere. A 6' X 10' Japanese flag with a Nip machine gun hanging diametrically across the emblem of the Rising Sun makes an appropriate and also very effective backdrop for the bar. An electric refrigerator, fan and lighting fixtures have given "McCown's Miracle" that added touch of modern luxury and comfort, as have some very delightful artistic studies of feminine charms.

The most serious problem in the Squadron is one of morale which during the month became quite low, notwithstanding several events. On 6 August a fairly large list of enlisted men's promotions came out, affecting morale only slightly. Moreover there also came into existence once more some hope of a reassignment policy when the names of fifty seven (57) enlisted men were submitted to higher headquarters as having three and one-half ($3\frac{1}{2}$) years overseas. These men are also eligible for furloughs (after having completed thirty six (36) months overseas). But apparently it is either one or the other and all but three are "sweating out" the reassignment "deal". Morale

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(Organizational History, 73d Fighter Squadron, AAF. Continued)

again almost maintained a stationary level. A nightly rain or shine open air movie held for all the personnel of this Fighter Group has helped in absorbing some of the lonely evening hours. Radio Station WLD on Saipan also has helped relieve some of the monotony of the free time hours each day with transcriptions and recordings of jive, favorite artists, popular music and favorite programs.

At present little has been done about a sports program because of the available terrain being studded with coral rocks. However several horseshoe pits and a volley ball court have been made and are being utilized. Another factor effecting a possible sports program was caused by a change in the time schedule whereby time was set back one hour. This has meant that the working days started later in relation to sunrise and as a result left virtually no daylight available after the supper hour of 1730.

But why is morale so low? Could it be that psychologically there has been a let down resulting from the excitement and hard work of the early weeks of the campaign - an anti-climactic feeling? Or is it due physically to the scarcity and poorness of the food doled out, to not even having cold water to drink (the Squadron not being authorized a refrigerated ice box), and the resulting steady weakening of one's stamina and resistance to ill? Or basically is it due to the mental fact that most of the officers and men have been overseas too long, living desolate and lonely lives with little hope or promise of returning to the States?

In the final analysis the psychological, physical and basic aspects involved are the roots of this vivid morale problem -- they are the life line of this unit's abilities.

Something must take place among these above aspects if the Squadron is

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(Organizational History, 73d Fighter Squadron, AAF, Continued)

to carry on successfully the missions assigned - as it has in the past --
Oahu - Midway - Saipan.

The Squadron received two commendations from higher headquarters during
August. True copies of these commendations are attached herewith as Appendices
1 and 2.

APPENDIX #1

HEADQUARTERS
AIR DEFENSE COMMAND
HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

4 August 1944

Subject: Commendation.

To : Commanding Officer, 318th Fighter Group.

1. Mailgram, dated 2 August 1944, from Commander Task Force 52 to Commander Task Group 59.1 is quoted herewith.

"THE EXCELLENT AIR SUPPORT OF THE SQUADRONS OF YOUR TASK GROUP HAS BEEN A GREAT BOON TO THE GROUND FORCES & THE ATTACK OF 0725K 31 ON TINIAN WAS VERY WELL DIRECTED & YOUR LOSS ARE HIGHLY REGRETTED & CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD WISHES TO THE PILOTS, AIRCREWMEN AND GROUND CREWS WHO CARRY ON & WELL DONE"

2. It is with great pleasure and a feeling of pride in your organization that I have noted the above mailgram.

3. I wish to extend to you and every member of your organization my heartiest congratulations for having, under the most trying conditions, accomplished a difficult task in a most expert and commendable manner.

W. L. HENKINER
Colonel, USAF
Commanding.

Copy to: CG, VII Fighter Command.

1st Ind.

HEADQUARTERS 318TH FIGHTER GROUP, AAF, APO #244, 12 August 1944.

To: All personnel, 318th Fighter Group, AAF.

I also desire to express my feeling of pride and appreciation to all pilots and ground personnel who have, through hard work and long hours under the most trying conditions applied themselves in such a manner that commendations such as the above are made possible.

/s/ L. M. Sanders
/c/ L. M. SANDERS,
Colonel, Air Corps,
Commanding.

A TRUE COPY:

HUGH J. BRUSSEL,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH AIR FORCE
Office of the Air Force Commander
APO 958

(ACH-1)

APPENDIX #2

338

10 August 1944

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Commanding General, VII Fighter Command,
APO #958.

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I transmit to you the inclosed mailgram of Congratulations from Commander Task Force 52. Please inform all concerned of the contents thereof and add that the entire Seventh Air Force is very proud of this outstanding bit of work.

ROBERT J. DOUGLASS JR.,
Brigadier General, U.S.A.,
Commanding.

1 Incl:
Mailgram

Copy to COMSENAFPOA

1st Incl. A-6
HEADQUARTERS VII FIGHTER COMMAND, AAF, APO #958, 15 August 1944.

TO: Commanding Officer, 318th Fighter Group, AAF, APO # 244.

The contents of attached inclosure are noted with pleasure and I desire to add thereto my personal appreciation for efficient service rendered by personnel and units of your command.

1 Incl: - n/c.

E. MOORE,
Colonel, Air Corps,
Commanding.

C O P Y

U. S. NAVAL COMMUNICATION SERVICE

WATTCRAM

FROM: CTF 52

DATE: 2 AUGUST 1944

Plain X

TO: CTF 59.1

TO: CTF 59
CTF 59 (ADVON)

012335

THE EXCELLENT AIR SUPPORT OF THE SQUADRONS OF YOUR TASK GROUP HAS BEEN A
GREAT BOOST TO THE GROUND FORCES X THE ATTACK AT 0715K 31 ON TINIAN WAS
VERY WELL EXECUTED X YOUR LOSSES ARE HIGHLY REGRETTED X CONGRATULATIONS
AND GOOD WISHES TO THE PILOTS, AIRCRAFTSMEN AND GROUND CREWS WHO CARRY ON X
WELL DONE.

TRUE COPY

/s/ R.L. MACAULEY

/s/ R.L. MACAULEY
1st Lt., Air Corps

Authenticated: /s/ R. DREMS
R. DREMS,
LIEUT. USNR

C O P Y

SECRETORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY73D FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAFAPPENDIX 2 3RESUME OF MONTH'S MISSIONSTYPE OF MISSIONTARGET

	<u>PAGAN</u>	<u>MAUG</u>	<u>ROTA</u>	<u>GUAM</u>	<u>AGUIJAN</u>
SEARCH	3				
ESCORT				1	
DIVE-BOMBING	1				
DIVE-BOMBING & STRAFING	4		2	3	2
FIRE-BOMBING & STRAFING		1			
DIVE-BOMBING & FIRE-BOMBING				2	
DIVE-BOMBING, FIRE-BOMBING & STRAFING	1				
ROCKETS & STRAFING	1				
TOTAL:	10	1	2	6	2
GRAND TOTAL:	21 MISSIONS FOR THE MONTH.				

EXPENDITURES FOR AUGUST

CARTRIDGES, CALIBER .50	97,840
ROCKETS	47
BOMBS, 500 LB.	411
FIRE BOMBS	45

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF.
APO # 244

31 AUGUST 1944
1600 LOCAL

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 8-68
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 8-21

1. SIXTEEN (16) P-47D-11'S.
B. NONE.
2. A. NONE.
B. NONE.
3. ROCKET AND STRAFING A/A POSITIONS NORTH AND EAST OF RUNWAY-PAGAN ISLAND.
4. MAJOR HUSSEY, LTS. O'HARA, HARBOUR, RILEY (VIOLET 11).
CAPT. NELSON, LTS. DE VONA, BABCOCK, SHENEMAN (VIOLET 13).
CAPT. FLYNN, LTS. GRAHAM, GALT, SPILLMAN (VIOLET 15).
LTS. WILSON, SABICK, SMITH, FURGE (VIOLET 17).

TAKE-OFF: 1300

LANDING: 1525

THE FLIGHTS WERE ON TARGET AT 1405. VIOLET 13 WAS THE FIRST TO HIT THE TARGET STRAFING THE ENEMY GUN POSITIONS FROM NORTH-WEST TO SOUTHEAST AND STARTING A SMALL FIRE ON THE CLIFF DUE SOUTH OF TARGET AREA. VIOLET 11 WITH SIX ROCKETS ON EACH PLANE CAME IN FROM NORTHWEST TO SOUTHEAST RELEASING ROCKETS AT 3,000 FEET ON THE NORTHERN SECTION OF TARGET AREA. VIOLET 11 PULLED UP AND OBSERVED FIVE GUNS FIRING FROM THE TARGET AREA AS VIOLET 15, ALSO WITH SIX ROCKETS EACH, CAME IN FROM THE SOUTHWEST TO NORTHEAST ALSO RELEASING ROCKETS AT 3,000 FEET. HITS WERE OBSERVED IN THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF THE GUN POSITIONS. VIOLET 17 THEN STRAFED THE TARGET FROM SW TO NE. WHILE APPROACHING FOR A STRAFING RUN, VIOLET 13-2 RECEIVED A HIT (AT 5,000 FEET) IN THE RIGHT WING BY 25 MM OR POSSIBLY 40 MM FROM A CLIFF POSITION SOUTHWEST OF TARGET AREA. A/A AND A/W WAS MODERATE TO MEAGER.

5. A. 7/10 AT 1,200 FEET. VISIBILITY FAIR.
B. UNABLE TO CONTACT DUMBO.
6. ALL BUT POSSIBLY TWO OF GUNS IN TARGET AREA WERE KNOCKED OUT.
7. 1,800 ROUNDS .50 CALIBER AMMUNITION, 47 ROCKETS EXPENDED (ONE BROUGHT BACK TO BASE). 4800 GALLONS GAS CONSUMED.
8. NEW ROCKET LAUNCHING MECHANISM RESULTED IN A HIGHER SUCCESSFUL MISSION. IT IS BELIEVED THAT A ROCKET ATTACK COULD "KNOCK OUT" THE A/A OR A/W POSITIONS ON THE CLIFF. NOTHING OF MILITARY IMPORTANCE WAS OBSERVED ON THE OTHER ISLANDS ON THE WAY BACK TO BASE.

