

~~SECRET~~
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON
318TH FIGHTER GROUP
VII FIGHTER COMMAND, SEVENTH AIR FORCE
ARMY AIR FORCES, PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS
A.P.O. # 244

DECLASSIFIED
DDO DIR 5200.9

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY
SUPPLEMENT NUMBER SEVEN
1 OCTOBER 1944 - 31 OCTOBER 1944

1. DATE OF ARRIVAL AT AND DEPARTURE FROM EACH STATION OCCUPIED IN THIS THEATRE:

NEGATIVE.

2. LOSSES IN ACTION (KILLED, WOUNDED AND MISSING).

NEGATIVE.

3. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS.

NEGATIVE.

4. ORGANIZATION.

NEGATIVE.

5. STRENGTH, PERSONNEL.

SIXTY-TWO (62) OFFICERS.
TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY-ONE (241) ENLISTED MEN.

6. STRENGTH, AIRPLANES.

1 OCTOBER 1944 -- TWENTY (20) P-47D-11-RE
SEVEN (7) P-47D-11-RA
31 OCTOBER 1944 -- NINETEEN (19) P-47D-11-RE
SEVEN (7) P-47D-11-RA

7. LOSSES, AIRPLANES.

ONE (1) P-47D-11-RE CRASHED ON LANDING - 6 OCTOBER 1944.

P.R.C.

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ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY
73D FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF

NARRATIVE

The month of October, 1944, while productive of little in the way of the sensational, was nevertheless a busy period for the Squadron.

Flying time showed a slight increase over the preceding month. Eight (8) tactical missions were flown including six (6) strikes against enemy installations on Pagan, one (1) search mission, and last but not least, one (1) escort mission of which more will be said later. Sortie credits for these missions amounted to one hundred and sixteen (116) and the tactical time was 338:10. Other flying time totalled 999:40 which includes C.A.P., Alerts, Air Defense Exercises, and Training missions. The Pagan strikes were made with bombs, rockets, and by strafing. (The outstanding mission of the month however was one flown jointly with planes from the 19th Fighter Squadron on 21 October. This was the so-called "Iwo Jima Escort" (actually the fighters went only as far as Minami Iwo, forty miles south of Iwo Jima). Never-the-less, this mission broke the Squadron's previous long distance record, established on its flight from Midway to Oahu in January 1943, by nearly one hundred miles. The mission is more remarkable still when one considers the age of our planes and everything they have been through. A commendation from General HALE covering this particular operation was received and is quoted herewith: "The successful planning coordination and execution of yesterdays joint bomber fighter mission against Iwo Jima is most gratifying. My congratulations to all concerned. We will dish up some more like that." Only one airplane was seriously damaged during the month and none of the pilots sustained any injury

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

October also saw the completion of most of the building projects in the Squadron area. As the month drew to a close, finishing touches were being made on the last of four Quonsets for pilots quarters with the other three already occupied. A fifth Quonset hut has been divided between and is now occupied by the Orderly Room and the Medical Detachment. Considerable skill and ingenuity have been shown in furnishing these buildings and the Squadron feels justifiably proud of its' area. Corresponding improvements have been made in the maintenance and service area. Work is progressing well on a new mess hall and early completion is expected.

Improved living and working conditions are reflected in the smoothness and efficiency with which it can be said all sections of the Squadron are operating. The Engineering section has been highly successful in "keeping 'em flying" by increased vigilance on the part of crew chiefs during inspections and by requiring a high degree of exactness in all work done. The Armament and Ordnance sections encountered no unusual problems but two new types of arming wire guides for fire bomb igniters were designed in our Ordnance section and recommendation made to Group headquarters that they be adopted as standard. The Armament section put on a demonstration for group of 2nd Division Marines covering the aircraft armament used in support of ground troops on Saipan and Tinian. The application of the weapons demonstrated, from the pilots' standpoint, was covered by Lt. WILSON, acting Operations Officer. Personnel supply has taken care of the Squadron's needs in good fashion, their main difficulty being the procurement of building materials and in view of this fact, the Squadron's achievements in building are the more remarkable.

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

For the first time since the Squadron left Oahu last June, there was a considerable turn-over in personnel with eight (8) officers and sixteen (16) enlisted men leaving and nine (9) officers and nineteen (19) enlisted men coming in (see chronological section for names and dates). The transfers out of the Squadron were virtually all for re-assignment under the policy recently inaugurated. This promises, as far as enlisted men are concerned at least, to be the forerunner of larger transfers in the near future.