HUSSEY

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAB
APO # 244

28 AUGUST 1944
1300 LOCAL

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #8-65
73D FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #8-20

1. A. SIXTEEN (16) P-47D-11'S
B. NONE
2. A. ONE (1) P-47 DEMOLISHED AND PILOT KILLED WHEN LANDING
B. WITH ONE (1) HUNG 500 LB. BOMB (WITH INSTANTANEOUS FUSE) WHICH FELL OFF AND EXPLODED.
ONE (1) P-47 AT 9,000 FEET HIT IN LEFT ELEVATOR BY A/A NEAR TARGET (BY PROBABLE 40MM). RETURNED SAFELY AFTER COMPLETING MISSION.
B. NONE.
3. DIVE-BOMBING SHOMUSHEN VILLAGE AND STRAFING WOODED AREA NORTH OF AIRSTRIP ON PAGAN ISLAND.
4. CAPT. MC GOWN, LTS. THOMAS, GALT, RILEY. (VIOLET 13)
CAPT. NELSON, LTS. DE VONA, SHEPARD, BARNHILL. (VIOLET 14)
CAPT. FLYNN, LTS. SPILLMAN, RESER, FURGE. (VIOLET 16)
CAPT. TOUHEY, LTS. SABICK, SMITH, GREEK. (VIOLET 17)

TAKE-OFF: 0810

LANDING: 1055

THE FOUR FLIGHTS WERE OVER TARGET AT 0920 AND THE FIRST ATTACK WAS MADE AT 0923 BY VIOLET 13 WHICH DIVE-BOMBED THE NORTHERN SECTION OF SHOMUSHEN VILLAGE, SCORING SIX HITS IN THE TARGET AREA, AND TWO NEAR MISSES. VIOLET 16 AND 17 ALSO DIVE-BOMBED THIS AREA. TEN BOMB HITS WERE OBSERVED IN THE AREA, TWO NEAR MISSES, TWO IN WATER, AND TWO HUNG UP BUT ONE WAS LATER JETTISONED IN THE WATER. VIOLET 14 DIVE-BOMBED TARGET AREA NORTH OF THE VILLAGE AND EIGHT HITS WERE OBSERVED IN THE AREA. NO A/W OR A/A WAS RECEIVED FROM THESE LOCATIONS.

ONE DIVE-BOMBING RUN WAS MADE BY EACH FLIGHT STARTING AT 9,000 FEET WITH BOMB RELEASE AT 3,000 FEET.

ONE STRAFING PASS FROM THE NORTH-EAST TO THE SOUTH-WEST IN WOODED AREA DUE NORTH OF THE AIRSTRIP WAS MADE BY VIOLET 13, 14 AND 17. (VIOLET 17-4 DID NOT STRAFE DUE TO HUNG BOMB). VIOLET 16 DID NOT STRAFE. MODERATE AND LIGHT A/A AND A/W WAS RECEIVED FROM WOODED AREA. ON RIDGE SOUTH OF AIRSTRIP LIGHT A/W WAS OBSERVED.

5. A. CAVU.
B. GOOD. DUMBO WAS ALL RIGHT.

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION / B-20

6. UNDETERMINED.

7. 3,300 ROUNDS .50 CAL AMMUNITION, 32 X 500 LB BOMBS WITH INSTANTANEOUS FUSES. 4,000 GALLONS GAS CONSUMED.

8. NONE FIRE OBSERVED ON ALAMAGAN ISLAND IN VILLAGE-- CAUSE UNDETERMINED. PAGAN AIRSTRIP APPEARED INOPERATIONAL.

HUSSEY

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO # 244

28 AUGUST 1944
1445 LOCAL

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 8-88
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 8-19

1. A. FOUR (4) P-47D-11'S.
B. NONE.
2. A. NONE.
B. NONE.
3. FIRE-BOMBING AND STRAFING OF RADIO-WEATHER STATION AND ADJOINING BUILDINGS AND WATER RESERVOIR ON EASTERN ISLAND-MAUG ISLAND.
4. MAJOR HUSSEY, LTS. STEVENS, (WILSON)*, HARBOUR (VIOLET 11).

TAKE-OFF: 0715

LANDING: ISLEY FIELD - 1120
EAST FIELD -- 1405

* VIOLET 11-3 UNABLE TO TAKE OFF -- BROKEN GLASS TUBE INTAKE ON WING TANK ADJUSTMENT.

FLEW ON VECTOR TO MAUG ISLAND ARRIVING ON TARGET AT 0905. VIOLET 11-1 APPROACHED TARGET FROM SOUTH TO NORTH DROPPING ONE FIRE BOMB NEAR AREA OF RADIO-WEATHER STATION -- SECOND BOMB HUNG UP AND WAS BROUGHT BACK TO BASE. VIOLET 11-2 VIOLET 11-2 DROPPED BOTH FIRE BOMBS OUTSIDE OF TARGET AREA AS DID VIOLET 11-4 WHOSE BOMBS ROLLED DOWN THE HILL. BOMBS FAILED TO EXPLODE AND THEREFORE WERE STRAFED CAUSING EXPLOSIONS BUT NO FIRES WERE STARTED. SIX STRAFING PASSES WERE MADE FROM ALL DIRECTIONS -- FIVE ON THE BARRACKS AND WATER RESERVOIR AND ONE ON THE RADIO-WEATHER STATION WHICH ALREADY WAS SEVERLY DAMAGED. NO A/A WAS ENCOUNTERED. NO LIFE SEEN.

5. A. 7/10 AT 1,500 FEET.
B. GOOD.
6. UNDETERMINED.
7. 3,810 ROUNDS .50 CAL AMMUNITION, 5 X 165 GALLON WING TANKS CONTAINING 50 GALLONS GAS EACH. 1335 GALLONS GAS CONSUMED.
8. POOR BOMBING DUE TO MALFUNCTION OF RELEASING MECHANISMS.

HUSSEY

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AND
APO 244

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 8-60
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 8-15

25 AUGUST 1944
1930 LOCAL

1. A. TWENTY (20) P-47D-11'S
B. NONE.
2. A. NONE.
B. NONE.
3. DIVE-BOMBING SHONUSHEN VILLAGE ON PAGAN ISLAND.
4. MAJOR HUSSEY, LT. GREEK, CAPT. JOUHEY, LT. SMITH. (VIOLET 11)
MAJOR WILLIAMS, LTS. FURGE, THOMPSON, ANDERSON. (VIOLET 12)
CAPT. MC COWN, LTS. O'HARA, MARTIN, SPILLMAN. (VIOLET 13)
CAPT. NELSON, LTS. DE VONA, SHEPARD, BARNHILL. (VIOLET 14)
CAPT. FLYNN, LTS. RESER, WILSON, RILEY. (VIOLET 15)

TAKE-OFF: 1455 (4 SHIPS, VIOLET 13) LANDING: 1830
1800 (ALL OTHERS)

VIOLET 13, CARRYING NO BOMBS, TOOK OFF EARLY AND FLEW TO PAGAN BY A CIRCUITOUS ROUTE AT 30 FEET ALTITUDE IN ORDER TO EFFECT A POSSIBLE SURPRISE. COURSE WAS DIRECT TO FARALLON DE MEDINILLA, THEN DUE NORTH UNTIL DUE EAST OF PAGAN AND THEN WEST TO PAGAN. OVER PAGAN AT 1615. INSPECTED FIELD FROM 3,000 FEET, THEN PROCEEDED NORTH TO AGRIHAN. AT 1850, BACK TO PAGAN, STAYED OFF TO NORTH-WEST WHILE OTHER FLIGHTS ATTACKED, THEN RENDEZVOUSED WITH OTHERS AND RETURNED TO BASE.

THE OTHER FOUR FLIGHTS FLEW ON VECTOR TO PAGAN AND WERE OVER TARGET AT 1700. VIOLET 11 AND 15 DIVE-BOMBED FROM THE NORTH AND VIOLET 12 AND 14 FROM THE SOUTH. DROVE FROM 10,000 FEET RELEASING AT 3,000 FEET. BOTH BOMBS WERE RELEASED ON THIS RUN BY EACH PLANE. THIRTY-ONE BOMBS FELL IN THE TARGET AREA AND ONE BOMB HUNG UP AND DROPPED IN THE WATER. VIOLET 12 XX STRAFED WHILE ON BOMBING RUN. VIOLET 12 BOMBED SOUTHERN PART OF TOWN WHILE 14 BOMBED NORTHERN PART.

PROBABLE MODERATE AND ACCURATE A/W FIRE WAS RECEIVED FROM POSITIONS ON SHORE-LINE NORTH-WEST OF VILLAGE AND HILLSIDE NORTH-EAST OF VILLAGE; AND ALSO POSSIBLY FROM VILLAGE ITSELF. NO PLANES WERE HIT.

VIOLET 11 AND 15 SCOUTED THE SOUTHERN PENINSULA OF PAGAN FOR POSSIBLE RADAR; SAW NOTHING. VIOLET 12 AND 15 SEARCHED CLOSE IN TO LOWER WESTERN SHORE AND FROM THERE TO ALANAGAN AT 100 FEET FOR ANY TRACE OF LT. CLARK.