The health of the Squadron as a whole showed a decided improvement during October. Records of the medical section indicate that Dengue Fever, which was so prevalent for a time, has practically disappeared and that the majority of treatments given were for Athletes Foot and skin disease. Better health, improved living and working conditions, and the materialization of the long awaited rotation plan have resulted in a slight overall rise in morale. However, the food situation is still definitely bad and it is difficult for anyone in the Squadron to understand why, after more than four months on Saipan, fresh food cannot be served.

On October 5th the Squadron celebrated its' third anniversary of activation with an "unavailable" afternoon for virtually the entire S squadron. Starting at 1300 an informal program was run off which included brief talks by Lt. Col. TAYLOR and Major HUSSEY. The remaining original members of the Squadron (about twenty in number) were called up and then individual Squadron commendations were presented to the ninety-one (91) enlisted men who made up the assault force in the Saipan invasion. Good entertainment was provided by a troupe imported from one of the bomber outfits consisting of a band, singers, and comedians. To make the occasion

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

truly festive, sandwiches were served and three beers per man issued. The afternoon was rounded out with a softball game between the officers and enlisted men with the enlisted men emerging victorious by a 9 to 8 score. (Our ball diamond, incidentally, constitutes another "first" for the Barflies - our field being the first constructed at least as far as East Field is concerned, if not the entire island). The general consensus of opinion seems to be that the celebration of the Squadron's activation date was a huge success.

An extremely interesting meeting was held during the month as a part of the Information-Education program - it was attended by a large majority of the Squadron personnel, both officers and enlisted men and consisted of talks by four Australian enlisted men who, until quite recently, had been prisoners of the Japs, having been part of the force which was captured when Singapore fell. Their stories of hardships, bad treatment, and subsequent rescue at sea by the U.S. submarines which destroyed the Jap convoy in which they were being transported, provided two hours of highly interesting information. Our Squadron was the only one to have this program.

In conclusion, it is felt that the Squadron has maintained its usual high efficiency and has accomplished much during the month.

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CHRONOLOGY FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

- 1 October: New enlisted men join Squadron, effective 23 September:
- Cpl EDWARD C. CORLISS from VII Fighter Command
Pvt GARLAND L. JOYNER from 45th Fighter Squadron
Pvt JOHN A.E. SHEPARD from 45th Fighter Squadron
- 2 October: New enlisted man joins Squadron, effective 23 September:
- Pvt ERNEST E. JOHNSON from VII Fighter Command
- 5 October: Squadron unavailable day, Activation Day.
- 6 October: New pilots join Squadron from VII Fighter Command
- | | |
|------------------------|----------|
| 2nd Lt. THEODORE SYKES | O-827537 |
| LOYD A. WILLIAMSON | O-718682 |
| ROBERT P. SCHUH | O-715014 |
| RODNEY W. SELFRIDGE | O-715082 |
| JOE D. WOODS | O-716018 |
- 8 October: Lt. CORMIER evacuated to Oahu.
- 10 October: Lt. EHLERT detailed as Squadron Savings Promotion Officer (add duty) effective as of the 8 October.
- 11 October: Following officers leave Squadron for reassignment to mainland of United States per Par 1 Ltr Orders Hq AAF, APO #953:
- | |
|----------------------------|
| 1st Lt. NORMAN R. THOMPSON |
| ROLLAND A. SNELL |
| Capt. ALFRED I. FLYNN |
| ROBERT F. TOUHEY, JR. |
| JOHN M. O'HARE |
- 12 October: New pilot added to Squadron roster as of 27 September:
- F/O ALBERT C. GAMACHE, JR. T-124804, from VII Fighter Command
- 13 October: Pilot leaves Squadron, assigned to VII Fighter Command
- 2nd Lt. DANIEL P. RILEY O-695208
- 14 October: Following listed men leave Squadron as first group to return to United States on reassignment:
- | |
|-----------------------|
| CWO JOSEPH M. HURL |
| M/Sgt JOHN A. BISHOP |
| T/Sgt ORLO C. BURDICK |
| OLLIE E. DAY |
| JAMES B. MC LAUGHLIN |
| MARTIN O. WISECUP |
| FRANCIS CHARPENTIER |

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Chronology for the month of October Continued.

14 October (Cont'd)

S/Sgt PHIL A. RUDD
 ANTHONY S. SPIRITOSANTO
 BERNHARDT J. LEHMANN
 GEORGE M. NICHOLS
 DOUGLAS F. LITTLE
 GLENN A. LESHNER
 FRANK M. RICKER, JR.
 FRANK G. BUCHLE
 JAMES F. MC GINN

15 October: Following enlisted men added to Squadron Roster, joined Squadron. Assigned from Hq. VII Fighter Command effective 7 October.