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #8-18

5. A. CLOUD COVERAGE WAS 3/10 BETWEEN 800 AND 2,000 FEET.
B. GOOD. DUMBO WAS NXXKX ALL RIGHT.
6. UNDETERMINED.
7. THIRTY-TWO 500 LB BOMBS WITH 1 SECOND DELAY FUSES, 350 ROUNDS OF .50 CALIBER AMMUNITION. 5600 GALLONS OF GAS CONSUMED.
8. NONE

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO # 244

25 AUGUST 1944
1500 LOCAL

316TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #B-59
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #B-17

1. A. FOUR (4) P-47D-11'S.
B. NONE.
2. A. NONE.
B. NONE.
3. "L" SHAPED BUILDING IN SOUTH-WEST CORNER OF B13-X AND OTHER BUILDINGS IN TOWN. (AGUIJAN).
4. CAPTAIN O'HARE, LTS. MILLER, BALT*, GRAHAM. (VIOLET 15)

*(LT. GALT DID NOT TAKE-OFF DUE TO STARTER MALFUNCTION)

TAKE-OFF: 1315

LANDING: 1415

OVER TARGET AREA AT 1330; MADE FIRST ATTACK AT 1340, DIVE-BOMBING FROM NORTH TO SOUTH FROM 8,000 FEET AND RELEASING AT 3,000 FEET. TWO RUNS WERE MADE. ONE DIRECT HIT WAS SCORED ON THE PRIMARY TARGET BUILDING, ONE HIT ON THE EDGE OF BUILDING ACROSS THE ROAD TO THE NORTH OF THE PRIMARY TARGET BUILDING, ONE ON A BUILDING IN THE MIDDLE OF A LARGE CLUSTER OF BUILDINGS, ONE 50 YARDS TO NORTH OF TARGET IN FIELD, AND TWO 75 YARDS TO THE SOUTH-WEST IN FIELD BEHIND LARGE CLUSTER OF BUILDINGS. TWO STRAFING RUNS WERE MADE FROM THE NORTH IN LOOSE STRING ON THE VILLAGE IN GENERAL, AND ON ONE SMALL BUILDING IN APPARENTLY GOOD SHAPE A BIT FURTHER NORTH. NO A/A WAS ENCOUNTERED.

5. A. GAVU
B. WEAK OVER TARGET, LONDON WAS CONTROL.
6. UNDETERMINED.
7. 2650 ROUNDS .50 CALIBER AMMUNITION, SIX 500 LB BOMBS WITH ONE SECOND DELAY FUSES. 450 GALLONS OF GAS CONSUMED.
8. ENTIRE BUILDING AREA APPEARED BADLY DESTROYED BY ARTILLERY FIRE. ONLY THREE BUILDINGS STILL STANDING IN THE SINGLE ROW ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE ROAD.

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO # 244

25 AUGUST 1944
1200 LOCAL

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #8-58
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #8-19

1. A. EIGHT (8) P-47D-11'S
B. NONE
2. A. NONE.
B. NONE.
3. DIVE-BOMBING AND STRAFING WOODS AREA ABOVE SHORELINE IN 811-X,Y,
808-D,E; ON ABUJAN.
4. CAPTAIN MC COWN, LTS. THOMAS, SNELL, HOWARD. (VIOLET 13)
LTS. MARTIN, BADCOCK, GALT, SHENEMAN. (VIOLET 19)

TAKE-OFF: 0945

LANDING: 1050

ORBITED POINT EASY, TINIAN, FROM 1010 TO 1030. WENT IN ON TARGET AFTER ARTILLERY FIRE HAD CEASED. DIVE-BOMBED FROM THE SOUTH, FROM 10,000 FEET RELEASING AT 3,000 FEET. 10 BOMBS WERE RELEASED ON THE FIRST RUN, 9 HITS BEING SCORED IN THE AREA AND 1 BOMB FALLING IN THE WATER. THE SECOND RUN WAS MADE FROM THE SOUTH ALSO, THREE BOMBS HITTING IN THE AREA AND TWO IN THE WATER. ONE BOMB HUNG UP AND WAS JETTISONED IN THE WATER. VIOLET 19 STRAFED TWICE FROM THE SOUTH-WEST AND 88MM NORTH-EAST. THE SECOND ELEMENT OF VIOLET 13 STRAFED ONCE FROM THE NORTH. NO A/A FIRE WAS RECEIVED.

TWO BUILDINGS WERE NOTED IN THE AREA, ONE WITH A PROBABLE TIN ROOF, APPEARING EMPTY AND SOMEWHAT DESTROYED; THE OTHER, SOMEWHAT SMALLER, SEEMING TO HAVE A CANVAS ROOF. THE TWO LARGER BUILDINGS, JUST OUTSIDE AREA (TO THE SOUTH ON THE INLAND SIDE) ARE TIN-ROOFED, THOROUGHLY GUTTED AND APPEAR EMPTY.

5. A. SCATTERED CLOUDS AT 3,000 FEET.
B. GOOD. LONDON WAS CONTROL.
6. UNDETERMINED.
7. 3710 ROUNDS OF .50 CALIBER AMMUNITION, SIXTEEN (16) BOMBS (500 LB.) WITH INSTANTANEOUS FUSES. 1200 GALLONS OF GAS CONSUMED.
8. NONE.

HUSSEY

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO # 244

22 AUGUST 1944
2000 LOCAL

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 8-52
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #B-15

1. A. FOUR (4) P-47D-11'S
B. NONE

2. A. NONE
B. NONE

3. SEARCH FOR LT. CLARK OFF PAQAN ISLAND

4. CAPT. MC COWN, LTS. THOMAS, SNELL, HOWARD (VIOLET 13)

TAKE-OFF: 1540

LANDING: 1920

OVER AREA FROM 1645 TO 1810. DUMBO LEFT AT 1710. FLEW FROM 300 TO 1500 FEET ALL UP AND DOWN THE WEST SHORE FROM CLOSE TO THE SHORE TO 10 MILES OUT. SAW NOTHING. NO A/A ENCOUNTERED.

5. A. SCATTERED CLOUDS AT 1,500 FEET. VISIBILITY GOOD UNTIL DARKNESS SET IN.
B. FAIR WITH DUMBO.

6. NONE

7. 1,000 GALLONS GAS CONSUMED.

8. NONE

HUSSEY

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO # 244

22 AUGUST 1944
1830 LOCAL

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #8-51
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #8-14

1. A. FOUR (4) P-47D-11'S
B. NONE.
2. A. NONE.
B. NONE.
3. SEARCH FOR LT. CLARK OFF PAGAN ISLAND.
4. CAPTAIN TOUHEY, LT. O'HARA, CAPTAIN O'HARE, LT. MILLER.
(VIOLET 17)

TAKE-OFF: 1355

LANDING 1730

CONTACTED DUMBO 30 MILES SOUTH OF PAGAN, AND WERE ADVISED THAT HE HAD SEEN NOTHING EXCEPT THE OIL SLICK. SEARCHED UP AND DOWN ENTIRE WEST SIDE OF PAGAN AND ALSO CIRCLED ISLAND, FLYING BETWEEN 100 AND 300 FEET. COULD FIND NO TRACE OF LT. CLARK OR ANY OF HIS EQUIPMENT. WERE OVER AREA FROM 1455 TO 1545. RECEIVED NO A/A FIRE.

5. A. CLOUD COVERAGE WAS 3/10 AT 10,000 FEET, RAIN SQUALLS OVER ISLAND. WATER SMOOTH.
B. GOOD WITH DUMBO.
6. NONE.
7. 1120 GALLONS OF GAS CONSUMED.
8. NONE.

HUSSEY

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO # 244

22 AUGUST 1944
1630 LOCAL

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 8-50
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 8-13

1. A. FOUR (4) P-47D-11'S
B. NONE.
2. A. NONE
B. NONE
3. SEARCH FOR LT. CLARK OFF PAGAN ISLAND
4. MAJOR HUSSEY, LTS. HARBOUR, THOMPSON AND SHEPARD (VIOLET 11).

TAKE-OFF: 1300

LANDING: 1530

WHEN 100 MILES SOUTH OF PAGAN CONTACTED VIOLET 5 WHO ADVISED HE HAD SIGHTED A LIFE RAFT, PROBABLY EMPTY, 4 MILES WEST OF RUNWAY, AND THAT DUMBO HAD SEEN SAME AND WAS ORBITING. LATER SAW AND CONTACTED DUMBO 4 MILES WEST AND HE STATED HE HAD NEVER SIGHTED LIFE RAFT.

OVER AREA FROM 1345 TO 1430, SEARCHING FROM 100 YARDS OFF SHORE TO 5 MILES MM OUT, ALL ALONG WESTERN SIDE OF PAGAN. ALTITUDE FROM 100 TO 300 FEET. SAW NOTHING AT ANY TIME. DUMBO STILL THERE WHEN WE RETURNED.

RECEIVED A/W FIRE FROM THREE POINTS: MEAGER FIRE FROM SOUTH PART OF VILLAGE; FOUR BURSTS FROM JUST OFF NORTHWEST CORNER OF RUNWAY; SEVERAL BURSTS FROM A SHACK WITH A SMALL TRIANGULAR PENNANT ATOP THE CLIFF BELOW THE EASTERN PORTION OF THE RUNWAY.

5. A. SCATTERED CLOUDS AT 1,500 FEET, WITH LOCALIZED RAIN STORMS STARTING 5 MILES WEST OF PAGAN. VISIBILITY GOOD AND WATER CALM.
B. CLEAR WITH BOTH V-5 AND DUMBO
6. NONE.
7. 1,400 GALLONS GAS CONSUMED.
8. NONE.

HUSSEY

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO # 244

22 AUGUST 1944
1400 LOCAL

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #8-49
73RD FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #8-12

1. A. TWENTY (20) P-47D-11'S
B. NONE.
2. A. ONE (1) P-47D-11
B. NONE
3. DIVE-BOMBING AND STRAFING, PLUS FIRE-BOMBS ON A/A POSITIONS NEAR CINDER CONE ON PAGAN ISLAND.
4. MAJOR HUSSEY, CAPT. NELSON, LTS. THOMPSON, SHEPARD. (VIOLET 11)
MAJOR WILLIAMS, LTS. MATTISON, SNYDER, ANDERSON. (VIOLET 12)
MAJOR CHAPIN, LTS. FURGE, GALT, HOWARD. (VIOLET 95)
CAPT. TOUHEY, LTS. O'HARA, HARBOUR, CLARK. (VIOLET 17)
LTS. WILSON, SABICK, SMITH, GREEK. (VIOLET 18)

TAKE-OFF: 0900-4 PLANES (VIOLET 11)
0935-2 PLANES (VIOLET 95-1 & 4)
0910-ALL OTHERS.