M/Sgt DONALD L. MC CORMICK
 Cpl EDWARD Y. EMBREE
 STEPHEN S. EVANIO
 BRUCE E. KENNEY, JR.
 CLARENCE L. MC KEAN
 Pfc VICTOR C. ARENSDORF
 JAMES M. FLANNAGAN
 JOSEPH L. HUGHES
 HARRY PHILLIPS, JR.
 HOWARD W. RODGERS
 THOMAS E. MADEL
 KENNETH N. VAN HORN
 DONALD R. WATSON
 Pvt JAMES H. EBELING
 LESTER T. CAMPBELL

New Pilots enter Squadron effective 1 October from Hq. 318th Fighter Group:

2nd Lt. DEIMER A. HORNER 0-774161
 THOMAS R. MARTIN 0-774236
 KARL A. PACK 0-774287

16 October: T/Sgt ADOLPH F. SUGENT trfd in gr to POA for reassignment to mainland United States, left Squadron this date.

17 October: Capt. LEWIS A. NELSON fr dy to temp dy Hq VII Fighter Command, APO #958

18 October: 2nd Lt. FREDERICK F. SABICK trfd fr dy to DS 5th Radar Calibration Det, AAF, APO #244 as of 17 October, assgd to that orgn on 21 October.

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF

APPENDIX #1

RESUME OF MONTH'S MISSIONS

<u>TYPE OF MISSION</u>	<u>MISSIONS</u>	<u>TARGET</u>		<u>IWO JIMA</u> <u>SORTIES</u>
		<u>PAGAN</u> <u>SORTIES</u>	<u>ABORTS</u>	
DIVE-BOMBING, STRAFE AND ROCKETS	2	47	1	
GLIDE-BOMBING, STRAFE AND ROCKETS	1	21	1	
DIVE-BOMBING AND STRAFE	3	34		
ESCORT	1			10
SEARCH	1			4
TOTALS	8	102	2	10
TOTAL SORTIES FOR MONTH : <u>116</u>				

EXPENDITURES FOR OCTOBER

CARTRIDGES, CALIBER .50	41,420
ROCKETS	152
BOMBS:	
500 LB, INSTANTANEOUS FUSES	40
250 LB, INSTANTANEOUS FUSES	48
250 LB, 4 TO 5 SECOND DELAY	12
100 LB, INSTANTANEOUS FUSES	24
100 LB, 4 TO 5 SECOND DELAY	24
TOTAL TONNAGE DROPPED	19.9
PERCENTAGE OF BOMBS IN TARGET AREAS	63.5%

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73D FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
A.P.O. #24424 OCTOBER 1944
1200 LOCAL31BTH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #10-18
73D FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #10-7

1. (A) EIGHT (8) P-47D'S
(B) NONE
2. (A) NONE
(B) NONE
3. DIVE BOMBED FOUR CLUSTERS OF BUILDINGS IN ROW NORTH OF WOODED AREA NORTH OF RUNWAY ON PAGAN.
4. LTS. WILSON, CAMPBELL, SHENEMAN, TITUS. (VIOLET 14)
LTS. SMITH, COUNTS, SPILLMAN, BRYANT. (VIOLET 18)

TAKE-OFF: 0620 OVER TARGET: 0730 LANDING: 0845

VIOLET 14 DIVE BOMBED TWO CLUSTERS OF BUILDINGS FURTHEST NORTH MAKING THEIR RUN FROM NORTH-EAST TO SOUTH-WEST, STARTING AT 8,000 FEET AND PULLING OUT AT 3,000 -- NO DIRECT HITS, TWO BOMBS FELL SHORT, TWO WERE LONG, AND THERE WERE TWO NEAR MISSES ON EACH CLUSTER OF BUILDINGS. VIOLET 14 THEN MADE STRAFING RUN FROM WEST TO EAST ALONG TOP OF CLIFF SOUTH OF RUNWAY.

VIOLET 18 DIVE BOMBED TWO CLUSTERS OF BUILDINGS FURTHEST SOUTH. THEIR RUN WAS MADE FROM NORTH-EAST TO SOUTH-WEST, STARTING AT 8,000 FEET AND PULLING OUT AT 3,000 -- NO DIRECT HITS, FOUR BOMBS WERE LONG OF TARGETS, AND TWO NEAR MISSES WERE SCORED ON EACH CLUSTER OF BUILDINGS. VIOLET 18 THEN MADE A STRAFING RUN FROM SOUTH TO NORTH ON BUILDING AT SOUTH END OF CONCRETE WHARF.