LANDING:	1150 (VIOLET 11-2)	1135 (VIOLET 12-1,3,4, 17-1,2.)
	1140 (VIOLET 18)	
	1155 (VIOLET 95-2 & 3)	1210 (VIOLET 17-3, 11-1,3.)
	1125 (VIOLET 12-2)	1220 (VIOLET 95-1,4.)
		1200 (VIOLET 11-4)

18 PLANES WERE OVER TARGET AT 1020. VIOLET 12 AND 17 MADE THE FIRST ATTACK, DIVE-BOMBING FROM 9,000 FEET AND RELEASING AT 3500, COMING IN FROM THE SOUTH-EAST. HITS WERE AS FOLLOWS: 10 IN THE IMMEDIATE CINDER CONE GUN POSITION AREA, 2 SLIGHTLY SHORT TO THE SOUTH-EAST AND 4 LONG TO THE NORTH-WEST.

THE NEXT PASS CONSISTED OF VIOLET 11-1 FIRE BOMBING ACCOMPANIED BY VIOLET 11-3 STRAFING, 11-2 WITH FIREBOMBS ACCOMPANIED BY 11-4 STRAFING, WITH VIOLET 12 AND 17 COMING IN DIRECTLY BEHIND TO STRAFE. THIS PASS WAS FROM THE NORTH-WEST TO THE SOUTH-EAST. ONE FIRE-BOMB HUNG UP WITH THE OTHER 3 HITTING IN THE AREA, ONE BEING A DIRECT HIT IN ONE OF THE GUN POSITIONS. VIOLET 11-2 ACCOMPANIED BY 11-4 THEN MADE ANOTHER RUN TO DROP THE 4TH FIRE-BOMB, WITH VIOLET 12 AND 17 AGAIN STRAFING BEHIND. THIS RUN WAS MADE FROM NORTH-EAST TO SOUTH-WEST. VIOLET 11-2 ATTACKED ANOTHER SET OF KNOWN GUN POSITIONS, BEING THE ONES ABOUT 2000 FEET OFF THE WEST END OF THE RUNWAY AND SLIGHTLY NORTH, AND

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION 78-12

4. (CONT'D)

AND AFTER RELEASING THE FIRE-BOMB IN THIS AREA VEERED DUE WEST FOR GETAWAY. AS HE CLEARED OVER THE LOWER PART OF SHOMUSHON VILLAGE HE WAS HIT BY A SINGLE BURST FROM AN A/W CAUSING CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE IN HIS LEFT WING. THERE WAS A 6 INCH HOLE IN THE LOWER WING SURFACE; THE AILERON CONTROLS WERE DESTROYED AND THE SHELL BURST JUST BEHIND THE AMMUNITION PAN, BLOWING THE PAN COVER OFF THROUGH THE TOP WING SURFACE. VIOLET 11-2 ESCORTED BY 11-4 LATER MADE AN EMERGENCY LANDING ON ISELY FIELD.

MEANWHILE VIOLET 12 AND 17 STRAFED BEHIND AND ALSO SUSTAINED MAJOR DAMAGE ALTHOUGH NONE OF THE PILOTS SAW ANY GROUND FIRE. VIOLET 12-2 RECEIVED A HIT WHICH WENT THROUGH THE RIGHT WING FLAP AND THROUGH THE SIDE OF THE COCKPIT, HITTING THE SEAT AND FURTHER CAUSING A HOLE IN THE TOP LEFT CENTER OF THE EGGKRYT CANOPY AND THE CORE OF A 12.7 BULLET WAS LATER FOUND IN THE COCKPIT. THE PILOT SUFFERED SUPERFICIAL WOUNDS ON HIS RIGHT SHOULDER BACK, NECK AND HEAD. FOLLOWED BY THE REMAINDER OF HIS FLIGHT HE IMMEDIATELY RETURNED TO BASE WHERE HE MADE AN EMERGENCY LANDING.

VIOLET 17-1 ON THE SAME RUN RECEIVED 2 HITS -- ONE THROUGH THE ENGINE COWLING PUTTING ONE CYLINDER ON THE LEFT SIDE COMPLETELY OUT OF COMMISSION AND ONE THROUGH THE LEADING EDGE OF THE LEFT WING, INBOARD OF THE GUNS. THESE WERE PROBABLY 12.7 HITS. HE WAS ABLE TO RETURN TO BASE ACCOMPANIED BY 17-2.

VIOLET 17-4 WAS HIT ON THE SAME RUN CAUSING AN IMMEDIATE CONDITION OF EMERGENCY. HE REGAINED SOME ALTITUDE AND BAILED OUT APPROXIMATELY 1/2 MILE OR LESS FROM THE SHORE WEST AND SLIGHTLY SOUTH OF THE RUNWAY. VIOLET 17-3 SPOTTED HIM AFLOAT IN HIS LIFE-BEST AND ORBITED THE POSITION UNTIL IT BECAME NECESSARY TO LEAVE DUE TO DIMINISHING GAS SUPPLY. AT THAT TIME DUMBO HAD ARRIVED AND PRESUMABLY SPOTTED LT. CLARK. DURING THE TIME HE WAS ORBITING VIOLET 11-3 REPORTS THAT ENEMY SOLDIERS WERE FIRING FROM THE SHORE WITH SMALL ARMS, BOTH AT HIMSELF AND AT LT. CLARK IN THE WATER.

MEANWHILE VIOLET 18 AND 95-3 AND 2 HAD BEEN ORBITING AT 9,000 FEET WHILE THE OTHER PLANES BOMBED AND STRAFED. THEY THEN DIVE-BOMBED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST GETTING 10 HITS IN THE GINDER GONE GUN AREA, 2 BOMBS HANGING UP AND BEING LATER JETTISONED IN WATER.

VIOLET 95-1 AND 4 HAVING BEEN DELAYED IN TAKE-OFF DID NOT ARRIVE OVER TARGET UNTILL JUST AS OTHERS WERE LEAVING.

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 8-12

4. (CONT'D)

AT 1032 THEY OBSERVED LT. CLARK'S PLANE GO INTO THE BAY 1/2 MILE OFFSHORE SOUTHWEST OF THE RUNWAY, LEAVING A BIG SLICK; DID NOT SEE LT. CLARK. DIVE-BOMBED CINDER CONE GUNS FROM THE NORTH; 2 HIT LONG AND 2 HUNG UP, ONE BEING JETTISONED IN THE WATER AND ONE BEING BROUGHT BACK TO BASE, COMING OFF UPON LANDING. THEY ORBITED THE SLICK UNTIL 1105, MEANWHILE STRAFING 3 SMALL BOATS ALONG THE BEACH SOUTHWEST OF THE RUNWAY; THESE BOATS DID NOT APPEAR USABLE. AT 1110 NOTED DUMBO ARRIVING IN AREA.

A/A -- COMPARATIVELY LITTLE FIRE OBSERVED ON THE WHOLE. THE FOLLOWING ARE POINTS OF FIRE SEEN BY INDIVIDUAL PILOTS: 2 TO 4 A/W FLASHES SLIGHTLY NORTHWEST OF CINDER CONE; ONE A/W BURST FROM THE NORTHERN VILLAGE AREA; ONE A/W BURST FROM SOUTHERN VILLAGE AREA; A FEW A/W OR M/G BURSTS 1000 FEET NORTH OF EAST END OF RUNWAY; SOME A/W FIRE ABOUT 2000 FEET EAST OF THE RUNWAY AND SLIGHTLY NORTH AND SOME M/G FIRE ALONG THE EASTERN BEACH ABOUT 5000 FEET SOUTHEAST OF RUNWAY. CINDER CONE GUNS DID NOT FIRE AT ANY TIME.

5. A. CLEAR UP TO 15,000 FEET
B. GOOD. LONDON WAS CONTROL. DUMBO WAS CONTACTED SUCCESSFULLY.
6. UNDETERMINED.
7. 5,830 ROUNDS .50 CALIBER AMMUNITION, 31 X 500 LB BOMBS WITH INSTANTANEOUS FUSES AND 4 FIRE BOMBS. 6,600 GALLONS GAS CONSUMED.
8. NONE.

HUSSEY

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO 244

18 AUGUST 1944
1500 LOCAL

516TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION 28-45
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION 24-11

1. A. SIXTEEN (16) P-47D-11'S
B. NONE
2. A. NONE.
B. NONE.
3. DIVE-BOMBING AND STRAFING INSTALLATIONS ON BANDELHA HEADLAND (PAGAN), AND A/R POSITIONS AROUND FIELD. (NOT ACCOMPLISHED).
4. MAJOR HUSSEY, LTS. BABCOCK, GALT, SHEENAN. (VIOLET 11)
CAPT. MC GOWN, LTS. HILEY, SNELL, HOWARD. (VIOLET 13)
CAPT. NELSON, LTS. DE VON, WARTIN, BAYNHILL. (VIOLET 14)
CAPT. FLYNN, LTS. ROSEN, STEVENS, MILLER. (VIOLET 16)

TAKE-OFF: 1050

LANDING: 1320

WENT ON VECTOR TOWARD PAGAN AT AN AVERAGE ALTITUDE OF 10,000 FEET. THE WEATHER BECAME MORE SINGLY POOR AND WAS COMPLETELY OVERCAST DOWN TO THE DECK WHEN 15 MILES FROM PAGAN. TRIED APPROACHING FROM NORTH-EAST, THEN FROM SOUTH; CONDITIONS WERE EQUALLY BAD. IT WAS APPARENT THAT THIS WEATHER CONDITION WOULD NOT CHANGE APPRECIABLY WITHIN LIMITS OF THE BASELINE SUPPLY.