5. (A) ENROUTE .4 CUMULUS FROM 1500 FEET TO 9000 FEET.
OVER TARGET .9 CUMULUS FROM 1000 TO 9000 FEET.
EAST-WEST FRONT ENCOUNTERED 20 MILES SOUTH OF TARGET.
(B) RADIO GOOD -- SKYLARKER CONTACTED VISUALLY ABOUT 150 MILES NORTH OF SAIPAN AS FLIGHT RETURNED.
6. UNDETERMINED
7. 16 X 500 LB. BOMBS W/INSTANTANEOUS FUSES, 3575 ROUNDS OF CAL. .50 AMMUNITION. 2320 GALLONS OF GAS CONSUMED.
8. NO APPARENT ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE TO REPAIR AIR FIELD OR TAXI STRIPS.

HUSSEY

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A. O. #24420 October 1944.
0800 Local315th Fighter Group Mission #10-29
73d Fighter Squadron Mission #10-8

1. (A) Fourteen (14) P-47D's
(B) None.
2. (A) None.
(B) None.
3. Dive-bombing and strafing eight (8) gun positions north of west end of runway on Pagan.
4. Major HUSKEY, Lts. COUNTS, SPILLMAN, AYLER. (Violet 11)
Lt. SNIDER, S/O HANDLY, Lts. GRAHAM, TITUS. (Violet 17)
Lts. BARBOUR, WEBSTER, ANDERSON R., RICE. (Violet 20)
Lts. REBER, FURCH. (Josephine)

All flights made both bombing and two strafing runs from north-east to south-west - dive-bombing runs starting at 8,000' to release at 1500' and strafing runs from 4,000' to 500'.

Violet 11 dive-bombed three gun positions to the south-east and scored four near misses with four bombs falling short in wooded area north-east of targets - two strafing runs then made on same targets.

Violet 17 dive-bombed three gun positions furthest west, scoring two near misses - four bombs fell wide in the water and two failed to explode - two strafing runs on same targets.

Violet 20 dive-bombed two gun positions to the north, scoring six near misses with two bombs falling short - two strafing runs then made on same targets.

Josephine planes (two) orbited over southern end of Pagan during bombing and strafing.

5. A. Enroute - .8 cumulus from 1,500' to 6,000'. Pagan - no cloud cover but visibility poor due to mist.
B. Radio loud and clear - Skylerker not contacted.
6. Undetermined.
7. 7850 rounds of cal. .50 ammo., twenty-four (24) 100 lb. bombs (inst. fuses), 3640 gallons of gas consumed.
8. None.

HUSKEY

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A.P.O. #244

21 October 1944

518th Fighter Group Mission #10-13
735 Fighter Squadron Mission #10-6

1. (A) Ten (10) P-47's
(B) One (1) T/E and three to four (3-4) S/E bogeys (unidentified).
2. (A) None.
(B) One (1) T/E bogey destroyed and one (1) S/E probably destroyed.
3. Escort of thirty-two (32) P-51's on return from strike at Iwo Jima.
4. Major Bussey, Lts. Byers, Spencer, Piets. (Violet 11)
Lts. Snyder, Harbour, Galt, Stevens. (Violet 17)
Lts. Smith, Bower. (Violet 18)

Take-off: 0829

Landing: 1500

Flights took off from Isley Field at 0829 and were formed within 5-10 minutes, proceeding on vector of 334° at 9500' with Buzzard escort. A solid front was encountered some 300 miles out on course resulting in formation becoming disrupted and Violet 11-3 spinning out due to Flight Indicator going out with loss of 5500' and subsequent separation from other elements. Violet 11-3 was obliged to turn back and joined Violet 11-1 over Iwo where they strafed targets of opportunity. Violet 11-1 was forced to return after passing through front due to failure of pressure on external fuel tanks. At 1125 Violet 17-3 was ordered to return due to inability to jettison wing tanks and Violet 17-4, whose gas was running low, was ordered to accompany 17-3. At 1125 Buzzard Control ordered fighters to gain altitude - Bingo climbed to 19,000' and Greyhound to 17,000'. Bomber strike was contacted at 1130 on vector of 157°. At 1200 Bingo lead plane sighted T/E bogey and 2-3 S/E bogeys at four o'clock to bomber formation and at 15,000'. Greyhound made a pass at T/E bogey which was seen to explode just as Bingo started its pass. S/E bogeys were withdrawing as Bingo climbed back to 19,000', circled once and as no other bogeys appeared, took vector of 157°, passed bomber formation and returned to base with Buzzard escort.