STARTED BACK SOUTH, BOMBING AND STRAFING JAPANESE HOLD ISLANDS EN ROUTE. AT ALAMAGAN VIOLET 11 DIVE-BOMBED THE REST VILLAGE (SEVERAL SMALL BUILDINGS INCLUDING A LONG TIN ROOFED HOUSE) SCORING FOUR HITS IN VILLAGE AND FOUR IN COCONUT TREES. VIOLET 13 DROPPED ALL BOMBS IN COCONUT AREA AROUND THE SMALL SOUTH VILLAGE. ON GUBUAN ISLAND NO BUILDINGS OR MILITARY INSTALLATIONS WERE OBSERVED. ON SARIGAN VIOLET 11 AND 13 STRAFED THE ONE SMALL VILLAGE ON THE NORTH-WEST COAST. ON ANATAHAN VIOLET 14 AND 16 DIVE-BOMBED A VILLAGE ON THE NORTH-WEST WHICH ALSO CONTAINED A LONG TIN-ROOFED BUILDING; NO MILITARY INSTALLATIONS SUCH AS RADAR WERE OBSERVED. SEVEN HITS WERE SCORED IN THE VILLAGE, FOUR IN THE SURROUNDING COCONUT GROVES AND FIVE HUNG UP AND WERE JETTISONED IN THE WATER. TWO PLANES ALSO STRAFED. ON FARALLON DE MEDINILLA NO INSTALLATIONS WERE OBSERVED.

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #8-11.

5. A. WEATHER BECAME INCREASINGLY BAD AS FLIGHT PROGRESSED NORTHWARD. OVER RUGUAN ISLAND CEILING WAS 2000 FEET WITH 5/10 COVERAGE. OVER ALAMAGAN ISLAND COVERAGE WAS 8/10 WITH BASE AT 2,000 FEET. STARTING ABOUT 12 MILES NORTH OF ALAMAGAN THERE WAS A SOLID OVERCAST FROM 10,000 FEET TO SEA LEVEL. WIND WAS FROM ABOUT 150 DEGREES WITH WHITECAPS ON WATER. THERE WERE RAIN-SQUALLS ALL THE WAY.
- B. UNABLE TO CONTACT LONDON CONTROL WHEN MORE THAN 100 MILES NORTH OF SAIPAN. HAD SUCCESSFUL CONTACT WITH DUMBO TOWARD END OF MISSION.

C. UNDETERMINED.

7. 3440 ROUNDS OF CALIBER .50 AMMUNITION, THIRTY-TWO 500 LB. BOMBS WITH INSTANTANEOUS FUSES. 4800 GALLONS OF GAS CONSUMED.
8. NONE.

HUSSEY

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO # 244

16 AUGUST 1944
1400 LOCAL

518TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #8-40
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #8-10

1. A. TWENTY (20) P-47D-11'S
B. NONE.
2. A. NONE.
B. NONE.
3. DIVE-BOMBING, FIRE-BOMBING, AND STRAFING ON PAGAN AIRFIELD.
4. MAJOR HUSSEY, LTS. SABICK, SMITH, GREEK. (DIVE-BOMBERS)
(VIOLET 11)
MAJOR WILLIAMS, LTS. MATTISON, SNYDER, ANDERSON. (FIRE-BOMBERS)
(VIOLET 12)
CAPTAIN O'HARE, LTS. FURGE, RESER, GRAHAM. (DIVE-BOMBERS)
(VIOLET 15)
CAPTAIN FLYNN, LTS. THOMAS, STEVENS, SPILLMAN. (DIVE-BOMBERS)
(VIOLET 16)
CAPTAIN TOUHEY, LTS. O'HARA, HARBOUR, CLARK. (DIVE-BOMBERS)
(VIOLET 17)

TAKE-OFF: 0825 (VIOLET 12)
0915 (VIOLET 11, 15, 16, 17)

LANDING: 1215 (VIOLET 12)
1145 (VIOLET 11,
15, 16, 17)

VIOLET 12 TOOK OFF EARLY IN ORDER TO FLY A ROUTE WELL TO THE EAST OF THE ISLAND STRING BETWEEN SAIPAN AND PAGAN, STAYING ON THE DECK IN AN ATTEMPT TO AVOID POSSIBLE RADAR DETECTION AND ACCORDINGLY TO SURPRISE ANY PLANES ON PAGAN. FLEW VECTOR 070 FOR 15 MINUTES, VECTOR 003 FOR 61 MINUTES, VECTOR 240 FOR 25 MINUTES, THUS COMING IN FROM A NORTHEAST DIRECTION. AT NO TIME FLEW HIGHER THAN 500 FEET; FLEW LAST LEG AT 100 FEET. CIRCLED ISLAND ONCE AT 1000 FEET -- NO SIGNS OF ENEMY AIRCRAFT. AT 1030 THIS FLIGHT ATTACKED GINDER CONE GUN POSITIONS WITH FIRE BOMBS, SKIP-BOMBING FROM 200 FEET. MADE RUN FROM NORTH EAST GETTING 2 HITS WITHIN 100 YARDS TO THE NORTHEAST, 2 WITHIN 100 YARDS DUE EAST, 2 X 150 YARDS TO THE EAST AND 2 75 YARDS TO THE NORTHEAST OF EAST END OF RUNWAY. ALL IGNITED. DID NOT STRAFE.

THIS FLIGHT RECEIVED MANY A/A BURSTS WHILE ON LEVEL 200 FEET ALTITUDE RUN. VIOLET 12-1 HAD SHRAPNEL HOLES IN RIGHT WING FLAP AND AILERON. VIOLET 12-3 RECEIVED SHRAPNEL HOLE IN HORIZONTAL STABILIZER. VIOLET 12-4 RECEIVED 1 HIT WHICH BLEW OFF INSIDE CASING OF RIGHT WHEEL AND THE CONCUSSION SPLIT AND SHELLED THE TOP OF THE WING. VIOLET 12-4 MADE A SUCCESSFUL BELLY LANDING.

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION 98-10

THE OTHER FOUR FLIGHTS FLEW DIRECT TO PAGAN ON VECTOR, AND WERE OVER TARGET AT 1015 AT 10,000 FEET. VIOLET 11, 12 DIVE-BOMBED FROM EAST TO WEST ON RUNWAY, RELEASING AT 3,000 FEET AND VIOLET 11 PULLING OUT TO NORTH AND VIOLET 17 TO THE SOUTH. 12 BOMBS HIT ON THE WEST END OF THE RUNWAY, 1 ON THE EAST END AND THREE IN THE WATER. BOTH FLIGHTS THEN STRAFED IN COORDINATION WITH VIOLET 12'S FIRE-BOMBING. VIOLET 11 CAME IN FROM THE NORTHWEST JUST BEFORE VIOLET 12, AND SAW 2 X 4.7 GUNS AND FIRED INTO THE GUN PITS. VIOLET 17 STRAFED SAME AREA (CINDER CONE GUNS) FROM THE SOUTH. VIOLET 11-3 WAS HIT TWICE FROM WHAT IS BELIEVED TO BE A LAND MINE EXPLOSION. SOMETHING EXPLODED ON THE GROUND (ABOUT 400 YARDS EAST OF FIELD AND 300 YARDS NORTH OF THE CLIFF,) AND WAS OBSERVED BOTH BY 11-3 AND HIS WING MAN. THEY WERE FLYING LOW (AT 200 FEET) AND SMOKE AND DUST DID NOT REACH MUCH HIGHER. ONE JAGGED HOLE ON UNDER SIDE OF LEFT WING OUTBOARD OF GUNS AND FORWARD OF AMMUNITION BOX WAS CAUSED. THIS HIT ALSO POPPED THE RIVETS FROM THE TOP LEADING EDGE. SHRAPNEL WAS FOUND IN THE LEFT WING. OTHER HIT WAS A JAGGED 2 INCH HOLE IN RIGHT AILERON.

VIOLET 15, 16 ORBITED AT 10,000 FEET WHILE OTHERS BOMBED AND STRAFED. THEN DIVE-BOMBED HEAVIEST A/A POINTS FROM SOUTHEAST AND NORTHEAST RESPECTIVELY. 2 PROBABLE DIRECT HITS IN GUNS SOUTH OF CINDER CONE, 4 VERY CLOSE, 4 WITHIN 150 YARDS RADIUS, 2 NEAR GUN POSITIONS ABOUT 350 YARDS EAST AND SLIGHTLY SOUTH OF THE CINDER CONE, 1 ABOUT 400 YARDS NORTH OF THOSE POSITIONS, 1 HUNG UP AND JETTISONED IN THE WATER, 1 HUNG UP AND WAS JETTISONED NEAR THE VILLAGE, AND 1 BOMB WAS BROUGHT BACK. VIOLET 16 STRAFED ON BOMBING RUN AND NOTED THAT CINDER CONE GUN CEASED FIRING WHILE BEING STRAFED. A STRAFING RUN WAS THEN MADE BY BOTH FLIGHTS FROM THE SOUTH-WEST CONCENTRATING ON 2 HOUSES SOUTH OF THE LAKE AND 2 HOUSES NORTH OF THE LAKE. VIOLET 15+2 WAS HEADING NORTHEAST AFTER DROPPING BOMBS AND WAS ABOUT 1 MILE BELOW NORTH TIP OF ISLAND AT 1000 FEET WHEN HE RECEIVED A HIT IN HIS LEFT WING RIGHT BEHIND THE INBOARD GUN CAUSING A JAGGED HOLE 12 INCHES WIDE ON THE BOTTOM AND 5 INCHES ON THE TOP. OTHER PILOTS OBSERVED A PROBABLE 40MM GUN FIRING FROM BEHIND RIDGE NORTH OF LAKE.