Statements from Violet 17-3 and Violet 18-1 are quoted herewith:

Violet 17-3: "The strike of bombers was sighted at eleven o'clock low at 1150 about 15 miles ahead. The lead Bingo plane at 19,000' called the strike position in to Greyhound leader who was ahead and 2,000' lower. Greyhound leader saw the strike force as it passed him and circled in to attack. Bingo remained above on high cover. Bingo lead ship saw a twin engine bogey at about four o'clock to the strike force. Behind this plane were two or three single engine fighters. As Greyhound was entering his firing run, on the twin engine ship, the single engine planes turned back and the twin engine was fired. At this point I saw what appeared to me to be a single engine plane

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4. (cont'd)

slightly to the rear of the scene of action on the T-wing engine go into a long smoking dive and crash - due to the fact that I was high cover and was four or five thousand feet above all this I cannot state exactly which ship I saw crash, I can only give my impression at the time - that I saw the T/E burn - and then saw the smoking plane crash - which plane at the time I thought to be a single engine plane a bit to the rear of the original burning T/E. I thought at the time that I had seen the last of the dive of another burning plane, however I may well have only seen the T/E get fired and seconds later watched it crash as I came out of my turn."

Violet 18-1: "Contacted bogey at 1230 at 16,000', circled to the left over bombers and bogey for five minutes. Bomber formation stayed on heading of 157° leaving bogey at four o'clock to formation. 19th made pass on bogey, we started a pass from 19,000' but bogey was fired before we lost 1,000'. We then climbed back to 19,000' and circled once looking for more bogeys, none were seen so took vector 157° passed strike formation and flew home with Buzzard escort."

- B. (A) Generally good with exception of East-West solid front, encountered 300 miles out on vector 336°
(B) Good.
6. One (1) T/E bogey destroyed by 19th Firon - One (1) S/E bogey probably destroyed by B-24's.
7. 2385 rounds caliber .50 ammunition, 5815 gallons of gas.
8. Special credit is due Captain N. G. McHaffey, 27th Bomber Squadron (H), Operations Officer, for an excellent job of planning.

Taking everything into consideration, it is believed that an operation of this type would obtain better results if planes from a single fighter squadron are used.

Bussey

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

18 October 1944
1800 Local

31st Fighter Group Mission #10-12
73d Fighter Squadron Mission #10-5

1. A. Twelve (12) P-47Ds
B. None.

2. A. None.
B. None

3. Dive-Bombing and strafing building and two storage areas on Iagan.

4. Major Hussey, Lts. Bryant, Shenneman, and Good.
Lts. Wilson, Handy, Spillman, and Webster.
Lts. Smith, Ayler, Anderson R., Rice.

(Violet 11)
(Violet 17)
(Violet 18)

Take-off: 0850

Over Target : 1000

Landing: 1125

Violet 11 originally planned to hit building designated as one of targets but was unable to locate same. Exact location of storage areas was also difficult to determine so general area was bombed. Run was made from North-east to South-west starting at 7,000' and pulling out at 1000' - six near misses and two were wide.

Violet 17 and Violet 18 made bomb runs identical to that of Violet 11 with eight bombs in vicinity of storage areas and eight being wide of targets.

All three flights then made strafing runs from South-west to North-east, strafing storage areas - runs were from 8,000' down to 800'.

5. A. Enroute .5 cumulus with rain showers south of Iagan. Over target .6 to .8 cumulus from 1,000' to 8,000'.
B. Good. Skylarker contacted visually.

6. Undetermined.

7. Twenty-four (24) 500 lb. bombs with instantaneous fuses, 5540 rounds of caliber .50 ammunition expended. 3480 gallons of gas consumed.

8. None.

Hussey

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO # 244

12 OCTOBER 1944
1300 LOCAL

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 10-9
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #10-4

1. A. TWENTY-FOUR (24) P-47D-11'S.
B. NONE.
2. A. NONE.
B. NONE.
3. BOMBING, ROCKETS AND STRAFING TARGETS ON PAGAN ISLAND.
4. MAJOR HUSSEY, LTS. CAMPBELL, STEVENS, FURGE (VIOLET 11).
LTS. SPENCER, DANNER, FIETZ, SPILLMAN (VIOLET 19).
LTS. GALT, ANDERSON, G, BYERS, YAEGER (VIOLET 16).
LTS. SNYDER, BLACKWOOD, BABCOCK, O'HARA (VIOLET 20).
CAPT. NELSON, LTS. DE VONA, SHEPARD, BARNHILL (VIOLET 13).
LTS. HARBOUR, HOWARD, RESER, GRAHAM (VIOLET 15).

TAKE-OFF: 0920 OVER TARGET: 1030 LANDING: 1135

VIOLET 11 MADE BOMB RUN FROM S TO N, STARTING AT 8,000 FEET AND PULLING OUT AT 3,000 FEET. SCORED 2 DIRECT HITS ON MOST WESTERLY BUILDING AND 6 NEAR MISSES. A GOOD FIRE WAS STARTED IN BUILDING HIT. VIOLET 11 THEN MADE A STRAFING RUN FROM S TO N ON BUILDINGS.

VIOLET 19 MADE BOMB RUN IDENTICAL TO VIOLET 11, SCORING 2 DIRECT HITS ON BUILDING FURTHEST SOUTH AND STARTING A GOOD FIRE. 2 BOMBS WERE NEAR MISSES AND 4 WERE LONG. VIOLET 19 ALSO STRAFED BUILDINGS FROM S TO N.

VIOLET 16 MADE BOMB RUN FROM E TO W, STARTING AT 9,000 FEET AND RELEASING AT 3,000 FEET. NO DIRECT HITS, 4 NEAR MISSES ON BUILDING FURTHEST EAST AND 4 WERE COMPLETE MISSES. VIOLET 16 THEN MADE STRAFING RUN ON BOAT FROM N TO S.

VIOLET 20 MADE BOMB RUN FROM E TO W, STARTING AT 9,000 FEET AND RELEASING AT 2,000 FEET. NO DIRECT HITS, 6 NEAR MISSES ON 2 BUILDINGS BELOW LINE OF 5, AND 2 BOMBS FAILED TO EXPLODE. VIOLET 20 THEN MADE STRAFING RUN ON BOAT FROM N TO S.

VIOLET 13 MADE RUN FROM SE TO NW, STARTING AT 6,000 FEET AND SALVOED ROCKETS AT 600 FEET. 6 STRADDLED BUILDING FURTHEST WEST IN LINE OF 5, 6 STRADDLED BUILDING NEXT TO ONE THE FURTHEST WEST, 9 NEAR MISSES ON 2 BUILDINGS TO THE SOUTH AND THREE DID NOT FIRE. A GOOD FIRE WAS STARTED IN BUILDING

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 10-4

4. CONTINUED:

NEXT FURTHEST WEST. VIOLET 13 THEN MADE STRAFING RUN ON BOAT FROM N TO S.

VIOLET 15 MADE ROCKET RUN FROM SE TO NW, STARTING AT 6,000 AND SALVOED ROCKETS AT 1,000. NO DIRECT HITS, 6 NEAR MISSES ON BUILDING FURTHEST EAST, 12 ROCKETS WENT WILD AND 6 LAUNCHERS AND ROCKETS FELL OFF PRIOR TO RUN. VIOLET 15 ALSO STRAFED BOAT.

PROBABLE 20 MM GUN FIRED 10-15 ROUNDS AT WHEN ONE FLIGHT AS THEY STRAFED BOAT. GUN POSITION IN NE PART OF TOE OF BOOT-LIKE PENINSULA. FIRING WAS MEAGER AND INACCURATE. POSSIBLE A/A POSITION IN VICINITY OF BLDGS WHICH WERE TARGETS FOR THIS MISSION.

5. A. 3/10 CUMULUS ENROUTE, CLEARING TO 1/10 OVER TARGET. LIGHT RAINS.
B. GOOD. SKYLARKER CONTACTED VISUALLY NEAR TARGET.
6. UNDETERMINED.
7. 12,115 ROUNDS .50 CALIBER AMMUNITION, 32 X 250 LB BOMBS (ALL INSTANTANEOUS FUSES), 45 X 4.5 ROCKETS. 4,320 GALLONS GAS CONSUMED.
8. NONE.

HUSSEY

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO # 24411 OCTOBER 1944
1100 LOCAL318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 10-8
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 10-3
TWO

1. A. TWENTY-~~XXXX~~ (22) P-47D-11'S.
B. NONE.
2. A. NONE.
B. NONE.
3. GLIDE-BOMBING AND ROCKETS ON BUILDINGS AND UNIDENTIFIED TARGETS, PAGAN ISLAND.
4. MAJOR HUSSEY, LTS. (SPILLMAN)*, RESER, MILLET (VIOLET 11).
LTS. SPENCER, O'HARA, BABCOCK, MILLER (VIOLET 19).
LTS. SNYDER, BYERS, FIETZ, MATTISON (VIOLET 20).
CAPT. NELSON, LTS. DE VONA, SHEPARD, BARNHILL (VIOLET 13).
LTS. GALT, GRAHAM, STEVENS, SPIVEY (VIOLET 18).
LTS. HARBOUR AND HOWARD (VIOLET 14).

VIOLET 11, 19, 20 - TO: 0440 OVER TARGET: 0615 LAND: 0730
VIOLET 13, 18, 14 - TO: 0550 OVER TARGET: 0700 LAND: 0815

VIOLET 11-2 ABORTIVE - UNABLE TO START ENGINE - WEAK BATTERY.

VIOLET 11 MADE A RUN FROM N TO S WITH ROCKETS ON BUILDINGS ON CLIFF SW OF RUNWAY - RUN STARTED AT 2,000 FEET AND ROCKETS SALVOED AT 1,000 FEET. 2 ROCKETS DID NOT FIRE, 4 HIT IN TARGET AREA AND 12 WERE NEAR MISSES. ONE STRAFING PASS WAS ALSO MADE FROM N TO S. SMALL BUILDING TO THE EAST COULD NOT BE LOCATED.