ALL PLANES REFORMED OVER ALAMAGAN AND RETURNED TO BASE.

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION REPORT B-10

THE A/A WAS INTENSE AND ACCURATE. NO M/G FIRE WAS NOTED AND THE FOUR HEAVIEST A/A CONCENTRATIONS WERE AS FOLLOWS: 4 GUNS IN THE NORTH PART OF THE DARK GREEN WOODED AREA JUST SOUTH OF THE CINDER CONE; 3 GUNS IN THE POSITIONS 350 YARDS EAST AND SLIGHTLY SOUTH OF THE CINDER CONE; 4 GUNS ON THE FRINGE OF THE WOODED AREA JUST ABOVE THE SERVICE APRON NORTH OF THE CENTER OF THE FIELD; AND 2 GUNS ON THE NORTH FRINGE OF THE WOODED STRIP JUST SOUTH OF THE WEST END OF THE RUNWAY. NO FIRE WAS OBSERVED FROM EITHER THE VILLAGE AREA OR FROM THE CLIFFS.

THE FAMILIAR PLANE ON NORTH SIDE OF RUNWAY WAS SEEN. FIELD WAS PROBABLY INOPERATIVE BEFORE THE ATTACK; IS MORE DEFINITELY INOPERATIVE NOW.

5. A. CLOUD COVERAGE WAS 7/10 TO 3,000 FEET WITH BASE FROM 2,000 FEET, WITH SQUALLS BELOW.
B. GOOD. NO CONTROLLER INVOLVED.
6. UNDETERMINED.
7. 6525 ROUNDS OF CALIBER .50 AMMUNITION, 31 X 500 LB. BOMBS WITH INSTANTANEOUS FUSES, EIGHT FIRE BOMBS, (165 GALLON WING TANKS FILLED WITH GASOLINE). 6200 GALLONS OF GAS CONSUMED.
8. WERE UNABLE TO CONTACT DUMBO, USING DOG BAND.

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO # 24413 AUGUST 1944
1100 LOCAL318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #8-39
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #8-9

1. A. TWELVE (12) P-47D-11'S
B. NONE
2. A. NONE.
B. NONE.
3. DIVE-BOMBING AND STRAFING TARGETS ON ROTA.
4. MAJOR WILLIAMS, LTS. MATTISON, SPENCER, ANDERSON. (VIOLET 12)
CAPT. MC COWN, LTS. THOMAS, GALT, HOWARD. (VIOLET 13)
CAPT. NELSON, LTS. DE VONA, SHEPARD, SPILLMAN. (VIOLET 14)

TAKE-OFF: 0830

LANDING: 2-1005 (ISELY FLD)
7-1015 (NORTH FLD,
TINIAN)
3-1030 (BASE)

ON VECTOR TO ROTA; OVER TARGET AT 0910. VIOLET 12 MADE THREE OBSERVATION DRY RUNS OVER THE TARGET WHICH WAS A FORTIFIED AREA, CONTAINING SLIT TRENCHES AND SOME APPARENTLY EMPTY GUN POSITIONS AND, UNDER THE ROWS OF TREES, SOME A/A POSITIONS WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE CONTAINED GUNS; JUST IN FROM THE BEACH IN 239-F, G, H, I AND J. AT 0930 ALL FLIGHTS ATTACKED, VIOLET 12 FROM THE WEST AND VIOLET 13 AND 14 FROM THE EAST, DIVING FROM 7,000 FEET AND RELEASING AT 3,000. 18 BOMBS FELL IN THE AREA, 2 LANDED ON THE BEACH AND 2 IN THE WATER. TWO BOMBS HUNG UP, ONE BEING JETTISONED IN WATER AND THE OTHER BEING STILL ON THE PLANE WHEN LANDED. ALL FLIGHTS THEN MADE A STRAFING RUN FROM THE WEST, EXCEPT VIOLET 12-2, WHO PULLED OUT SHARPLY ON APPROACH TO STRAFING RUN AND HEADED NORTH, BEING PICKED UP BY OTHERS IMMEDIATELY AFTER STRAFING RUN. THIS PLANE EXPERIENCED A SUDDEN DROP OF MANIFOLD PRESSURE AND WAS FORCED TO USE MANUAL PROP CONTROL TO GET SUFFICIENTLY HIGH RPM. MADE AN EMERGENCY LANDING AT ISELY FIELD, AS ~~WAS VIOLET 12-2~~. VIOLET 13-2 LANDED WITH A BOMB STILL HUNG UP. HAVING ESCORTED VIOLET 12-2 INTO ISELY FIELD AND WITH SAIPAN FIELDS RAPIDLY CLOSING IN, THE REMAINING PLANES IN VIOLET 12 AND 14 WENT INTO LAND AT NORTH FIELD, TINIAN. THE THREE REMAINING PLANES OF ~~VIOLET 13~~ VIOLET 13, WHO HAD GONE TO 10,000 FEET TO EMPLOY EMERGENCY IFF AND HAD BEEN ORBITING ISELY, NOTED BASE FIELD OPENING SLIGHTLY AND LANDED AT BASE. NO A/A WAS ENCOUNTERED ON FLIGHT.

5. A. CLOUD COVERAGE WAS 3/10 AT 1500 FEET OVER TARGET.
B. GOOD. LONDON WAS CONTROL.
6. UNDETERMINED.

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #8-9

7. 29,010 ROUNDS OF .50 CALIBER AMMUNITION, 24 BOMBS, 500 LB WITH INSTANTANEOUS FUSES. 3,000 GALLONS OF GAS CONSUMED.
8. NONE.

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO # 244

10 AUGUST 1944
1800 LOCAL

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 8-34
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 8-8

1. A. EIGHT (8) P-47D-11'S.
B. NONE.
2. A. NONE.
B. NONE.
3. ESCORT OF B-24 FROM SAIPAN TO GUAM.
4. LTS. WILSON, SABICK, FIETZ, MILLER (VIOLET 18).
LTS. THOMPSON, SPILLMAN, GALT, THOMAS (VIOLET 20).

TAKE-OFF: 1515

LANDING: 1715

PICKED UP B-24 OVER SOUTH TINIAN AT 1525. BOMBER WAS AT 600 FEET; WE AT 900 FEET. ESCORTED TO GROTE AIRFIELD, GUAM; WE ORBITED (LUFBERRY IN STRING OF ELEMENTS) WHILE B-24 PANCACKED AT 1625. RETURNED TO BASE.

5. A. SOLID OVERCAST AT 1,500 FEET WITH RAIN SQUALLS BELOW.
B. GOOD. LONDON AND TINSSEL BASE WERE CONTROLS.
6. NONE.
7. 1,800 GALLONS GAS CONSUMED.
8. NONE.

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO # 244

10 AUGUST 1944
1400 LOCAL

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 8-32
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 8-7

1. A. TWENTY-FOUR P-47D-11'S.
B. NONE.
2. A. NONE.
B. NONE.
3. DIVE-BOMBING AND STRAFING OF TARGETS ON PAGAN.
4. MAJOR HUSSEY, LTS. (SPILLMAN)*, SNYDER, (BYERS)* (VIOLET 11).
CAPT. NELSON, LTS. FURGE, STEVENS, BARNHILL (VIOLET 14).
CAPT. O'HARE, LTS. O'HARA, HARBOUR, GRAHAM (VIOLET 15).
LTS. (WILSON)**, RILEY, SMITH, GREEK (VIOLET 18).
LTS. MARTIN, BABCOCK, GALT, FIETZ. (VIOLET 19).
LTS. SPENCER, (THOMAS)***, SNELL, CORMIER (VIOLET 20).

* VIOLET 11-2 RETURNED DUE TO OIL LEAK. VIOLET 11-4 ESCORTED HIM BACK. BOTH JETTISONED BOMBS IN WATER.

** VIOLET 18-1 RETURNED DUE TO PLANE SIPHONING GAS. LANDED WITH BOMBS.

*** VIOLET 20-2 DID NOT TAKE-OFF -- STUCK IN A DRAINAGE DITCH WHILE TAXIING.

TAKE-OFF: 1000

LANDING: 1020 (1 PLANE)
1105 (2 PLANES)
1235 (20 PLANES)

ENROUTE TO PAGAN FLIGHTS REFORMED SO THAT THERE WERE FIVE FULL FLIGHTS, VIOLET 18 BEING DISBANDED. OVER TARGET AT 1120.

VIOLET 20 DIVE-BOMBED FIRST FROM THE NORTHEAST. DOVE FROM 10,000 FEET AND RELEASED AT ABOUT 5,000 FEET (AS DID ALL OTHERS). FOUR HITS ON WEST END OF RUNWAY, TWO IN DISPERSAL AREA JUST SOUTH OF WEST END, AND TWO HUNG UP AND WERE JETTISONED IN WATER.

VIOLET 11 AND VIOLET 15 THEN ATTACKED, FROM THE NORTHWEST, THE TWO POSITIONS FURNISHING THE HEAVIEST A/A, NAMELY THE ONE BY THE CINDER CONE TO THE NORTHEAST AND ONE ABOUT HALF WAY BETWEEN THE EAST END OF RUNWAY AND THE CINDER CONE. SIX PLANES BOMBED THESE POSITIONS, ALL HITTING WITHIN 50 YARDS OF CHOSEN TARGET, AND TWO PLANES BOMBED RUNWAY, GETTING TWO HITS ON WEST END OF STRIP AND TWO ON TAXI AREA JUST NORTH.

VIOLET 14 AND VIOLET 19 THEN ATTACKED, FROM SOUTHEAST, SEVEN PLANES SECURING HITS IN IMMEDIATE AREA OF SAME TWO TARGETS AND ONE PLANE BOMBING PROBABLE 40 MM POSITION ABOUT 900 YARDS NORTH OF CENTER OF FIELD.