VIOLET 19 MADE THEIR RUN WITH ROCKETS FROM NE TO SW ON BLDGS N OF UNIDENTIFIED TARGETS ON NECK OF ISLAND. RUN STARTED AT 1,000 FEET AND ROCKETS SALVOED AT 400 FEET. 1 ROCKET DIDN'T FIRE, 19 WERE IN TARGET AREA AND 4 WENT WILD.

VIOLET 20 BOMBED BUILDINGS S OF LAKE MAKING RUN FROM NE TO SW. THEY STARTED AT 2,200 FEET AND PULLED OUT AT 900 TO 1,000 FEET. 4 BOMBS HIT IN TARGET AREA AND 4 WERE LONG. VIOLET 20 THEN MADE ONE STRAFING RUN ON BUILDINGS ON CLIFF.

VIOLET 13 BOMBED TWO UNIDENTIFIED TARGETS ON NECK OF ISLAND, MAKING THEIR RUN FROM NW TO SE, STARTING FROM 7,000 AND PULLING OUT AT 2,500 FEET. 1 DIRECT HIT AND 1 NEAR MISS ON NORTHERNMOST OF THESE TWO TARGETS, 4 NEAR MISSES ON SOUTHERNMOST TARGET AND TWO WERE LONG. VIOLET 13 THEN STRAFED THE BOAT WHICH IS PULLED UP ON BACH IN COVE SW OF VILLAGE.

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 10-3

4. CONTINUED ----

VIOLET 18 AND VIOLET 14 (TWO PLANES) BOMBED BUILDINGS EAST OF CINDER CONE. RUN MADE FROM SW TO NE AND FROM 7,000 FEET TO PULL-OUT AT 2,000 FEET. 10 BOMBS HIT IN TARGET AREA AND 2 WERE SHORT. VIOLET 18 STRAFED FROM E TO W AND VIOLET 14 FROM SW TO NE. A GOOD FIRE WAS STARTED IN ONE OF THE LARGEST BUILDINGS. NO A/A FIRE WAS ENCOUNTERED.

5. A. 5/10 CUMULUS ENROUTE TO TARGET. SOLID OVERCAST WITH RAIN SQUALLS AT TARGET WHEN FIRST FLIGHTS ARRIVED. THEY ORBITED TWENTY TO THIRTY MINUTES AT WHICH TIME WEATHER CLEARED TO 6/10 CUMULUS.
B. GOOD -- SKYLARKER OBSERVED NEAR TARGET AREA AT 0615.

6. UNDETERMINED.

7. 6,425 ROUNDS .50 CALIBER AMMUNITION.
VIOLETS 13 AND 20 DROPPED -- 16 X 250 LB BOMBS - INSTANT FUSES.
VIOLETS 18 AND 14 DROPPED -- 12 X 250 LB BOMBS - 4 TO 5 SEC DELAY.
39 X 4.5 ROCKETS EXPENDED.
4,165 GALLONS GAS CONSUMED.

8. NONE.

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO # 244

10 OCTOBER 1944
1800 LOCAL

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 10-7
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 10-2

1. A. FOUR (4) P-47D-11's
B. NONE
2. A. NONE
B. NONE
3. SEARCH FOR PILOT OF 333RD FIGHTER SQUADRON
4. LTS. SNELL, ANDERSON (G.L.), FIETZ, BLACKWOOD (VIOLET 18)

TAKE-OFF: 1015

LANDING: 1215

WHILE FLYING C.A.P. VIOLET 18 WAS ORDERED BY CONDOR CONTROL AT 1045 TO JOIN SEARCH FOR 333RD PILOT DOWN BETWEEN ALAMAGAN AND GUGUAN. AS FLIGHT NEARED GUGUAN, DOWNED PILOT WAS OBSERVED WHILE BEING PICKED UP BY PBV AND ON FURTHER ORDERS FROM CONDOR, RETURNED TO BASE. VIOLET 18 ALSO RELAYED MESSAGES FROM CONDOR TO OTHER MEMBERS OF DOWNED PILOT'S FLIGHT. ELAPSED TIME OF SEARCH 1:05 MINUTES. RESUMED C.A.P. AT 1150 AND LANDED AT BASE AT 1215.

5. A. 6/10 BETWEEN 2,000 AND 5,000 FEET.
B. SLATS NOT CONTACTED
6. NONE
7. NO AMMUNITION EXPENDED. 480 GALLONS GAS CONSUMED.
8. NONE.