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 8-7

4. (CONT'D)

ALL PLANES THEN STRAFED, THE DIRECTIONS OF APPROACH BEING FROM NORTHEAST, NORTH, NORTHWEST AND SOUTHEAST. CHIEF TARGET WAS BUILDING AREA TO NORTHWEST OF FIELD. ALSO GUN POSITIONS MENTIONED ABOVE, PLUS FORMER POSITIONS ALONG THE CLIFF TO THE SOUTH.

A/A WAS EXCEPTIONALLY HEAVY. THE TWO POSITIONS TO NORTHEAST OF RUNWAY WERE MODERATE TO INTENSE AND FAIRLY ACCURATE AT TIMES. IT WAS PROBABLY BARRAGE FIRE (PROBABLE 75 OR 105 MM) RANGING BETWEEN 3,000 AND 9,000 FEET IN ALTITUDE BUT CHIEFLY BETWEEN 4,000 AND 6,000 FEET, BURSTING IN BLACK PUFFS. DESPITE A PROBABLE HIT IN THE CINDER CONE POSITION, AND BOTH A BOMBING AND STRAFING ATTACK ON IT, THOSE GUNS WERE STILL FIRING WHEN WE LEFT. IN ADDITION TO POSITIONS NOTED ABOVE, THERE MAY HAVE BEEN HEAVY GUNS FIRING FROM THE WOODED AREA ABOUT 900 YARDS JUST NORTH OF DUE EAST OF RUNWAY AND A 40 MM GUN 800 YARDS NORTHEAST OF RUNWAY. BOTH HEAVY A/A, (BURSTING AT 7,000 FEET, ACCURATE) AND M/G FIRE WAS ALSO RECEIVED FROM THE BUILDING AREA TO THE NORTHWEST OF FIELD. NO FIRE WAS NOTED FROM ANY POINT SOUTH OF FIELD. VIOLET 19-2'S PLANE RECEIVED TWO SMALL, JAGGED HOLES IN UNDER PART OF RIGHT WING, OUTBOARD OF GUNS.

FIELD IS NOT CONSIDERED OPERATIONAL. THE PLANE PARKED IN DISPERSAL AREA NORTH OF CENTER PART OF FIELD WAS NOTED; APPEARED IN FAIR CONDITION BUT SEEMED TO BE ARTIFICIALLY PROPPED UP.

5. A. SCATTERED CLOUDS. VISIBILITY GOOD.
B. GOOD. NO CONTROLLER INVOLVED.
6. UNDETERMINED.
7. 8,990 ROUNDS .50 CALIBER AMMUNITION, 44 X 500 LB BOMBS WITH (16 X INSTANTANEOUS FUSES, 12 X 1 SEC FUSES AND 16 X 8 TO 11 SEC. FUSES). 6,000 GALLONS GAS CONSUMED.
8. NONE.

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APO # 2447 AUGUST 1944
1830 LOCAL318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 8-30
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 8-6

1. A. TWENTY (20) P-47D-11'S.
B. NONE.
2. A. NONE.
B. NONE.
3. DIVE-BOMBING AND STRAFING OF TARGETS ON GUAM.
4. MAJOR WILLIAMS, LTS. MATTISON, BABCOCK, BYERS (VIOLET 12)
CAPT. O'HARE, LTS. CUMSTONE, THOMPSON, GRAHAM (VIOLET 15)
CAPT. TOUHEY, LTS. O'HARA, HARBOUR, CLARK (VIOLET 17)
LTS. SNYDER, DE VONA, SHEPARD, BARNHILL (VIOLET 18)
LTS. MARTIN, THOMAS, (FIETZ AND SPILLMAN)* (VIOLET 19)

* VIOLET 19-4, ABORTIVE, RETURNED DUE TO ENGINE TROUBLE; VIOLET 19-3 ESCORTED HIM. BOTH JETTISONED THEIR BOMBS, IN WATER.

TAKE OFF: 1500

LANDING: 1550 (2 PLANES)
1730 (18 PLANES)

ON VECTOR TO GUAM AND ORBITED POINT NAM FROM 1545 TO 1600. TARGET ASSIGNED WAS ROAD JUNCTION IN 890, STAYING NORTH OF JUNCTION AT ALL TIMES. THE BOMBING RUN WAS IN STRING FROM THE WEST DIVING FROM 7,000 FEET AND RELEASING AT 3,000 FEET. HITS WERE SCORED AS FOLLOWS: 10 ON ROAD JUNCTION; 16 IN 50 YARD RADIUS; 1 ABOUT 200 YARDS SOUTH; 1 X 100 YARDS TO EAST; 2 X 200 YARDS WEST. 5 BOMBS WERE JETTISONED IN WATER AND 1 WAS LATER BROUGHT BACK TO BASE. THEN ALL FLIGHTS, IN STRING, MADE TWO STRAFING RUNS FROM THE SOUTHWEST ON WOODED AREAS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE NORTH-SOUTH ROAD. STARTED SMALL FIRE EAST OF ROAD, 300 YARDS NORTH OF JUNCTION. NO A/A RECEIVED.

5. A. 5/10 BETWEEN 2,000 AND 5,000 FEET.
B. BAREBAK WAS CONTROL. SQUEAL IN HIS TRANSMITTER.
6. ROAD JUNCTION WAS RENDERED USELESS.
7. 9,625 ROUNDS .50 CALIBER AMMUNITION, 39 X 500 LB BOMBS WITH INSTANTANEOUS FUSES. 5,000 GALLONS GAS CONSUMED.
8. NONE.

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APO # 2447 AUGUST 1944
1000 LOCAL318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 8-28
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #8-5

1. A. TWENTY (20) P-47D-11'S.
B. NONE.
2. A. NONE.
B. NONE.
3. DIVE-BOMBED AND STRAFED TARGETS ON GUAM.
4. MAJOR HUSSEY, LTS. MILLER, ANDERSON, DE VONA (VIOLET 11).
CAPT. NELSON, LTS. RESER, STEVENS, SPILLMAN (VIOLET 14).
LTS. SPENCER, GORMIER, FIETZ, BYERS (VIOLET 20).
CAPT. MC COWN, LTS. O'HARA, SNELL, HOWARD (VIOLET 13).
LTS. WILSON, SABICK, SMITH, GREEK (VIOLET 18).

TAKE OFF: 0700

LANDING: 0910

ON VECTOR TO GUAM, ARRIVING AT 0745. TARGETS GIVEN WERE AREAS 710 AND 727, THE WESTERN SLOPE OF MT. SANTA ROSA- HEAVILY WOODED WITH PALMS, THATCHED ROOF HUTS AND A FEW EMPTY PITS. VIOLET 11, 14 AND 20 BOMBED TARGET AREA 727. 23 HITS IN AREA; ONE, HAVING HUNG UP, WAS LATER DROPPED IN THE WATER. VIOLET 13 AND 18 BOMBED 710, GETTING 15 HITS IN AREA; ONE BEING BROUGHT BACK TO BASE. BOMBING RUN WAS FROM THE SOUTH FROM 7,000 FEET, RELEASING AT 3,000 FEET. ALL FLIGHTS MADE TWO STRAFING RUNS FROM THE SOUTH IN STRING OF FLIGHTS, LINE ABREAST. NO A/A WAS RECEIVED.

5. A. 3/10 BETWEEN 2,000 AND 4,000 FEET.
B. POOR -- BAREBACK CONTROL HAD A HOWL IN HIS TRANSMITTER. ALSO, THERE WAS FREQUENT INTERFERENCE FROM UNMONITORED CONVERSATION BY ASP PLANES.
6. UNDETERMINED.
7. 20,100 ROUNDS .50 CALIBER AMMUNITION, 30 X 500 LB BOMBS WITH INSTANTANEOUS FUSES. 5,500 GALLONS GAS CONSUMED.
8. NONE.

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO # 244

8 AUGUST 1944
1500 LOCAL

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 8-28
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 8-4

1. A. TEN (10) P-47D-11'S.
B. NONE.
2. A. NONE.
B. NONE.
3. DIVE-BOMBING AND STRAFING OF ROTA AIRFIELD.
4. MAJOR WILLIAMS, LTS. MATTISON, WILSON, (ANDERSON)* (VIOLET 12).
CAPT. O'HARE, LTS. FURGE, THOMPSON, RILEY (VIOLET 15).
CAPT. TOUHEY, LTS. (O'HARA)***, HARBOUR, CLARK (VIOLET 17)

* VIOLET 12-4, ABORTIVE, RETURNED DUE TO MALFUNCTION OF CARBURETOR
AIR TEMPERATURE BULD.

***VIOLET 17-2, ABORTIVE, RETURNED AS ESCORT TO VIOLET 12-4.

TAKE OFF: 1230

LANDING: 1300 (2 PLANES)
1400 (10 PLANES)

ON VECTOR TO ROTA AND OVER TARGET AT 1300. VIOLET 12 FROM THE WEST, AND VIOLET 15, FROM THE EAST, DIVE-BOMBED FROM 9,000 FEET RELEASING BOMBS AT 4,000 FEET. ALL HITS WERE ON THE RUNWAY, INCLUDING TWO XNN ON THE WESTERN EDGE. MOST OF THE HITS WERE IN THE NORTH-WESTERN QUARTER. MEANWHILE, VIOLET 17 WAS PROVIDING HIGH COVER AT 10,000 FEET. ALL FLIGHTS, IN TURN, THEN STRAFED THE HOUSING AREA SOUTH OF RUNWAY. THEN FOR APPROXIMATELY 1/2 HOUR INDIVIDUAL FLIGHTS CIRCLED AROUND STRAFING TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY --THE VILLAGE TO THE NORTHEAST, RAILROAD CARS, SMALL HOUSES, A TRUCK ON A ROAD, ETC.. NO A/A WAS RECEIVED.

5. A. 3/10 AT 4,000 FEET.
B. CLEAR. LONDON WAS CONTROL.
6. UNDETERMINED.
7. 10,020 ROUNDS .50 CALIBER AMMUNITION, 16 X 500 LB BOMBS (14 DROPPED ON TARGET AND 2 JETTISONED IN WATER BY VIOLET 12-4).
2400 GALLONS GAS CONSUMED.
8. ALL GUN EMPLACEMENTS APPEARED EMPTY. THE OPEN AREA SOUTHWEST OF THE MAIN FIELD IS A PLOWED UP FIELD.

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO # 244

6 AUGUST 1944
1000 LOCAL

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #8-25
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 8-3

1. A. TEN (10) P-47D'-11's.
B. NONE.
2. A. NONE.
B. NONE.
3. DIVE-BOMBING AND STRAFING OF TARGETS ON GUAM.
4. MAJOR HUSSEY, LTS. RESER, STEVENS, SPILLMAN (VIOLET 11).
(CAPT NELSON)*, LTS. (DE VONA)**, SHEPARD, BARNHILL (VIOLET 14).
LTS. SPENCER, CORMIER, FIETZ, BYERS.(VIOLET 20).

* 14-1 -- INDUCTION SYSTEM FAILED ON TAKE-OFF.

**14-2 -- ENGINE CUT OUT ON TAKE-OFF; GROUND LOOPED AND WRECKED
REAR END OF FUSELAGE AND EMPENNAGE.

TAKE-OFF: 0705

LANDING: 0920

ALL PLANES FLEW ON VECTOR TO GUAM AT 5,000 FEET, BEING JOINED BY 7 PLANES OF THE 333RD FIRON. ON STATION AT POINT NAN AT 0755. WERE ASSIGNED TARGET AREAS 814, 815, 816 AND 817, ALL WOODED AREAS WITH A FEW CLEARINGS, HUTS AND TRAILS. ALL SAID TO CONTAIN ENEMY ACTIVITY. BOMBING RUN WAS MADE FROM WEST TO EAST, SCORING 15 HITS IN 814 AND 815 AND 5 IN 816. VIOLET 11 HAD DELAYED FUSES AND GLIDE-BOMBED, RELEASING AT 2,000 FEET. OTHERS, WITH INSTANTANEOUS FUSES, DOVE FROM 8,000 FEET RELEASING AT 3,500 FEET. THREE STRAFING RUNS WERE MADE FROM WEST TO EAST, CONCENTRATING ON 814 AND 815. NO A/A RECEIVED. ON WAY BACK STRAFED A TRUCK ON A ROAD ON ROTA. AIRFIELD APPEARED OPERATIONAL.

5. A. 5/10 AT 1,000 FEET.
B. CLEAR. BAREBACK WAS CONTROL.
6. UNDETERMINED.
7. 12,190 ROUNDS .50 CALIBERAMMUNITION, 20 X 500 LB BOMBS (8 X 4 TO 5 SEC. DELAYED AND 12 INSTANTANEOUS FUSES). 3,000 GALLONS GAS.
8. NONE.

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO # 244

5 AUGUST 1944
1015 LOCAL

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 8-20
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 8-2

1. A. TWENTY (20) P-47D-11's.
B. NONE.
2. A. NONE.
B. NONE.
3. DIVE-BOMBING AND FIRE-BOMBING OF TARGETS ON GUAM.
4. CAPT. MC COWN, LTS. RILEY, SNEEL, MILLER (VIOLET 13- FIRE BOMBS).
CAPT. TOUHEY, LTS. O'HARA, HARBOUR, CLARK (VIOLET 17-FIRE BOMBS).
MAJOR WILLIAMS, LTS. MATTISON, SNYDER, ANDERSON (VIOLET 12).
CAPT. FLYNN, LTS. RESER, STEVENS, SPILLMAN (VIOLET 16).
LTS. MARTIN, SHENEMAN, BABCOCK, FURGE (VIOLET 19).

TAKE OFF: 0715

LANDING: 0925

ON VECTOR TO GUAM. ON STATION AT 0805, ORBITING POINT NAN. AT 0810 TO TARGET AREA 739-N, S AND X, A WOODED AREA INCLUDING A HILLSIDE. FIREBOMBERS ATTACKED FIRST, AT 0825, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST, RELEASING AT 50 FEET AND DROPPING BOTH TANKS ON ONE RUN. ALL HITS WERE IN TARGET AREA, STARTING FIRES. NO ACTIVITY OBSERVED.

AT 0830 DIVE-BOMBERS CAME IN FROM THE WEST AND SOUTH, DIVING FROM 10,000 FEET AND RELEASING AT 4,000 FEET. TWENTY-ONE BOMBS HIT IN TARGET AREA; ONE HUNG UP AND WAS LATER DROPPED ON A ROAD ON THE SOUTH END OF ROTA. ALL REFORMED 5 MILES NORTH OF GUAM AND RETURNED TO BASE. NO A/A WAS RECEIVED.

5. A. 5 TO 7/10 AT 1,500 FEET.
B. GOOD. BAREBACK WAS CONTROL. TOO MUCH NAVY CHATTER ON SAME BAND; NO MONITORING.
6. UNDETERMINED.
7. 16 X 165 GALLON WING TANKS (FIRE-BOMBS), 22 X 500 LB BOMBS WITH INSTANTANEOUS FUSES (VIOLET 12-3 DID NOT CARRY BOMBS DUE TO LAST MINUTE CHANGE OF PLANES PRIOR TO TAKE OFF). 4,400 GALLONS GAS.
8. ROTA AIRFIELD APPEARED IN EXCELLENT CONDITION.

HUSSEY

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APO # 2444 AUGUST 1944
1800 LOCAL318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 16
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 8-1

1. A. TWENTY (20) P-47D-11'S
B. NONE.
2. A. NONE.
B. NONE.
3. DIVE-BOMBING AND FIRE-BOMBING OF TARGETS ON GUAM.
4. MAJOR HUSSEY, LTS. SHENEMAN, SHEPARD, HOWARD (VIOLET 11).
CAPT. NELSON AND LT. DE VONA (VIOLET 14).
CAPT. O'HARE, LTS. CUMPSTONE, THOMPSON, GRAHAM (VIOLET 15).
LTS. WILSON, SABICK, SMITH, GREEK (VIOLET 18).
LTS. SPENCER, CORMIER, FIETZ, BYERS (VIOLET 20).
LTS. MARTIN AND BARNHILL (VIOLET 19).

TAKE-OFF: 1500

LANDING: 1710 (8 PLANES)
1730 (14 PLANES)

ALL PLANES FLEW TO GUAM ON VECTOR AT 4500 FEET ARRIVING AT 1545. ORBITED POINT NAN UNTIL 1600. VIOLET 11 AND 14, CARRYING FIRE BOMBS, WERE THEN GIVEN TARGET 690-G. MADE TWO DRY RUNS BUT WERE CALLED OFF THAT TARGET DUE TO CONTINUING HEAVY ARTILLERY FIRE. WERE THEN GIVEN 724-P, Q, R, S, A PALM TREE AREA ALONG A MAIN HIGHWAY. MADE A SINGLE RUN FROM WEST TO EAST ALONG ROAD IN STRING DIVING FROM 1500 FEET AND RELEASING BOTH FIRE BOMBS AT 50 FEET. 11 BOMBS HIT IN AREA; ONE HUNG UP AND WAS LATER DROPPED IN WATER. STARTED 11 FIRES; NO ACTIVITY NOTED. RETURNED TO BASE.

VIOLET 15, 18, 20 AND 19, CARRYING 2 X 500 LB BOMBS EACH, ORBITED UNTIL 1615. WERE GIVEN TARGET 690-G (SEE ABOVE); THEN FOLLOWED FIRE BOMBERS TO THEIR TARGET. ORBITED GENERAL AREA SLIGHTLY TO EAST AT 6,000 FEET WAITING FOR FIRE BOMBERS TO FINISH, FOR SMOKE TO CLEAR AND FOR CLOUDS TO SHIFT. AT THIS TIME THE PLANE OF VIOLET 20-1 RECEIVED A 90 MM HIT THROUGH THE BELLY OF THE FUSELAGE, ABOVE THE FRONT BRACE OF THE BELLY TANK. NO PILOTS OBSERVED ANY A/A AT THAT OR ANY OTHER TIME. AT 1640, WHILE STILL WAITING FOR CLOUDS TO SHIFT, WERE GIVEN ANOTHER TARGET -- 810-B, A RAVINE IN A HEAVILY WOODED AREA CONTAINING TWO HOUSES. DOVE FROM SOUTHWEST IN STRING RELEASING AT 3,000 FEET. 27 BOMBS HIT WITHIN 100 YARD RADIUS; THE OTHER WAS LONG AND LANDED IN WATER. THE HOUSES WERE DESTROYED. STRAFED LIGHTLY ON BOMBING RUN. RETURNED TO BASE.

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 8-1

5. A. 7 TO 8/10 AT 2,000 FEET WITH RAIN SQUALLS BELOW.
B. FAIR. CONGO WAS CONTROL.
6. UNDETERMINED.
7. 1,590 ROUNDS OF .50 CALIBER AMMUNITION, 12 X 165 GALLON WING TANKS (FIRE BOMBS), 28 X 500 LB BOMBS (INSTANTANEOUS FUSES). 4,500 GALLONS GAS CONSUMED.
8. OBSERVED ROTA AIRFIELD TO HAVE ONLY 3 CRATERS IN RUNWAY AND HENCE PROBABLY OPERATIONAL, PARTICULARLY ON SOUTH SIDE. CONSIDERING BOMBS, DELAYED FUSES WOULD HAVE ENABLED US TO SKIP-BOMBED AND HENCE COME IN UNDER CLOUD COVER.

THIS IS THE FIRST MISSION OUR PLANES FLEW OFF OF EAST FIELD, SAIPAN.

HUSSEY

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