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO # 2443 OCTOBER 1944
1430 LOCAL318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 10-1
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 10-1

1. A. TWENTY-FOUR (24) P-47D-11'S.
B. NONE.
2. A. NONE.
B. NONE.
3. DIVE-BOMBING AND ROCKET FIRING TARGETS ON PAGAN ISLAND.
4. MAJOR HUSSEY, LTS. YAEGER, GALT, BABCOCK (VIOLET 11).
CAPT. NELSON, LTS. DE VONA, SHEPARD, O'HARA (VIOLET 13).
CAPT. O'HARE, LTS. MATTISON, SNYDER, FURGE (VIOLET 14).
CAPT. FLYNN, LTS. SPILLMAN, STEVENS, SPIVEY (VIOLET 15).
CAPT. TOUHEY, LTS. MILLET, HARBOUR, MILLER (VIOLET 16).
LTS. SPENCER, FIETZ, SNELL, BYERS (VIOLET 19).

TAKE-OFF: 0845 OVER TARGET: 1010 LANDING: 1130

LT. MILLET ABORTIVE DUE TO LACK OF PRESSURE FOR BELLY TANK -
RETURNED TO BASE AT 0905.VIOLET 11 DIVE-BOMBED WHARF (.3 - C.35) AND A/A POSITIONS
NORTH OF WEST END OF RUNWAY - RUN MADE FROM E TO W AND FROM
2,500 FEET TO RELEASE AT 1,000 FEET - TWO PLANES BOMBED WHARF
WITH TWO BOMBS LONG AND TWO SHORT - DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS
GUN POSITIONS NOT SEEN BUT FOUR BOMBS DROPPED IN GENERAL AREA.VIOLET 13 DIVE-BOMBED GUN POSITIONS (2.6 - C.5) - RUN FROM NE
TO SW RELEASING AT 700 FEET. DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS
SPECIFIC TARGETS NOT SEEN BUT FOUR BOMBS HIT IN GENERAL TARGET
AREA AND FOUR OUTSIDE OF AREA.VIOLET 14 DIVE-BOMBED GUN POSITION AND LARGE SHACKS (2.7 - B.9)-
RUN FROM N TO S AND FROM 2,000 FEET TO RELEASE AT 700 FEET.
TWO NEAR MISSES ON EACH GROUP OF BUILDINGS TO THE SOUTH AND
TWO NEAR MISSES ON GUN EMPLACEMENT - BOMB STRIKES ON OTHER
GROUP OF BUILDINGS NOT OBSERVED.VIOLET 15 FIRED ROCKETS ON BUILDINGS NORTH OF VILLAGE - PASS
MADE FROM N TO S AND FROM 2,000 FEET TO 1,000 FEET; SIX
ROCKETS IN TARGET AREA (.8 - E.9), 5 ROCKETS IN TARGET AREA
(.9 - E.7), SIX ROCKETS IN TARGET AREA ~~(1.0 - E.7)~~ (1.0 - E.7)
TARGET AREA (.95 - D.3) NOT LOCATED AND ROCKETS FIRED AT

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 10-1

4. CONTINUED:

BUILDING ABOUT 200 YARDS NORTH.

VIOLET 16 FIRED ROCKETS ON SHACKS ALONG HILL (2.3 - C.5) -
SPECIFIC TARGETS COULD NOT BE SEEN DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS,
BUT 18 ROCKETS HIT IN GENERAL AREA.

VIOLET 19 FIRED ROCKETS ON BUILDINGS ON RIDGE SOUTH OF
RUNWAY. FIVE ROCKETS IN TARGET AREA (2.0 - A.7), FOUR
ROCKETS IN TARGET AREA (2.2 - A.8), SIX ROCKETS IN TARGET
AREA (2.4 - A.6) AND FOUR ROCKETS IN TARGET AREA (2.4 - A.3).
NO A/A ENCOUNTERED.

5. A. AT TARGET - SOLID OVERCAST FROM 1,000 TO 5,000 FEET.
ENROUTE AND RETURN - FRONT ENCOUNTERED AT GUGUAN ISLAND
APPROXIMATELY 100 MILES WIDE FROM E TO W AND EXTENDING
NORTH OF PAGAN.
B. SLATS NOT CONTACTED. OBSERVED PBM NEAR ANATAHAN HEADED
NORTH AS FLIGHTS RETURNED.
6. UNDETERMINED.
7. 3,430 ROUNDS 50 CALIBER AMMUNITION EXPENDED, 24 X 100 LB
BOMBS (4-5 SECOND DELAY FUSES) AND 68 ROCKETS. 6,375
GALLONS GAS CONSUMED.
8. SLATS NOT CONTACTED DURING LAST THREE MISSIONS.

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